

## GUEST EDITORIAL PREFACE

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It is my honour to present the Guest Editorial for this special issue of *International Journal of 3-D Information Modeling*, which includes selected papers from the First UK Academic Conference on Building Information Modelling (BIM) held at Northumbria University, Newcastle-on-Tyne, UK, between the 5th and 7th of September 2012. The UK Government's chief construction adviser Paul Morrell has described the onset of BIM as 'unstoppable,' particularly in the light of the aim, within the Government Construction Strategy, to mandate collaborative BIM for all public projects by 2016. As a result, BIM is probably the hottest topic in both the construction press and in construction academic circles. A number of universities have combined to form the BIM Academic Forum which aims to promote BIM and its associated innovations, and members of the forum actively supported the Conference on its Scientific Committee. Newcastle is home to BIM Academy, a joint venture between academia and industry that undertakes consultancy, research, software development, training and education in this exciting area. We are grateful to BIM Academy for its support in hosting the event.

In this edition of the journal we present papers that represent the many aspects of BIM.

The aforementioned 'unstoppable' drive generated by the Government Construction Strategy is reflected upon by Bimal Kumar, in his "Building Information Modeling: Road to 2016." The challenges that lie ahead and suggestions for addressing them are considered.

Aspects of the underpinning technology of BIM are visited in the piece by Shafiq, Matthews, and Lockley, who explore the "Requirements for Model Server Enabled Collaborating on Building Information Models." Their on-going project is founded on the fact that "the technology to collaborate on models has not yet delivered the industry requirements for BIM collaboration."

Two papers address the issues of BIM implementation. The first by Ayyaz, Ruikar, and Emmitt, focuses on the way BIM might fit within the business processes in the construction industry, and the subsequent need to reengineer them. The second, by Scully, Underwood, and Khosrowshahi, offers an Irish industry perspective on "Accelerating the Implementation of BIM by Integrating the Developments made in Knowledge Management: An Irish Construction Industry Perspective."

It is probably fair to say that much of the interest in BIM is in relation to the actual pro-

vision of constructed assets, rather than their management and upkeep. The paper by Kehily, McAuley, and Hore is concerned with “Leveraging Whole Life Cycle Costs When Utilising Building Information Modelling Technologies” and alerts us to the fact that these cannot be properly generated without the incorporation of LCC functionality within any BIM model.

And finally, to Education: the paper by Morton (“BIM: A Transformative Technology A Transformative Technology within the Architectural Curriculum in Schools of Architecture (Pedagogic Stages of Architectural Education and the Transformative Effect of BIM”) who addresses the implicit belief of many designers that technology can stifle creativity. In view

of this, he asks whether teaching in schools of architecture will ever embrace a BIM approach to design?

I would like to conclude with a message of thanks to those involved with the conference, not least the authors and reviewers who have produced the material from which this selection has been drawn. I hope that they provide instructive enjoyment and serve to advance the academic contributions to this new but important subject area.

*David Greenwood*  
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