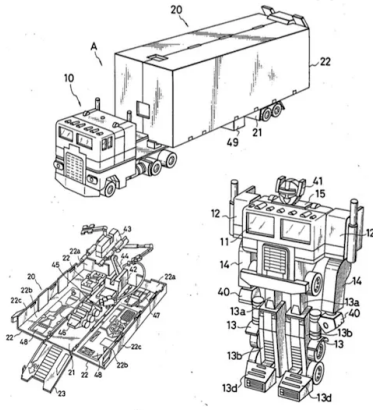


# ARC2014: Design Studio 4 – Comprehensive Building Project Winter 2023

Instructor: Carol Moukheiber



Hiroyuki Obara, U.S. Patent No. 4,516,948, Reconfigurable toy assembly, May 14, 1985

## Title: What is Durability?

Within the context of the *circular economy*, the concept of *durability* is key in that it implies a radical reduction in material extraction and energy expenditure throughout a building's lifecycle. At the same time, building uses change over time, both in the short and long term. Durability can perhaps be understood as the ability to eschew obsolescence, even accommodate change in use and context while limiting waste and disruption. This pursuit of durability, far from resulting in a nondescript structure posits that spatial, structural, and infrastructural specificities are critical in enabling the durable.

This studio will speculate on the notion of durability in buildings. It will simultaneously unpack and add to a dictionary of durable qualities in structures, infrastructures, and programs.

Terms of interest: *Accessibility, Active, Adaptability, Anticipatory, Anti-Fragility, Beauty, Charisma, Commonality, Convertibility, Dismantlability, Elasticity, Evolvability, Extendibility, Firmness, Fluidity, Framing, Generality, Genericity, Heterogeneity, Humor, Inclusivity, Incompleteness, J, Kit, Longevity, Modularity, Next-Use, Nothingness, Openness, Permanence, Polyvalency, Programmability, Provisional, Q, Recyclability, Redundancy, Reusability, Robustness, Scalability, Simplicity, Strangeness, Structural Flexibility, Specificity, Transformability, Tolerance, Upcyclability, Versatility, W, X, Y, Z.*

The first assignment will entail an investigation of structural, climatic, and programmatic organizations through the iterative production of study models. The aim is to abstract complex systems to a set of rules that will allow for the thoughtful but quick development of formal strategies. Seen as embodiments of ideas and positions, the models become strategies that carefully consider mass timber in its capacity for durability.