



International Association for Bridge and Structural Engineering



# Monitoring carbon based structural design for building Paris Proof

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Ir. Ronald Wenting (RO)

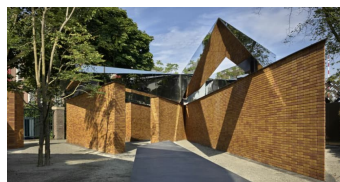
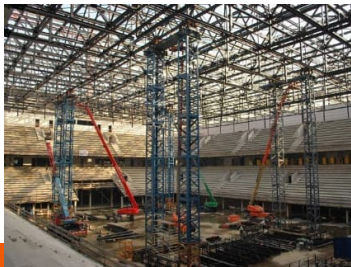
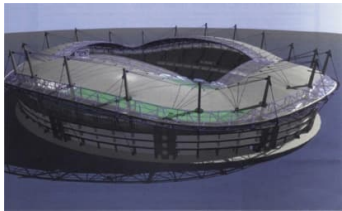
*ABT bv,*

*Arnhem, Netherlands*



International Association for Bridge and Structural Engineering

Ronald Wenting MSc (RO)  
associate partner  
structural engineering consultant  
core team sustainability



since 1953

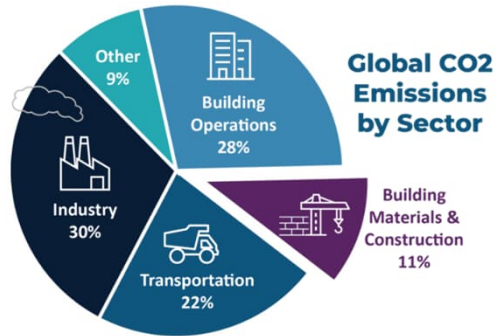
250 employees, 6 headquarters, 3 countries  
part Oosterhoff group

abt



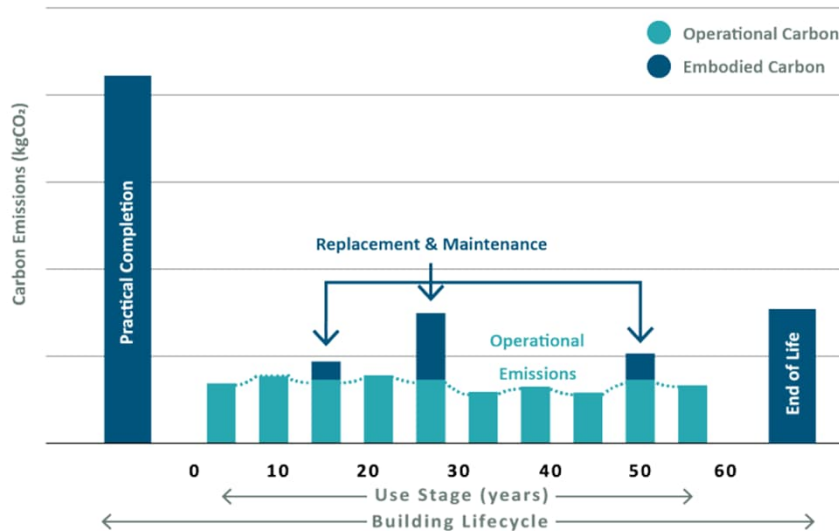
August 7-29-2025

IABSE Congress Ghent 2025  
Belgian and Dutch National Groups of IABSE



Source: Adapted from the World Green Building Council, Global Status report, 2019.

Emission Breakdown of a Building's Life Cycle

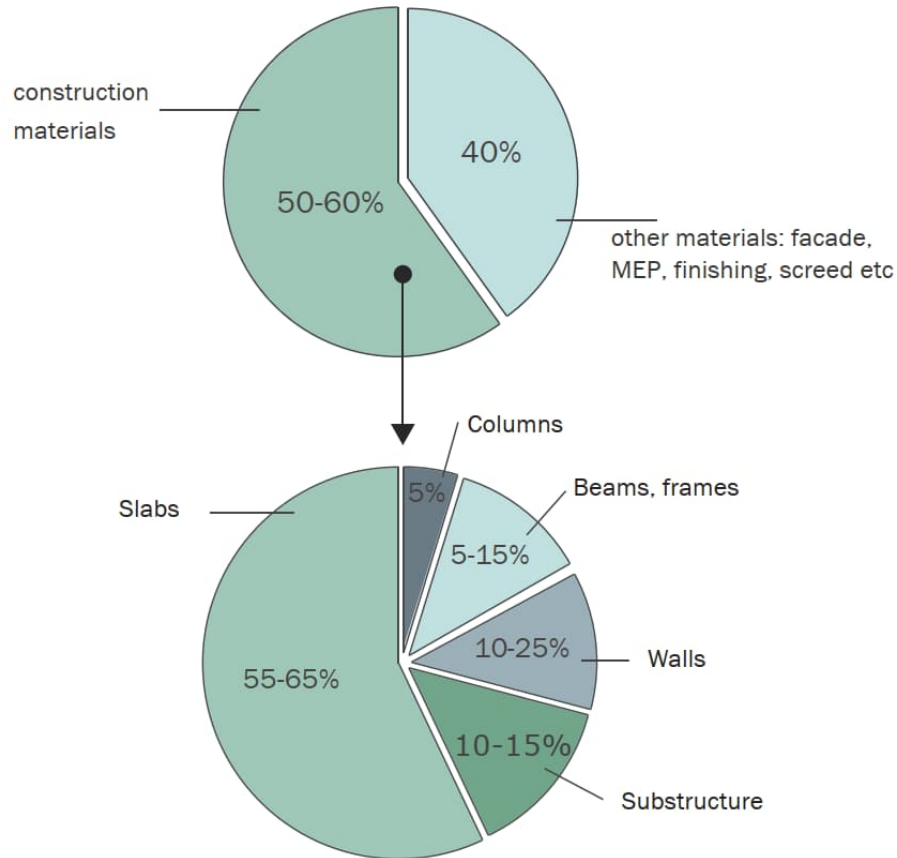


A decade of change!

From energy neutral to carbon neutral!

After reducing operational emissions, the focus now shifts to tackling embodied emissions – a shift to material use and its environmental impact.

Achieving Paris Proof standards requires a Whole Life Carbon approach.



- 50–60% of all building materials in a construction project are structural
- the structural engineer plays a key role in influencing material use
- and thereby the structural engineer significantly impacts the embodied carbon associated with a building’s structure!



## Impact driven structural design

- futureproof design - extend lifespan by quality design
- circular design approach - maximize value retention
- use sustainable material - minimize environmental impact
- creating optimum balance in structural design "green triangle"

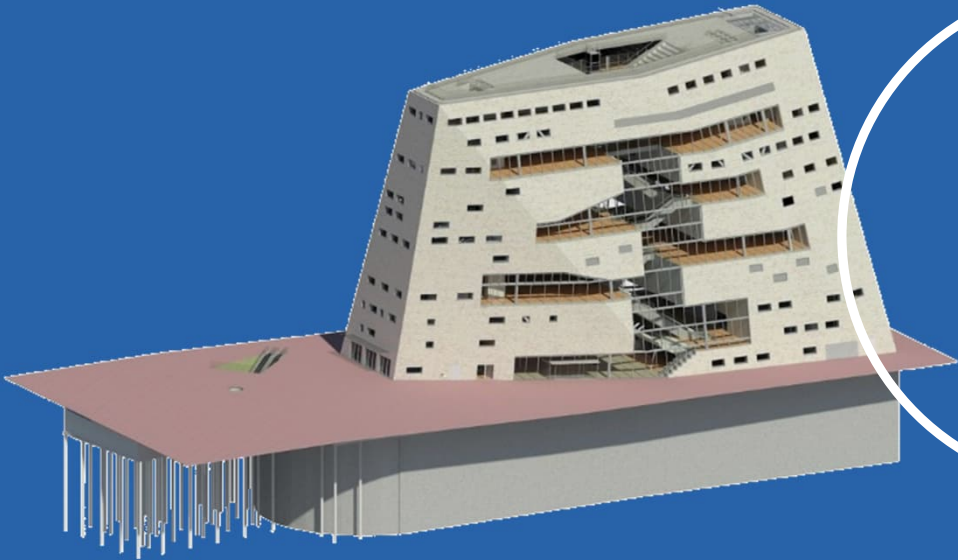
## The road for building Paris Proof!



🔄 Monitoring emissions of structural design is the key!

🔄 Measuring emissions → brings awareness  
Awareness → leads to responsibility  
Responsibility → drives behavioral change  
Behavioral change → leads to action!

3D virtual BIM model



Environmental-database

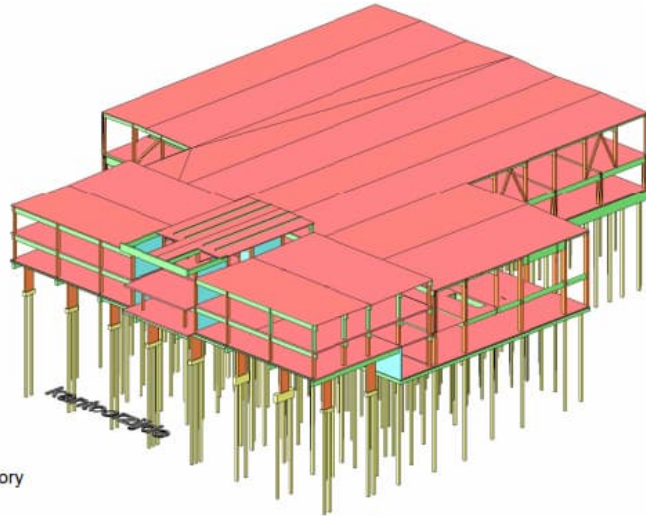


ABT MIM

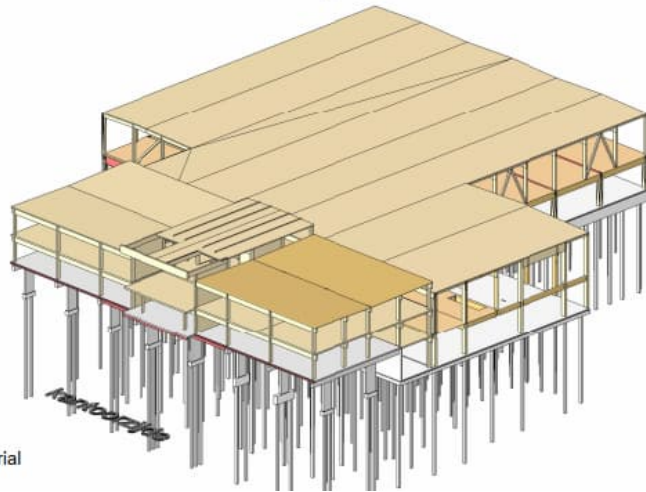


Plugin

ABT Environmental-Impact Monitor



Overview by category



Overview by material

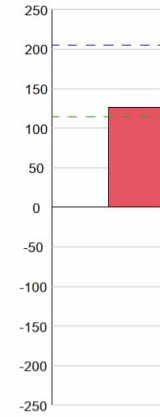
### Material specification

Type  
 Cast-in-place concrete  
 Precast concrete (25% CEMIII, 75% CEMI, standard)

Embodied Carbon (A1-A5)  
 <150 kg CO<sub>2</sub>-eq/m<sup>3</sup>  
 325 kg CO<sub>2</sub>-eq/m<sup>3</sup>

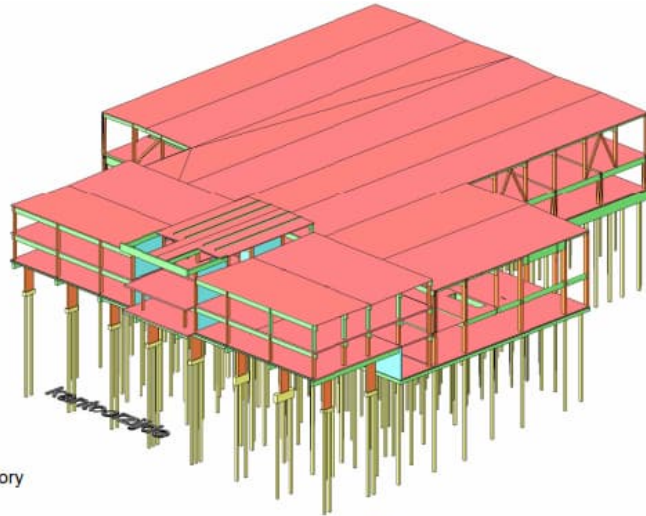


Shadow prices structures per m<sup>2</sup> BVO/year

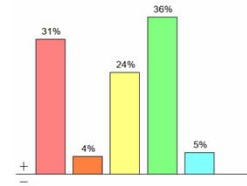


2024

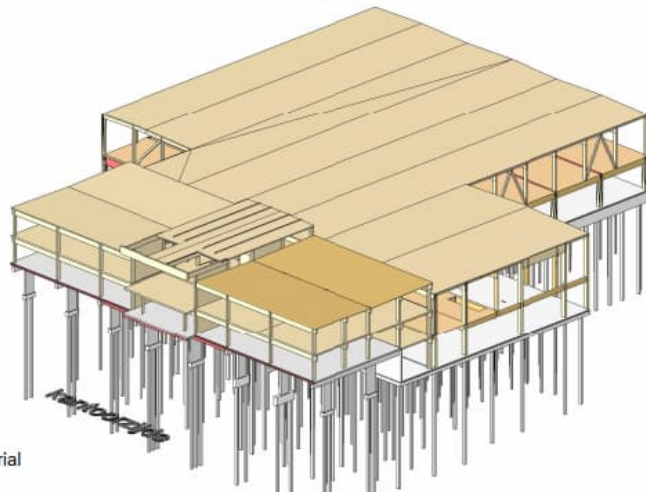
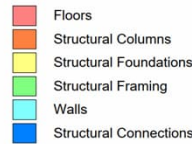
- Embodied carbon design related to limit values
- — Paris Proof limit value total building
  - — Paris Proof limit value structures
  - █ Embodied Carbon (A1-A5)



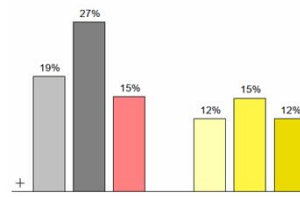
Overview by category



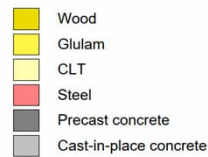
Embodied carbon CO<sub>2</sub> emission by Revit Category



Overview by material

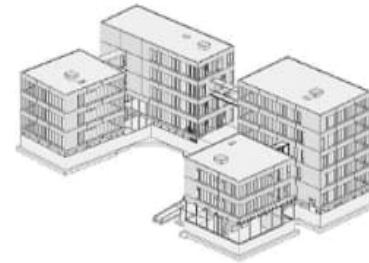
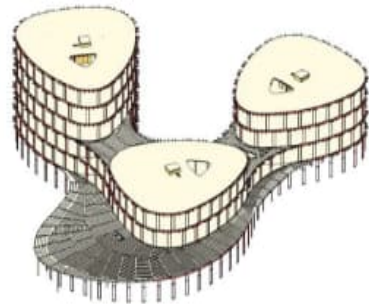
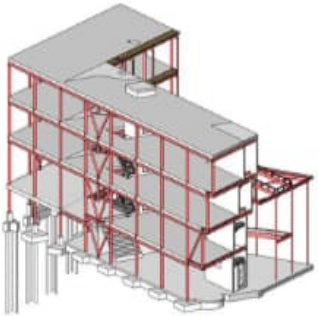
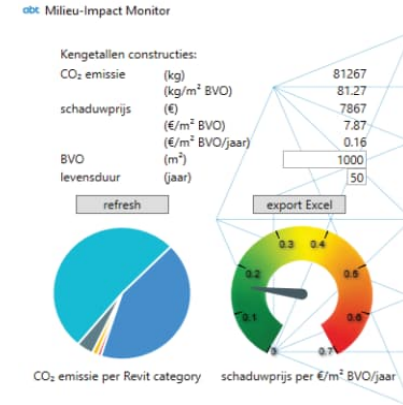


Embodied carbon CO<sub>2</sub> emission by material



monitoring MIM-tool by :

- components substructure and superstructure
- construction materials



165 kg CO<sub>2</sub>/m<sup>2</sup>

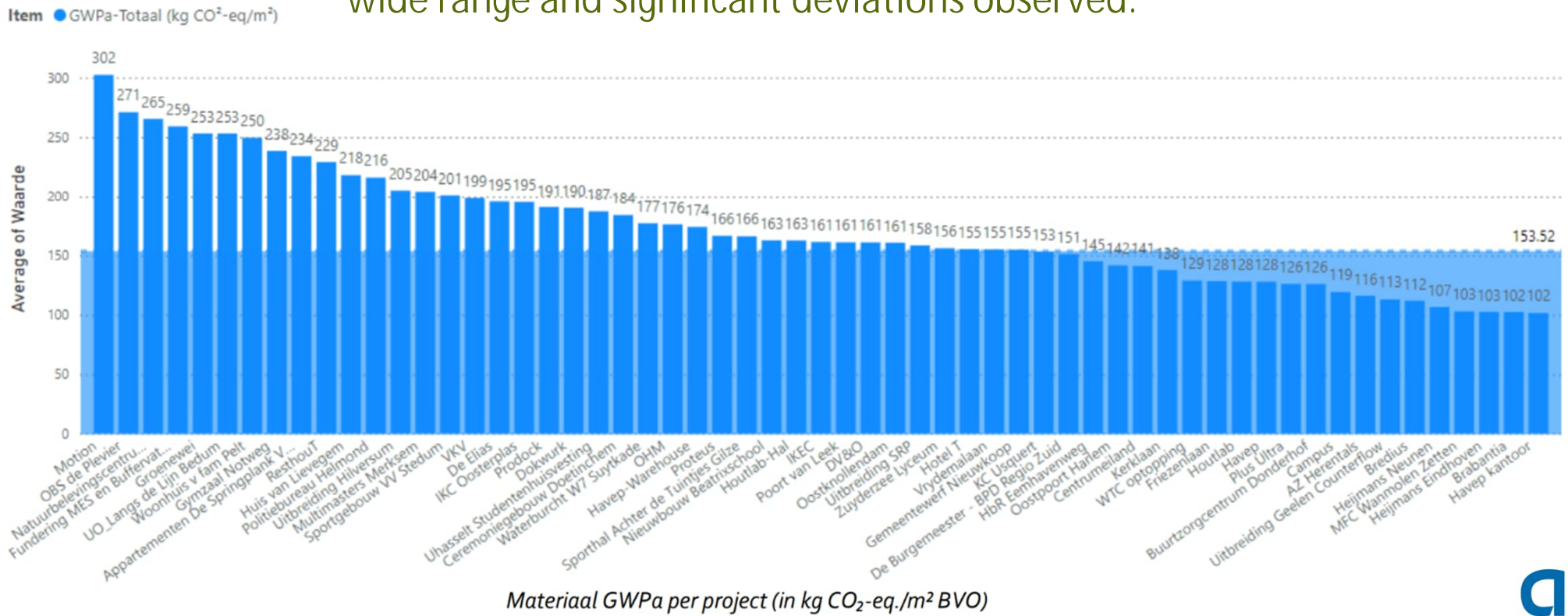
77 kg CO<sub>2</sub>/m<sup>2</sup>

281kg CO<sub>2</sub>/m<sup>2</sup>

Monitoring for giving insights in carbon emissions of structural design

Overview projects in ecosystem Oosterhoff monitoring embodied carbon: wide range and significant deviations observed.

**Oosterhoff**  
consultants & engineers



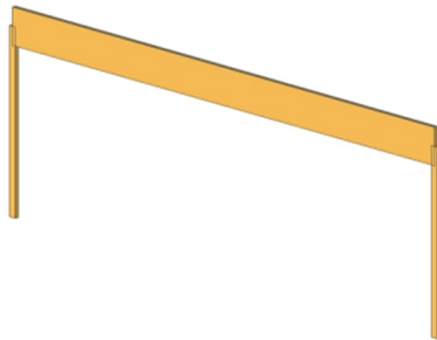
# WRZV-sports halls Zwolle

AGS Architecten

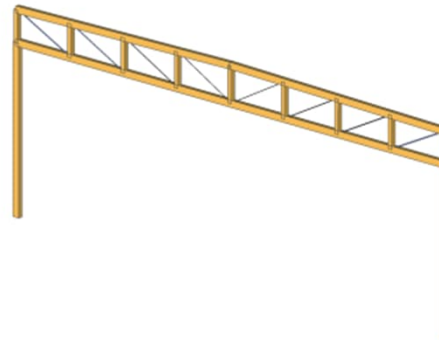


**abt** Comparison environmental impact of construction variants of roof beams  
W.R.Z.V. sports halls in Zwolle.

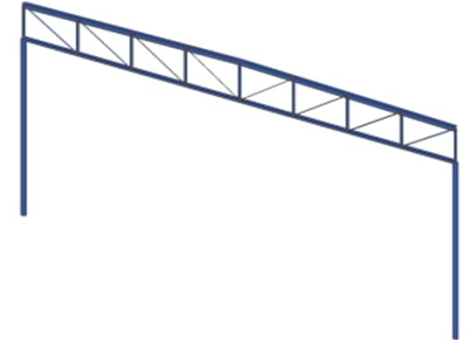
solid timber wall beam



timber truss beam



steel truss beam



**Starting points:**  
span 30m  
hth 5,3m  
total 15 beams in 2 halls

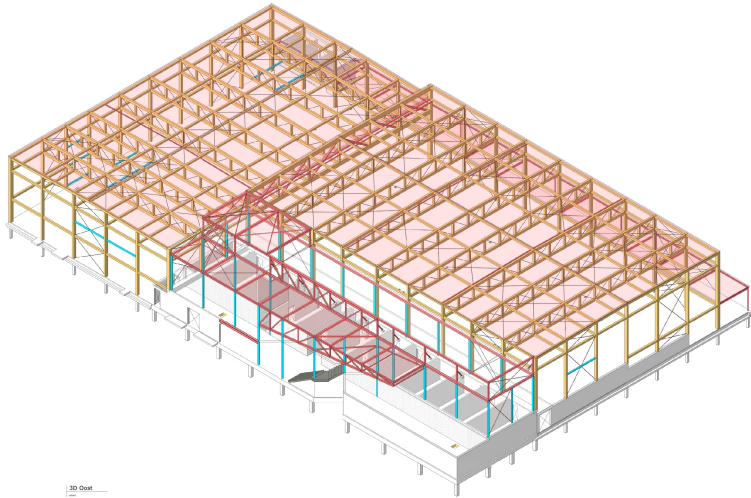
**results for 2 halls**

 101.625 kg  -20.880 kgCO<sub>2</sub>eq  3210

 52.230 kg  - 8.520 kgCO<sub>2</sub>eq  1665

 76.425 kg  32.220 kgCO<sub>2</sub>eq  2700

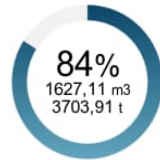




Bill of materials



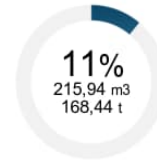
TOTAAL



STEEN



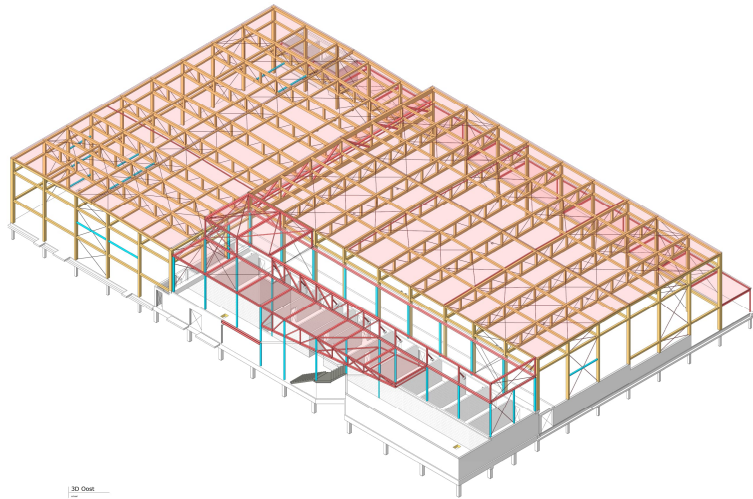
METAAL



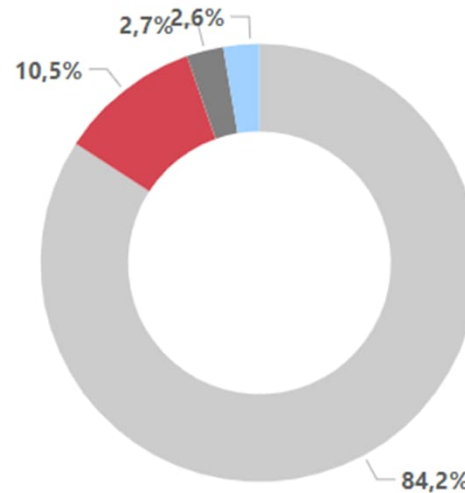
HOUT



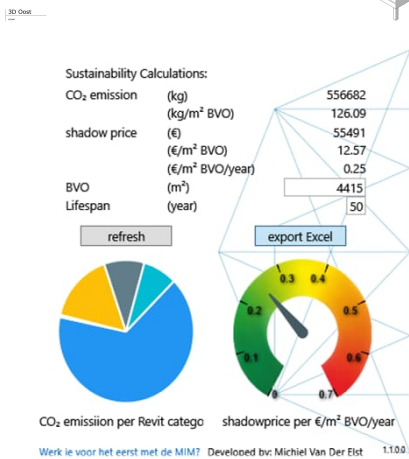
OVERIG



Carbon footprint per materiaal



- structural materials
- concrete on site
- steel
- concrete prefabricated
- sand-lime brick
- glue lam

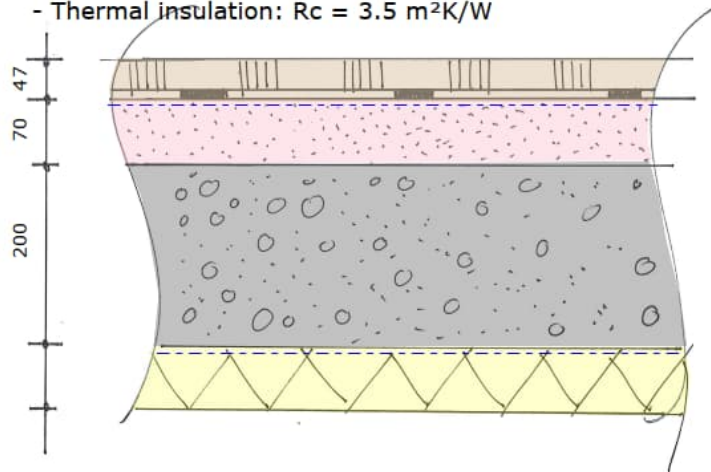


By monitoring the construction elements, it is clear which components contribute most to the environmental impact.

## Ground floor sports hall

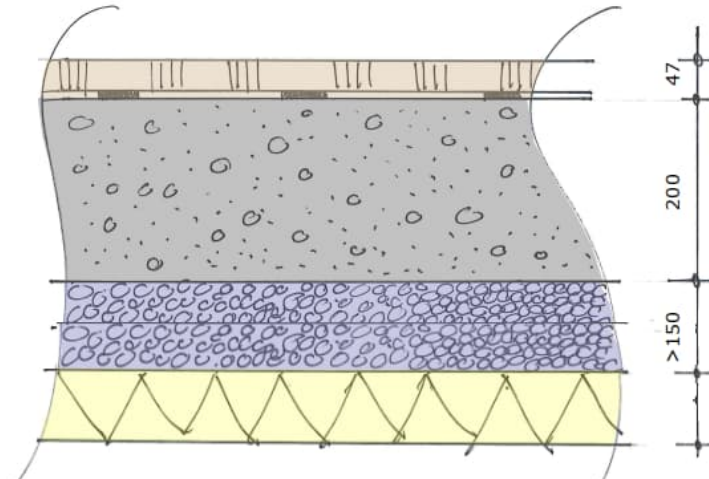
### FINAL DESIGN -variant

- Sports floor: Pulastic Elite Performance 90 Eco
- PE foil
- Sand-cement screed
- In-situ concrete floor, with the following specifications:
  - o Concrete mix based on CEM III
  - o Strength class: C30/37, exposure class XC1
  - o 40% recycled concrete aggregate
  - o Finished under screed level
  - o CSC-certified
- PE foil
- Thermal insulation:  $R_c = 3.5 \text{ m}^2\text{K/W}$



### DETAILED DESIGN -variant

- Sports floor: Pulastic Elite Performance 90 Eco
- In-situ concrete floor, with the following specifications:
  - o AAM concrete mix
  - o Strength class: C20/25, exposure class XC1
  - o 100% circular aggregates (sand + gravel)
  - o Power-trowelled finish
  - o CSC-certified
- Blinding layer with mixed granulate – 100% circular
- Thermal insulation:  $R_c = 3.5 \text{ m}^2\text{K/W}$

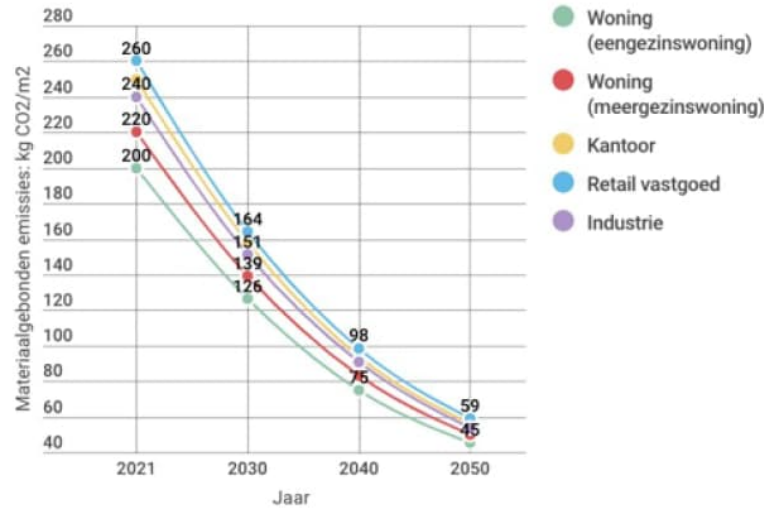


🔄 refuse redundant screed, go for low carbon concrete and a circular approach





### Limit values for new construction



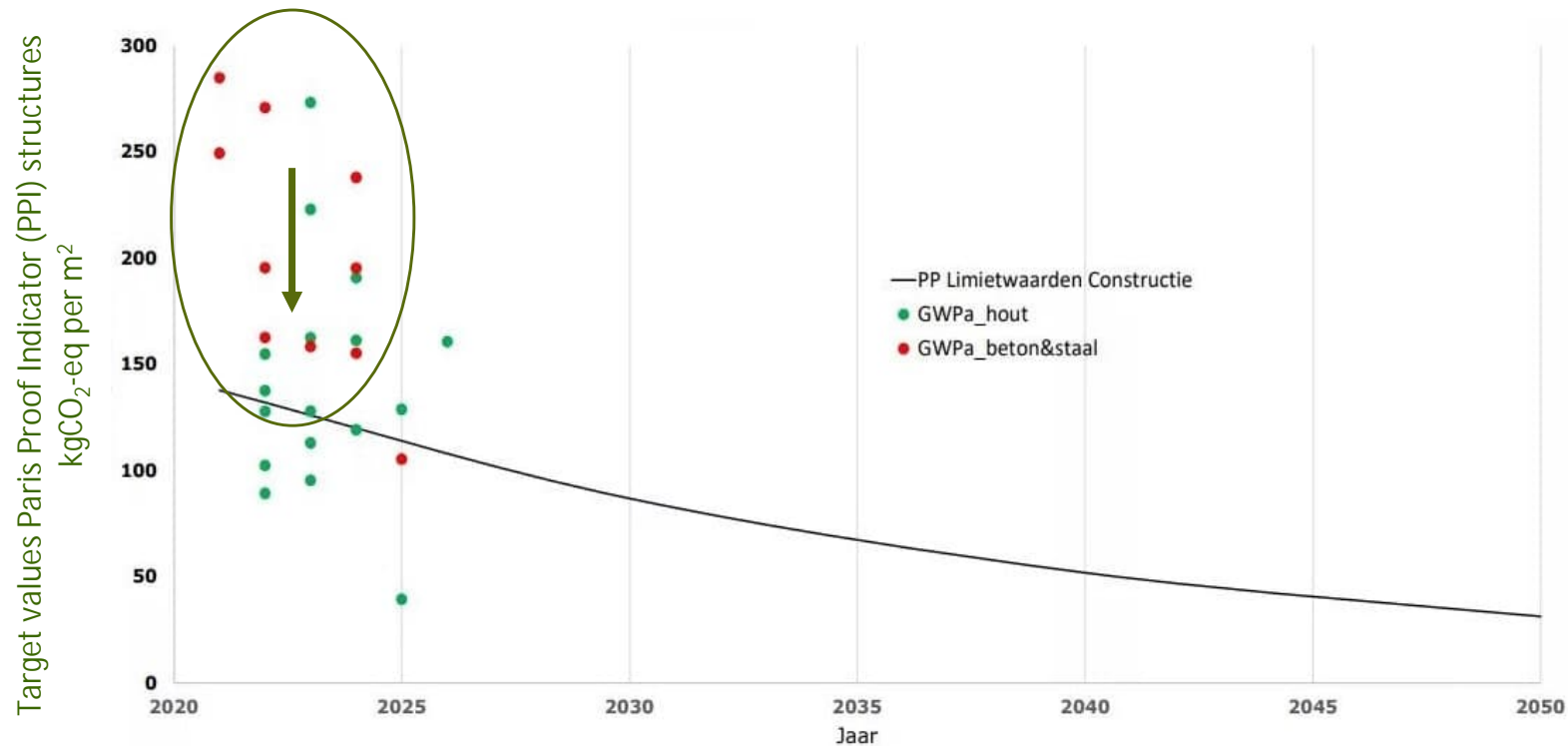
| Paris Proof limit values       | embodied carbon kg CO <sub>2</sub> -eq. per m <sup>2</sup> |      |      |      |
|--------------------------------|--|------|------|------|
|                                | 2021   | 2030 | 2040 | 2050 |
| Residence (single-family home) | 200  | 126  | 75   | 45   |
| Residence (multi-family home)  | 220  | 139  | 83   | 50   |
| Office                         | 250  | 158  | 94   | 56   |
| Retail real estate             | 260  | 164  | 98   | 59   |
| Industry <sup>5</sup>          | 240  | 151  | 91   | 54   |



Benchmarking the target values for Paris-proof construction!



CO<sub>2</sub> emissions production and construction phase (GWPA) completed projects Oosterhoff



 Cutting carbon emissions in structural design is urgent!

Overview of the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in the production and construction phase (GWPa) of Oosterhoff projects (green dots: wooden constructions; red dots: concrete and steel constructions) and the increasingly strict limit value for Paris Proof Constructions.)

**abt** Comparison of Paris Proof Indicator (PPI) for residential floor constructions

van de laar  
adviseur in  
bouwconstructies

Timber construction

Sustainable concrete

Traditional

**CLT wet screed** **CO<sub>2</sub> 41|-3\***  
 ↓ 390 ⚖ 385 € 235  
 34% | 66%  
 • Screed anhydrite 70 mm  
 • Insulation 20 mm  
 • Sand/gravel 100 mm  
 • Foil  
 • CLT 200 mm

**CLT dry screed** **CO<sub>2</sub> 54|10\***  
 ↓ 410 ⚖ 250 € 305  
 50% | 50%  
 • Fermacell 25 mm  
 • Insulation 20 mm  
 • Sand/gravel 60 mm  
 • Foil  
 • CLT 200 mm  
 • Insulation 75 mm  
 • Gypsum fiberboard 30 mm

**CLT foam concrete** **CO<sub>2</sub> 59|15\***  
 ↓ 390 ⚖ 385 € 240  
 54% | 46%  
 • Screed anhydrite 70 mm  
 • Insulation 20 mm  
 • Foam concrete 100 mm  
 • Foil  
 • CLT 200 mm

**Timber beam** **CO<sub>2</sub> 52|40\***  
 ↓ 480 ⚖ 305 € 230  
 54% | 46%  
 • Screed anhydrite 70 mm  
 • Foil  
 • Insulation 30 mm  
 • Sand/gravel 40 mm  
 • Foil  
 • Underlayment 18 mm  
 • Wooden beams + insulation 270 mm  
 • Cladding + framework 27 mm  
 • Gypsum fiberboard 2x12,5 mm

**Sustainable on site cast concrete** **CO<sub>2</sub> 58**  
 ↓ 340 ⚖ 745 € 200  
 22% | 78%  
 • Anhydrite screed 70 mm  
 • Insulation 20 mm  
 • On site concrete 250 mm C30/37, XC1, CEM III B (ecocem)  
 • Reinforcement 60 kg/m<sup>3</sup>

**Hollow core slab** **CO<sub>2</sub> 58**  
 ↓ 390 ⚖ 605 € 155  
 26% | 74%  
 • Anhydrite screed 70 mm  
 • Insulation 20 mm  
 • Sand/ gravel 100 mm  
 • Hollow core slab 200 mm

**Eco friendly concrete** **CO<sub>2</sub> 43**  
*now possible, but deviates from the norm*  
 ↓ 340 ⚖ 745 € 205  
 30% | 70%  
 • Anhydrite screed 70 mm  
 • Insulation 20 mm  
 • Sustainable concrete 250 mm (AACM/ Urban Mine/ geopolymers)  
 • Basalt/fiberglass reinforcement 20 kg/m<sup>3</sup>

**CO<sub>2</sub>-neutral concrete** **CO<sub>2</sub> 23**  
*possible in the future*  
 ↓ 340 ⚖ 745 € 215  
 57% | 43%  
 • Anhydrite screed 70 mm  
 • Insulation 20 mm  
 • Concrete CC(S)U technology 250 mm, C30/37, XC1  
 • Basalt/fiberglass reinforcement 20 kg/m<sup>3</sup>

**On site cast concrete** **CO<sub>2</sub> 95**  
 ↓ 340 ⚖ 745 € 180  
 34% | 66%  
 • Cement screed 70 mm  
 • Insulation 20 mm  
 • On site cast concrete 250 mm C30/37, XC1, NL average. mixture  
 • Reinforcement 70 kg/m<sup>3</sup>

**Wide slab flooring** **CO<sub>2</sub> 101**  
 ↓ 340 ⚖ 745 € 190  
 32% | 68%  
 • Cement screed 70 mm  
 • Insulation 20 mm  
 • On site concrete 190 mm C20/25, XC1, NL gem. mengsel  
 • Wide slab 60 mm C30/37, XC1, prefab snel  
 • Reinforcement 70 kg/m<sup>3</sup>

**Precast floor slab** **CO<sub>2</sub> 107**  
 ↓ 350 ⚖ 650 € 150  
 30% | 70%  
 • Cement screed 70 mm  
 • Insulation 20 mm  
 • Precast floor slab 260 mm

**PPI budget 2030: 50-55 kg CO<sub>2</sub>-eq/m<sup>2</sup>**

**CO<sub>2</sub>** PPI [kg CO<sub>2</sub>-eq/m<sup>2</sup>] (LCA fase A1-A5)  
 \* 30% biogenic CO<sub>2</sub> storage included [kg CO<sub>2</sub>-eq/m<sup>2</sup>]  
 % | % share PPI: architectural | structure  
 ↓ thickness floor package [mm]  
 ⚖ weight [kg/m<sup>2</sup>]  
 € direct construction costs [€/m<sup>2</sup>]  
 🔥 60 minutes fire resistance

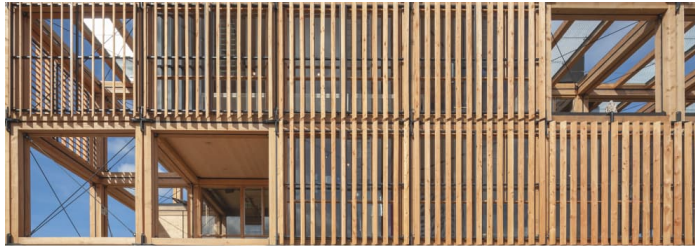
integral approach ensures a full representation

use of sustainable materials pays off

## Key Strategies for Designing Paris Proof Structures

1. **Rethink structural design** - Design with simplicity and efficiency and integral - avoid large column grids, excessive transfer structures, deep basements with underwater concrete.
2. **Futureproof and adaptable design** - Design for change by incorporating adaptability into the design. Apply the layers principle of Stewart Brand to decouple building layers.
3. **Repurpose existing structures and circular material use and building components** - Renovate and reuse existing buildings wherever feasible. Integrate recycled materials and reuse of building components into new construction (e.g., recycled reinforcement steel). Design for disassembly and reuse.
4. **Use of low-carbon and innovative materials** – low-carbon steel e.g. XCarb®, low-carbon/carbon neutral concrete.
5. **Incorporation of biobased materials** - sustainably sourced timber, biocomposites
6. **Advanced structural engineering** – Use advanced calculations and optimization tools to minimize material usage and enable the reuse of existing structures and building components in a sustainable and efficient way.





## MILIEU-IMPACT GESTUURD ONTWERPEN

BOUWEN AAN EEN DUURZAME TOEKOMST

abt



THANKS!



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