

New Horizons - Towards Radical Construction Improvements

CIB TG76 Workshop and Business Meeting

TIME & PLACE:

Workshop: Tuesday 21 June 14:00 - 16:00h – Glass Pavilion (Glazen Zaal)

Business meeting: Tuesday 21 June 16:00 - 17:00h – Glass Pavilion (Glazen Zaal)

COORDINATORS:

Professor Andy Dainty (Loughborough University, UK) & Professor Carl Abbott (Salford University, UK)

GENERAL THEME DESCRIPTION:

Successful innovation is increasingly recognised as important for maximising the quality of life and wealth generation potential of the built environment. There is now widespread acknowledgement that the construction industry needs to develop both incremental and radical innovation-based models of performance improvement. TG76 was initiated to address the need for a more prominent role for innovation in the built environment. Since its inception in 2009 it has also absorbed TG71's agenda around innovation transfer and diffusion and has begun to coalesce a range of other research initiatives linked to understanding and promoting innovation in the built environment. Members of the TG are seeking new methodological approaches to the study of innovation, and for new theoretically informed insights into the ways in which innovation plays out within the sector. Members cover a range of different perspectives and research areas, ranging from national agendas through to micro-level interactions within projects.

Concurrent with the need to better understand and manage innovation within the sector, there is also a need for more radical and disruptive research agendas if the CIB is to act as a catalyst for significant improvements in the design, construction and operation of the built environment. Without the promotion of discontinuous forms of innovation there is a danger that CIB activities will merely reproduce and reinforce the practices, structures and cultures in need of change. It is therefore essential that TG76 embraces the radical innovation challenge and supports CIB Working Commissions and Task Groups in defining the research agendas of tomorrow. In this work stream existing practices in CIB, which tend to be bounded within established frames of understanding, will be questioned and challenged. This will lead to a set of more radical and disruptive propositions that might enable step-change in the ways in which the built environment, its institutions and organizations serve society. The radical agendas that emerge from this will sit alongside, rather than replace, established incremental research trajectories. They will provide fresh directions for Working Commissions and Task Groups to work together in generating new knowledge and making more significant impacts on research and practice.

WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES:

This workshop is predicated on the view that many of the key challenges confronting the built environment do not reside within the intellectual spaces defined by Working Commissions and Task Groups, but lie at the interfaces between them. We therefore need to find ways for the various constituencies within the CIB community to challenge each others' thinking and orthodoxies if we are to find fresh solutions to the seemingly intractable problems within the built environment.

The aim of the workshop is to generate a set of strategic research directions aimed at fundamentally questioning existing culture and process of the building and construction industry and the research community that supports it. These will be developed into strategic themes and/or proposals to further ideas, which might induce a step-change in industry performance. Generating radical agendas and new activities for CIB will require:

- Working Commissions and Task Group members to stand back from their current agendas in order to define fresh research questions which deviate from the dominant themes shaping their work programmes
- The encouragement of disruptive and tangential thinking
- Engagement between members of WCs and TGs, which do not usually interface
- Open debate and dialogue
- A methodology to capture radical issues and solutions which reside in the spaces between the various CIB communities

WORKSHOP FORMAT:

TG76 Coordinators Andy Dainty & Carl Abbott will facilitate this workshop as an 'open space' event which allows for discussions to flow without the need for prior preparation or for a formal agenda. The participants will represent the different constituencies and view points from within the WCs and TGs represented at MISBE.

Participants will work in small groups to discuss desirable societal futures and the shape of the construction industry that will serve it.

They will then identify research agendas, which would enable such a step change, which combine the expertise and perspectives from across the collective group of participants. The facilitators will aim to identify issues of mutual interest which lie in the space between current working commission and task group remits. The outcomes of the workshop will be presented to the CIB working commissions and Task Groups, as well as to the Programme Committee to stimulate the creation of new commissions and activities.

The New Horizons workshop will be immediately followed by the TG76 Business Meeting (4.00-5.00pm)