

Architecture Firm: NoCode System Design

Project Overview

- 1 month project in 2023
- London-based Architecture practice (~30 employees)
- Involved: NoCode system architecture, Airtable architecture, API integrations, dashboards and data viz, task and project management tooling, workflow mapping

Outcome: A full, prototyped system design for transitioning from excel into custom nocode-based tooling

Tools Used

Airtable

Monday.com

Noloco

Project Challenge

This architect's firm were juggling around 40-50 active projects at any one time. Each building being designed takes a lot of project management oversight and operational care, e.g.
- Complying with all building standards, environmental regulations and health & safety professional guidance
- Checking for common issues that have impacted projects in the past
- Keeping on top of planning - submissions, issues, etc
- Managing multiple versions of drawing files
- Communication with the client
- Co-ordinating various external consultant e.g. Acoustician, Rights of Light, Fire etc
- Risks and mitigation

The firm were already using existing industry Saas tools to handle some parts of project delivery but much of the project management was handled on excel files and email.

The firm wanted to move from excel to something that would
- Improve the quality of project delivery
- Save time and reduce complexity for employees
- Provide the practice directors with dashboards showing stats and statuses from across all the projects.
- Open the potential to share project info directly with third parties (clients, external consultants)

They were interested in exploring various NoCode tools including Airtable

Solution

The process taken was:

1. Immersion

- Absorbed myself in the company: its culture, people, way of doing things, business model, types of projects and clients, strategic focus, tech setup etc.

Build trust
- Ran workshops to draw out what the challenges were with the existing tech stack, and opportunities with a new one.
- Dive into the existing tech stack
- Dive into how project management was being done, in person
- Gather requirements and priorities

2. Solution exploration and development

- Hands-on testing various nocode tools (noloco, data fetcher), speaking with the companies and exploring their capabilities, costs, etc
- Test API integrations
- Developing various system architecture 'pathways' to go down. Map out pros/cons, costs, technical complexity, capabilities and limitations of various options.
- Prototype different options + test with employees

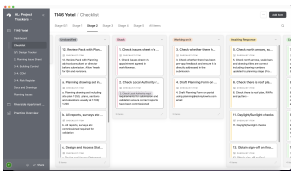
3. Finalise solution design

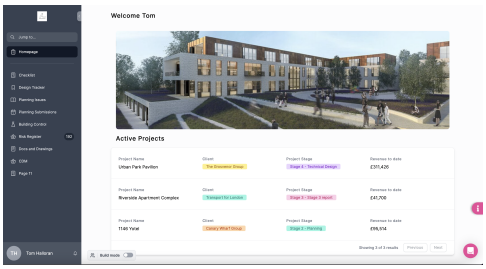
- Align on a final system architecture
- Plan out approximate timelines, budget, scope
- Resolve key technical challenges and document

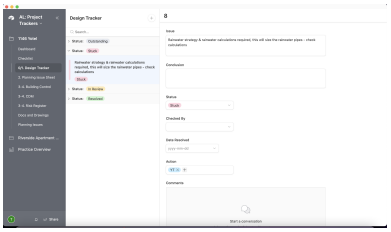
I then supported the firm to see how they would best be able to begin building the new nocode tech stack given internal resources and existing network of freelancers

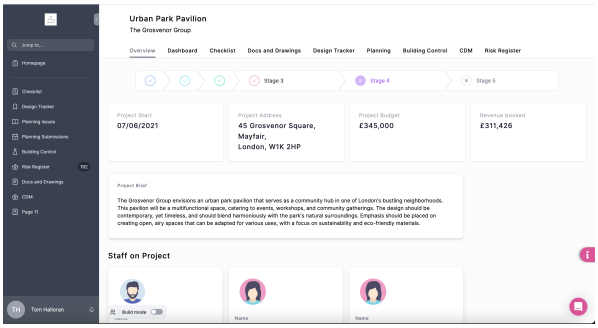
NB. All screenshots are taken from prototypes using fake data

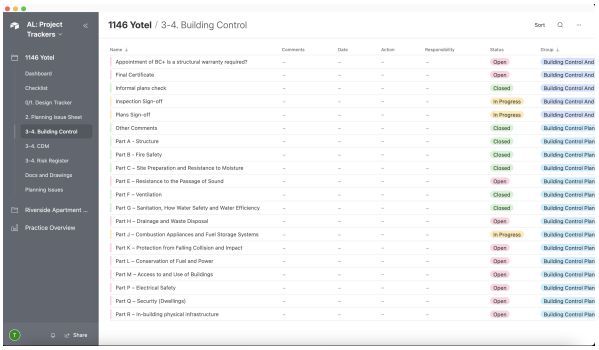
Airtable Interface **Noloco Interface**

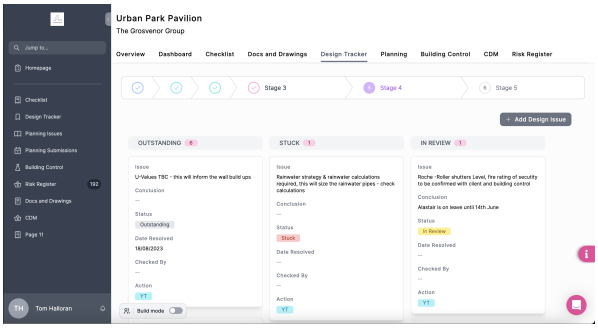


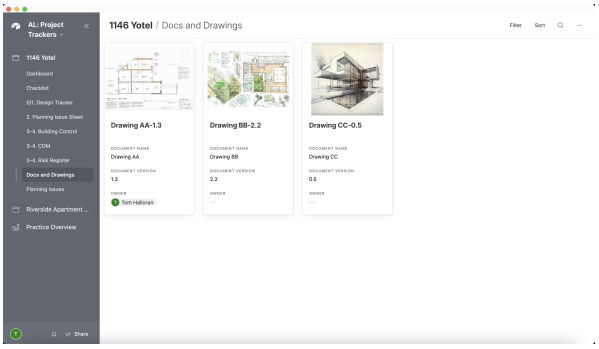


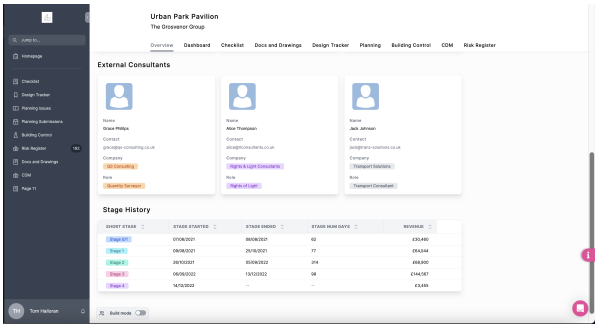




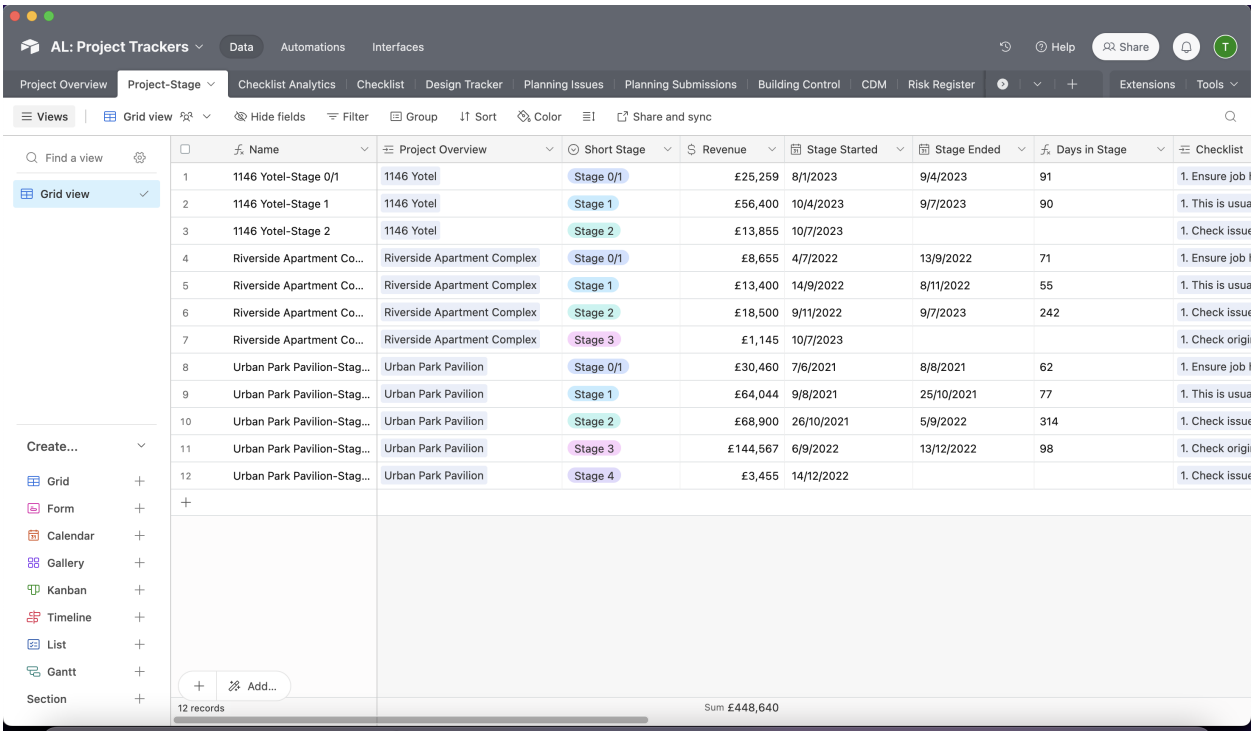








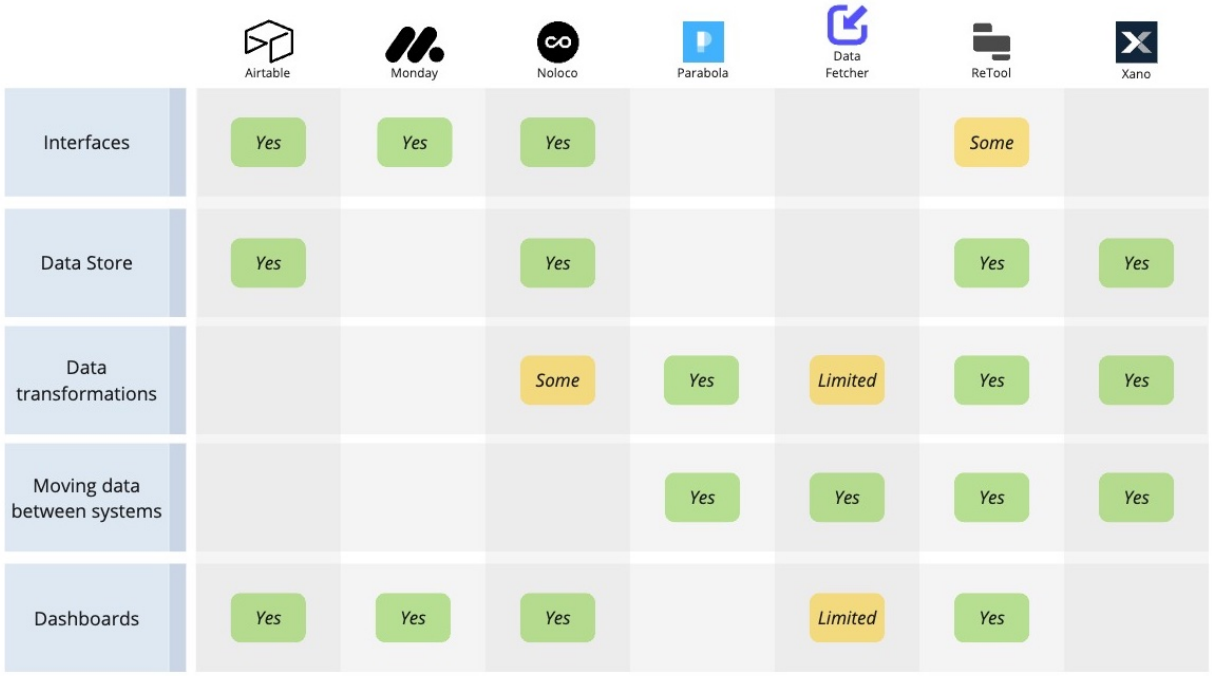
Other Images



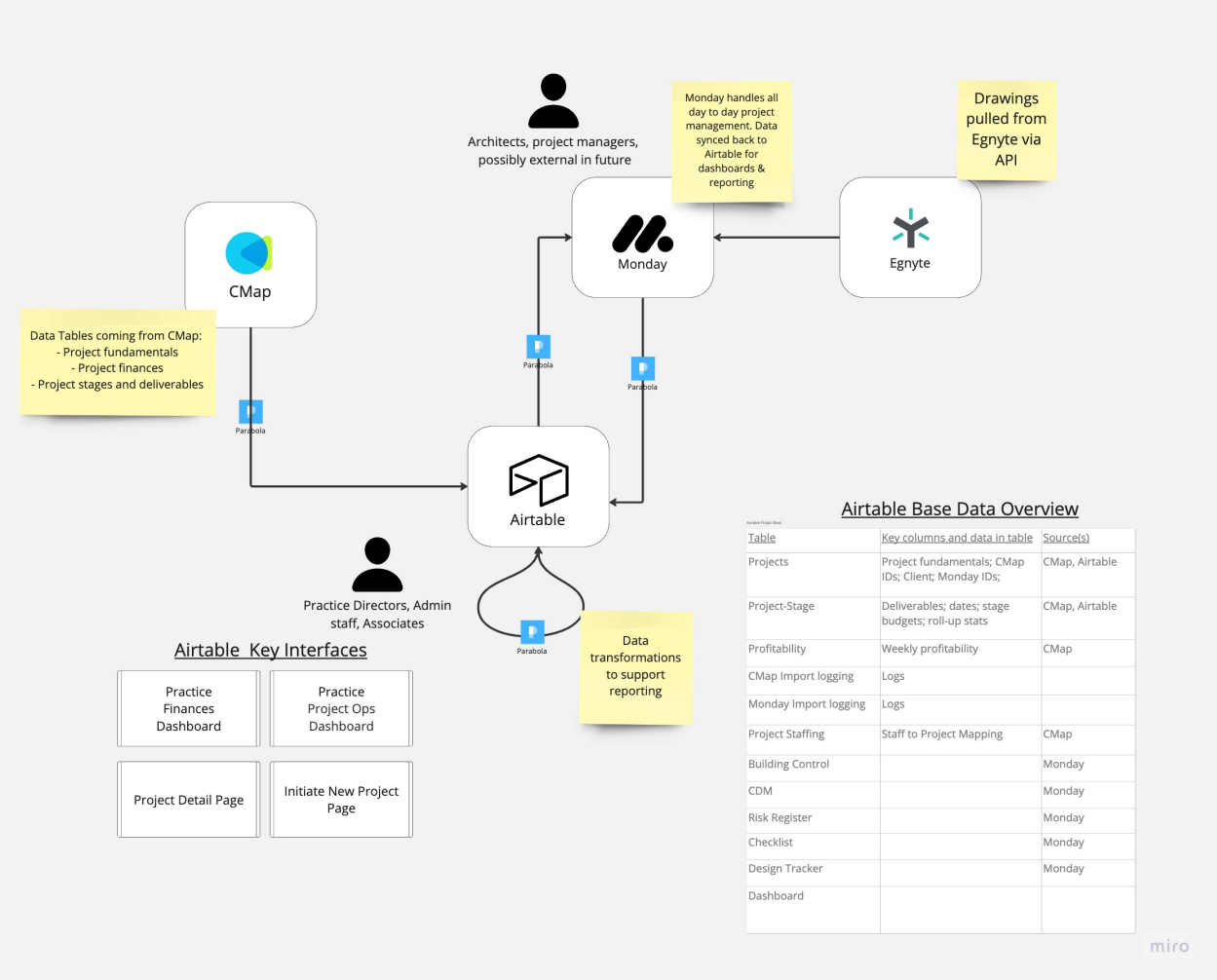
	Name	Project Overview	Short Stage	Revenue	Stage Started	Stage Ended	Days in Stage	Checklist
1	1146 Yotel-Stage 0/1	1146 Yotel	Stage 0/1	£25,259	8/1/2023	9/4/2023	91	1. Ensure job
2	1146 Yotel-Stage 1	1146 Yotel	Stage 1	£56,400	10/4/2023	9/7/2023	90	1. This is usua
3	1146 Yotel-Stage 2	1146 Yotel	Stage 2	£13,855	10/7/2023			1. Check issue
4	Riverside Apartment Co...	Riverside Apartment Complex	Stage 0/1	£8,655	4/7/2022	13/9/2022	71	1. Ensure job
5	Riverside Apartment Co...	Riverside Apartment Complex	Stage 1	£13,400	14/9/2022	8/11/2022	55	1. This is usua
6	Riverside Apartment Co...	Riverside Apartment Complex	Stage 2	£18,500	9/11/2022	9/7/2023	242	1. Check issue
7	Riverside Apartment Co...	Riverside Apartment Complex	Stage 3	£1,145	10/7/2023			1. Check origi
8	Urban Park Pavilion-Stag...	Urban Park Pavilion	Stage 0/1	£30,460	7/6/2021	8/8/2021	62	1. Ensure job
9	Urban Park Pavilion-Stag...	Urban Park Pavilion	Stage 1	£64,044	9/8/2021	25/10/2021	77	1. This is usua
10	Urban Park Pavilion-Stag...	Urban Park Pavilion	Stage 2	£68,900	26/10/2021	5/9/2022	314	1. Check issue
11	Urban Park Pavilion-Stag...	Urban Park Pavilion	Stage 3	£144,567	6/9/2022	13/12/2022	98	1. Check origi
12	Urban Park Pavilion-Stag...	Urban Park Pavilion	Stage 4	£3,455	14/12/2022			1. Check issue

Airtable Backend

Tool Combinations Map



Early document exploring options for combinations of nocode tools



Early document sketching one possible system architecture