The building block method. Component-based architectural design for large software-intensive product families
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This thesis has evolved over several years. I started to work on software architecture when I was asked to add subscriber line concentration to the telecommunication switching system family tss. In the end, we extended, refactored and implemented the Building Blocks (BBs) of the equipment maintenance subsystem. I started discussions about the architecture of tss with the architecture team and the chief designers. This had a long time impact as can be seen by the fact that the tss experiences are an important source of this thesis.

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The first idea about what I later called design dimensions arose when I left the tss development to help with the development of GSM infrastructure systems. I asked myself what made the tss software structure so much better understandable, better performing and extensible than the GSM software. Naturally, there
were many reasons, but the underlying model of Building Blocks, aspects and processes was at the core. After moving to research, I started to publish about the BB experiences together with Frank van der Linden who is co-author of several of my publications.

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