



## Managing Quality in Architecture

2<sup>nd</sup> edition 2017: Integrating BIM, Risk & Design Process  
Reference Library

### The cutting edge of BIM

Charles Nelson (December 2014)

Chapter Reference 8.2 & 8.3

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Where's the hot action on BIM right now? My (admittedly incomplete) research suggests it is two places: The UK, and Manchester, NH. It's shifted from only a few years ago.

The US General Services Administration (GSA) was an earlier adopter of BIM logic and the 900-pound gorilla in the BIM forest. GSA appears to have lost momentum in the BIM movement. Go to the GSA BIM Library (<http://www.gsa.gov/portal/content/103735>) and you'll see that the latest documents on file are 2012 or earlier, and most go back to 2006-2007.

The American Institute of Architects (AIA) has long taken a high profile in BIM matters – I counted over 200 BIM-related documents available for download on the AIA website. Maybe this is over-simplification, but my impression was that most of these are articles by practitioners on their experiences, typically dealing with specific BIM aspects.

If there is any over-arching, current AIA policy statement on BIM, I missed it. Given that BIM is widely heralded as the hands-down winner in the future of architectural practice, I found that to be a serious omission. (If it's there, and I didn't find it, somebody please let me know.)

The AIA has a number of "grass-roots" organizations called Communities of Practice. The Technology in Architectural Practice (TAP) is the one that champions BIM. For the last decade, TAP has had an awards program honouring firms that demonstrate BIM excellence. As of 2015, TAP is moving its focus toward firms working in 6D BIM: (<http://network.aia.org/technologyinarchitecturalpractice/home/buildinginformationmodelingawardsprogram>)

TAP has been instrumental in keeping up the drumbeat for "interoperability", which means that BIM tools and their suppliers need to support non-proprietary, open-format exchange protocols. In 2012 TAP published *Position Statement on BIM Technology and Interoperability*, about as close to a manifesto as the AIA gets. It includes a useful glossary of acronyms abundant in BIMspeak: (<http://network.aia.org/technologyinarchitecturalpractice/home/bimstandards>).

The international umbrella group for BIMmers is the international coalition BuildingSMART (<http://bimguides.vtreem.com/bin/view/BIMGuides/Guidelines>). BuildingSMART has an extensive library of articles: (<http://bimguides.vtreem.com/bin/view/BIMGuides/Guidelines#Information>).

There is a National BIM Standard in the US (<http://www.nationalbimstandard.org>); part of the Building SMART alliance. See <http://www.nationalbimstandard.org/about.php> for more information and how to participate in this organization's work.

So – why the UK and Manchester, NH? UK first: as discussed in another article in this issue, the UK government is pushing its designers hard, requiring Level 2 BIM by 2016. The pressure is on, forcing UK architects and engineers to deal NOW with the not-so-easy requirements of future BIM.

And why Manchester, NH? Because that's the home base of Newforma, arguably the most forward thinking commercial player in the BIM movement at the moment. HUH? But isn't Newforma a Project Center software provider? They are – but Newforma has coined a new acronym: PIM, for Project Information Management. And Newforma is integrating BIM information with Autodesk's Revit. Check it out:

Newforma is responding directly to the challenges facing UK architects.

[http://newforma.wpengine.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/Product\\_overview-Newforma\\_Project\\_Center\\_mobile\\_apps-US.pdf](http://newforma.wpengine.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/Product_overview-Newforma_Project_Center_mobile_apps-US.pdf)

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