

Perspectives from the Built Environment

Dave O'Connor — @gerrowadat@mastodon.ie · SREcon EMEA 2026

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The Camden Bench — London, UK — Factory Furniture for Camden Council, 2012

Photo: Matt Brown, CC BY 2.0, via Wikimedia Commons



"We create our buildings and then they create us." — Frank Lloyd Wright

Frederick C. Robie House — Chicago, USA — Frank Lloyd Wright, 1910

Photo: Cervin Robinson, HABS, Library of Congress, public domain, via Wikimedia Commons



Vitruvius presenting De Architectura to Augustus — engraving by Sébastien Le Clerc, 17th century

Photo: Sebastian Le Clerc, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

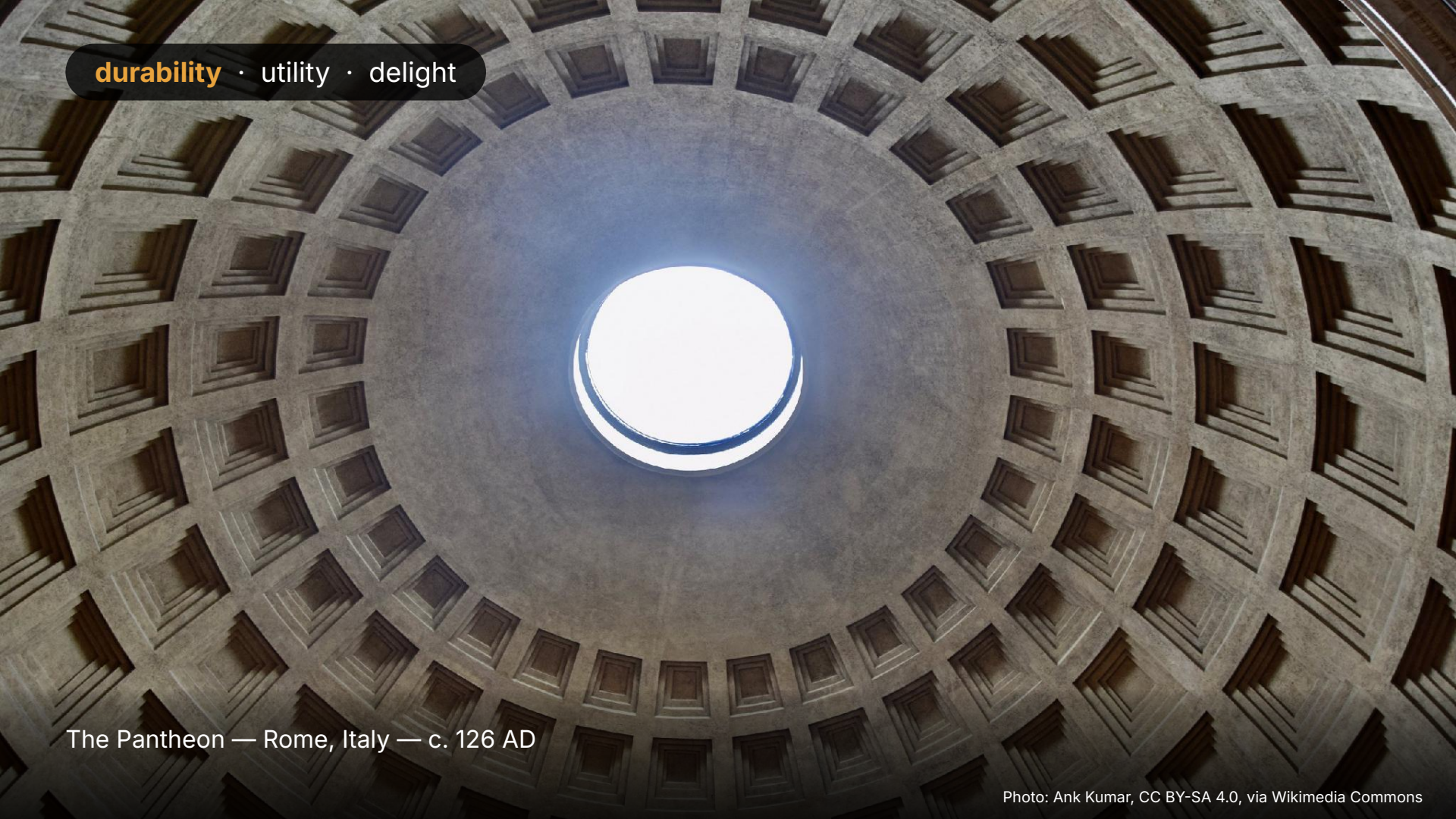


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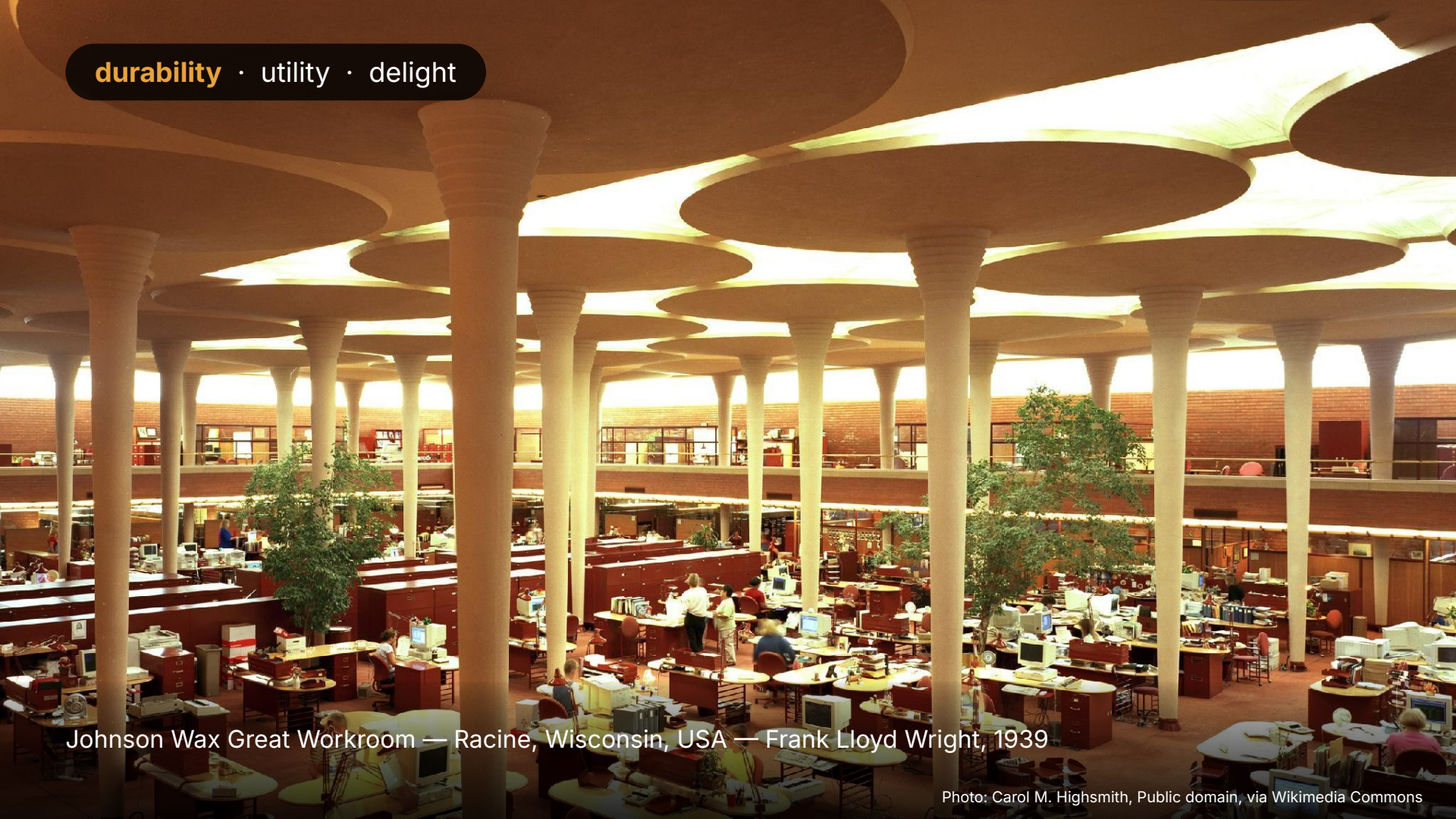
Pont du Gard — Vers-Pont-du-Gard, France — Roman, 1st century AD

Photo: Marc Ryckaert, CC BY 2.5, via Wikimedia Commons



The Pantheon — Rome, Italy — c. 126 AD

Photo: Ank Kumar, CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons



Johnson Wax Great Workroom — Racine, Wisconsin, USA — Frank Lloyd Wright, 1939

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33 Thomas Street — New York, USA — John Carl Warnecke & Associates, 1974

Photo: Billie Grace Ward from New York, USA, CC BY 2.0, via Wikimedia Commons

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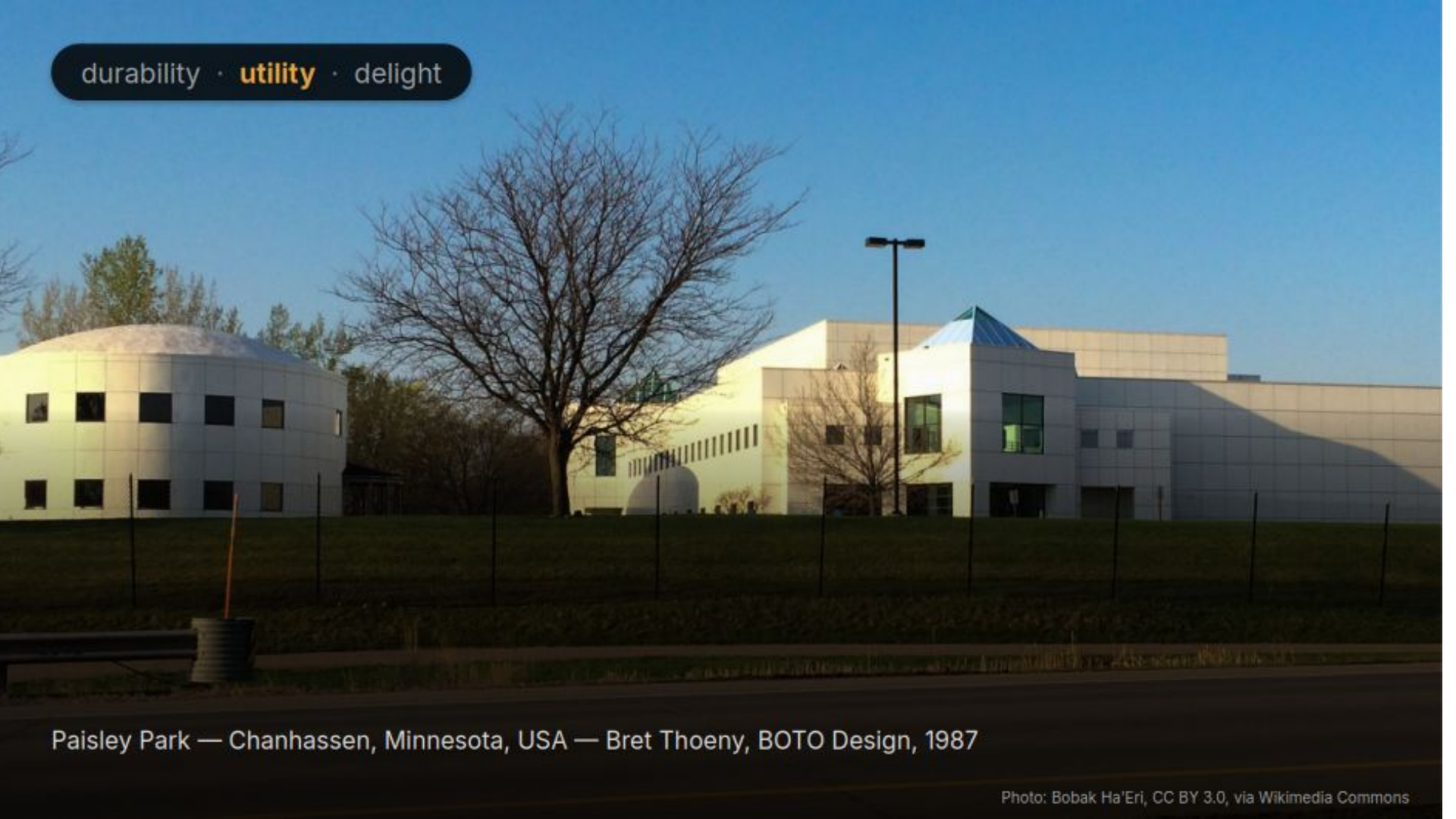
Paimio Sanatorium — Paimio, Finland — Alvar Aalto, 1933

Photo: Marit Henriksson, CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons



Paimio Sanatorium — Paimio, Finland — Alvar Aalto, 1933

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Paisley Park — Chanhassen, Minnesota, USA — Bret Thoeny, BOTO Design, 1987

Photo: Bobak Ha'Eri, CC BY 3.0, via Wikimedia Commons



Sainte-Chapelle — Paris, France — 1248

Photo: Oldmanisold, CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons


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“My client is not in a hurry.”
Sagrada Família — Barcelona, Spain — Antoni Gaudí, from 1882
Photo: Joseolgon, CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons

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Frank Lloyd Wright
Founder & Chief Visionary



Le Corbusier
Founder & Chief Visionary

The Lads

Frank Lloyd Wright (1867–1959) · Le Corbusier (1887–1965)

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Maison Blanche — La Chaux-de-Fonds, Switzerland — Charles-Édouard Jeanneret, 1912

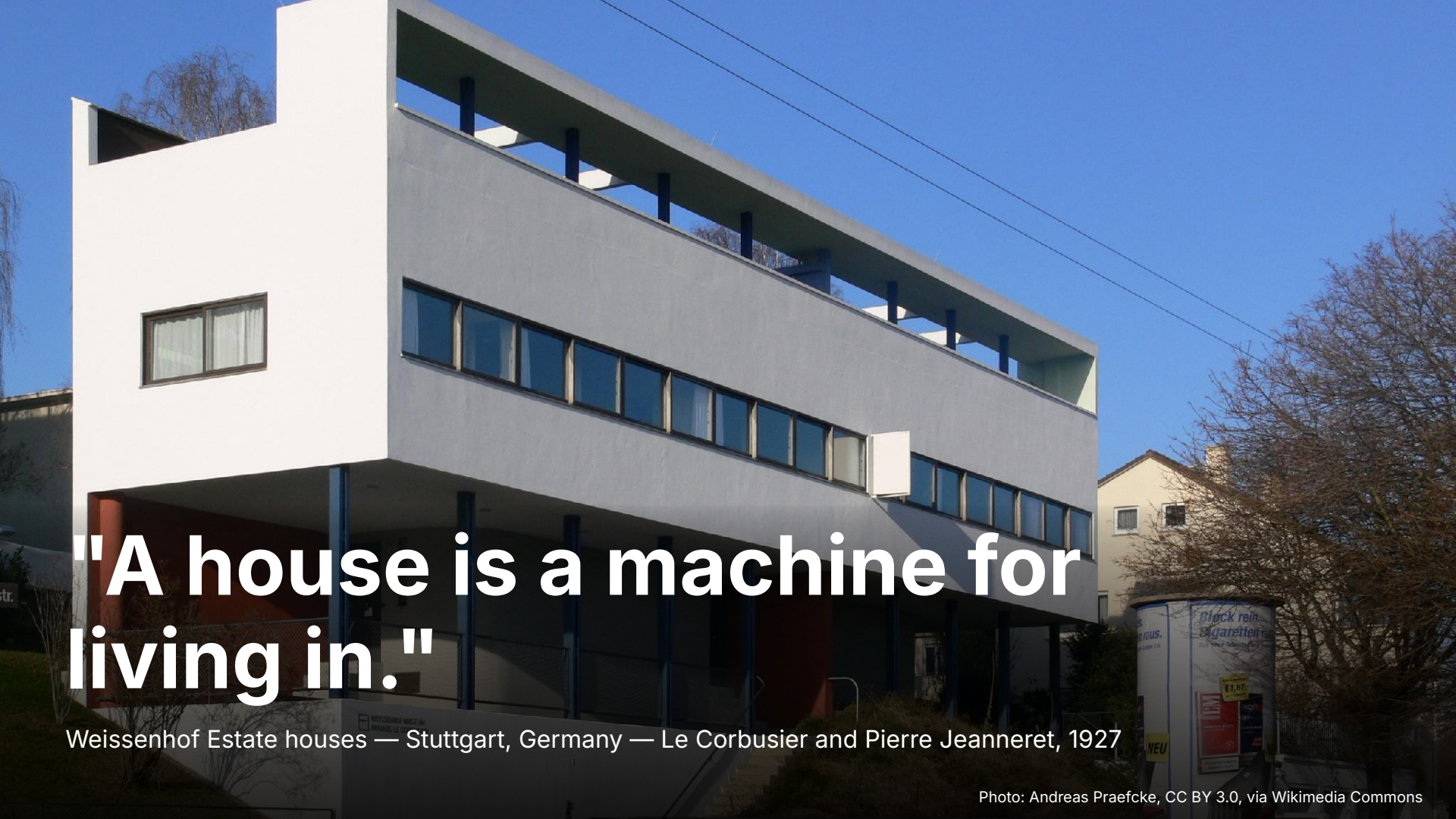
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A manifesto, with a checklist.

Weissenhof Estate single house — Stuttgart, Germany — Le Corbusier and Pierre Jeanneret, 1927

Photo: Ludvig14, CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons, modified



"A house is a machine for living in."

Weissenhof Estate houses — Stuttgart, Germany — Le Corbusier and Pierre Jeanneret, 1927

Photo: Andreas Praefcke, CC BY 3.0, via Wikimedia Commons



Plan Voisin, 1925

Rue des Rosiers, Le Marais — Paris, France

Photo: Guilhem Vellut from Paris, France, CC BY 2.0, via Wikimedia Commons



The greenfield rewrite.

Palace of Assembly, Capitol Complex — Chandigarh, India — Le Corbusier, 1962

Photo: UnpetitproleX, CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons



Secretariat, Capitol Complex — Chandigarh, India — Le Corbusier, 1953

Photo: Lian Chang from New York City, CC BY 2.0, via Wikimedia Commons



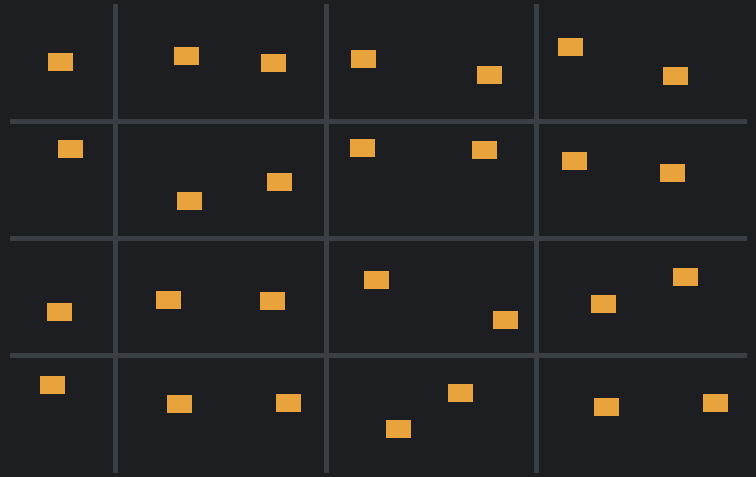
High Court, Capitol Complex — Chandigarh, India — Le Corbusier, 1955

Photo: Aleksandr Zykov from Russia, CC BY-SA 2.0, via Wikimedia Commons

Le Corbusier Plan Voisin, 1925



Frank Lloyd Wright Broadacre City, 1932





Taliesin — Spring Green, Wisconsin, USA — Frank Lloyd Wright, from 1911

Photo: P. Hughes, CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons



Taliesin West — Scottsdale, Arizona, USA — Frank Lloyd Wright, from 1937

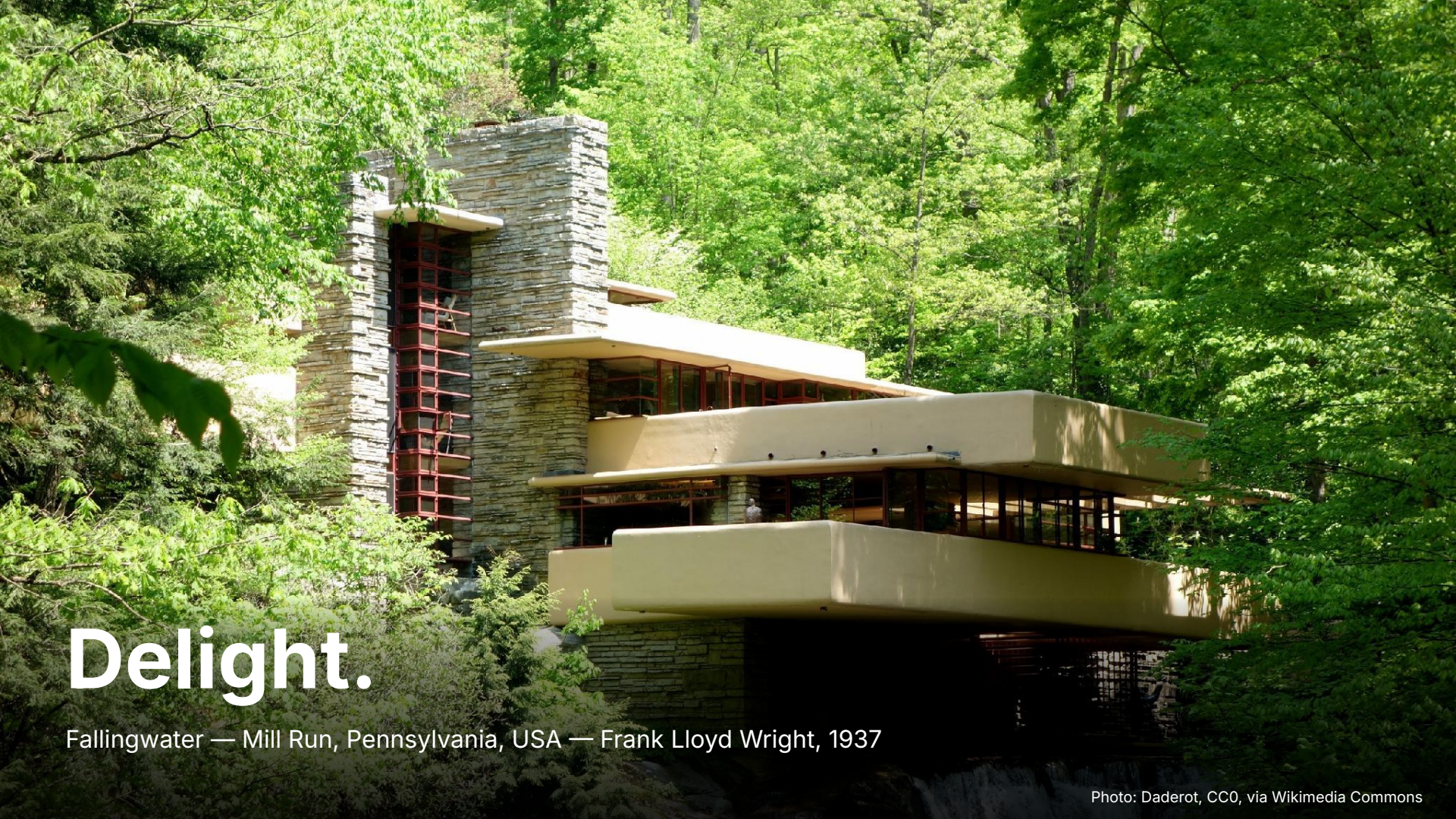
Photo: AndrewHorne, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons



The opinionated framework.

Dining room, Frederick C. Robie House — Chicago, USA — Frank Lloyd Wright, 1910 (photographed 1911)

Photo: Ernst Wasmuth (publisher), 1911, HABS, Library of Congress, public domain, via Wikimedia Commons



Delight.

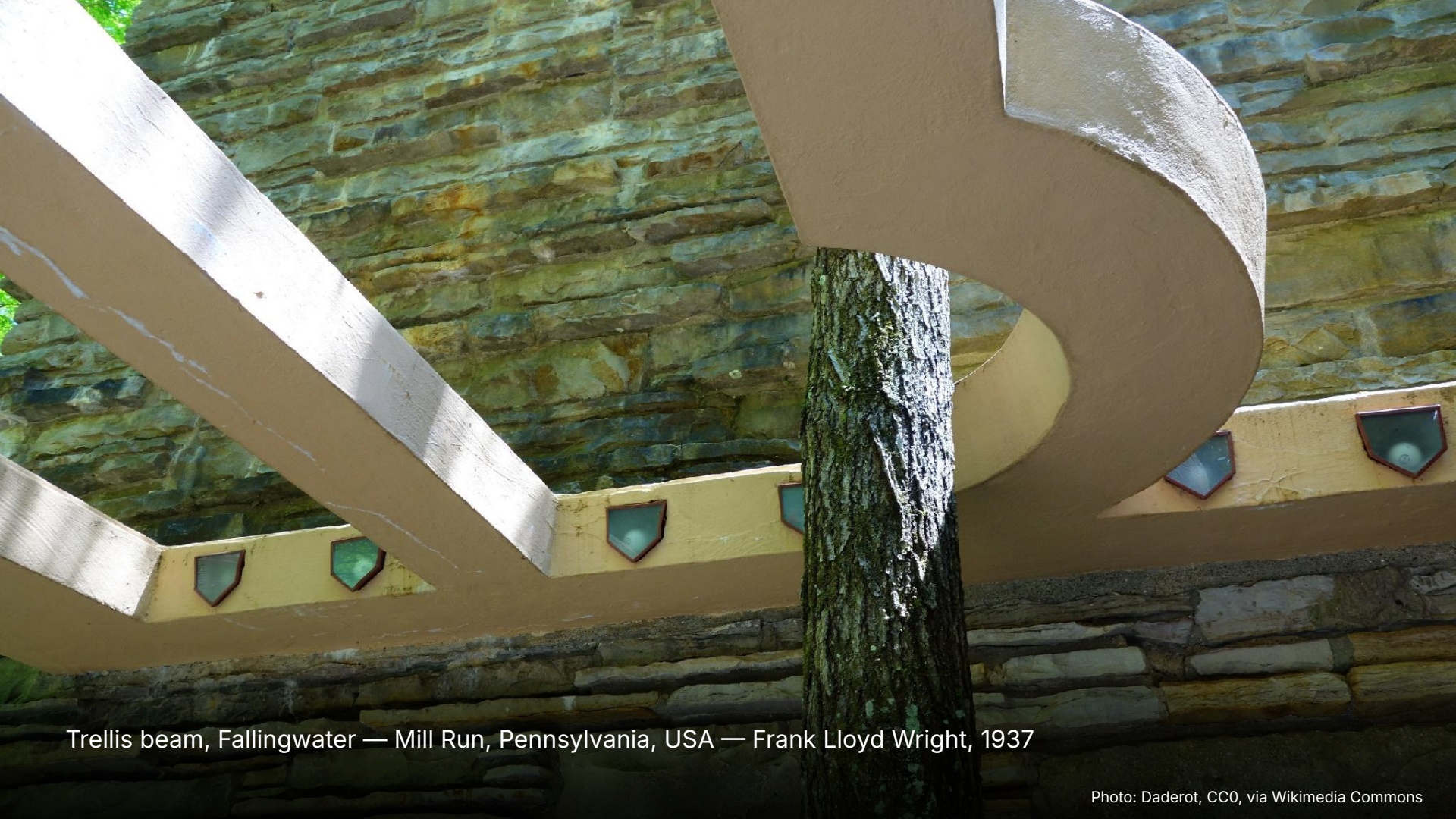
Fallingwater — Mill Run, Pennsylvania, USA — Frank Lloyd Wright, 1937

Photo: Daderot, CC0, via Wikimedia Commons



The hearth, Fallingwater — Mill Run, Pennsylvania, USA — Frank Lloyd Wright, 1937

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Trellis beam, Fallingwater — Mill Run, Pennsylvania, USA — Frank Lloyd Wright, 1937

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Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum — New York, USA — Frank Lloyd Wright, 1959

Photo: Lesekreis, CC0, via Wikimedia Commons



The Radiant City: towers in a park.

Unité d'Habitation (Corbusierhaus) — Berlin, Germany — Le Corbusier, 1958

Photo: Gunnar Klack, CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons



Central corridor, Unité d'Habitation (Corbusierhaus) — Berlin, Germany — Le Corbusier, 1958

Photo: Minderbinder, CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons



Show apartment, Unité d'Habitation (Cité radieuse) — Rezé, France — Le Corbusier, 1955

Photo: Hervé Moine, CC BY-SA 3.0, via Wikimedia Commons



The Modulor relief, Unité d’Habitation (Corbusierhaus) — Berlin, Germany — Le Corbusier, 1958

Photo: Max Ronnersjö, CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons



Alton West Estate — Roehampton, London, UK — LCC Architects, 1958

Photo: Edwardx, CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons



Dublin, 1963: “STFU, we're moving to Kubernetes.”

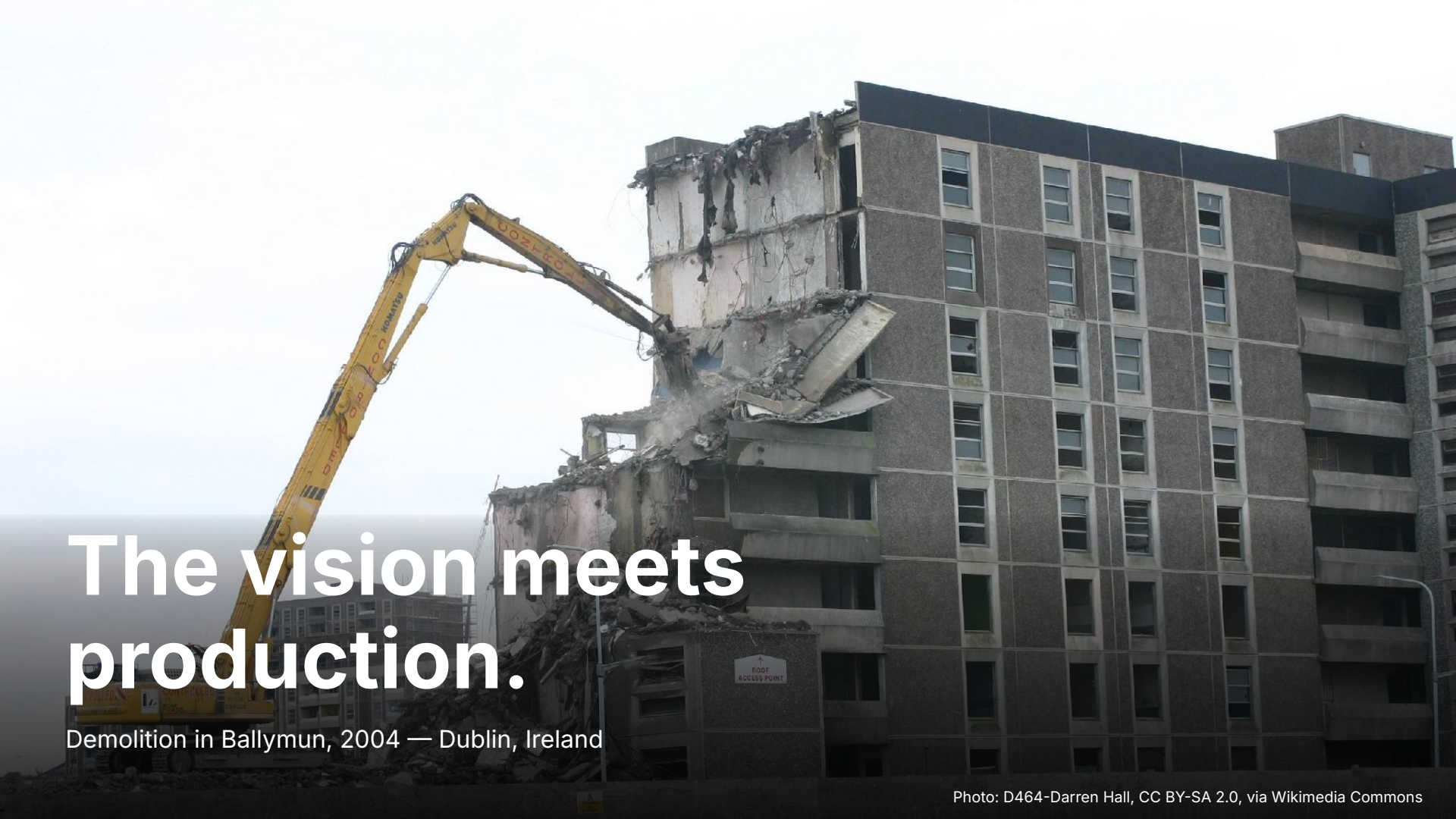
Ballymun towers — Dublin, Ireland — National Building Agency, 1966

Photo: D464-Darren Hall, CC BY-SA 2.0, via Wikimedia Commons



Ballymun towers, 1988 — Dublin, Ireland

Photo: David Douglas, CC BY-SA 2.0, via Wikimedia Commons



The vision meets production.

Demolition in Ballymun, 2004 — Dublin, Ireland

Photo: D464-Darren Hall, CC BY-SA 2.0, via Wikimedia Commons

« Vous savez, c'est toujours la vie qui a raison, l'architecte qui a tort. »

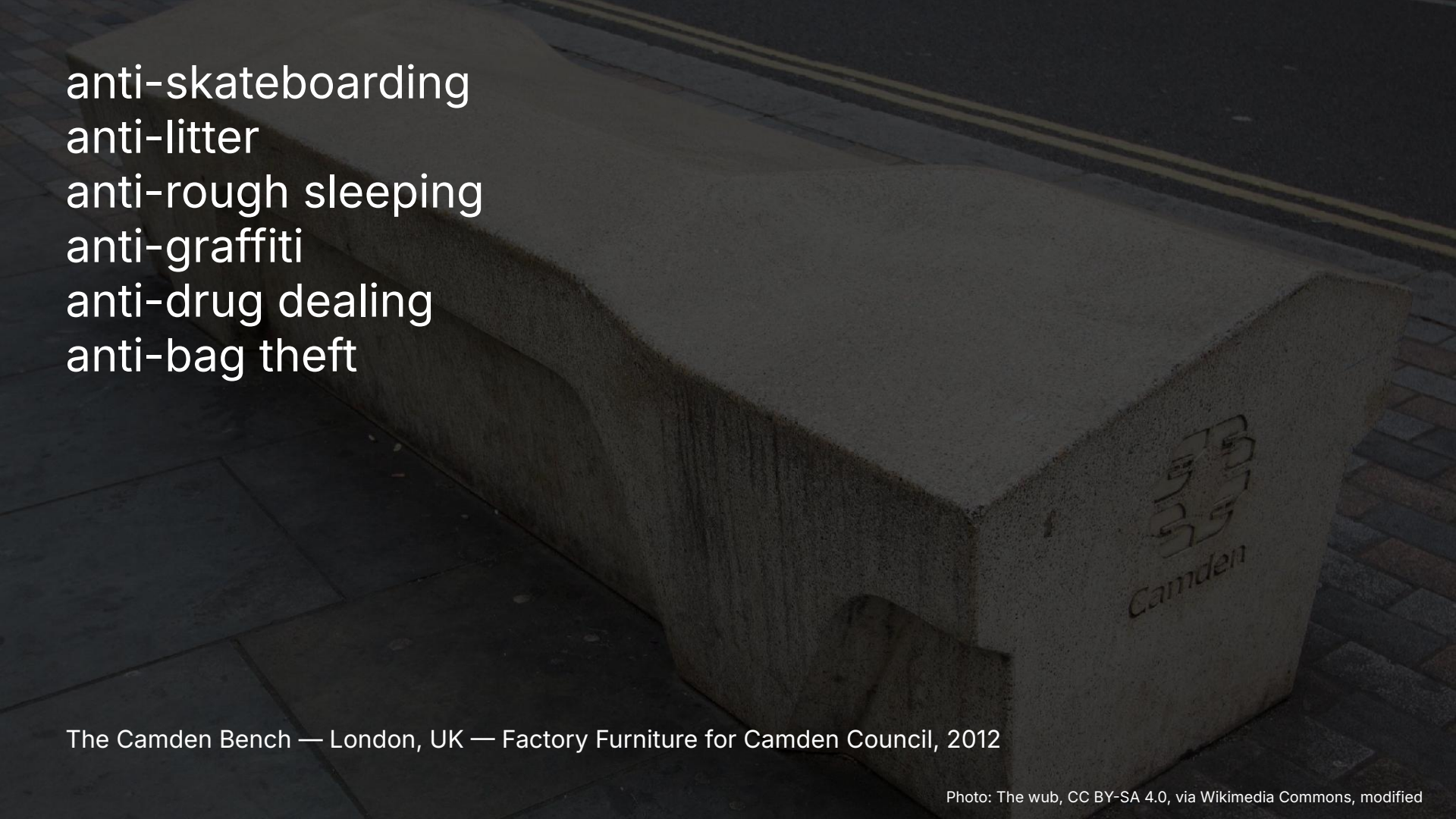
“You know, it's always life that is right, and the architect who is wrong.”
— Le Corbusier



So who decided?

The Camden Bench — London, UK — Factory Furniture for Camden Council, 2012

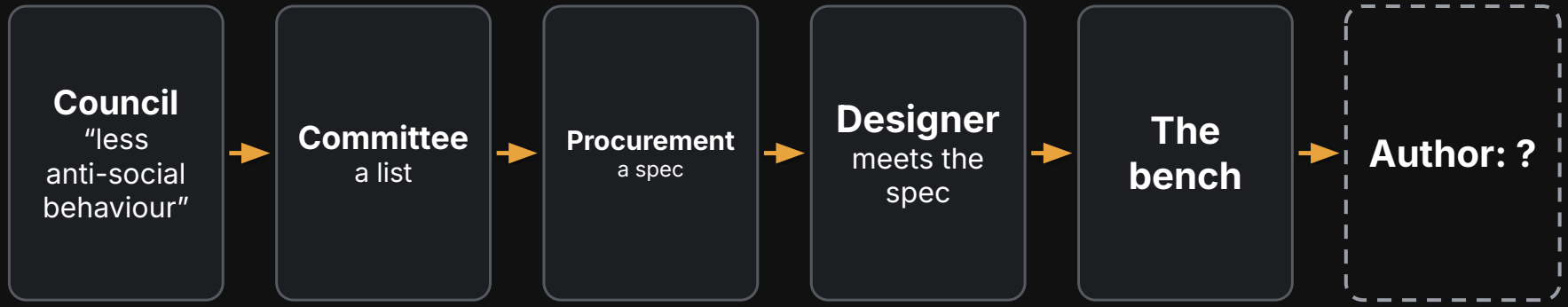
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anti-skateboarding
anti-litter
anti-rough sleeping
anti-graffiti
anti-drug dealing
anti-bag theft

The Camden Bench — London, UK — Factory Furniture for Camden Council, 2012

Photo: The wub, CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons, modified



Nobody explicitly chose hostility.



Martello tower — Seapoint, Dublin, Ireland — 1803

Photo: PatrickByrnePhotography, CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons

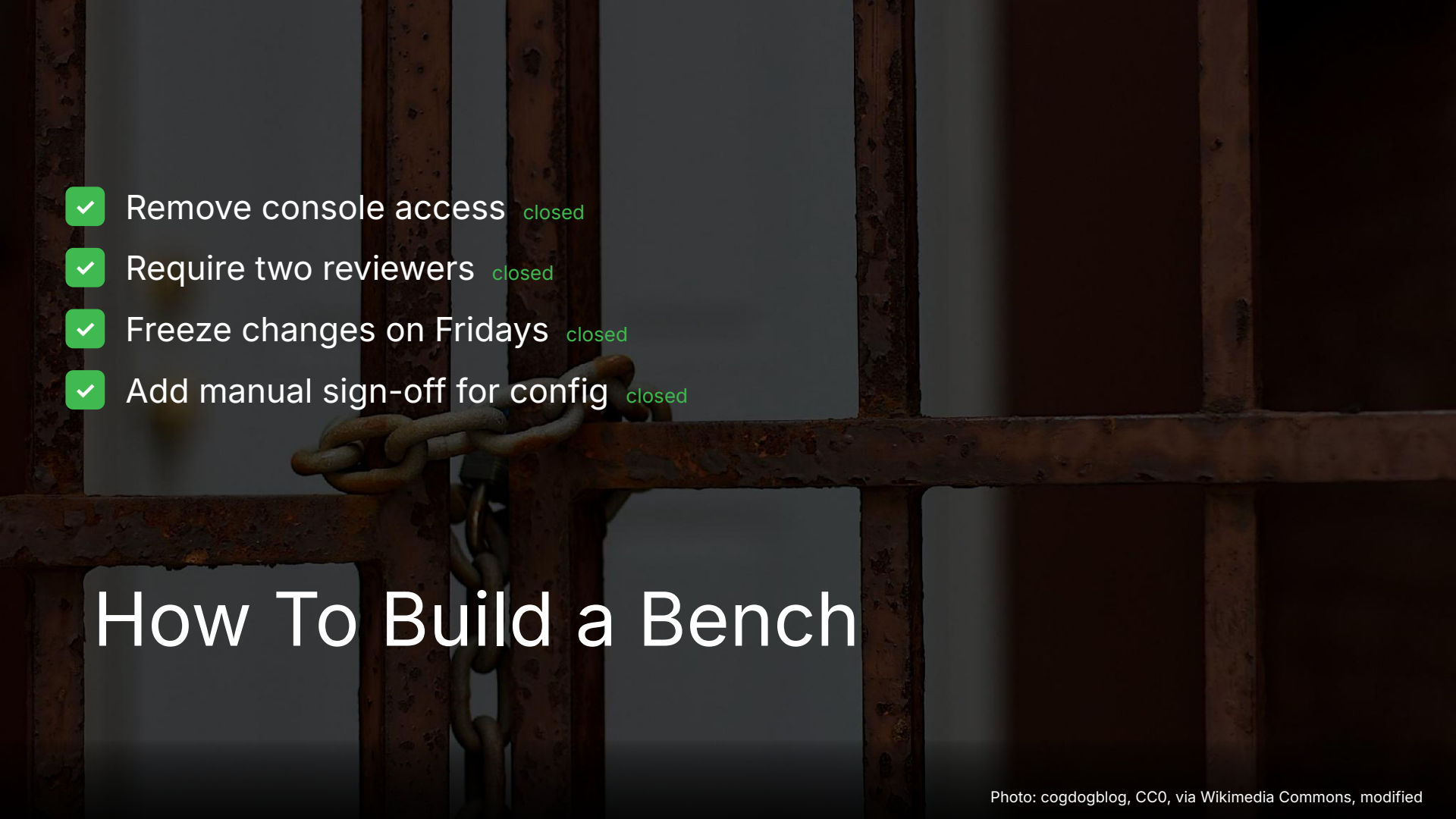
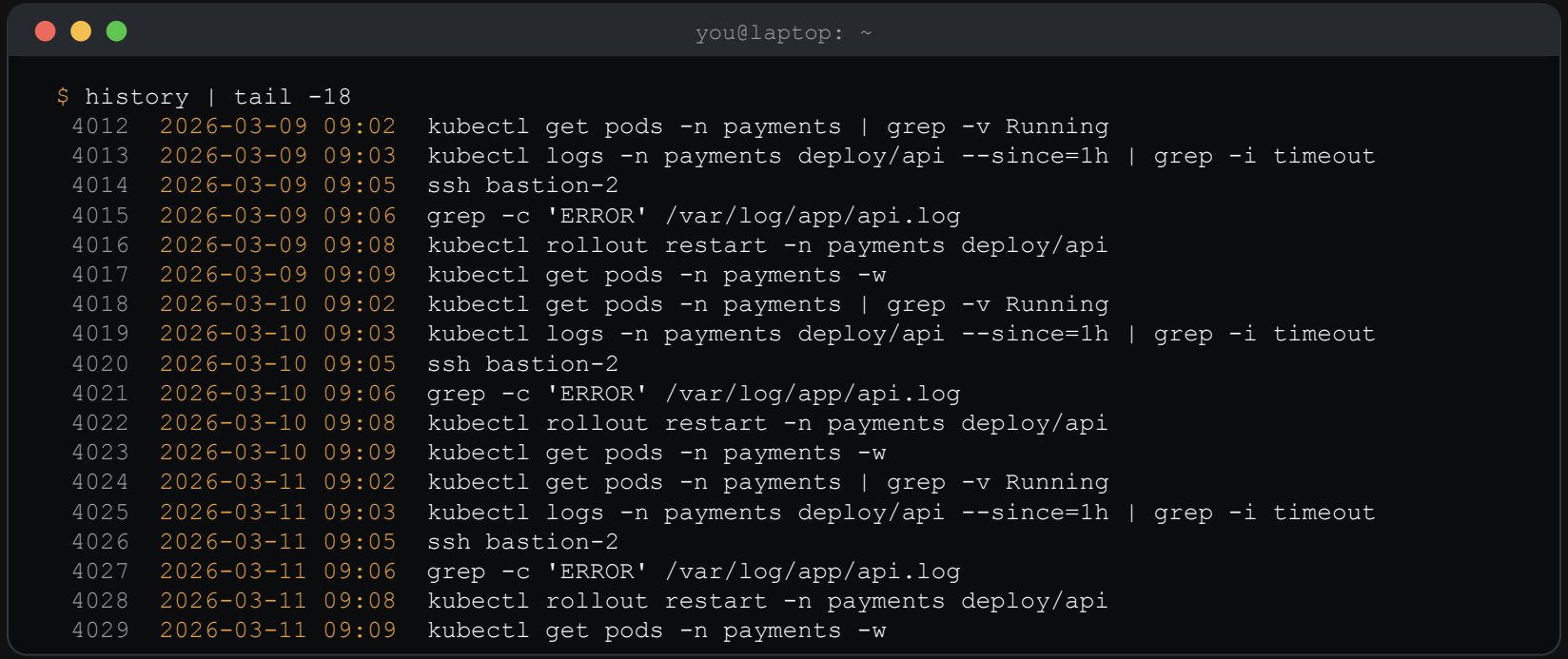


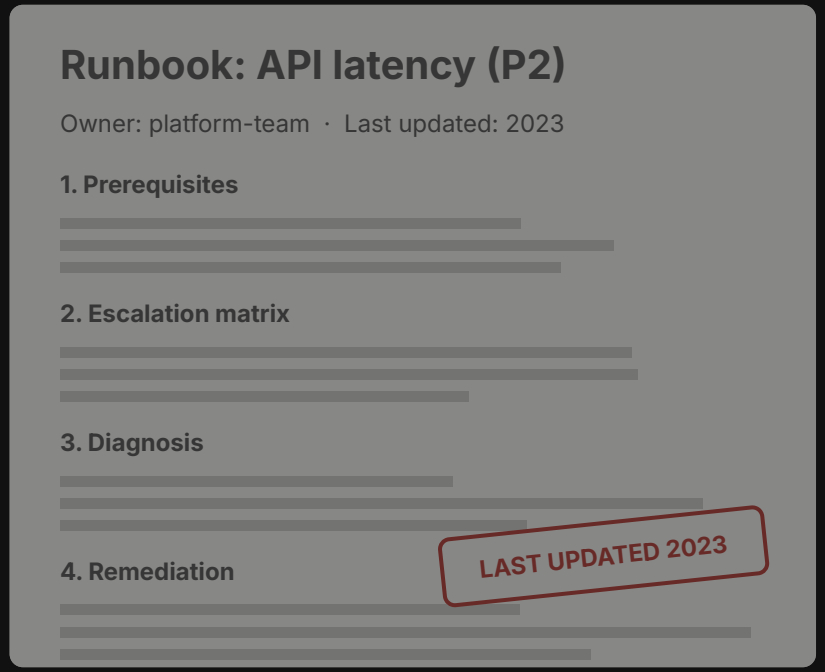
Photo: cogdogblog, CC0, via Wikimedia Commons, modified

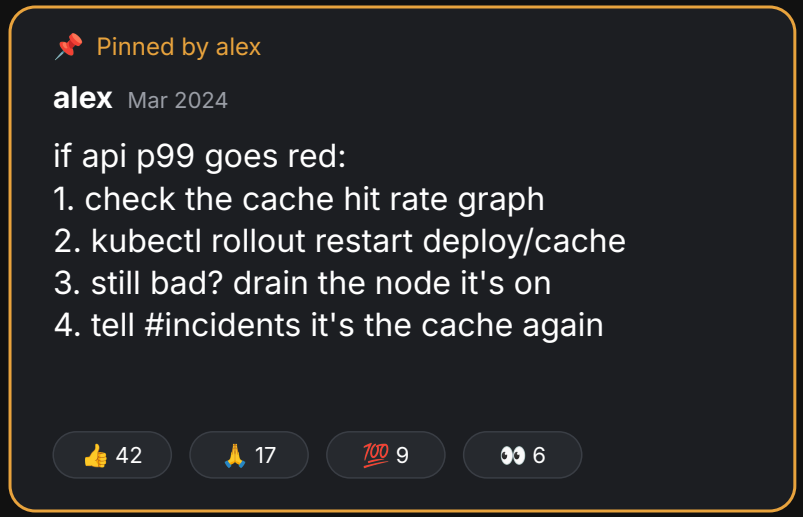


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A Desire Path





A Desire Path (continued)



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Durability Scales

Chartres Cathedral — Chartres, France — 1194–1220

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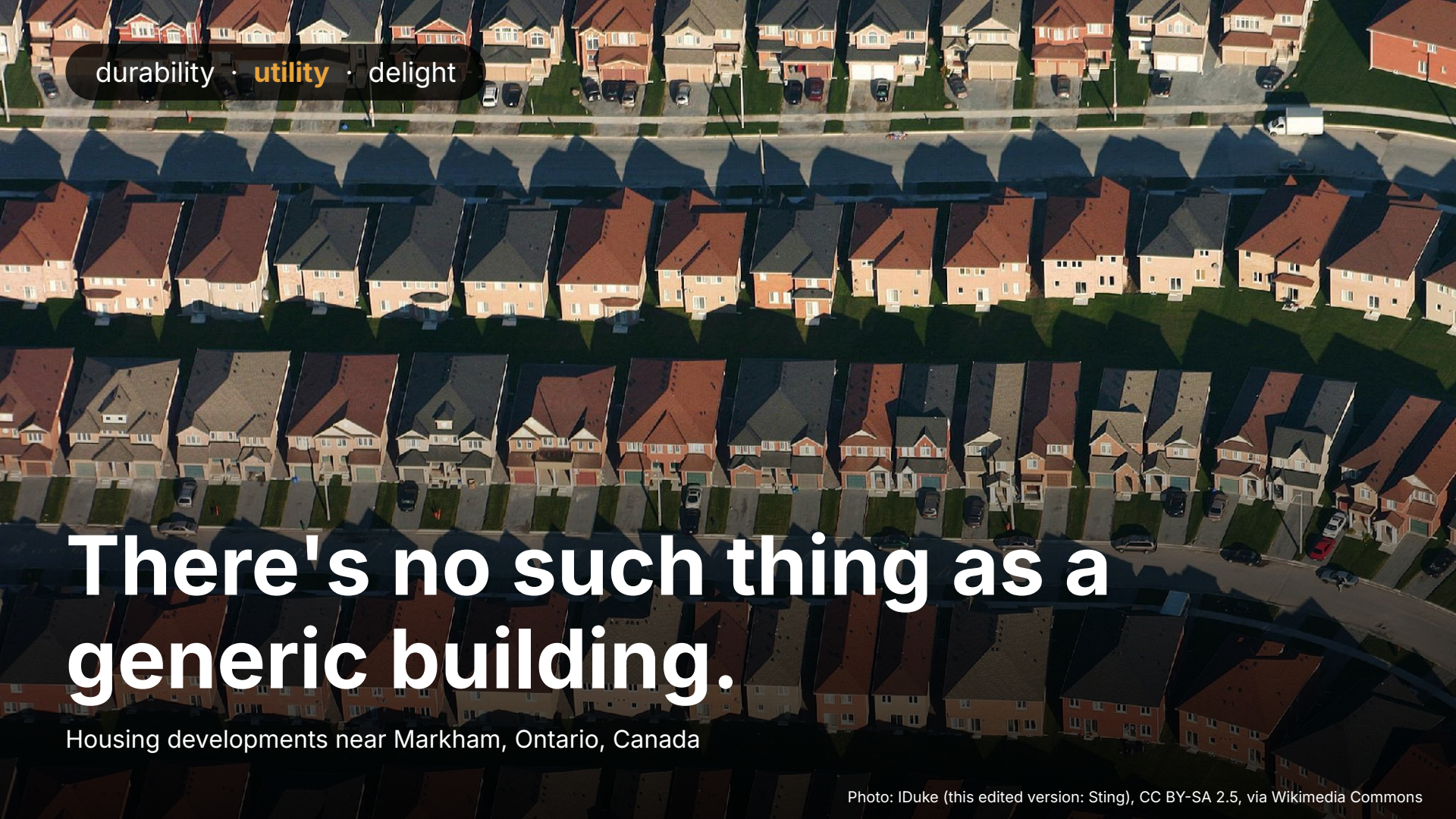
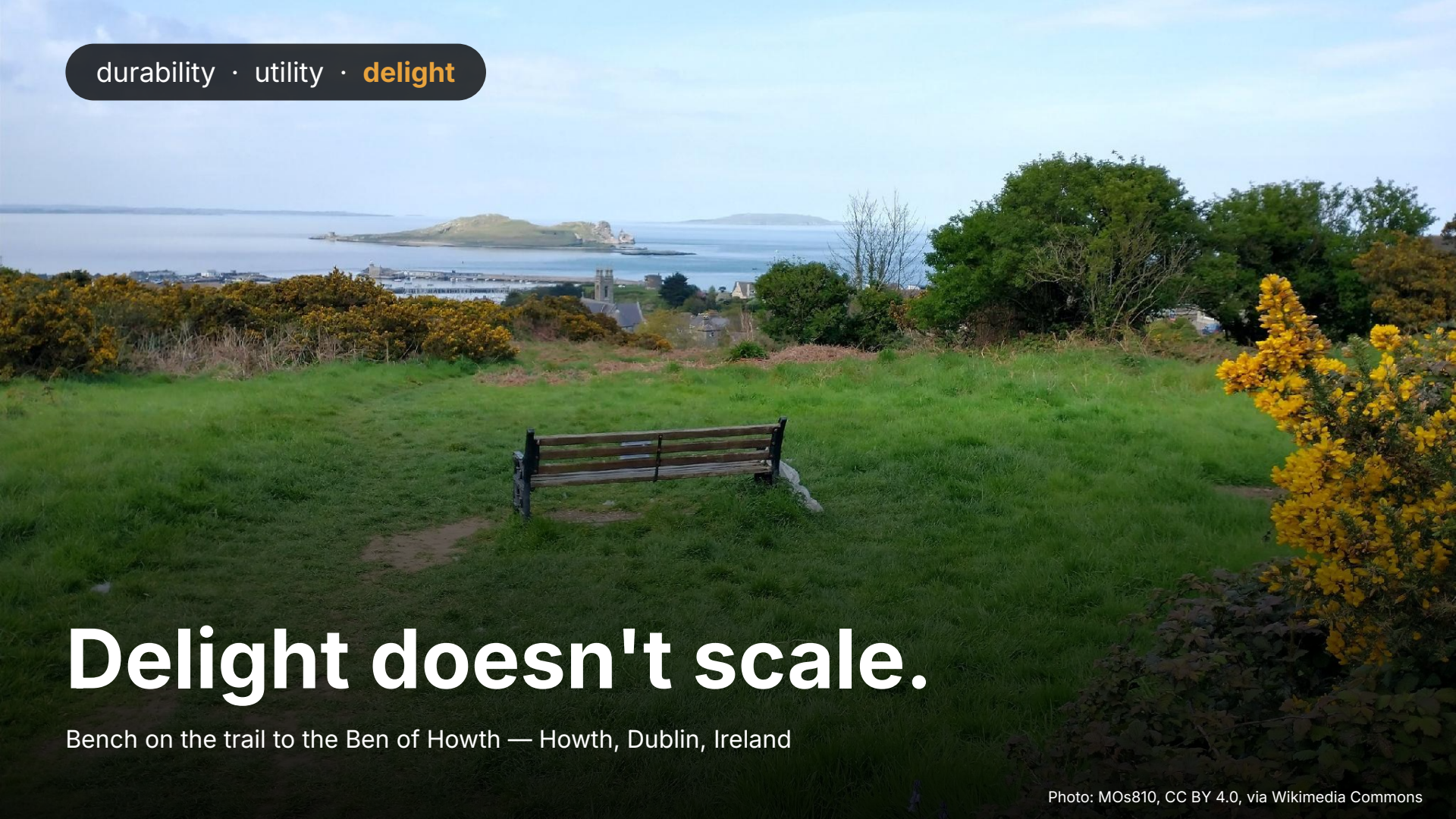


Photo: IDuke (this edited version: Sting), CC BY-SA 2.5, via Wikimedia Commons


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Build it for everyone, and you get the Camden bench.
After: The Camden Bench — Factory Furniture for Camden Council, 2012
Photo: The wub, CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons, modified



Delight doesn't scale.

Bench on the trail to the Ben of Howth — Howth, Dublin, Ireland

Photo: MOs810, CC BY 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons

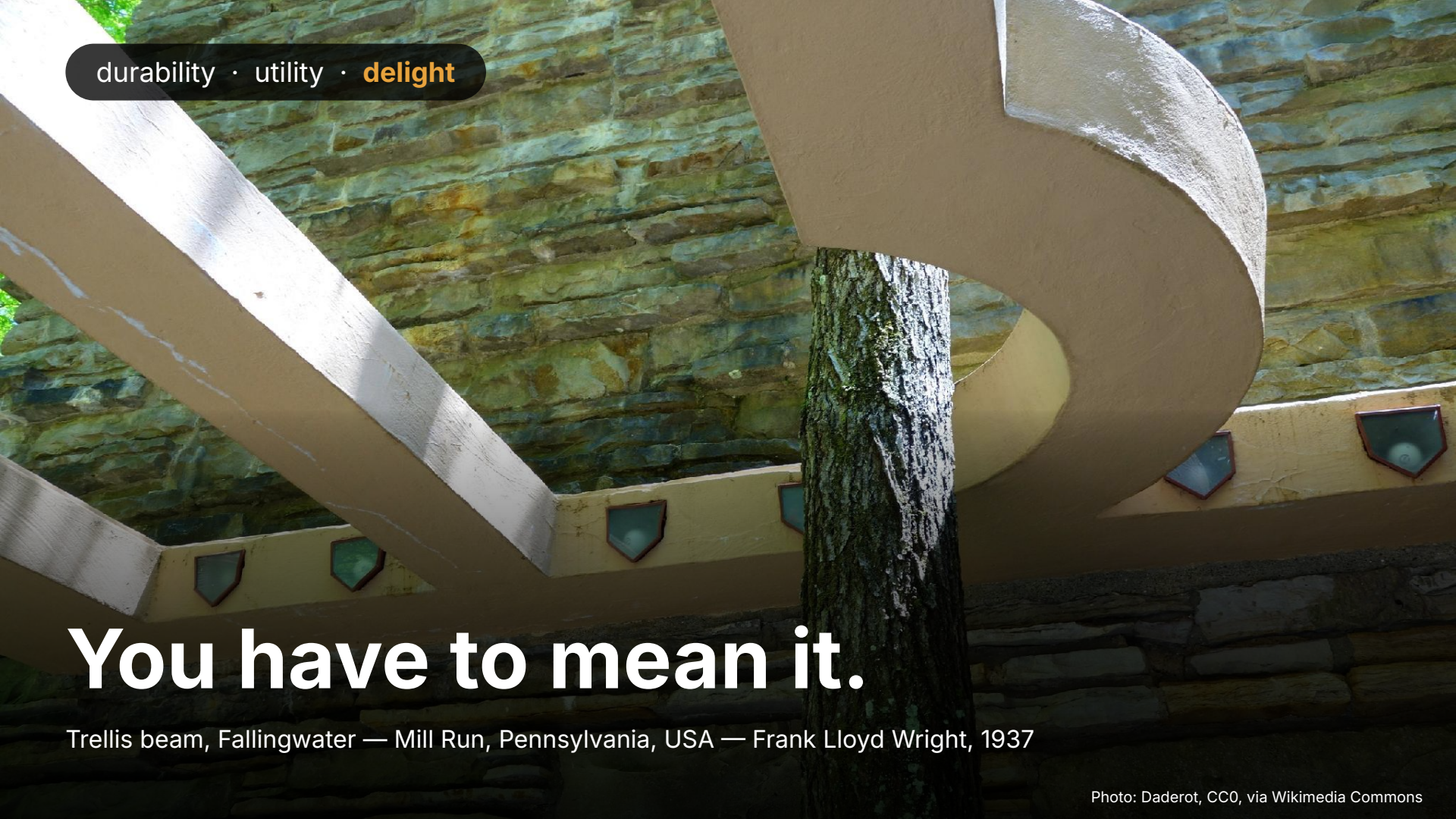

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You have to mean it.
Trellis beam, Fallingwater — Mill Run, Pennsylvania, USA — Frank Lloyd Wright, 1937
Photo: Daderot, CC0, via Wikimedia Commons



Photo: MOs810, CC BY 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons

Monday morning.

1. Walk your desire paths. Shell histories, pinned messages, verbal lore.
2. Add Delight to your List. Budget for it.

“Work is love made visible.
And if you cannot work with love but only with distaste, it is better that you should leave your work and sit at the gate of the temple and take alms of those who work with joy.”

Kahlil Gibran (1883-1931)

Thank you.

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