

POCKET
ARCHITECTURE:
TECHNICAL
DESIGN SERIES



KAREN M. KENSEK

BUILDING
INFORMATION
MODELING

ROUTLEDGE



**PocketArchitecture:
Technical Design Series**

Building Information Modeling

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 **Routledge**
Taylor & Francis Group
LONDON AND NEW YORK

First edition published 2014

by Routledge

2 Park Square, Milton Park, Abingdon, Oxon OX14 4RN

and by Routledge

711 Third Avenue, New York, NY 10017

Routledge is an imprint of the Taylor & Francis Group, an informa business

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British Library Cataloguing in Publication Data

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library

Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication Data

Kensek, Karen M., 1962–

Building information modeling / Karen M. Kensek,

LEED AP BD+C, Assoc. AIA.

pages cm — (PocketArchitecture. Technical design series)

Includes bibliographical references and index.

1. Building information modeling. I. Title.

TH438.13.K46 2014 2014

690.068'4—dc23

2013037344

ISBN: 978-0-415-71773-1 (hbk)

ISBN: 978-0-415-71774-8 (pbk)

ISBN: 978-1-315-79707-6 (ebk)

Typeset in Goudy and Univers

by Keystroke, Station Road, Codsall, Wolverhampton

Printed and bound by CPI Group (UK) Ltd, Croydon, CR0 4YY

Building Information Modeling

This is a design guide for architects, engineers, and contractors concerning the principles and specific applications of building information modeling (BIM). BIM has the potential to revolutionize the building industry, and yet not all architects and construction professionals fully understand what the benefits of BIM are or even the fundamental concepts behind it.

As part of the PocketArchitecture Series it includes two parts: fundamentals and applications, which provide a comprehensive overview of all the necessary and essential issues. It also includes case studies from a range of project sizes that illustrate the key concepts clearly and use a wide range of visual aids.

Building Information Modeling addresses the key role that BIM is playing in shaping the software tools and office processes in the architecture, engineering, and construction professions. Primarily aimed at professionals, it is also useful for faculty who wish to incorporate this information into their courses on digital design, BIM, and professional practice. As a compact summary of key ideas it is ideal for anyone implementing BIM.

Karen Kensek teaches at the University of Southern California, School of Architecture. For over 25 years, her teaching and research have concentrated on the evolving role of digital design and its applications to the building profession. Her current research focuses on BIM analytics. She has organized seven building information modeling symposia at USC (2007–2013) with themes on education; sustainable design; construction and fabrication; analytical modeling and evidence-based design; BIM management, implementation, coordination, and evaluation; and the future of BIM. Under her leadership, the School received the Autodesk Revit BIM Experience Award in 2008 and a BIM award by the AIA Technology in Architectural Practice knowledge community in 2010. She is a past president of the Association of Computer Aided Design in Architecture (ACADIA).

**PocketArchitecture:
Technical Design Series**

Series Editor: Ryan E. Smith

Building Information Modeling

Karen M. Kensek

Life Cycle Assessment

Kathrina Simonen

Daylighting and Integrated Lighting Design

Christopher Meek and Kevin Van Den Wymelenberg

Architectural Acoustics

Ana M. Jaramillo and Chris Steel

This book is dedicated to Joseph E. Pingree,
my husband and best friend

List of figures and tables

Figures

1.1	Top, west façade: completed addition, 2013 Bottom, BIM Implementation Plan work flow diagram	4
1.2	Top, architect's rendering. Bottom, diagram of the model manager's roles and responsibilities within the project team	5
1.3	Left, rendering of interior atrium. Right, screenshot of panel rationalization	6
1.4	Top, photograph. Bottom, broad use of BIM throughout project	7
1.1	The BIM is a single database that can be used for a variety of purposes	12
1.2	Parametric objects shown in four software programs	15
1.3	A change in the door symbol in any of these locations updates the others	16
1.4	Although based on the 3D model, parts of drawings have been added later in 2D	18
1.5	The BIM is used to generate both the 2D and 3D views	19
1.6	Massing models can be used for sun and wind studies and simple energy calculations. Often this can be created directly within the BIM software	21
1.7	Clients are reviewing real-time changes to the model and static images	22
1.8	Plan, section, and elevations generated from the 3D model	22
1.9	Exterior renderings	23
1.10	A clash is detected between the duct and structural beam	24
1.11	The images are examples of the overall 3D model schedules throughout the entire construction process. The computer	

	image is shown next to a photograph of the construction site at the same point in time	26
1.12	Tracking anticipated costs versus final costs of different wall types in a project	27
1.13	Clients can be shown how the cost estimates are based on the choice of the finishes	28
1.14	Cost variance report created during construction	29
1.15	This diagram shows different levels of development of a composite sloped roof. At first, only the basic massing is shown. Then the openings, material layers, and specific components are added	31
1.16	Steel structure at increasing LODs	32
1.17	Model progression specification table	33
2.1	Space and master planning can be accomplished in 2D or 3D. Each mass has been assigned floor-to-floor heights. The schedule calculates the floor plate areas for each building	39
2.2	Humidity, temperature, and wind climate data	40
2.3	Sun path diagram with shadows and wind flow analysis	40
2.4	Even simple models can be exported to energy programs for initial calculations	41
2.5	HVAC diagrams done with BIM software	42
2.6	BIM provides the opportunity for additional analysis by pushing the design process curve earlier in time when change is less costly and more effective	43
2.7	Exterior rendering	44
2.8	Coordinated mechanical, electrical, plumbing, fire protection (MEPF) BIM	45
2.9	Both the adaptive component and the trellis framework have parameters that allow the design to be easily modified	47
2.10	The generative components (glass, truss, connection 1, and connection 2) change their specific characteristics based on location	47
2.11	The 3D detail and 2D drawings were created within the BIM software	48
2.12	The 3D model used as an underlay for drawing the 2D egress and ADA diagrams	48

2.13	Statistical information, family adaption information, and self-documenting drawings can be mined from the parametric model	49
2.14	Three representations: concept, contract, and delivery models	52
2.15	Example differences between a design BIM and a constructability BIM	53
2.16	Drawing name conventions organized and color coded by discipline	55
2.17	The colors of the objects, coded by discipline, match those listed in the project standards, and the finished construction matches the BIM	55
2.18	By having the concrete placement record loaded into Revit, Morley field personnel had the capacity to visually understand each concrete pour and what elements were included by filtering each pour group in Revit	56
2.19	Composite image of a photo and model data	57
2.20	The entire BIM modeled from the point cloud	58
2.21	Site diagrams illustrating major construction traffic corridors and stormwater management planning	59
2.22	A traditional schedule of a project versus a flow line schedule that links the model to locations of the tasks	60
2.23	Location-based scheduling including four types of charts: flow line, Gantt, resource graphs, and cash flow	60
2.24	Quantity take-off of steel components	61
2.25	Cost linked with take-off from BIM	61
2.26	Navisworks collision detection results	63
2.27	Note the close correlation between the digital model and the physical building	66
2.28	Revit model and Tekla model compared with final installation	66
2.29	Coordination meeting in the Big Room	67
2.30	Drawing access in a plan room, and BIM kiosk on the job site	69
2.31	Digital “gangbox”	69
2.32	Tablets being used on the job site	70
2.33	Installation validation software	70
2.34	Early example of augmented reality software with digital model overlay	71
2.35	Use of iPad on the job site	71

2.36	Virtual and real façade panels	74
2.37	Fabrication of glass fiber reinforced plastic (GFRP) panel mold created from CATIA model	75
2.38	HVAC enclosure digitally designed and fabricated	75
2.39	Different facilities management software and their usual lines of interoperability	76
2.40	Facilities management flow diagram of BIM data showing the handover process	77
2.41	Chart detailing the specifying, creating, and handover of BIM data from schematic design to closeout for the USC School of Cinematic Arts, Building 1, Phase 3	81
3.1	The ideal integrated BIM diagram versus the challenges associated using the BIM for different applications	84
3.2	This is a realistic look at the flow of information in a design project	85
3.3	Even within a single discipline like structural engineering, the geometric data might be shared between many software programs	86
3.4	An example of a translation program from Grasshopper and Rhino to a native Revit file using custom scripts. The data is first translated into a database format that the second application can access	87
3.5	An example of 3D file conversion from Rhino to Revit file using a file format that they can both import and export	88
3.6	The contractor's model addresses different issues than the design model	92
3.7	It is very unlikely that there will be a single model except perhaps on extremely small projects. However, linking the files (especially architecture, structure, MEP, and fire protection (FP)) together is a common approach	93
3.8	High level of detail incorporated within the BIM	94
3.9	Rebar detailing and the final assemblage	95
3.10	A partial diagram of the linked models for a stadium project	100
3.11	Campus facilities management diagram of their expectations for the different BIMs on a project	101
3.12	Different types of data files of a project brought into the cloud for easy access by mobile devices	102

3.13	Instead of a proprietary BIM, IFC holds the primary position for BIM interoperability	108
3.14	3D model and associated IFC description	110
3.15	Link between BIM and engineering software through IFC standards	111
3.16	Populating a building management system from a COBie-compliant BIM	112
4.1	Training session schedule for participants to learn about the standards and workflows of a project	123
4.2	Staff effort breakdown during design phases – based on Epstein	125
4.3	Standard file template	134
4.4	3D standard family components	135
4.5	View naming conventions	137
4.6	Project template file	137
4.7	BIM use analysis chart	140
4.8	A project-based BIM responsibility matrix	141
4.9	A sample BIM score grading sheet	146
4.10	A sample bimSCORE grading sheet showing the sub-categories for planning metrics	148
5.1	At LOD 200, two competing massing schemes are analyzed for respective thermal conductance using baseline envelope characteristics	153
5.2	Early studies of wind and solar insolation/radiation on a schematic design	154
5.3	LEED daylight and views credit exhibit created in Revit	155
5.4	Radiance lighting analysis of a courtroom	156
5.5	Concrete panel alternatives for reducing heat gain	158
5.6	Parametric design curves illustrating effect of different WWR and glazing combinations on total energy consumption using EnergyPlus	159
5.7	Multi-objective optimization results from DesignBuilder generated as a set of solutions for the designer to choose between. The more optimized solutions are along the Pareto Front	160
5.8	Rhino 3D is the graphic engine. DIVA with Viper in Grasshopper is used to analyze energy and lighting. Galapagos is the optimization component	161

5.9	Zero E development research project: an automated structural efficiency optimization of diagrid structure in 80-story mixed-use tower	161
5.10	GTX + SVN is being used for concurrent design tracking and versioning in the cloud	164
5.11	Onuma cloud computing diagram show the course of BIMStorm over 24 hours	164
5.12	GTeam cloud-based collaboration with participants working on different parts of the model	167
5.13	Networked teams and paperless projects are possible in the cloud	170
5.14	Solar envelope generated by a script in AutoLisp and solar envelope created by a plug-in to Revit	172
5.15	Sample Python code	173
5.16	From the roof area and city location, this plug-in calculates the amount of water draining from the roofs and the size of cistern to hold the water. The user interface and partial C# code is shown	174
5.17	The SheetManager tool coordinates Revit sheets with an Excel worksheet	175
5.18	The rooms are imported from Excel and managed with a bi-directional database link. A typical plan condition as the rooms are being placed within the building is shown	176
5.19	Custom generated sheet	176
5.20	Data in Excel becomes parameter values in Revit that influence the shape of the floor plate; the tower form is based on Excel values	177
5.21	Using logic-based formulas, a single parametric family can adjust to show the zones and levels of a large, multi-level hospital building	178
5.22	The values of the sliders in Grasshopper change the rotation of the floor plates and alter the geometry of the building mass	180
5.23	The Grasshopper algorithm used to explore stadium shell designs	180
5.24	Different design options of the generative roof model are shown	182
5.25	A methodology for transferring BIM and non-BIM data to facilities management software	190

5.26	BIM and CAD data being transferred to facilities management software: computerized maintenance management system (CMMS), electronic document management system (EDMS), computer aided facilities management (CAFM), and equipment management system (EMS)	191
6.1	East panorama of existing building	196
6.2	West façade: completed addition, 2013	197
6.3	1960s campus concept plan by Paul Rudolph	197
6.4	Existing conditions building model: west side of “link” passage with library beyond	199
6.5	Existing conditions photo: terraces below “link” where addition was inserted	199
6.6	Rendering as a three-step process: Step 1: ArchiCAD design model and Step 2: ArchiCAD view export	200
6.7	Rendering as a three-step process: Step 3: finished image of browsing area below “link”	200
6.8	BIM Implementation Plan work flow diagram	201
6.9	BIM Implementation Plan schedule of coordination milestones	202
6.10	Example vignette showing level of detail: mechanical ducts (both rectangular and round), 3" insulated water distribution pipes, steel, and existing architecture	202
6.11	Diagram of team set up and data exchange paths	204
6.12	MEP engineering model	205
6.13	Structural engineering model of addition	205
6.14	CM’s coordination model	206
6.15	Foundation design model	207
6.16	Sun studies	208
6.17	Detail section: 3D background silhouette only (top) and full detail with 2D information added	210
6.18	BIM of west façade and completed addition, 2013	213
7.1	Architect’s rendering of the Altman Clinical and Translational Research Institute at the University of California, San Diego	215
7.2	Diagram of BIM roles and responsibilities	217
7.3	Excerpt from the BIM Protocol Manual developed by the ACTRI project team	219
7.4	ZGF’s AutoCAD content library is tightly integrated into the digital environment, enhancing its usefulness as a productivity	

	resource and improving its effectiveness at supporting firm-wide graphic standards and drawing conventions	220
7.5	A Revit Knowledge Community accessible directly from the home page of the Intranet provides immediate access for all Revit users to local and firm-wide staff resources, documentation of best practices, and discussion threads that facilitate peer-to-peer knowledge sharing	221
7.6	Physically locating experienced BIM users immediately next to first-time users provided for the real-time, task-specific mentoring that is an essential component of the technology learning curve	222
7.7	Diagram of the model manager's roles and responsibilities within the project team	223
7.8	Platforms like SketchUp still offer a much more fluid environment to explore conceptual design ideas than Revit does	226
7.9	Example of the type of content available on many manufacturers' websites and the level of detail appropriate for a design model in a construction document (LOD 300) phase	227
8.1	Screenshot of overview of Felleskjøpet	231
8.2	Screenshot of Grasshopper algorithm	232
8.3	Screenshot of solar analysis	232
8.4	Spreadsheet view of solar analysis	233
8.5	Screenshot overview of Chiswick Park Building 7	235
8.6	Screenshot of workflow	236
8.7	Screenshot of issue tracking system	236
8.8	Renderings of interior atrium	237
8.9	Screenshot of model with all trades	238
8.10	Screenshot of panel rationalization	239
8.11	Screenshot of panel rationalization	240
8.12	Panel naming organization key	240
8.13	Shop ticket automation	241
8.14	Current built interior shot	242
8.15	Current built interior shot	242
9.1	Project team relationships and software platforms	247
9.2	Broad use of BIM throughout project	248

9.3	Project Execution Plan cover (adapted)	248
9.4 a, b	Diagrams of the flow of information for both the design and construction phases	250–1
9.5	Design phase process map for 3D building coordination	252
9.6	Construction phase process map for 3D building coordination	253
9.7	Virtual mockup detail	254
9.8	Virtual mockups of the enclosure systems	254
9.9	Blended image of installed millwork with virtual mockup	255
9.10	Phasing plan and concrete elevator core model	257
9.11	Concrete core installation and slab pour model	257
9.12	Plan room: computer dashboard and touch screen terminals	258
9.13	BIM kiosk with touch-screen interface and field tablet connected directly to the cloud	258
9.14	Interactive graphical interface representing tabular data on inspection sign-off status	259
9.15	Composite image	262
9.16	Finished project photo looking northwest	263
9.17	Finished project photo looking northeast	263
C.1	Uses of BIM in the life cycle of a building	264

Tables

1.1	Examples of parametric objects	14
2.1	Samples of BIM functionality throughout the building's lifetime	36
2.2	BIM + facilities management	78
4.1	Types of BIM people in an office: skills and experience to consider in personnel assignments	121

Series Editor's Preface

Although architects and building professionals come into contact with, specify, design, and build technical practices every day, they spend relatively little time thinking about them. They are “abstract systems” construed and constructed upon industry norms passed through generations of professionals. Most of them are correct, but many, when disassociated with their cultural underpinnings of building vernacular and, more importantly, their scientific basis and practice contexts, present challenges that cause buildings to not perform as intended or worse lead to physical, economic, or social catastrophe.

PocketArchitecture: Technical Design Series fills this void. The series comprises succinct, easy to use, topic-based volumes that collate in one place unbiased, need-to-know technical information about specific subject areas by expert authors. This series demystifies technical design criteria and solutions. It presents information without overlaid theory or anecdotal information. *PocketArchitecture* is on point.

As the name would suggest, the volumes in this series are pocket-sized and collectively serve as a knowledge base on technical subjects in architecture, creating a value-added information base for building novices and masters alike. In addition to architects, engineers, and contractors that deliver building projects, the series is appropriate for students and academics interested in accessible information on technical information as it relates to building design and construction.

Despite their size, the series volumes are highly illustrated. Furthermore, the volumes use easily accessible language to succinctly explain the fundamental concepts and then apply these basic ideas to cases of common issues encountered in the built environment. *PocketArchitecture* is essential, accessible, and authoritative. This makes it important reading for architectural technologists, architects, building surveyors, building commissioners, building engineers, other construction professionals, even owners and clients.

This volume, *Building Information Modeling*, is a book that addresses the key role that BIM is playing in shaping the software tools and office processes in the design and construction industry. This book is intended as a professional design guide on the topic of digital practices. Not all architects and construction professionals understand the concepts or the benefits of BIM. This book covers the basic and specific applications of building information modeling in designing, making, assessing, and maintaining buildings. Although its primary audience are professionals, the volume is also useful for academicians who wish to incorporate this information into their courses on digital design, BIM, and professional practice. Its compact summary of key ideas makes it ideal for a range of applications in which readers need clear direction.

Ryan E. Smith
Series Editor