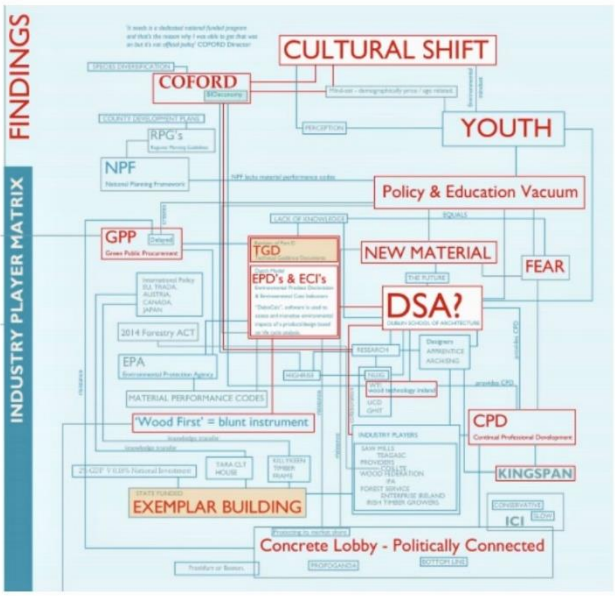
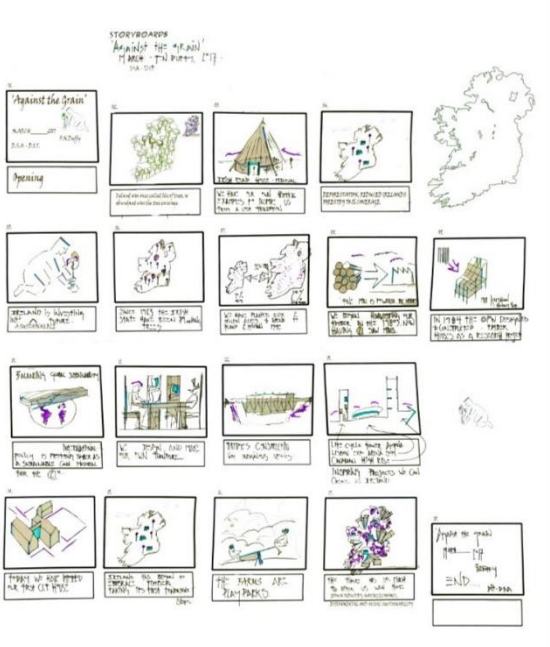
2017 Francis Duffy **Against the Grain: Why is timber underutilised in the Irish construction industry?**





This study explores why timber is underused in construction in Ireland, given its environmental properties. The discourse in the area (framed by two exemplar case-study buildings and themed under procurement, policy-making and academia) is analysed relative to the research question. Action-based research took the form of a 'Wood First' motion tabled to South Dublin County Council, subsequently passed into policy. The literature was refined into questions for a two-stage, fourth-generation evaluation interview process. The findings reveal a complex matrix of relationships, knowledge/communication vacuums and misalignments. However, the matrix also identifies positive outcomes which can assist the development of timber for construction in the Republic of Ireland.