



I want you



I want **you**



to think of **building materials**

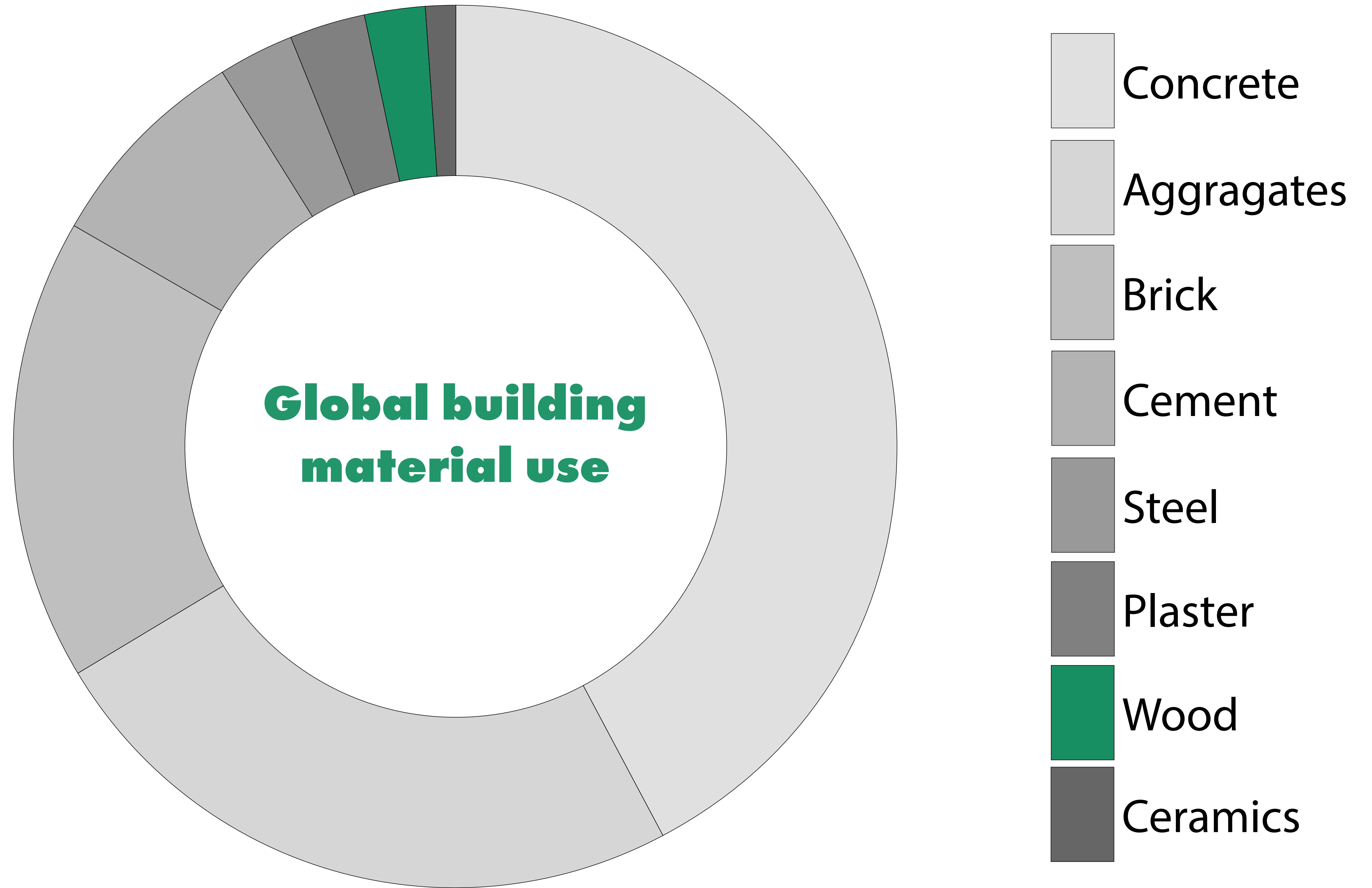






# Today's issues

## Materials



Can we **Change** this?



# Hygromorphic Timber

Master Research Thesis

P5

## Passive curving method for multi-layer structural timber floor elements

-5079810-

2 July 2024

Raymen Lenno François Borst  
Stijn Brancart & Gilbert Koskamp  
Master Research Thesis P5 Presentation

# Today's issues

There are **problems**

# Today's issues



# Today's issues

## Materials



# Today's issues

## Architecture

Heydar Aliyev Centre



# Today's issues

## Materials

Timber absorbs CO<sub>2</sub>:  
**Wood is Good**

# Today's issues

## Materials



# Today's issues

## Materials

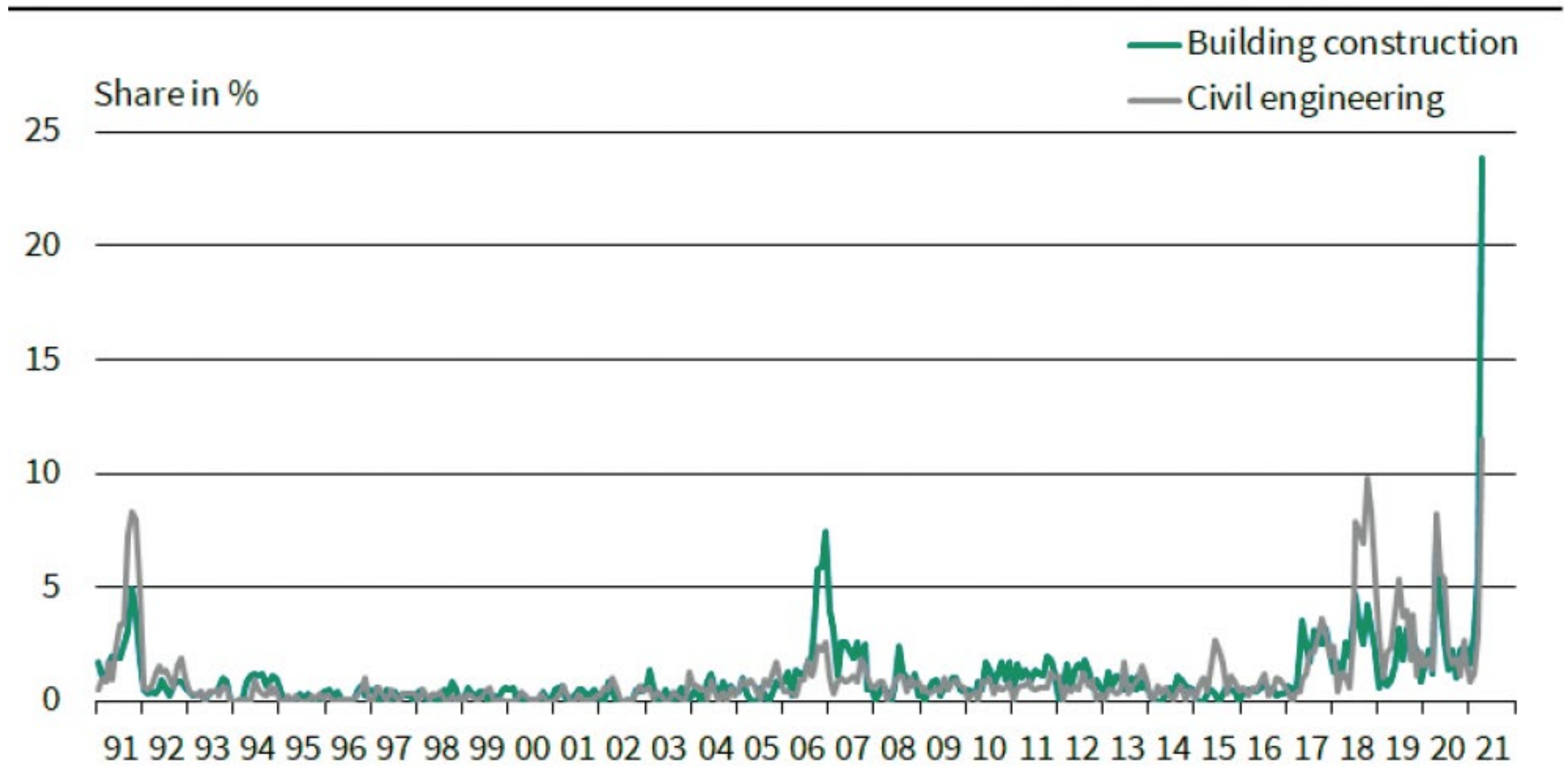
Materials become **Scarcer**



# Today's issues

## Materials

ifo: Material Shortage in the Construction Industry



Source: ifo Business Survey, April 2021.

© ifo Institute

# Today's issues

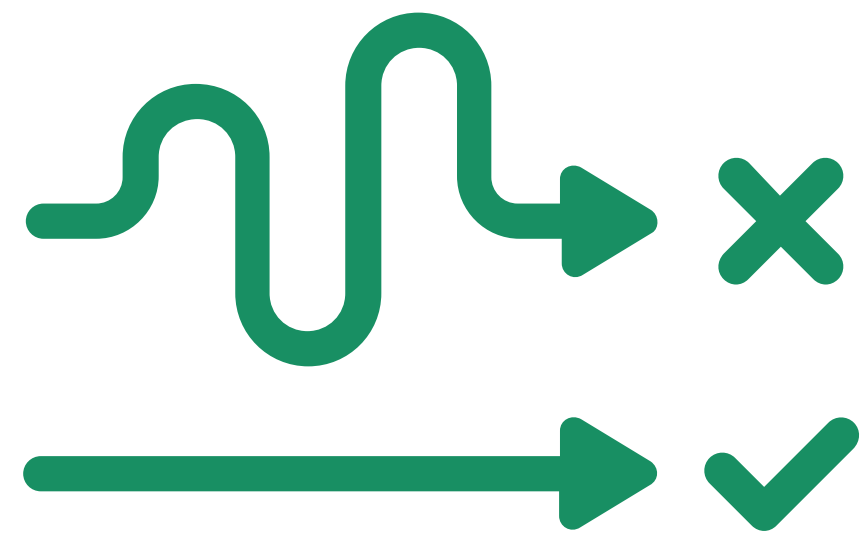
## Materials

Is there a solution to **Reduce Emissions** while also **Limit**  
the **Material Usage**?

# Today's issues

## Materials

**Efficient**



**Innovative**



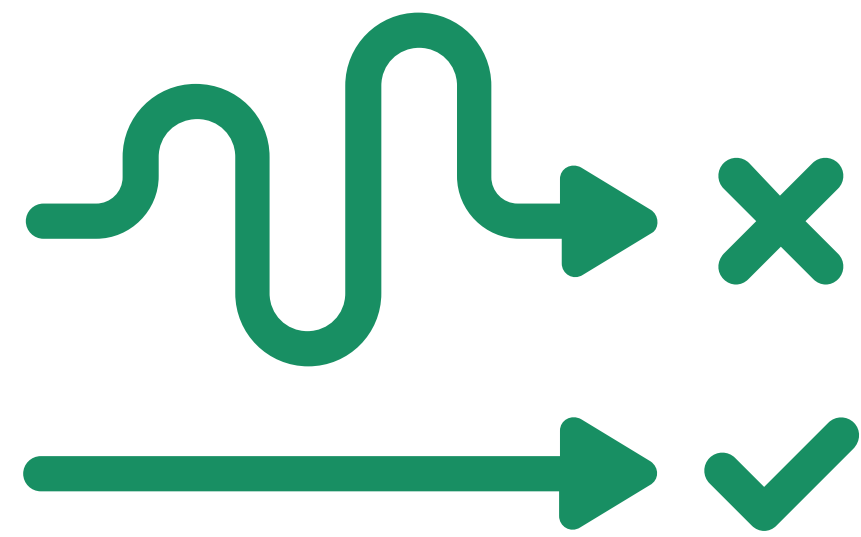
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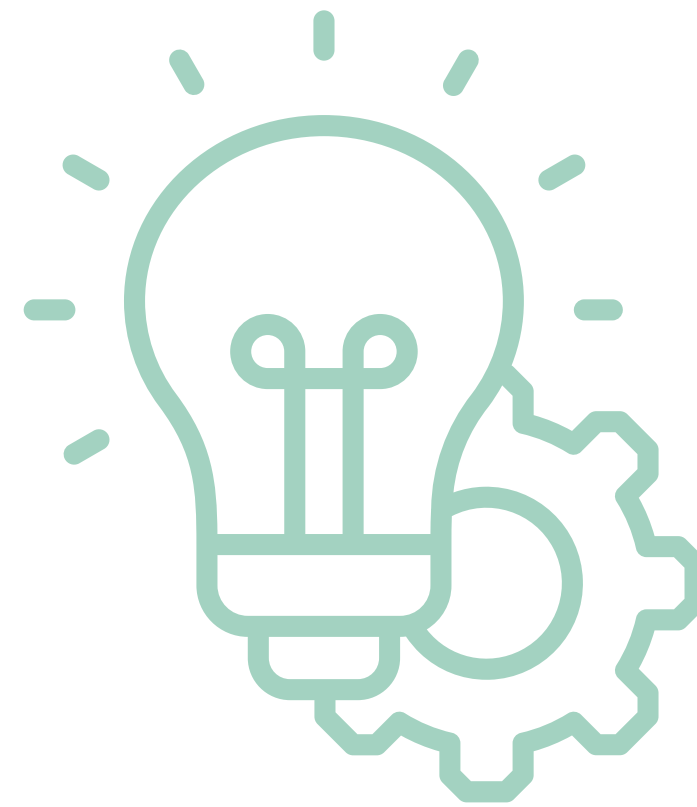
# Today's issues

## Materials

**Efficient**



**Innovative**



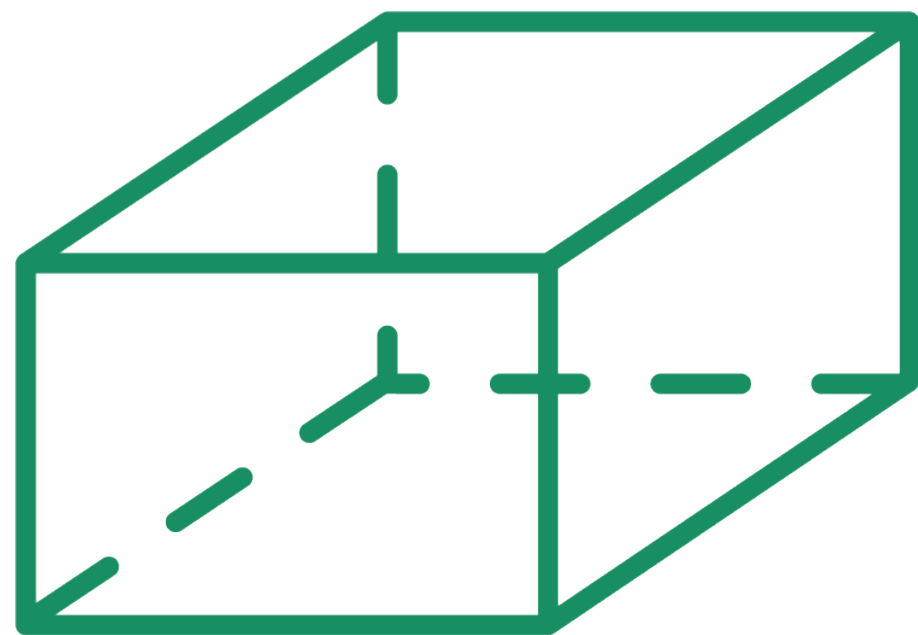
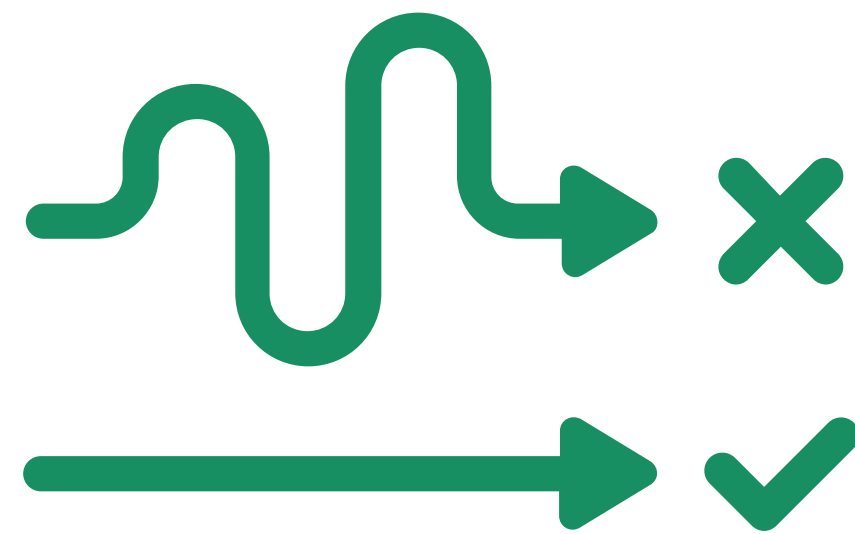
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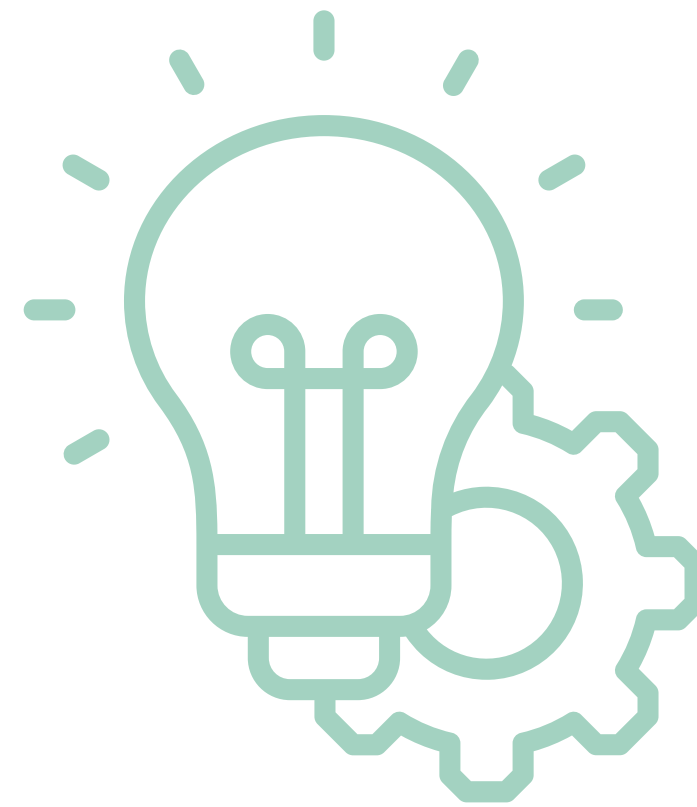
# Today's issues

Materials

**Efficient**



**Innovative**

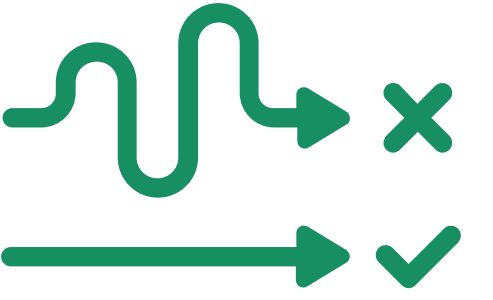


**New**



# Today's issues

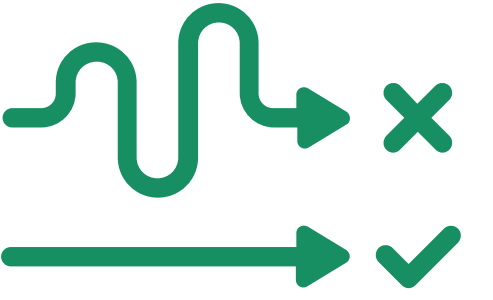
Materials



**Sustainable material** constructed in an **efficient structural form**

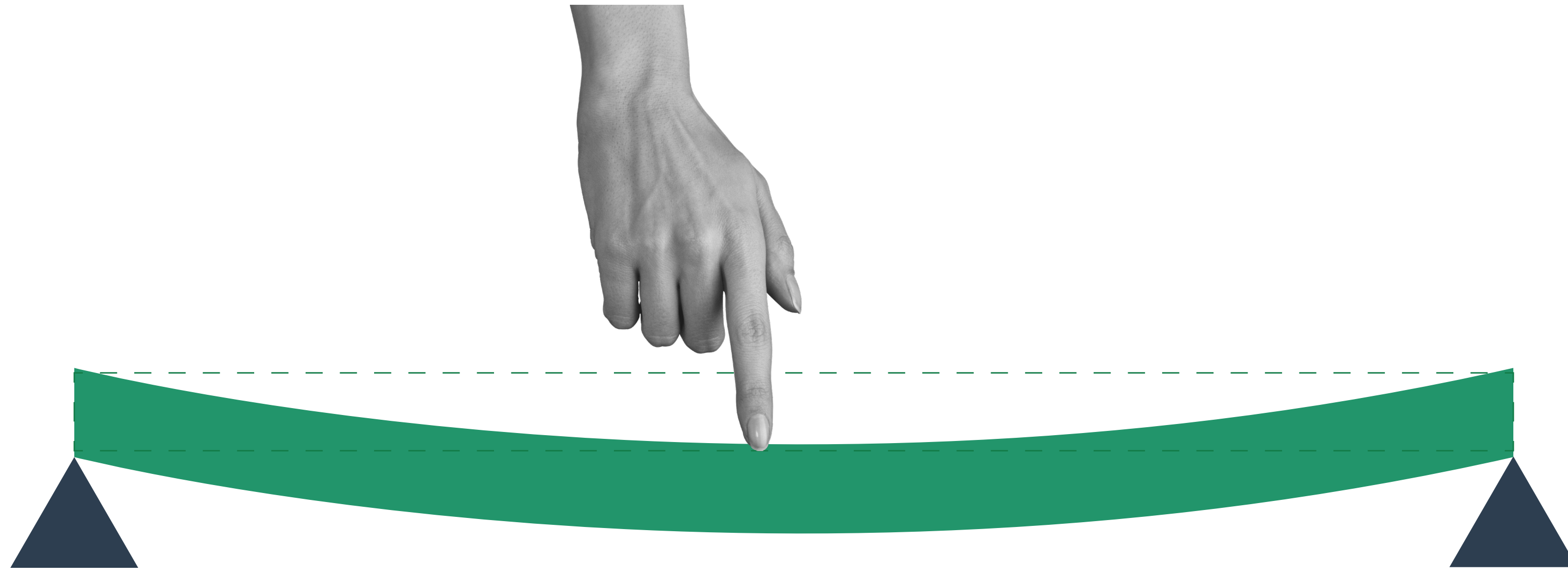
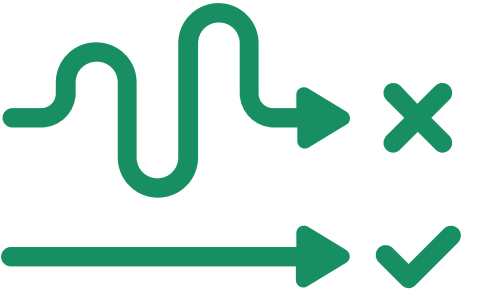
# Today's issues

## Materials



# Today's issues

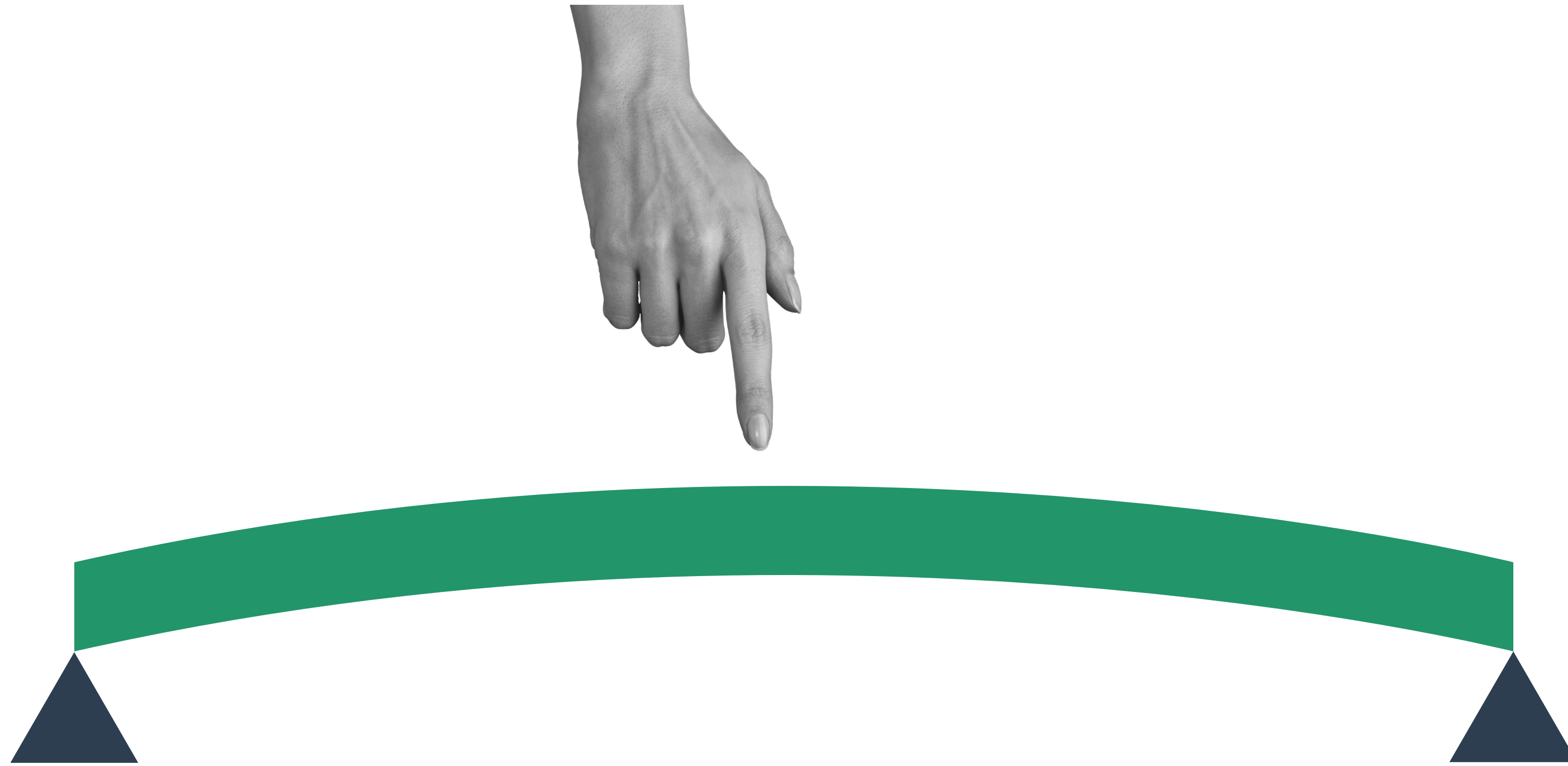
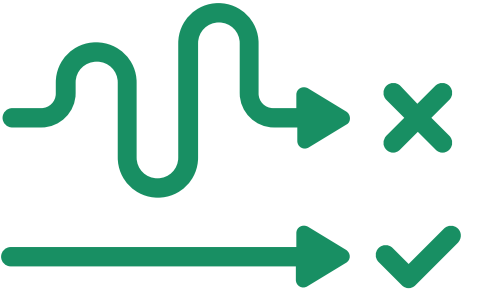
## Materials





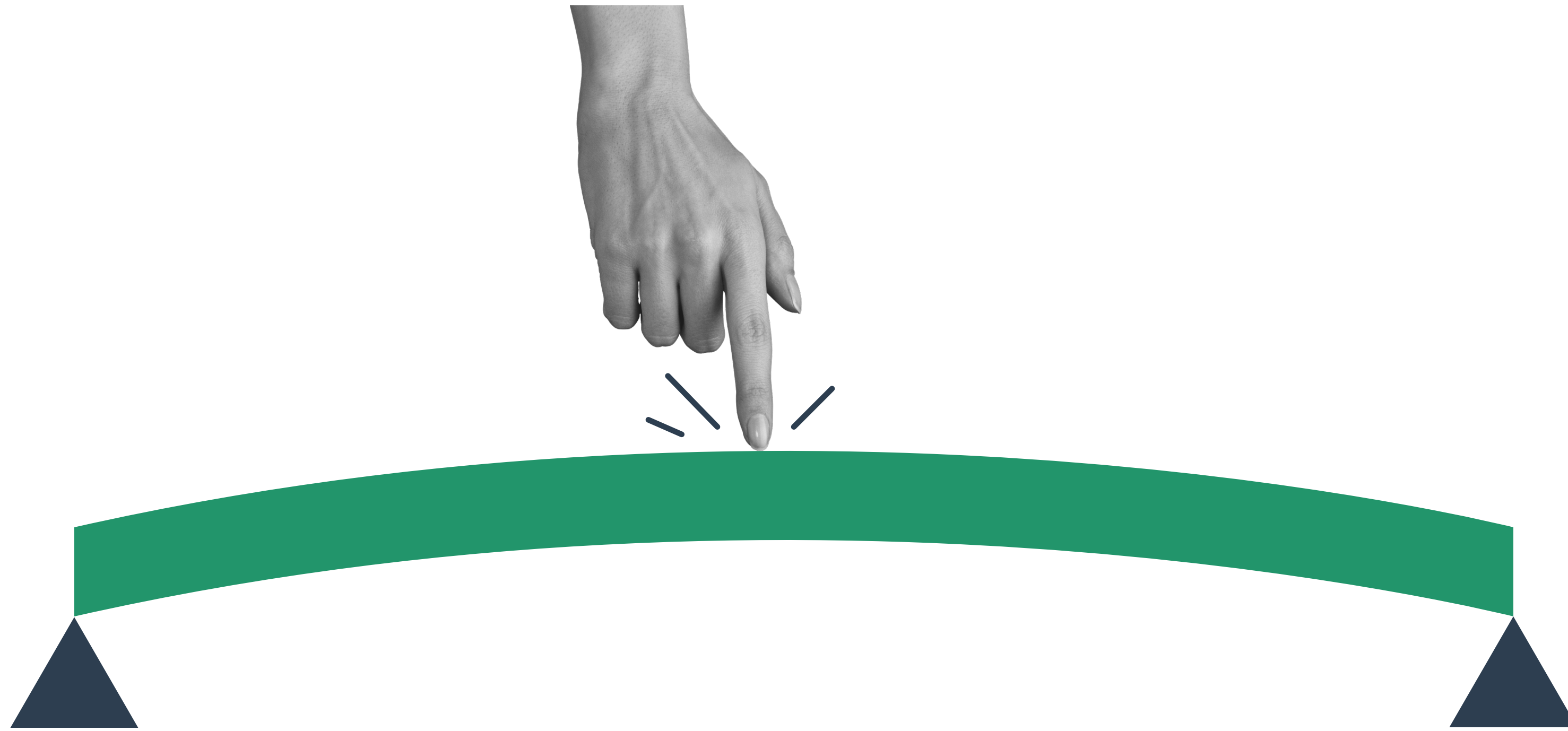
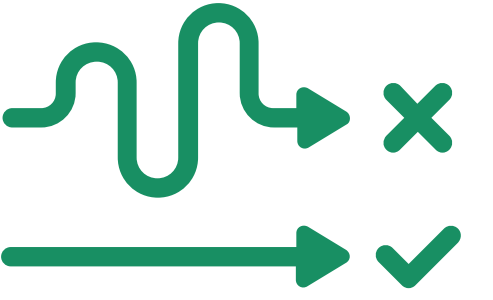
# Today's issues

Materials



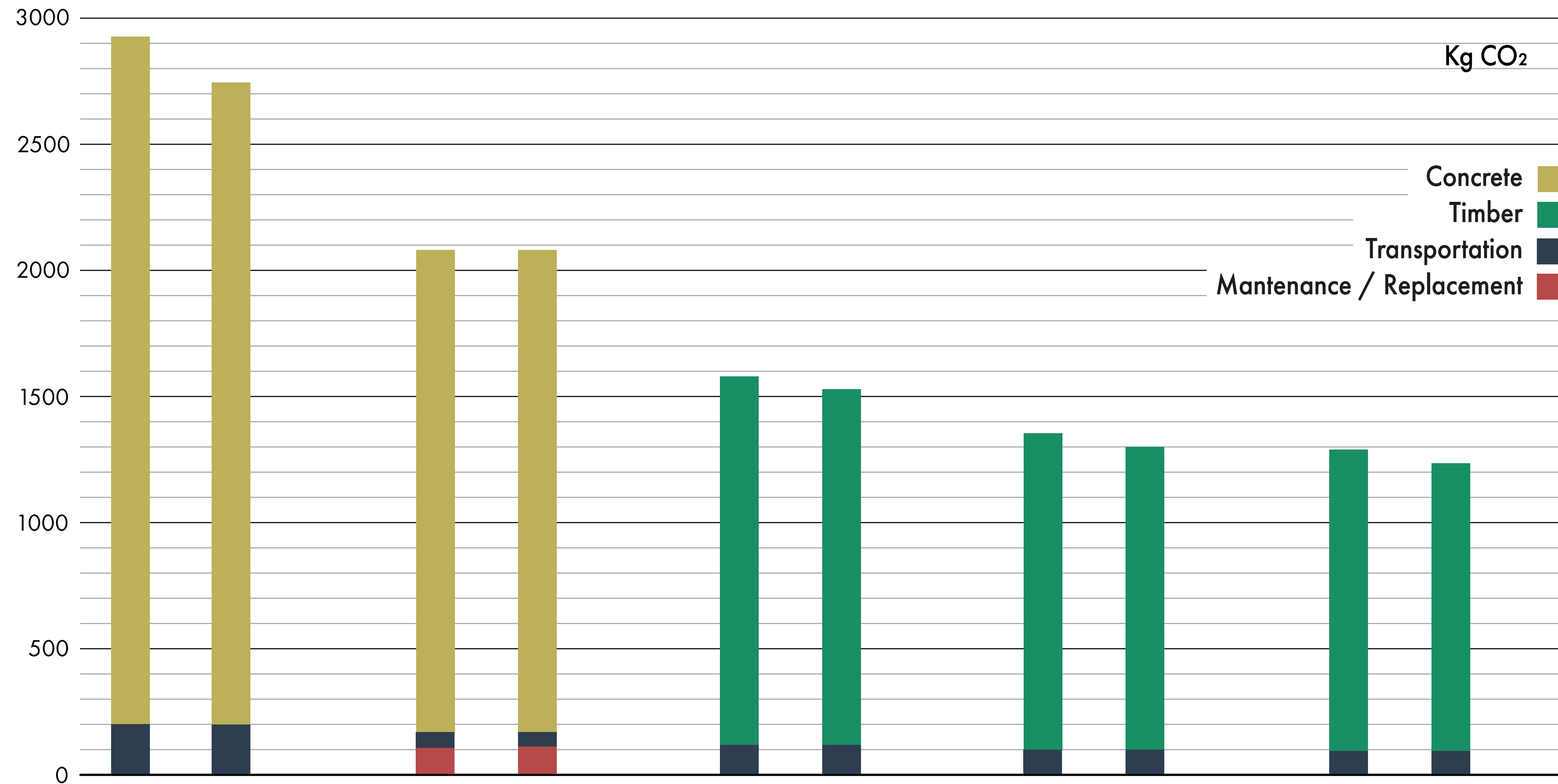
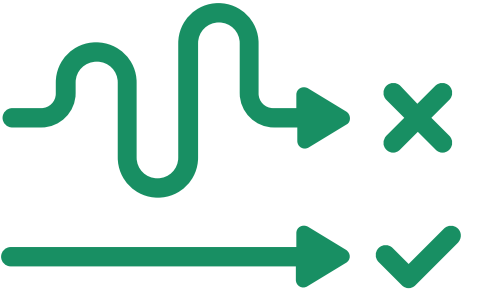
# Today's issues

## Materials



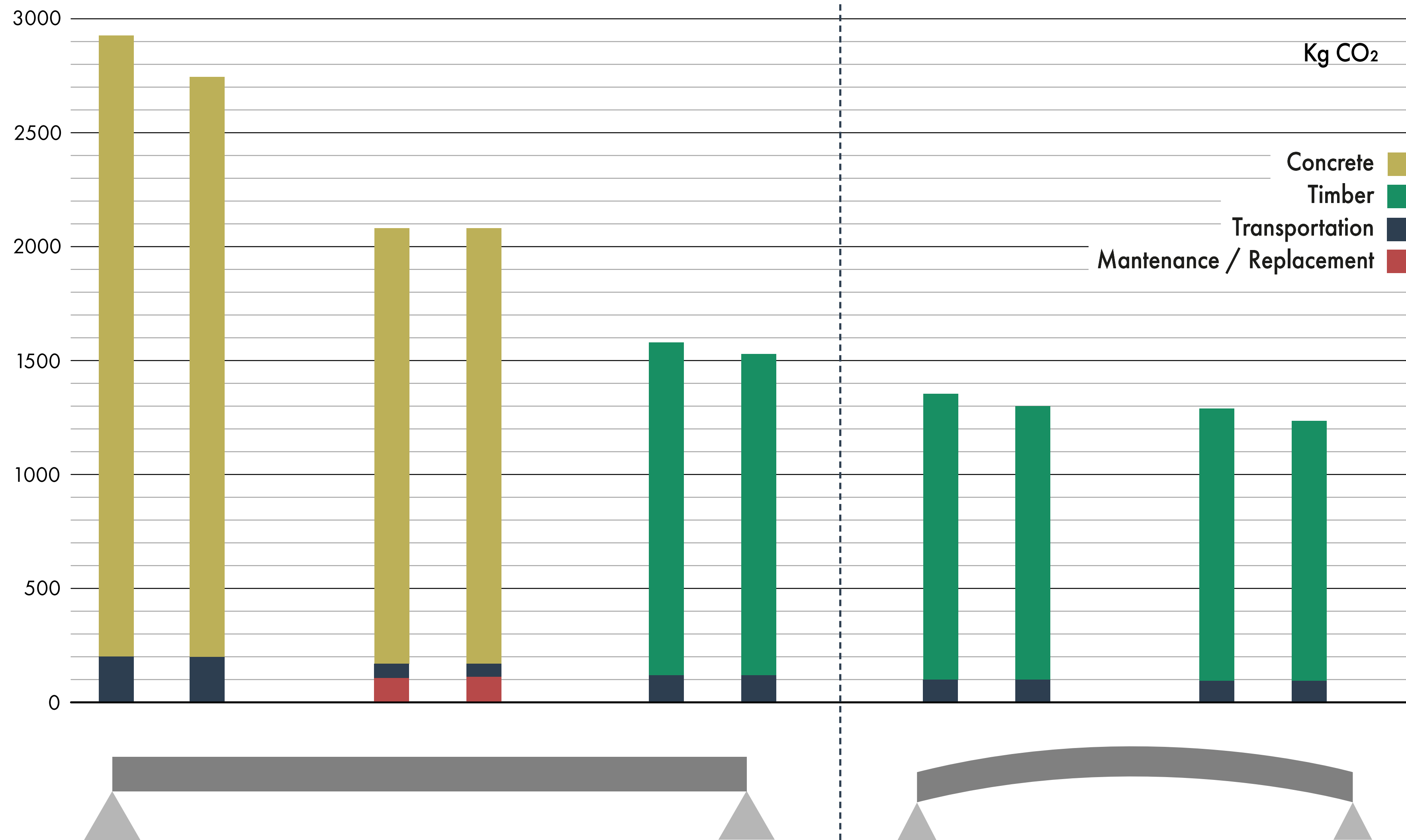
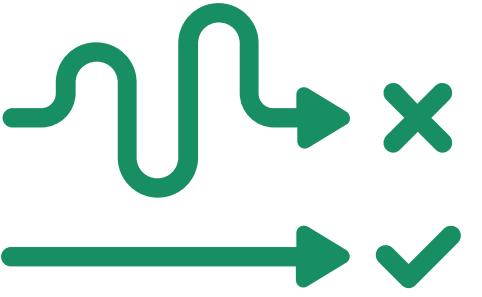
# Today's issues

## Materials



# Today's issues

## Materials



# Today's issues

## Form

The timber sector cannot meet the **growing demand** for complex **curved** architectural designs, resulting in its **irrelevance** compared to steel and concrete

# Today's issues

Form

Production of **curved timber** elements is **not possible?**

# Today's issues

## Form

Pudasjärvi Campus



# Today's issues

## Form

Kingsway pedestrian bridge, CA





# Today's issues

Form

Production of **curved timber** is **possible**

# Today's issues

Form

Active bending by **steaming** and **adhesives** to  
create **curved timber** elements

# Today's issues

## Form



# Today's issues

## Form



# Today's issues

Form

Not an optimal bending **method**

# Today's issues

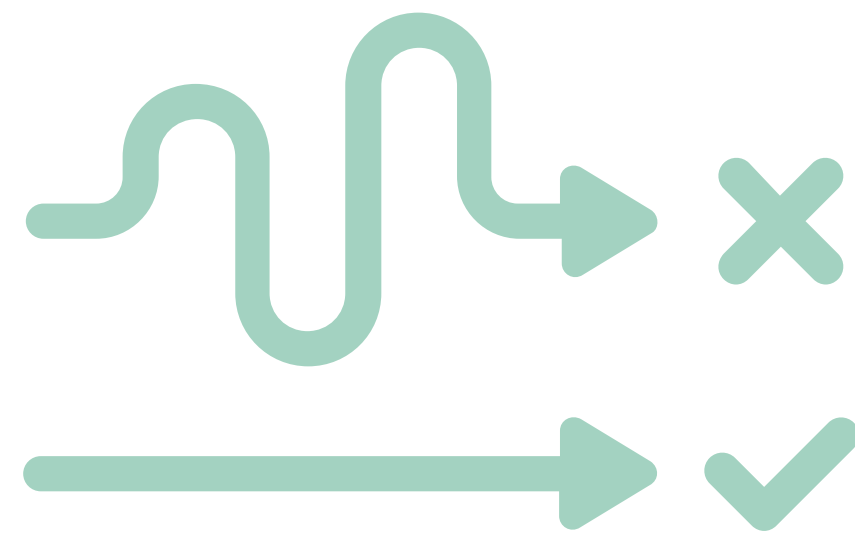
Form

Will **Passive** bending be the **solution**?

# Today's issues

## Materials

**Efficient**



**Innovative**



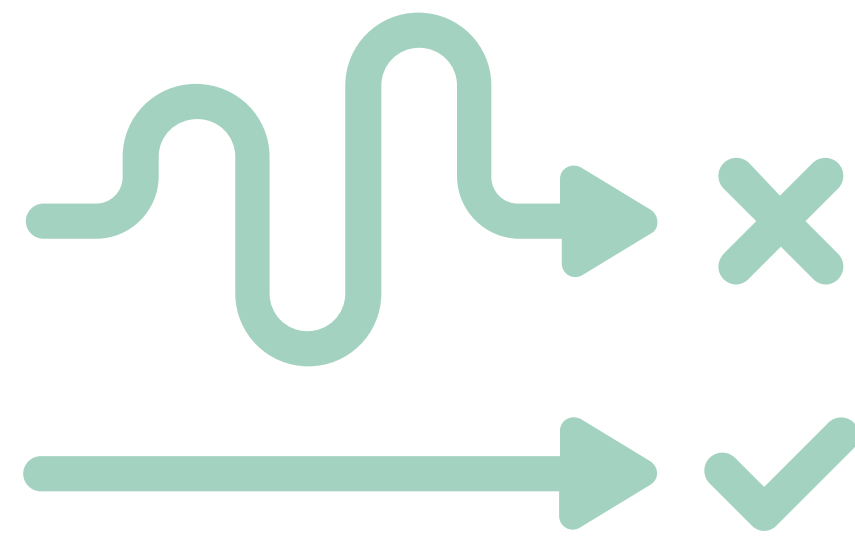
**New**



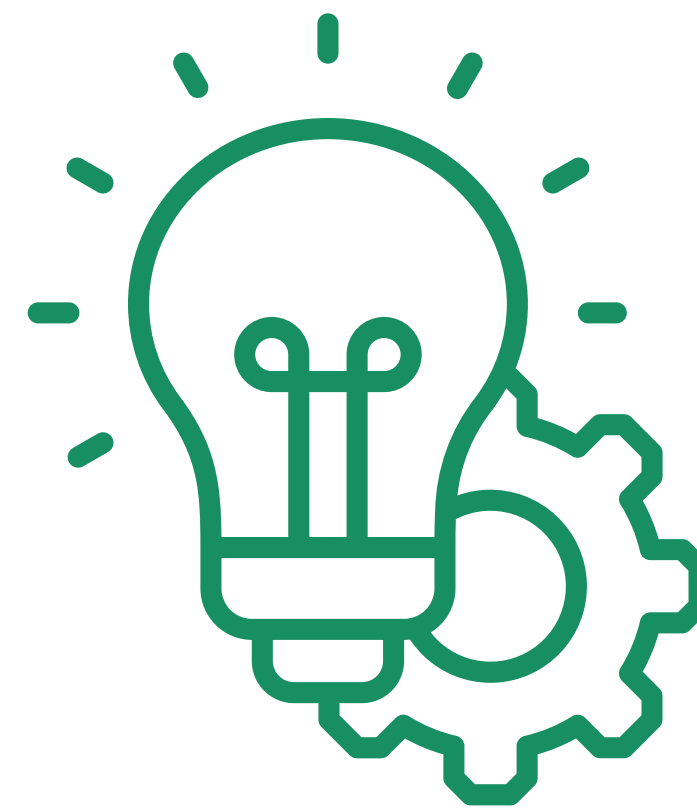
# Today's issues

## Materials

**Efficient**



**Innovative**



**New**





# Today's solutions

## Form



The Oseberg Ship



# Today's solutions

## Form



Urbach Tower



# Today's issues

## Form

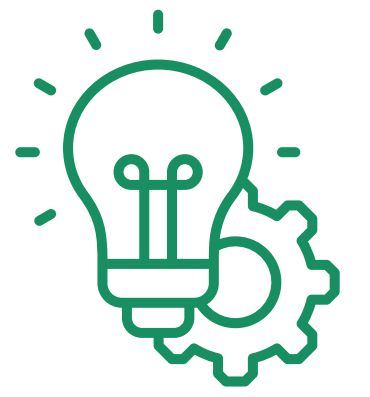


Hygroshell

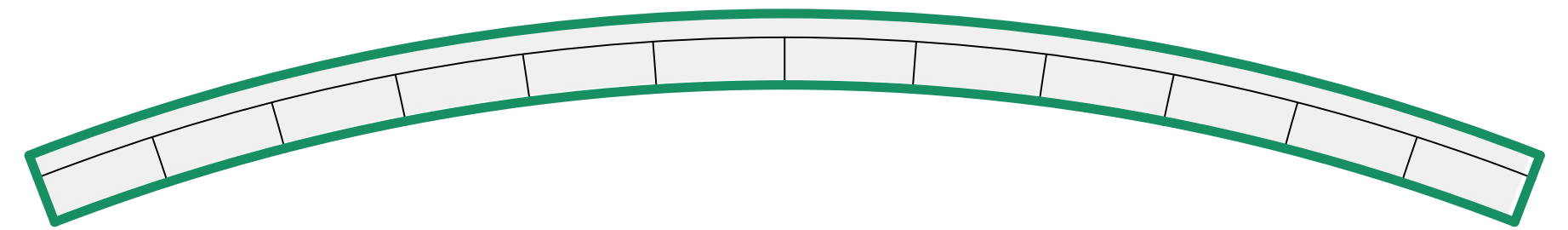
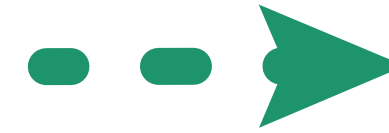
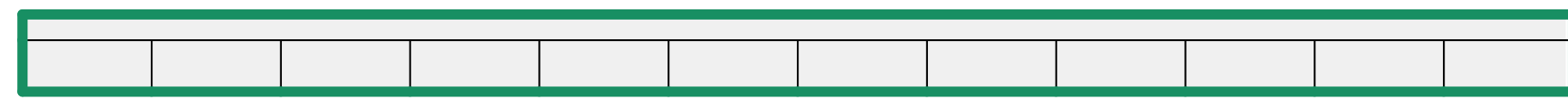


# Manufacturing

## Bi-layer

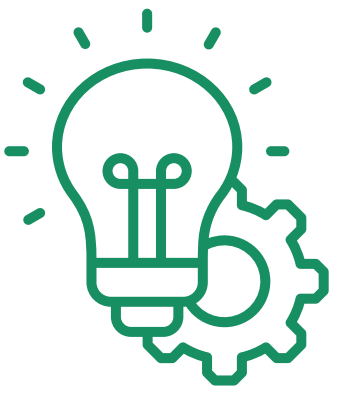


SLAB



# Research Gap

Multi-layer



From **bi-layer** to complexe **multi-layer** to support  
structural timber floor elements

# Research Question

**How can curved structural floor elements be created based on self-shaping hygromorphic bi-layers?**

# Methodology

## Comparison

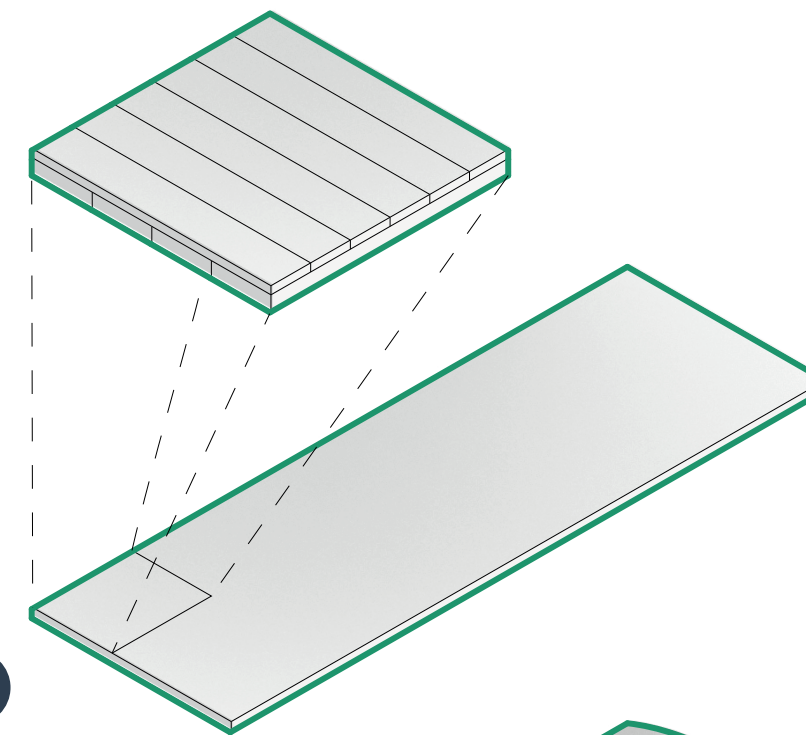
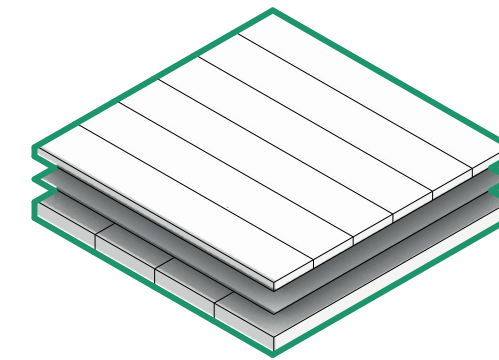
### **Bi-layer**

1. Part of a whole
2. Curving due to moisture change
3. Two bi-layers + locking layer

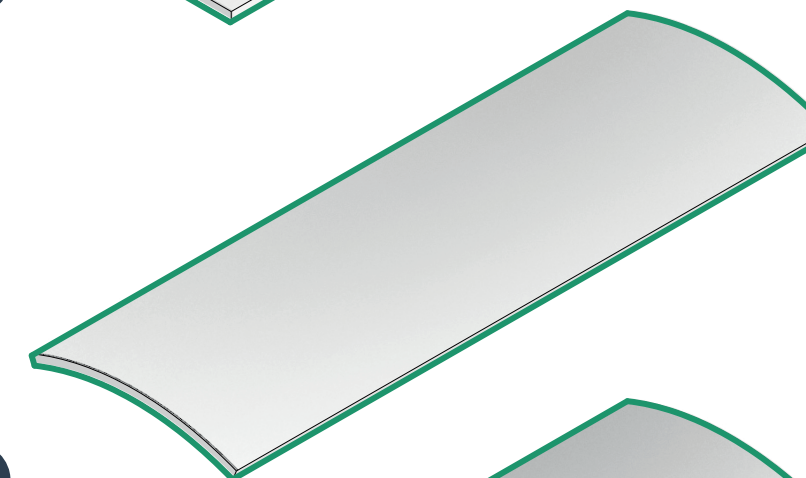
### **Multi-layer**

1. Part of a whole
2. Curving due to moisture change
3. Boxfloor elements

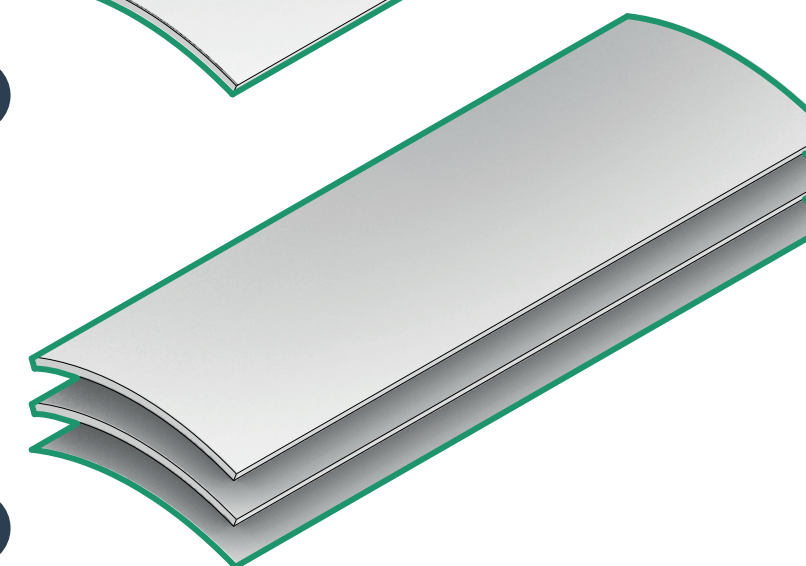
### **Bi-layer**



1

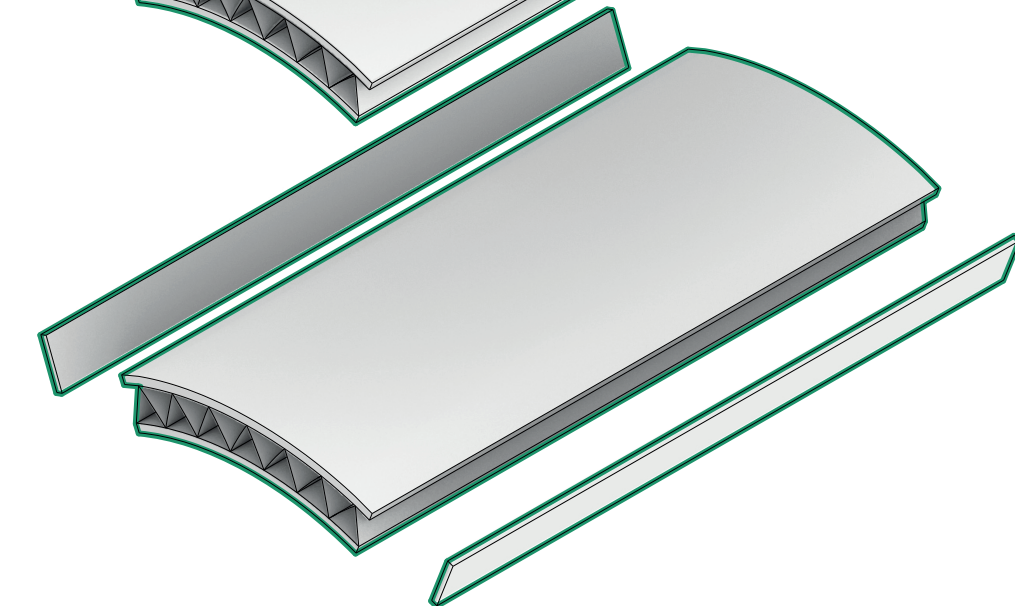
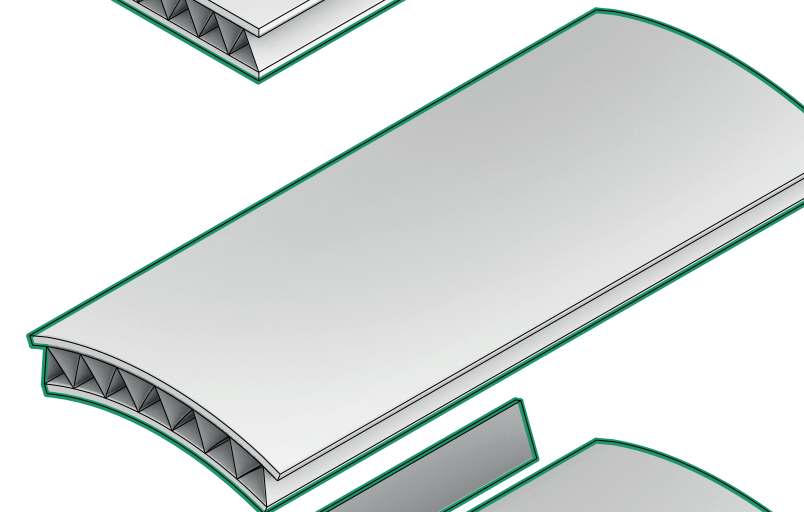
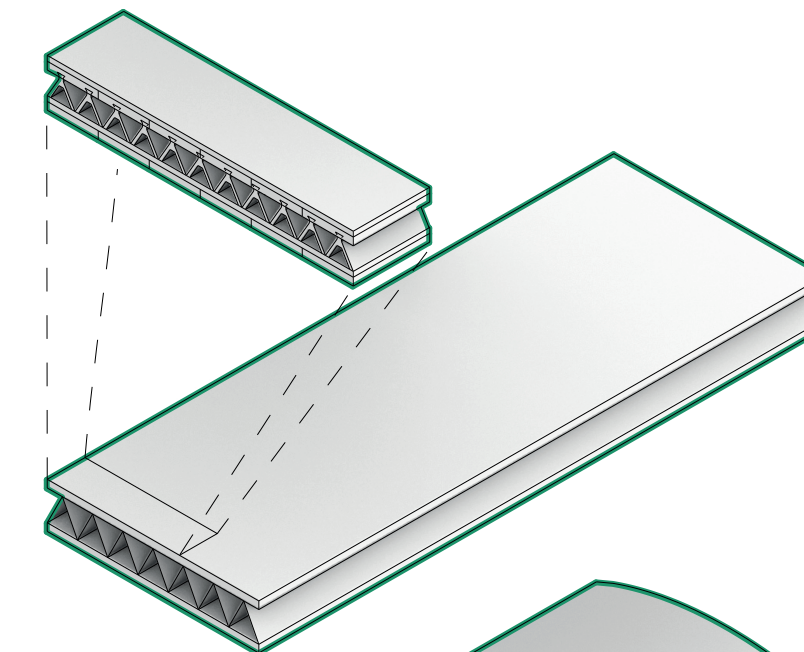
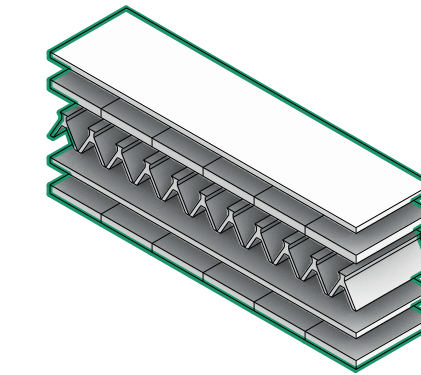


2



3

### **Multi-layer**





# Detailing

## Passive bending



How does **hygromorphic self-shaping** work?

# Detailing

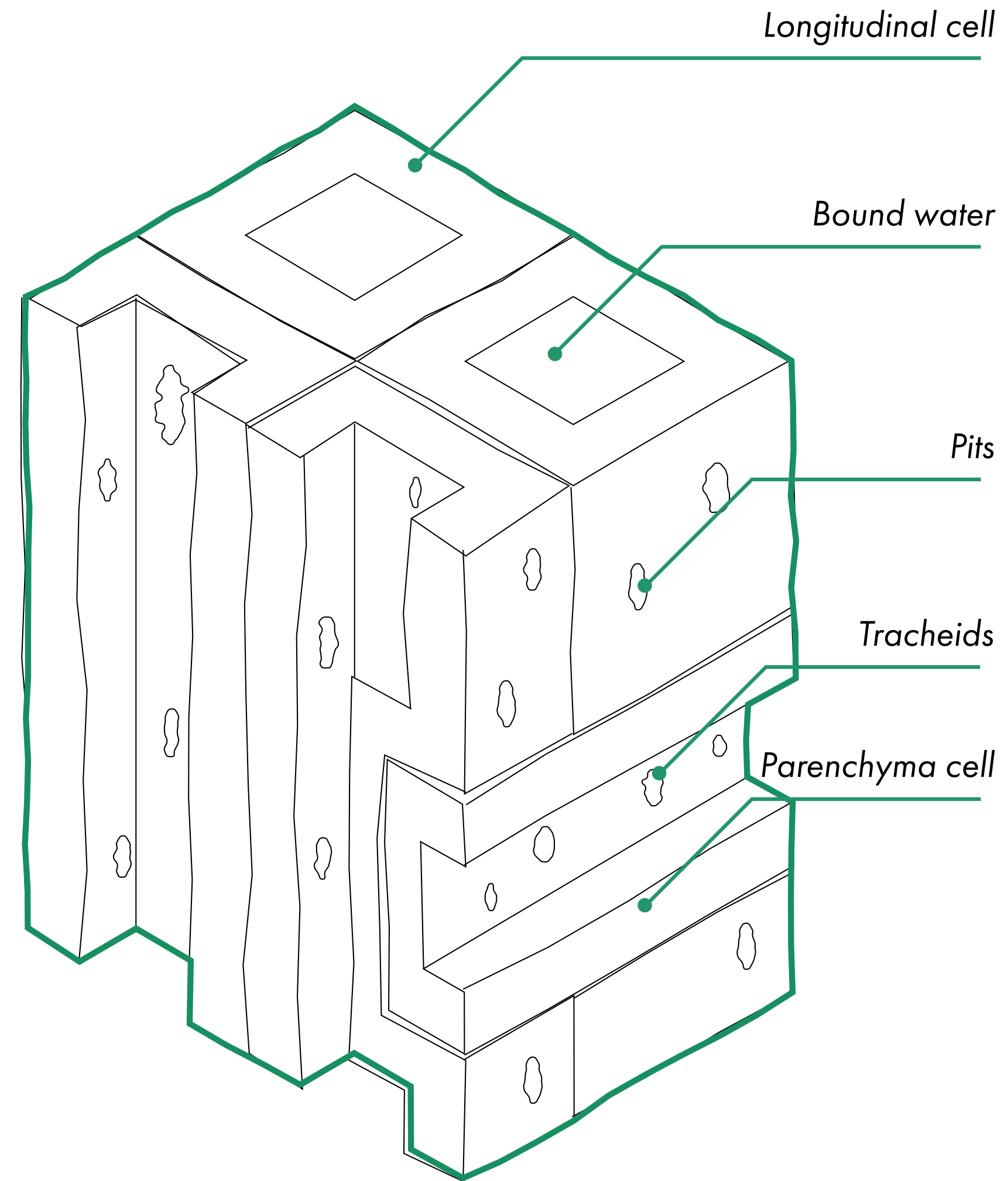
Passive bending



Look at the **details**

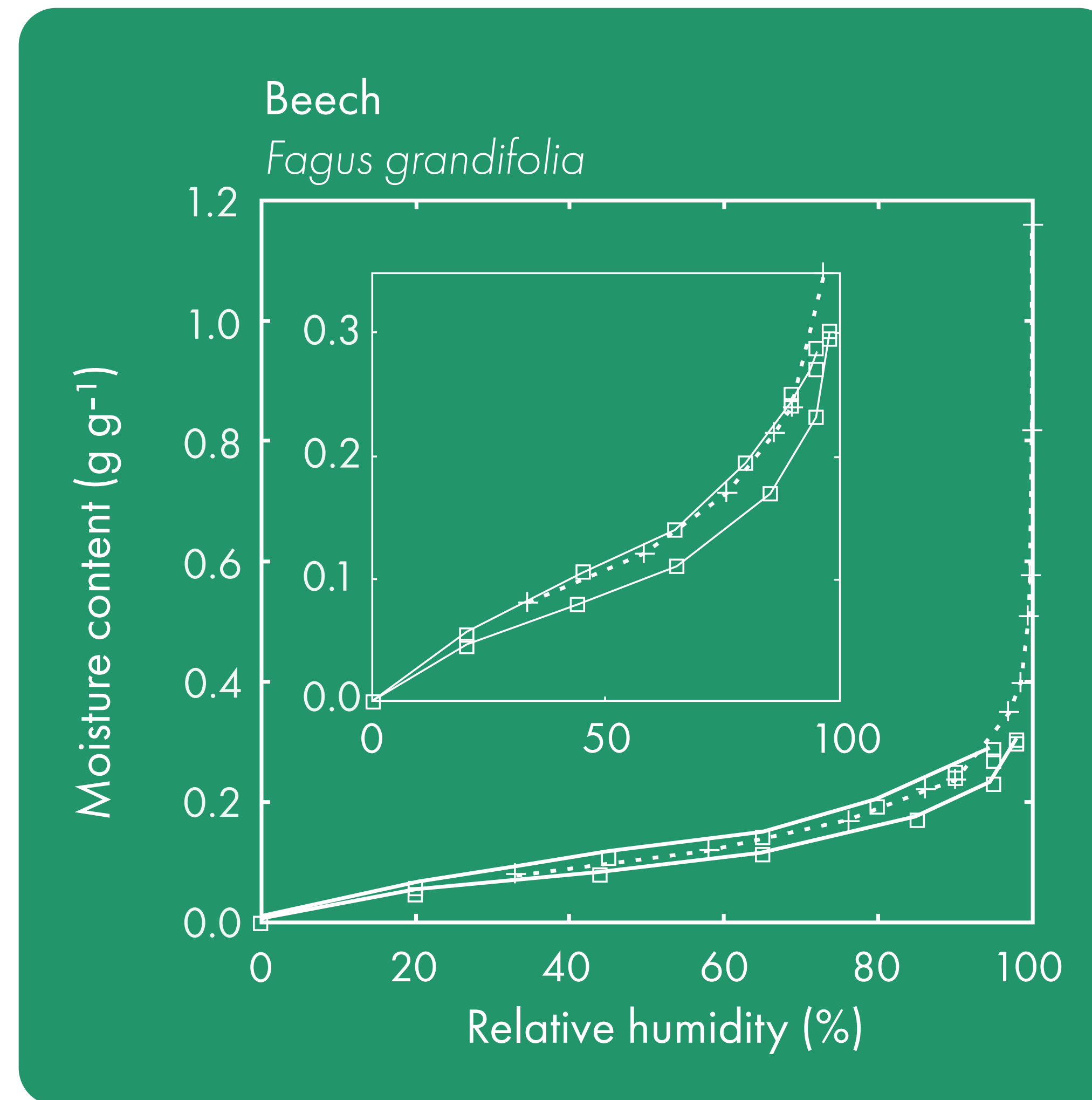
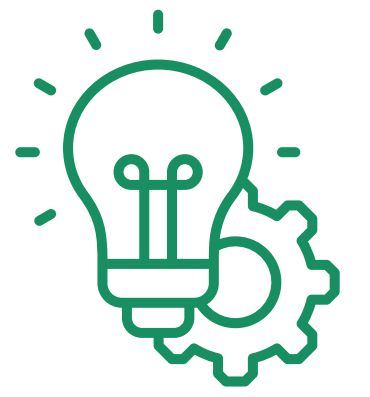
# Detailing

## Passive bending



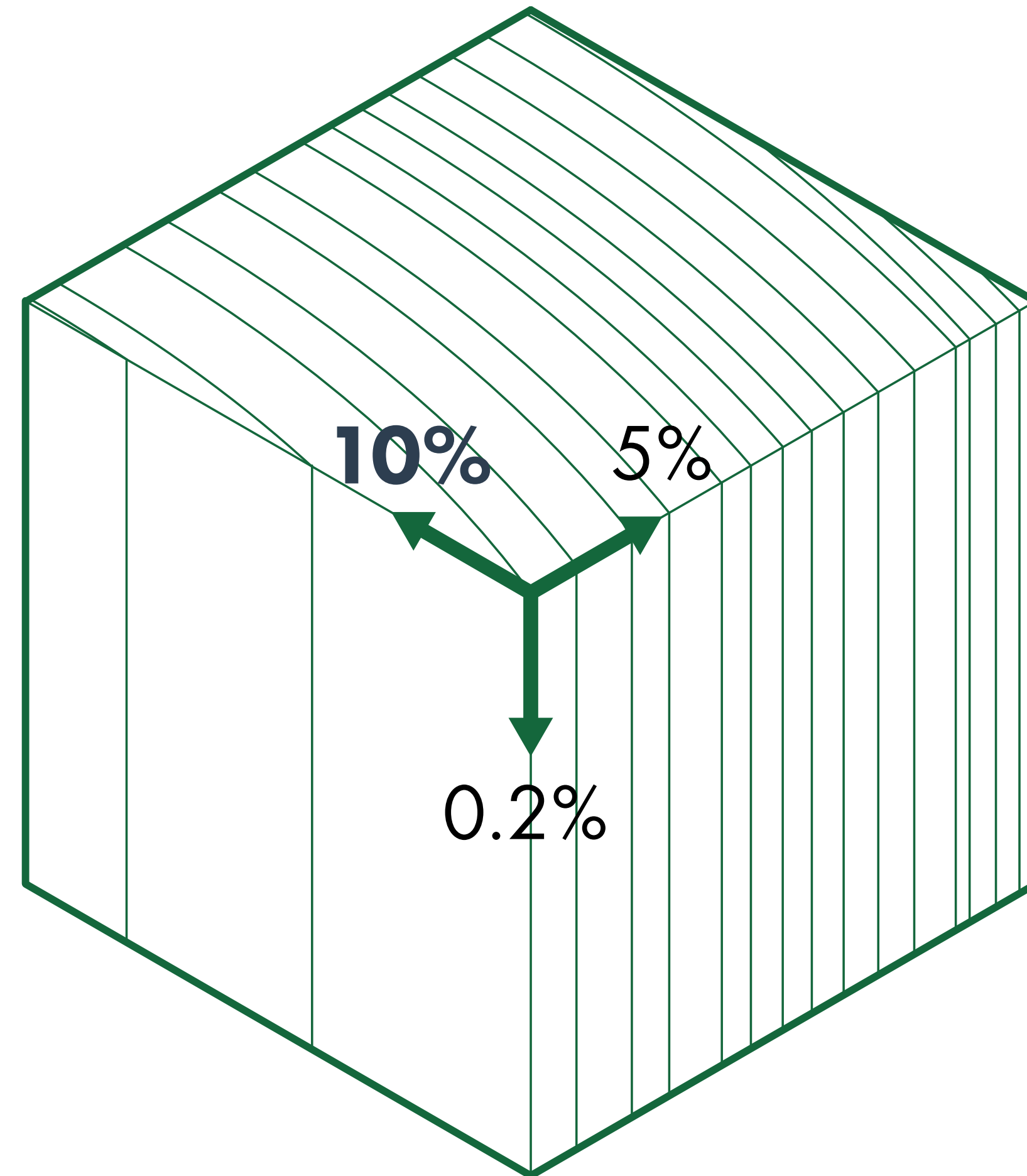
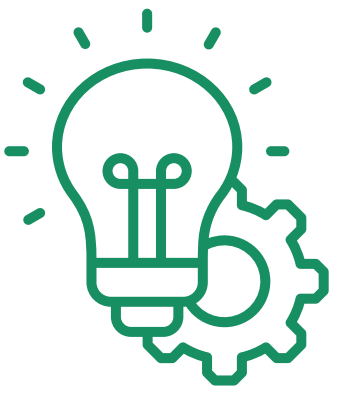
# Detailing

## Passive bending



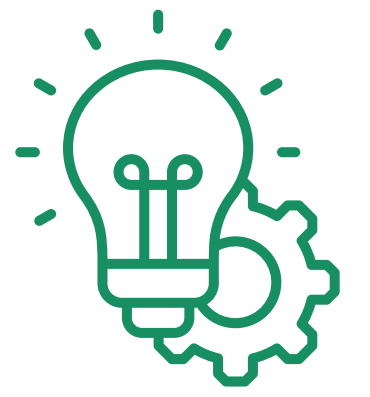
# Detailing

## Passive bending



# Detailing

Passive bending



## Experiment?

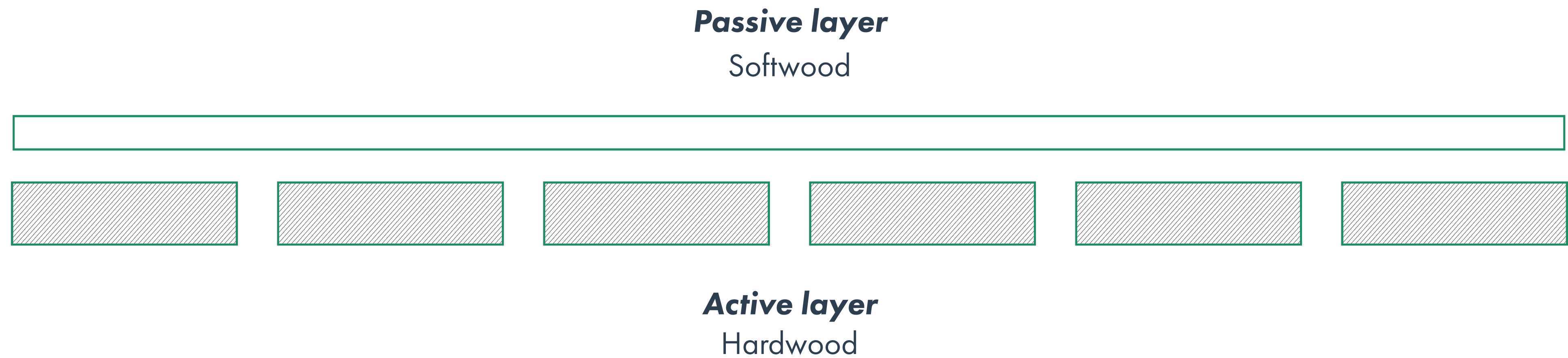
# Detailing

## Passive bending

How do we **utilize** these **hygromorphic** characteristics **now**?

# Manufacturing

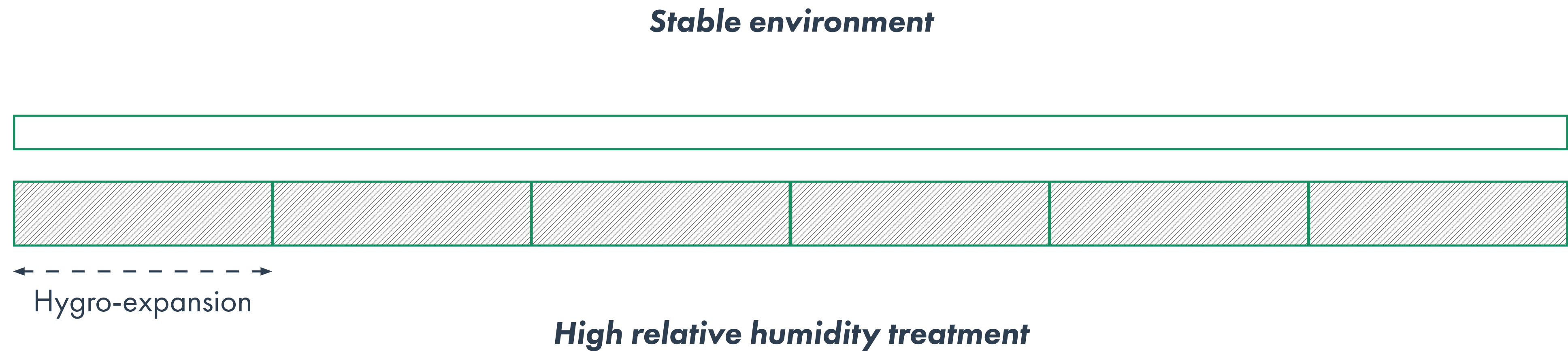
## Passive bending





# Manufacturing

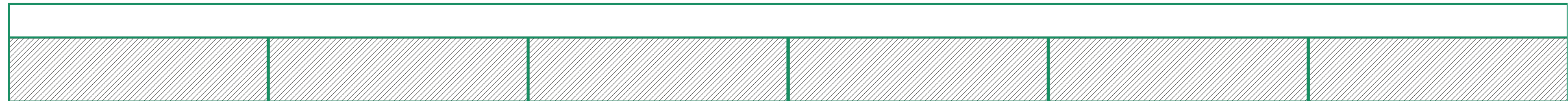
## Passive bending



# Manufacturing

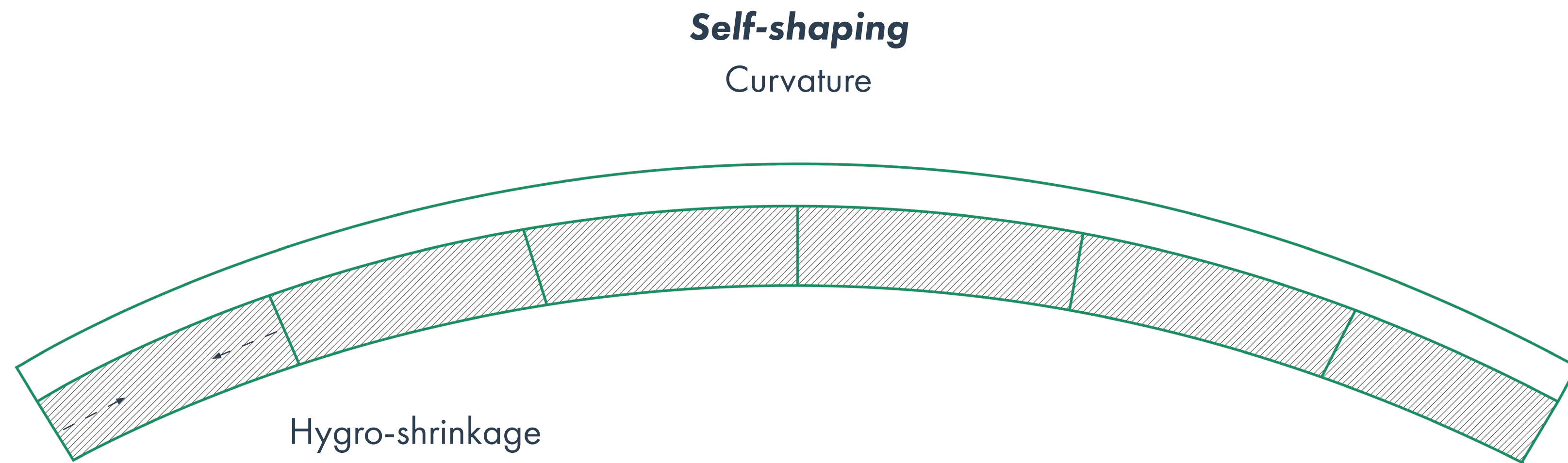
## Passive bending

**Assembly**  
Adhesives



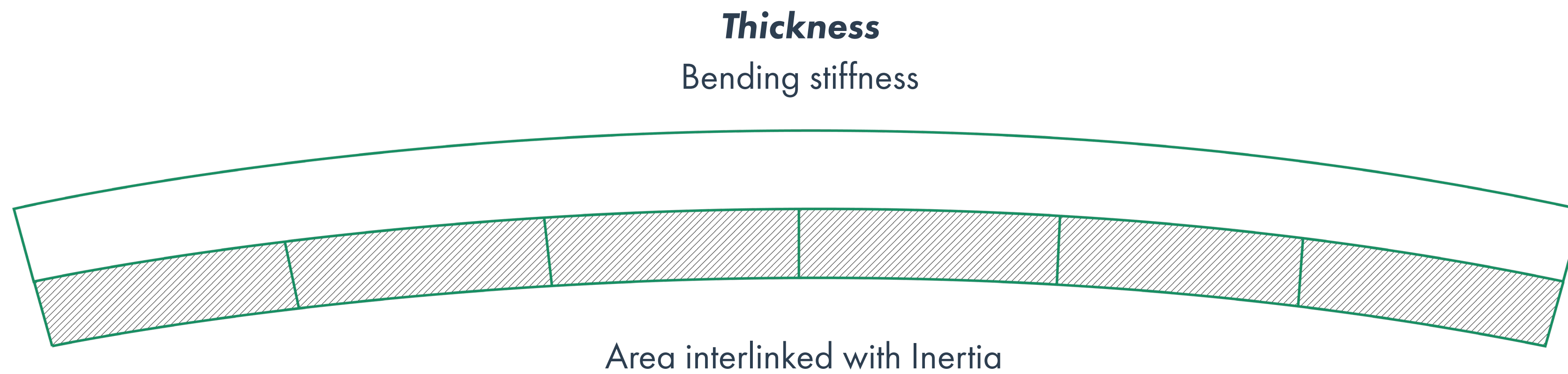
# Manufacturing

## Passive bending



# Manufacturing

## Passive bending



# Manufacturing

## Passive bending



# Manufacturing

## Passive bending

Focus on **light elements**,  
Exclude thick solid objects

# Manufacturing

Passive bending

From Bi-layer to **Multi-layer** to shift from thin slabs  
to **Floor elements typologies**

# Practise

## Bi-layer

***First test***





# Practise

## Bi-layer

*Analytical*



*Physical*



# Practise

## Bi-layer

*Analytical*

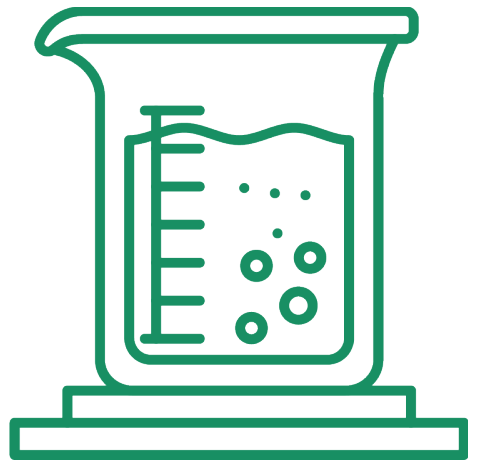


*Physical*



# Practise

## Bi-layer

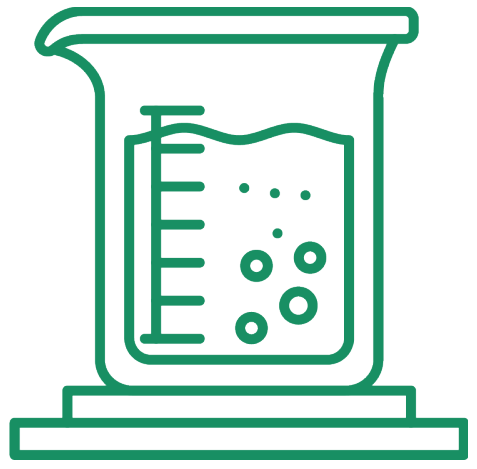


**Bi-layer**



# Practise

## Bi-layer



**Bi-layer**



Length: 1025mm  
Curve height: 10mm

# Practise

## Bi-layer



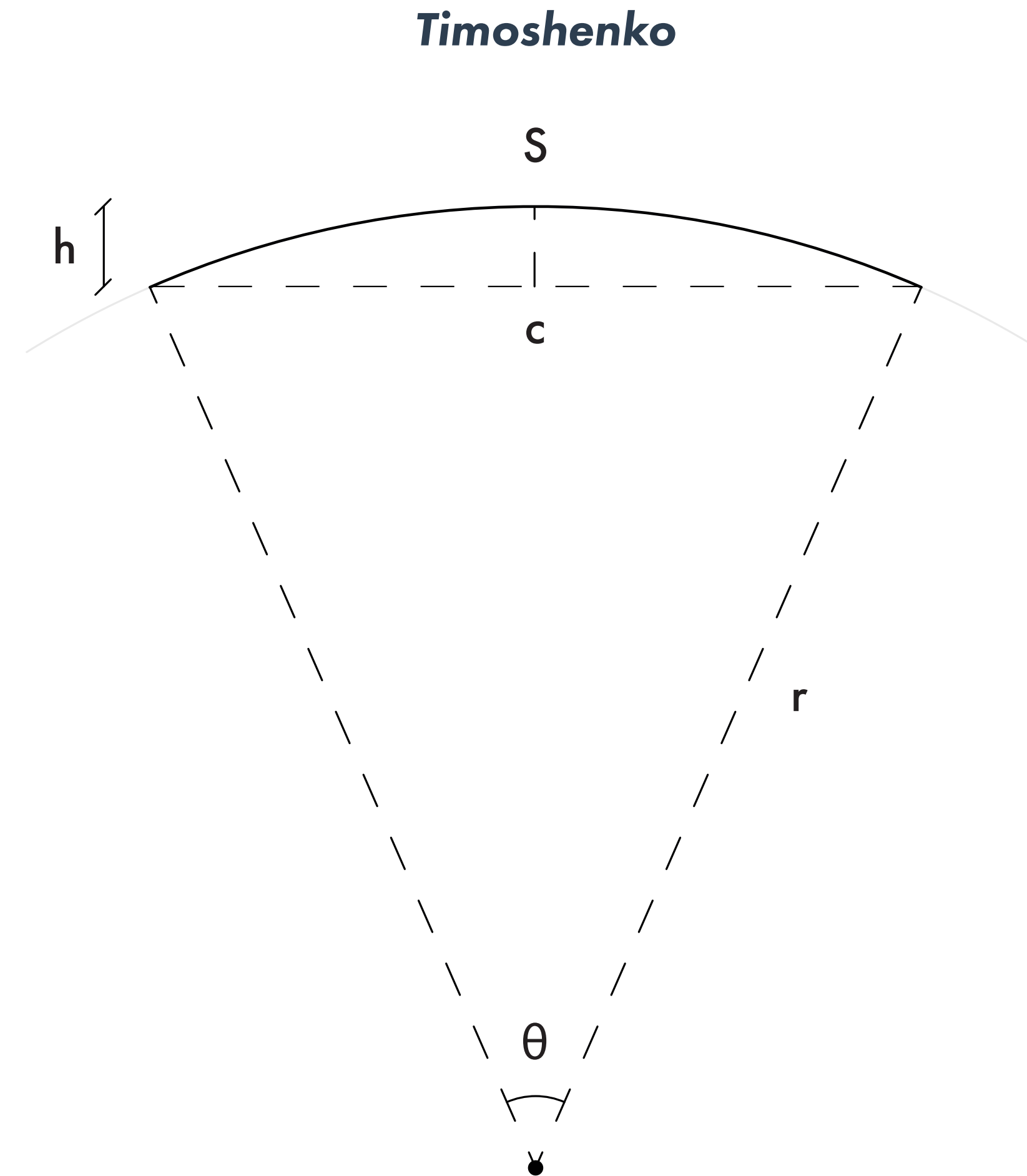
$$k \approx k_0 \left[ \frac{h_1 + h_2}{2} + \frac{2(E_1 I_1 + E_2 I_2)}{h_1 + h_2} \left( \frac{1}{E_1 h_1} + \frac{1}{E_2 h_2} \right) \right]^{-1} (\alpha_2 - \alpha_1)$$

**E** : Young's modulus (Stiffness)

**I** : Inertia (Area)

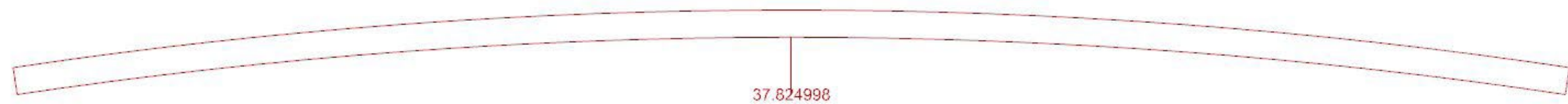
**a** : Poisson ratio (Direction of cells)

**h** : Height (Thickness)



# Practise

## Bi-layer



# Practise

## Bi-layer



Curve height: 10mm vs 37.8mm

Resemblance / Reached : 26.4%

# Manufacturing

Passive bending

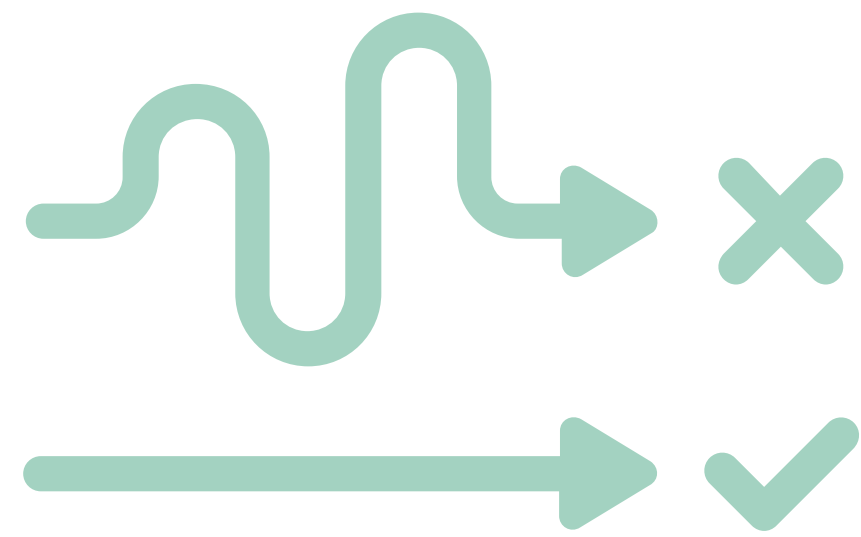
Self-shaping principle works on bi-layer,  
**now Multi-layer**



# Today's issues

## Materials

**Efficient**



**Innovative**



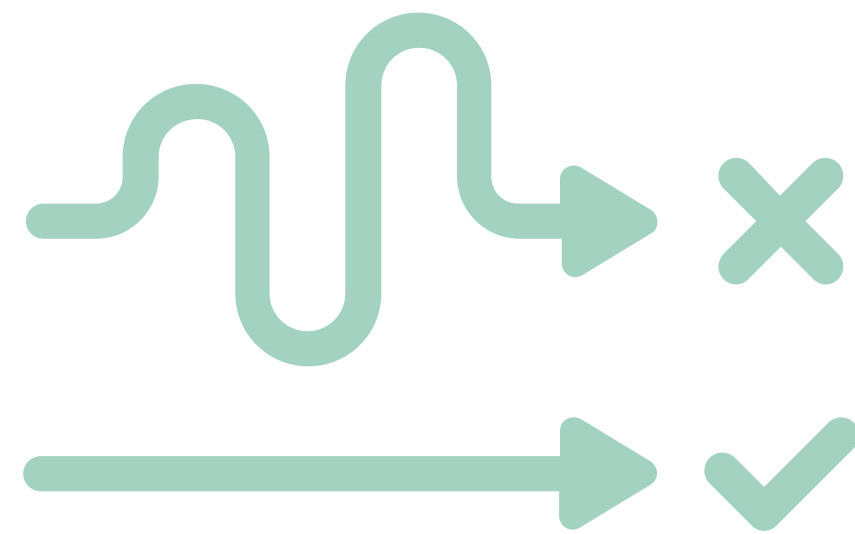
**New**



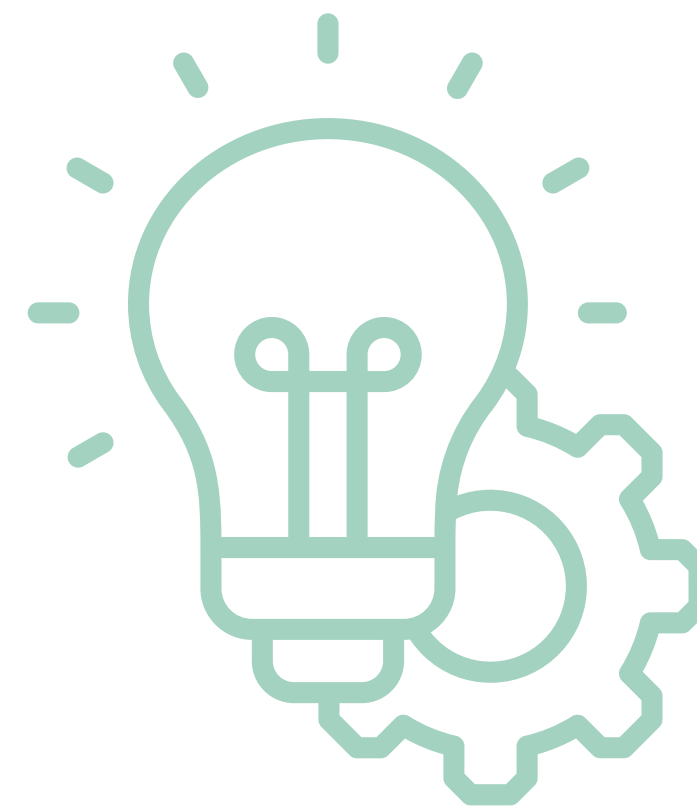
# Today's issues

## Materials

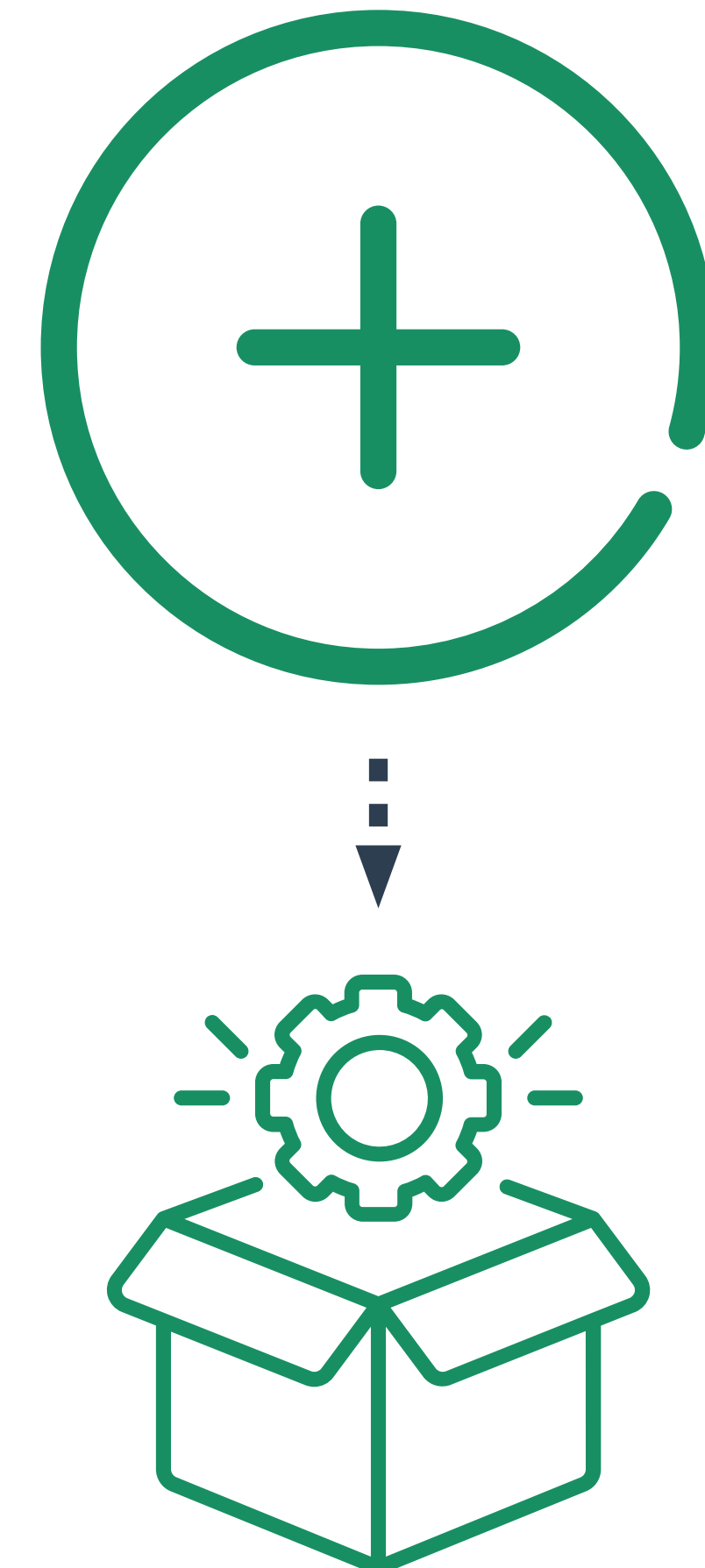
**Efficient**



**Innovative**



**New**



# Context & Designing

# Context



# Context

## Curvature

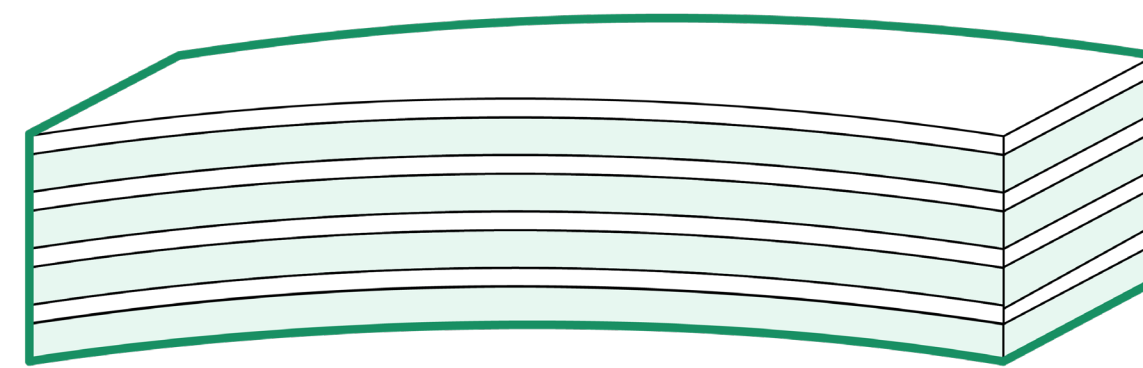
Length to height ratio 1:8 to 1:12

Curve height: 10cm : 1200mm width



# Manufacturing

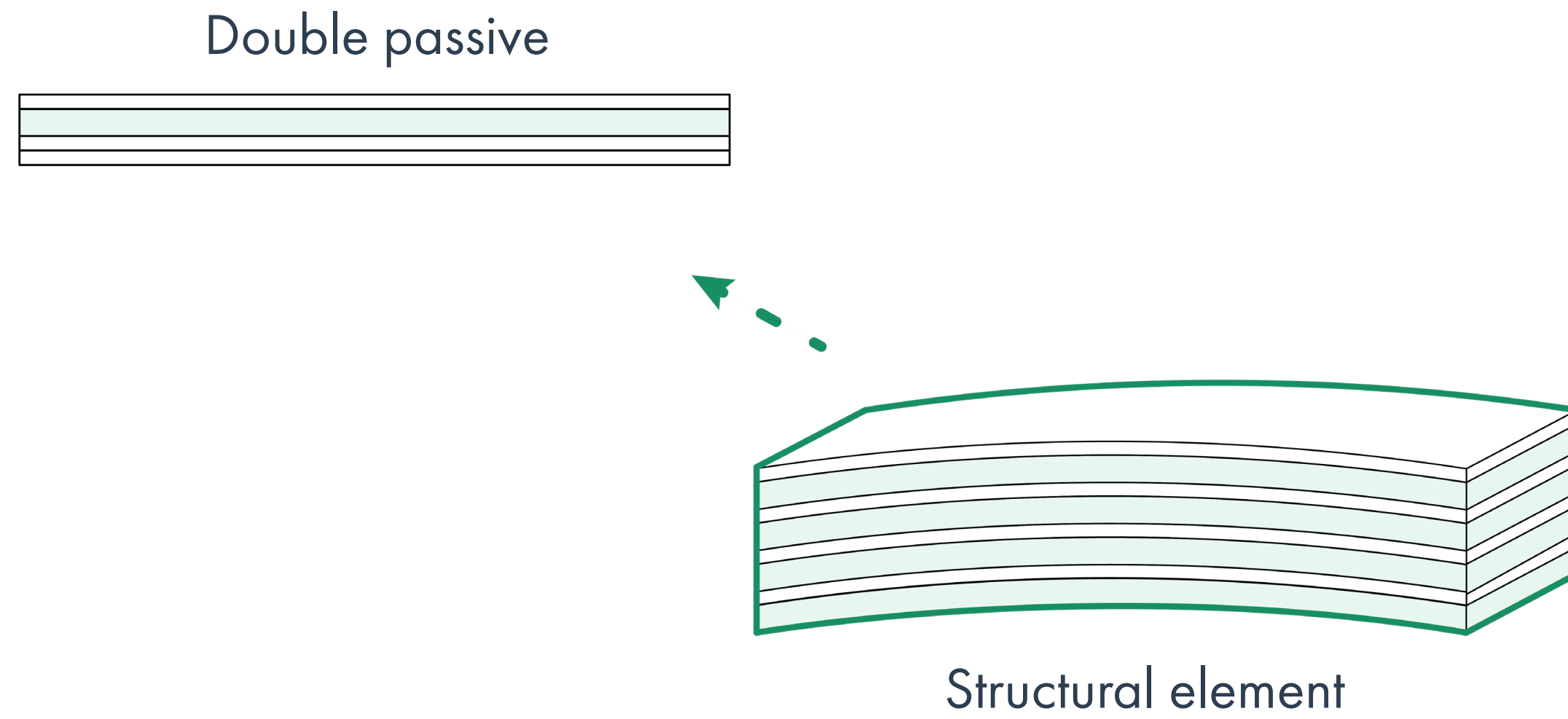
## Passive bending



Structural element

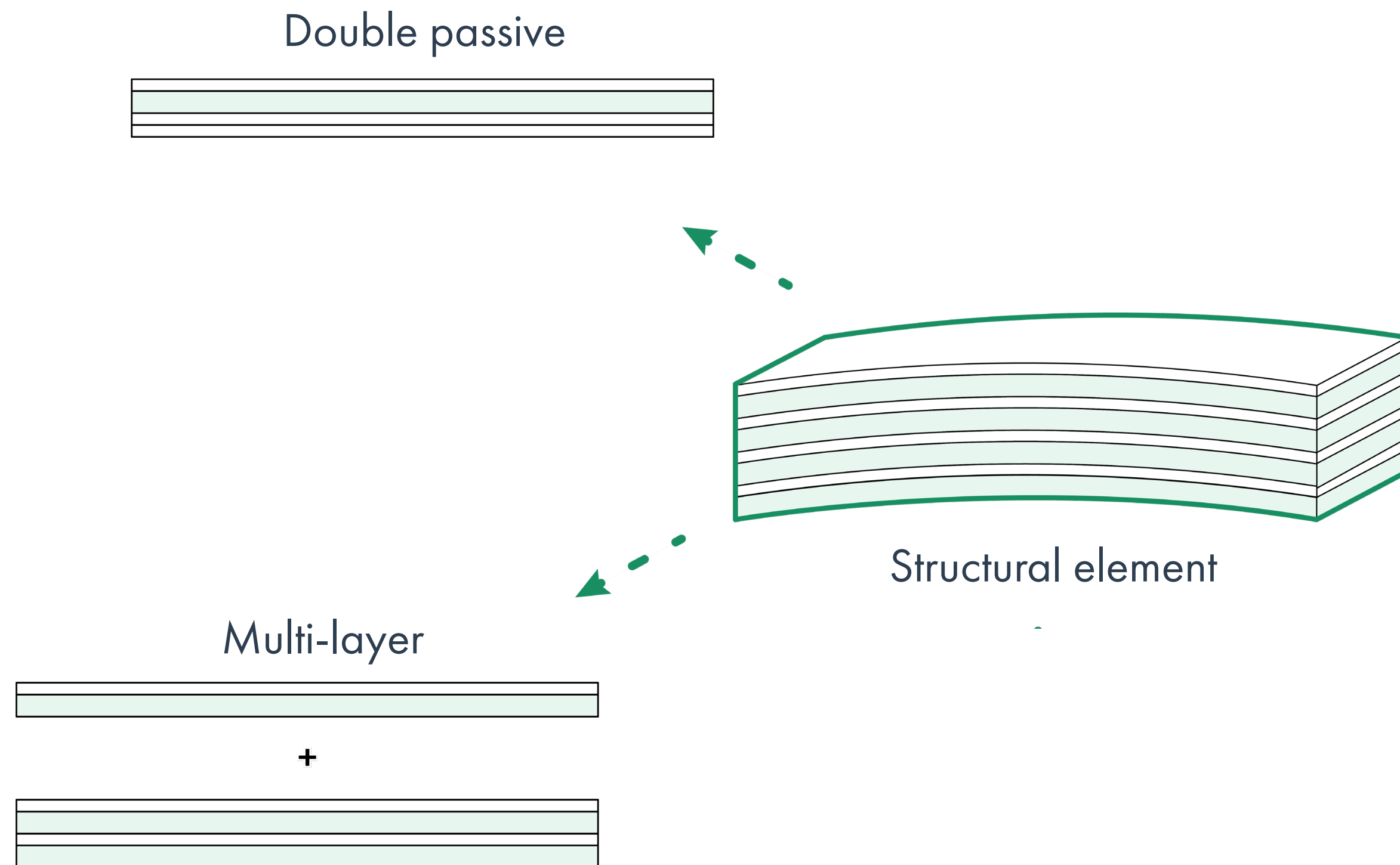
# Manufacturing

## Passive bending



# Manufacturing

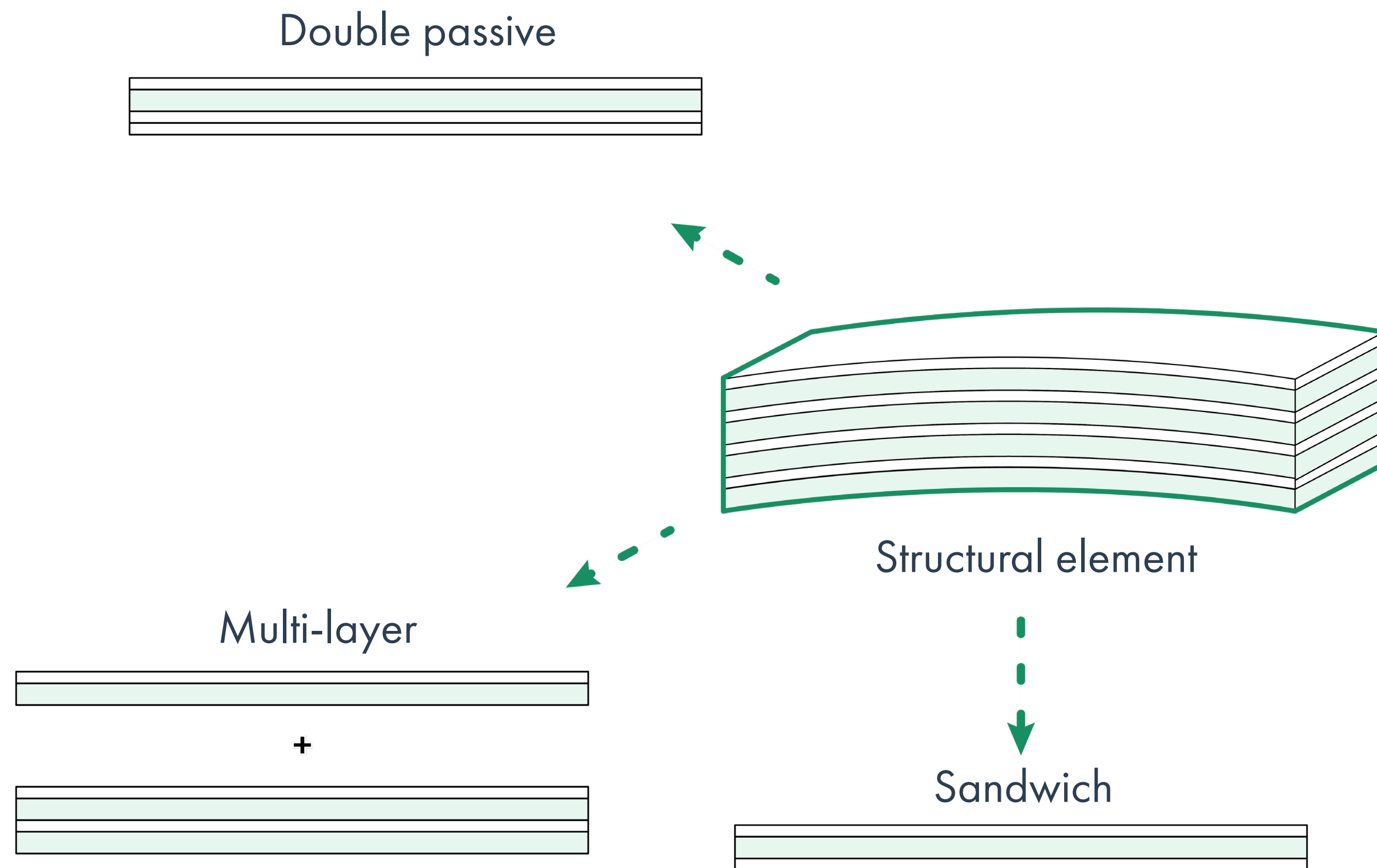
## Passive bending





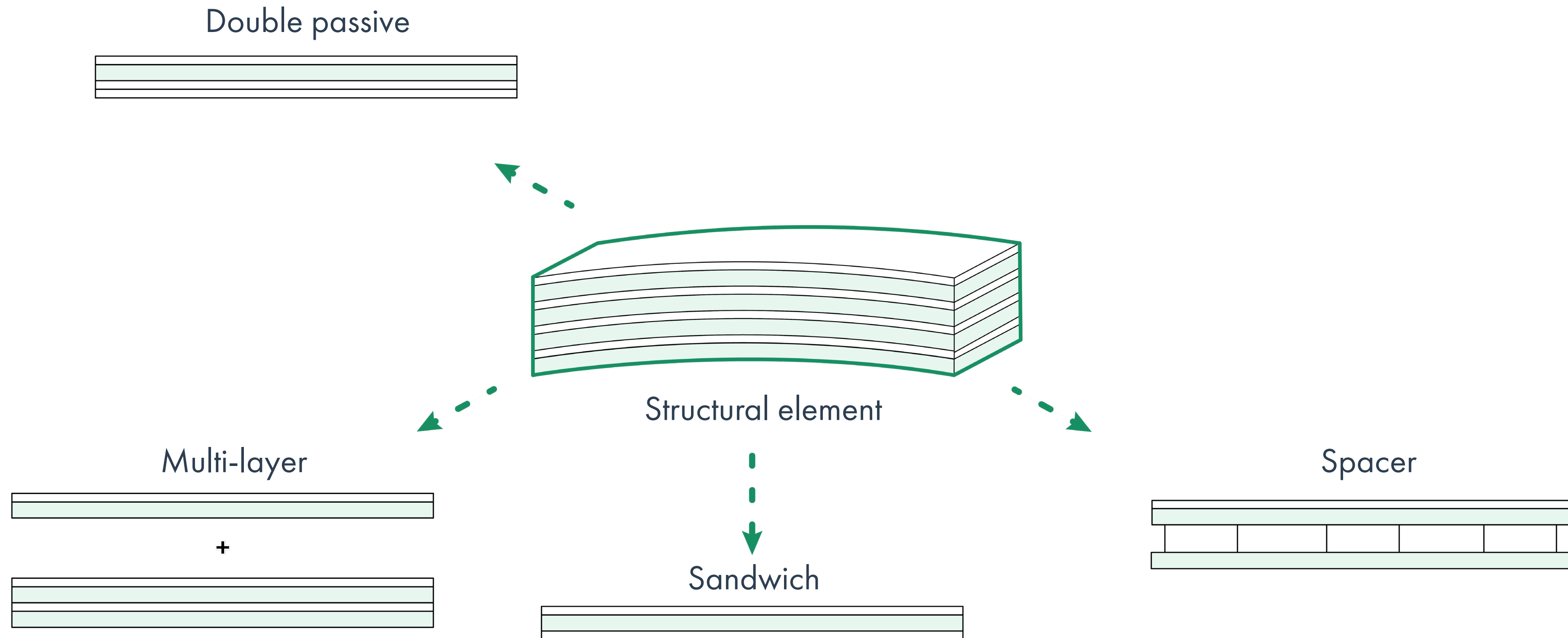
# Manufacturing

## Passive bending



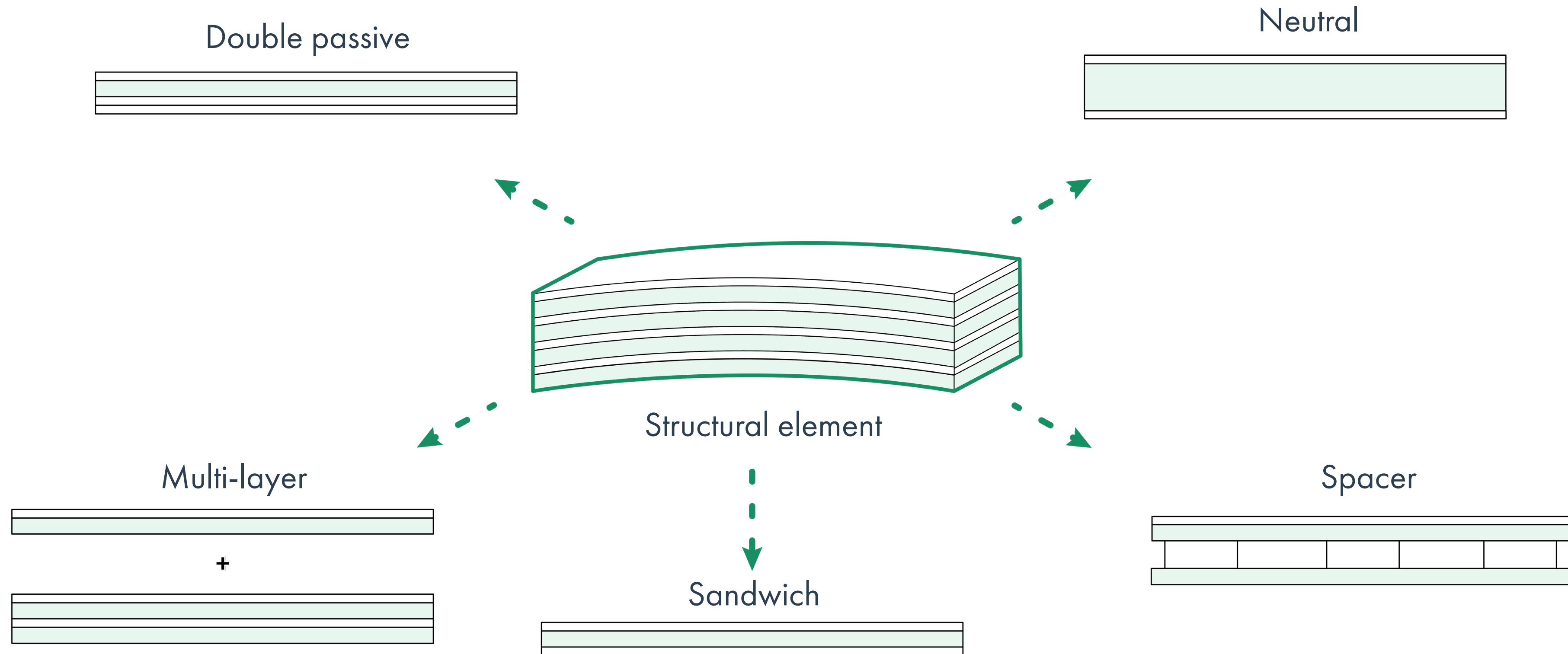
# Manufacturing

## Passive bending



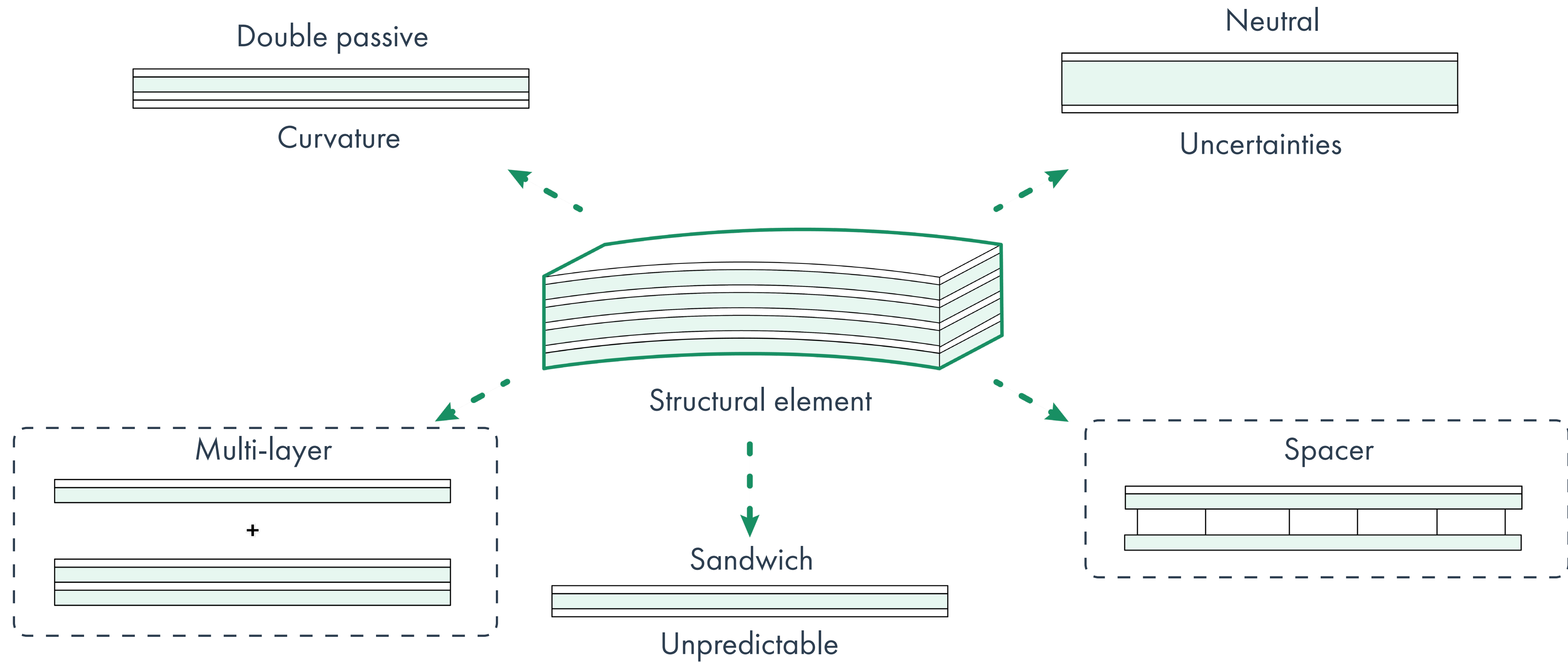
# Manufacturing

## Passive bending



# Manufacturing

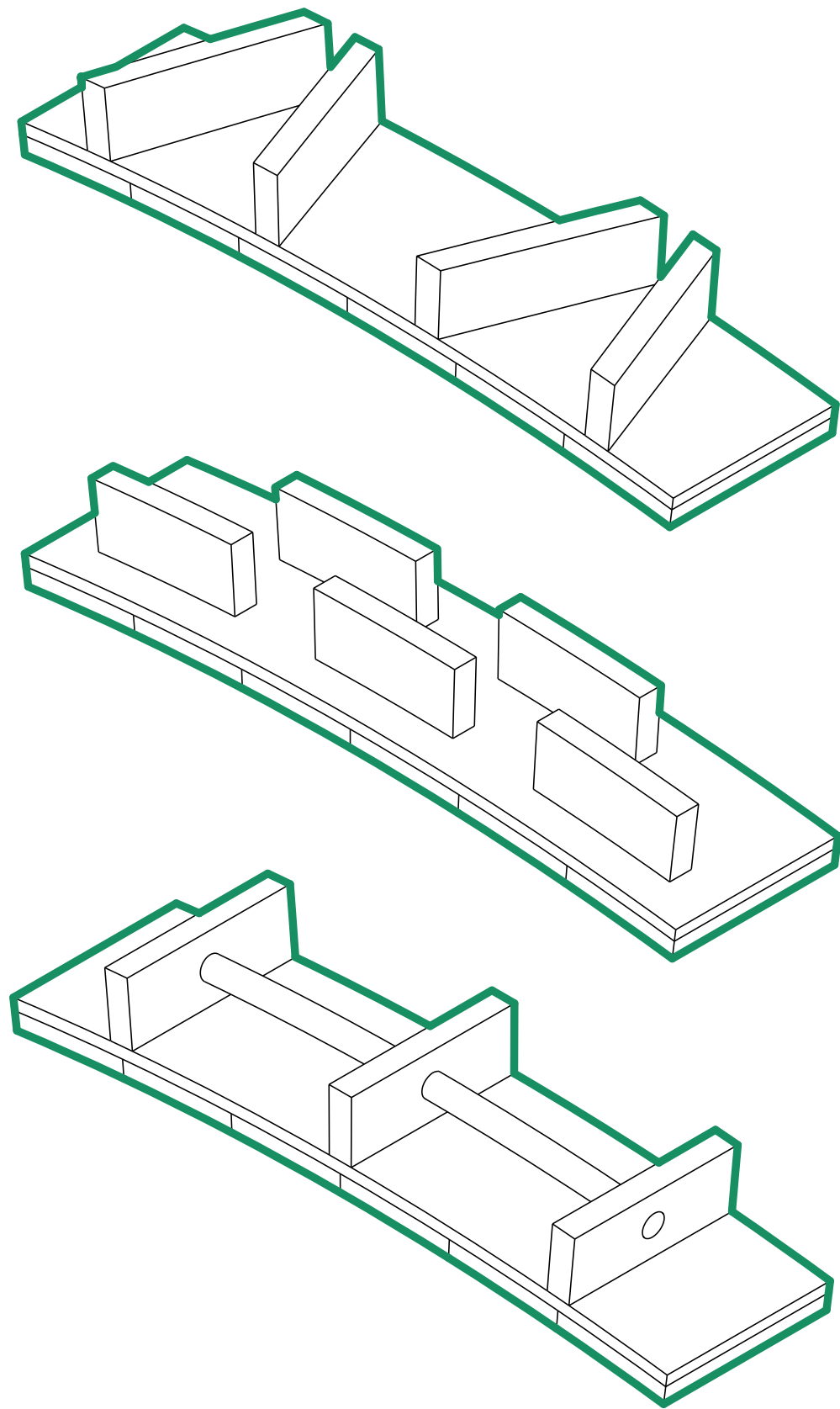
## Passive bending



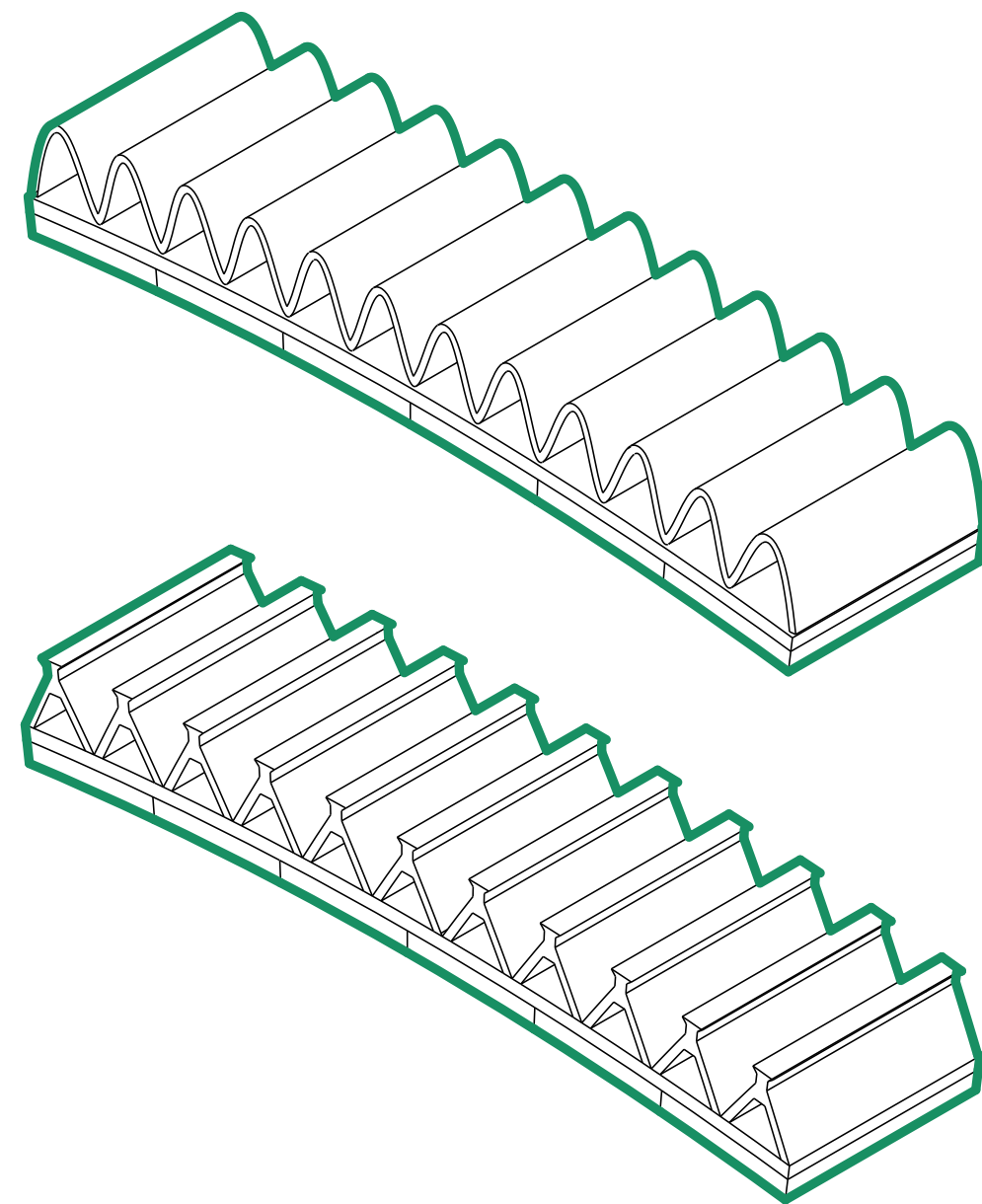
# Design

## Complex layer

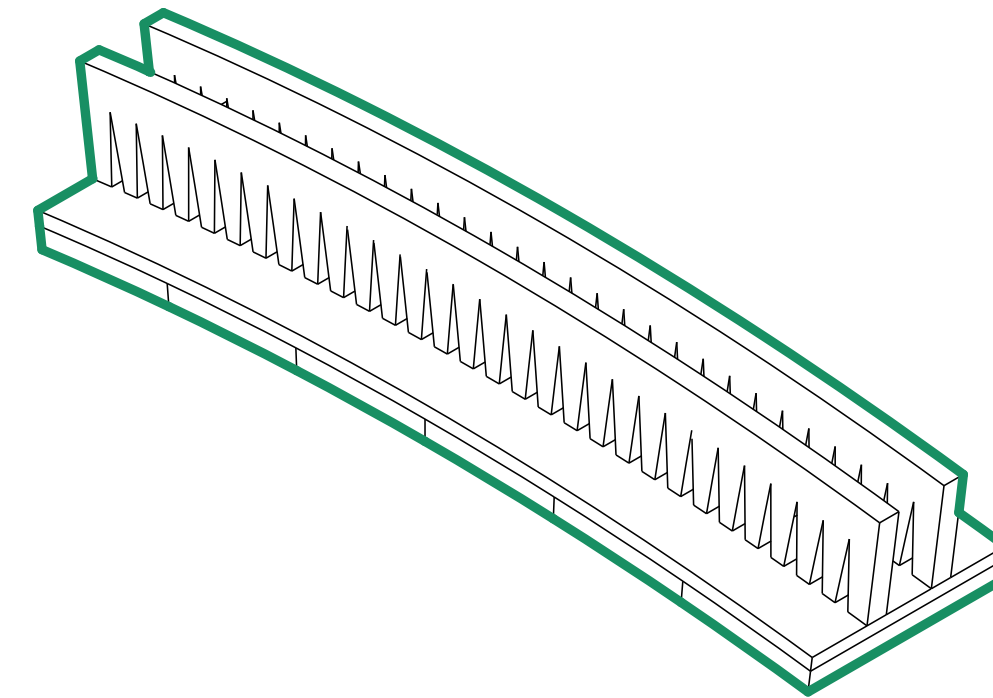
Straight



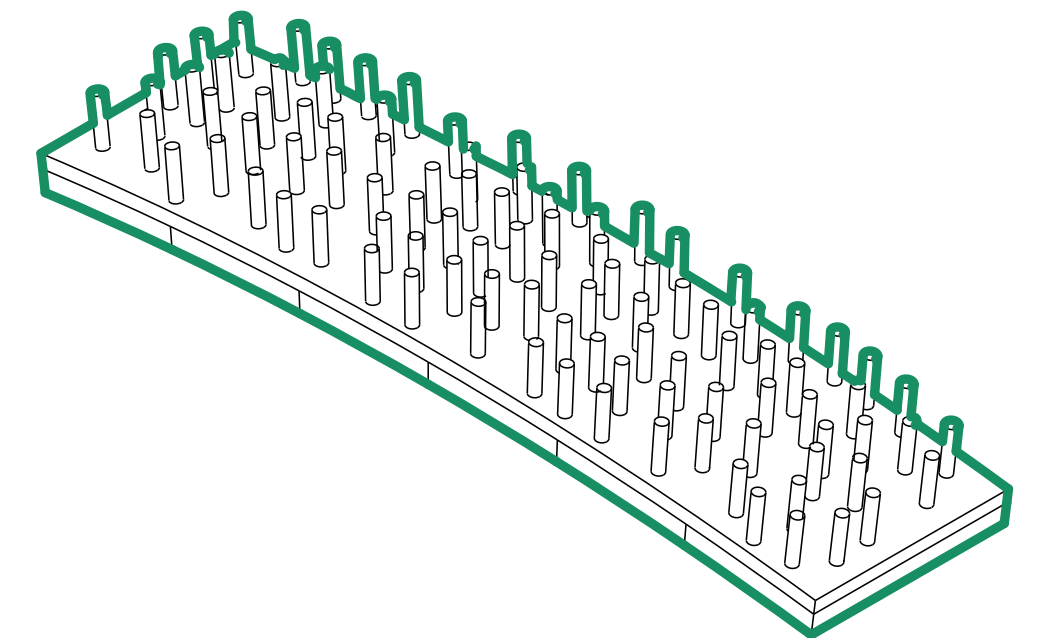
Truss



Comb



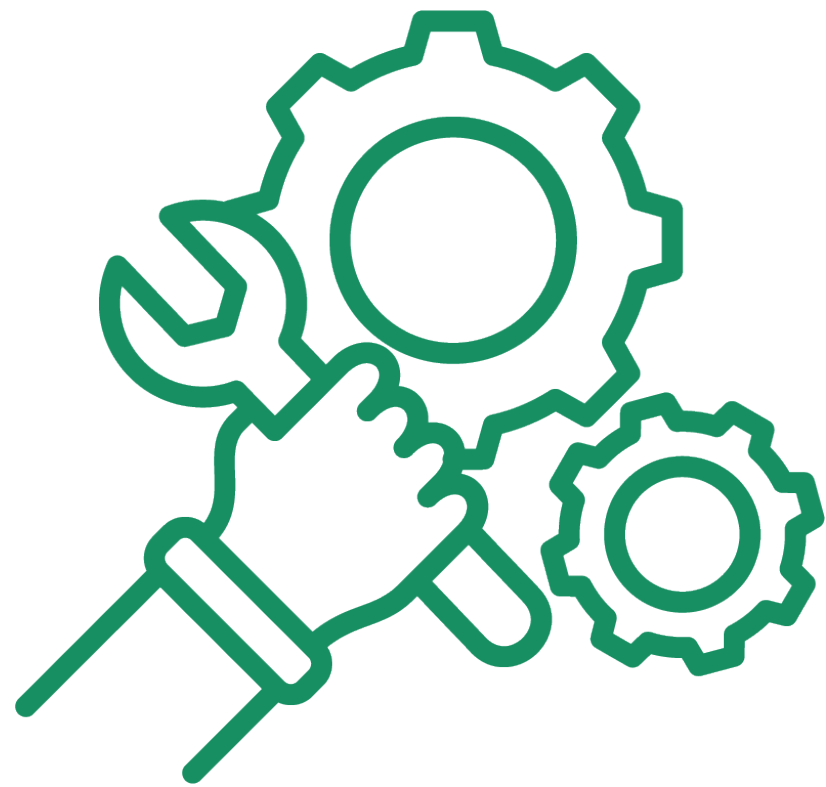
Rods



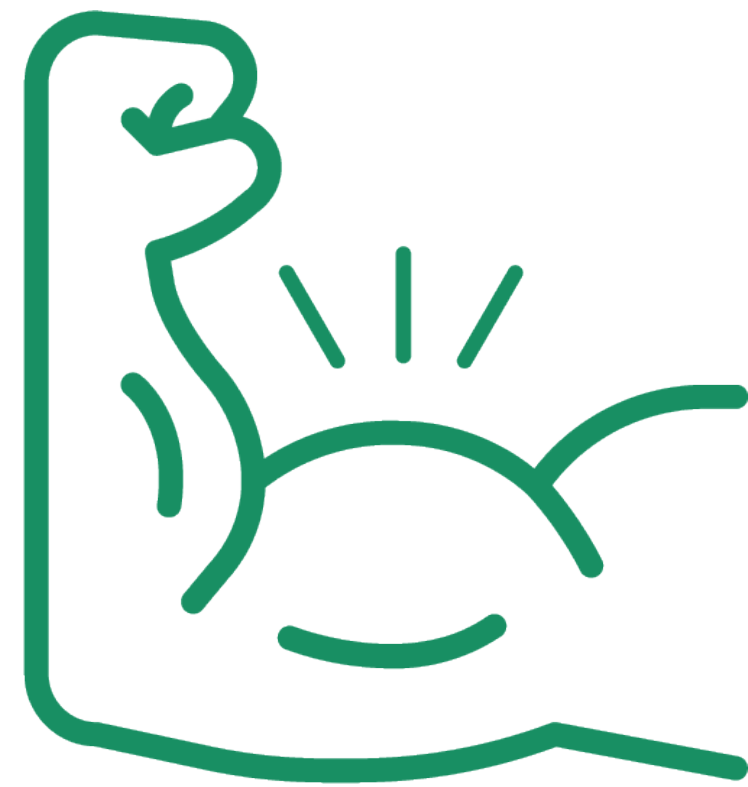
# Design

Complex layer

**Manufacturing**



**Structurally**



**Circularity**



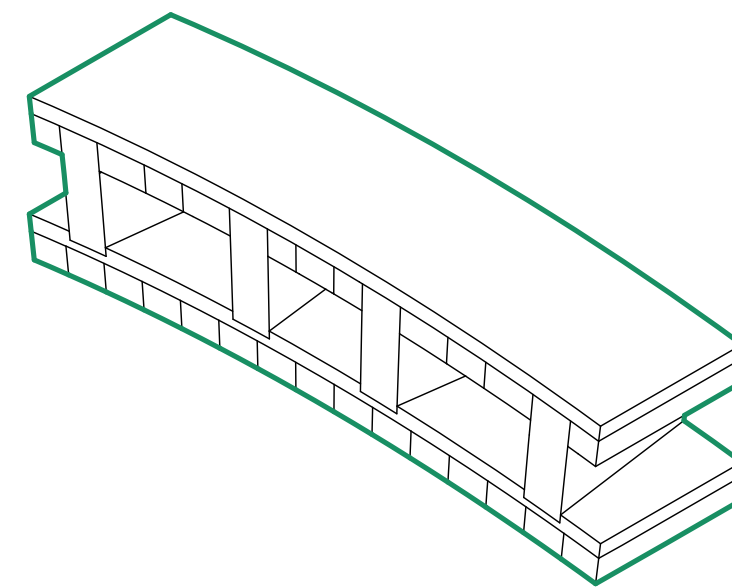
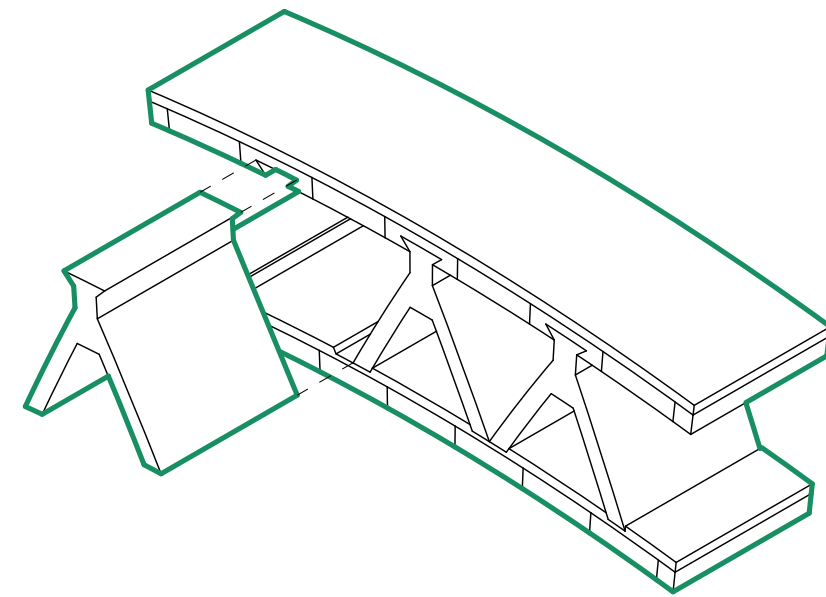
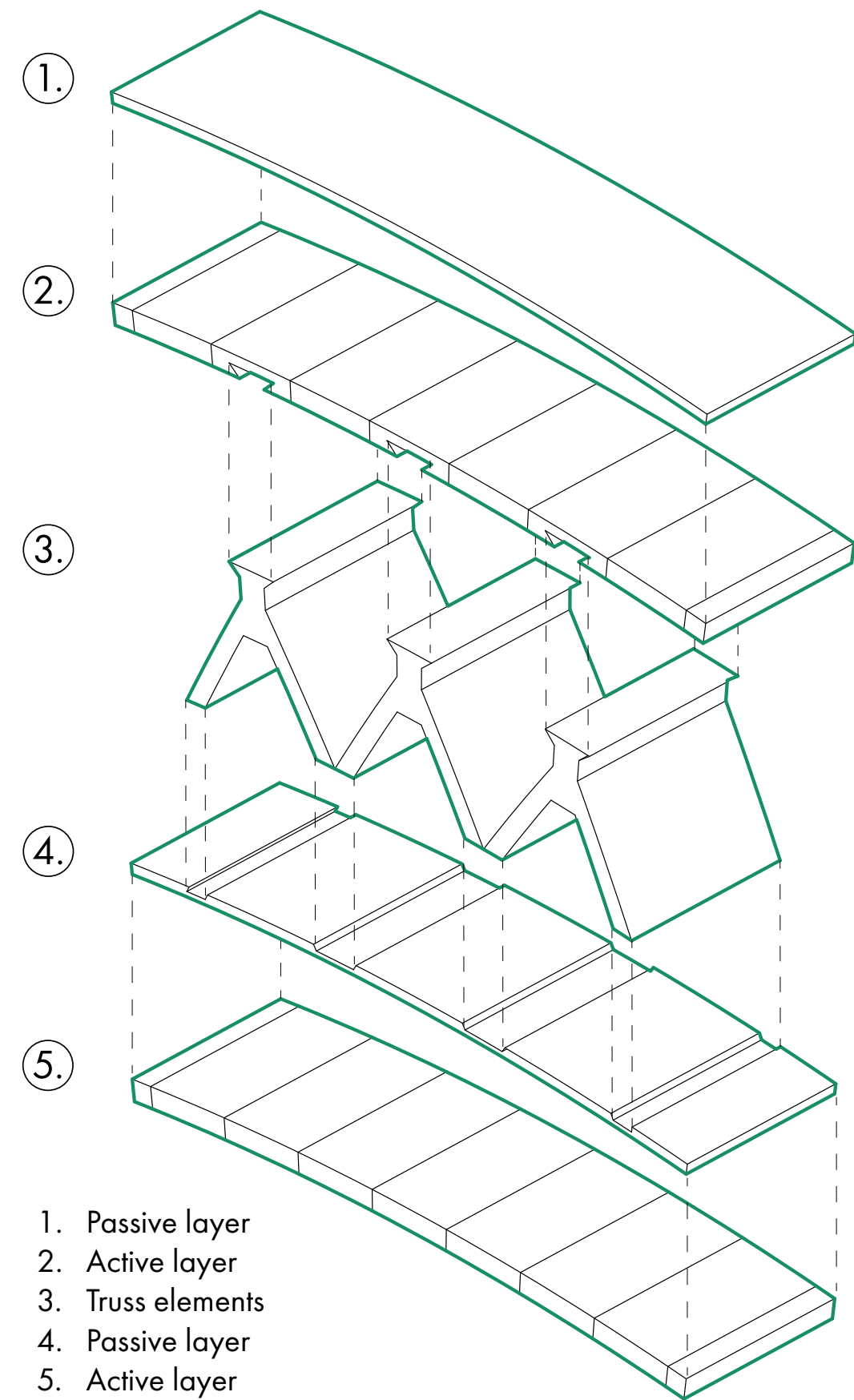
**Curvature**



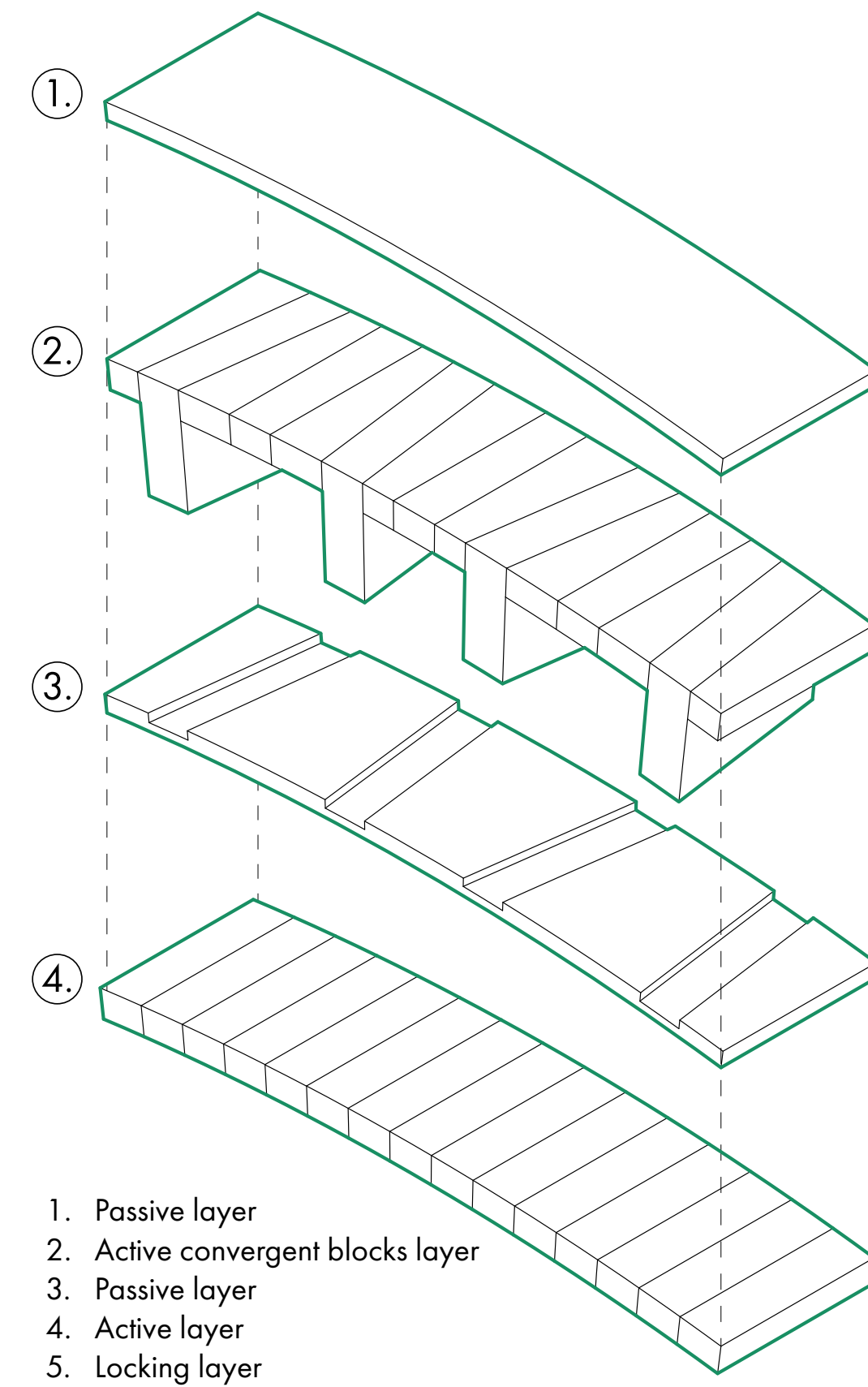
# Design

## Complex layer

### Y-shape



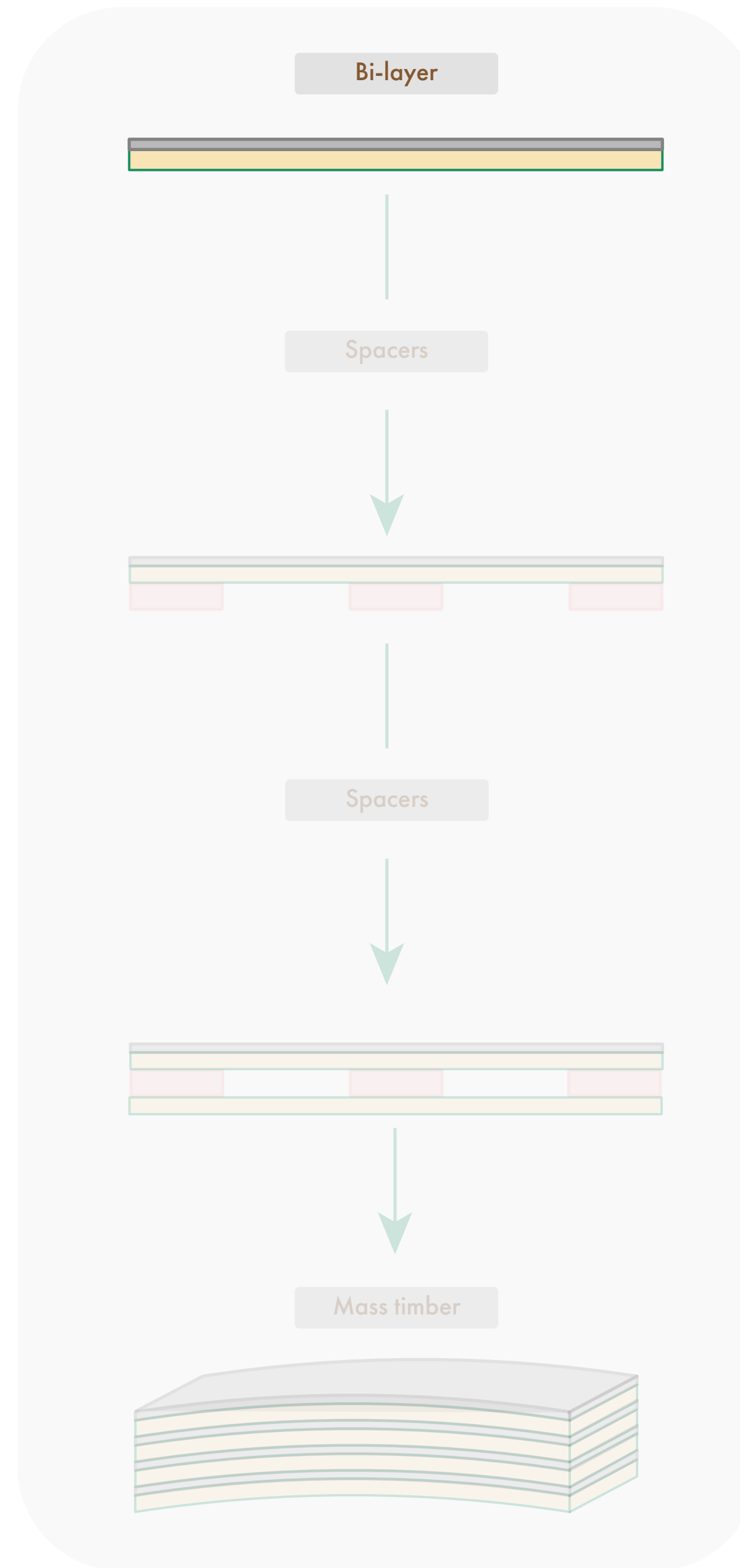
### Convergent



**Testing**



# Testing Approach



# Testing Laboratory



# Testing Laboratory



# Testing Laboratory

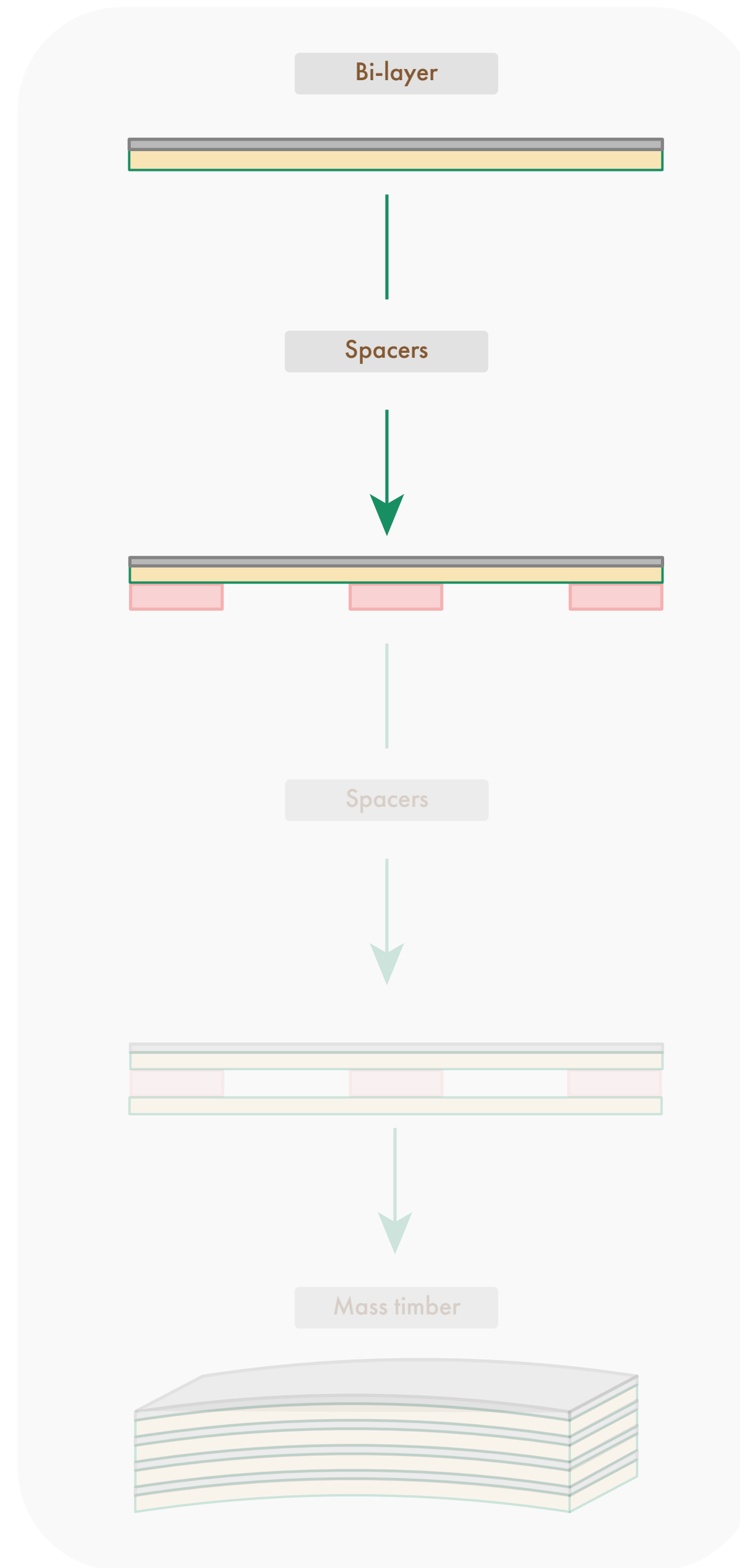


# Testing

2



# Testing Approach



# Testing

2



# Testing

2

Moisture





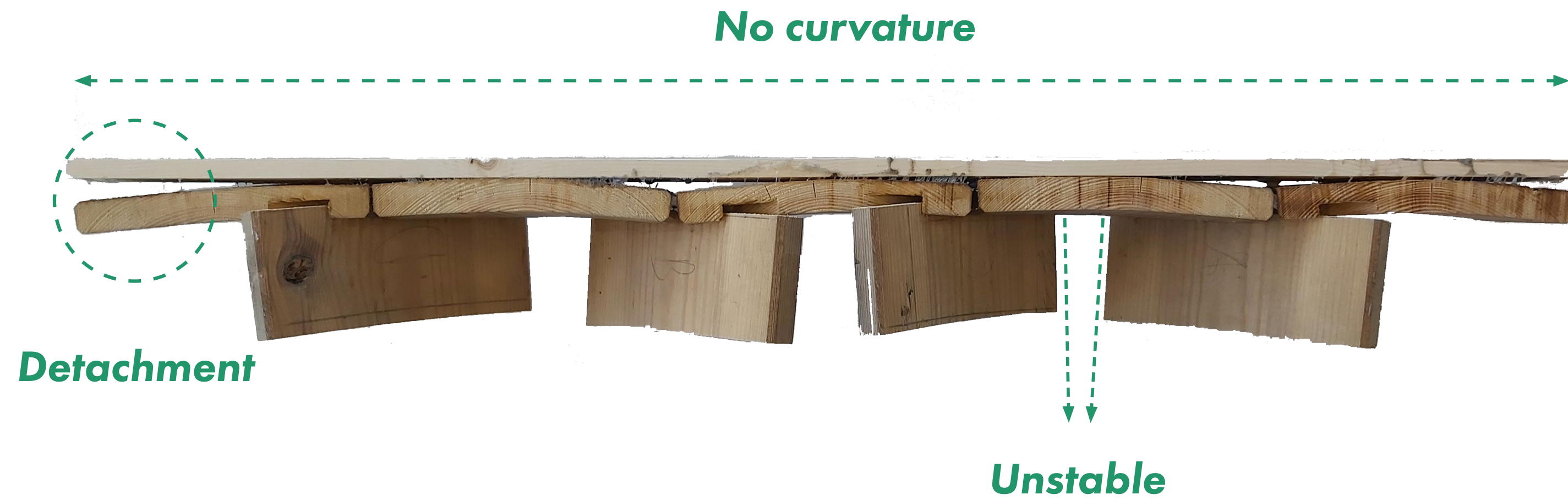
# Testing

2

Moisture



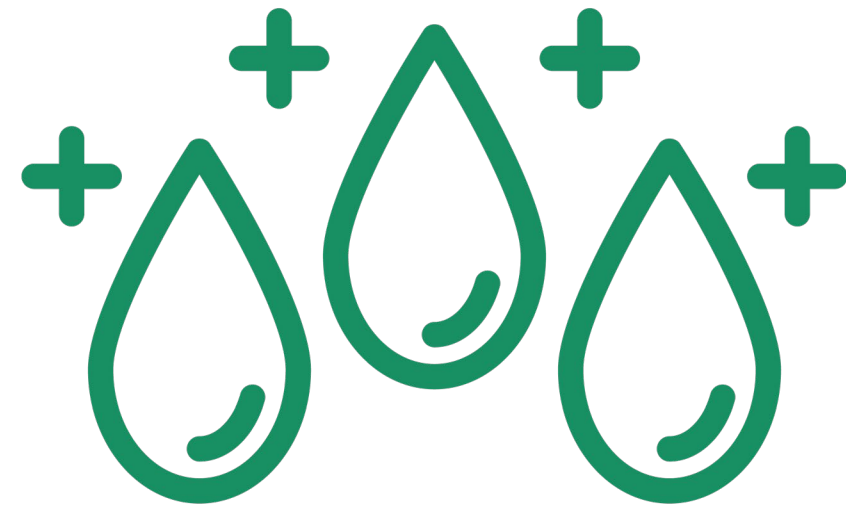
Water



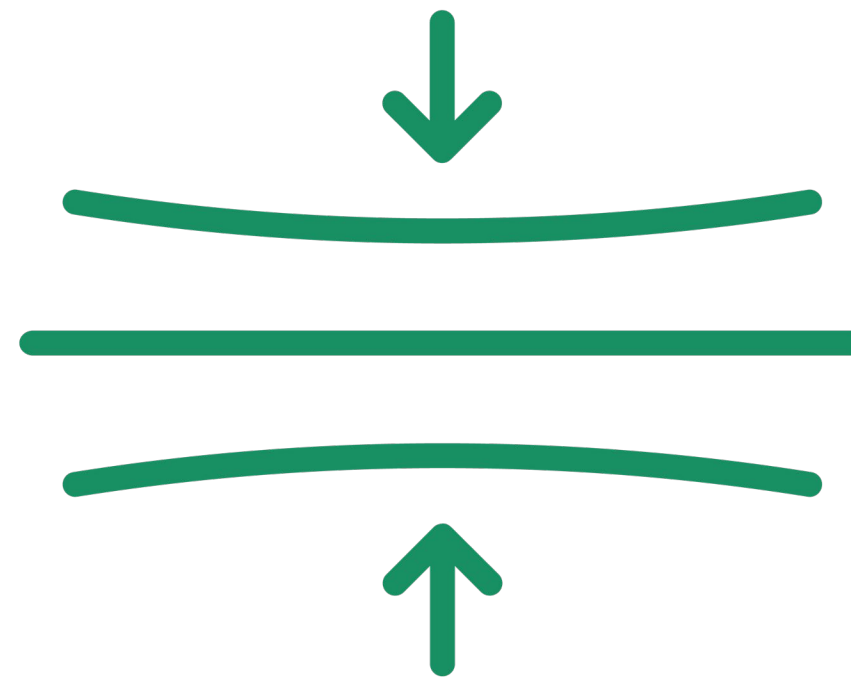
# Testing

## 2

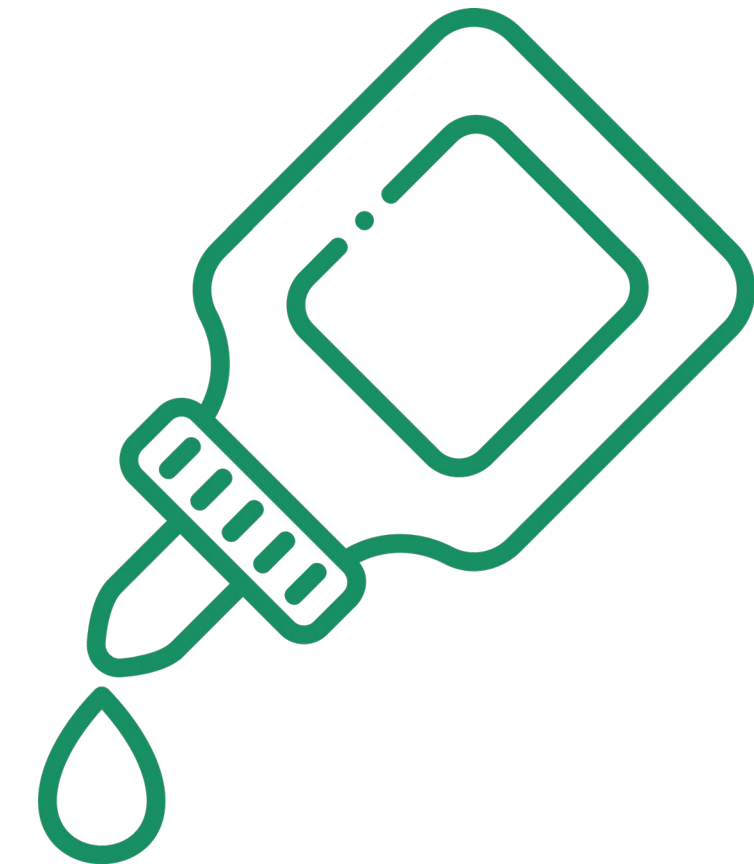
**Treatment**  
Water vs. Moisture



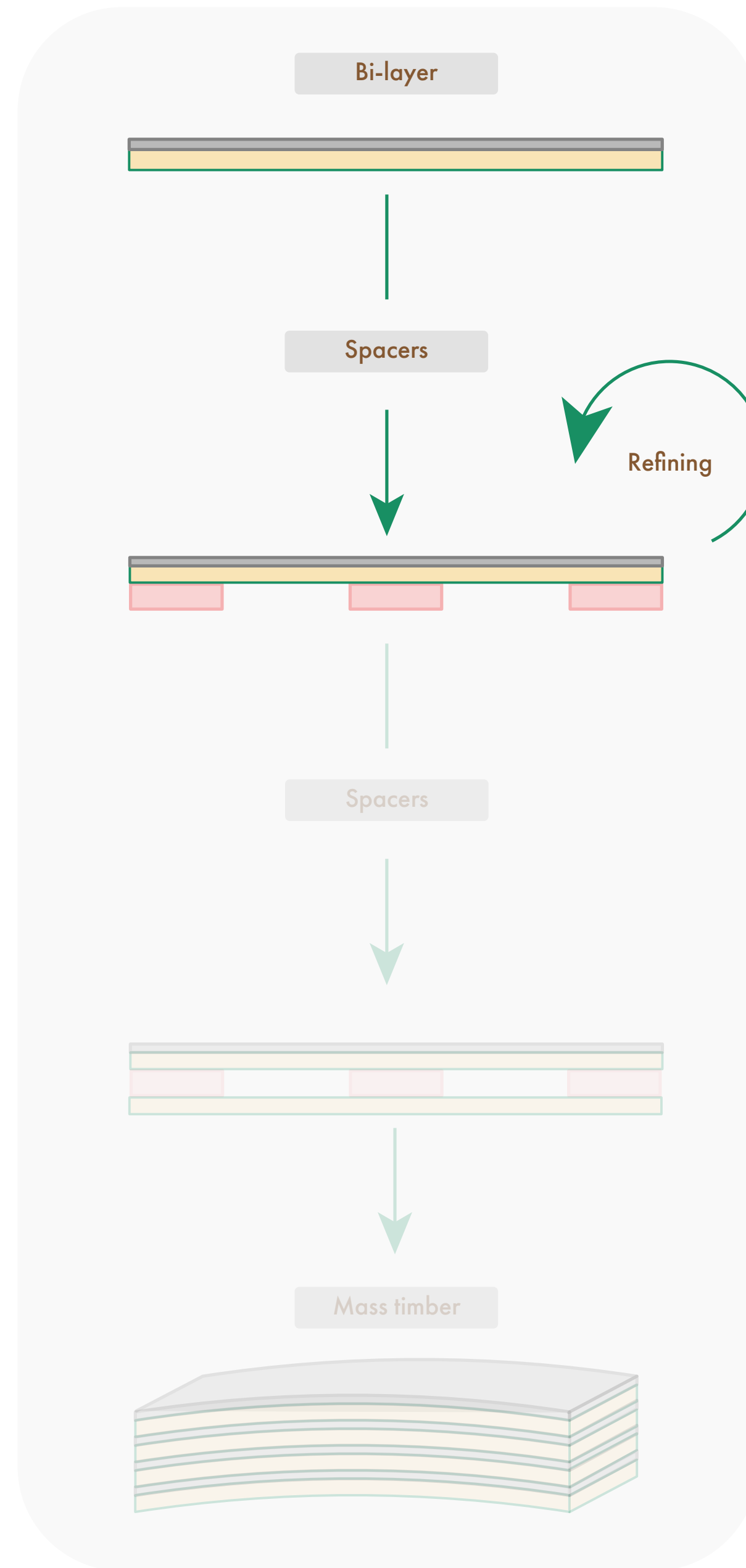
**Material**  
Thickness



**Adhesive**  
Strength



# Testing Approach



# Testing

3

## Moisture

Length: 1000mm  
Curve height: 22,4mm  
Reached: 26,8%



# Testing

3

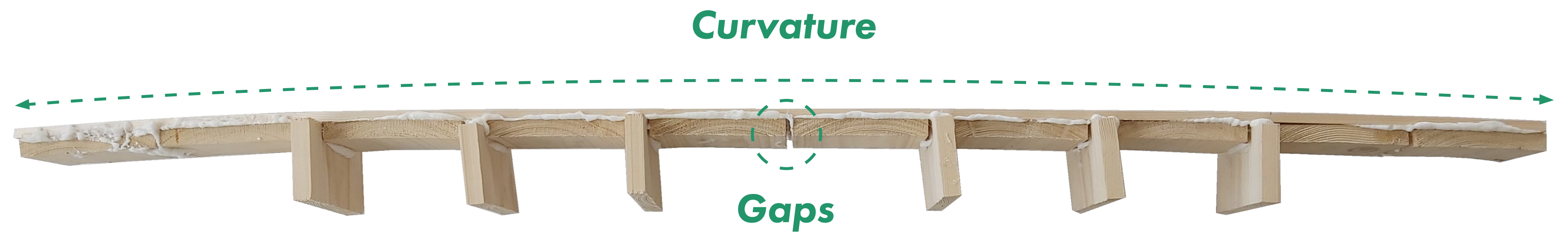
## Moisture

Length: 1000mm  
Curve height: 22,4mm  
Reached: 26,8%



## Water

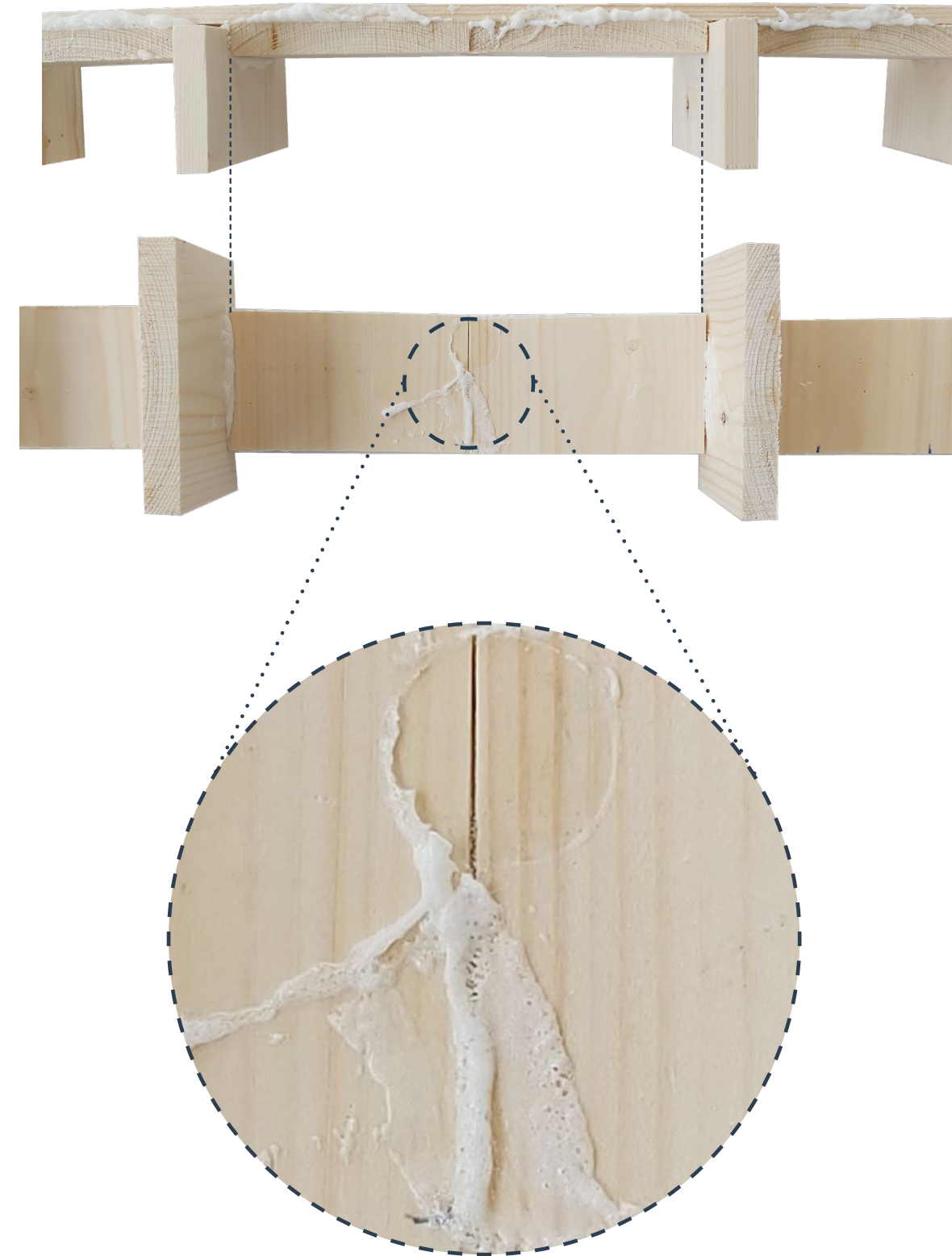
Length: 1000mm  
Curve height: 11,8mm  
Reached: 13,6%



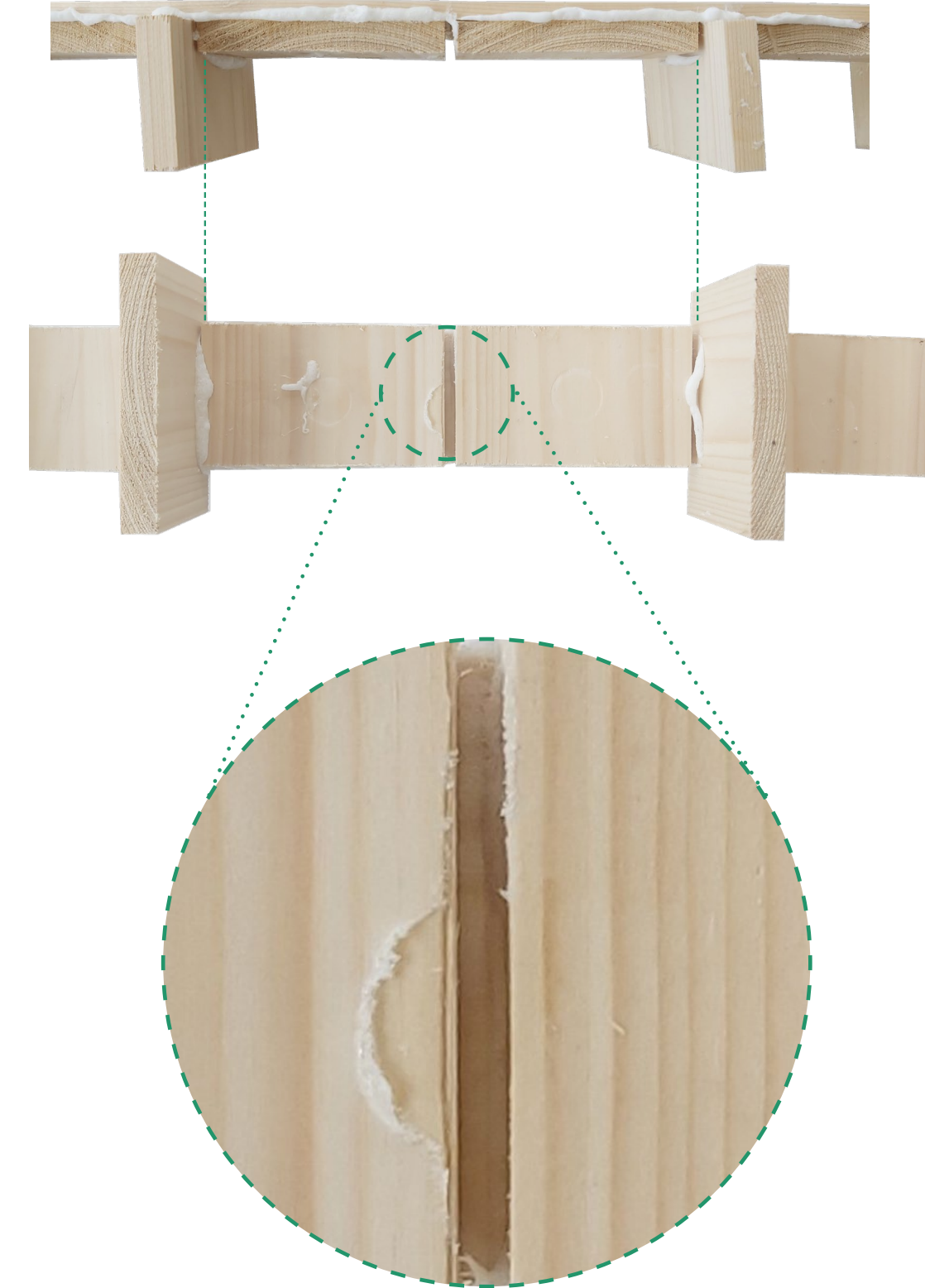
# Testing

3

**Moisture**

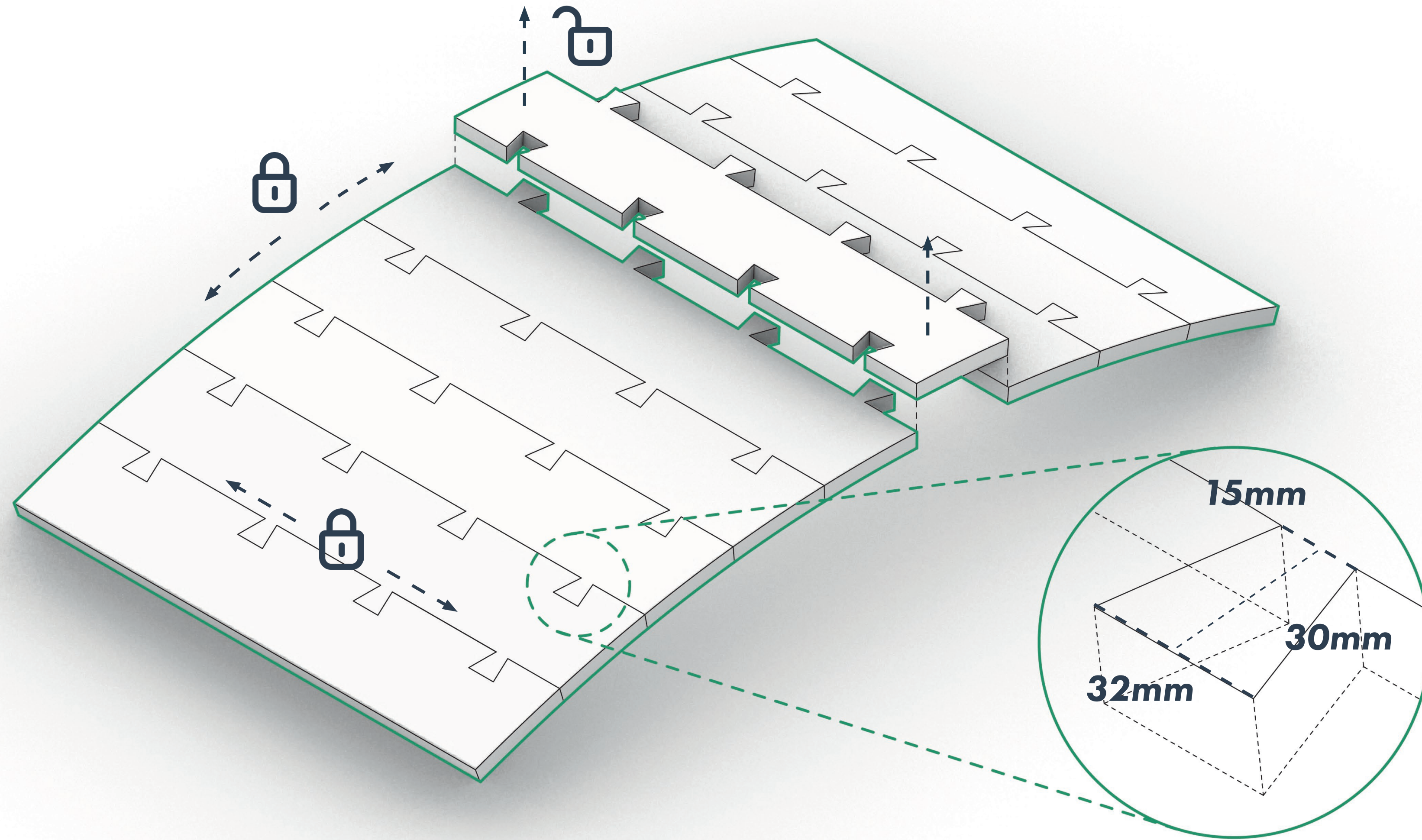


**Water**

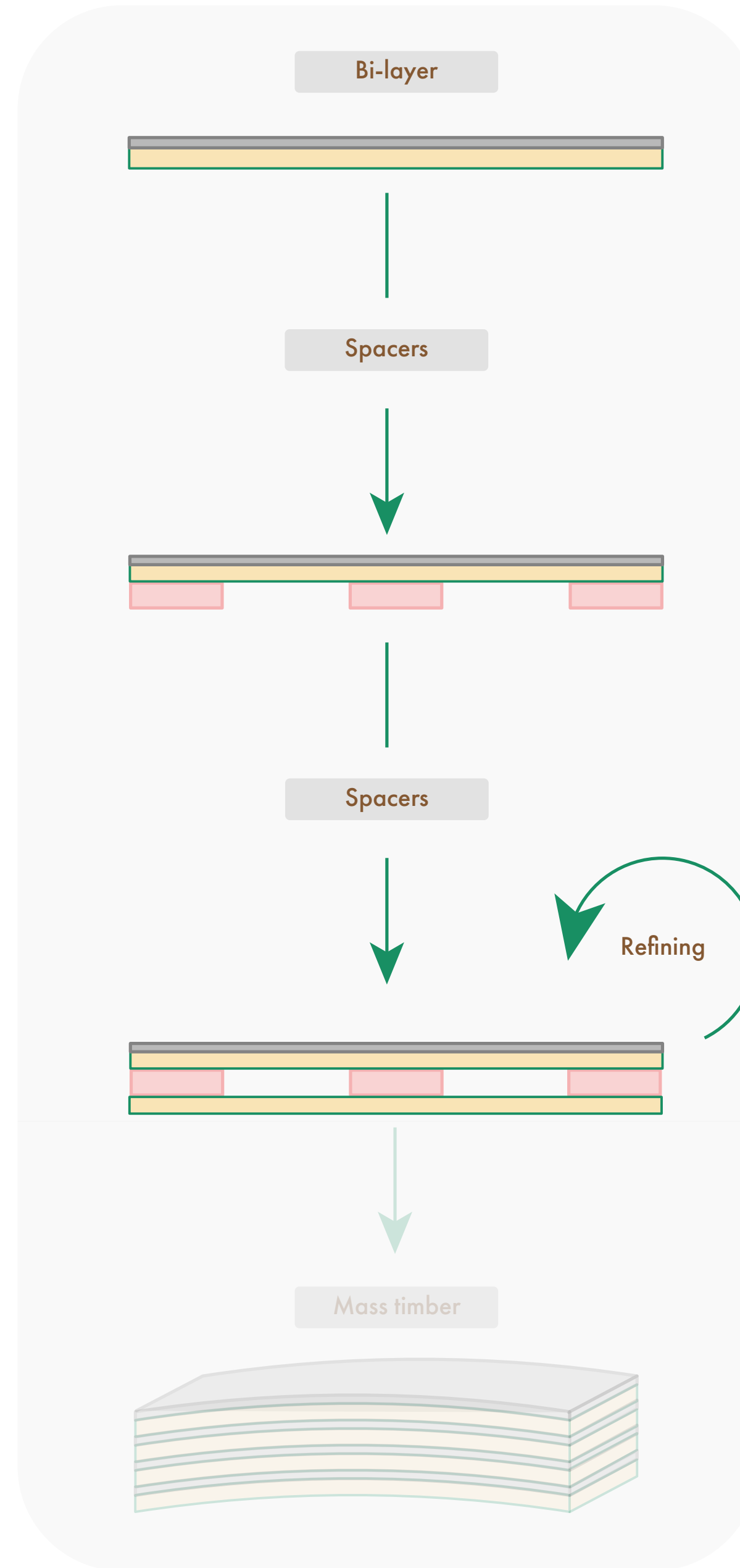


# Testing

3



# Testing Approach





# Testing

4

## Moisture

Length: 985mm  
Curve height: 5mm  
Reached: 6,1%

**Boxfloor**  
(Softwood)



**Convergent**

# Testing

4

## Moisture

Length: 985mm  
Curve height: 5mm  
Reached: 6,1%

**Boxfloor**  
(Softwood)



**Convergent**

**Boxfloor**  
(Hardwood)

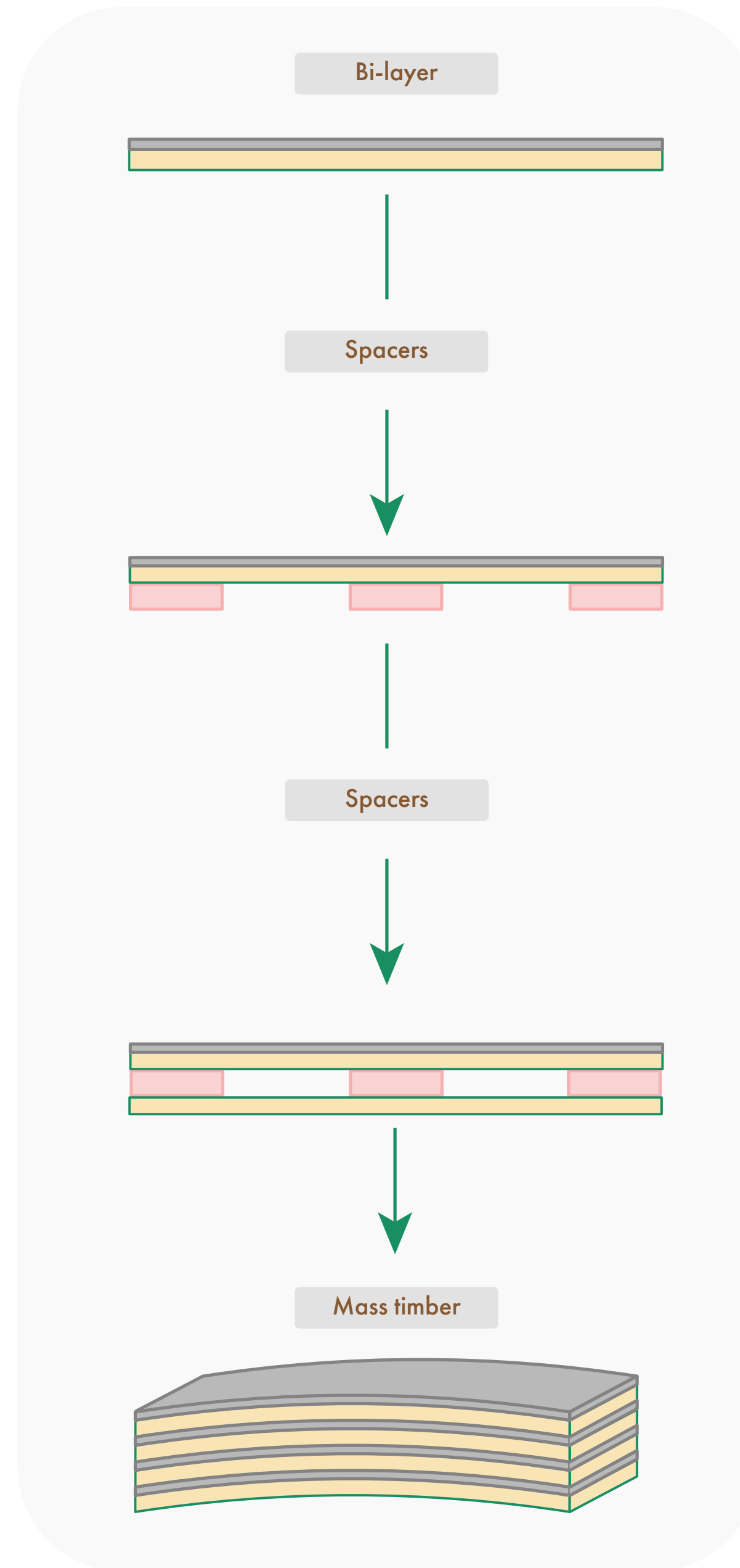
## Moisture

Length: 953mm  
Curve height: 7mm  
Reached: 8,8%

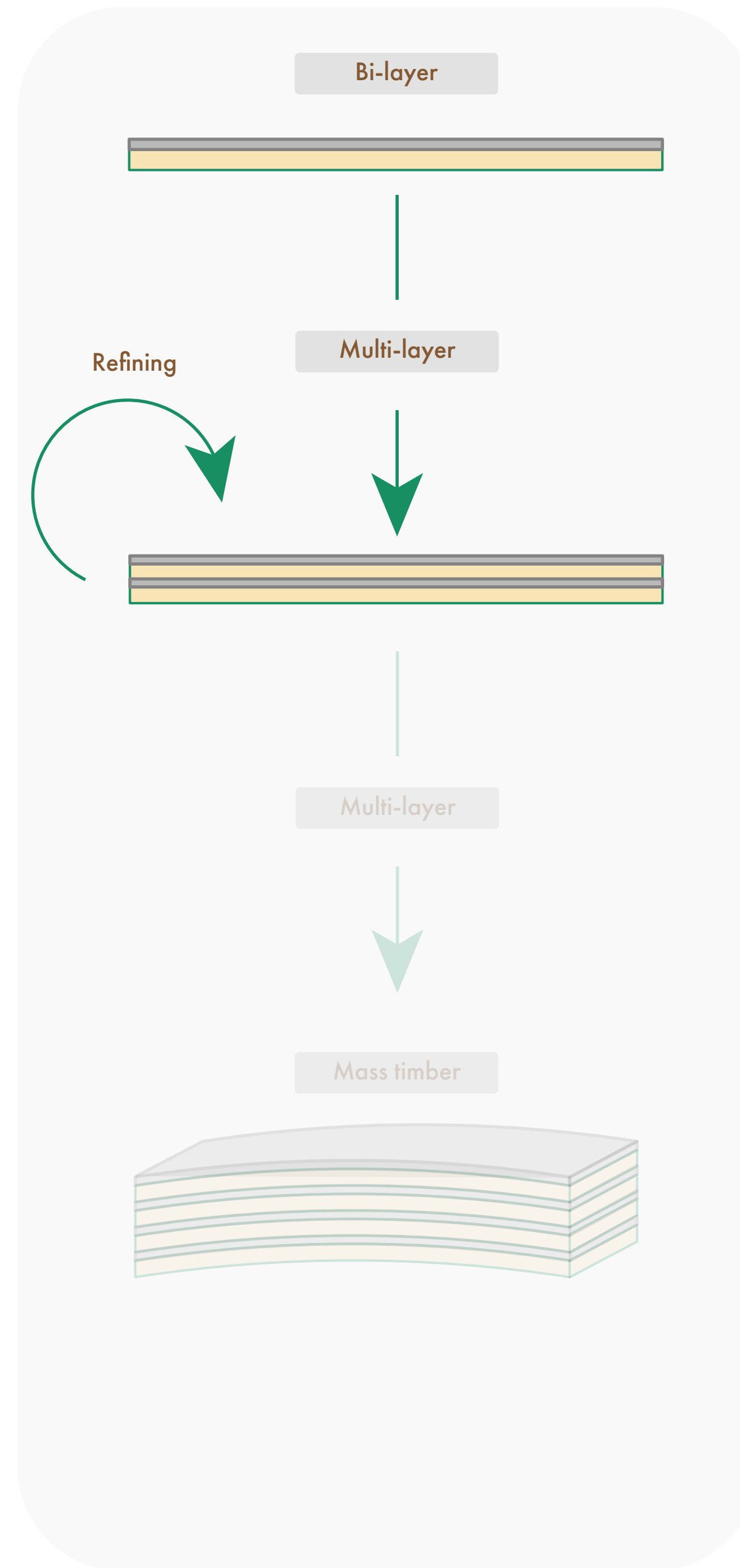


**Hardwood**

# Testing Approach



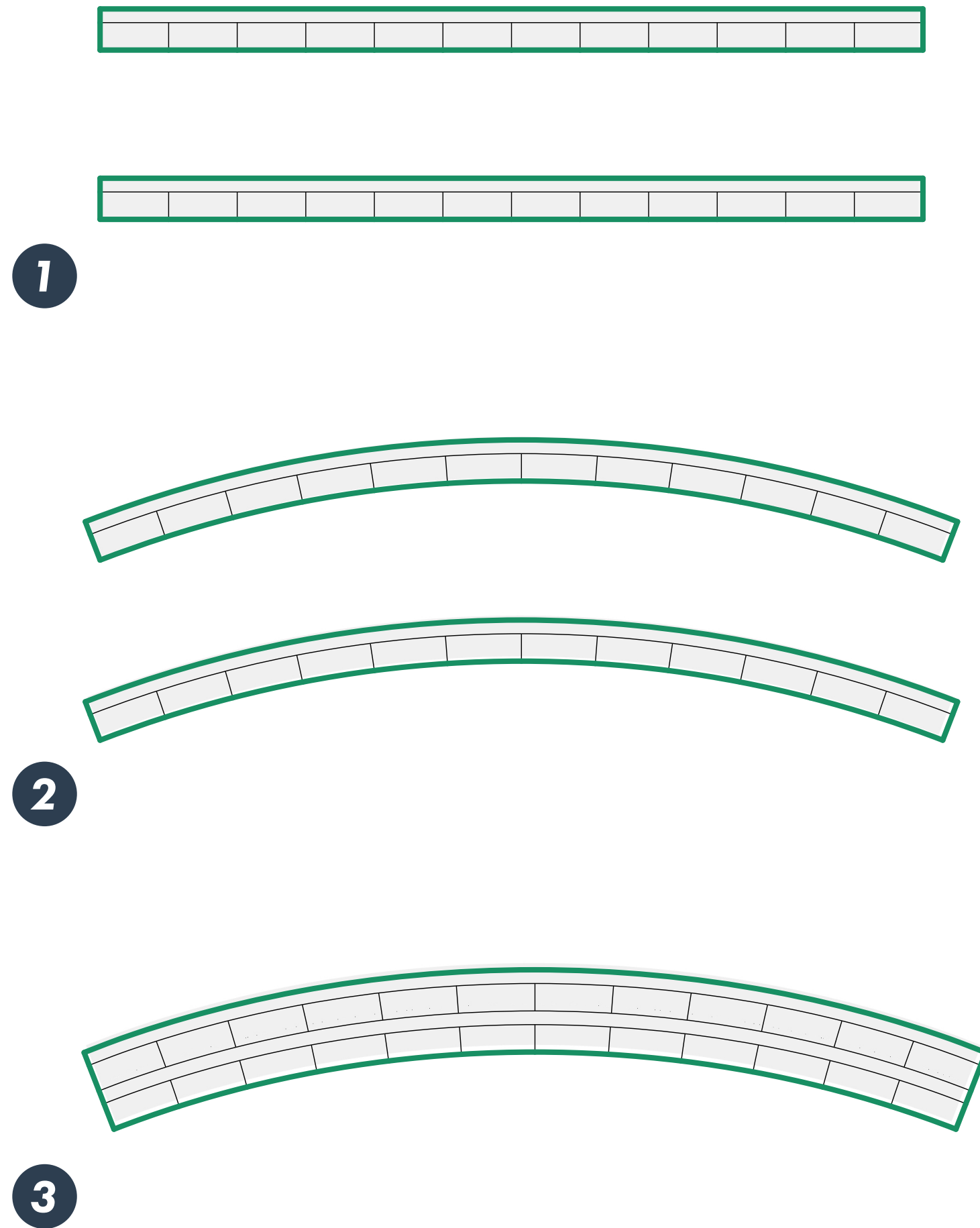
# Testing Approach



# Testing

4

## Classic

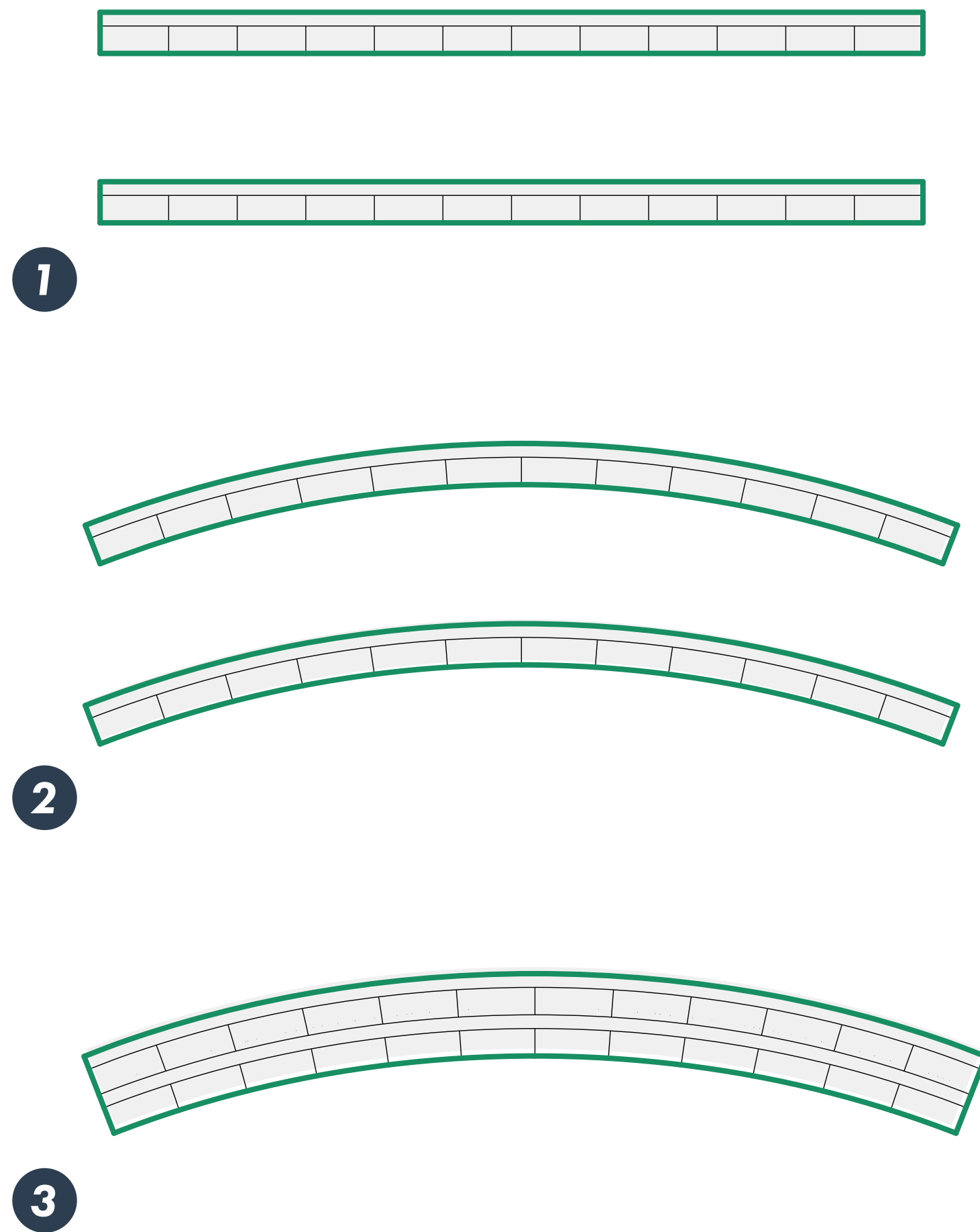


1. Bi-layers
2. Passive self-shaping
3. Assembly

# Testing

4

## Classic

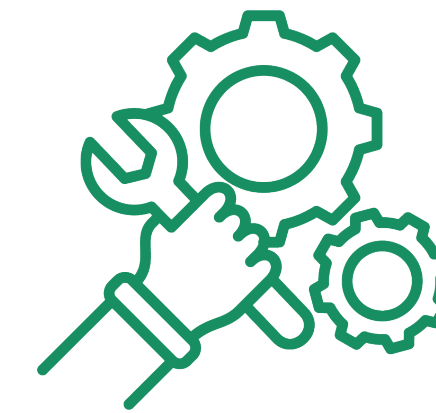


- 1. Bi-layers
- 2. Passive self-shaping
- 3. Assembly

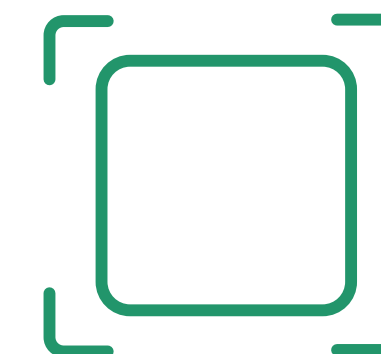
**Time-consuming**



**Work-intensive**



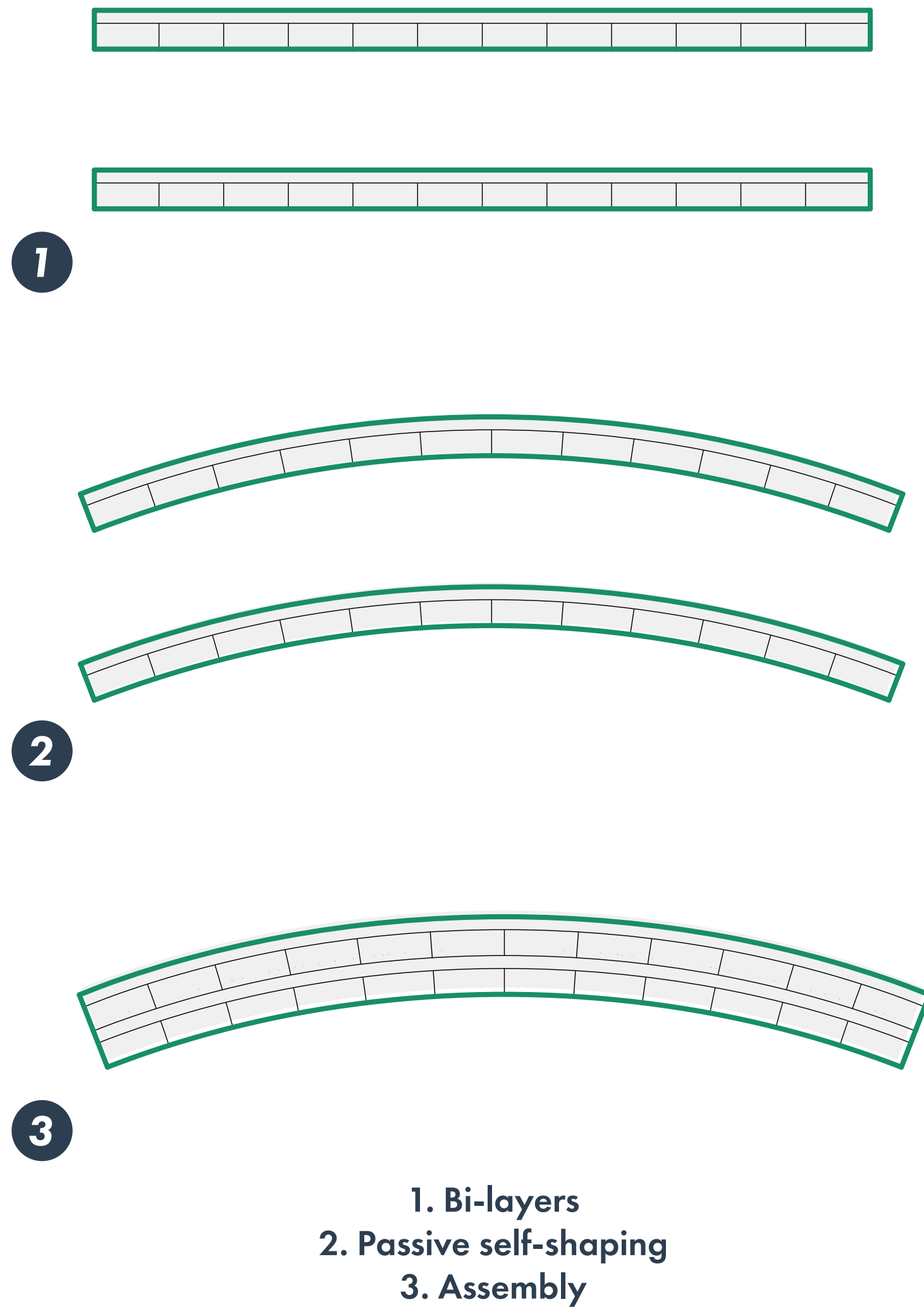
**Spacious**



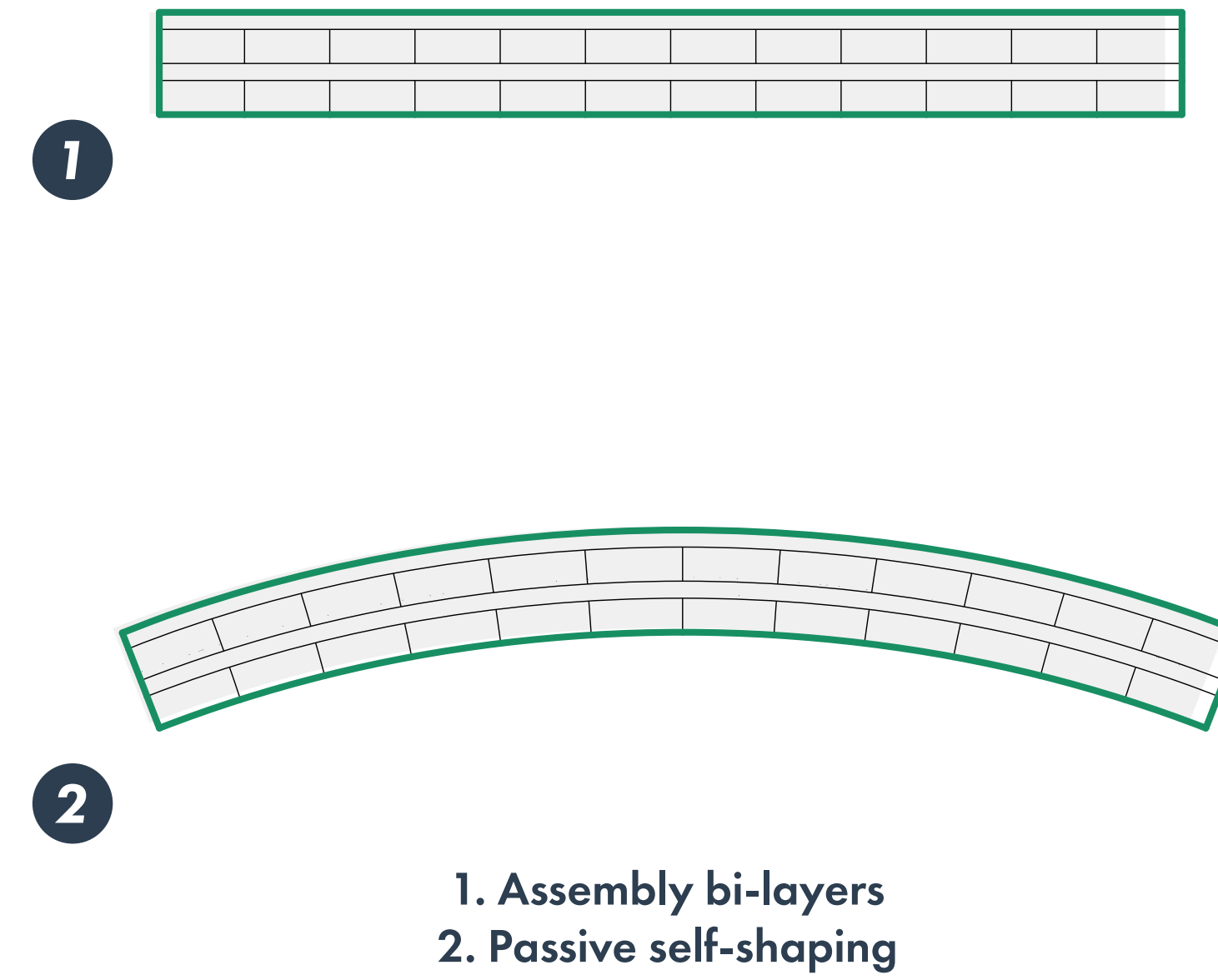
# Testing

4

## Classic



## Proposed



# Testing

4

*Multi-layer*

**Moisture**



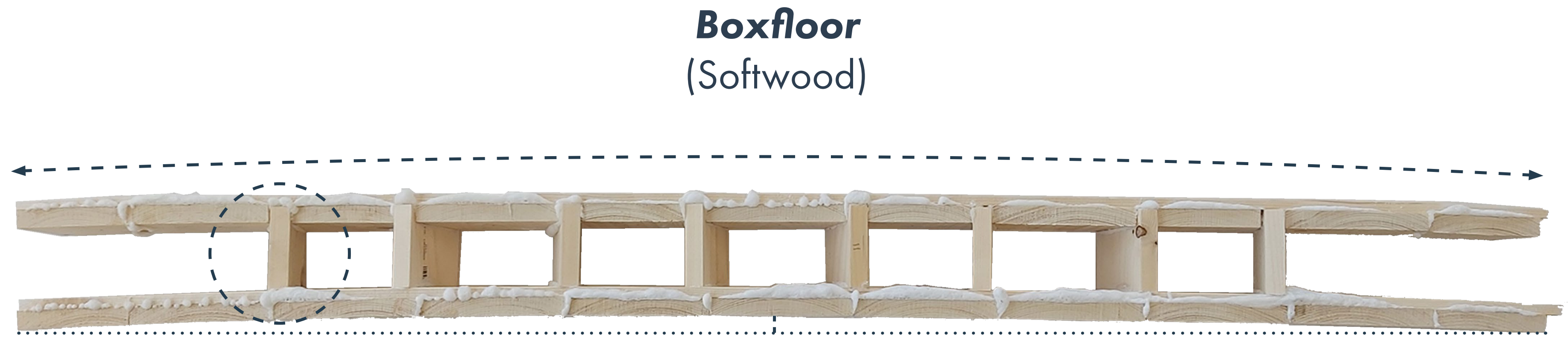


# Testing

4

## Moisture

Length: 985mm  
Curve height: 5mm  
Reached: 6,1%



**Boxfloor**  
(Softwood)

## Convergent

## Moisture

Length: 953mm  
Curve height: 7mm  
Reached: 8,8%



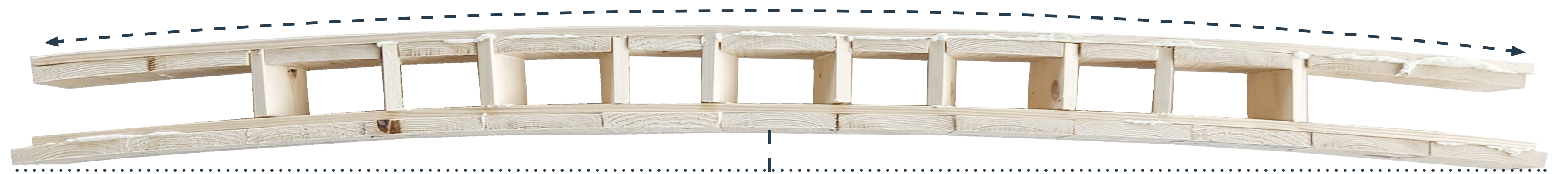
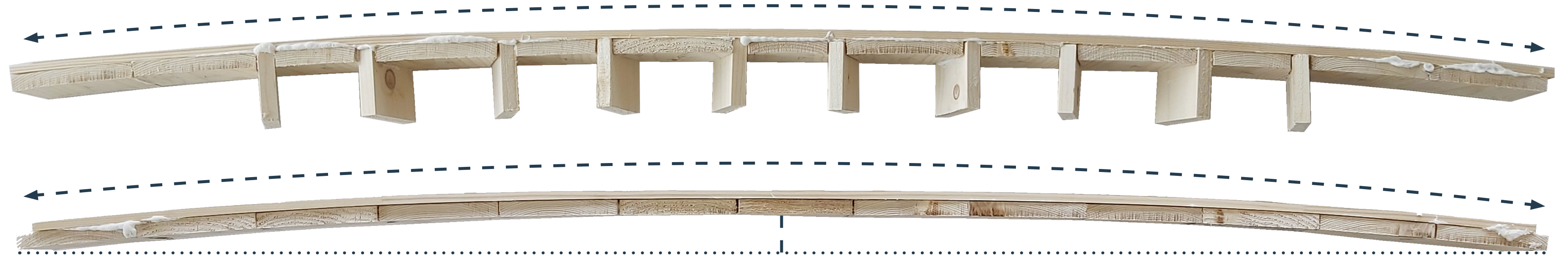
**Boxfloor**  
(Hardwood)

**Hardwood**

# Testing

5

**Boxfloor**  
(Softwood)



## Moisture

Length: 1148mm  
Curve height: 30mm  
Reached: 27,7%

# Testing

5

## Problems

# Testing

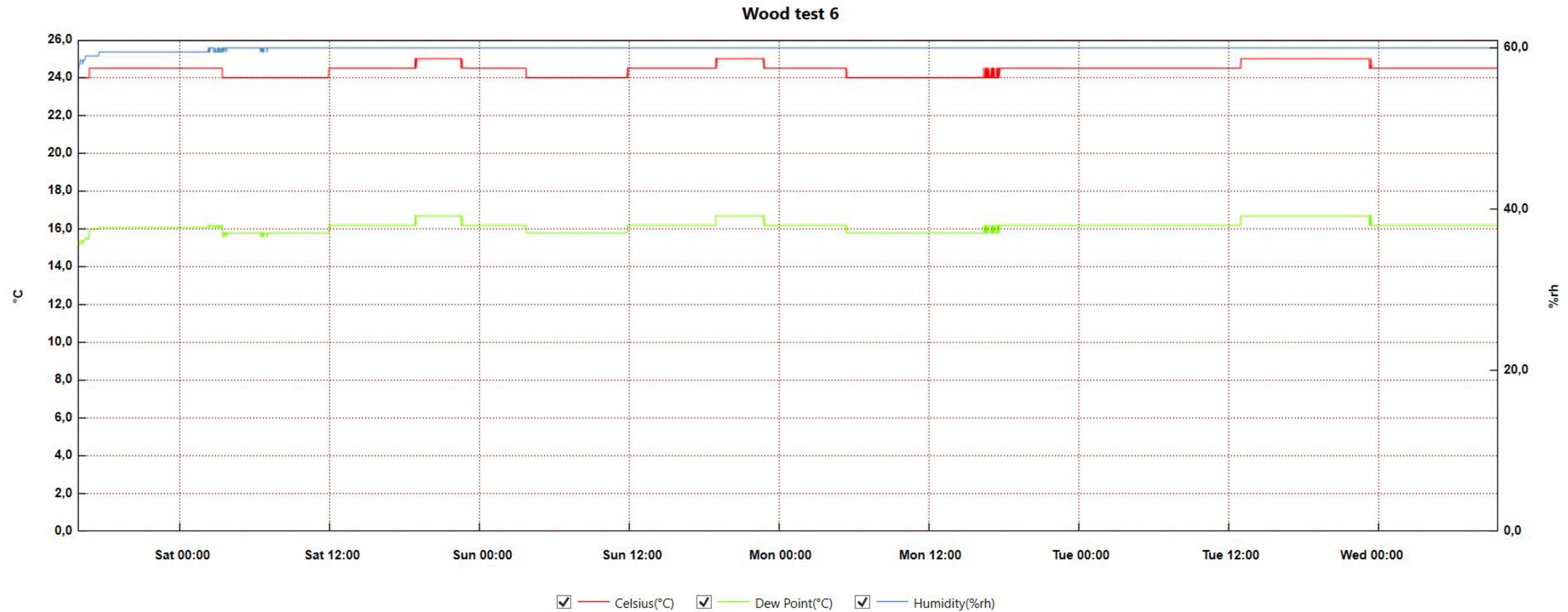
5

**Potassium chloride (KCl)**  
(Relative humidity  $\pm 85\%$ )



# Testing

5

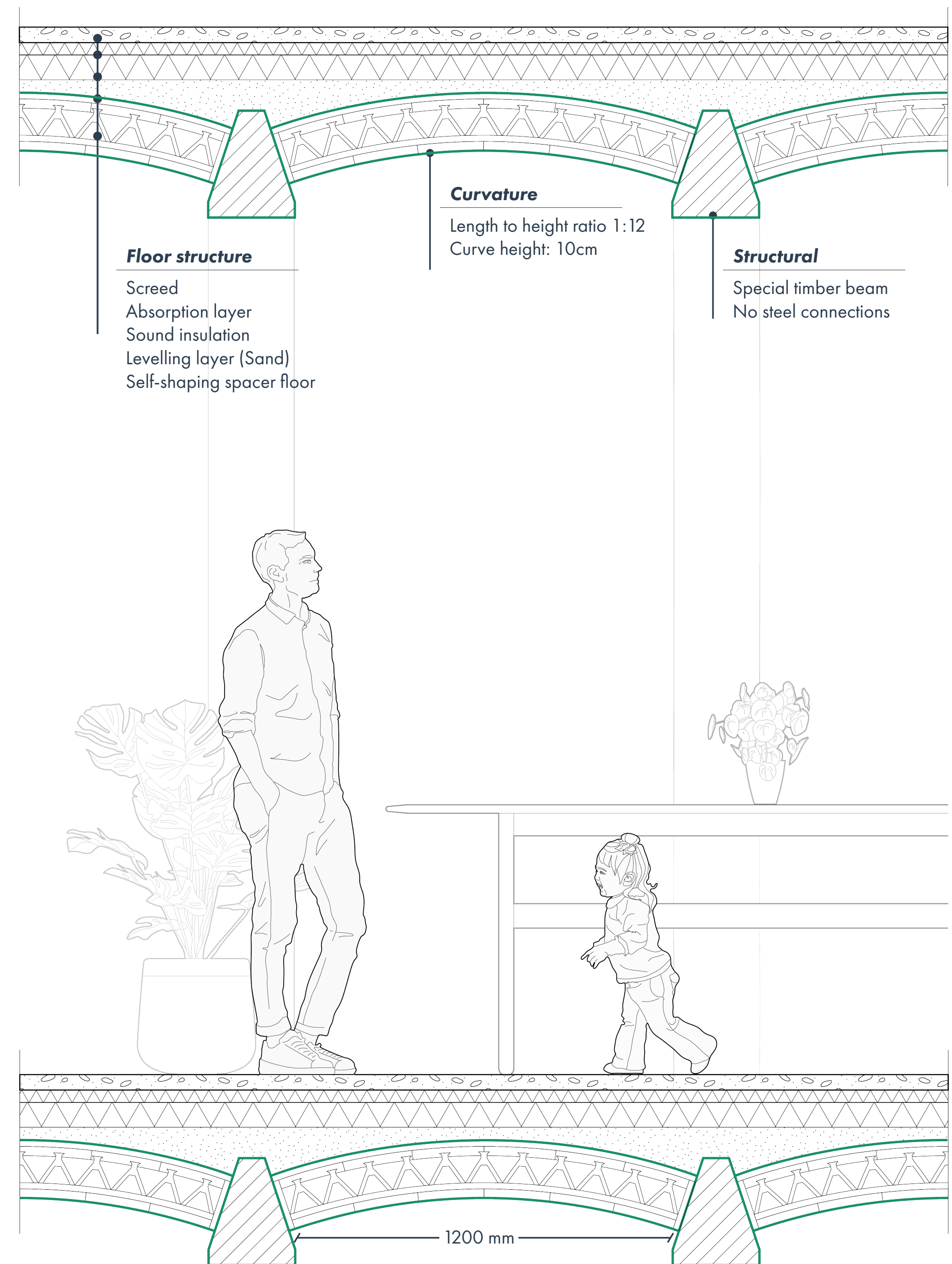
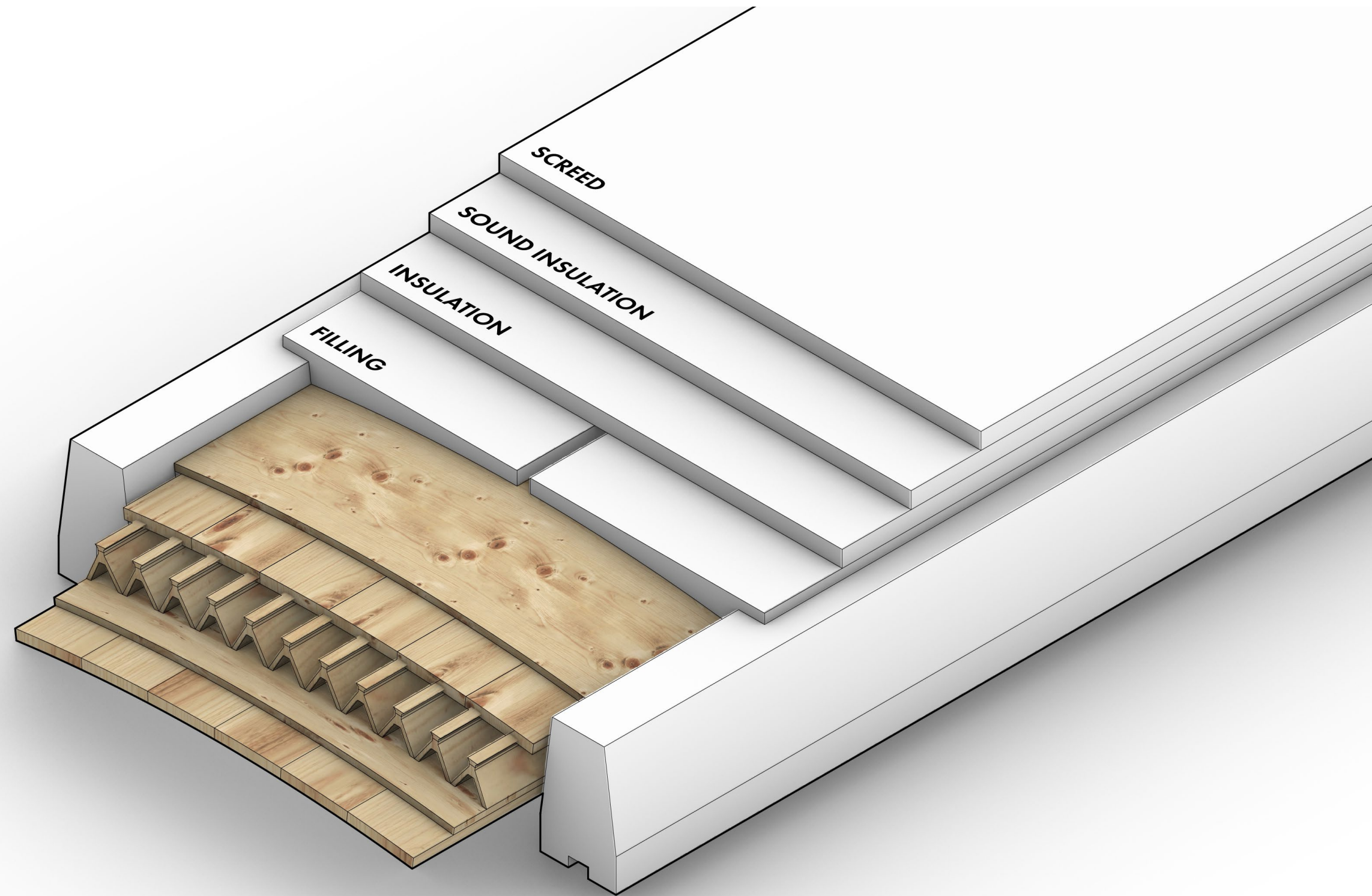


From: vrijdag 17 mei 2024 15:49:14 - To: woensdag 22 mei 2024 09:35:14

# Implementation

# Implementation

## Context



# Implementation

## Context





# Implementation

## Context

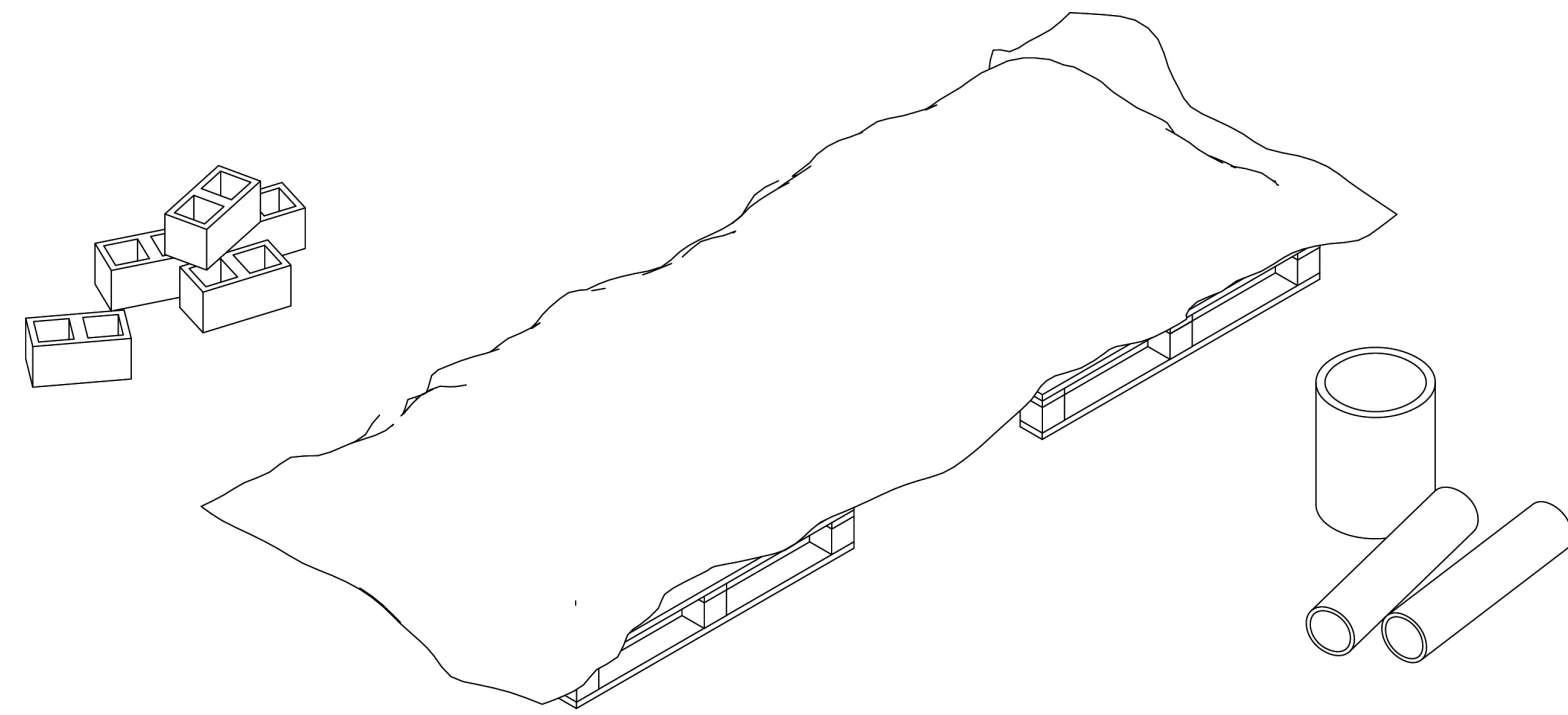


# Implementation

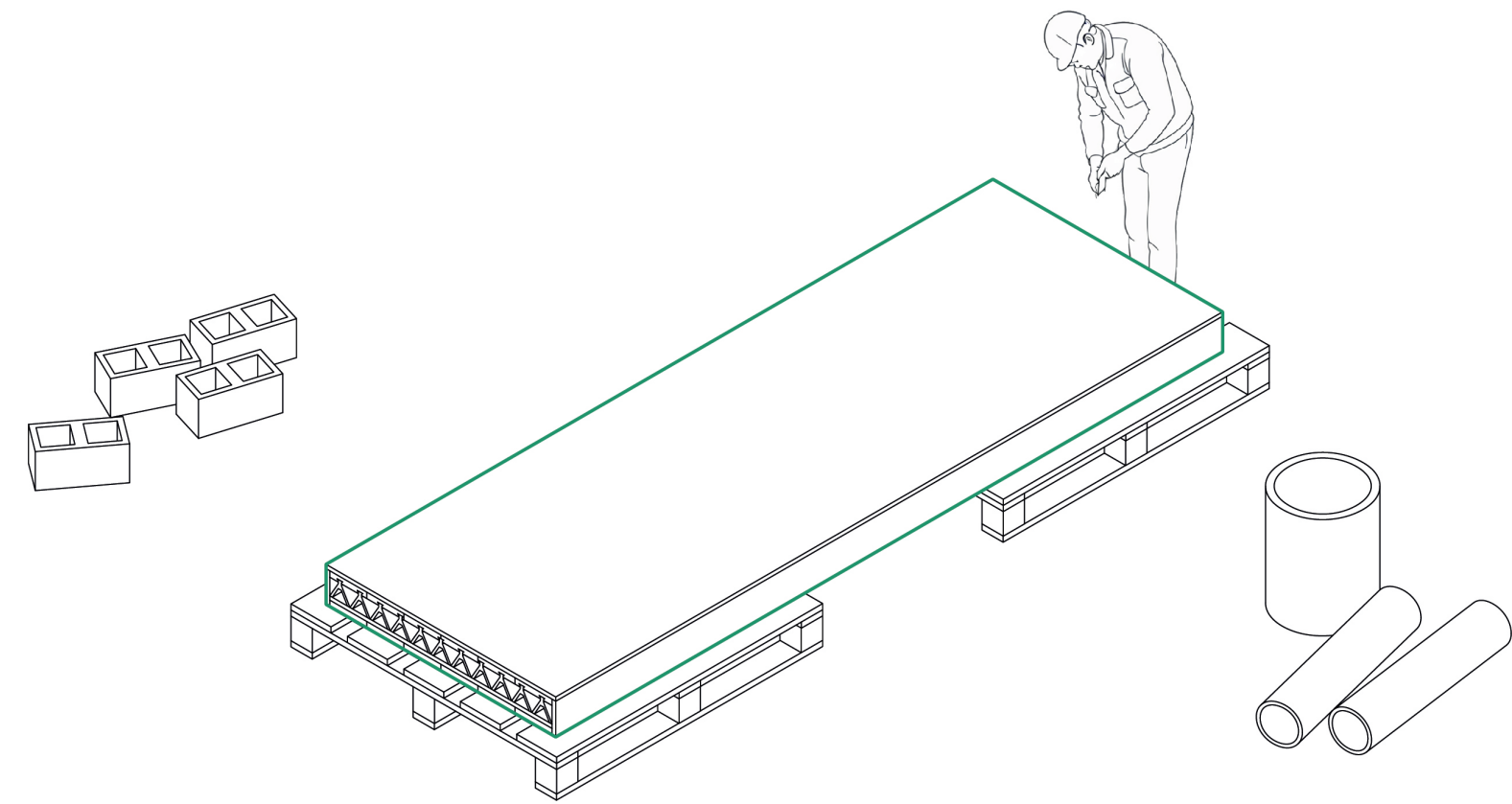
## Manufacturing

# Implementation

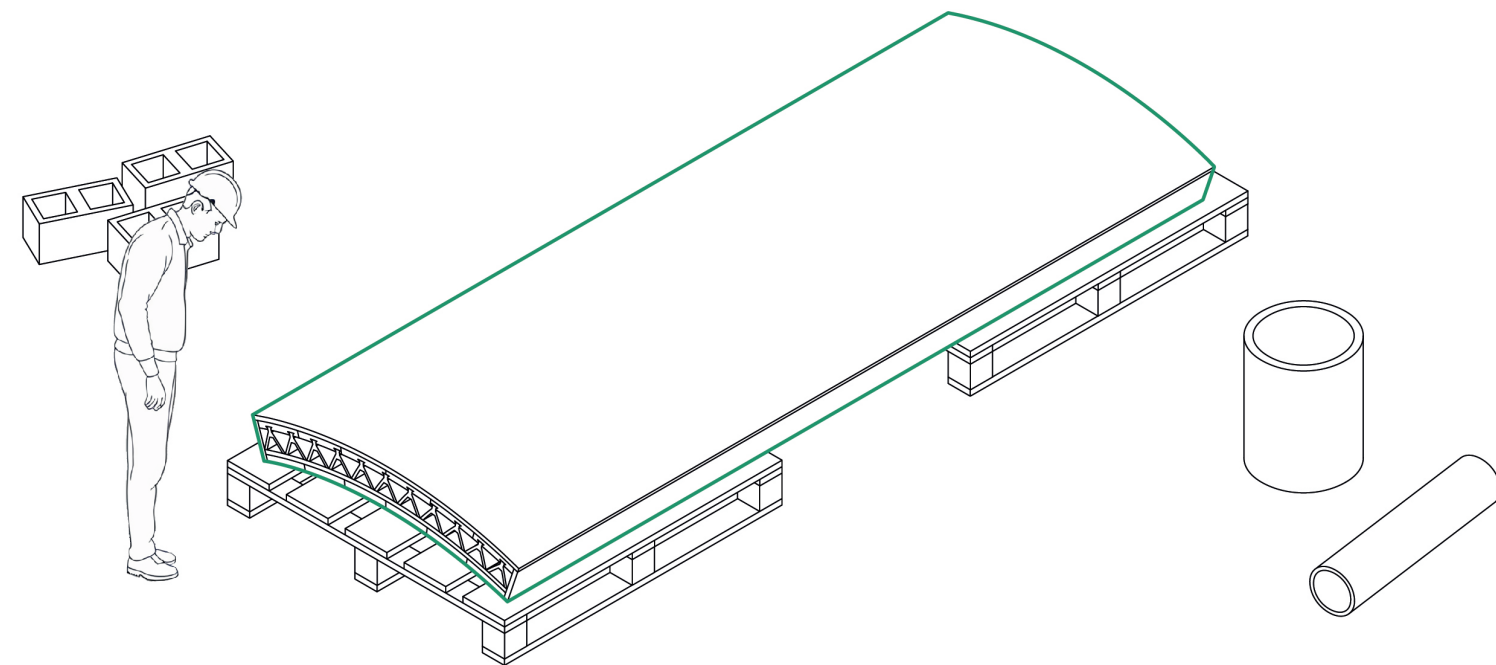
## Manufacturing



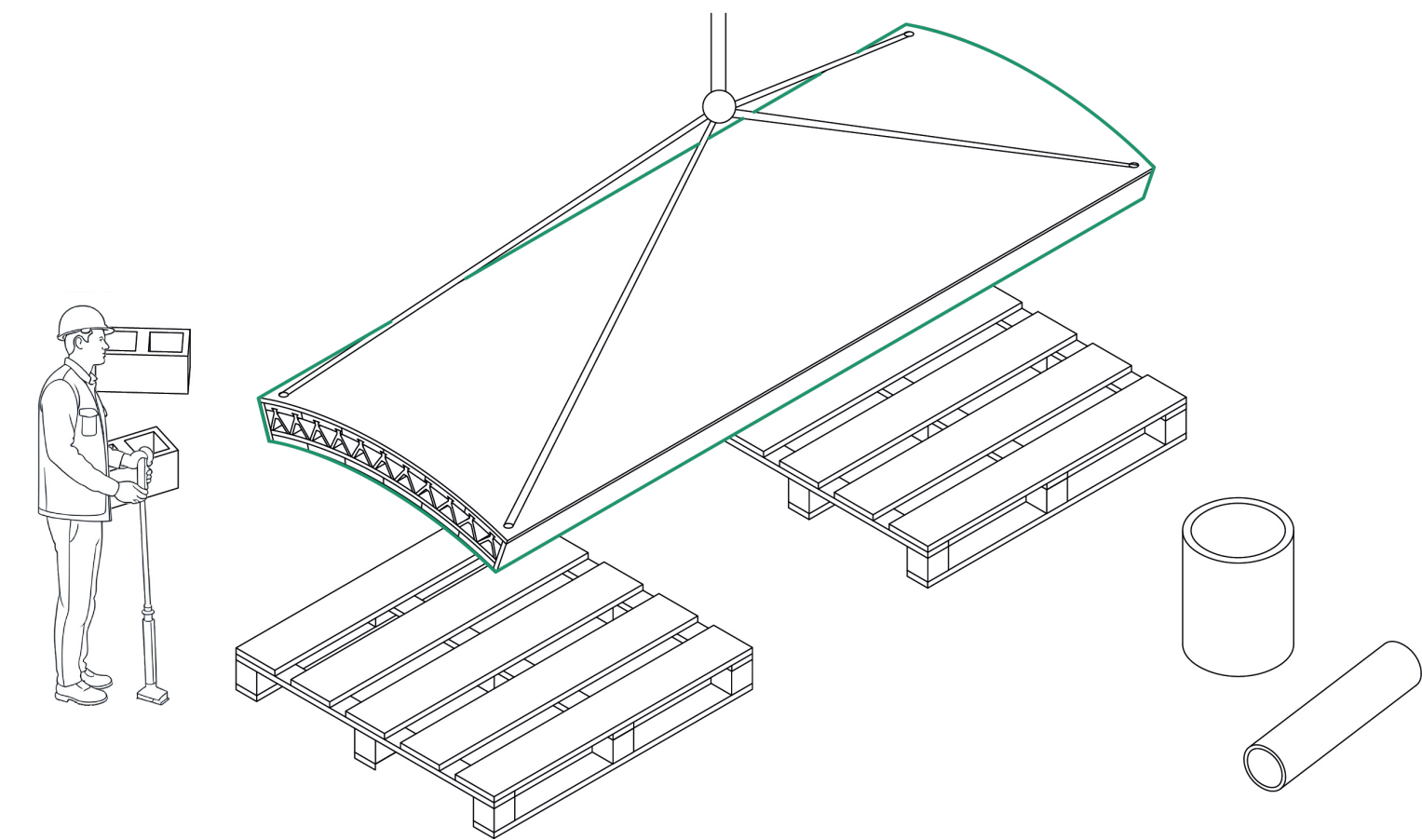
1 Treated & packed



2 Check-up & measurements



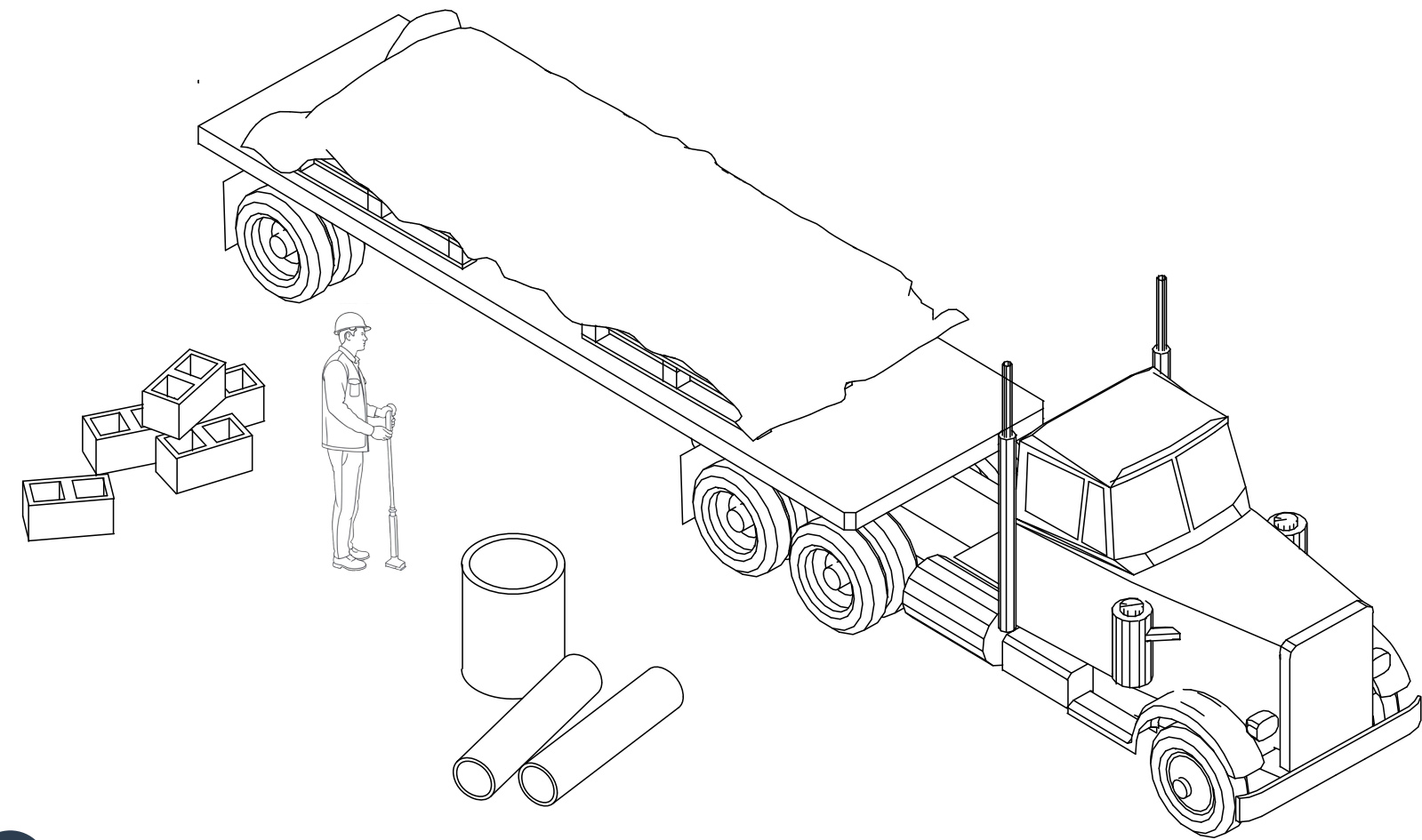
3 Indoor on-site self-shaping?



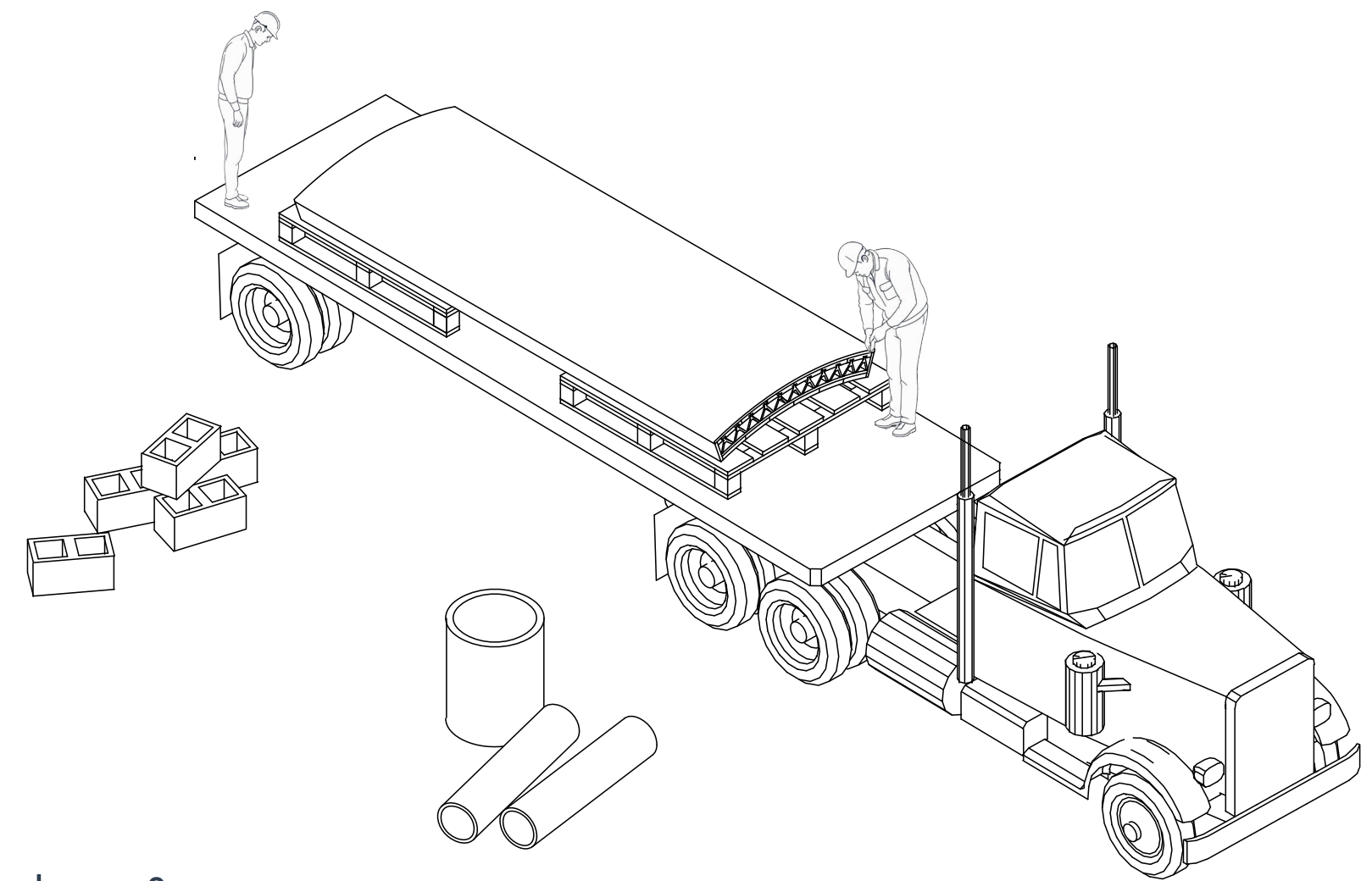
4 Placement

# Implementation

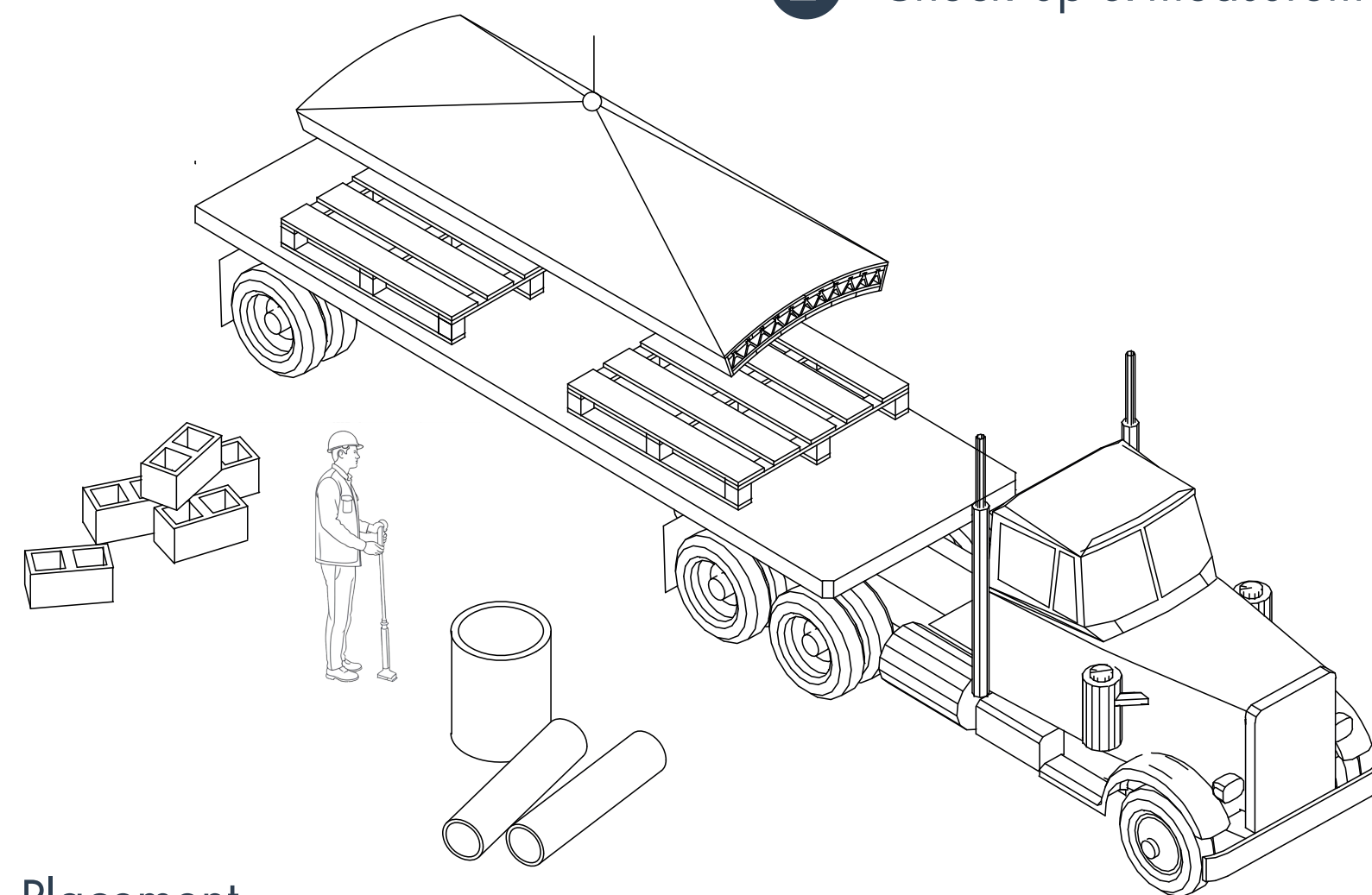
## Manufacturing



1 Pre-fab self-shaping



2 Check-up & measurements



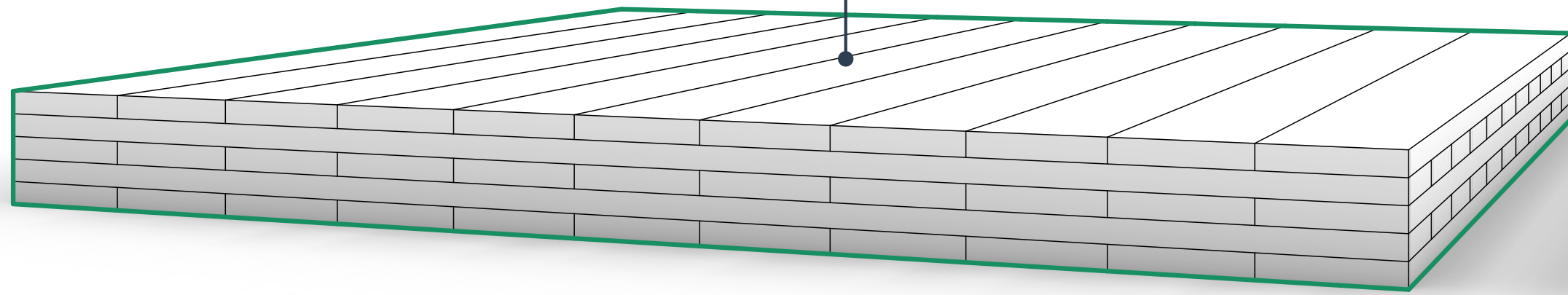
3 Placement

# Implementation

## Manufacturing

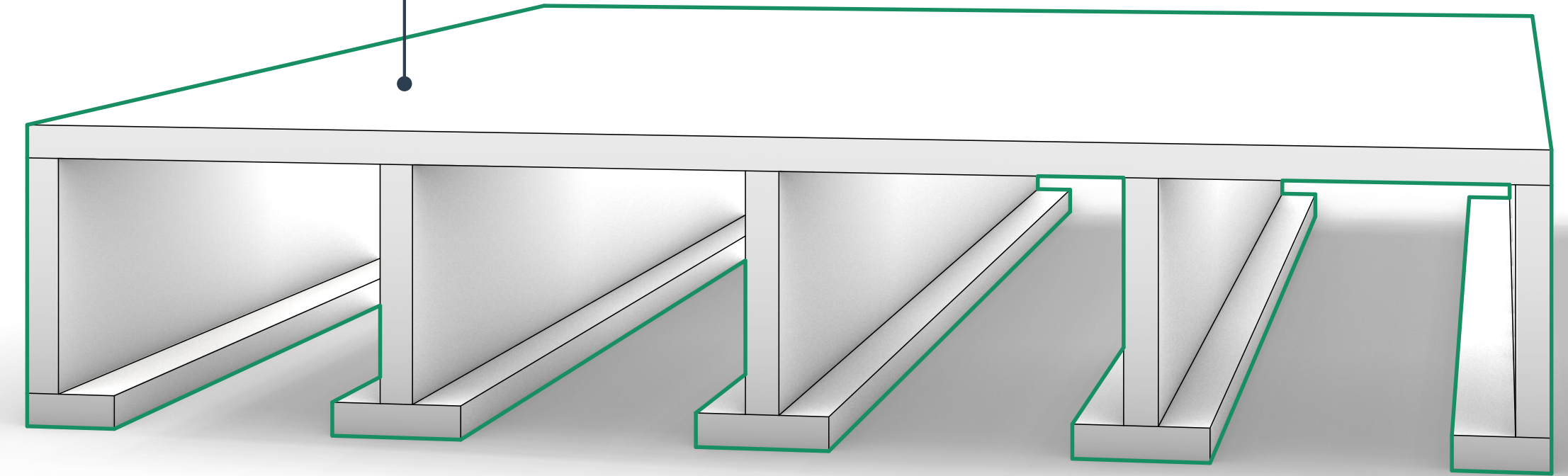
### **Cross Laminated Timber (CLT)**

Layers: 3 to 7 on average  
Span: Multiple directions



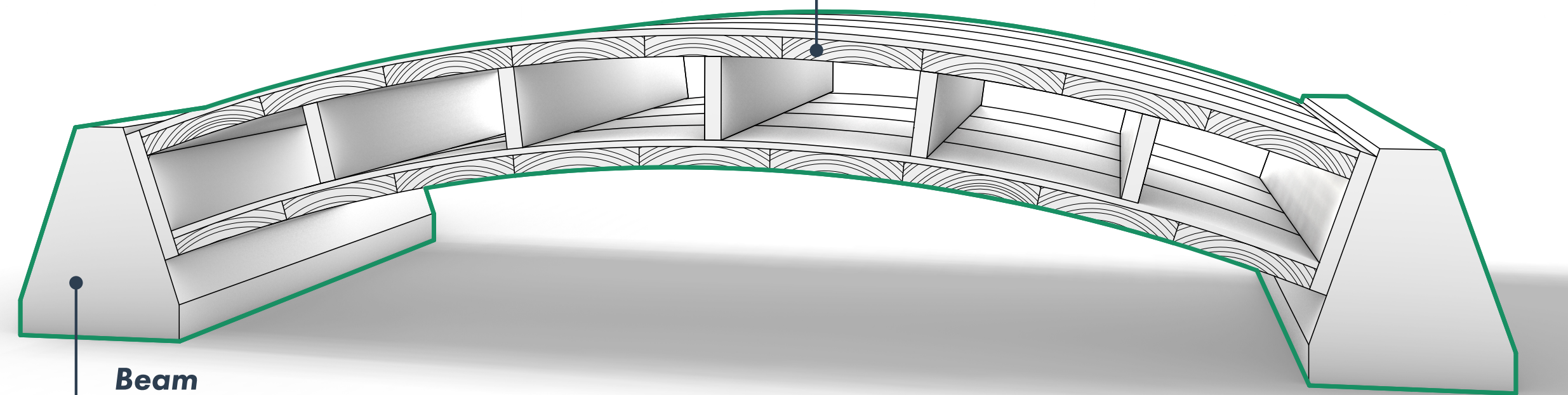
### **Kerto-riipa system**

Ribs & Panels  
Closed box or open typologies  
Span: 1 direction



### **Spacer floor element**

Bi-layers & spacers  
Curved geometry  
Span: 1 direction



### **Beam**

More material but  
necessary

# Conclusion & Reflection

# Conclusion

## Discussion

### **Reliability** and **Impact** of results

# Conclusion

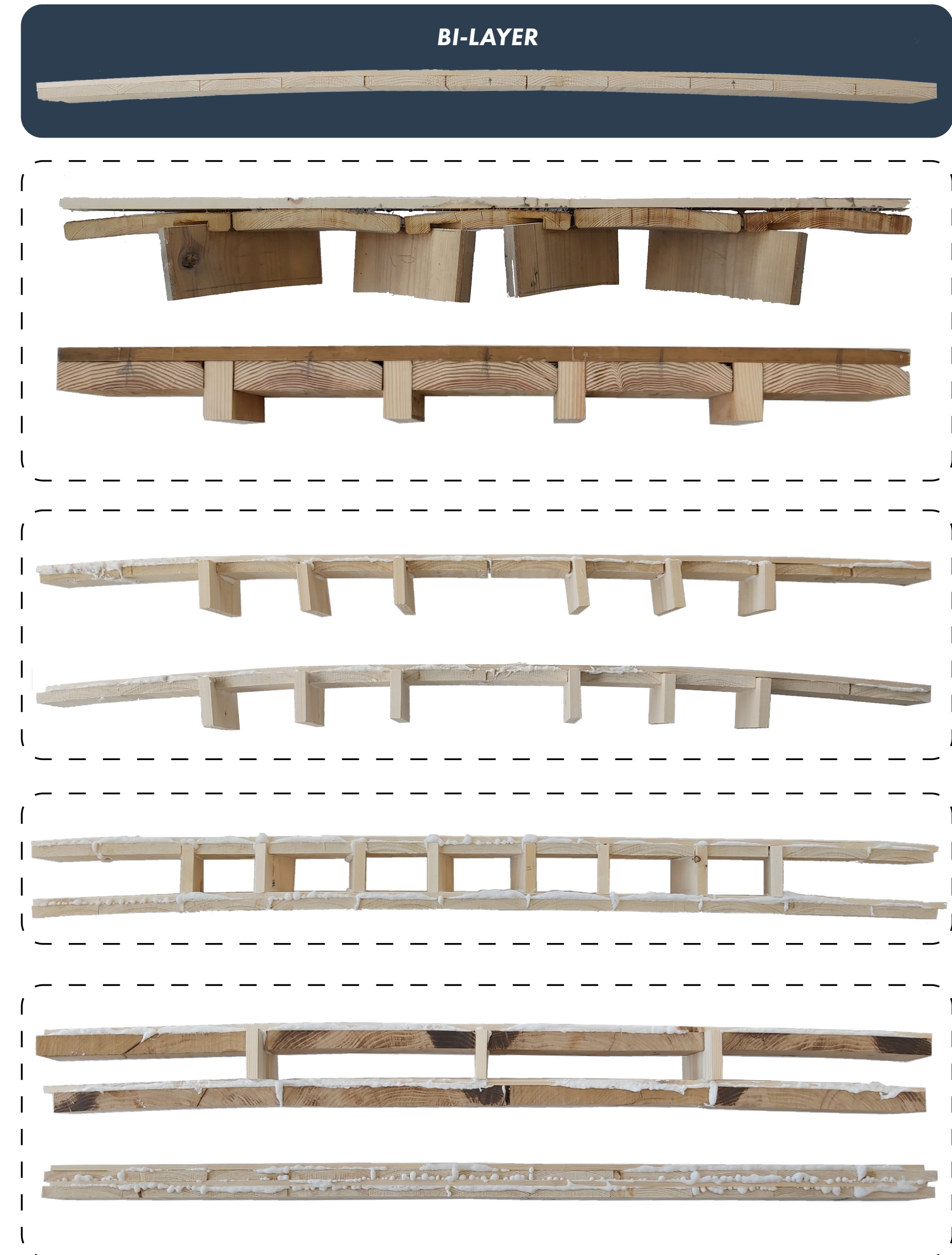
## Discussion

Only 9 Test

Non-professional experiment environment

Still curvature

Benchmark for further refined research?





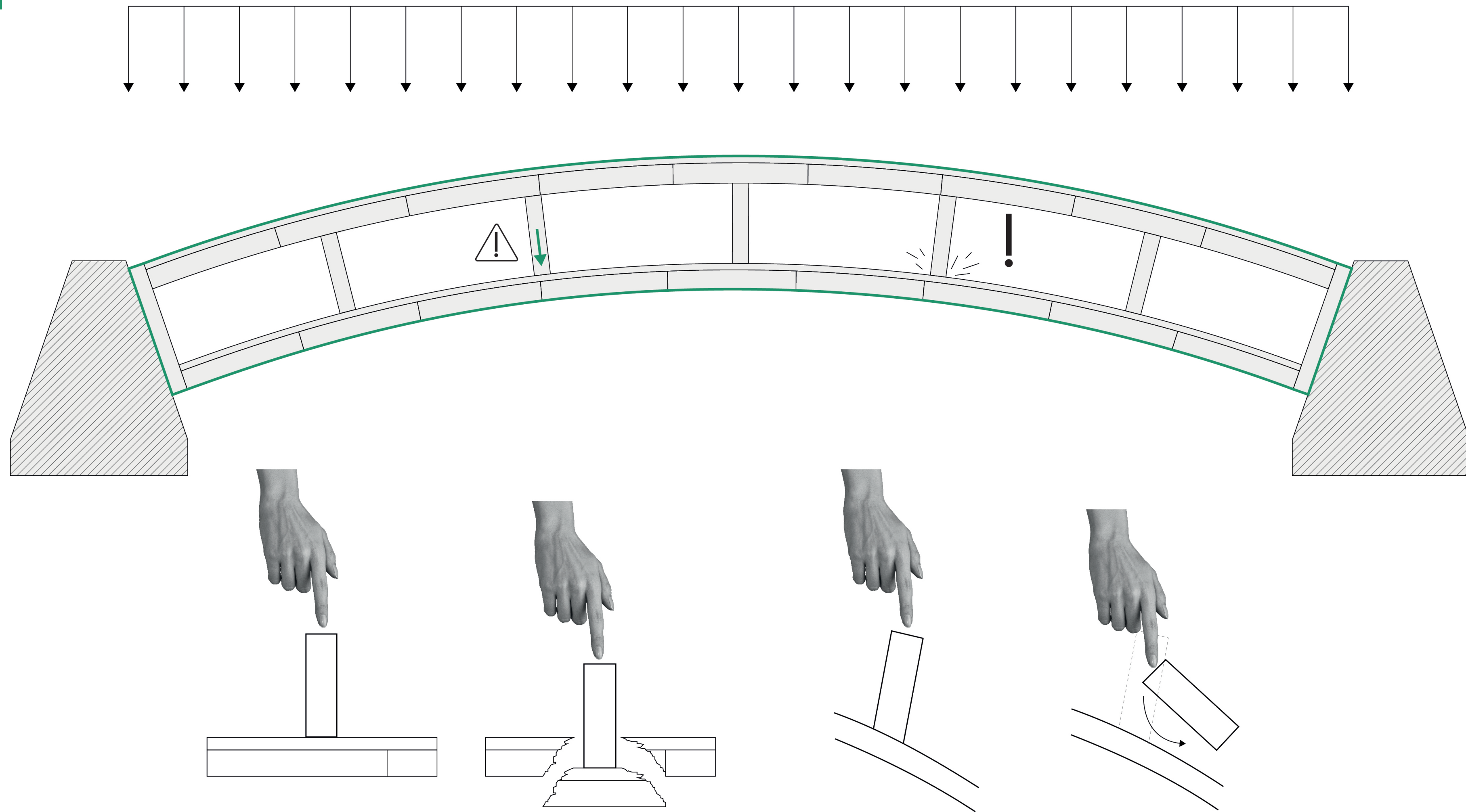
# Conclusion

## Discussion

New **elements**, thus new **challenges**

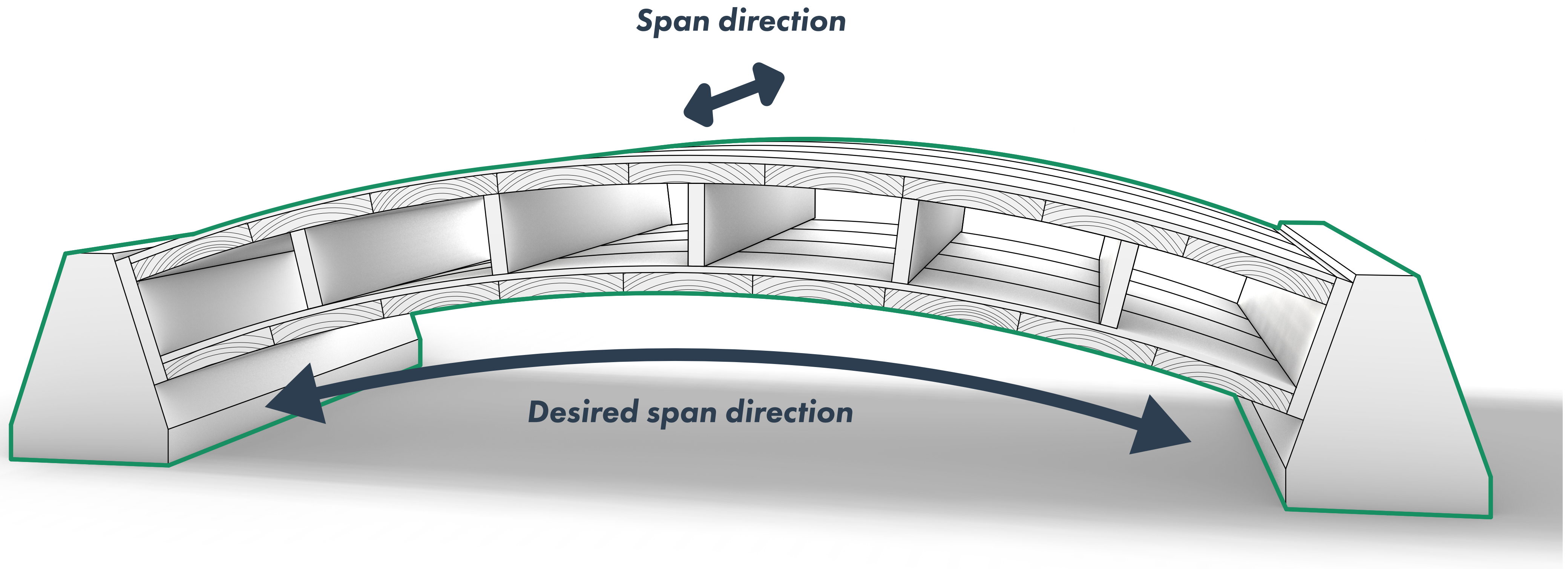
# Conclusion

## Discussion



# Conclusion

## Discussion



# Conclusion

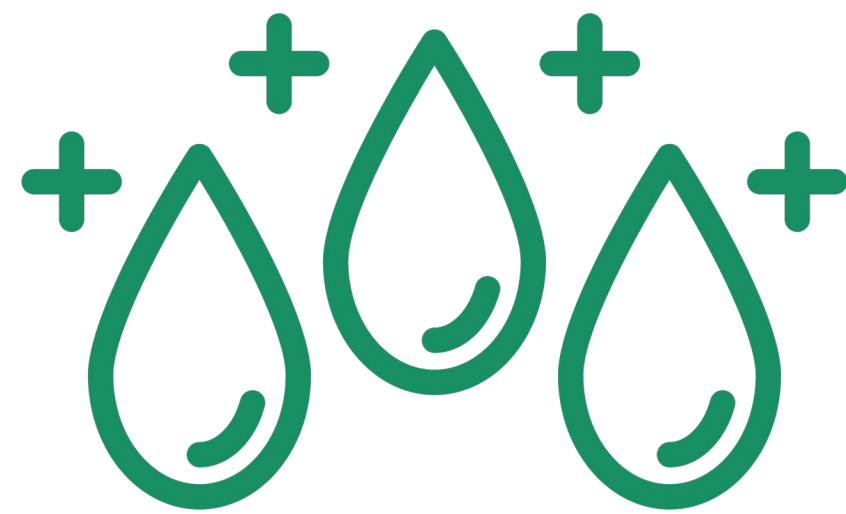
# Conclusion

# Conclusion

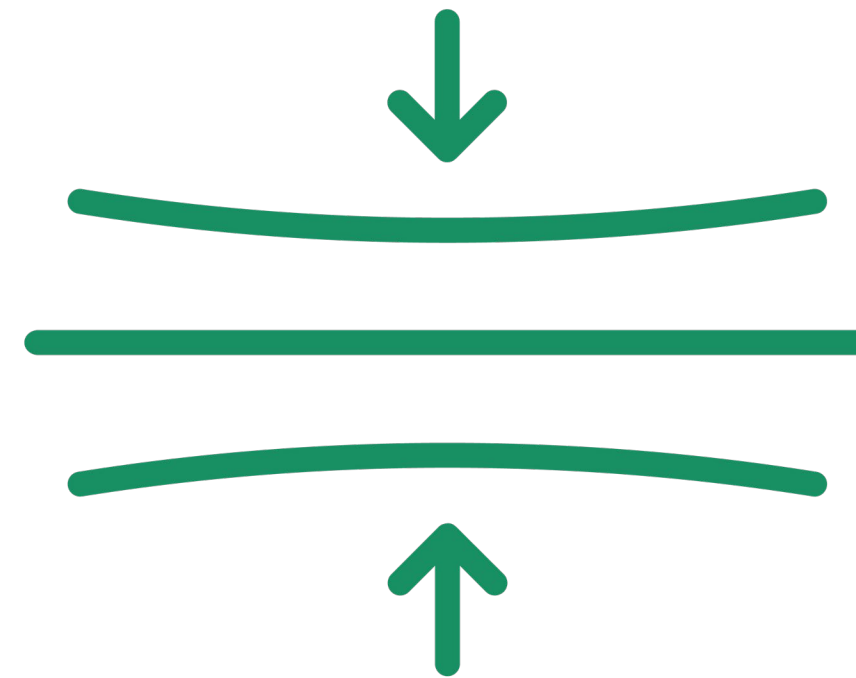
**How can curved structural floor elements be created based on self-shaping hygromorphic bi-layers?**

# Conclusion

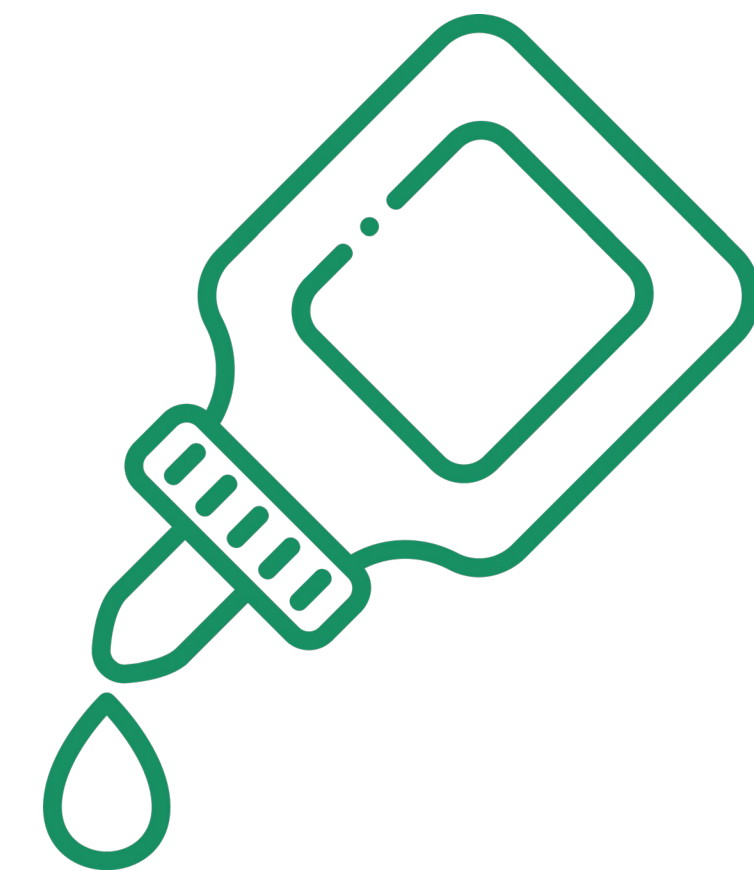
**Treatment**  
Water vs. Moisture



**Material**  
Thickness



**Adhesive**  
Strength

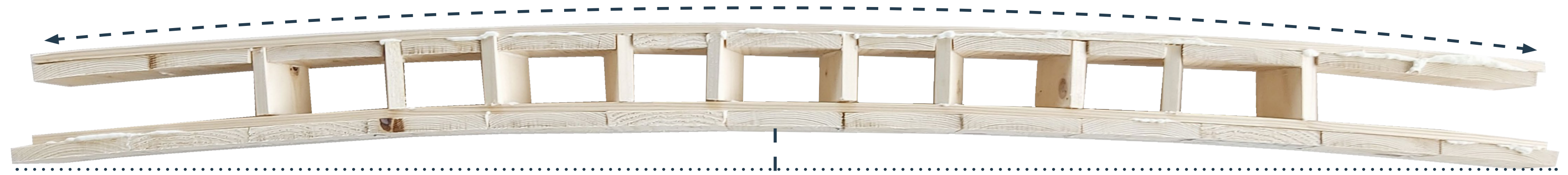


# Conclusion

## **Boxfloor** (Softwood)

### **Moisture**

Length: 1148mm  
Curve height: 30mm  
Reached: 27,7%



Thank you



-5079810-

23 May 2024

Raymen Lenno François Borst

Stijn Brancart & Gilbert Koskamp

Master Research Thesis P4 Presentation



# Reflection

# Reflection

# Reflection

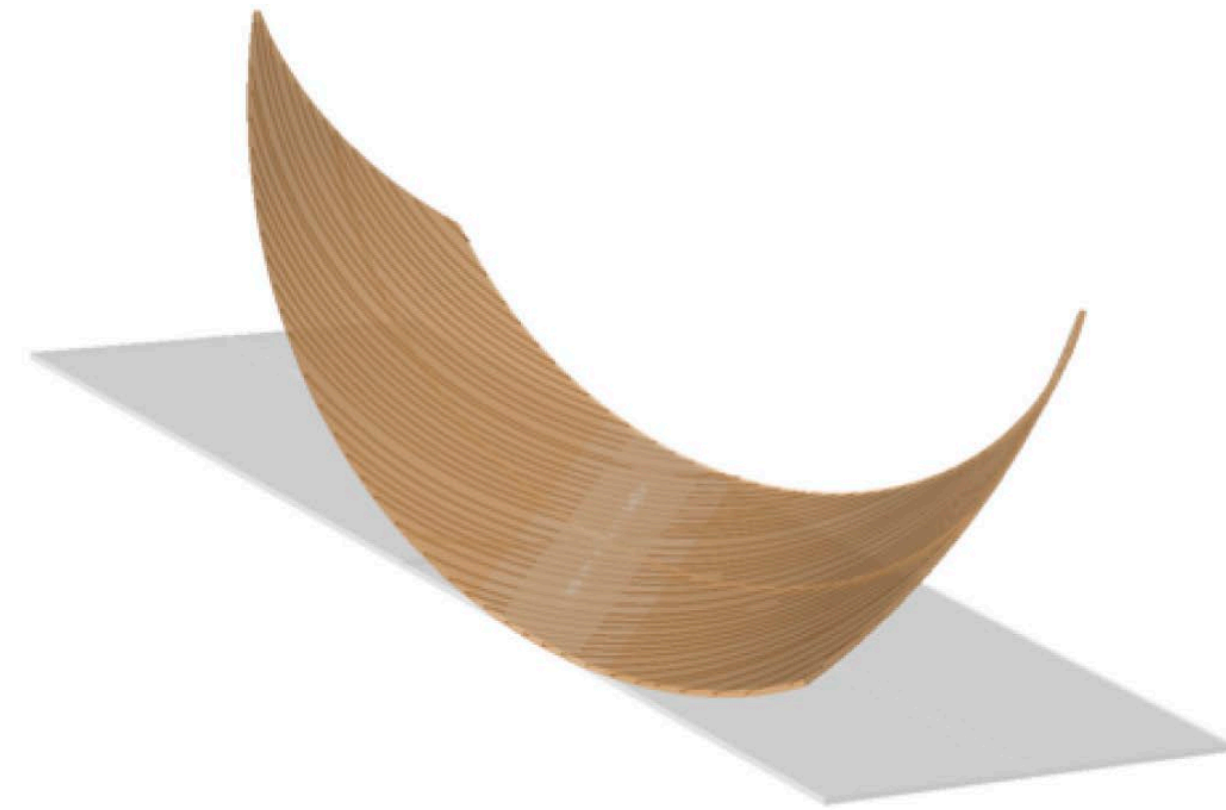
**High-risk** research

**Disappointing** results, but results

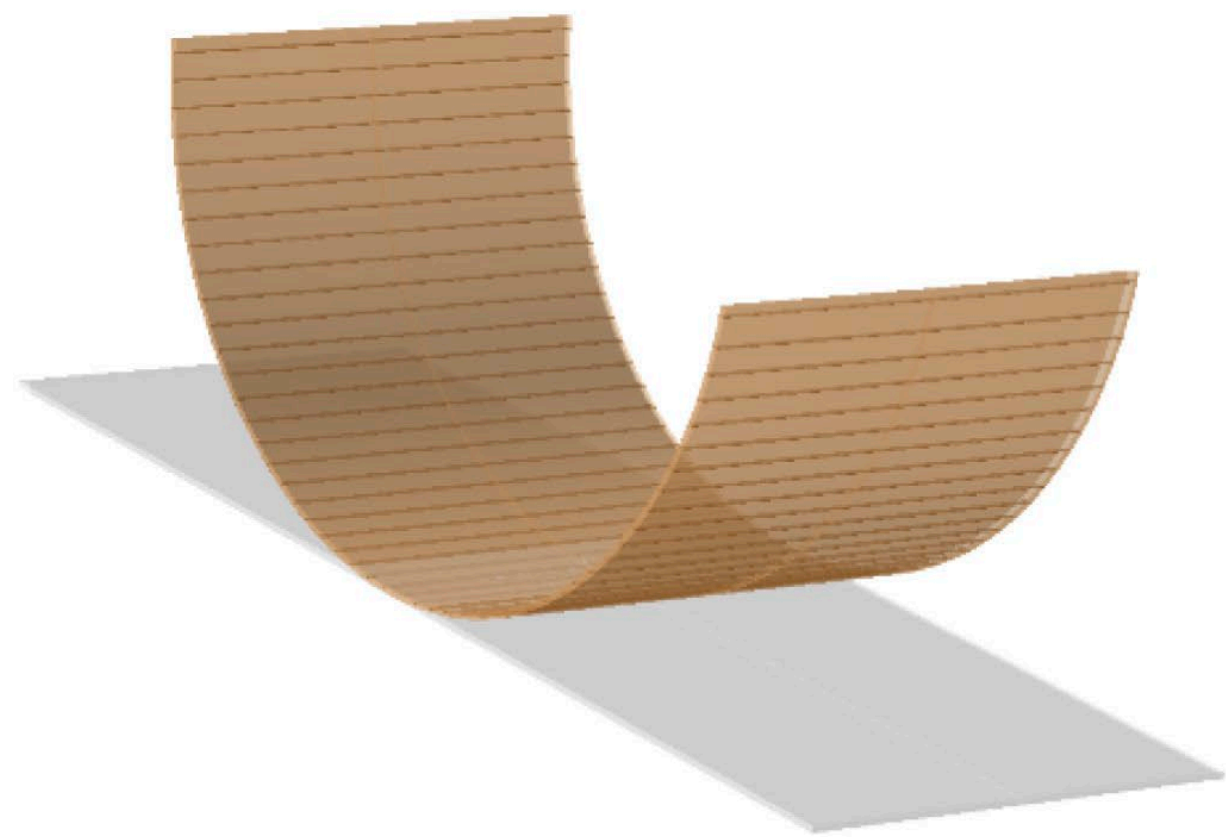
Original **objective achieved?**



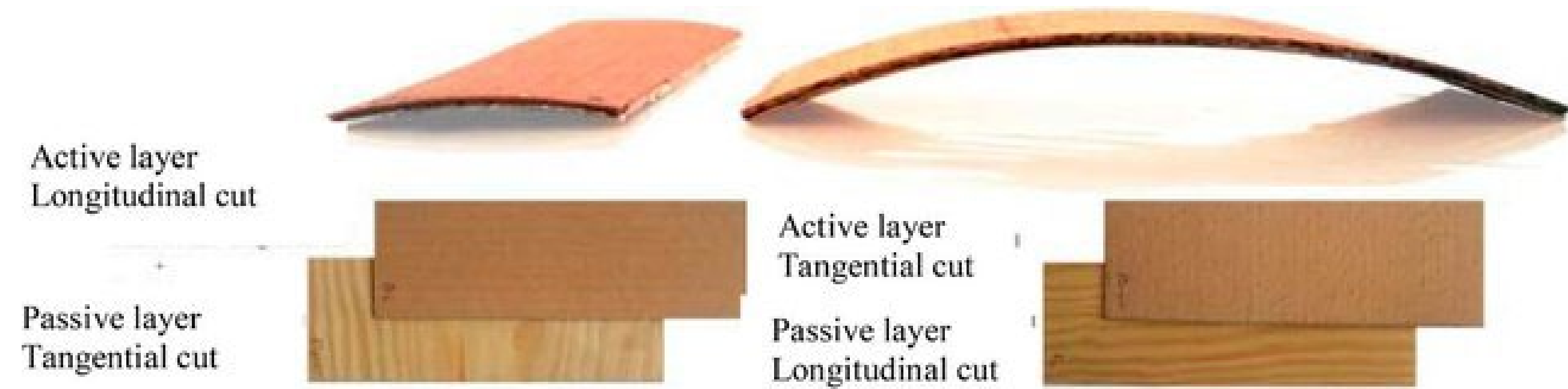
(a)



(b)



(c)

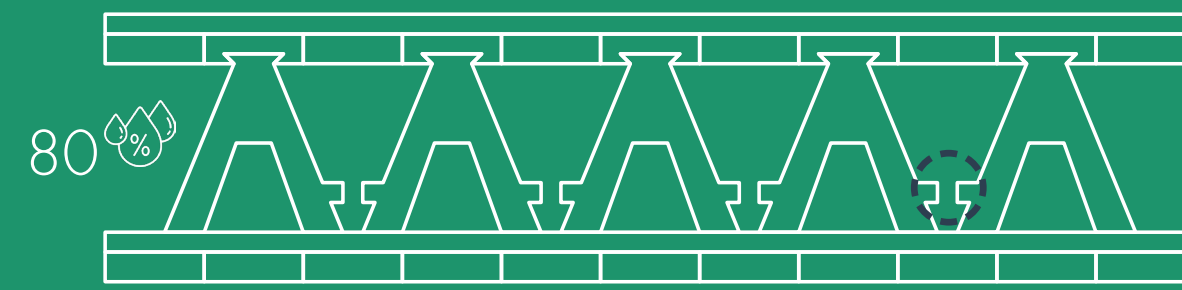


Active layer  
Longitudinal cut

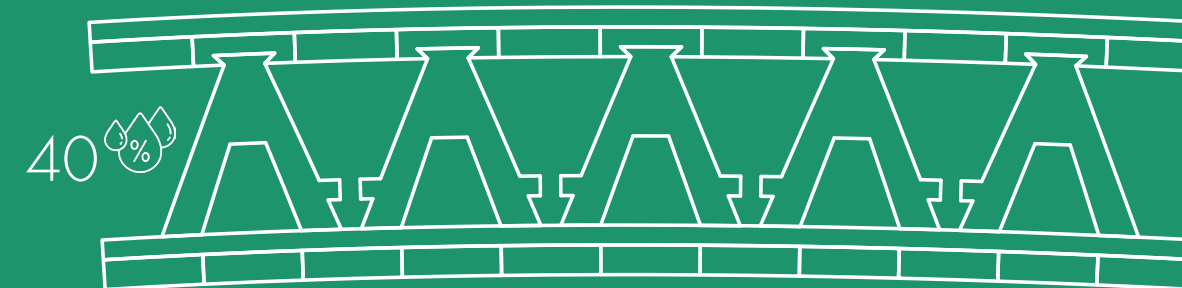
Passive layer  
Tangential cut

Active layer  
Tangential cut

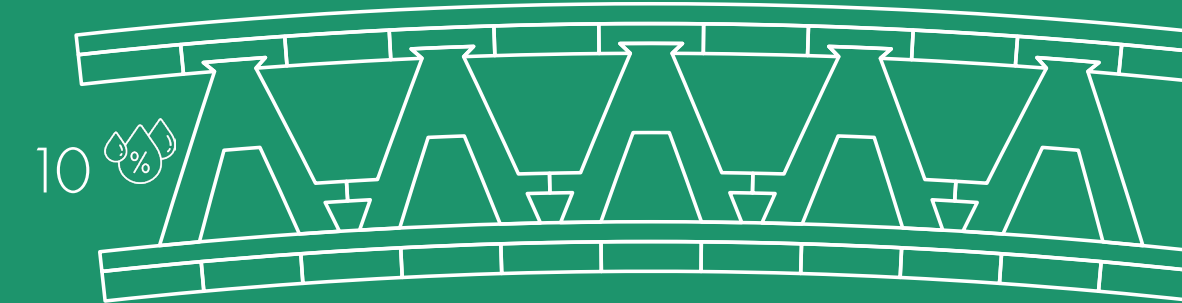
Passive layer  
Longitudinal cut



**BONDING**



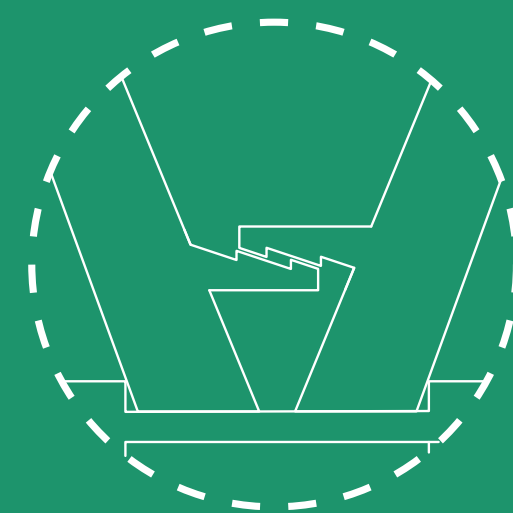
**SELF-SHAPING**



**LIMITS**

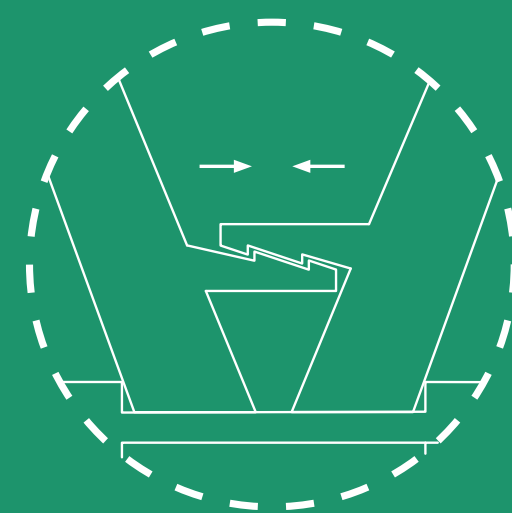


**FIXED**



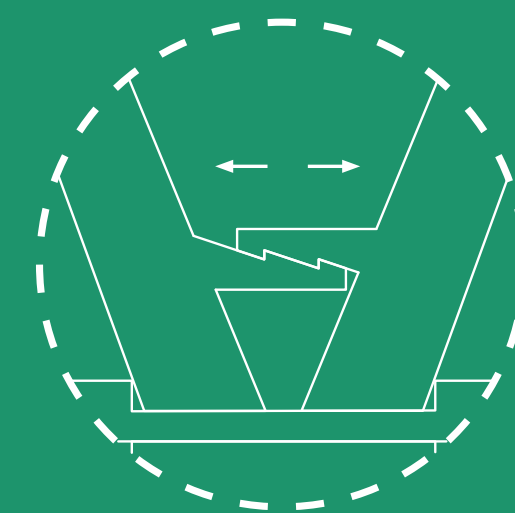
**SQUINTED STOP**

Based on the under squinted stop design, this zigzag pattern can slide on way.



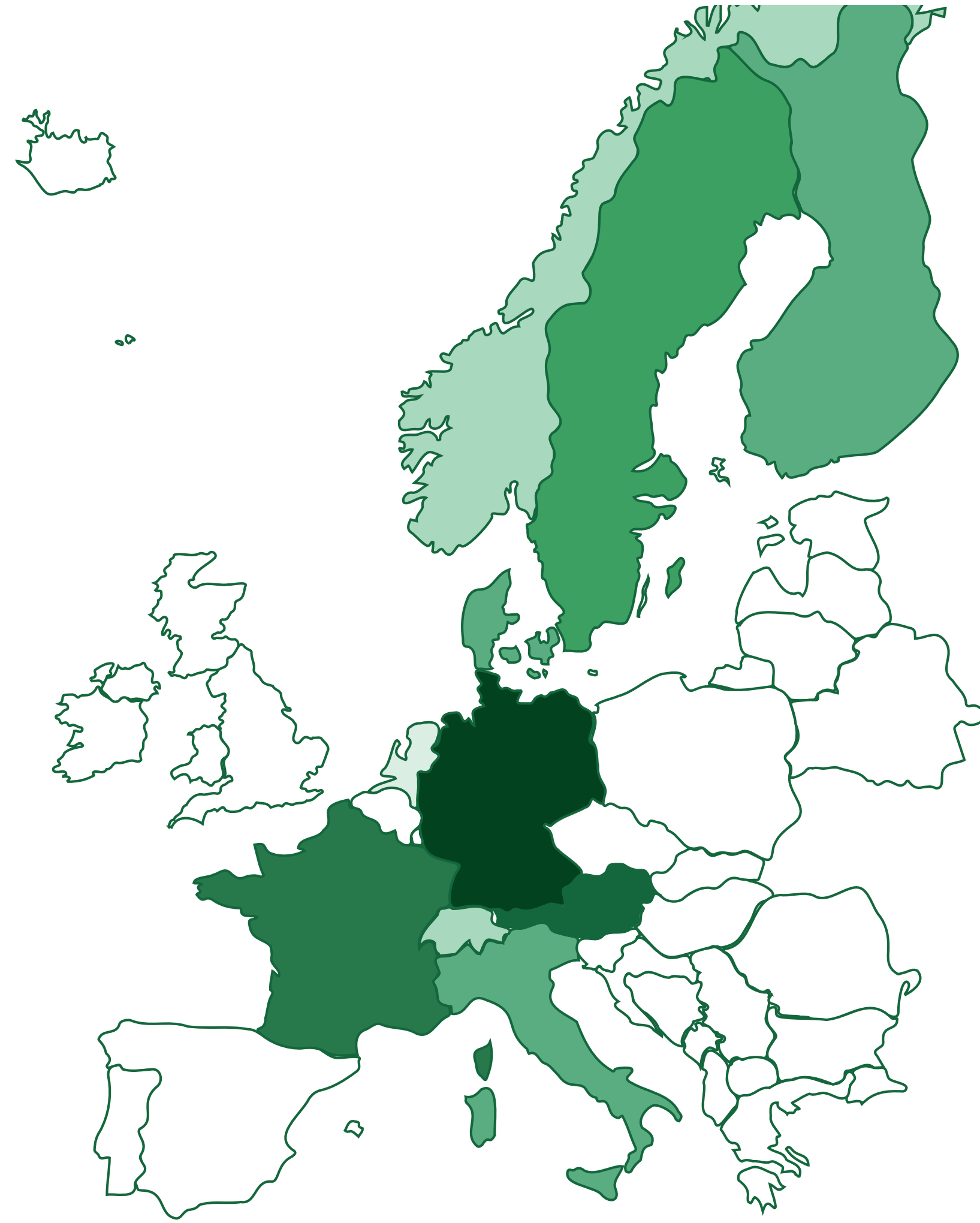
**SLIDING**

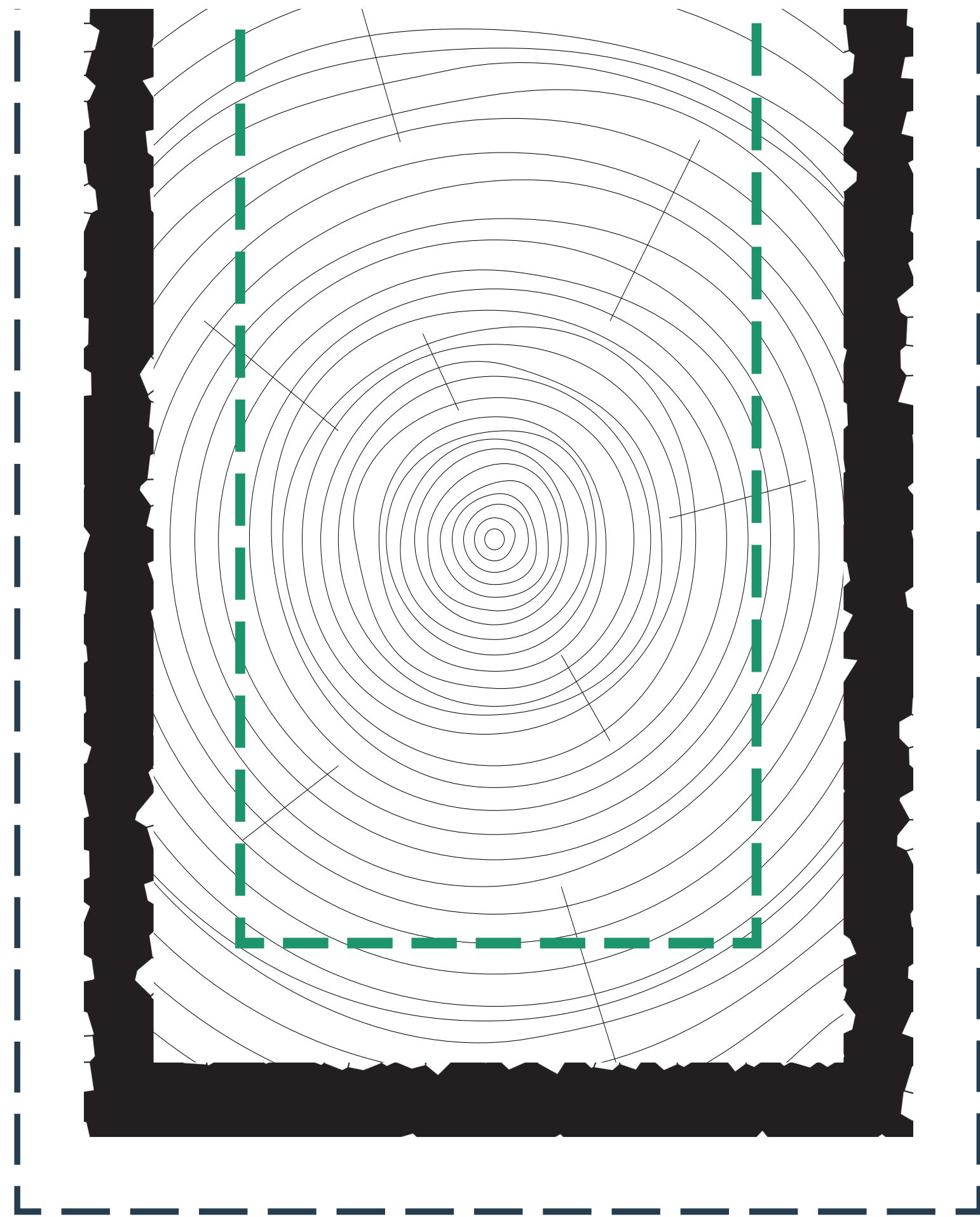
When the RH decreases, the elements come closer to each other, resulting in a sliding movement.

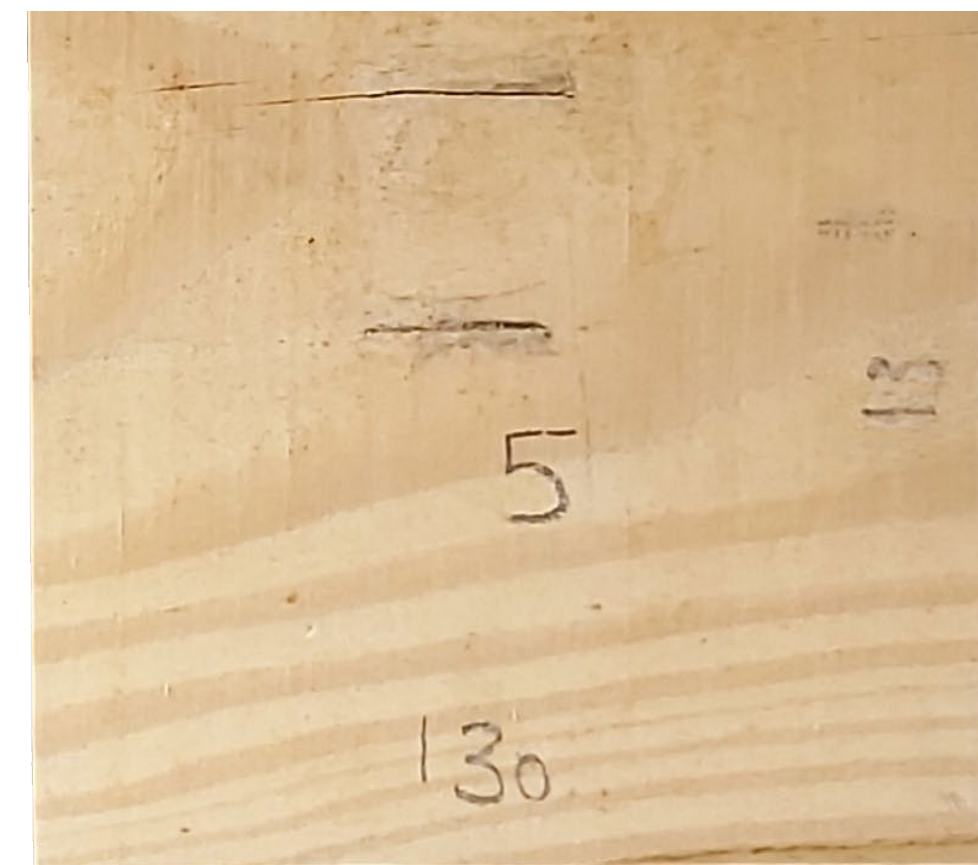
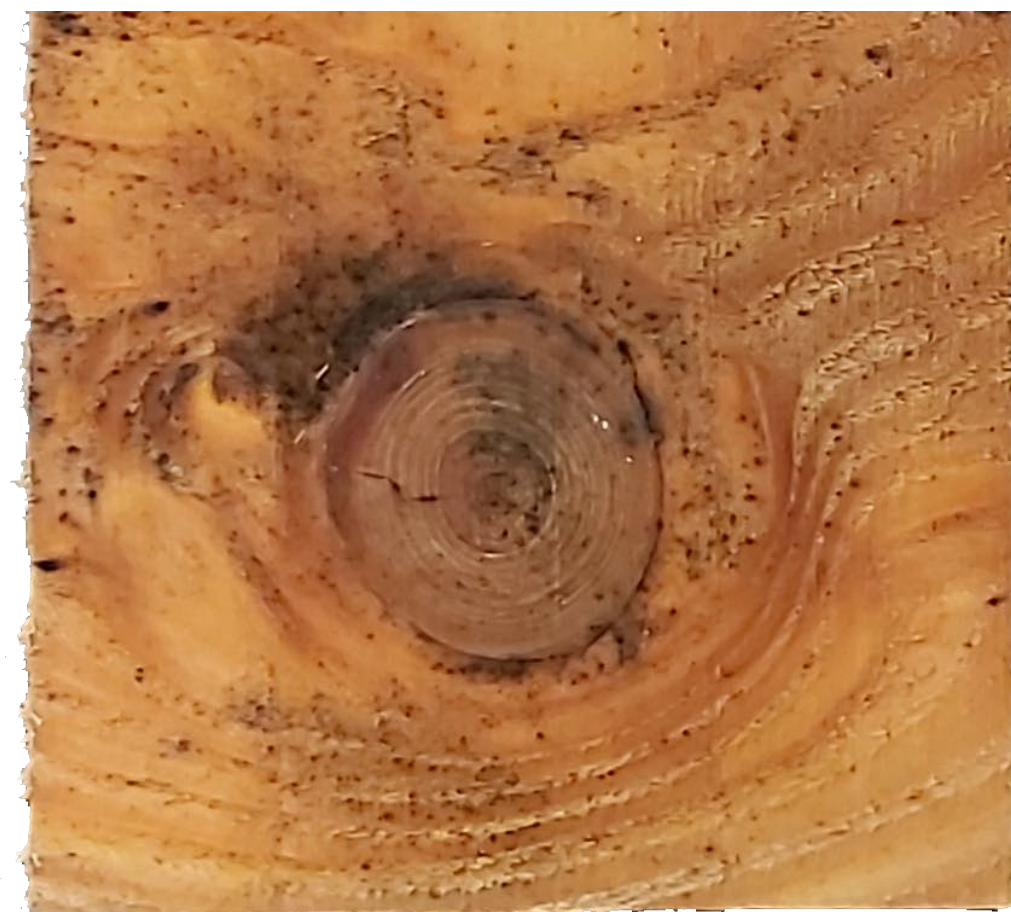
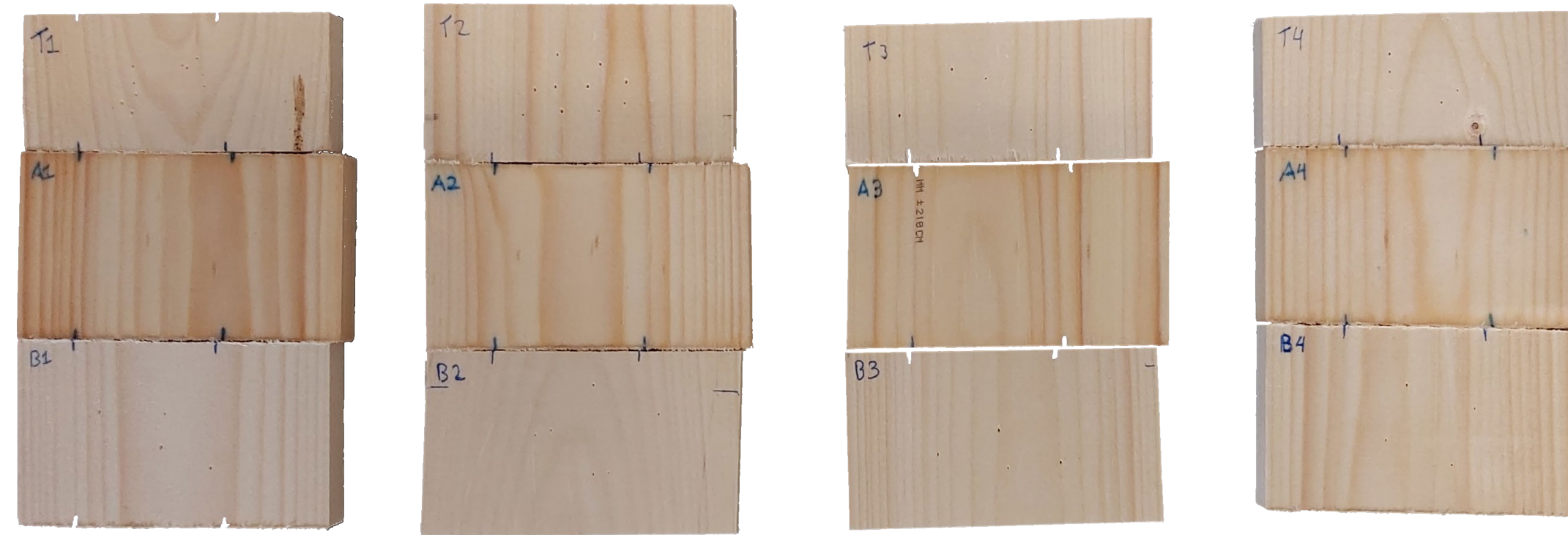


**FIXED**

The RH increases again but the elements are fixed meaning a structural stable element.





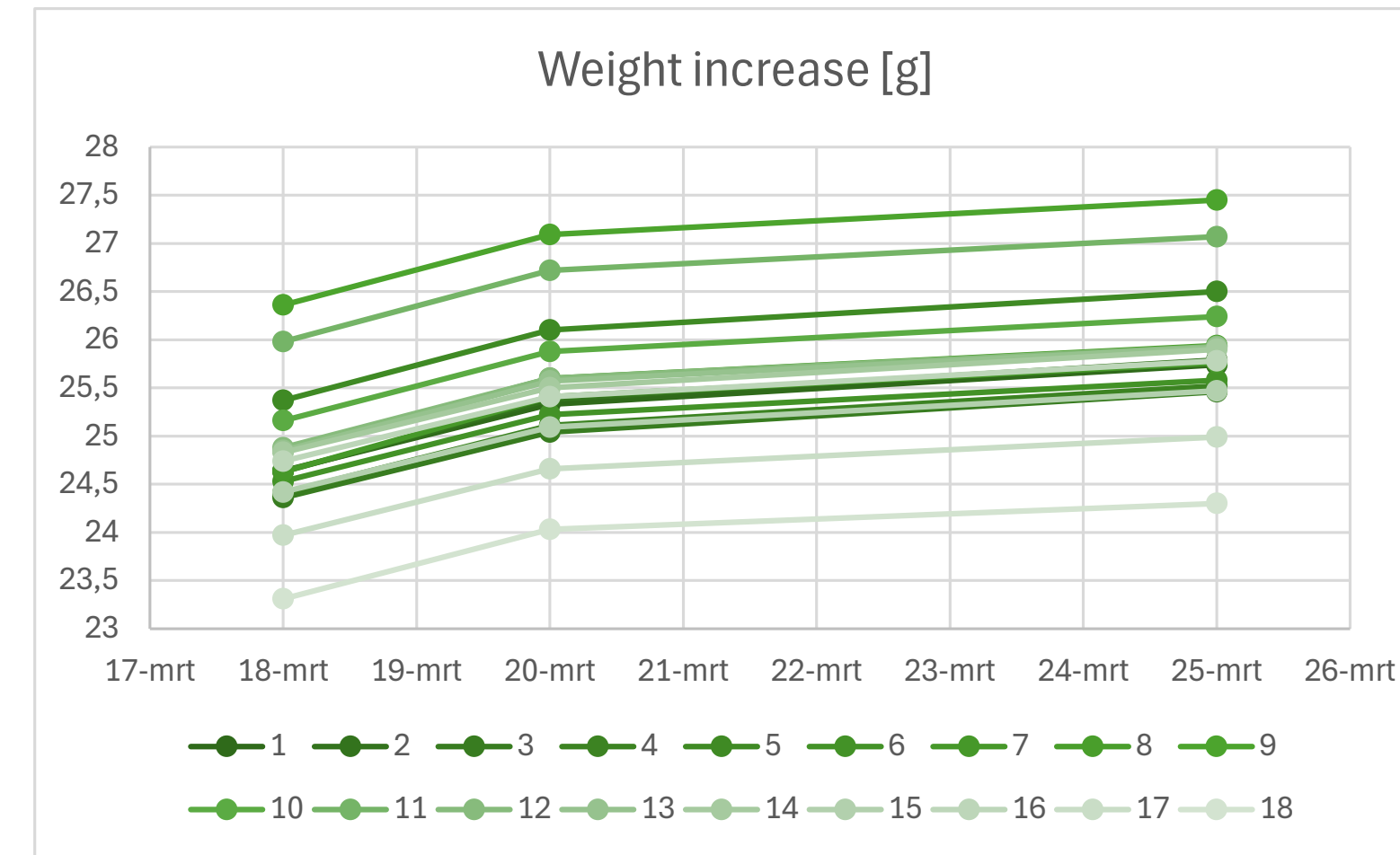
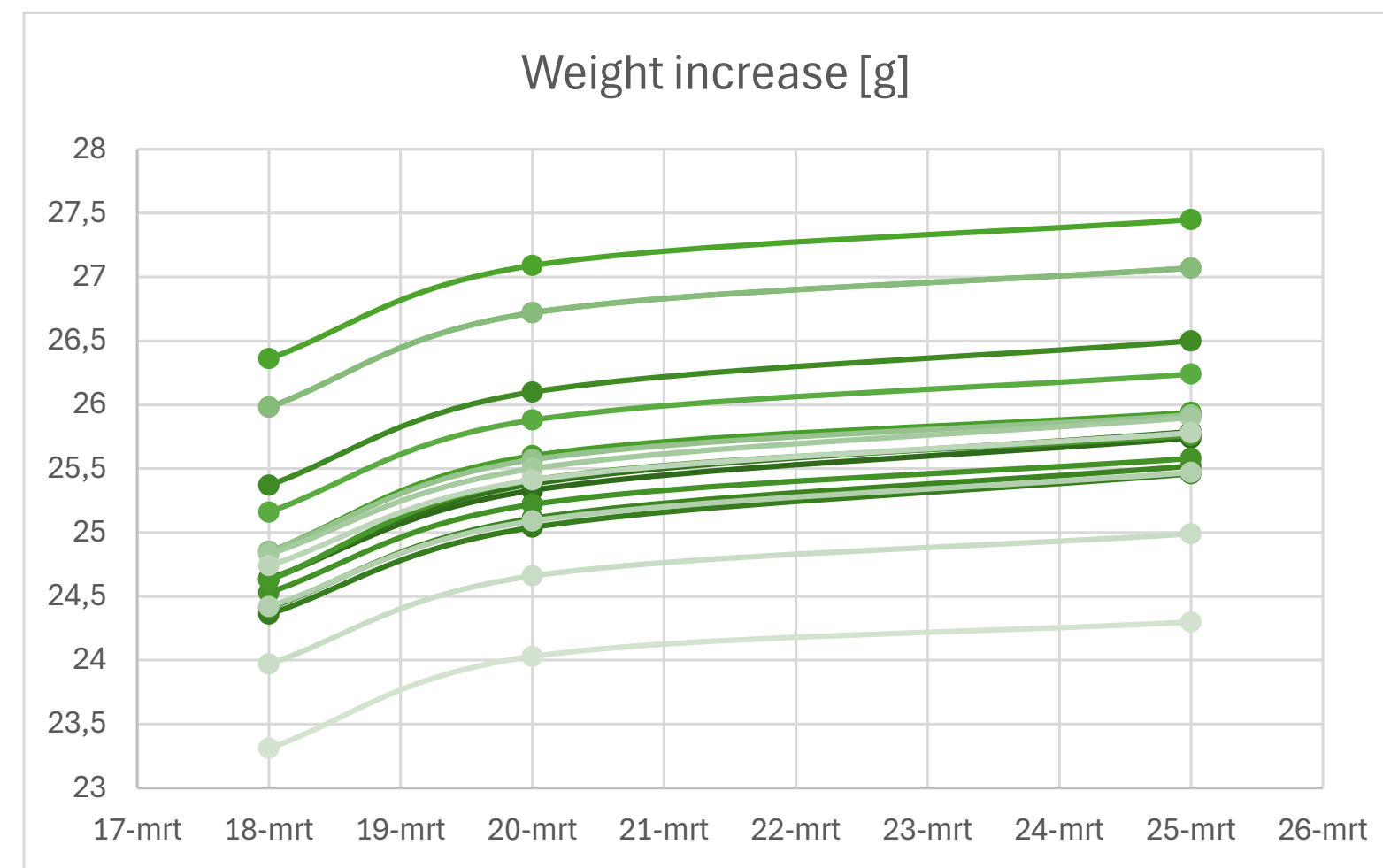




	●●●●●	●●●●○	●●●●○	●○○○○
	●●●●○	●●○○○	●●○○○	●●●●○
	●●●●○	●●●●○	●●●●○	●●●●○
	●○○○○	●●●●●	●○○○○	●●○○○
	●●○○○	●●●●●	●●●○○	●●●●○
	●○○○○	●●●○○	●●○○○	●●●○○
	●●●○○	●●●○○	●●●●●	●●●○○

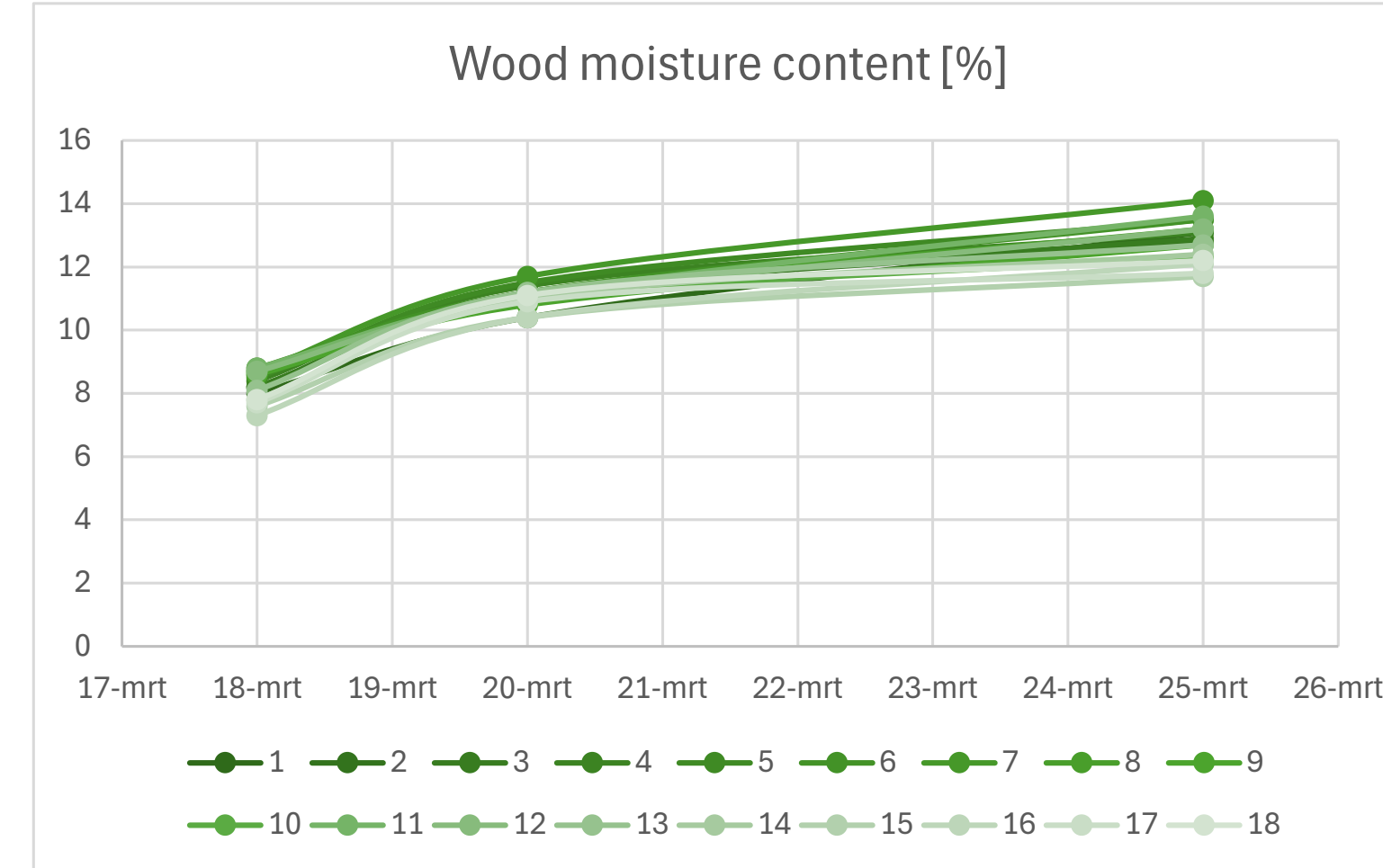
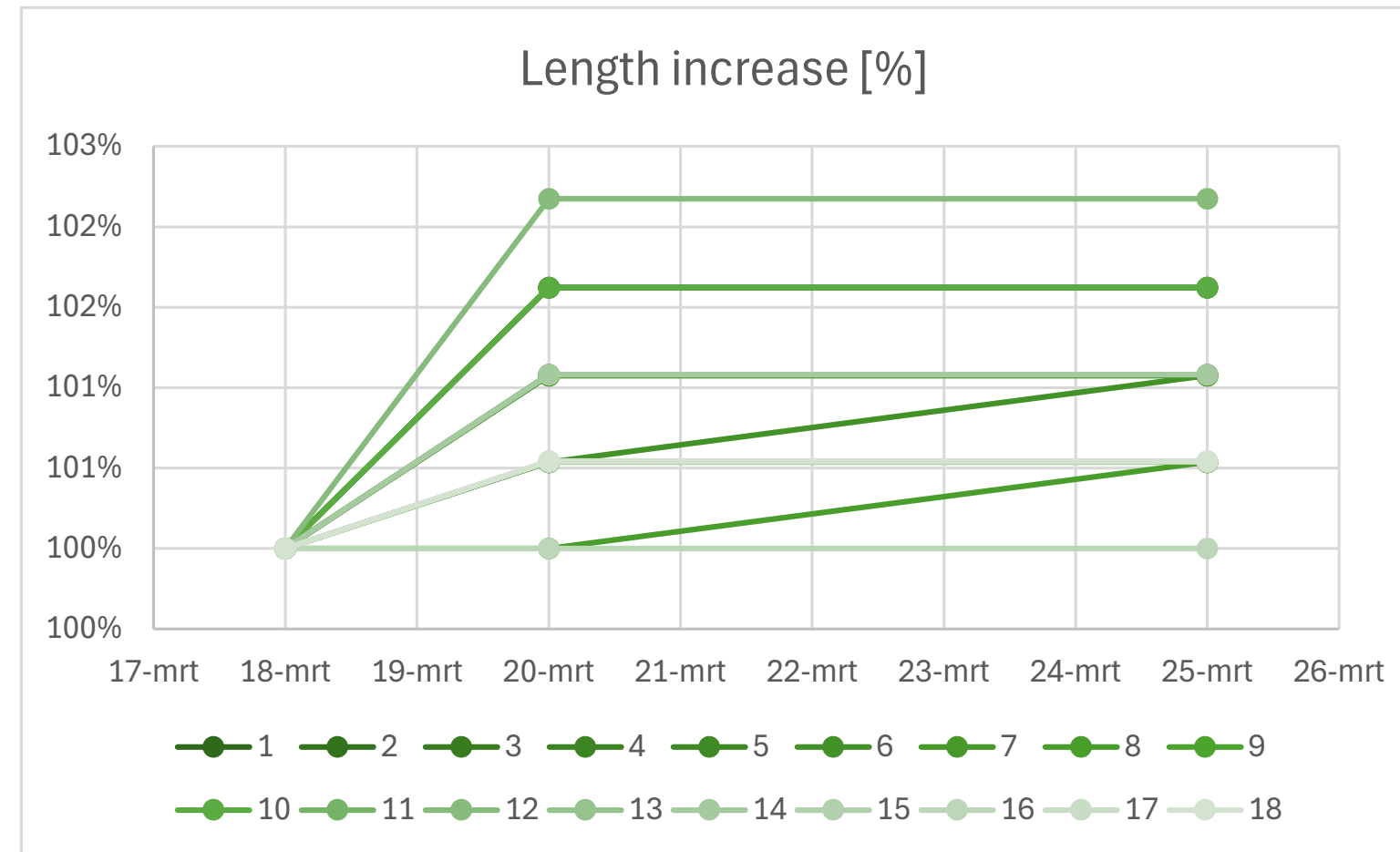


	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
18-mrt	24,64	24,63	24,36	24,41	25,37	24,53	24,63	24,85	26,36	25,16	25,98	24,88	24,85	24,83	24,42	24,74	23,97	23,31
20-mrt	25,33	25,38	25,04	25,11	26,1	25,22	25,41	25,6	27,09	25,88	26,72	25,6	25,57	25,5	25,09	25,41	24,66	24,03
25-mrt	25,74	25,79	25,46	25,52	26,5	25,58	25,76	25,94	27,45	26,24	27,07	25,93	25,92	25,9	25,47	25,78	24,99	24,3



18-mrt	93	92,5	92,5	93	92,5	93	93	93	92,5	92,5	92,5	92	92,5	92,5	92,5	93	92,5	92
20-mrt	94	93,5	94	93,5	94	93,5	94	93	94	94	93,5	94	93	93,5	93	93	93	92,5
25-mrt	94	93,5	94	93,5	94	94	94	93,5	94	94	93,5	94	93	93,5	93	93	93	92,5

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
18-mrt	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
20-mrt	101,08%	101,08%	101,62%	100,54%	101,62%	100,54%	101,08%	100,00%	101,62%	101,62%	101,08%	102,17%	100,54%	101,08%	100,54%	100,00%	100,54%	100,54%
25-mrt	101,08%	101,08%	101,62%	100,54%	101,62%	101,08%	101,08%	100,54%	101,62%	101,62%	101,08%	102,17%	100,54%	101,08%	100,54%	100,00%	100,54%	100,54%



	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
18-mrt	8	8,2	8,2	8,4	8,5	8,8	8,7	8,6	8,6	8,7	8,8	8,7	8,1	7,8	7,6	7,3	7,7	7,8
20-mrt	10,4	11,1	11,2	11,4	11,5	11,2	11,7	11,1	10,8	11	11,1	11	11,2	11	10,4	10,4	10,9	11,1
25-mrt	13,1	12,8	12,9	13,1	13,5	13,5	14,1	13,2	12,7	12,3	13,6	13,2	12,7	12,4	11,7	12,1	11,8	12,2

# Conclusion

## Discussion

How does this new floor element **compare** to a standard boxfloor element (Kerto-riipa)?

# Conclusion

## Discussion



# Conclusion

## Discussion

**Manufacturing  
Material  
Strength  
Co2**

