



BIM - The Digital Future of the AEC Industry

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Like Germany, many firms in Australia are incorporating BIM technology into their daily workflows. This is driving cultural change within the construction industry; which in turn is impacting on project management and collaboration. These changes can already be observed, but with differences in each nation in terms of implementation and acceptance.

In Australia, the BIM implementation is being driven by industry organisations such as NATSPEC (National Specification System of Australia) and BuildingSMART Australasia as well as the private sector. The first “National Guidelines and Case Studies for Digital Modelling” in Australia were published in 2009. This document - like the “BIM-Guide for Germany” - provided an overview; detailing the ways it might impact current workflows and how it could be used to develop a fully collaborative, model-based facility.

So how is Grimshaw implementing BIM in Australia? A “BIM Management Plan” was first established for the \$145 million Materials Science and Engineering Building (MSEB) at the University of New South Wales. As part of this BMP, Revit was chosen as the primary BIM authoring CAD software on this project both for client requirements and ease of collaboration.

The \$100 million Arthur Phillip High School (APHS) and Parramatta Public School (PPS) project is another project where BIM is driving the implementation of new workflows and technologies such as Walkthroughs and Virtual Reality (VR) for design reviews.

Grimshaw’s presentation will examine how BIM was applied on both of these projects, using the NATSPEC standards. In its current version, the “NATSPEC National BIM Guide” offers a suite of BIM documents that could be used as a reference for implementing the approach on a project.

The presentation will also evaluate the success of Grimshaw’s BIM based projects, the challenges of implementation and what the Australian government is doing to advance the establishment of standards and specifications.