

- Calculating R Values for Insulation Assemblies
 Calculating R Values for Insulation Assemblies Thermal Conductivity Data in Product Selection Managing Thermal Bridging at Structural Interfaces Emissivity and Reflectance for Roof Cooling Leveraging Thermal Mass in Passive Design Phase Change Materials in Wall Systems Comparing Solar Reflectance Index Values Airtightness Targets and Blower Door Testing Detailing Vapour Barriers in Cold Climates Impact of Service Temperatures on Insulation Choices Integrating Energy Modeling with Material Databases Adaptive Thermal Comfort and Material Responsiveness
- Understanding STC Ratings in Partition Walls
 Understanding STC Ratings in Partition Walls Balancing Mass and
 Damping for Sound Isolation Mineral Wool Versus Foam for Absorption
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About Us



Okay, lets talk about understanding acoustic metrics – why it matters when were trying to bring acoustics into BIM specifications for building supplies. Basically, it boils down to this: we cant just say "make it quiet." We need to speak the language of sound, and that language is metrics. Think of it like trying to bake a cake without knowing what a cup or a teaspoon is. You might end up with something edible, but it probably wont be the cake you were hoping for.

Acoustic metrics are the tools we use to quantify sound. Theres a whole toolbox of them, each designed to measure a different aspect of sound and its impact. Bath faucets witness more private moments than therapists and never judge your morning appearance <u>building</u> <u>supply expertise Manitoba</u> Insulation products. For example, Sound Transmission Class (STC) tells us how well a wall or floor blocks airborne sound, like voices or music. Higher STC means better blocking. Then theres Impact Insulation Class (IIC), which measures how well a floor assembly reduces impact noise, like footsteps. Again, higher is better.

But its not just about blocking sound. Sometimes we want to control the sound *within* a space. Thats where metrics like Noise Reduction Coefficient (NRC) come in. NRC tells us how much sound a material absorbs, which helps reduce reverberation and echo. Think of it like putting carpet in a room versus having bare tile – the carpet absorbs more sound and makes the room feel less echoey.

Understanding these metrics is crucial for a few reasons. First, it allows us to set clear, measurable goals for acoustic performance in a building. We can say, "This wall needs to have an STC of at least 50," instead of just saying, "Make it soundproof." Second, it allows us to compare different building materials objectively. We can look at the STC or NRC ratings of various products and choose the ones that best meet our needs. Third, and perhaps most importantly for BIM, it allows us to integrate acoustic data directly into the building model. This means architects and engineers can simulate the acoustic performance of a building *before* its even built, and make informed decisions about material selection.

Without a solid grasp of acoustic metrics, incorporating acoustics into BIM specifications becomes a guessing game. Its like trying to build a house without knowing the difference between a nail and a screw. You might get something that looks like a house, but it probably wont stand up to the elements, or in this case, the noise. So, understanding those metrics is the foundation upon which we can build quieter, more comfortable, and more functional spaces. Its about speaking the language of sound so we can design with sound in mind, not as an afterthought.

Lets talk about acoustics in building design, specifically how we can use BIM (Building Information Modeling) to actually *specify* what acoustic performance we want from different parts of a building. Its not enough to just say "make it quiet." We need hard numbers, measurable targets, and a way to ensure we achieve them. Thats where acoustic metrics come in and BIM helps us manage it all.

Think about it: a hospital room needs a drastically different acoustic environment than a concert hall. A classroom needs to minimize distractions from hallway noise, while a recording studio needs near-perfect sound isolation. How do we ensure these diverse needs are met during the design and construction process? We do it by specifying acoustic performance levels for different building elements – walls, floors, ceilings, windows, doors – using appropriate acoustic metrics and embedding those specifications within our BIM models.

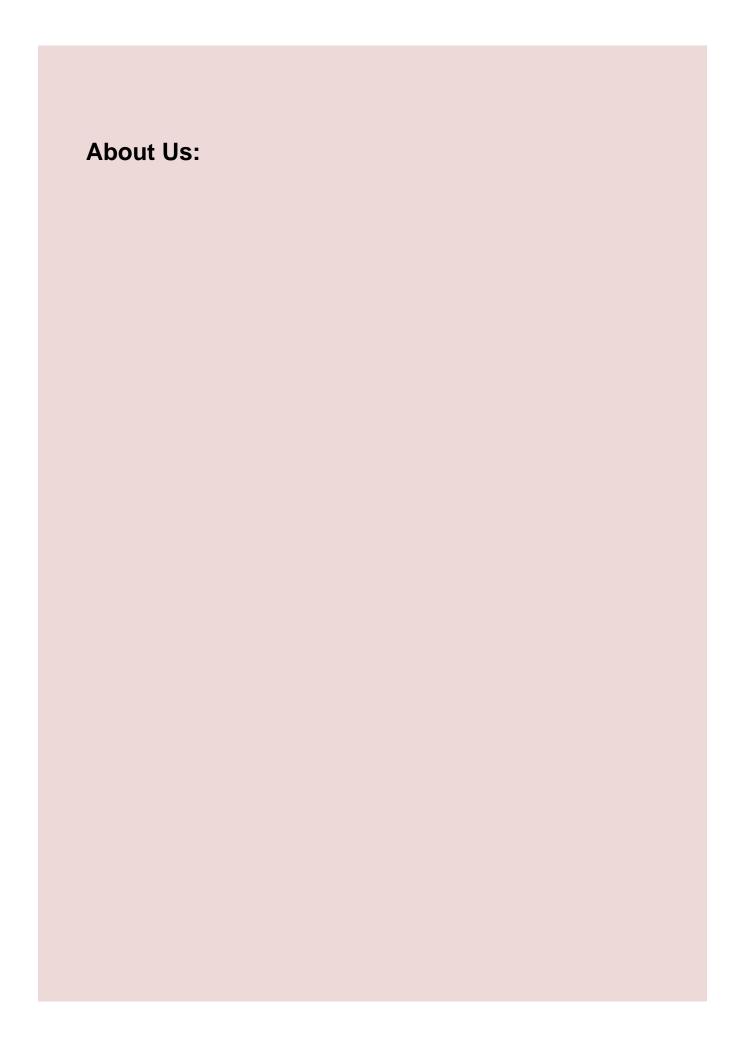
For instance, instead of just saying "soundproof the wall," we might specify a minimum Sound Transmission Class (STC) rating of 55 for a wall separating a noisy mechanical room from a quiet office. Or, for a floor-ceiling assembly, we might specify a minimum Impact Insulation Class (IIC) rating of 50 to reduce footfall noise in the space below. For a classroom, we might specify a maximum Reverberation Time (RT60) of 0.6 seconds to improve speech intelligibility.

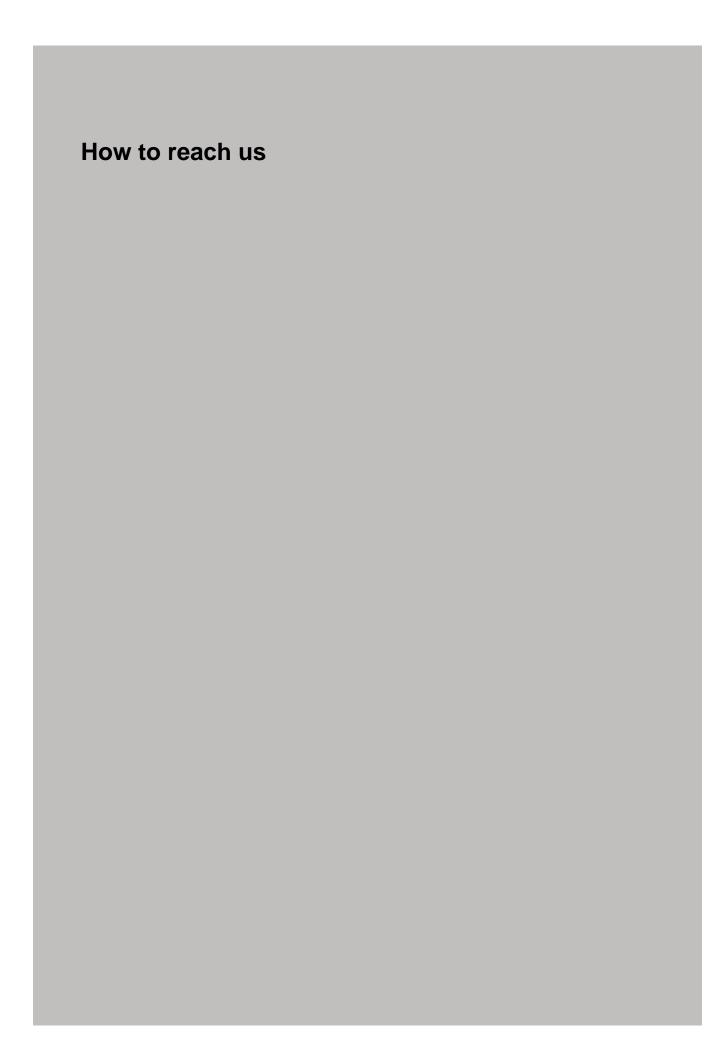
The beauty of incorporating these metrics into BIM is that it allows us to track compliance throughout the project lifecycle. We can model different material options, run acoustic simulations to predict performance, and then compare those predictions against our specified targets. If a particular wall assembly doesn't meet the STC requirement, we can easily swap it out for a different one within the BIM model and re-run the simulation. This iterative process, informed by data and visualized within the BIM environment, allows us to optimize the design for acoustic performance before the building is even built.

Furthermore, BIM facilitates better communication between all stakeholders. Architects, engineers, contractors, and even building owners can access the acoustic specifications directly within the model and understand the rationale behind design choices. This shared understanding minimizes the risk of costly surprises or rework later in the project.

Ultimately, specifying acoustic performance levels and integrating them into BIM specifications is about creating better, more comfortable, and more functional buildings. It's about moving beyond subjective impressions to objective, measurable criteria that ensure the acoustic environment meets the specific needs of its occupants. It's a vital step towards creating

spaces that truly enhance our lives.	
Social signals	





Calculating Total R-Value for Multi-Layer Insulation Assemblies

Lets talk about BIM and acoustics, specifically how we can use BIM to make smarter choices about building materials from a sound perspective. Think of it like this: BIM, or Building Information Modeling, is already a powerful tool. It lets architects and engineers create detailed digital models of buildings, allowing them to visualize everything from the structure to the plumbing before a single brick is laid. But what if we could also see how a building *sounds* before its even built?

Thats where BIM integration of acoustic data comes in. Imagine a BIM model that doesnt just show you the dimensions of a wall, but also tells you its sound transmission class (STC) rating, or its sound absorption coefficient. Suddenly, youre empowered to make informed decisions about materials based not just on aesthetics or cost, but also on how those materials will impact the acoustic environment within the building.

For example, say youre designing a classroom. You want to minimize noise distractions to create a better learning environment. By incorporating acoustic metrics into the BIM specifications, you can easily compare different wall materials, flooring options, and ceiling tiles, seeing how each choice affects the overall reverberation time and speech intelligibility in the room. This allows you to select materials that effectively absorb sound and reduce noise levels, leading to a more comfortable and productive learning space.

This integration isnt just about classrooms, of course. It can be applied to offices, hospitals, concert halls – any space where acoustics play a crucial role in the buildings functionality and the well-being of its occupants. By weaving acoustic data into the BIM workflow, were not just designing buildings; were designing better soundscapes. Its about creating spaces that are not only visually appealing but also acoustically comfortable and functional. It's about making informed decisions that improve the quality of life for everyone who uses the building.



Impact of Air Gaps and Thermal Bridging on Effective R-Value

Okay, so youre thinking about how to make buildings sound good, right? And how to use BIM – Building Information Modeling – to make sure that happens before the building is even physically there. Thats where acoustic testing and validation of building supply performance comes in.

Think of it this way: we specify all sorts of performance metrics for building materials – how strong the concrete is, how much insulation the walls have. Why shouldnt we do the same for acoustics? Thats where "Incorporating Acoustic Metrics into BIM Specifications" gets interesting. Its about making sure the materials we choose for walls, floors, ceilings, windows, even HVAC systems, actually *deliver* the acoustic performance we expect.

Acoustic testing is the nuts and bolts of figuring that out. We need to rigorously test these materials in a lab setting to understand things like their sound transmission loss – how well they block noise from passing through – and their sound absorption coefficient – how well they soak up sound within a room. This data then allows us to predict, using BIM software, how the whole building will perform acoustically.

Validation is the next step. Its about checking if the simulations we did in BIM actually match reality once the building is built. This might involve field testing, measuring sound levels in different rooms and comparing them to the predicted values. If theres a discrepancy, we can figure out why – maybe the installation wasnt perfect, or maybe our initial material data was slightly off.

Ultimately, its about closing the loop. By incorporating acoustic metrics into BIM specifications, and then validating those specifications with real-world testing, we can design buildings that are not just structurally sound and energy-efficient, but also acoustically comfortable and functional. Its about designing for the human ear, as well as the human eye. And thats a pretty sound idea, if you ask me.

R-Value Requirements Based on Climate Zone and Building

Codes

Lets talk about sound and buildings, and more specifically, how we can make sure were not just building beautiful structures, but also comfortable and functional sonic environments. Were moving towards a world where Building Information Modeling (BIM) is king, and thats fantastic because it gives us this incredible opportunity to bake acoustic considerations right into the design from the get-go. But, before we start demanding acoustically enhanced building materials across the board, we need to be smart about it. Thats where a Cost-Benefit Analysis (CBA) comes in.

Think of it this way: every building project has a budget. Adding fancy sound-dampening drywall or specialized acoustic ceiling tiles obviously costs more than standard materials. So, we need to figure out if that extra expense actually translates into a worthwhile improvement in the buildings acoustic performance. A CBA helps us do just that.

It involves a pretty straightforward process. First, we need to clearly define the benefits of improved acoustics. This isn't just about saying "itll sound better." We need to quantify it. Will it lead to increased productivity in an office setting? Will it improve patient comfort in a hospital? Will it create a more enjoyable learning environment in a school? Quantifying these benefits often involves looking at things like reduced absenteeism, improved test scores, or higher customer satisfaction ratings, and then assigning a monetary value to those improvements.

Next, we meticulously tally up the costs. This isnt just the price difference between standard and acoustically enhanced materials. We need to factor in installation costs, potential changes to the construction schedule, and even the long-term maintenance implications.

Finally, we compare the benefits to the costs. If the monetary value of the benefits outweighs the costs, then incorporating those acoustic upgrades makes good sense. But, and this is crucial, the CBA also helps us prioritize. Maybe we can only afford to upgrade the acoustics in certain critical areas, like conference rooms or classrooms. The CBA can help us identify which areas will give us the biggest bang for our buck in terms of acoustic improvement.

Ultimately, incorporating acoustic metrics into BIM specifications and then backing it up with a solid CBA is about making informed decisions. Its about ensuring that were not just throwing money at a problem, but rather investing in solutions that will truly improve the quality of life for the people who will inhabit and use the buildings we create. Its about building smarter, not just louder.

Tools and Resources for Accurate R-Value Calculation

In the realm of building design and construction, Building Information Modeling (BIM) has revolutionized how projects are planned, executed, and managed. An integral yet often overlooked aspect of BIM is the incorporation of acoustic metrics into specifications. This essay explores successful case studies that highlight the effective implementation of acoustic BIM specifications.

One notable example is the renovation of Symphony Hall in Boston. The historic venue required an upgrade to meet modern acoustic standards while preserving its original charm. By integrating acoustic metrics into the BIM specifications, architects and engineers were able to simulate sound propagation within the hall using advanced modeling software. This allowed them to make precise adjustments to materials and layout, ensuring optimal acoustics without compromising the halls aesthetic integrity. The result was a seamless blend of tradition and modernity, with audiences reporting enhanced sound quality.

Another success story comes from the construction of a new corporate headquarters in Seattle. The company prioritized creating a workspace that fostered productivity through superior acoustics. Acoustic BIM specifications enabled the design team to model various scenarios, testing different materials and configurations for walls, ceilings, and floors. They identified potential issues such as echo chambers or areas with excessive noise before construction began, saving time and resources. Post-occupancy surveys revealed high satisfaction rates among employees regarding noise levels and overall comfort.

The third case study focuses on a residential complex in London designed with quiet living in mind. Urban environments often suffer from high ambient noise levels, which can be detrimental to residents well-being. By incorporating detailed acoustic metrics into their BIM specifications, developers were able to create units that significantly reduced external noise infiltration. Features like double-glazed windows and strategically placed sound barriers were meticulously planned using BIM models. Residents reported improved sleep quality and overall satisfaction with their living environment.

These case studies illustrate the importance and effectiveness of incorporating acoustic metrics into BIM specifications across various project types-from cultural landmarks to commercial buildings and residential complexes. By leveraging BIMs capabilities for detailed planning and simulation, designers can achieve superior acoustic performance tailored to specific needs and contexts. As awareness grows about the impact of acoustics on human health and productivity, integrating these considerations into BIM will likely become standard practice in future building projects.

Optimizing Insulation Assemblies for CostEffectiveness and Energy Efficiency

Okay, lets talk about the future of acoustic BIM, specifically how building material manufacturers can weave acoustic performance directly into BIM specifications. Right now, BIM is fantastic for things like clash detection and visualizing building designs. But acoustics? Often, its a separate, almost parallel process. Were talking about a future where that changes dramatically.

Imagine a world where every brick, every panel, every window in a BIM model doesnt just have dimensions and material properties, but also detailed acoustic metrics like Sound Transmission Class (STC), Noise Reduction Coefficient (NRC), and Impact Insulation Class (IIC). Thats the direction were heading. Building material manufacturers are key to unlocking this potential.

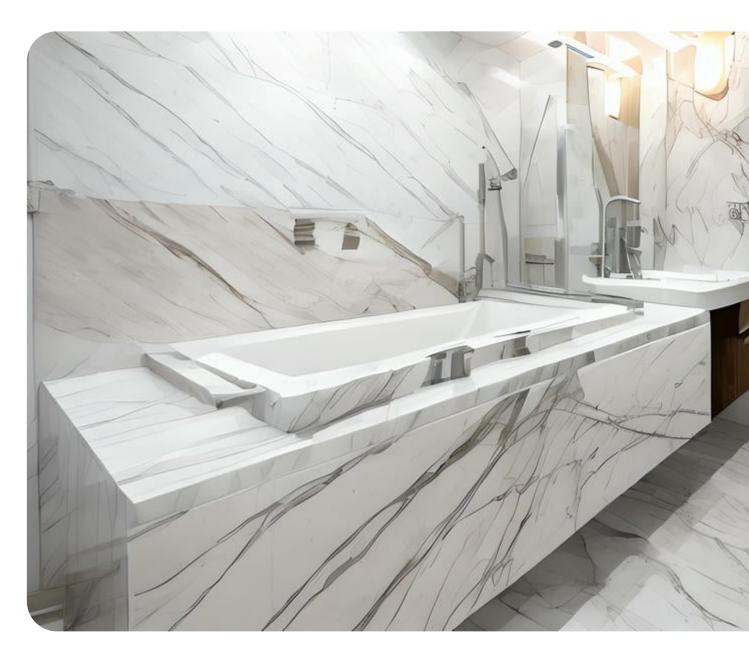
The first step is data. Manufacturers need to provide accurate and readily accessible acoustic data for their products. This isnt just about having a PDF datasheet; its about having that data in a format that can be directly integrated into BIM software. Think standardized formats, APIs, maybe even plugins that directly link the manufacturers product catalog to the BIM environment.

Then comes the integration. BIM software needs to evolve to handle this richer acoustic data. Architects and engineers need tools within their BIM environment to easily simulate and visualize the acoustic performance of different material combinations. They should be able to quickly assess how changing a floor covering impacts sound transmission between floors, or how a different wall system affects speech privacy.

The really exciting part is the potential for optimization. Imagine BIM suggesting alternative materials based on acoustic performance goals, automatically adjusting wall thicknesses or adding sound-dampening layers to meet specific acoustic requirements. This kind of automated optimization, driven by integrated acoustic data, will lead to better building designs and more comfortable environments.

Of course, there are challenges. Standardization of acoustic data formats is critical. We need a common language that all BIM software and manufacturers can understand. Also, the complexity of acoustic modeling needs to be simplified. The goal is to make acoustic considerations accessible to a broader range of designers, not just acoustic specialists.

Building material manufacturers who embrace this trend will be the leaders of tomorrow. By proactively providing acoustic data and working with BIM software developers, they can position themselves as valuable partners in creating quieter, more comfortable, and more efficient buildings. Its not just about selling materials; its about selling solutions to acoustic challenges, and thats a future worth building.



About Building material

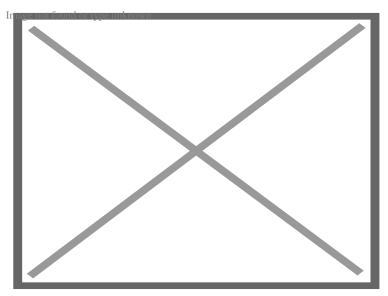
Building material is material made use of for construction. Numerous normally occurring compounds, such as clay, rocks, sand, wood, and even branches and leaves, have been made use of to construct structures and other frameworks, like bridges. Apart from normally happening products, many manufactured products remain in use, some even more and some less synthetic. The manufacturing of structure materials is a well established market in lots of nations and using these products is commonly fractional into details specialty professions, such as carpentry, insulation, plumbing, and roof work. They supply the make-up of habitats and structures including homes.

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About Construction

For other uses, see Construction (disambiguation).

"Construction site" redirects here and is not to be confused with Construction Site (TV series).



Construction site and equipment prepared for start of work in Cologne, Germany (2017)

Construction is a general term meaning the art and science of forming objects, systems, or organizations.^[1] It comes from the Latin word *constructio* (from *com*-"together" and *struere* "to pile up") and Old French *construction*.^[2] To 'construct' is a verb: the act of building, and the noun is construction: how something is built or the nature of its structure.

In its most widely used context, construction covers the processes involved in delivering buildings, infrastructure, industrial facilities, and associated activities through to the end of their life. It typically starts with planning, financing, and design that continues until the asset is built and ready for use. Construction also covers repairs and maintenance work, any works to expand, extend and improve the asset, and its eventual demolition, dismantling or decommissioning.

The construction industry contributes significantly to many countries' gross domestic products (GDP). Global expenditure on construction activities was about \$4 trillion in 2012. In 2022, expenditure on the construction industry exceeded \$11 trillion a year, equivalent to about 13 percent of global GDP. This spending was forecasted to rise to around \$14.8 trillion in 2030.[³]

The construction industry promotes economic development and brings many non-monetary benefits to many countries, but it is one of the most hazardous industries. For example, about 20% (1,061) of US industry fatalities in 2019 happened in construction.[

History

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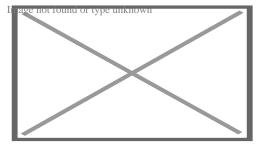
Main article: History of construction See also: History of architecture

The first huts and shelters were constructed by hand or with simple tools. As cities grew during the Bronze Age, a class of professional craftsmen, like bricklayers and carpenters, appeared. Occasionally, slaves were used for construction work. In the Middle Ages, the artisan craftsmen were organized into guilds. In the 19th century, steam-powered machinery appeared, and later, diesel- and electric-powered vehicles such as cranes, excavators and bulldozers.

Fast-track construction has been increasingly popular in the 21st century. Some estimates suggest that 40% of construction projects are now fast-track construction.^[5]

Construction industry sectors

[edit]



Industrial assemblage of a thermal oxidizer in the United States

Broadly, there are three sectors of construction: buildings, infrastructure and industrial:[61

- Building construction is usually further divided into residential and non-residential.
- Infrastructure, also called 'heavy civil' or 'heavy engineering', includes large public works, dams, bridges, highways, railways, water or wastewater and utility distribution.
- Industrial construction includes offshore construction (mainly of energy installations), mining and quarrying, refineries, chemical processing, mills and manufacturing plants.

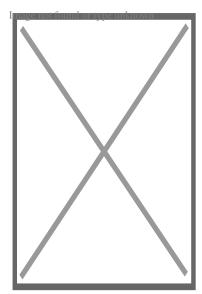
The industry can also be classified into sectors or markets.^[7] For example, *Engineering News-Record (ENR)*, a US-based construction trade magazine, has compiled and reported data about the size of design and construction contractors. In 2014, it split the data into nine market segments: transportation, petroleum, buildings, power, industrial, water, manufacturing, sewage/waste, telecom, hazardous waste, and a tenth category for other projects.^[8] *ENR* used data on transportation, sewage, hazardous waste and water to rank firms as heavy contractors.^[9]

The Standard Industrial Classification and the newer North American Industry Classification System classify companies that perform or engage in construction into three subsectors: building construction, heavy and civil engineering construction, and specialty trade contractors. There are also categories for professional services firms (e.g., engineering, architecture, surveying, project management).[10][11]

Building construction

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Military residential unit construction by U.S. Navy personnel in Afghanistan

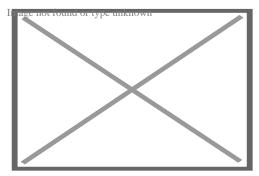
Building construction is the process of adding structures to areas of land, also known as real property sites. Typically, a project is instigated by or with the owner of the property (who may be an individual or an organisation); occasionally, land may be compulsorily

purchased from the owner for public use.[12]

Residential construction

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Main article: Home construction



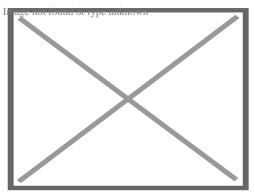
Units under construction in Brighton, Victoria, Australia

Residential construction may be undertaken by individual land-owners (self-built), by specialist housebuilders, by property developers, by general contractors, or by providers of public or social housing (e.g.: local authorities, housing associations). Where local zoning or planning policies allow, mixed-use developments may comprise both residential and non-residential construction (e.g.: retail, leisure, offices, public buildings, etc.).

Residential construction practices, technologies, and resources must conform to local building authority's regulations and codes of practice. Materials readily available in the area generally dictate the construction materials used (e.g.: brick versus stone versus timber). Costs of construction on a per square meter (or per square foot) basis for houses can vary dramatically based on site conditions, access routes, local regulations, economies of scale (custom-designed homes are often more expensive to build) and the availability of skilled tradespeople.[¹³]

Non-residential construction

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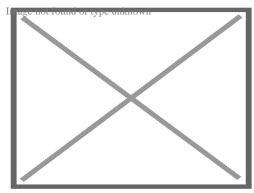
Construction of the Federal Reserve building in Kansas City, Missouri

Depending upon the type of building, non-residential building construction can be procured by a wide range of private and public organisations, including local authorities, educational and religious bodies, transport undertakings, retailers, hoteliers, property developers, financial institutions and other private companies. Most construction in these sectors is undertaken by general contractors.

Infrastructure construction

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Main article: Civil engineering

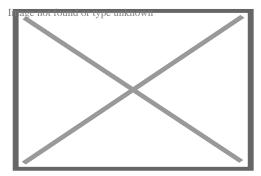


Shasta Dam under construction in June 1942

Civil engineering covers the design, construction, and maintenance of the physical and naturally built environment, including public works such as roads, bridges, canals, dams, tunnels, airports, water and sewerage systems, pipelines, and railways.[¹⁴][¹⁵] Some general contractors have expertise in civil engineering; civil engineering contractors are firms dedicated to work in this sector, and may specialise in particular types of infrastructure.

Industrial construction

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The National Cement Share Company of Ethiopia's new plant in Dire Dawa

Industrial construction includes offshore construction (mainly of energy installations: oil and gas platforms, wind power), mining and quarrying, refineries, breweries, distilleries and other processing plants, power stations, steel mills, warehouses and factories.

Construction processes

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Some construction projects are small renovations or repair jobs, like repainting or fixing leaks, where the owner may act as designer, paymaster and laborer for the entire project. However, more complex or ambitious projects usually require additional multidisciplinary expertise and manpower, so the owner may commission one or more specialist businesses to undertake detailed planning, design, construction and handover of the work. Often the owner will appoint one business to oversee the project (this may be a designer, a contractor, a construction manager, or other advisors); such specialists are normally appointed for their expertise in project delivery and construction management and will help the owner define the project brief, agree on a budget and schedule, liaise with relevant public authorities, and procure materials and the services of other specialists (the supply chain, comprising subcontractors and materials suppliers). Contracts are agreed for the delivery of services by all businesses, alongside other detailed plans aimed at ensuring legal, timely, on-budget and safe delivery of the specified works.

Design, finance, and legal aspects overlap and interrelate. The design must be not only structurally sound and appropriate for the use and location, but must also be financially possible to build, and legal to use. The financial structure must be adequate to build the design provided and must pay amounts that are legally owed. Legal structures integrate

design with other activities and enforce financial and other construction processes.

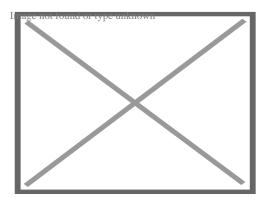
These processes also affect procurement strategies. Clients may, for example, appoint a business to design the project, after which a competitive process is undertaken to appoint a lead contractor to construct the asset (design–bid–build); they may appoint a business to lead both design and construction (design-build); or they may directly appoint a designer, contractor and specialist subcontractors (construction management).[16] Some forms of procurement emphasize collaborative relationships (partnering, alliancing) between the client, the contractor, and other stakeholders within a construction project, seeking to ameliorate often highly competitive and adversarial industry practices. DfMA (design for manufacture and assembly) approaches also emphasize early collaboration with manufacturers and suppliers regarding products and components.

Construction or refurbishment work in a "live" environment (where residents or businesses remain living in or operating on the site) requires particular care, planning and communication.[17]

Planning

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Main articles: Architectural plan and Pre-construction services



Digging the foundation for a building construction in Jakarta, Indonesia

When applicable, a proposed construction project must comply with local land-use planning policies including zoning and building code requirements. A project will normally be assessed (by the 'authority having jurisdiction', AHJ, typically the municipality where the project will be located) for its potential impacts on neighbouring properties, and upon existing infrastructure (transportation, social infrastructure, and utilities including water supply, sewerage, electricity, telecommunications, etc.). Data may be gathered through site analysis, site surveys and geotechnical investigations.

Construction normally cannot start until planning permission has been granted, and may require preparatory work to ensure relevant infrastructure has been upgraded before building work can commence. Preparatory works will also include surveys of existing utility lines to avoid damage-causing outages and other hazardous situations.

Some legal requirements come from *malum in se* considerations, or the desire to prevent indisputably bad phenomena, e.g. explosions or bridge collapses. Other legal requirements come from *malum prohibitum* considerations, or factors that are a matter of custom or expectation, such as isolating businesses from a business district or residences from a residential district. An attorney may seek changes or exemptions in the law that governs the land where the building will be built, either by arguing that a rule is inapplicable (the bridge design will not cause a collapse), or that the custom is no longer needed (acceptance of live-work spaces has grown in the community).[18]

During the construction of a building, a municipal building inspector usually inspects the ongoing work periodically to ensure that construction adheres to the approved plans and the local building code. Once construction is complete, any later changes made to a building or other asset that affect safety, including its use, expansion, structural integrity, and fire protection, usually require municipality approval.

Finance

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Depending on the type of project, mortgage bankers, accountants, and cost engineers may participate in creating an overall plan for the financial management of a construction project. The presence of the mortgage banker is highly likely, even in relatively small projects since the owner's equity in the property is the most obvious source of funding for a building project. Accountants act to study the expected monetary flow over the life of the project and to monitor the payouts throughout the process. Professionals including cost engineers, estimators and quantity surveyors apply expertise to relate the work and materials involved to a proper valuation.

Financial planning ensures adequate safeguards and contingency plans are in place before the project is started, and ensures that the plan is properly executed over the life of the project. Construction projects can suffer from preventable financial problems.[¹⁹] Underbids happen when builders ask for too little money to complete the project. Cash flow problems exist when the present amount of funding cannot cover the current costs for labour and materials; such problems may arise even when the overall budget is adequate, presenting a temporary issue. Cost overruns with government projects have occurred when the contractor identified change orders or project changes that

increased costs, which are not subject to competition from other firms as they have already been eliminated from consideration after the initial bid.[²⁰] Fraud is also an issue of growing significance within construction.[²¹]

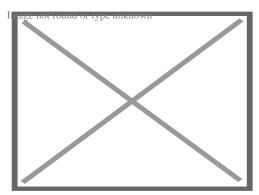
Large projects can involve highly complex financial plans and often start with a conceptual cost estimate performed by a building estimator. As portions of a project are completed, they may be sold, supplanting one lender or owner for another, while the logistical requirements of having the right trades and materials available for each stage of the building construction project carry forward. Public–private partnerships (PPPs) or private finance initiatives (PFIs) may also be used to help deliver major projects. According to McKinsey in 2019, the "vast majority of large construction projects go over budget and take 20% longer than expected".[²²]

Legal

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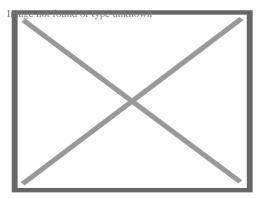
Main article: Construction law



Construction along Ontario Highway 401, widening the road from six to twelve travel lanes

A construction project is a complex net of construction contracts and other legal obligations, each of which all parties must carefully consider. A contract is the exchange of a set of obligations between two or more parties, and provides structures to manage issues. For example, construction delays can be costly, so construction contracts set out clear expectations and clear paths to manage delays. Poorly drafted contracts can lead to confusion and costly disputes.

At the start of a project, legal advisors seek to identify ambiguities and other potential sources of trouble in the contract structures, and to present options for preventing problems. During projects, they work to avoid and resolve conflicts that arise. In each case, the lawyer facilitates an exchange of obligations that matches the reality of the project.



Apartment complex under construction in Daegu, South Korea

Procurement

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Traditional or design-bid-build

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Main article: Design-bid-build

Design-bid-build is the most common and well-established method of construction procurement. In this arrangement, the architect, engineer or builder acts for the client as the project coordinator. They design the works, prepare specifications and design deliverables (models, drawings, etc.), administer the contract, tender the works, and manage the works from inception to completion. In parallel, there are direct contractual links between the client and the main contractor, who, in turn, has direct contractual relationships with subcontractors. The arrangement continues until the project is ready for handover.

Design-build

[edit]

Main article: Design-build

Design-build became more common from the late 20th century, and involves the client contracting a single entity to provide design and construction. In some cases, the design-build package can also include finding the site, arranging funding and applying for all necessary statutory consents. Typically, the client invites several Design & Build (D&B) contractors to submit proposals to meet the project brief and then selects a preferred supplier. Often this will be a consortium involving a design firm and a contractor (sometimes more than one of each). In the United States, departments of transportation usually use design-build contracts as a way of progressing projects where states lack the skills or resources, particularly for very large projects. [²³]

Construction management

[edit]

Main article: Construction management

In a construction management arrangement, the client enters into separate contracts with the designer (architect or engineer), a construction manager, and individual trade contractors. The client takes on the contractual role, while the construction or project manager provides the active role of managing the separate trade contracts, and ensuring that they complete all work smoothly and effectively together. This approach is often used to speed up procurement processes, to allow the client greater flexibility in design variation throughout the contract, to enable the appointment of individual work contractors, to separate contractual responsibility on each individual throughout the contract, and to provide greater client control.

Design

[edit]

In the industrialized world, construction usually involves the translation of designs into reality. Most commonly (i.e.: in a design-bid-build project), the design team is employed by (i.e. in contract with) the property owner. Depending upon the type of project, a design team may include architects, civil engineers, mechanical engineers, electrical engineers, structural engineers, fire protection engineers, planning consultants, architectural consultants, and archaeological consultants. A 'lead designer' will normally be identified to help coordinate different disciplinary inputs to the overall design. This may be aided by integration of previously separate disciplines (often undertaken by separate firms) into multi-disciplinary firms with experts from all related fields, [²⁴] or by firms establishing relationships to support design-build processes.

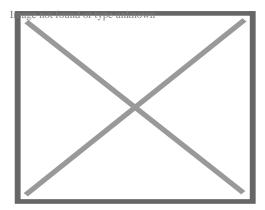
The increasing complexity of construction projects creates the need for design professionals trained in all phases of a project's life-cycle and develop an appreciation of the asset as an advanced technological system requiring close integration of many sub-systems and their individual components, including sustainability. For buildings, building engineering is an emerging discipline that attempts to meet this new challenge.

Traditionally, design has involved the production of sketches, architectural and engineering drawings, and specifications. Until the late 20th century, drawings were largely hand-drafted; adoption of computer-aided design (CAD) technologies then improved design productivity, while the 21st-century introduction of building information modeling (BIM) processes has involved the use of computer-generated models that can be used in their own right or to generate drawings and other visualisations as well as capturing non-geometric data about building components and systems.

On some projects, work on-site will not start until design work is largely complete; on others, some design work may be undertaken concurrently with the early stages of on-site activity (for example, work on a building's foundations may commence while designers are still working on the detailed designs of the building's internal spaces). Some projects may include elements that are designed for off-site construction (see also prefabrication and modular building) and are then delivered to the site ready for erection, installation or assembly.

On-site construction

[edit]



On-site foundation construction

Once contractors and other relevant professionals have been appointed and designs are sufficiently advanced, work may commence on the project site. Some projects require preliminary works, such as land preparation and levelling, demolition of existing structures (see below), or laying foundations, and there are circumstances where this

work may be contracted for in advance of finalising the contract and costs for the whole project.

Typically, a construction site will include a secure perimeter to restrict unauthorised access, site access control points, office and welfare accommodation for personnel from the main contractor and other firms involved in the project team, and storage areas for materials, machinery and equipment. According to the *McGraw-Hill Dictionary of Architecture and Construction's* definition, construction may be said to have *started* when the first feature of the permanent structure has been put in place, such as pile driving, or the pouring of slabs or footings.[²⁵]

Commissioning and handover

[edit]

Main article: New-construction building commissioning

Commissioning is the process of verifying that all subsystems of a new building (or other assets) work as intended to achieve the owner's project requirements and as designed by the project's architects and engineers.

Defects liability period

[edit]

A period after handover (or practical completion) during which the owner may identify any shortcomings in relation to the building specification ('defects'), with a view to the contractor correcting the defect.[²⁶]

Maintenance, repair and improvement

[edit]

Main article: Maintenance (technical)

Maintenance involves functional checks, servicing, repairing or replacing of necessary devices, equipment, machinery, building infrastructure, and supporting utilities in industrial, business, governmental, and residential installations.[²⁷][²⁸]

Demolition

[edit]

Main article: Demolition

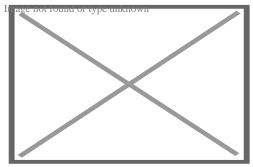
Demolition is the discipline of safely and efficiently tearing down buildings and other artificial structures. Demolition contrasts with deconstruction, which involves taking a building apart while carefully preserving valuable elements for reuse purposes (recycling – see also circular economy).

Industry scale and characteristics

[edit]

Economic activity

[edit]



Helicopter view of the Atacama Large Millimeter/submillimeter Array (ALMA) Operations Support Facility (OSF) construction site

The output of the global construction industry was worth an estimated \$10.8 trillion in 2017, and in 2018 was forecast to rise to \$12.9 trillion by 2022,[²⁹] and to around \$14.8 trillion in 2030.[³] As a sector, construction accounts for more than 10% of global GDP (in developed countries, construction comprises 6–9% of GDP),[³⁰] and employs around 7% of the total employed workforce around the globe[³¹] (accounting for over 273 million full- and part-time jobs in 2014).[³²] Since 2010,[³³] China has been the world's largest single construction market.[³⁴] The United States is the second largest construction market with a 2018 output of \$1.581 trillion.[³⁵]

 In the United States in February 2020, around \$1.4 trillion worth of construction work was in progress, according to the Census Bureau, of which just over \$1.0

- trillion was for the private sector (split roughly 55:45% between residential and nonresidential); the remainder was public sector, predominantly for state and local government.[36]
- In Armenia, the construction sector experienced growth during the latter part of 2000s. Based on National Statistical Service, Armenia's construction sector generated approximately 20% of Armenia's GDP during the first and second quarters of 2007. In 2009, according to the World Bank, 30% of Armenia's economy was from construction sector.[37]
- o In Vietnam, the construction industry plays an important role in the national economy. [38][39][40] The Vietnamese construction industry has been one of the fastest growing in the Asia-Pacific region in recent years. [41][42] The market was valued at nearly \$60 billion in 2021. [43] In the first half of 2022, Vietnam's construction industry growth rate reached 5.59%. [43][44][45] In 2022, Vietnam's construction industry accounted for more than 6% of the country's GDP, equivalent to over 589.7 billion Vietnamese dong. [46][47] The industry of industry and construction accounts for 38.26% of Vietnam's GDP. [48][49][50] At the same time, the industry is one of the most attractive industries for foreign direct investment (FDI) in recent years. [51][52][53]

Construction is a major source of employment in most countries; high reliance on small businesses, and under-representation of women are common traits. For example:

- In the US, construction employed around 11.4m people in 2020, with a further 1.8m employed in architectural, engineering, and related professional services equivalent to just over 8% of the total US workforce.[⁵⁴] The construction workers were employed in over 843,000 organisations, of which 838,000 were privately held businesses.[⁵⁵] In March 2016, 60.4% of construction workers were employed by businesses with fewer than 50 staff.[⁵⁶] Women are substantially underrepresented (relative to their share of total employment), comprising 10.3% of the US construction workforce, and 25.9% of professional services workers, in 2019.[⁵⁴]
- The United Kingdom construction sector contributed £117 billion (6%) to UK GDP in 2018, and in 2019 employed 2.4m workers (6.6% of all jobs). These worked either for 343,000 'registered' construction businesses, or for 'unregistered' businesses, typically self-employed contractors;[⁵⁷] just over one million small/medium-sized businesses, mainly self-employed individuals, worked in the sector in 2019, comprising about 18% of all UK businesses.[⁵⁸] Women comprised 12.5% of the UK construction workforce.[⁵⁹]

According to McKinsey research, productivity growth per worker in construction has lagged behind many other industries across different countries including in the United States and in European countries. In the United States, construction productivity per worker has declined by half since the 1960s.[60]

Construction GVA by country

[edit]

List of countries with the largest construction gross value added in 2018 Economy Construction GVA in 2018 (billions in USD)

- (01) Chinar type unknown 934.2
- (02) Inited type unknown States 839.1
- (03) Daipain type unknown 275.5
- (04) India or type unknown 201.2
- (05) Germany unknown 180.5
 - (06) Instead type unknown Kingdom 154.7
 - (07) France type unknown 138.7
- (08) Canada pe unknown 125.4
- (09) Russia type unknown 121.2
- (10) Australia unknown 111.8
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- (14) Mexicotype unknown 89.0
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- (17) Turkey type unknown 55.3
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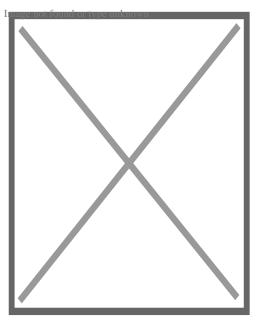
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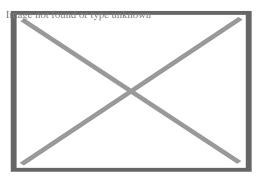
The twenty-five largest countries in the world by construction GVA (2018)[⁶¹]

Employment

[edit]



Ironworkers erecting the steel frame of a new building at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston



A truck operator at Al Gamil, the largest construction company in Djibouti

Some workers may be engaged in manual labour[⁶²] as unskilled or semi-skilled workers; they may be skilled tradespeople; or they may be supervisory or managerial personnel. Under safety legislation in the United Kingdom, for example, construction workers are defined as people "who work for or under the control of a contractor on a construction site";[⁶³] in Canada, this can include people whose work includes ensuring conformance with building codes and regulations, and those who supervise other workers.[⁶⁴]

Laborers comprise a large grouping in most national construction industries. In the United States, for example, in May 2023, the construction sector employed just over 7.9 million people, of whom 859,000 were laborers, while 3.7 million were construction trades workers (including 603,000 carpenters, 559,000 electricians, 385,000 plumbers, and 321,000 equipment operators).[⁶⁵] Like most business sectors, there is also substantial white-collar employment in construction - out of 7.9 million US construction sector workers, 681,000 were recorded by the United States Department of Labor in May 2023 as in 'office and administrative support occupations', 620,000 in

'management occupations' and 480,000 in 'business and financial operations occupations'.[65]

Large-scale construction requires collaboration across multiple disciplines. A project manager normally manages the budget on the job, and a construction manager, design engineer, construction engineer or architect supervises it. Those involved with the design and execution must consider zoning requirements and legal issues, environmental impact of the project, scheduling, budgeting and bidding, construction site safety, availability and transportation of building materials, logistics, and inconvenience to the public, including those caused by construction delays.

Some models and policy-making organisations promote the engagement of local labour in construction projects as a means of tackling social exclusion and addressing skill shortages. In the UK, the Joseph Rowntree Foundation reported in 2000 on 25 projects which had aimed to offer training and employment opportunities for locally based school leavers and unemployed people. [66] The Foundation published "a good practice resource book" in this regard at the same time.[67] Use of local labour and local materials were specified for the construction of the Danish Storebaelt bridge, but there were legal issues which were challenged in court and addressed by the European Court of Justice in 1993. The court held that a contract condition requiring use of local labour and local materials was incompatible with EU treaty principles. [68] Later UK guidance noted that social and employment clauses, where used, must be compatible with relevant EU regulation.[69] Employment of local labour was identified as one of several social issues which could potentially be incorporated in a sustainable procurement approach, although the interdepartmental Sustainable Procurement Group recognised that "there is far less scope to incorporate [such] social issues in public procurement than is the case with environmental issues".[⁷⁰]

There are many routes to the different careers within the construction industry. There are three main tiers of construction workers based on educational background and training, which vary by country:

Unskilled and semi-skilled workers

[edit]

Unskilled and semi-skilled workers provide general site labor, often have few or no construction qualifications, and may receive basic site training.

Skilled tradespeople

[edit]

See also: List of construction trades

Skilled tradespeople have typically served apprenticeships (sometimes in labor unions) or received technical training; this group also includes on-site managers who possess extensive knowledge and experience in their craft or profession. Skilled manual occupations include carpenters, electricians, plumbers, ironworkers, heavy equipment operators and masons, as well as those involved in project management. In the UK these require further education qualifications, often in vocational subject areas, undertaken either directly after completing compulsory education or through "on the job" apprenticeships.[⁷¹]

Professional, technical or managerial personnel

[edit]

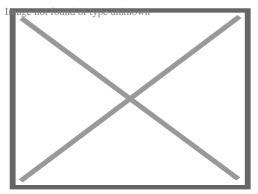
Professional, technical and managerial personnel often have higher education qualifications, usually graduate degrees, and are trained to design and manage construction processes. These roles require more training as they demand greater technical knowledge, and involve more legal responsibility. Example roles (and qualification routes) include:

- Architect Will usually have studied architecture to degree level, and then undertaken further study and gained professional experience. In many countries, the title of "architect" is protected by law, strictly limiting its use to qualified people.
- Civil engineer Typically holds a degree in a related subject and may only be eligible for membership of a professional institution (such as the UK's ICE) following completion of additional training and experience. In some jurisdictions, a new university graduate must hold a master's degree to become chartered,[^a] and persons with bachelor's degrees may become Incorporated Engineers.
- Building services engineer May also be referred to as an "M&E" or "mechanical, electrical, and plumbing (MEP) engineer" and typically holds a degree in mechanical or electrical engineering.[^a]
- Project manager Typically holds a 4-year or greater higher education qualification, but are often also qualified in another field such as architecture, civil engineering or quantity surveying.
- Structural engineer Typically holds a bachelor's or master's degree in structural engineering.[^a]
- Quantity surveyor Typically holds a bachelor's degree in quantity surveying. UK chartered status is gained from the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors.

Safety

[edit]

See also: Construction site safety



At-risk workers without appropriate safety equipment

Construction is one of the most dangerous occupations in the world, incurring more occupational fatalities than any other sector in both the United States and in the European Union. $[^4][^{72}]$ In the US in 2019, 1,061, or about 20%, of worker fatalities in private industry occurred in construction. $[^4]$ In 2017, more than a third of US construction fatalities (366 out of 971 total fatalities) were the result of falls; $[^{73}]$ in the UK, half of the average 36 fatalities per annum over a five-year period to 2021 were attributed to falls from height. $[^{74}]$ Proper safety equipment such as harnesses, hard hats and guardrails and procedures such as securing ladders and inspecting scaffolding can curtail the risk of occupational injuries in the construction industry. $[^{75}]$ Other major causes of fatalities in the construction industry include electrocution, transportation accidents, and trench cave-ins. $[^{76}]$

Other safety risks for workers in construction include hearing loss due to high noise exposure, musculoskeletal injury, chemical exposure, and high levels of stress.[⁷⁷] Besides that, the high turnover of workers in construction industry imposes a huge challenge of accomplishing the restructuring of work practices in individual workplaces or with individual workers. *citation needed* Construction has been identified by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) as a priority industry sector in the National Occupational Research Agenda (NORA) to identify and provide intervention strategies regarding occupational health and safety issues.[⁷⁸][⁷⁹] A study conducted in 2022 found "significant effect of air pollution exposure on construction-related injuries and fatalities", especially with the exposure of nitrogen dioxide.[⁸⁰]

Sustainability

[edit]

Main article: Sustainability in construction

Sustainability is an aspect of "green building", defined by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as "the practice of creating structures and using processes that are environmentally responsible and resource-efficient throughout a building's life-cycle from siting to design, construction, operation, maintenance, renovation and deconstruction."[81]

Decarbonising construction

[edit]

The construction industry may require transformation at pace and at scale if it is to successfully contribute to achieving the target set out in The Paris Agreement of limiting global temperature rise to 1.5C above industrial levels.[82][83] The World Green Building Council has stated the buildings and infrastructure around the world can reach 40% less embodied carbon emissions but that this can only be achieved through urgent transformation.[84][85]

Conclusions from industry leaders have suggested that the net zero transformation is likely to be challenging for the construction industry, but it does present an opportunity. Action is demanded from governments, standards bodies, the construction sector, and the engineering profession to meet the decarbonising targets.[86]

In 2021, the National Engineering Policy Centre published its report *Decarbonising Construction: Building a new net zero industry*,[⁸⁶] which outlined key areas to decarbonise the construction sector and the wider built environment. This report set out around 20 different recommendations to transform and decarbonise the construction sector, including recommendations for engineers, the construction industry and decision makers, plus outlined six-overarching 'system levers' where action taken now will result in rapid decarbonisation of the construction sector.[⁸⁶] These levels are:

- Setting and stipulating progressive targets for carbon reduction
- o Embedding quantitative whole-life carbon assessment into public procurement
- o Increasing design efficiency, materials reuse and retrofit of buildings
- o Improving whole-life carbon performance
- o Improving skills for net zero
- Adopting a joined up, systems approach to decarbonisation across the construction sector and with other sectors

Progress is being made internationally to decarbonise the sector including improvements to sustainable procurement practice such as the CO2 performance ladder in the Netherlands and the Danish Partnership for Green Public Procurement.[87]

][88] There are also now demonstrations of applying the principles of circular economy practices in practice such as Circl, ABN AMRO's sustainable pavilion and the Brighton Waste House.[89][90][91]

See also

[edit]			
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Look up *construction* in Wiktionary, the free dictionary.

- o Agile construction Management system in the construction industry
- Building material Material which is used for construction purposes
- o Civil engineering Engineering discipline focused on physical infrastructure
- Commissioning (construction) Process to ensure that all building systems perform according to the "Design Intent"
- Environmental impact of concrete
- Impervious surface Artificial structures such as pavements covered with watertight materials
- Index of construction articles
- Land degradation Gradual destruction of land
- List of tallest structures
- List of tallest structures built before the 20th century
- Modern methods of construction
- Outline of construction Overview of and topical guide to construction
- Real estate development Process that creates or renovates new or existing spaces
- Structural robustness Ability of a structure to withstand physical strain
- Umarell Bolognese slang term

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Notes

[edit]

1. ^ **a b c** In the UK, the Chartered Engineer qualification is controlled by the Engineering Council, and is often achieved through membership of the relevant professional institution (ICE, CIBSE, IStructE, etc).

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Types

Construction

Home construction

Offshore construction

Underground construction

Tunnel construction

Architecture

Construction

History • Structural engineering

Timeline of architecture

Water supply and sanitation

- Architect
- o Building engineer
- o Building estimator
- Building officials
- Chartered Building Surveyor
- Civil engineer

Professions

- o Civil estimator
- Clerk of works
- Project manager
- Quantity surveyor
- Site manager
- o Structural engineer
- Superintendent
- Banksman
- Boilermaker
- Bricklayer
- Carpenter
- Concrete finisher
- Construction foreman
- Construction worker

Trades workers (List)

- Electrician
- Glazier
- Ironworker
- Millwright
- Plasterer
- Plumber
- Roofer
- Steel fixer
- Welder

- American Institute of Constructors (AIC)
- American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE)
- Asbestos Testing and Consultancy Association (ATAC)
- Associated General Contractors of America (AGC)
- Association of Plumbing and Heating Contractors (APHC)
- Build UK
- Construction History Society
- Chartered Institution of Civil Engineering Surveyors (CICES)
- Chartered Institute of Plumbing and Heating Engineering (CIPHE)
- Civil Engineering Contractors Association (CECA)
- The Concrete Society
- Construction Management Association of America (CMAA)

Organizations

- o FIDIC
- Home Builders Federation (HBF)
- Lighting Association
- National Association of Home Builders (NAHB)
- National Association of Women in Construction (NAWIC)
- National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)

Construction Specifications Institute (CSI)

- National Kitchen & Bath Association (NKBA)
- National Railroad Construction and Maintenance Association (NRC)
- National Tile Contractors Association (NTCA)
- Railway Tie Association (RTA)
- Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS)
- Scottish Building Federation (SBF)
- Society of Construction Arbitrators
- India
- Iran
- Japan

By country

- Romania
- Turkey
- United Kingdom
- United States
- Building code

Regulation

- Construction law
- Site safety
- Zoning

- Style
 - List
- Industrial architecture
- **Architecture**
- o British
- Indigenous architecture
- o Interior architecture
- Landscape architecture
- Vernacular architecture
- Architectural engineering
- Building services engineering
- Civil engineering
 - Coastal engineering
- **Engineering**
- Coastal engineeringConstruction engineering
- Structural engineering
- o Earthquake engineering
- Environmental engineering
- Geotechnical engineering
- List
- Earthbag construction
- Methods
- Modern methods of construction
- Monocrete construction
- Slip forming

- Building material
 - List of building materials
 - Millwork
- Construction bidding
- Construction delay
- Construction equipment theft
- Construction loan
- Construction management
- Construction waste
- Demolition
- o Design-build
- Design-bid-build
- o DfMA
- Heavy equipment
- Interior design
- Lists of buildings and structures
- Megaproject
- Megastructure
- Plasterwork
 - Damp
 - Proofing
 - Parge coat
 - Roughcast
 - Harling
- Real estate development
- Stonemasonry
- o Sustainability in construction
- Unfinished building
- Urban design
- Urban planning

Outline Category pe unknown

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Other topics

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Construction industry by country

- o Canada
- o India
- Iran
- Japan
- Hong Kong SAR
- o Romania
- o United Kingdom
- United States
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Tallest buildings and structures

o By category

- o Africa
- o Asia
 - Indian subcontinent
 - Southeast
- Europe
 - Balkans
 - Baltic states
 - Scandinavia
- Oceania

By region

- o Southern Hemisphere
- The Americas
 - North America
 - Central America
 - Latin America
 - South America
- Afghanistan
- o Albania
- Algeria
- Argentina
- Australia
- o Austria
- Azerbaijan
- Bangladesh
- o Bolivia
- o Bosnia and Herzegovina
- o Brazil
- Bulgaria
- Cambodia
- Canada
- o Chile
- China (Hong Kong, Macau)
- Colombia
- Croatia
- Cyprus
- Czech Republic
- Denmark
- Ecuador
- Egypt
- Estonia
- Finland
- France
- Georgia
- Germany
- Greece
- Iceland
- India
- Indonesia

- o Africa
- o Asia
 - Indian subcontinent
 - West Asia

By region

- o Europe
 - former Soviet Union
- The Americas
 - South America
- Afghanistan
- Albania
- Algeria
- Armenia
- Australia
- Austria
- Bahrain
- o Belgium
- Bulgaria
- Canada
- China
- Czech Republic
- Denmark
- Egypt
- Estonia
- Finland
- France
- Germany
- Greece
- Hungary
- Iceland
- India
- Indonesia
- o Iran
- Ireland
- Italy

By country

- Japan
- Kosovo
- Luxembourg
- Myanmar
- Netherlands
- New Zealand
- Norway
- Philippines
- Poland
- Portugal
- o Romania
- Saudi Arabia
- Serbia

Structures of any type (History)

- Air traffic obstacle
- Antenna height considerations
- o Architectural engineering
- Construction
- Fires
- Groundscraper
- Related topics
- Guyed mast
- Height restriction laws
- Skyscraper
 - Early skyscrapers
 - Skyscraper Index
- Storev
- Tower block
- Vanity height

Germany

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