

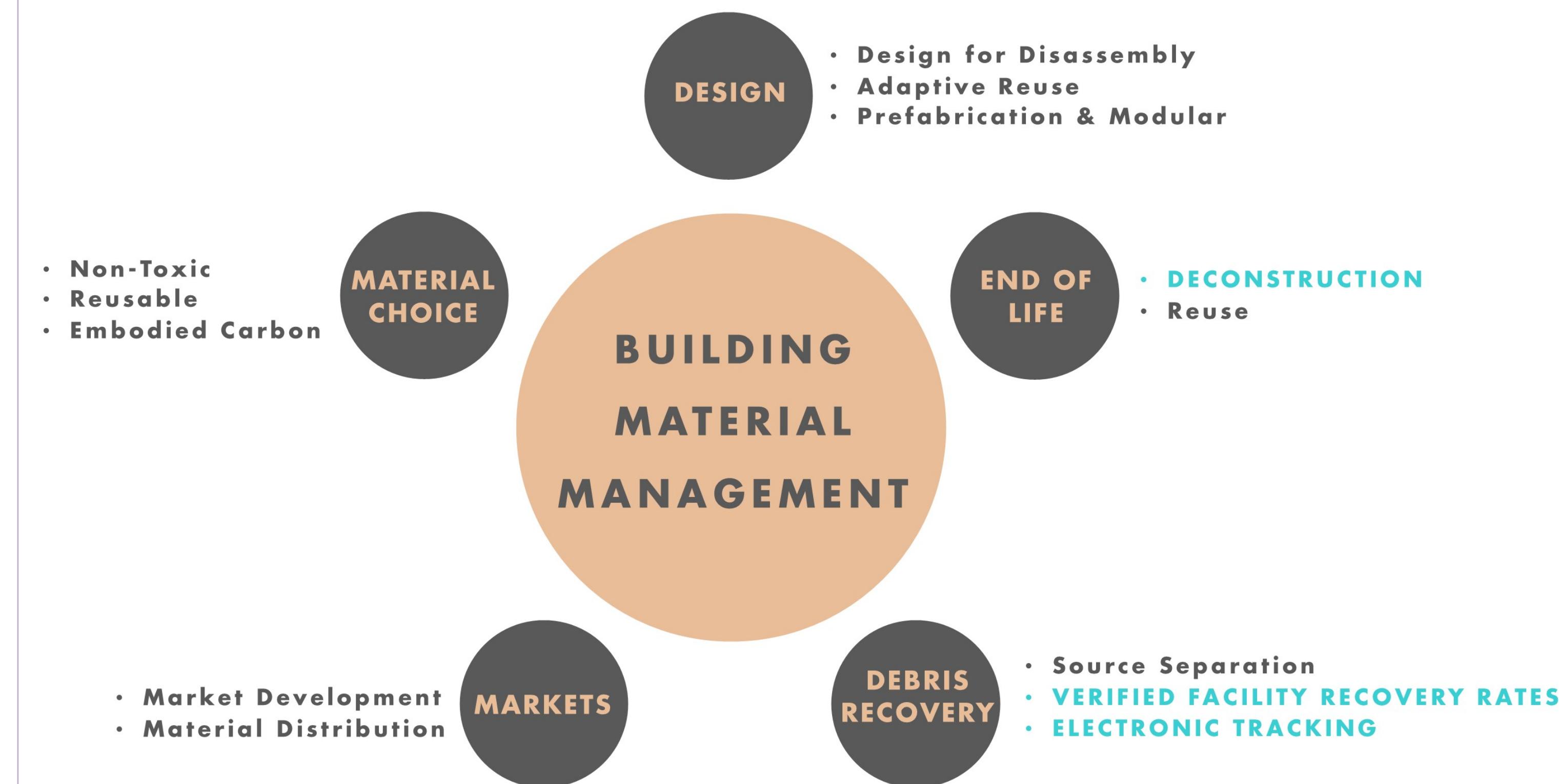


CLIMATE
CORPS

Systems Thinking for Building Material Management

SF Environment

Dynamics of Building Material Management



The building material ecosystem is highly complex. Through my fellowship, I have been introduced to several key dynamics that impact materials throughout their lifecycle. These are documented in the diagram above, with my focus areas highlighted

Introduction to Systems Thinking

Definition

A way of viewing issues from a broad perspective that includes seeing the interdependencies and interconnectedness of overall structures, patterns and cycles, rather than seeing only independent events.

Why is it necessary?

We can impact who the influencers of the ecosystem rely on -directly/indirectly- to get their work done, and what processes or tools are used to facilitate their connections and see all the different dynamics that need to come into place for effective, efficient building material management to occur.

The End Goal

Create a sustainable building material management system for San Francisco and the greater Bay Area, through policies, ordinances, grants, incentives, and/or government support, where upstream building design and downstream material recovery work in harmony.

Green Halo: A Piece of the Puzzle

One of my main focuses during this fellowship has been to help transition the Department of the Environment (SFE) from paper Demolition Debris Recovery Plans to Green Halo, an electronic data management platform. Green Halo is able to track material coming off construction & demolition sites in San Francisco to ensure optimal material recovery.

At the moment Green Halo is only being used for full demolition projects but there are plans to expand to include alteration and municipal activity.

Tracking the material electronically will allow SFE to understand the level of activity and see real time end market fluctuations.



Shoshana Micon

Shoshana graduated from UC San Diego with a B.A. in Environmental Systems: Environmental Policy in 2017. Her first Climate Corps fellowship at SFE focused on Urban Wood Waste. She is beyond grateful to have stayed for a second fellowship to expand her knowledge further and explore more of the Building Material world. She will be heading to Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Science to start her Masters of Environmental Management in the fall.

Acknowledgements

