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Designing for Circularity: A Framework for Architectural Practice

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1. What are the three core principles of the Circular Economy?

- Eliminate waste and pollution.
- Circulate products and materials (at their highest value).
- Regenerate nature.

2. What does Design for Disassembly mean in the context of circular design?

Design for Disassembly is a strategy that enables buildings or components to be easily taken apart at the end of their life, allowing materials and systems to be reused, repaired, or recycled.

3. What is Closed-Loop Recycling in the context of building products, and why is it important for the Circular Economy?

Closed-loop recycling is a process where waste materials are collected, reprocessed, and reused to create the same or similar products. It keeps resources in continuous circulation and reduces the need for virgin raw materials.

4. What is an Environmental Product Declaration (EPD)?

An EPD is a third-party verified document that reports a product's environmental impacts throughout its life cycle.

5. What is a system boundary in the context of an Environmental Product Declaration (EPD)?

A system boundary defines which stages of a product's life cycle are included in the EPD, such as raw material extraction, manufacturing, use and end-of-life.

6. Why are EPDs valuable for Green Star?

Green Star explicitly recognises verified EPDs within the Responsible Products Framework, awarding points for products that demonstrate transparent, standardised environmental data.