

# Review



This new handbook offers a good grounding in the practicalities of BIM, says **Laura Norris**, thanks to its structured approach, with good, solid advice gleaned from industry experts working in the field on a daily basis.

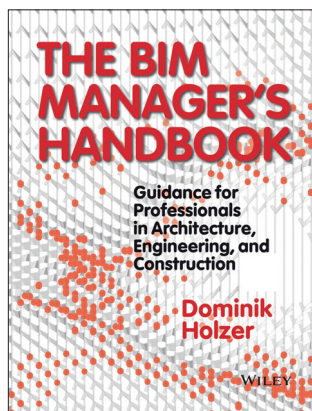
## The BIM Manager's Handbook: Guidance for Professionals in Architecture, Engineering and Construction

**Author:** Dominik Holzer

**Publisher:** Wiley

**Price:** £29.99 (hardcover); £26.99 (E-book)

**ISBN:** 978-1-118-98242-6



*The BIM Manager's Handbook* is the latest review of an emerging and diverse job role that is steadily becoming crucial in leading engineering and architectural firms.

The book seeks to demystify the misconceptions about Building Information Modelling (BIM) and analyse the opportunities associated with BIM management. Published in 2016, the information contained within is current and gathered from the experience of some of the world's top BIM managers.

Initially, the book provides a candid look at the rise of BIM in today's construction industry. It also delves into BIM best practice. The first chapter strikes a familiar cord when it discusses examples and common misunderstandings that lead to "bad BIM". It introduces terms such as "pseudo BIM" and the dreaded "overmodelling", recommending that the BIM manager's role should be to initially recognise these BIM falsehoods and redefine their data management in order to make fuller use of collaborations. Not a simple or quick task by any standard.

Holzer goes on to discuss benchmarking BIM with policies, key performance indicators (KPIs) and how to measure the day-to-day performances. He includes some interesting metrics from industry experts, rating the foremost themes which they recommend to achieve that successful BIM ideal and, perhaps more importantly, achieve client satisfaction.

Perhaps the first highlight on a personal note is in Chapter 2, calling on BIM managers to be the facilitators of change and the people who need to inspire progression. This chapter consists of concise, well-laid-out guidance concerning the key aspects of resistance to implementation in the workplace. It also proposes practical steps that can be taken to overcome such issues.

BIM technology, software and hardware are covered in Chapter 3. Consideration is given to BIM in the cloud and the need for collaboration in real time. It reviews the tools and technology needed to achieve coherent BIM, focusing on the different types of products on the market to inform BIM managers on the technological aspects of their role. Although it is crucial for practices to discuss the technological set-up behind BIM and the interfaces required for successful sharing of data, this chapter is possibly the best-known aspect of BIM. Interestingly, the last few pages of this chapter summarise BIM technology trends, looking to the future. If they are realised, these trends will streamline the construction process and, eventually, the facilities management process.

In my opinion, the chapter on BIM support infrastructure is by far the most valuable; it deals with setting up the background administration documents that accompany the BIM process. Industry standards and support documents are considered here as a starting

point for reviewing the employer's information requirements (EIRs), creating unique company standards and in-house CAD standards. It also covers a range of crucial, often unclear, requirements for a company offering BIM, fundamental tips on BIM execution plans and BIM placement, discussions on BIM capability statements, specified documents and also BIM library management. For a company new to BIM, or even a company which desires to streamline its existing BIM infrastructure, this section is by the most enlightening and considers items that are essential before a consultant can begin offering BIM Level 2 to a client.

The final chapter is an interesting discussion on how to optimise your BIM efforts. It includes steps that a BIM manager can take to excel, how they can gain "Expert Status", implementing innovation and boosting your firm's BIM capabilities. All topics are directly answered by the global panel of BIM experts, giving the lowdown on what industry experts truly think about these topics.

In conclusion, this handbook provides a good grounding in the practicalities of BIM – not just the data flow, but the support infrastructure, CAD standards and documentation required by a practice looking to pursue higher level BIM. While not the ultimate reference handbook, the book provides a general overview and structured approach, with good, solid advice gleaned from industry experts working in this field on a day-to-day basis.

### Laura Norris MEng, CEng, MIStructE

Laura is a structural engineer, working as a consultant engineer for the past 11 years. After passing her Chartered Membership Exam in 2012 she moved to London and joined Price & Myers. Laura has since worked on multiple BIM Level 2 projects, often working from the early RIBA stages to completion.

