Consolidating Architecture Overviews

by *Gerrit Muller* University of South-Eastern Norway-NISE
e-mail: gaudisite@gmail.com
www.gaudisite.nl

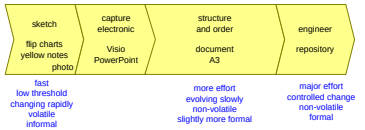
Abstract

This presentation provides guidelines and means to capture architecture overviews. Main challenge is to maintain the overview across multiple views. Architecture Overview A3s One support multi-view. Another challenge is to make an overview accessible for a wide range of stakeholders. The architecture description should therefor be visualized such that it fits the mental model of the audience.

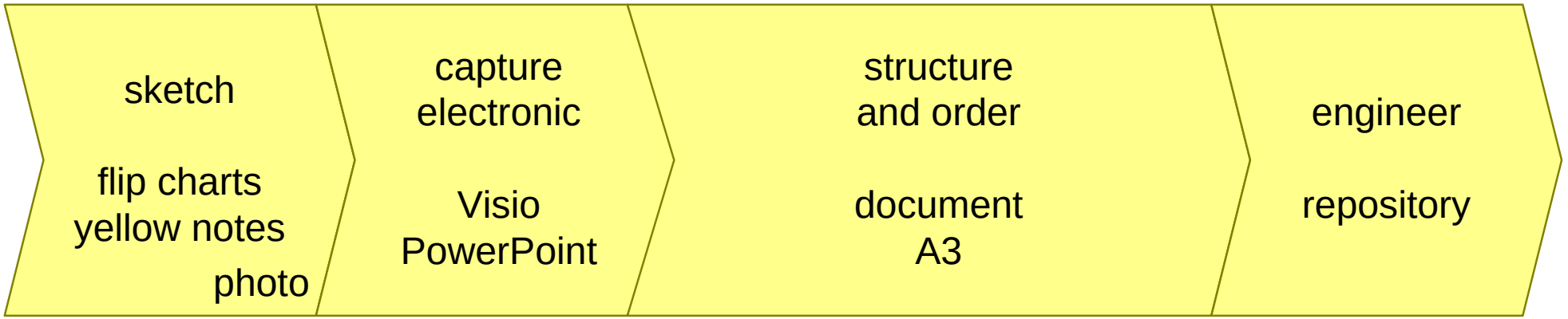
Distribution

This article or presentation is written as part of the Gaudí project. The Gaudí project philosophy is to improve by obtaining frequent feedback. Frequent feedback is pursued by an open creation process. This document is published as intermediate or nearly mature version to get feedback. Further distribution is allowed as long as the document remains complete and unchanged.

August 21, 2020
status: preliminary draft
version: 0.2



Maturing an Architecture Description

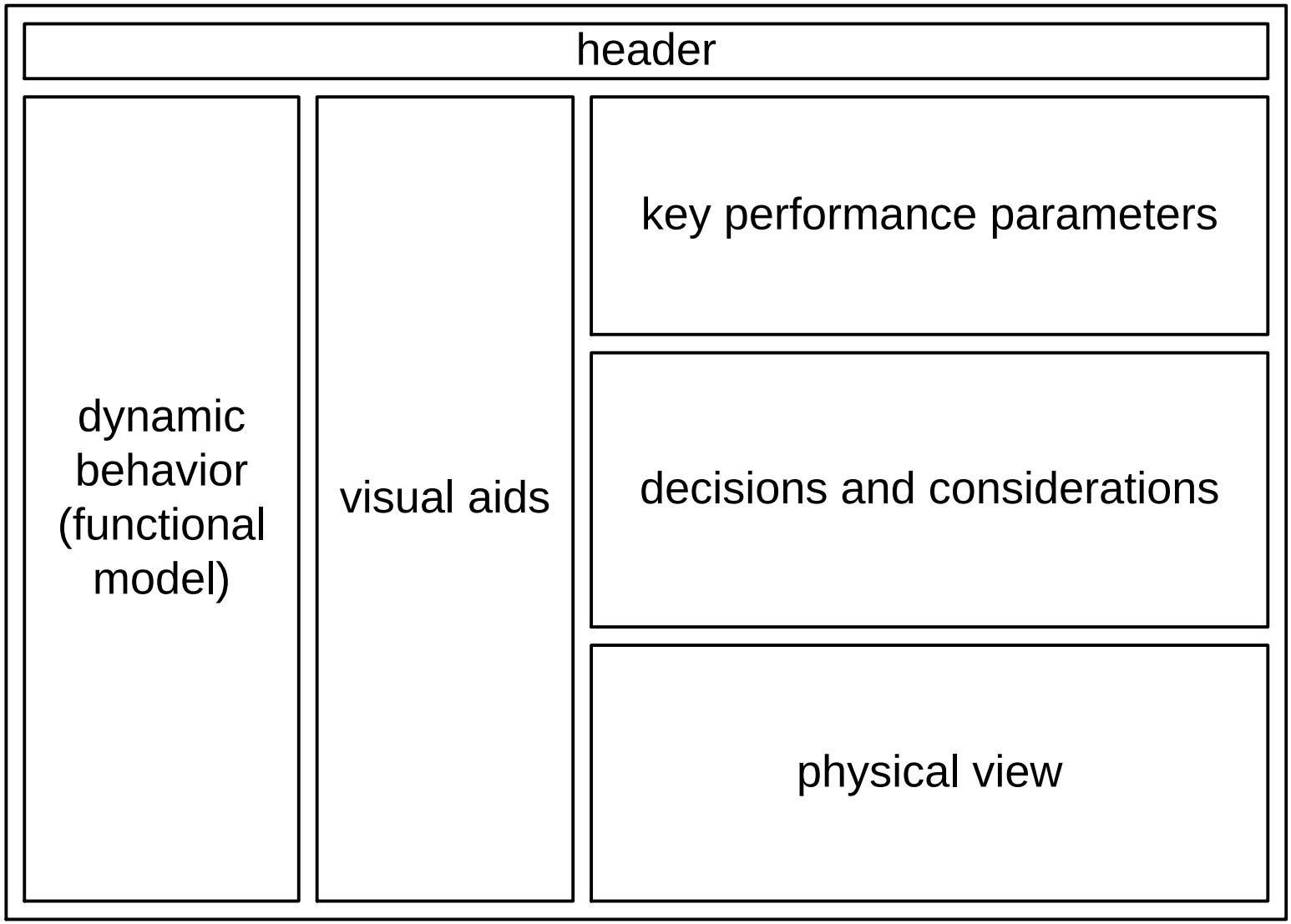


fast
low threshold
changing rapidly
volatile
informal

more effort
evolving slowly
non-volatile
slightly more formal

major effort
controlled change
non-volatile
formal

Architecture Overview A3



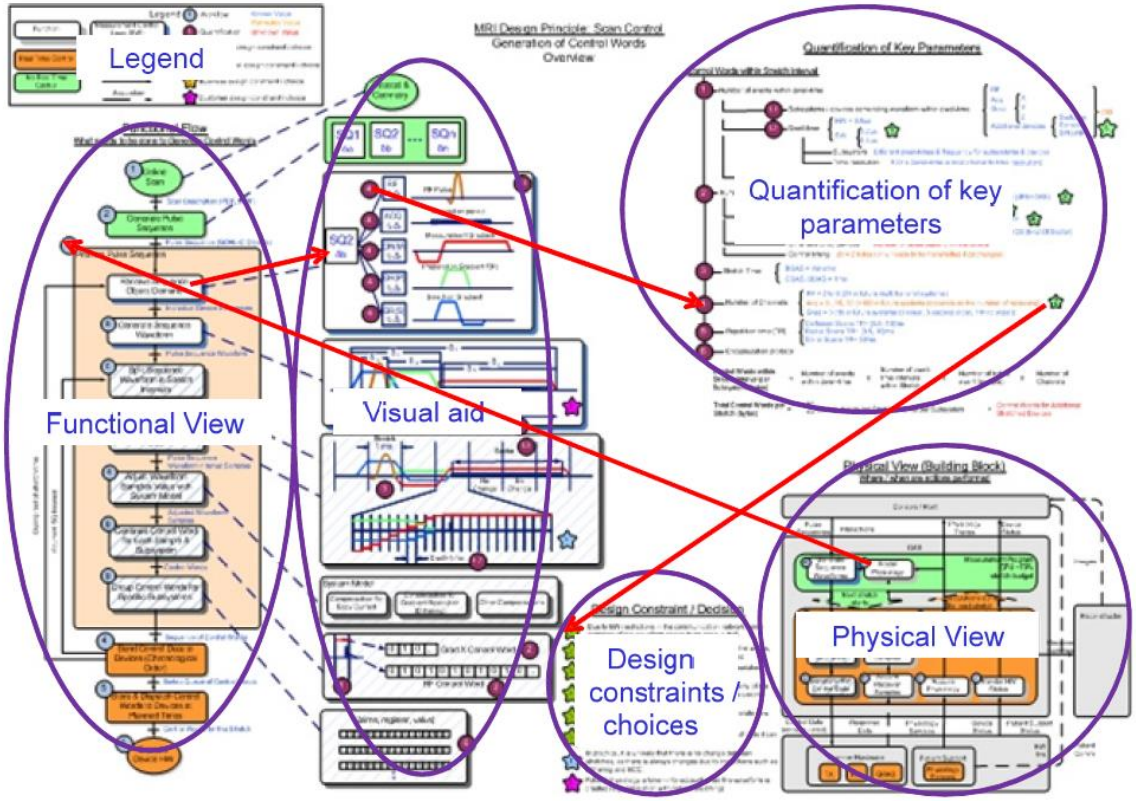
simplified from http://www.gaudisite.nl/BorchesCookbookA3architectureOverview.pdf

A3s to Capture Architecture Overviews

multiple related views

quantifications

one topic
per A3



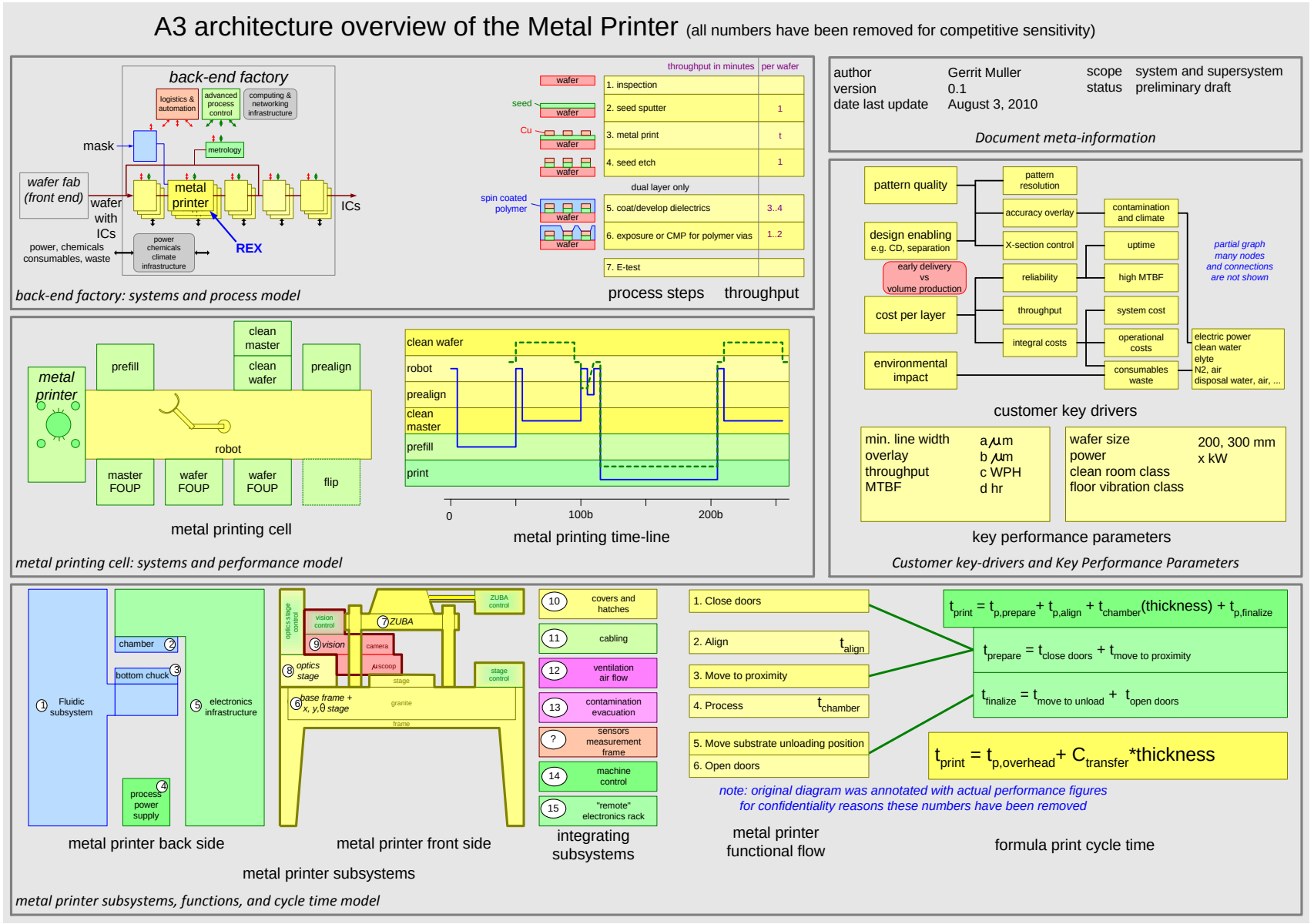
source: PhD thesis Daniel Borches http://doc.utwente.nl/75284/

capture
"hot" topics

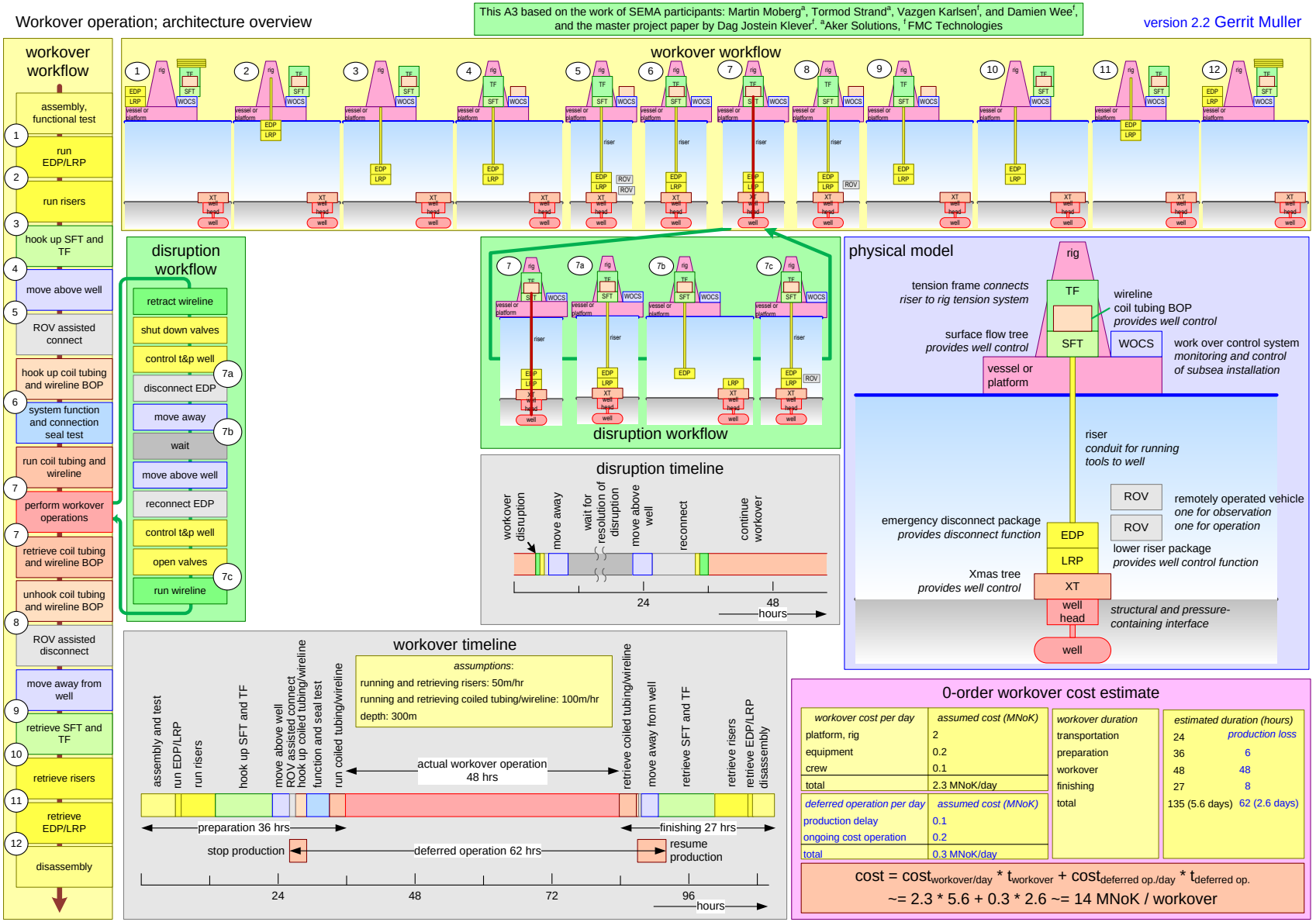
digestable
(size limitation)

practical
close to stakeholder experience

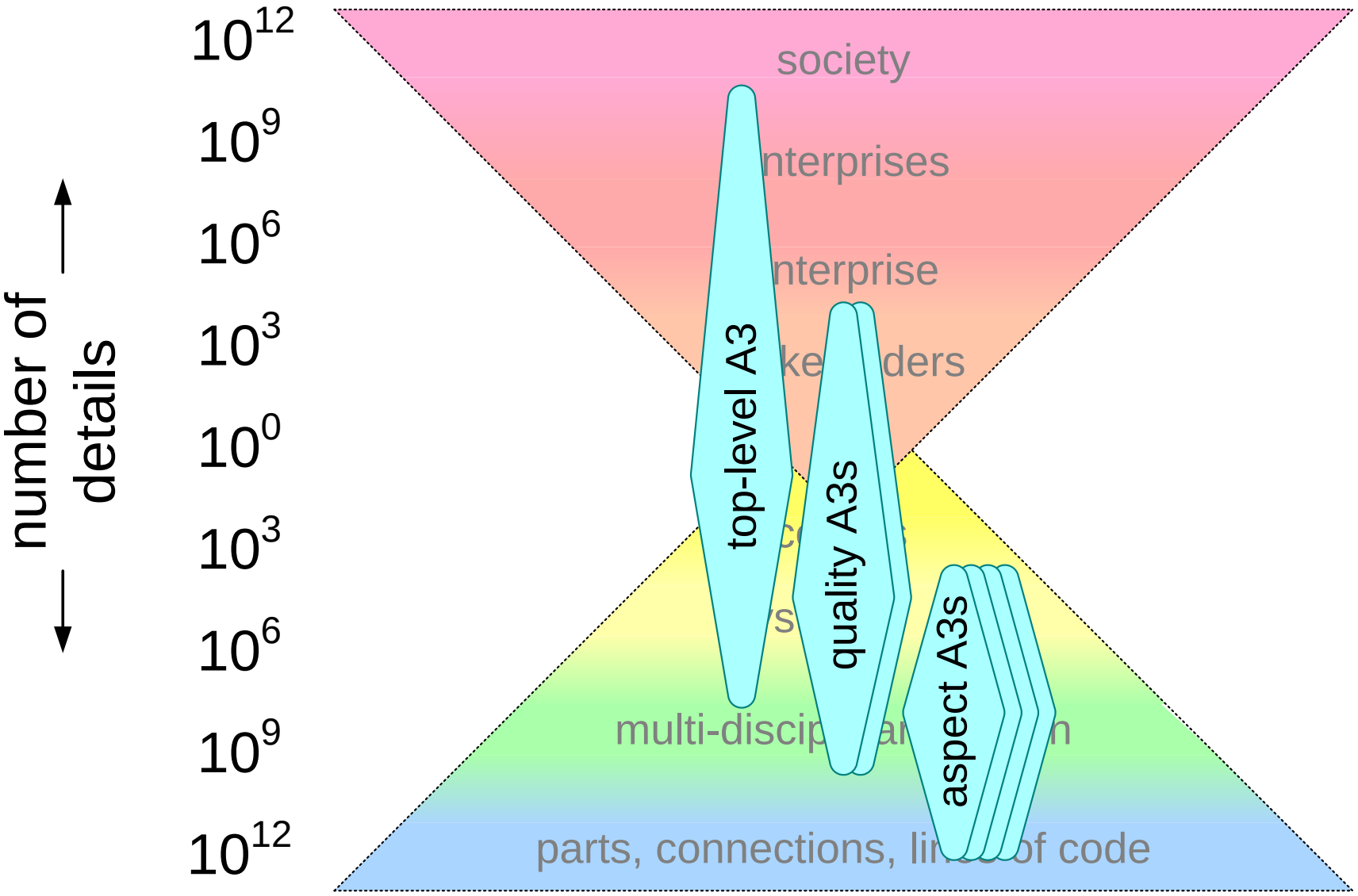
Example of A3 Architecture Overview



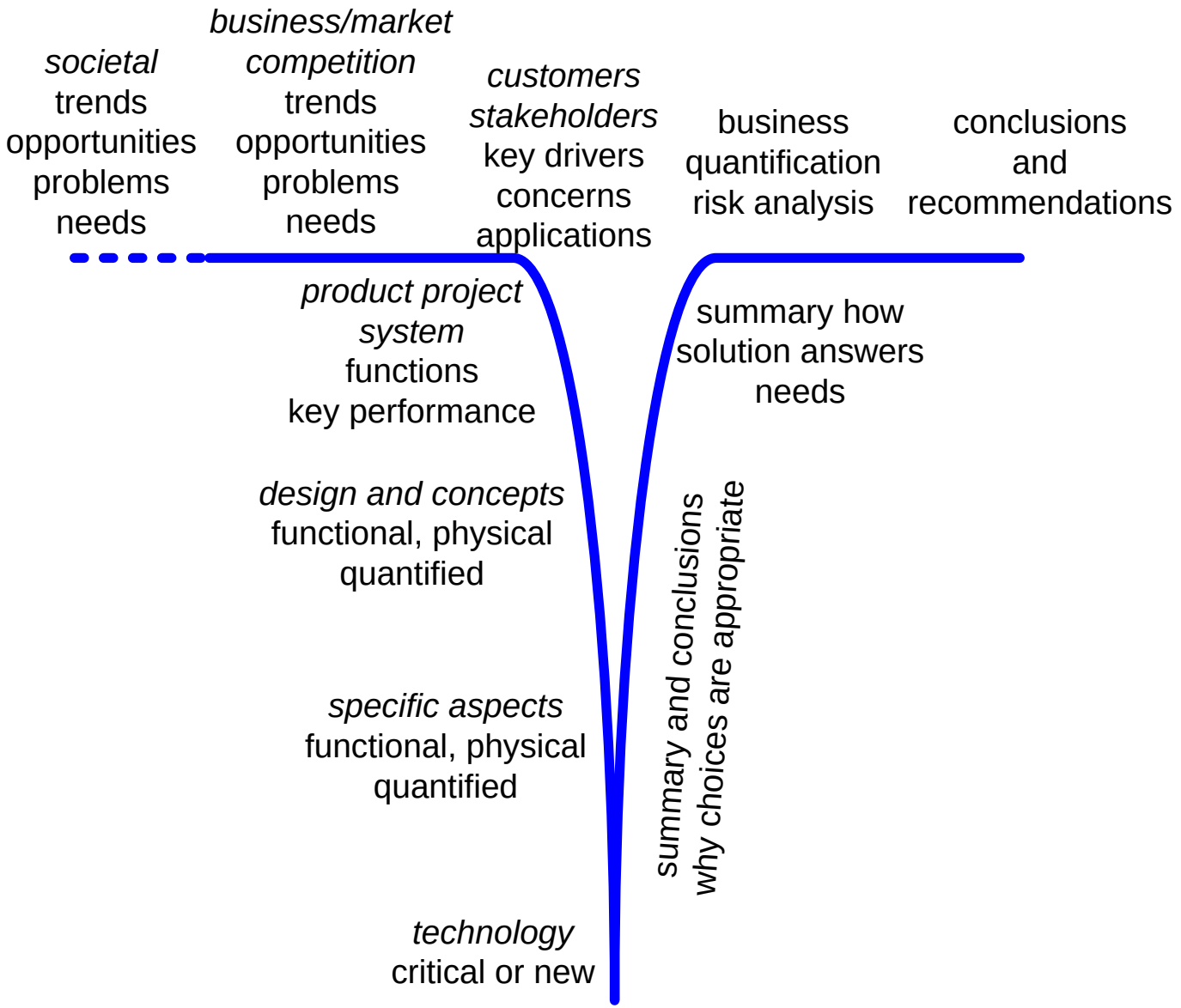
Example of SubSea A3 Architecture Overview



Multiple Levels of A3s



T-shape Presentation



Guidance from ArchitectingForum.org

1.1 One of several prerequisites for architecture creative synthesis is the definition of **5-7 specific key drivers** that are critical for success, along with the rationale behind the selection of these items

2.1. The essence of a system can be captured in about **10 models/views**

2.2. A **diversity** of architecture descriptions and models is needed: languages, schemata and the degree of formalism.

2.3. The level of **formality** increases as we move closer to the implementation level.

from http://www.architectingforum.org/bestpractices.shtml