

Book Review Editor: Theodore J. Weidner, Ph.D., P.E., AIA



In keeping with this issue's theme, both books focus on BIM, building information modeling. My first exposure to BIM was in 1979 when I visited with a team developing software to design Herman-Miller of-

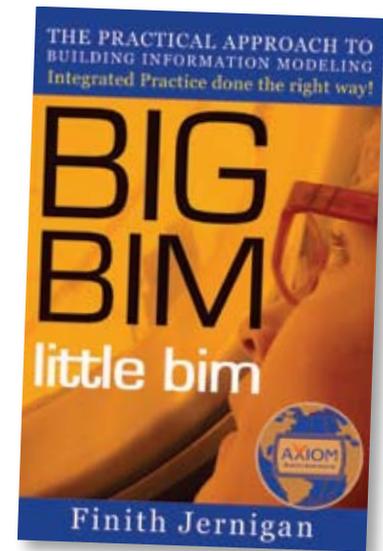
fice systems that would include the complete parts list; H-M's Action Office system was flexible but had a large number of parts. Then in graduate school I learned about Desault System's software that was eventually used by Frank Gehry to design his non-rectilinear designs; they could not have been erected without the connection between the designer and fabricator afforded by the software.

As has been explained elsewhere, BIM is the future for facilities managers. No major capital project should be delivered to a college or university without a BIM model and associated databases. These

books will provide you with the rationale and understanding to demand BIM.

BIG BIM LITTLE BIM

By Finith Jernigan, 4Site Press, Salisbury, Maryland, 2007 328 pages softcover, \$29.95 (\$12.90 Kindle)



This relatively short book provides a general overview and arguments in support of BIM. Building information modeling, as described elsewhere in this issue, is a new way for architects and engineers to look at buildings and building information. Those of us in the facilities management business don't see this as a new issue but as a new way of getting the information we've been asking for with every project.

Concepts about BIM and bim, the specific software, are presented to the architect who has the option of walking away from a project after the construction is complete. This is viewed as value-added material to the A/E as they sell their professional skills to the owner or facilities manager.

While there is no argument from this side of the readership the focus should be on convincing the A/E, and the



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manufacturers who provide the foundation information. The author makes good arguments that are solid and supported. This book is ideal for the reader who is trying to get a good grasp as to why BIM vs. CAD. It is affordable and informative; important factors when attempting to make the leap into BIM or any other new technology.

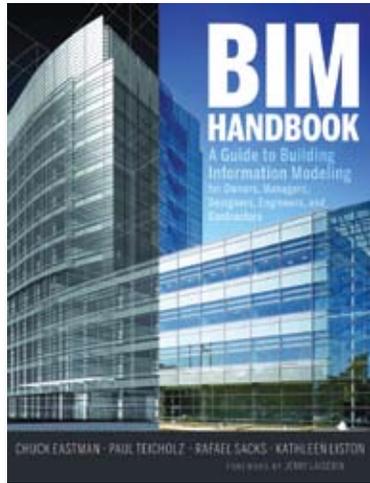
BIM HANDBOOK, A GUIDE TO BUILDING INFORMATION MODELING FOR OWNERS, MANAGERS, DESIGNERS, ENGINEERS, AND CONTRACTORS

By Charles Eastman, Paul Teicholz, others, John Wiley and Sons, New Jersey, 2008 490 pages, hardcover, \$71.99

I have some biases to review; there are a few authors I rely on with regards to the use of computers and technology. Two of three authors I can think of right now have worked on this book. Having revealed my biases, this book meets or exceeds my expectations in what a *BIM Handbook* should contain.

This book describes the difference between BIM and bim in chapters 1 through 3. A foundation is provided about BIM and comparative information about bim. BIM is building information modeling while bim is an application packages such as REVIT, Bentley Systems, ArchiCAD, DProfiler, and others. Comparisons of these packages at the end of chapter 2 are helpful if you haven't made a decision about your BIM application already. The initial differences are found in the parametric-based packages vs. the object-based packages. Without getting too technical, parametric BIM allows the user to identify values for the numerous parameters of each building element; wall height, width, thickness, and any penetrations. Object-based BIM relies on present objects typically found with pipes, conduit, cable trays, and other objects that can be manufactured and installed (ignoring the need to cut them).

While not obvious at first, every BIM



package is challenged by compatibility and interoperability issues. None of these software packages and their associated databases are simple and translation between different systems invariably means important data can be lost because there is no clear standard for BIM

yet. Translation between parametric and object-based systems is even more difficult because of the fundamental definitions used in the software.

Regardless, as a reference goes, this book is informative and helpful. Substantial glossaries, indices, and bibliography make this project useful to the learner and learned. It is a must if you're trying to decide between BIM software package and to get a solid understanding of what can be done with BIM or a specific application. ☞

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