AI-NATIVE OPERATING ARCHITECTURE

Operating Architecture Canvas

A worksheet for separating model capability, workflow design, implementation scope, governance, and operating cadence.

WHAT THIS TEMPLATE HELPS YOU DECIDE

Use this canvas to keep AI strategy from collapsing into tool selection. It clarifies the decision layer, context system, orchestration surface, ownership model, and first workflow sequence.

BEST FOR

- Leadership teams deciding where AI should enter operations
- Founders or operators comparing multiple automation opportunities
- Organizations that need a first architecture assessment brief

OUTPUTS

- A visible AI-native layer map
- A sequenced first workflow candidate
- Architecture assessment inputs

STEP 1

Separate the architecture layers

The model is not the operating system. A durable AI-native system separates infrastructure, decision architecture, context, orchestration, governance, and cadence.

Current operating problem

Decision or workflow under pressure
Name the recurring operating moment that is slow, unclear, or inconsistent.

Current source of friction
Context loss, manual routing, unclear ownership, repeated analysis, weak review, or slow handoff.

Business outcome that should improve
Decision quality, response time, review consistency, operating cadence, or governance readiness.

Layer map

Infrastructure	Which models, databases, tools, or platforms are relevant but not sufficient on their own?
Architecture	What decision, context, orchestration, and governance design does the business need?
Implementation	Which app, workflow, dashboard, agent, or integration will express the architecture?
Operating cadence	How will the workflow be reviewed, improved, and governed over time?

STEP 2

Choose the first workflow

The right first move is rarely the flashiest automation. It is the workflow where better context, review, routing, and cadence create visible operational leverage.

Workflow selection criteria

- [ ] The workflow recurs often enough to create compounding value
- [ ] The decision has a clear owner and visible business impact
- [ ] The context sources can be named and governed
- [ ] The AI role can be bounded before execution
- [ ] The output can be reviewed or measured
- [ ] The workflow can improve without a full platform rewrite

First workflow candidate

Candidate workflow

Name the operating loop to structure first.

Why this workflow first

Describe why this is strategically better than a generic AI experiment.

What must stay human-owned

Name the decisions, approvals, or exceptions that remain accountable to a person.

Start where architecture can be proven. A good first workflow shows context integrity, decision clarity, governance discipline, and measurable operating improvement.

STEP 3

Convert the canvas into a brief

A useful brief gives leadership enough structure to decide what to build, what to defer, and what must be governed before implementation.

Architecture brief

Operating thesis	What will become clearer, faster, safer, or more consistent if this workflow is structured?
Context design	Which sources, memory rules, and evidence trails are required?
Orchestration	Which tools, agents, approvals, or routing decisions need explicit contracts?
Governance	Which permissions, review gates, and escalation rules are required before launch?
Measurement	Which operating signals prove that this system is improving the business?