

"If you think good architecture is expensive, try using a bad one!" - Brian Foote

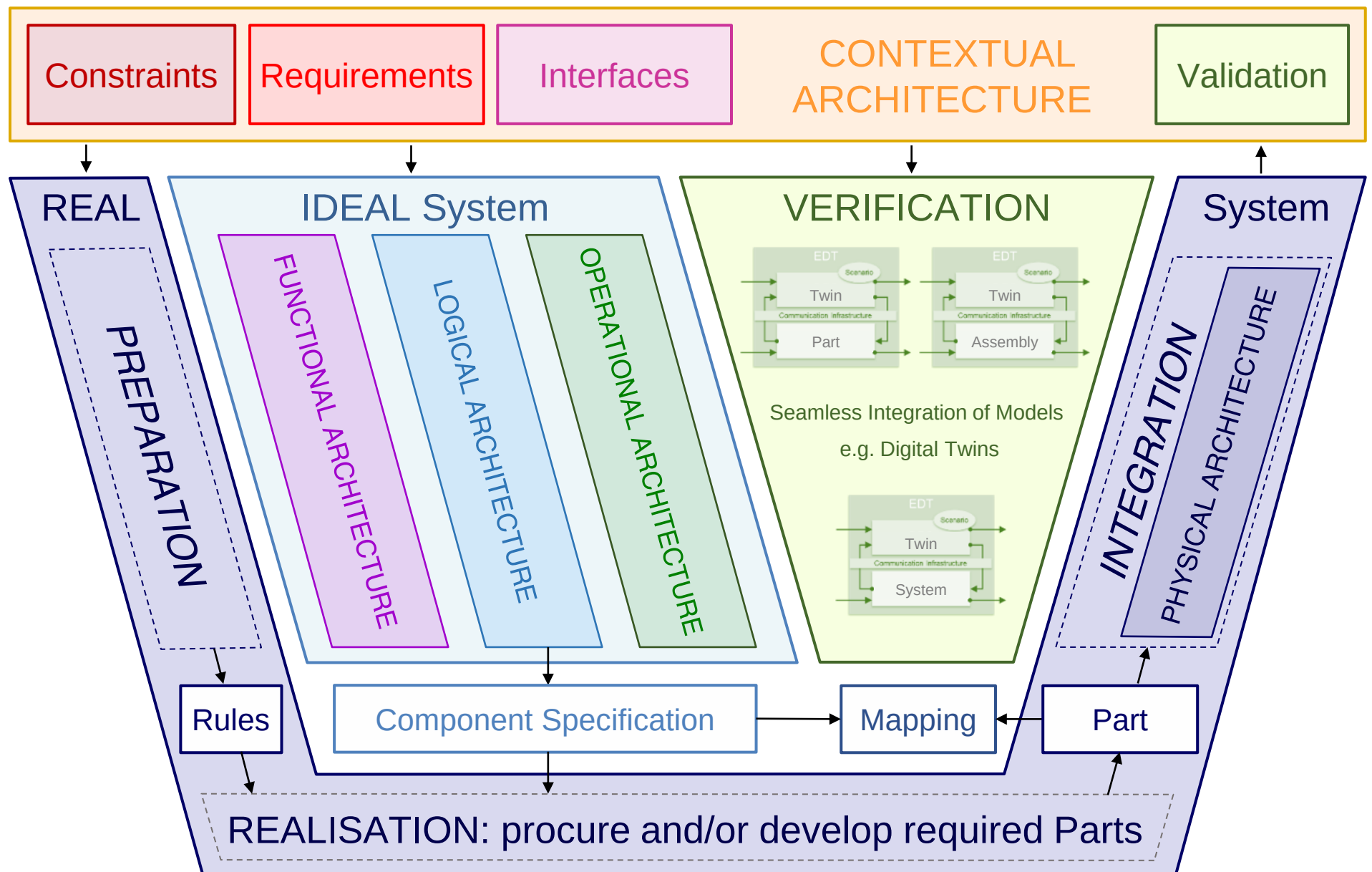
Complex Challenges?

Some companies always seem that one step ahead: they adapt faster, their products last longer, their performance keeps improving, they stay ahead. In short: they run.

Their edge? Well-architected Systems that are safe, reliable, robust, scalable, and easy to maintain, helping to accelerate innovation and boost competitive advantage!

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Marco Di Maio



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Why Systems Architecture?

Have you ever wondered why some companies are better at adapting to new trends? Why they consistently develop sophisticated Systems that have a much longer best-before-date than others? Do they simply have a knack of "getting it right 1st time", only employ the best engineers, or always get - strangely yet consistently - lucky? If that does sound unlikely to you, you're right! It is far more likely that these companies have

- a solid understanding of the value of a good Architecture
- invested in developing Architectures before getting lost in the details of Design
- put Architecting at the centre of engineering efforts and made it part of their culture.

What is Systems Architecture?

Systems Architectures are not - as often claimed - "high-level Designs". They are in fact not a Design at all, because they serve a totally different purpose: Architectures are abstractions of challenges and their solutions that allow to work more effectively, structure information more logically, and use and reuse artefacts more reliably.

Using abstractions enables you to analyse challenges from all relevant perspectives, connect your findings in a meaningful way, and ask the right questions. The resulting models grow with your teams' knowledge and becomes a living repository of long-term truths where all related information is stored in context and with continuously improving levels of quality, maturity, and levels of detail.

And what is a good Systems Architecture?

A good System Architecture provides the teams with a conceptually simple structure to store and retrieve all the important information about

- your understanding of the challenge, i.e. the results of your analysis
- the decisions taken in search of a solution for it and the rationales behind them

It is the unambiguous "Master" for this information and a trusted, reliable, scalable and updateable backbone for all development. A good Architecture therefore must employ a strong separation of the different perspectives comprising a variety of semantically related elements with clearly defined responsibilities and interfaces. It thus

- provides traceability across while ensuring minimum coupling between all elements
- creates full trust in the information you are using and the elements you are reusing
- fosters effective communication and affords you to annotate and comment directly
- helps to create, explore and compare variants without impacting the rest of the work
- allows you to query all work and 'relive' the process leading to it even after years.

A good Architecture puts you in a strong position to consistently develop more robust, reliable, scalable, and maintainable Systems at lower cost than the competition!

It is now you, who will run!