



AI in the Field: Breaking Barriers and Building the Future of Construction

Dr. Sarah Buchner, Founder & CEO of Trunk Tools

Jennifer Hohman, CTO of Baker Construction

Dean Mouritzen, Project Executive at HITT Contracting

October 2025





Dr. Sarah Buchner

Founder & CEO

- Started as a carpenter
- 20 years in the construction industry
- PhD in Construction Tech
(Data Science/Civil Engineering)
- Stanford MBA







[illegible]

Construction Data



Unstructured
85% PDFs

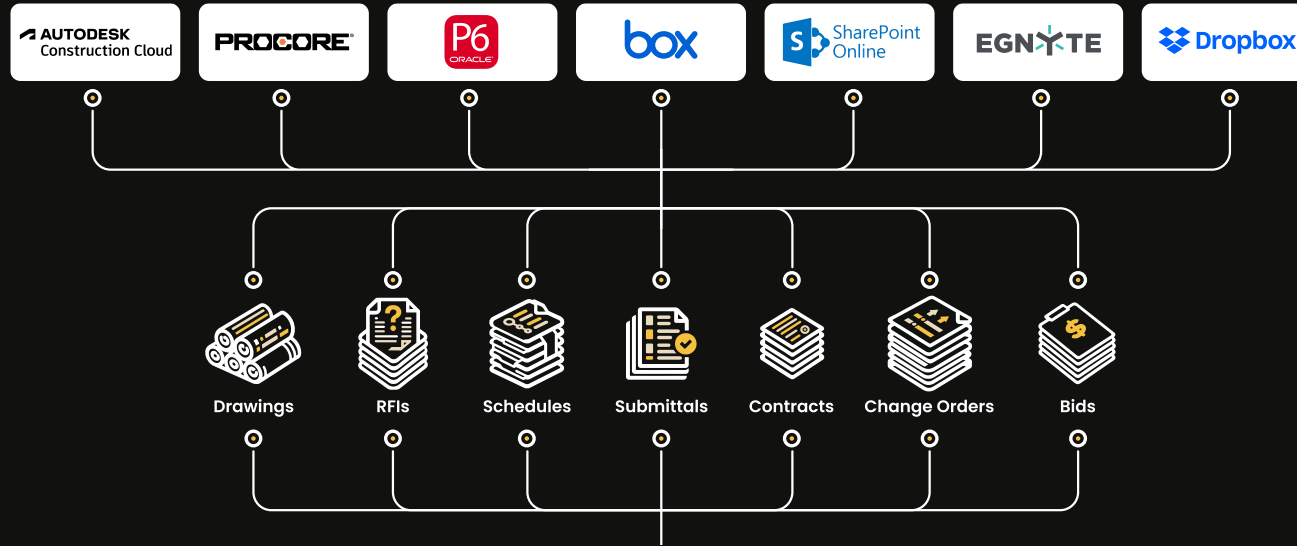


Siloed
10+ Systems per Site



Changing
Constantly/Daily





Humanly Impossible



120,000 files;
average **30**
pages

3.6 million
pages

What does unstructured mean?



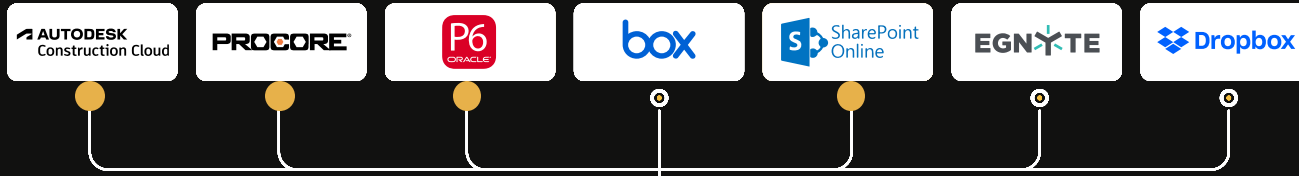
trunk.tools



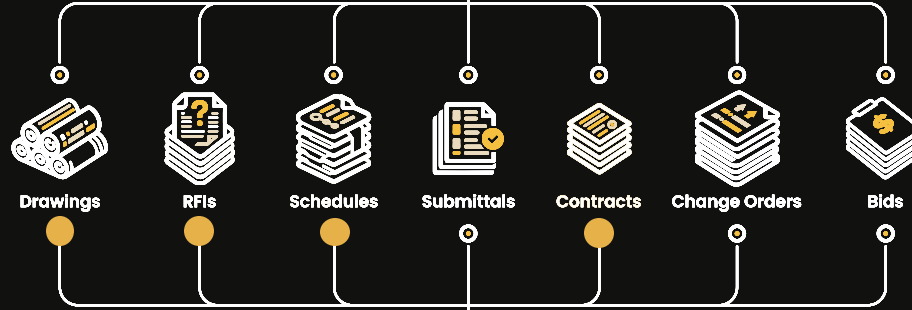
CHAOS







trunk.
tools







**trunk.
text**

\$20K+
SAVED

**in rework, finish repairs, inspections, and delays
by catching this before close-in**



**trunk.
text**

**\$100K+
SAVED**

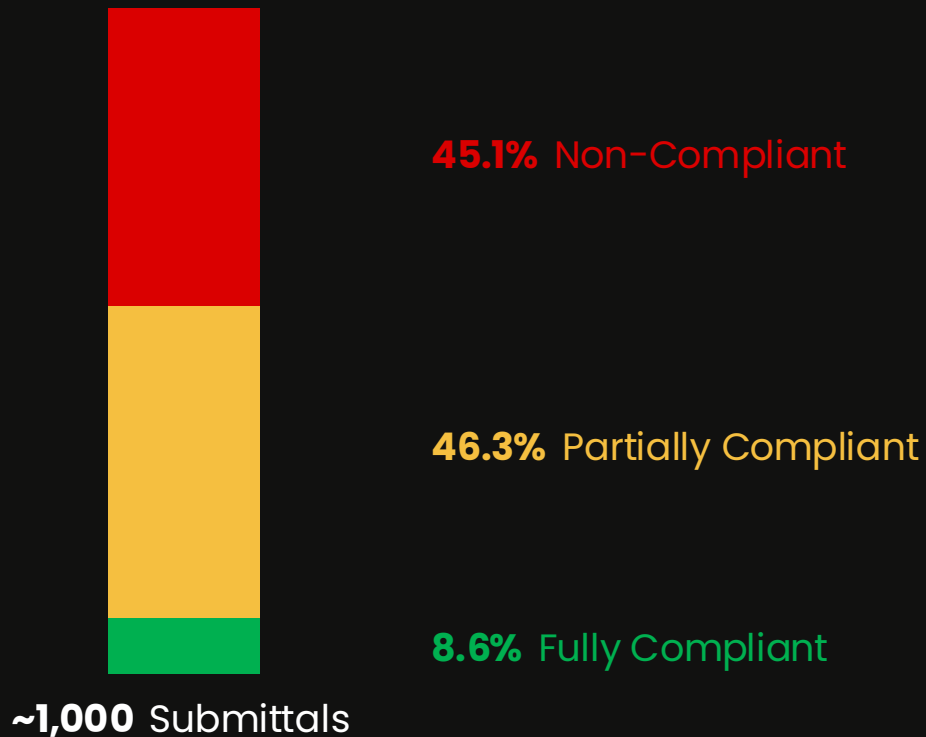
**in labor, materials, and delays
by catching this before drywall installation**



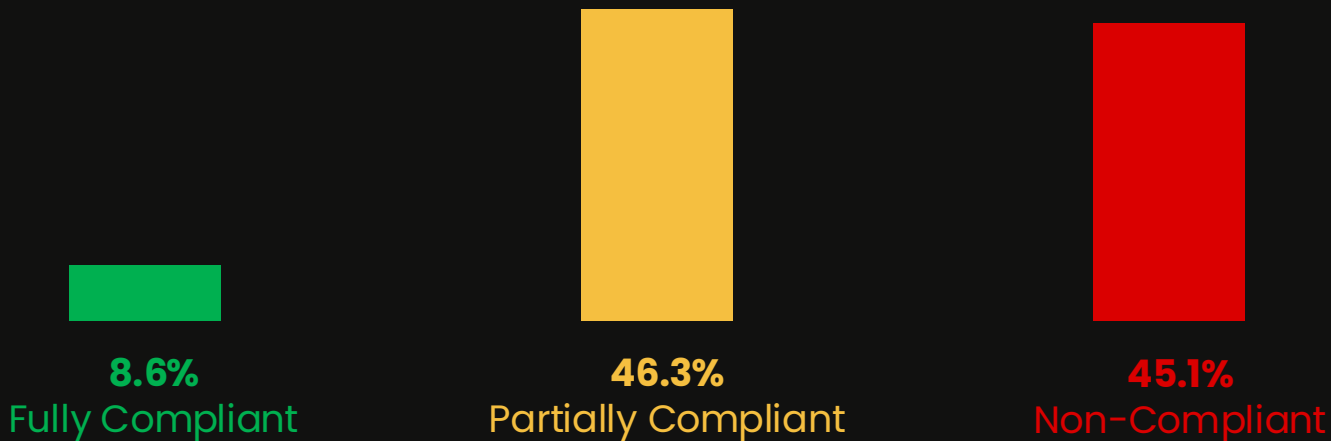


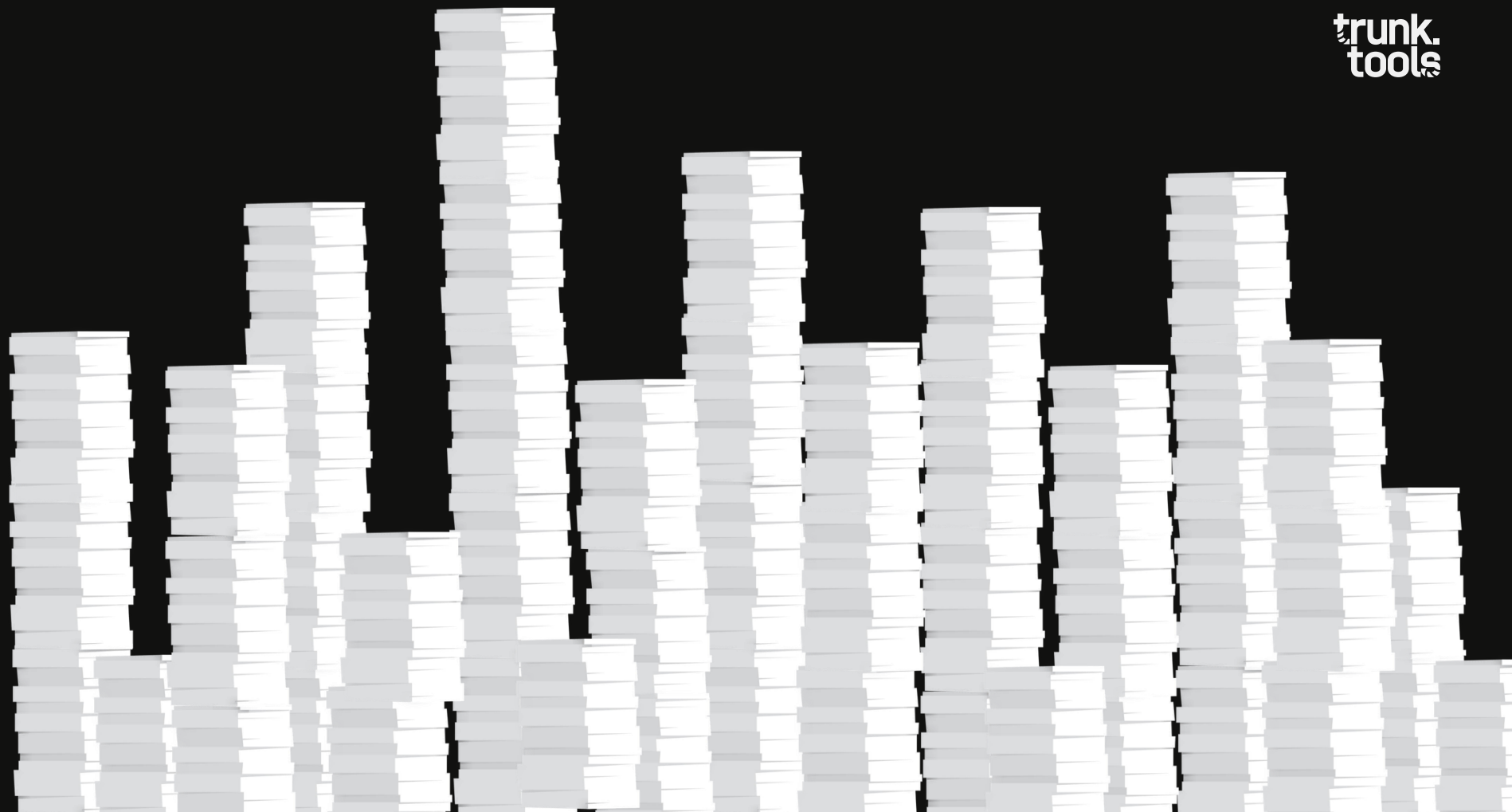
trunk.
submittal

Submittal Review Classification



Submittal Review Classification





RFI =

REALLY

FRUSTRATING

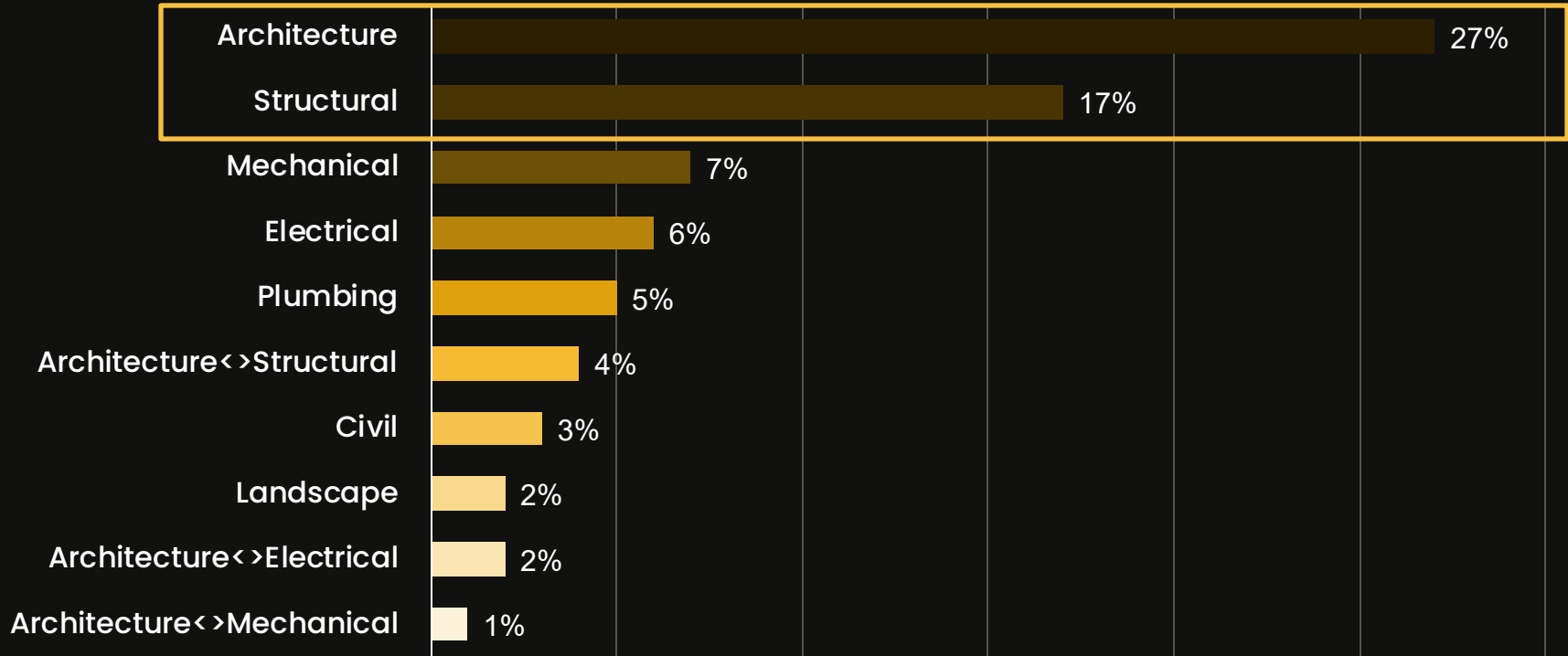
INFORMATION

On a \$100M Job...



$$\begin{array}{ccccc} 1,000+ & \times & \$3,000+ & = & \$3M+ \\ \text{RFIs} & & \text{GC Overhead} & & \text{RFI Overhead} \\ & & \text{per RFI} & & \text{per Job} \end{array}$$

Where do these RFIs come from?



When a Bulletin is updated, so many
details fall through the cracks...

3 Missing Tile Materials



- + \$30K additional cost
- + Overhead
- + Materials
- + Out of sequence
- + Cost to other trades

RFI #414

Project: [REDACTED]

Clarification on Stair Nosing for Hydro Tub Steps – Bulletin 18

TO:

FROM:

STATUS:

Closed on 06/18/25

DUE DATE:

06/25/2025

COST CODE:

SCHEDULE IMPACT:

SPEC SECTION:

REFERENCE:

DATE INITIATED: 06/16/2025

LOCATION: Level 1 - Field Level>125: Hydro

PROJECT STAGE:

SUB JOB:

COST IMPACT:

DRAWING NUMBER: A1.01, A9.01,

LINKED DRAWINGS: [A1.01](#)

RECEIVED FROM:

COPIES TO:

Question from

at 03:24 PM on 06/16/2025

Bulletin 18 introduced tilework around the two Hydro Tubs, including six tiled steps. These steps were originally specified with tile treads. However, in early April, a change was made to use the Dal Tile PFT-1 alternate, which does not include tile treads and instead uses a smooth bullnose, which has already been ordered.

During installation preparation, concerns have arisen regarding the suitability of the smooth bullnose for this wet application. Specifically, the smooth finish may not provide adequate slip resistance or edge protection for the stair treads in a wet environment.

Request for Clarification:

Would the design team approve the use of an alternate stair nosing product, such as the Schluter Trep-E, which is designed for wet applications and provides enhanced safety and durability?

Proposed Solution:

Substitute the smooth bullnose with Schluter Trep-E stair nosing on the six tiled steps around the Hydro Tubs.

There will be no cost impact for this.



trunk.
review

32 Missing Door Tags



- + \$50K additional cost
- + Overhead
- + Materials
- + Missing infra
- + Schedule delay

RFI #208

Project: [REDACTED] - [REDACTED] - [REDACTED] - [REDACTED]

Missing Door Numbers

TO:	[REDACTED]	FROM:	[REDACTED]
DATE INITIATED:	07/14/2025	STATUS:	Open
LOCATION:	[REDACTED]	DUE DATE:	07/28/2025
PROJECT STAGE:	Pre-Construction	COST CODE:	[REDACTED]
SUB JOB:	[REDACTED]	SCHEDULE IMPACT:	TBD
COST IMPACT:	TBD	SPEC SECTION:	[REDACTED]
DRAWING NUMBER:	[REDACTED]	REFERENCE:	SEC RFI 021
LINKED DRAWINGS:	[REDACTED]		
RECEIVED FROM:	[REDACTED]		
COPIES TO:	[REDACTED]		

Question from [REDACTED] at 02:59 PM on 07/11/2025

Location: Parking Structure

Reference: Security Plan - Garage - Level 01-07

Issue: There are several doors across the parking structure that have an intercom at the location for access control. These locations do not have a door number to properly show them on the access control system.

Solution: Provide door numbers for the highlighted locations on the attached drawings.



trunk.
review

Mitigate Hidden Costs by...

PRIORITIZING



**Health & Safety
Proactively**

MAINTAINING



**Focus on
Building Progress**

FOSTERING



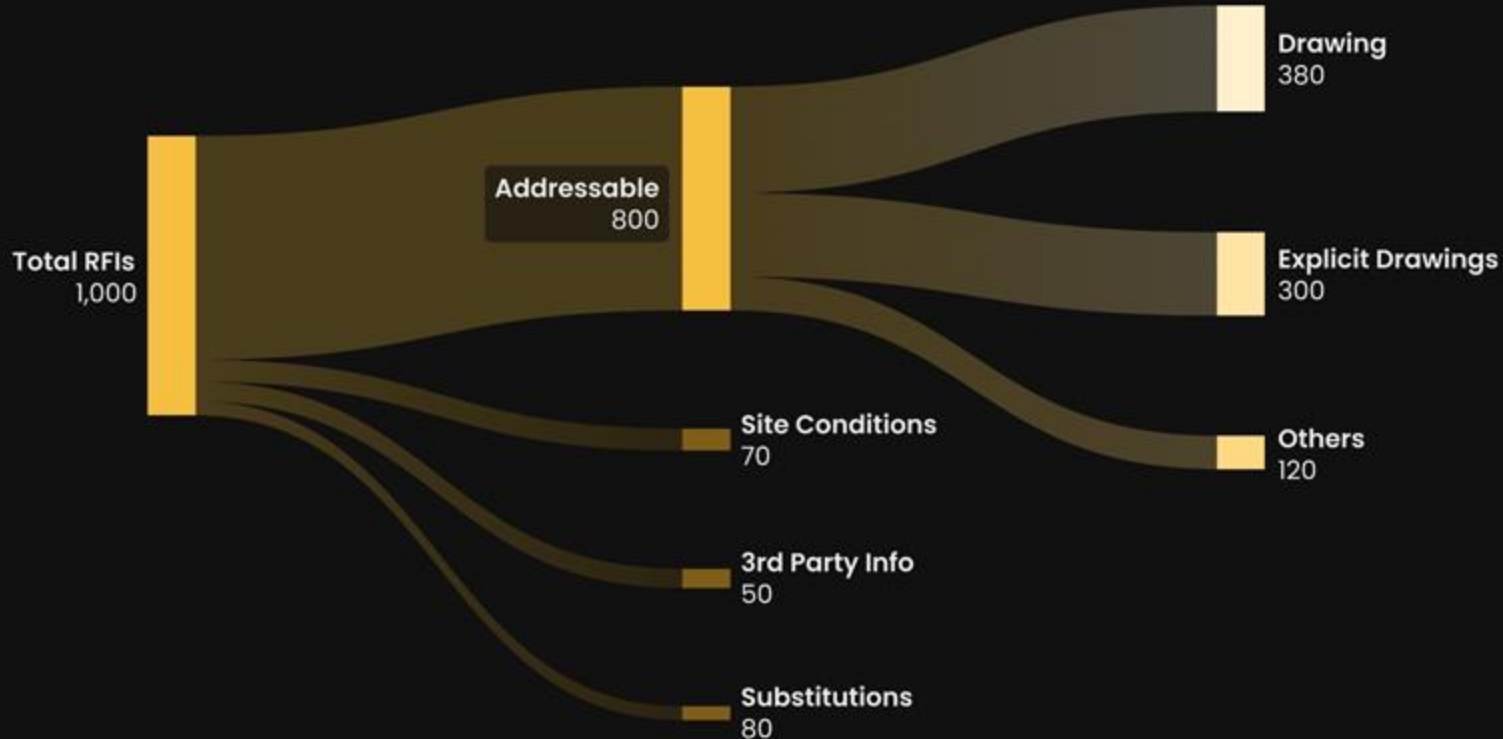
**Trust
Between Trades**

FINDING



**Discrepancies
Formerly
Undetected**

RFI = Really Frustrating Information



ENOUGH

REALLY

FRUSTRATING

INFORMATION

AI is not going to take your job.
People using AI ~~will~~. **are!**

THANK YOU

Questions?

trunk.
tools

#LetBuildersBuild