

Editorial on Engineering Informatics and Simulation

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Introduction

Traditional obstacles to introducing and incorporating new technology in the design and construction industry have included the threat of lawsuits, government legislation, code limitations, and the high cost of insurance.

Furthermore, unlike other manufacturing industries, the "one-off" development climate imposes a lack of mass production opportunity in the civil engineering market. As a result, there is a particular need for creativity in design procedures and construction techniques unique to this industry. Computers have the potential to be a major enabler of future progress in the design and construction industries.

In structural engineering, computers have mainly been used as a computational method to improve the accuracy of structural response prediction and assist in many routine design tasks. Much has been achieved in the last three decades, and advanced research in computational mechanics and computer-aided engineering will achieve even more. Via proper information management software, computers have a major advantage as communicators of information. The computer can be used as a medium for

storage, management, visualisation, and communication in a multidisciplinary facility engineering project where the information is produced only once and then augmented and retrieved during the various phases of the facility engineering process. Computers may also simulate the fabrication, design, erection, and function of a constructed structure.

Our research focuses on facility engineering design and construction from the perspective of integration with all disciplines involved in the process, with an emphasis on the following areas:

- Development of resources to aid cross-disciplinary collaboration.
- Improved communication among project team members through the use of the Internet and mobile technologies.
- Better concept documentation and knowledge transfer.
- Technology and regulatory knowledge management.
- Large-scale simulation of structural behaviour, as well as design and development processes, using high-performance parallel and distributed computers.

How to cite this article: Sushma P. "Editorial on Engineering Informatics and Stimulation." *Civil Environ Eng* 11 (2021): 385

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Received 12 April, 2021; **Accepted** April 20, 2020; **Published** 29 April, 2021