



BIM-frukost: Energieffektiv arkitektur med BIM

BIM Alliance Sweden

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Predicting annual heating energy use using BIM: a simplified method for early design phase



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BEM to BIM in the early design phase: A comparison between static and dynamic heating energy predictions

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Abstract

Due to climate change and increasing pressures on resources, the demand for more energy-efficient buildings is increasing globally.

Building information modeling (BIM) and building energy modeling (BEM) are two essential tools to make the necessary transition to net-zero energy buildings (NZEB).

This article presents two case studies aiming to automate information from the BIM model to predict annual heating energy use at the early design phase (EDP) using static energy calculations.

Additionally a comparison was presented between results obtained with the static and dynamic energy calculations with the building energy simulation (BES) package IDA-ICE.

The goal of the static calculations is to allow working directly in the BIM model in real time to obtain annual energy use based on building surfaces, heated floor area, heated volume, and other inputs related to the heating degree-day (HDD) method.

Theory

Static energy models are typically used to estimate building energy use under the assumption that the internal and external environments are in a steady state.

A known advantage of the static energy model is its simplicity. However, the precision is normally limited ($\pm 25\%$ error) because solar energy and the changes in environmental variables (external weather, internal heat loads, and thermal capacity of the building structure) over time are not considered.

In general, the dynamic energy model is preferred since detailed energy flows can be calculated more accurately than with the static energy model.

Precision of static energy calculations due to the fact that environmental variables are not included.

Method

Geometries

This section presents the two case studies used to validate the methodology.

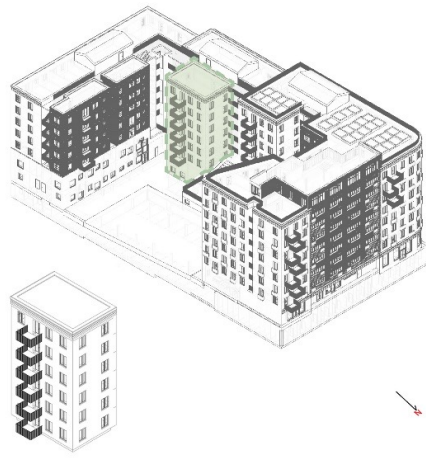


Figure 1. Revit screenshot of Eskilshem (top) and its isolated block for the energy analysis.

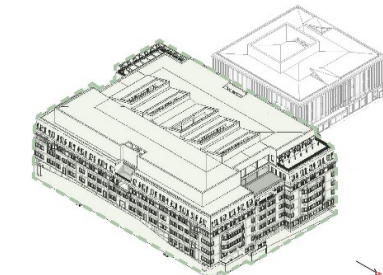


Figure 2. Revit screenshot of Huddinge city hall, the renovated part for the energy analysis (top) and the addition, the new library (bottom).

Results

Eskilshem had to comply with a more ambitious energy-efficiency target through the Swedish 'Miljöbyggnad Silver' environmental certification system, which limits its primary energy use to 80% of building code level (thus 68 kWh/m², year for total primary energy use).

Note that the primary energy use target in Miljöbyggnad includes the same end-uses as the national building energy code i.e., heating, ventilation, cooling, DHW, and property electricity. Electricity use by

the user (plug loads, electric lighting) is not included.

The Huddinge case also had to demonstrate compliance with 'Miljöbyggnad Guld' system, which sets the limit at 42 kWh/m² (60% of building code level).

The results for heating and DHW annual primary energy use obtained with both static and dynamic calculations are presented in Figure 3.

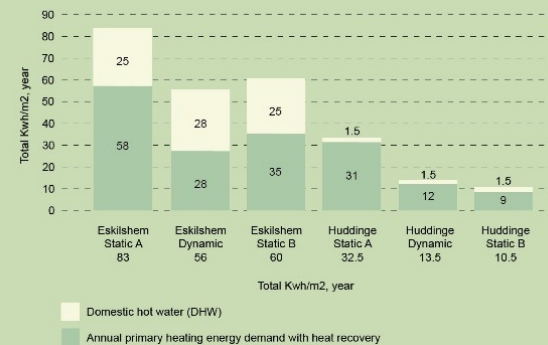


Figure 3. Results of the annual energy use from the Static A, Dynamic, and Static B calculations.



Percentage difference between Dynamic and Static B calculations for the annual primary heating energy for Eskilshem.



Percentage difference between Dynamic and Static B calculations for the annual primary heating energy for Huddinge.

Discussion and conclusions

→ The results indicate that the static energy calculations for the annual primary heating energy after integrating the internal heat loads (Static B) differ by $\pm 25\%$ compared with the dynamic energy calculations performed with the IDA-ICE software, which is in line with earlier studies.

→ Although this deviation is non-negligible, it is acceptable at very early design stages, when little information about the project is available.

→ The advantage of static energy calculations is that they do not require any post-processing or conversion of the BIM file to other formats, which has been found to be time consuming in real building projects. The static calculations can be performed in real time within the BIM environment and thereby guide the architect iteratively in the EDP.

→ The next step in this project will consist of including several other case studies to more precisely determine input data, such as the heating set point.

→ This will be followed by the implementation of necessary programming features in the BIM environment to automate the energy prediction for real time information to the architect.

→ This will also facilitate the further transition to a dynamic model at a later phase in the design since the modeler will have to assign thermal zones preparing for the dynamic calculation.

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1
Static energy models
Simplicity

2
Dynamic energy models
Accuracy



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white



Energimyndigheten

E2
B2



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BIM-to-BEM



Source: Fortress planning

BEM-to-BIM

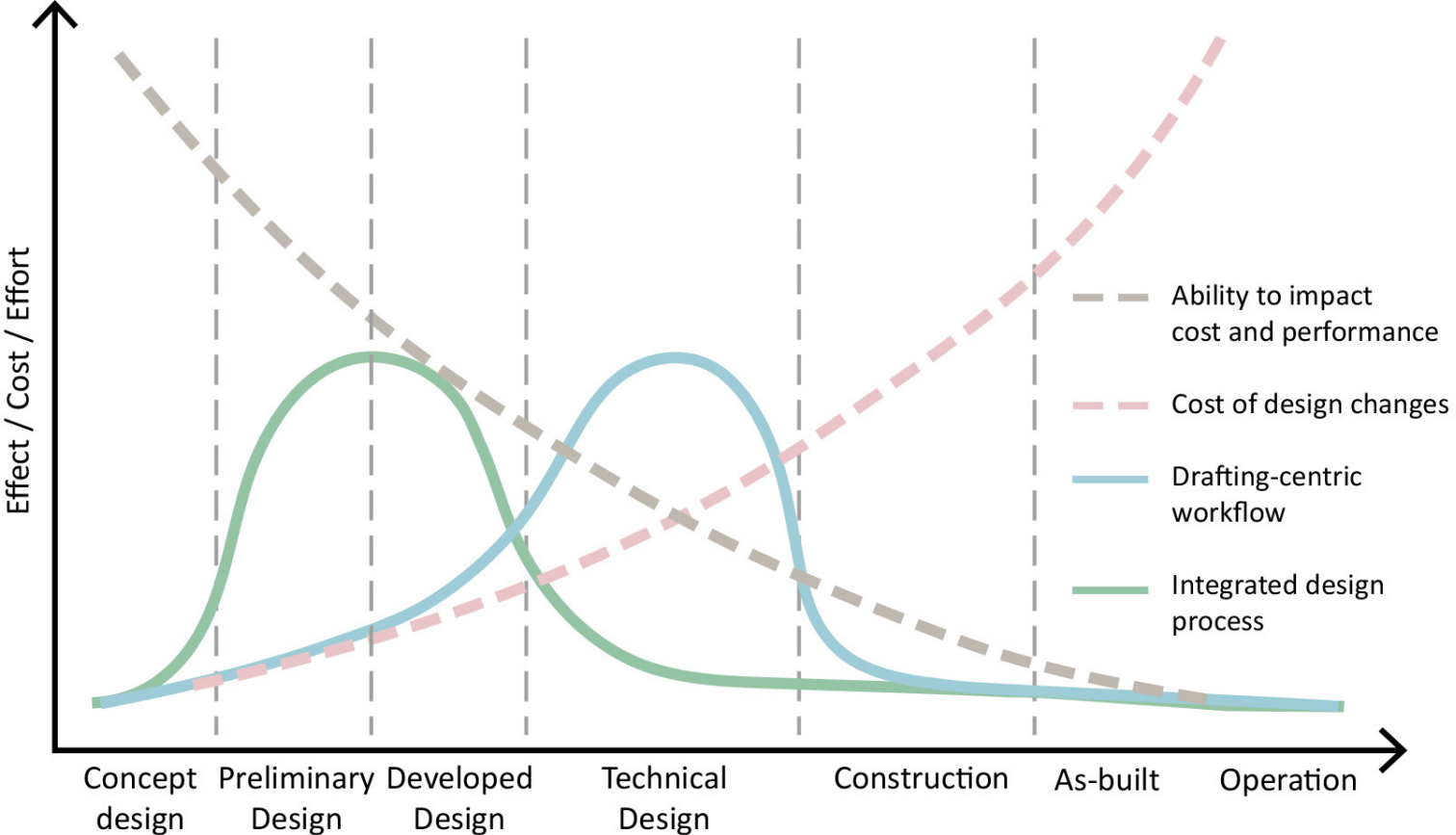


nZEB

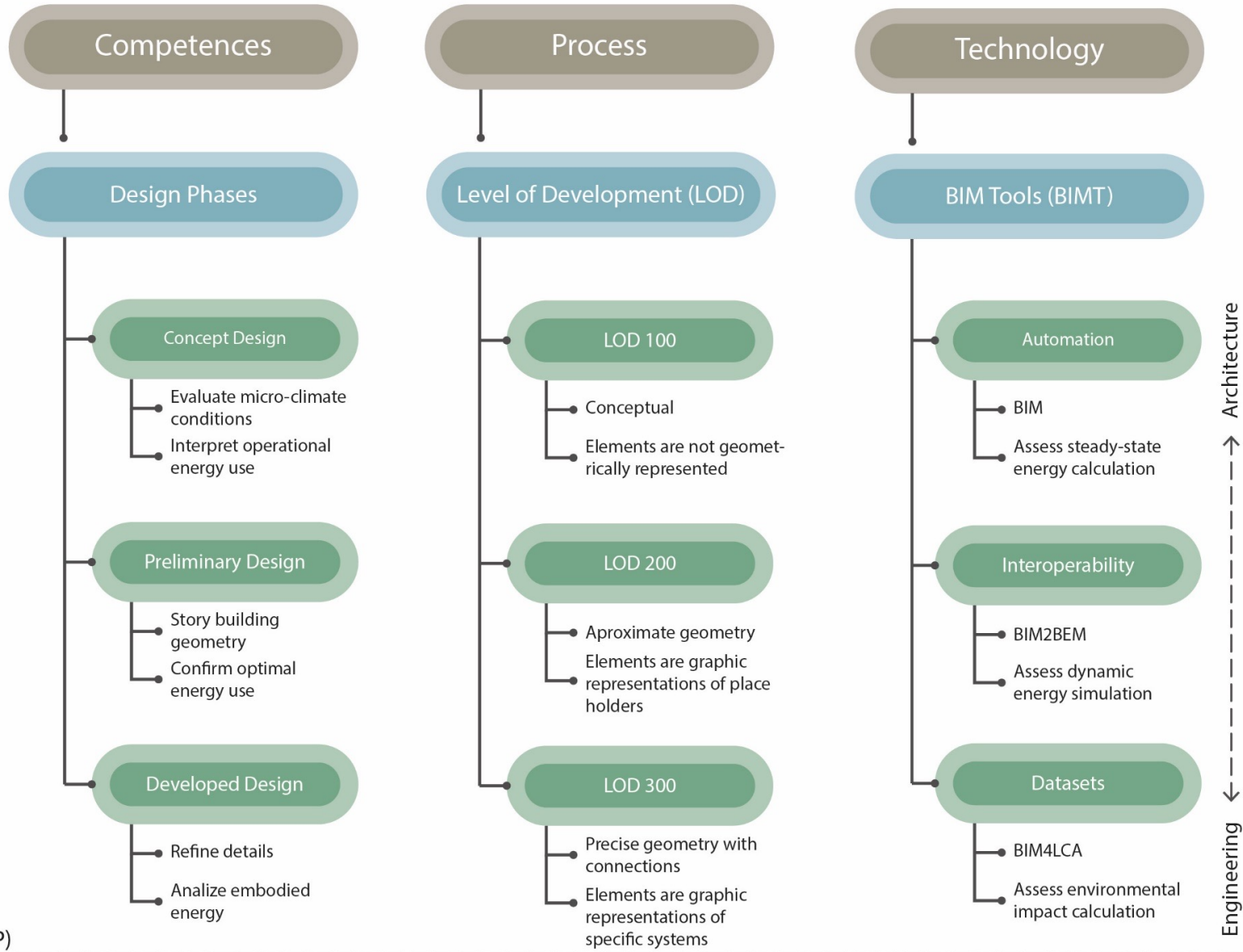


Source: Fortress planning

Integrated Design Process (IDP)

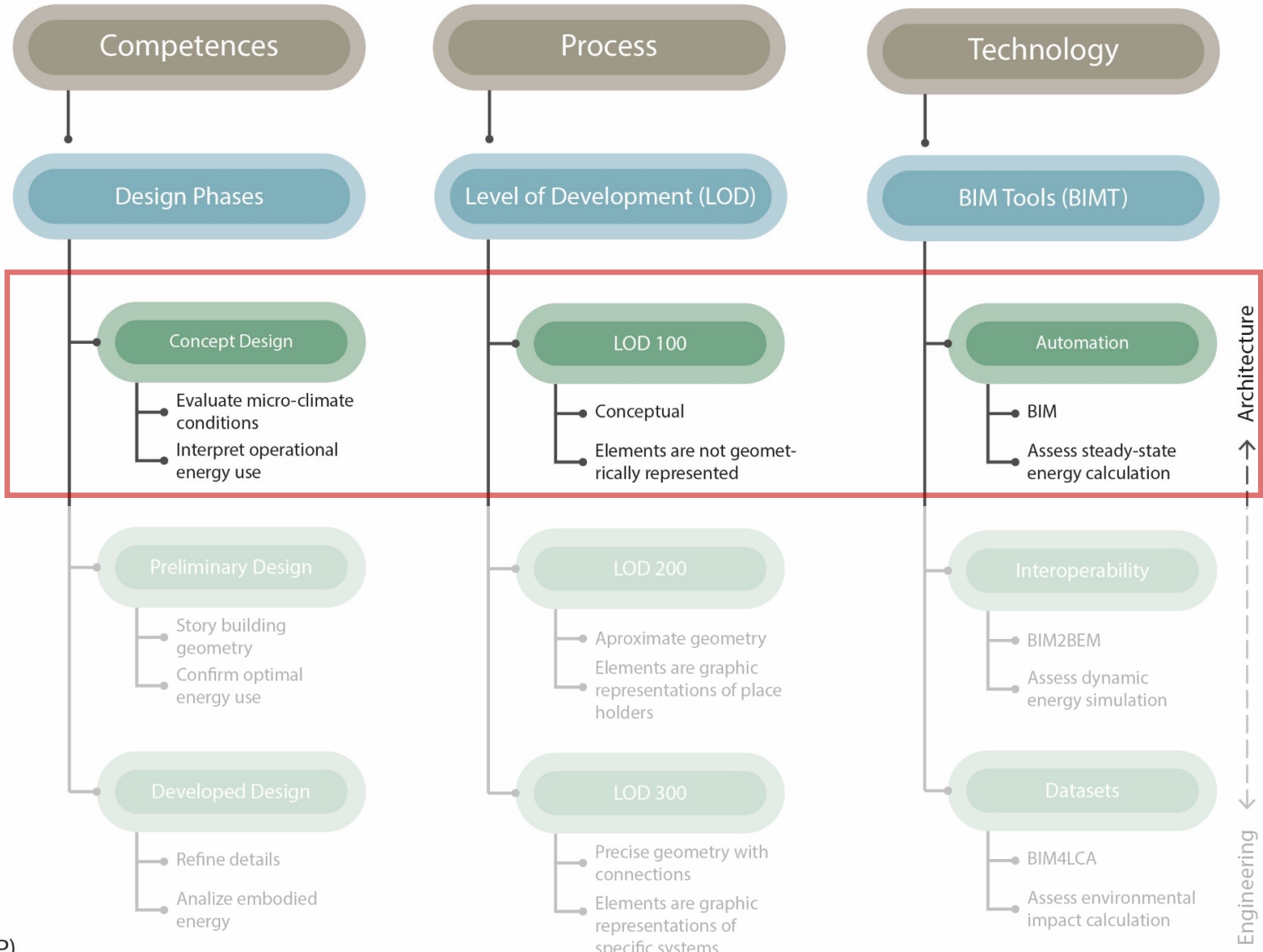


Integrated Design Process (IDP)



Early Design Phases (EDP)

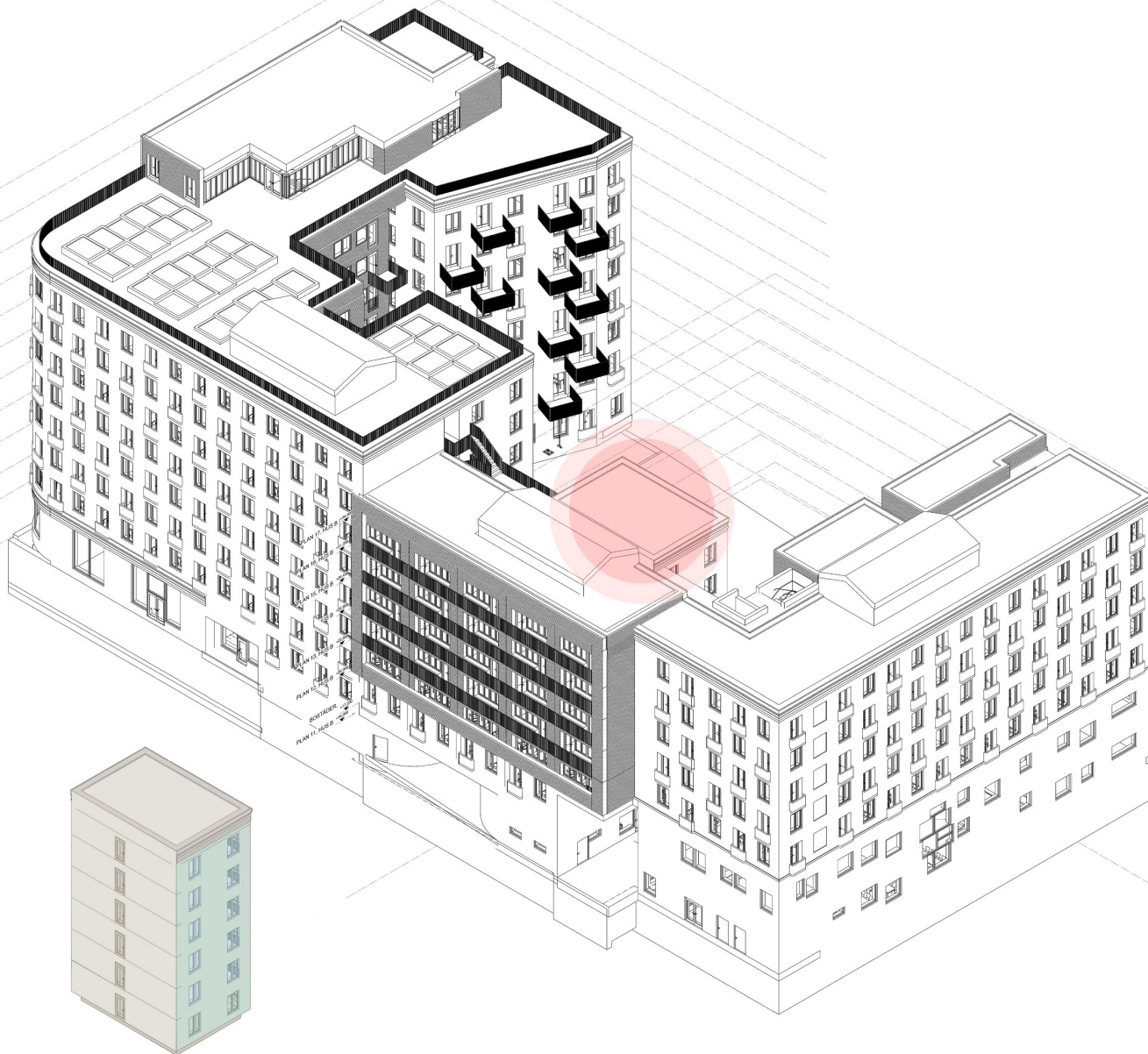
Integrated Design Process (IDP)



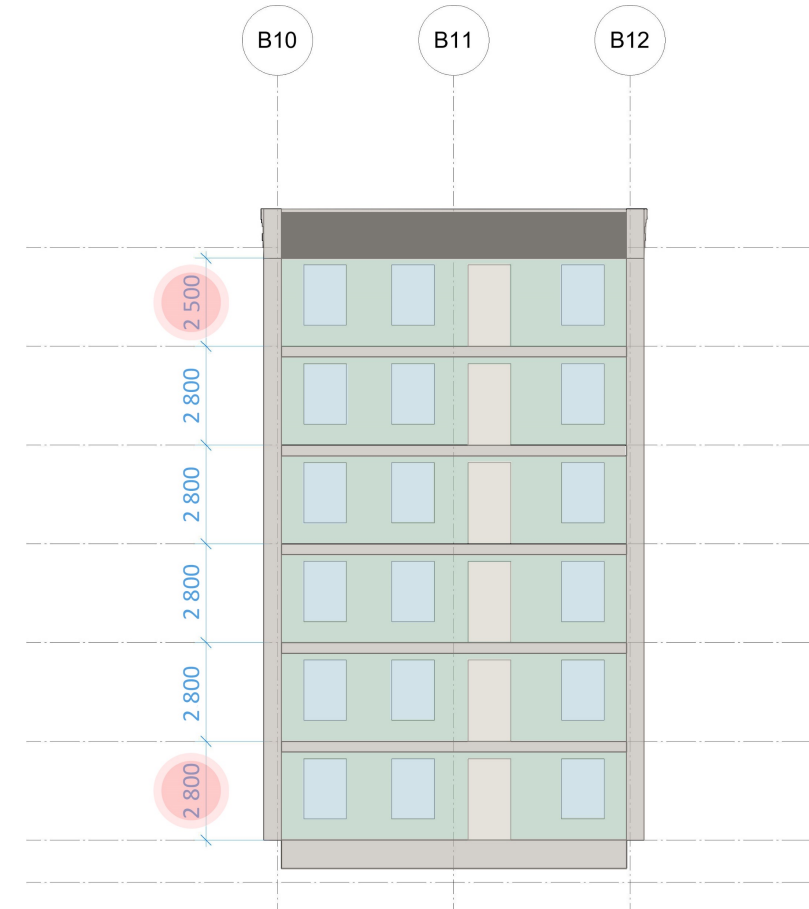
Architecture ↑
↓ Engineering

Early Design Phases (EDP)

Eskilshem - Sweden



First step



white

Second step

Degree days and hours

$$(1) \text{HDD} = (T_{\text{ref}} - T_{\text{out}}) \cdot 365 \quad \text{°C, day}$$

Annual heat losses by conduction

$$(2) Q_{\text{cond}} = (U \cdot A) \cdot \text{HDD} \cdot 24 \quad \text{Wh}$$

Heat losses by mechanical ventilation + air leakage

$$(3) q_{\text{vent_total}} = \rho \cdot c_p \cdot \varphi_{\text{vent}} (1 - \eta) + \rho \cdot c_p \cdot \varphi_{\text{leak}} \quad \text{W/°C}$$

In absence of ventilation requirements in the building code

$$(4) \varphi_{\text{vent}} = \text{ach} \cdot V \quad \text{W/°C}$$

Air leakage

$$(5) q_{\text{leak}} = \rho \cdot c_p \cdot \varphi_{\text{leak}} \quad \text{W/°C}$$

Annual heat losses by mechanical ventilation + air leakage

$$(6) Q_{\text{vent_total}} = q_{\text{vent_total}} \cdot \text{HDD} \cdot 24 \quad \text{Wh}$$

Annual heating energy use

$$(7) Q_{\text{heating}} = Q_{\text{cond}} + Q_{\text{vent_total}} \quad \text{Wh}$$

65 kWh/m², year heating

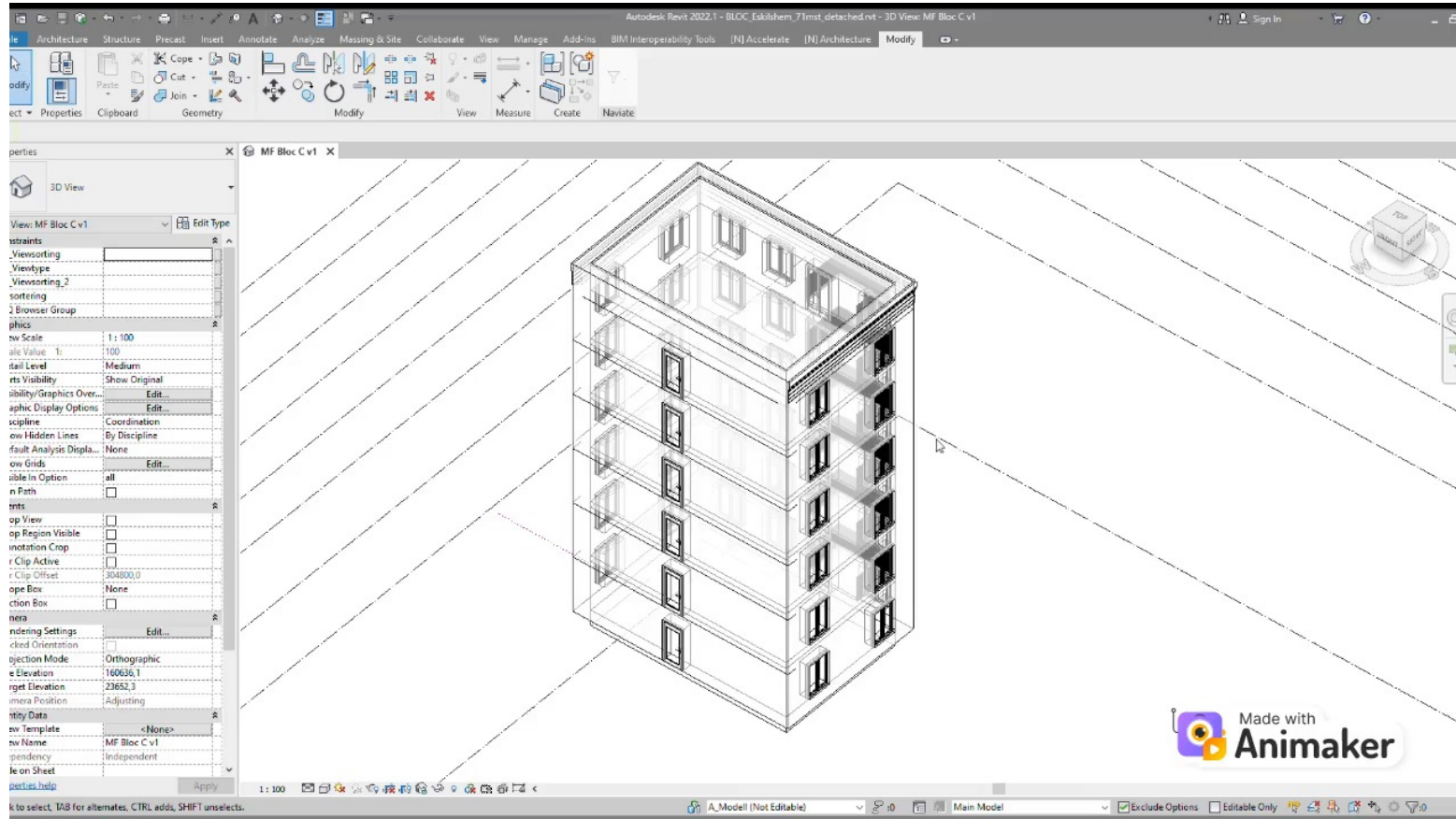
68 kWh/m², year total

Manual vs. Simulations

58 kWh/ m², year vs. 28 kWh/ m², year

Internal heat loads

35 kWh/ m², year vs 28 kWh/ m², year





Energy in Buildings and
Communities Programme

International Energy Agency (IEA)

Energy in Buildings and Communities Programme (EBC)

Open BIM for Energy Efficient Buildings



EBC is a programme of the International Energy Agency (IEA)



To summarize

- **improved process for energy calculations**

primarily due to the challenges posed by interoperability between BIM and BEM

- **tool development**

development of tools can facilitate the integration of BIM and BEM

- **novel concept BEM-to-BIM integration**

BIM industry should focus on integrating energy calculations directly within the BIM environment

Tack!

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