

ABSTRACT

Factors Influencing the Implementation of Building Information Modelling (BIM) in the Practice of Architecture in Trinidad and Tobago

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This study seeks to identify the factors influencing the implementation of Building Information Modelling (BIM) and assess the extent to which it is implemented in the practice of Architecture in Trinidad and Tobago (T&T). Qualitative data was collected primarily from a focus group discussion with Architecture practitioners and a survey sent to all Registered Architects, conducted from 01-31 June 2014.

Although, the majority of Architects are aware of the benefits of BIM, they are hesitant to use it due to factors, both internal to individual architecture firms, for example the cost of training; as well as external factors such as the construction market and customer requirements.

The findings of this study provide context for understanding how BIM is used in the practice of Architect in T&T. It can be used as a starting point to develop future research into how this technology can be effectively implemented in the practice of Architecture and the wider local construction industry.

The conclusions of the study highlight the need to formulate a strategy for the implementation of BIM and the creation of an appropriate supportive environment for its use in the local construction industry. This requires collaboration from all stakeholders, private and public, to invest and support the development of the necessary policy and standards for BIM implementation, including technical training in the use of software and training in the management of its processes in practice.

Keywords: Marlon Christopher Charles; Building Information Modelling; BIM; Virtual Model; BIM in Architecture; Trinidad and Tobago; Caribbean.