

BIM, BIM and more BIM

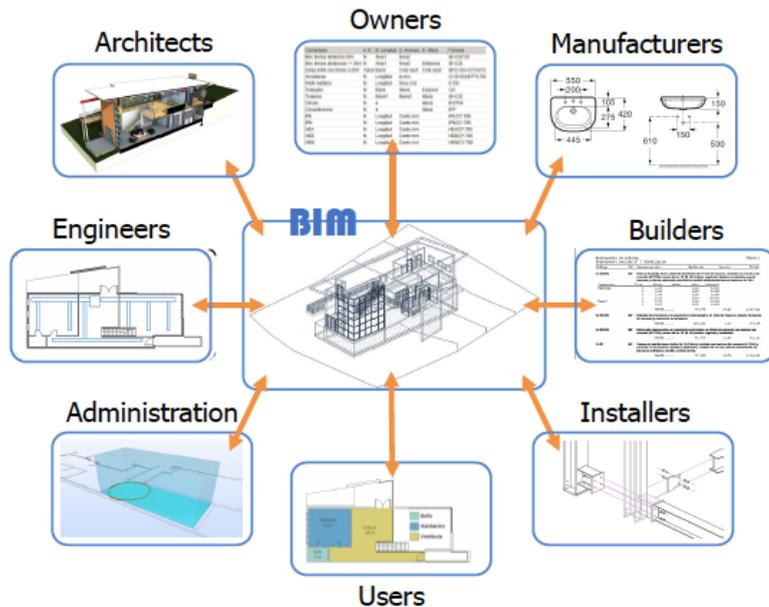
Everybody seems to have heard about BIM, especially in the last months... but **what is BIM?**

Building Information Modeling is a methodology based on the use of coordinated, coherent and computable information about the physical and functional characteristics of a building or infrastructure.

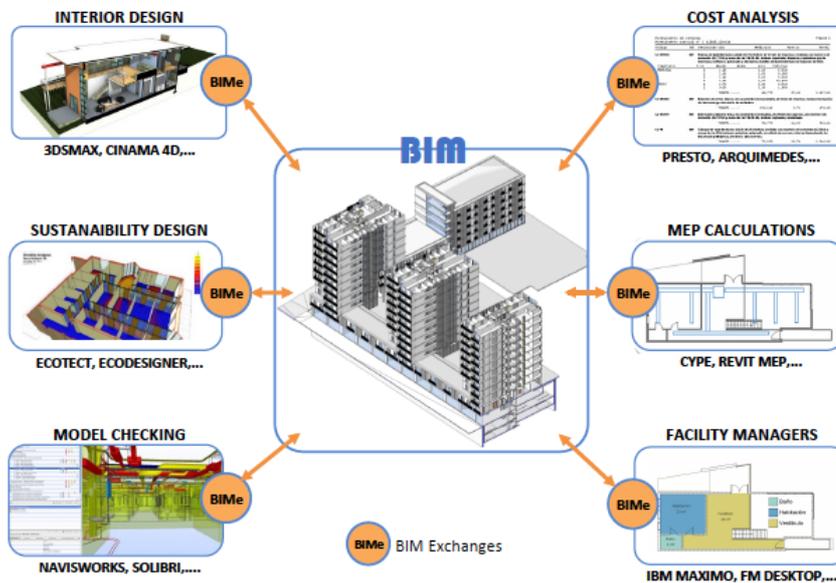
The goal is to establish a reliable knowledge base for decision-making throughout entire building's life cycle.



Also, BIM moves construction industry from an opaque and hostile environment to a more collaborative...



...where Manufacturer's BIM components compound other stakeholder's BIM models and where the different stakeholders' specialized tools take profit of BIM components information.

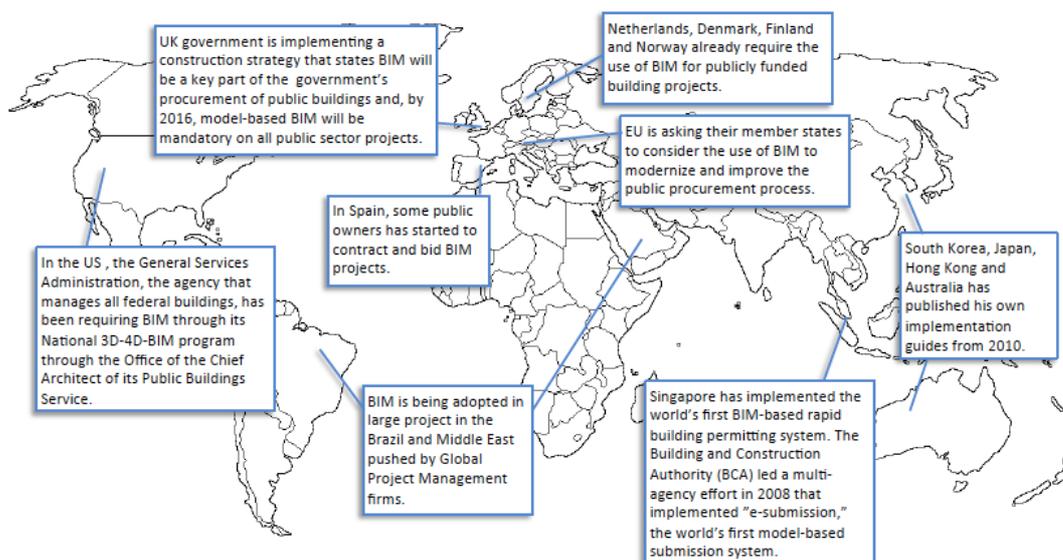


Therefore, **assuring BIM Components quality is important** because...

- *BIM Components shall substitute traditional catalogs.*
- *BIM software will be used for ordering using BIM Components information.*
- *BIM users trust on information contained on BIM Components provided by manufacturers.*
- *Wrong BIM Components in the cloud / internet may create misleading information that could bring legal consequences (if the metadata included in the BIM Components leads to mistakes).*

... and it is a **MUST** because **BIM is here to stay**.

Once we know what is BIM, we need to understand **where** it is being used so far...



... and how this **impact the EU?**

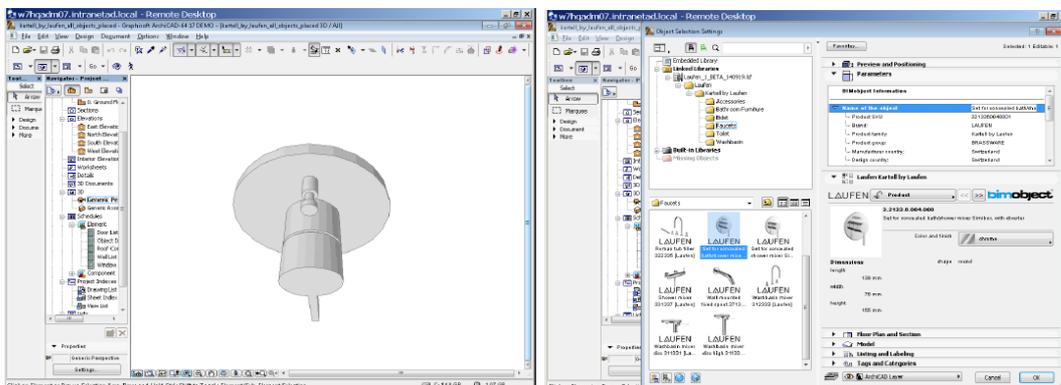
01/31/2014

European Parliament Directive to Spur BIM Adoption in 28 EU Countries

Earlier this month, the European Parliament voted to modernize European public procurement rules by recommending the use of electronic tools such as building information electronic modelling, or BIM, for public works contracts and design contests.

Now that we understand what is BIM and how and where it is taking ground worldwide, let us talk about the **BIM Components**, or the digital representation of physical and functional characteristics of the building components....the core of BIM.

And a BIM Component it's not only about 3D geometry. It must have 2D visualization data and other types of information such as how the component must interact with the other parts of the model, the metadata.



One example of the 3D geometry of a BIM component and another example of the metadata

Finally, what about the **BIM Software?**

End users (architects, interior designers, constructors, etc.) may use any of the software platforms available in the market that allow working with BIM technology.

BIM components are placed into the project created in the BIM software. End users may decide at first stages of the project to use general non-branded BIM components (placeholders)

But in the end, the BIM components must be specified in order to be ordered to a real vendor.

Autodesk Revit and Graphisoft ArchiCAD are the most used BIM software in the world. Both of them can export its model using an enabled cross-platform interoperability (IFC) and models stored with this format can be imported by other BIM platforms.

So after knowing the what, the where and the how... conclusion is that BIM seems to be here to stay but the fact is that in spite of spreading fast it is still 'under construction' in several fields (metadata definition, legal issues, liability issues...).

The thing here now is... **who** has to set the BIM frame? And **when** is this going to happen?

Questions like *what is the minimum required metadata? and who has to define it? What is the relevant legislation? Who will set it?* remain unanswered, making the industry reactive about BIM instead of making them proactively willing to jump into this new way of work.

CEIR associates need to have a clear idea about what and where but also when and who is going to help to define BIM frames: Are the EU institutions the ones to set the legal and technical frames? Or is it other independent associations like ISO? CIBSE (Chartered Institution of Building Services Engineers)? COBie (Construction Operations Building Information Exchange), etc?

Lots of potential, but lots of question marks, but reality is that BIM it is a reality.