

What should you build when you can build anything?

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About me — Damien Garros

Co-founder and CEO of OpsMill

Creator of Infrahub, an infrastructure data management platform: a source of truth built for automation.

15+ years in infrastructure automation

Infrastructure as code, network automation and observability, at large scale. Previously led Technical Architecture at Network to Code.

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Infrahub

AND STEWARD OF

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in/damiengarros gh/dgarros

It feels like AI gave us some superpower




Vibe Coding
Agentic Development


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What used to take months can be done in days


Because we CAN
doesn't mean
that we SHOULD?
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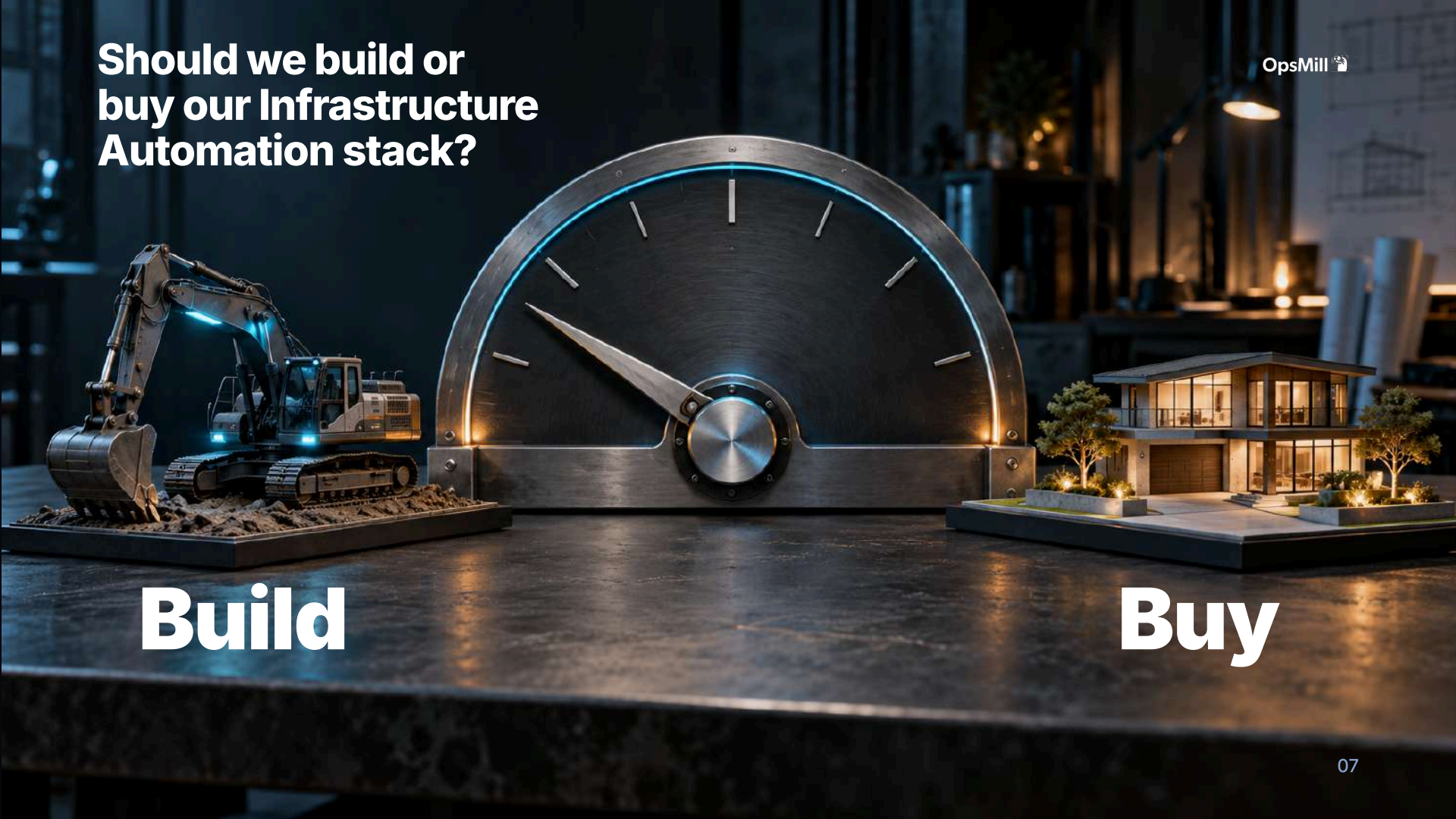
Should we build or buy our Infrastructure Automation stack?





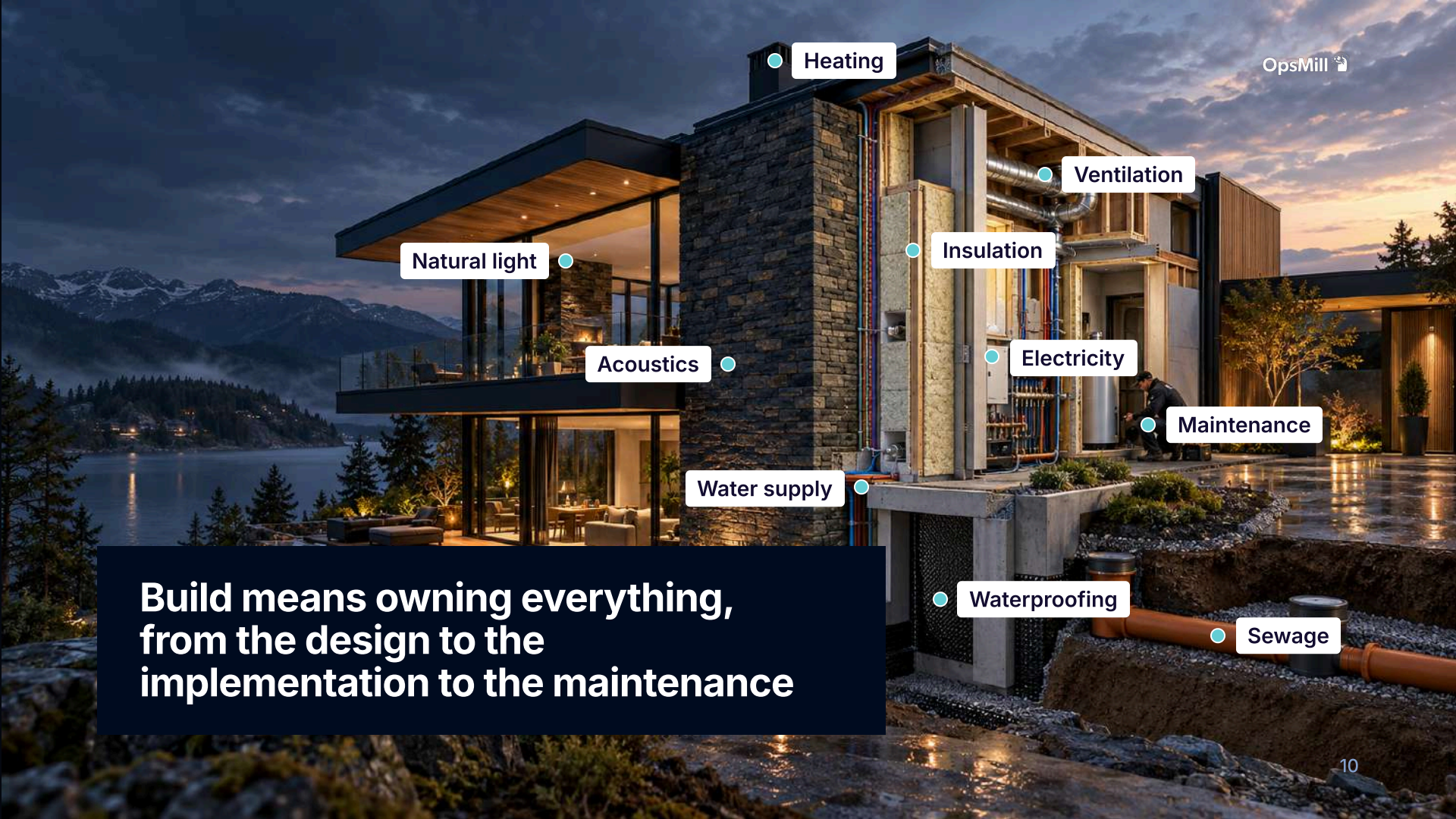
Build

Custom design
Fast start
Flexibility



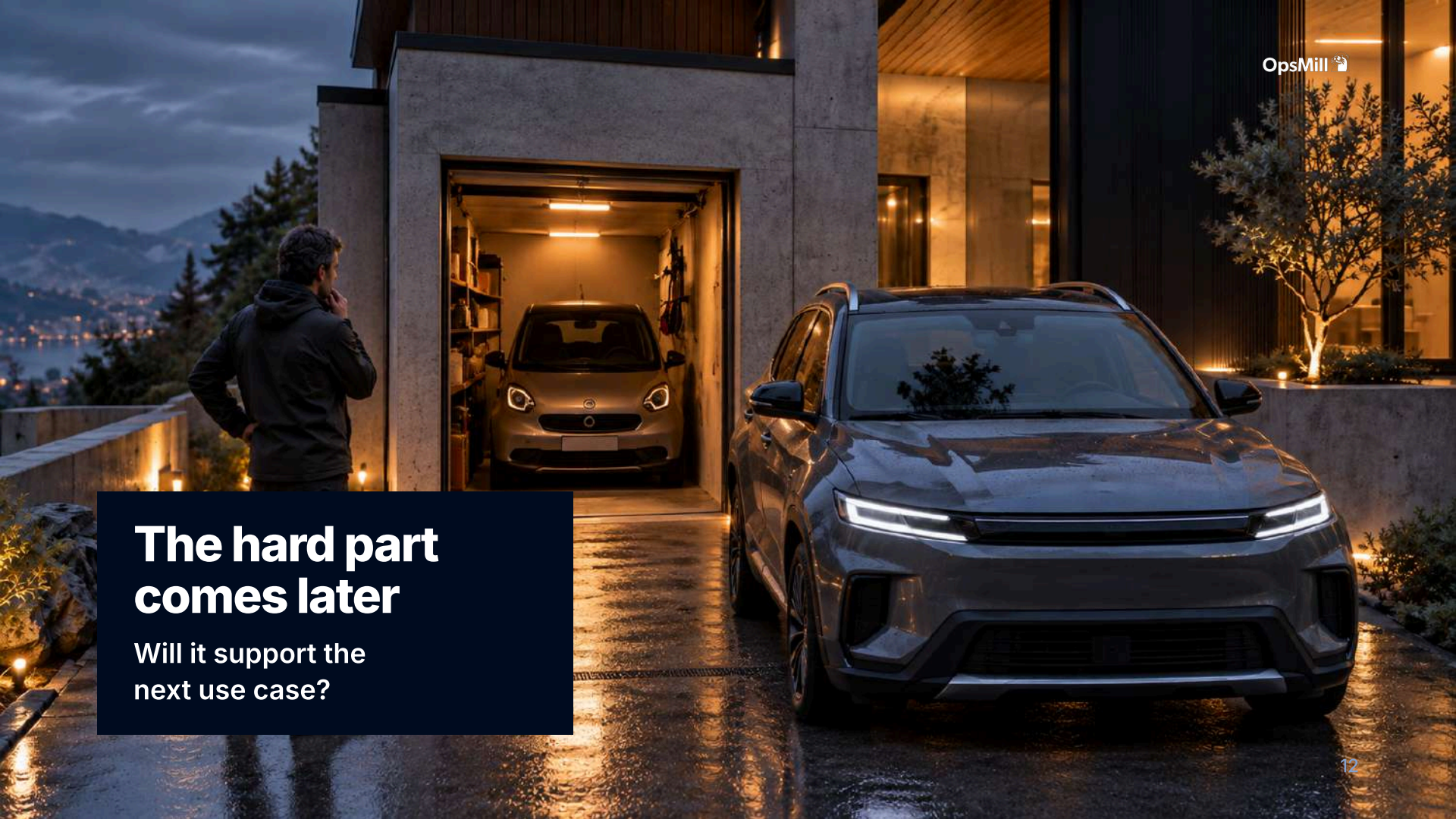
Buy

Ready to use
No development time
Cost-efficient



Build means owning everything, from the design to the implementation to the maintenance


SUN PATH / ORIENTATION
- maximize natural light
- limit overheating (summer)
- consider shading
- winter sun (heat gain)
Summer
Winter
E
S
W
HOUSE SIZE
18.5 m (total length)
4.2m
6.0m
4.0m
4.3m
WIND
- dominant winds
- wind loads (structure)
- natural ventilation
- noise
- site exposure
ROOF
- waterproofing
- insulation
- snow load (region)
- maintenance access
INSULATION
- thermal (winter/summer)
- fire rating
- acoustic
- vapour barrier
VENTILATION / HVAC
- fresh air intake
- heat recovery (HRV)
- air distribution
- noise control
- maintenance access
STRUCTURE
- load bearing walls
- beams and columns
- floor slabs
- seismic / wind
- material choice (concrete, steel, wood)
VIEWS
- frame the landscape
- privacy
- window height
- glare control
LIGHTING
- daylight levels
- artificial lighting
- indoor / outdoor
- ambiance
ceiling height 2.7m
ACOUSTICS
- noise between rooms
- external noise (road, wind)
- floor/ceiling isolation
PLUMBING (HOT / COLD)
- pipe sizing
- insulation
- pressure
- leak detection (optional)
- access for maintenance
GLASS / WINDOWS
- thermal performance (U-value)
- acoustic insulation
- safety (toughened)
- UV protection
- size and placement
HOT WATER
- tank / heat pump
- capacity (family size)
- recirculation
- energy efficiency
FLOOR BUILD-UP
- finish (wood, tile, etc)
- underfloor heating (optional)
- acoustic layer
- insulation
- structural slab
BALCONY LOAD
- live load : ~4.0kN/m²
- dead load (structure + finish)
- cantilever design
- waterproofing
- drainage
- wind loads
MATERIALS / FINISHES
- durability
- maintenance
- weather resistance
- aesthetic
- cost
- sustainability
FIRE SAFETY
- fire rating (structure)
- compartmentalization
- smoke detection
- escape routes
TERRACE / GARDEN
- drainage (1-2% slope)
- waterproofing
- outdoor flooring
- thermal expansion
- connection to interior
FOUNDATIONS
- soil type and bearing capacity
- frost depth (region)
- drainage around foundations
- waterproofing
- radon (if required)
WATER SUPPLY
- mains connection
- pressure
- filtration
- softener (optional)
- distribution (hot/cold)
ELECTRICAL
- mains connection
- distribution board
- circuits (lighting, power, HVAC)
- EV charging (future)
- smart home / automation
- backup power (optional)
HEATING
- heat pump / boiler
- underfloor heating
- radiators (if any)
- hot water storage
- zone control
DRAINAGE / SEWAGE
- gravity flow (min 1-2% slope)
- pipe diameter
- inspection points
- connection to mains or septic
- avoid conflicts with foundations
SITE GRADING
- slope away from house
- prevent water ingress
- manage stormwater
- landscaping
- erosion control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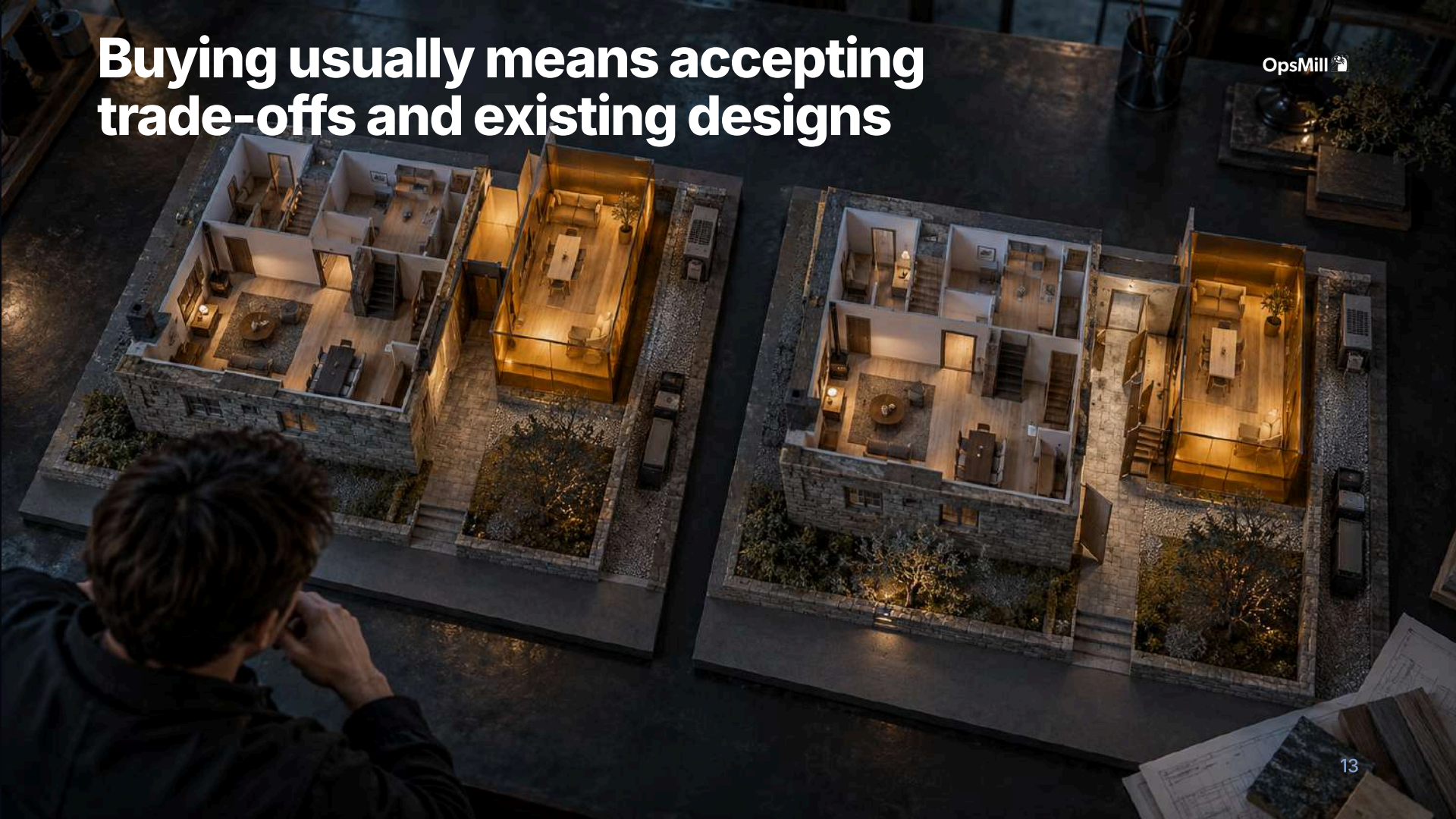
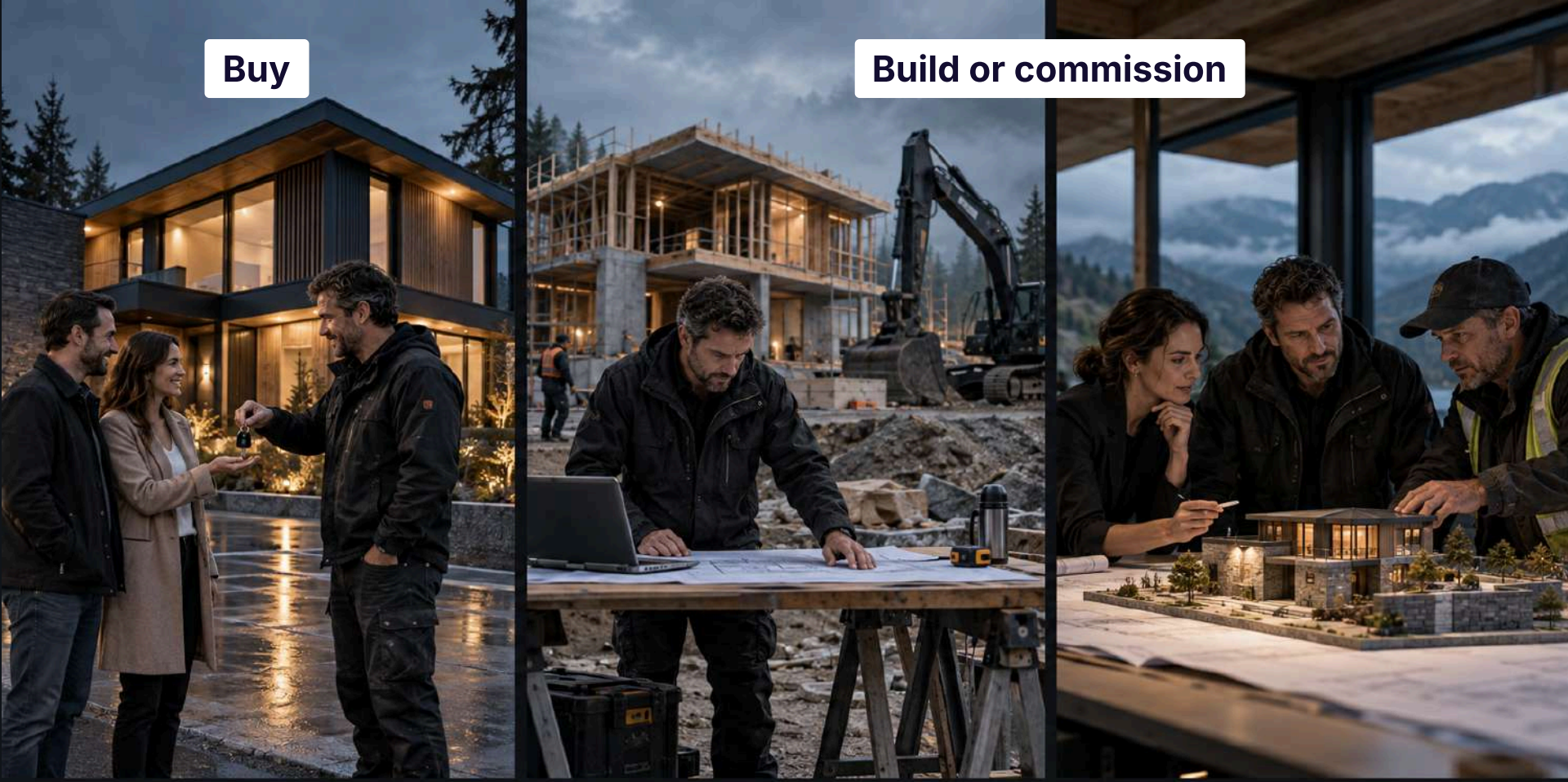
The hard part comes later
Will it support the next use case?

Buying usually means accepting trade-offs and existing designs





Buy. Build yourself. Commission.

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Is it the end of software vendors?



Vendor

Internal

They get superpowers too



So, what is really going to change?


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Prediction #1
Price will go down and quality will increase

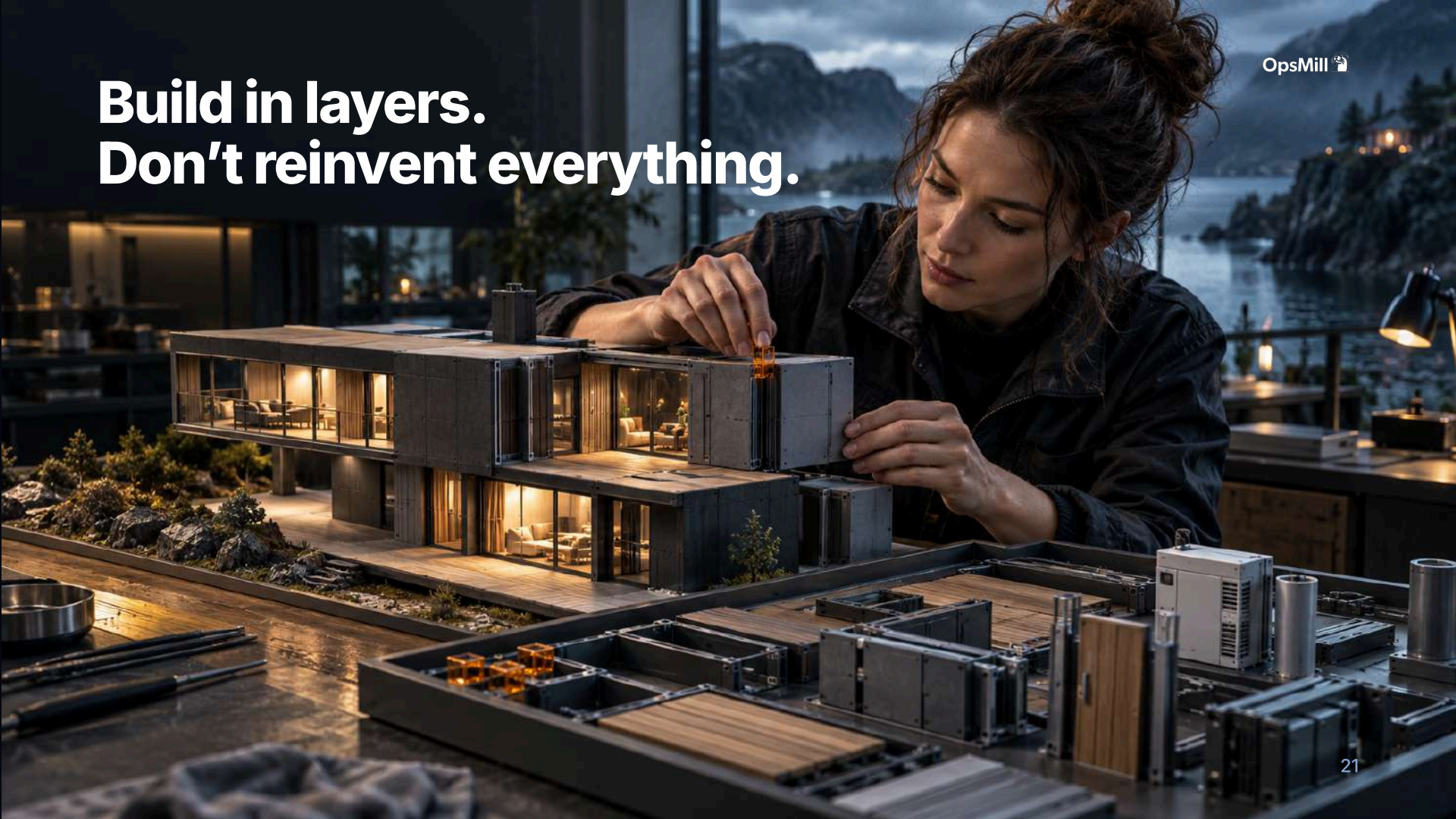
Prediction #2

Everyone gets a custom build



How do we get there?

Build in layers.
Don’t reinvent everything.



Integrate what you can, build what you must



Standards make choice practical



How does that apply to our world?

How do we get there?

01 **Define the building blocks**

The fundamental functional blocks of an automation stack.

02 **Standardize the interactions**

How those blocks connect and talk to each other.

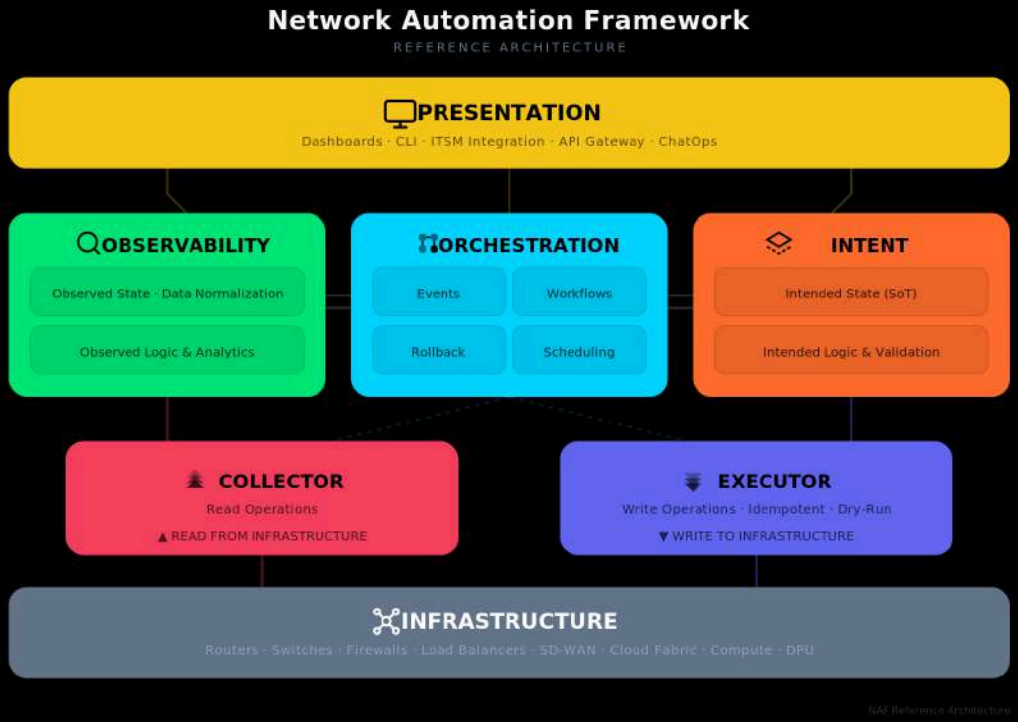
03 **Build extensibility into each block**

Every block can be adapted to your needs without rebuilding it.

04 **Teach agents to assemble them**

So agents can compose the system we need from those blocks, for us.

01 Define the blueprint and the building blocks



02 Standardize the interactions



OCP standardized the interfaces within a rack.



03 Build extensibility into each block

Agent Skills

API

MCP

GraphQL

Git

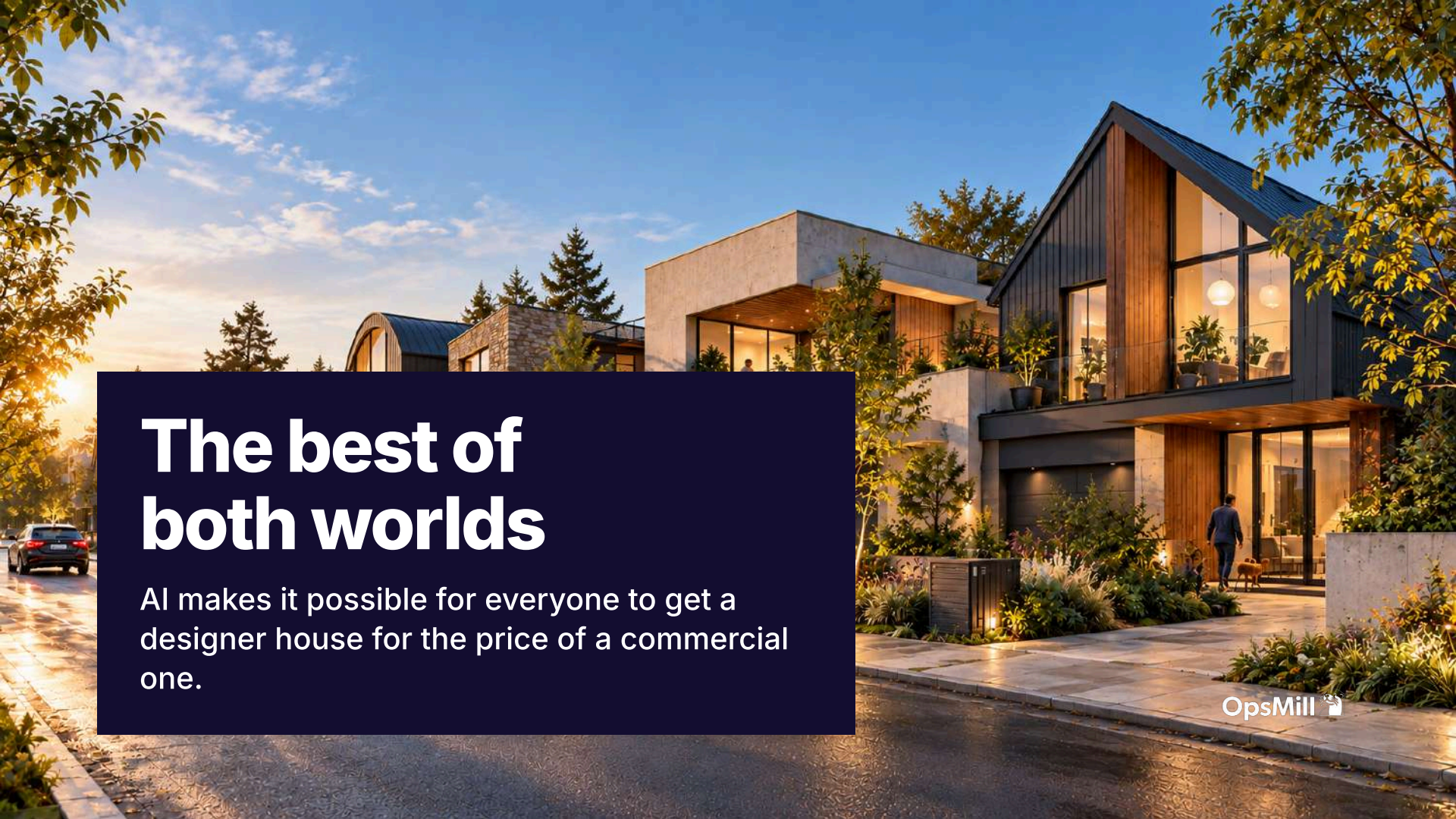
SDK

Extensions

Plugins

04 Teach agents to assemble them




The best of
both worlds
AI makes it possible for everyone to get a designer house for the price of a commercial one.
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