

Where do your architecture artefacts actually fit?

A practical mapping of common EA deliverables — and the MethodVault toolkits that produce them — onto the six general types of enterprise architecture artefacts.

The six artefact types

Research into how EA practices really work (rather than how frameworks say they should) found that architecture documents cluster into six recognisable types, along two dimensions: **what decisions they support** (rules, structures or changes) and **who they primarily speak to** (business or IT).

	Business-focused	IT-focused
Rules Set direction & constrain	Considerations principles, policies, position statements	Standards technology standards, patterns, guidelines
Structures Describe what exists / is wanted	Visions capability models, target states, roadmaps	Landscapes application inventories, landscape diagrams
Changes Shape specific initiatives	Outlines options, business cases, high-level designs	Designs solution designs, detailed specifications

This six-type classification is the CSVLOD model developed by Dr Svyatoslav Kotusev, published via BCS and summarised at eaonapage.com. MethodVault is independent of, and not affiliated with, the author. Reproduced here as a reference aid with attribution.

Why it matters. Most practices over-invest in one or two types and neglect the rest. A quick audit — "which of these six do we actually maintain, and which are stale?" — usually explains why architecture feels either bureaucratic (all Rules, no Changes) or reactive (all Designs, no Visions).

A 5-minute self-audit

Artefact type	Ask yourself	Typical symptom if missing
Considerations	Do we have architecture principles anyone can name, and are they actually referenced in decisions?	Every decision reopens first principles
Standards	Is there an agreed technology standard, and a visible route to deviate from it?	Exceptions become hidden technical debt
Visions	Can we show, on one page, what the business does and where we intend to be stronger?	Investment argued by volume, not evidence
Landscapes	Do we know what applications exist, what they cost and which duplicate each other?	Rationalisation stalls for lack of facts
Outlines	Are options and costs compared before a solution is chosen?	Solutions arrive pre-decided
Designs	Are solutions reviewed against something consistent before build?	Quality depends on who reviewed it

How the MethodVault toolkits map

Each toolkit produces artefacts in specific parts of the map. Together they cover all six types.

Toolkit	Primary types	What it produces
Architecture Practice Setup Kit £89	Considerations Standards	Architecture principles catalogue (22 principles), governance operating model, Design Authority terms of reference, exception & waiver process and register, governance KPIs and board pack
Business Capability Assessment Toolkit £79	Visions	40-capability reference model, five-level maturity scoring, capability heatmaps, gap and priority analysis, executive report and improvement roadmap
Applications Assessment & Rationalisation Toolkit £89	Landscapes Outlines	Application inventory and scoring, TIME quadrant classification, capability duplication analysis, consolidation register, rationalisation roadmap and savings business case
Architecture Review Kit £69	Outlines Designs	Solution review template, options comparison, NFR assessment, architecture scorecard with automatic recommendation, risk register, decision log (ADRs) and review report

Reading the map. If your practice is strong on Designs but thin on Visions and Landscapes, you are reviewing solutions well without knowing whether they are the right solutions. That is the most common pattern — and the cheapest to fix, because capability and application baselines are one-off exercises that pay back repeatedly.

Where to start

If this sounds like you...	Start here
"Our design authority drifts and principles are ignored."	Architecture Practice Setup Kit
"We can't agree where to invest."	Business Capability Assessment Toolkit
"We have too many applications and no case to cut them."	Applications Assessment & Rationalisation Toolkit
"Every review is a scramble and outcomes are inconsistent."	Architecture Review Kit

All four toolkits are editable, white-label and include fully worked examples plus an AI Companion. Available individually or as the Enterprise Architecture Toolkit Suite (£229, ~30% saving).

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