



Universidad de Oviedo



Architecture techniques



SOFTWARE
ARCHITECTURE

2025-26

Software architect

Discipline evolves

Architect must be aware of

New development techniques

Styles and patterns

Best tool = experience (*no silver bullet*)

Self experience

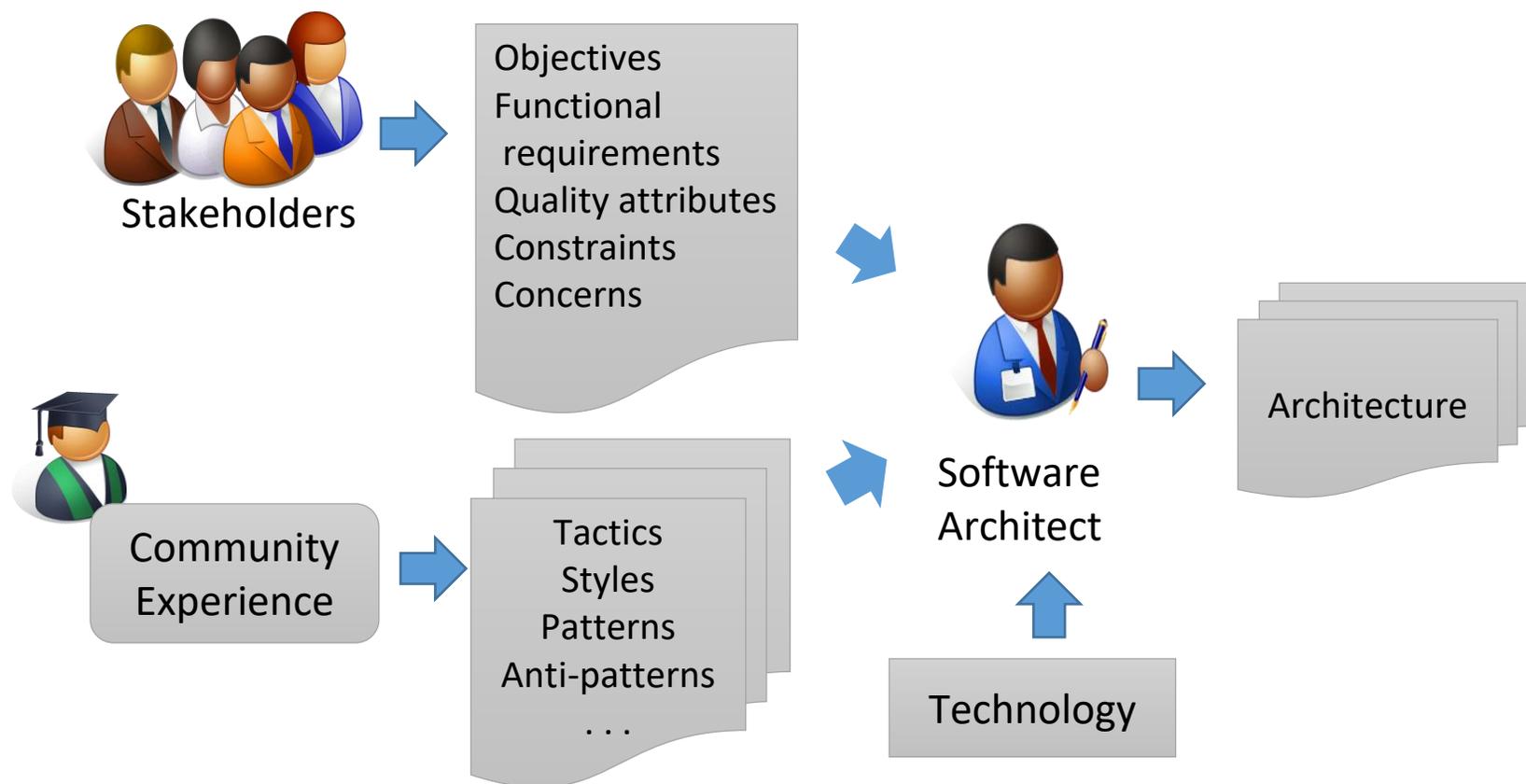
Experience from community



Architect



Role of software architect



Tactics

Design techniques to achieve a response to some quality attributes

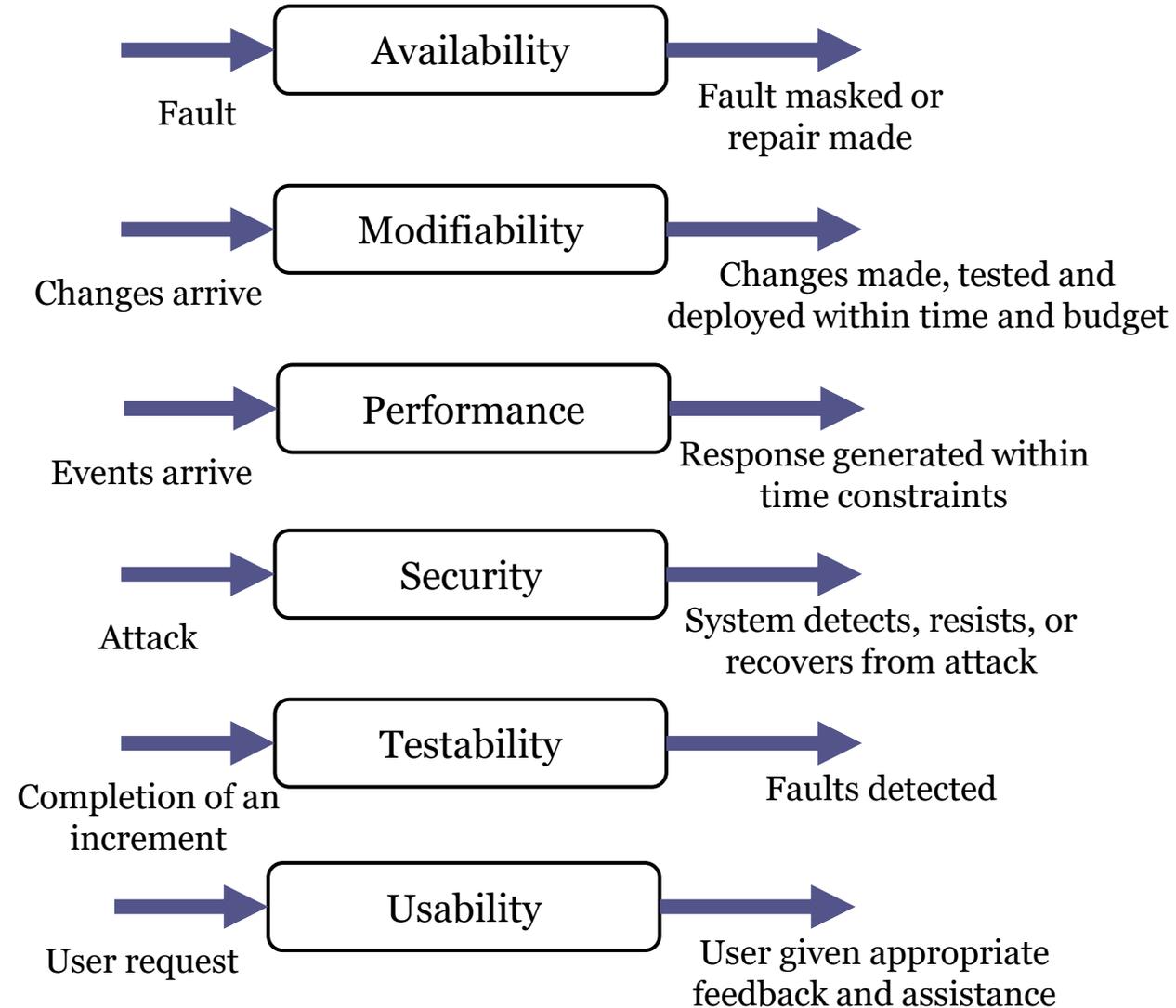
Tactics focus on a single Quality Attribute response

They may compromise other quality attributes

Tactics are intended to control responses to stimuli



Tactics depend on QA



Where can we find tactics?

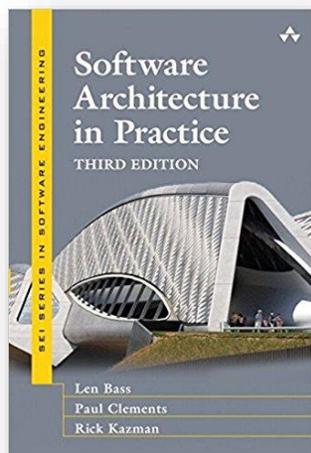
Architect's own experience

Documented experience from community

Books, conferences, blogs,...

Tactics evolve with time and trends

Book "Software architecture in practice" has a list of tactics for quality attributes



<http://www.ece.ubc.ca/~matei/EECE417/BASS/ch05lev1sec1.html>
<https://www.cs.unb.ca/~wdu/cs6075w10/sa2.htm>

Architectural Styles

Define the general shape of a system

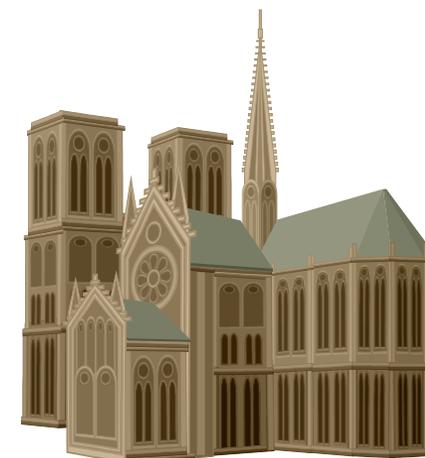
They contain:

Elements: Components that carry out functionality

Constraints: define how to integrate elements

List of attributes:

Consequences of the style: Assessment of pros/cons



Are there pure styles?

Pure styles = idealization

In practice, pure styles rarely appear

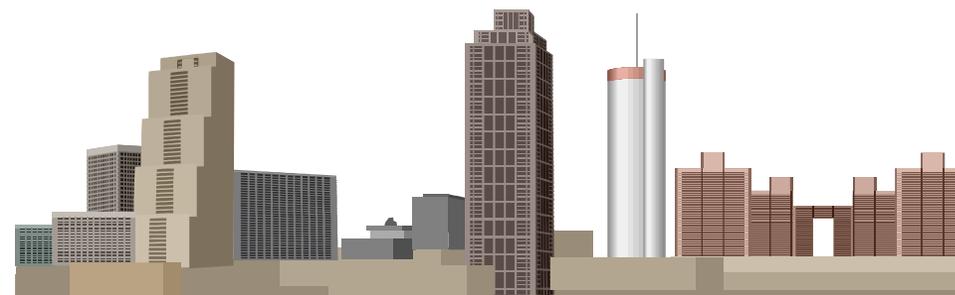
Usually, systems deviate from pure styles...

...or combine several architectural styles

It is important to understand pure styles in order to:

Understand pros and cons of a style

Assess the consequences of a deviation from the style



Architectural pattern

Reusable and general solution to some recurring problem that appears in a given context

Important parameter: **problem**

3 types:

Structural: Build time

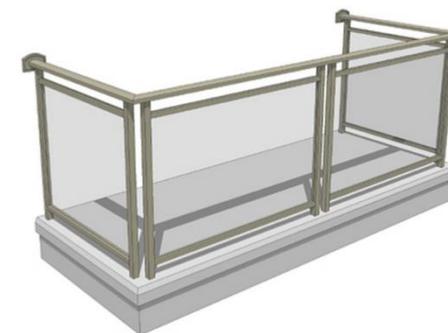
Example: Layers

Runtime (behaviour)

Example: Pipes & filters

Deployment

Example: Load balancer



Pattern vs Style

Pattern = solution to a problem

Style = generic

Does not have to be associated with a problem

Style defines general architecture of an application

Usually, an application has one style

...but it can have several patterns

Patterns can appear at different scales

High level (architectural patterns)

Design (design patterns)

Implementation (idioms)

...

Pattern vs Style

Styles, in general, are independent of each other

A pattern can be related with other patterns

A pattern composed of several patterns

Interactions between patterns

Pattern languages and catalogs

Pattern catalog

A set of patterns about a subject

It does not have to be exhaustive

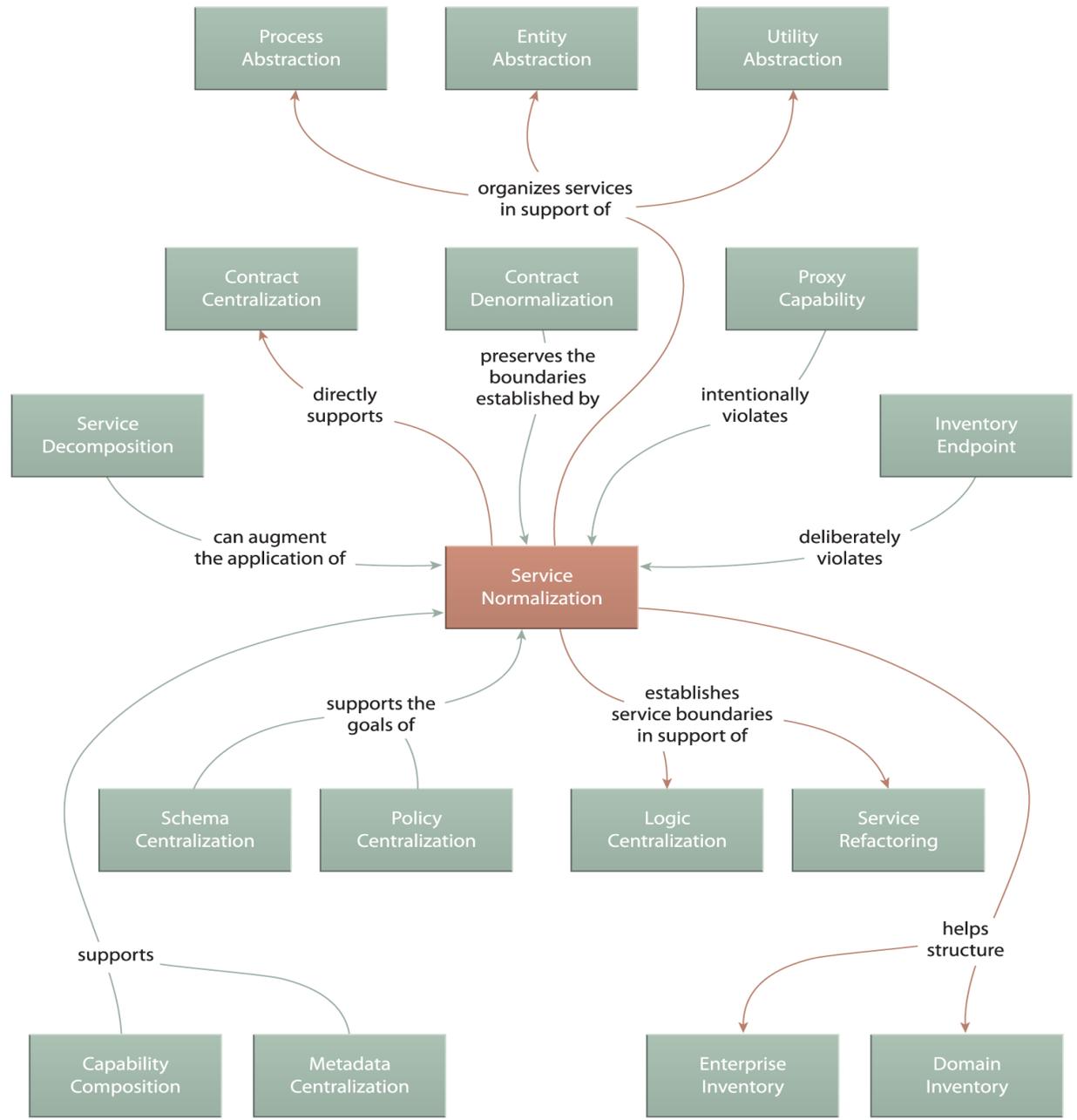
Pattern language

A full pattern catalog about some subject

Goal: document all the possibilities

They usually include relationships between patterns

Graphical map



Example of pattern language
Source: "SOA with REST" book

Build vs reuse

In some domains, reusing existing architectures may be more efficient

Reference architectures

Externally developed components

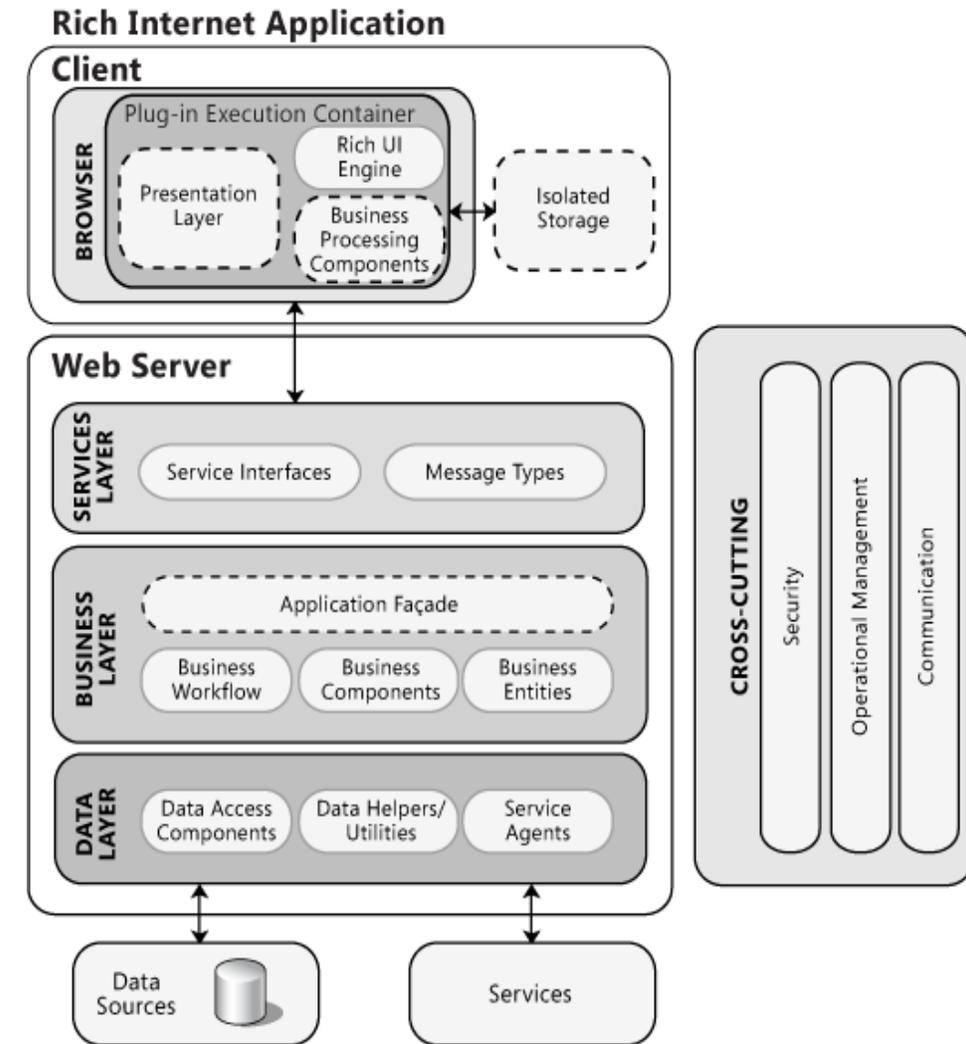


Reference architectures

Blueprints that provide the overall structure for particular types of applications

They contain several patterns

Can be the de-facto standard in some domains



Source: [Microsoft Application Architecture Guide, 2nd Ed.](#)

Domain Specific Software architecture

Combination of:

- Reference architecture for an application domain
- A library of components for that architecture
- A method of choosing and configuring components to work within an instance of the reference architecture

Specialized for a specific domain

Examples:

ADAGE, MetaH



Externally developed components

Technology stacks or families

MEAN (Mongo, Express, Angular, Node), **LAMP** (Linux, Apache, MySQL, PHP), ...

Products

COTS: Commercial Off The Shelf

FOSS: Free Open Source Software

Be careful with licenses

Application frameworks

Partial implementation of a specific area of an application

Very popular for UIs

Platforms

Complete infrastructure to build & run applications

Example: JEE, Google Cloud