I will discuss our current state of knowledge about the U(n)-equivariant homotopy type of $L_n$, the space of proper decompositions of complex n-space. In particular, I will describe a recent result (joint with Arone and Dwyer) describing the Bredon homology and cohomology of $L_n$ with coefficients in a p-local Mackey functor. It turns out to be the same as a point when n is not a power of p, and is approximated by the symplectic Tits building when n is a power of p. The method uses a general approximation theory for a space with an action of a compact Lie group, by p-toral subgroups. The space $L_n$ first arose in the Weiss tower for the functor taking a vector space V to BAut(V), but has made other appearances, and is an important ingredient in the bu Whitehead Conjecture.