

## Breaking BIM with Abnormal Components

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Building Information Modeling (BIM) is not just a tool for project delivery and production. This research project seeks to identify new relationships between design processes and BIM that leverage the computational resources for design objectives. The project outlines two approaches to breaking the constraints of BIM with more intuitive workflows for design. These include associative modules and conceptual massing with adaptive components. The work here highlights an exhibition created for the 2015 NY Architecture League Prize for Young Architects.

The exhibition presented a grouping of “spatial constructs” created from strange, abnormal materials. Using an identical set of material “ingredients,” two different artists, working from two separate locations, constructed a radically different set of physical models (objects) utilizing abnormal construction techniques: linear threaded wads of chewing gum coated with dried spearmint leaves, and intricate modular constructions of laser-cut wood. These objects are 12-inch cubes that express the nature of tectonics and properties inherent to the material. Drawings of these models, created by Building Information Models translate the spatial constructs into architectural speculations—mysterious formations without context or utility.

The exercise presents two modalities of the exception. The methodology and exhibition was structured by two operations:

- Anomalous construct: the principle of variance. An anomaly is produced from the multiplicity of parts—parts that do not exactly fit together (wood clips).
- Clinamen construct: the principle of deviance. A material *détournement* is created (chewing gum and dried spearmint leaves).

The project addresses concerns about BIM’s relationship to design workflow. BIM platforms contain pallets of default/generic tools, which tend to result in architecture of a generic quality. Parametric objects are simply “dropped into” designs

without careful considerations. Customization can be a cumbersome chore and only extremely patient or tech savvy designers achieve provocative results. Thus, the agenda with these simulated BIM drawings is to transfer the spatial complexity and abstraction of the physical, unfindable objects into the heterogeneous BIM environment in effort to break the boundaries present in the software. These abnormal objects are the tools used to dissect Building Information Modeling.



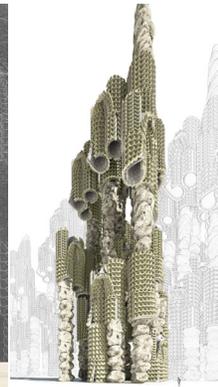
Component 01. Spearmint chewing gum, wrappers and leaves.



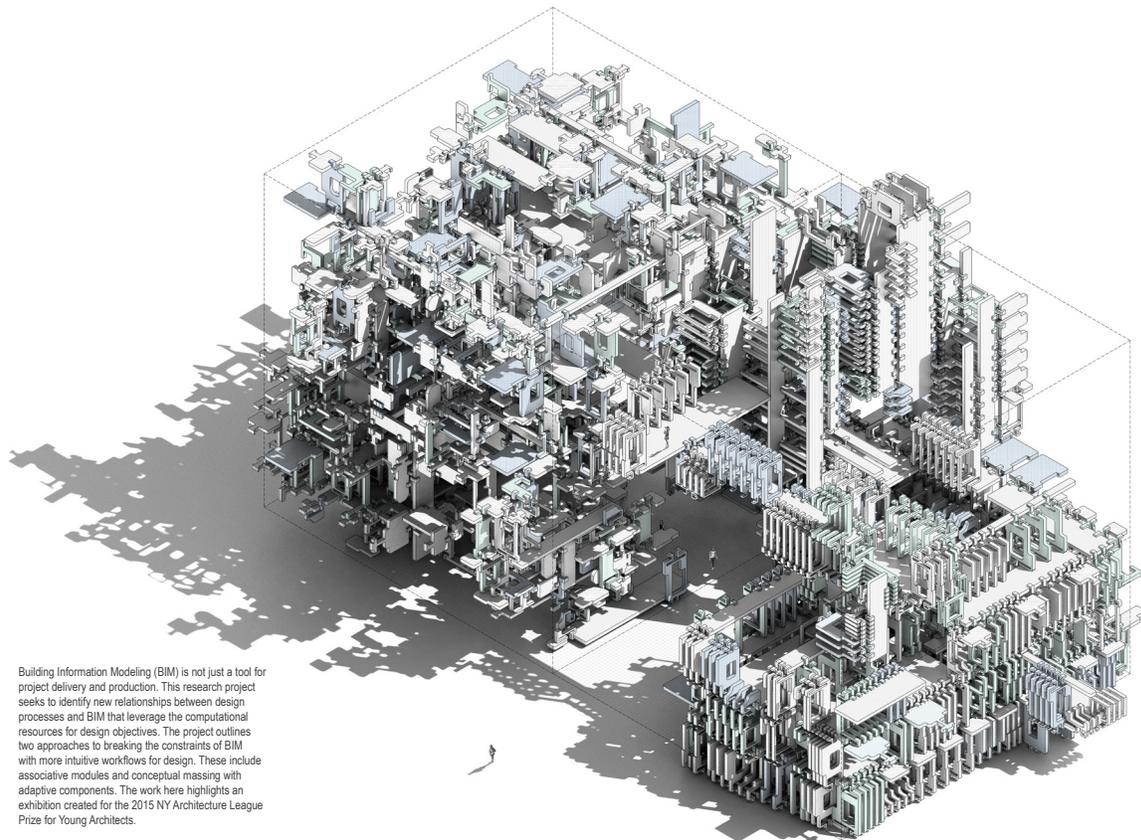
Component 02. Spearmint chewing gum, wrappers and leaves.



BIM Drawings of construction with abnormal components 01+02.

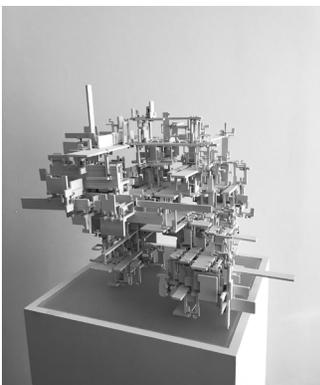


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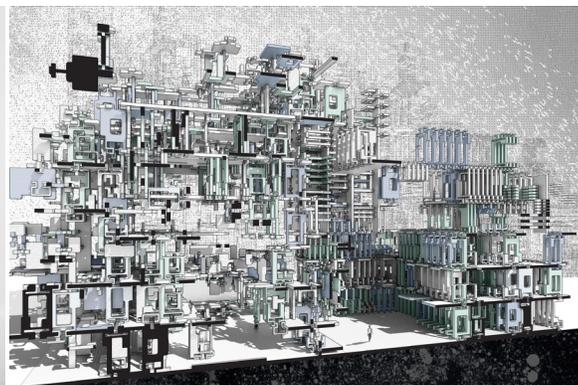


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BIM Axon Drawing of construction with abnormal component 03.



Component 03. Various Laser cut masonite profiles



BIM Drawings of construction with abnormal component 03.

