

BUILDING INFORMATION MODELLING ADOPTION IN JORDANIAN
ARCHITECTURAL PRACTICE

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DEDICATION

This thesis is sincerely dedicated to my beloved father, who always supports me and has taught me to persevere for the better and that your value and reputation in this life are measured by the extent of your knowledge. Also, to my beloved mother, who continues to inspire me to be persistent, patient, and to seek God's guidance in reaching my goals. I would like to present this thesis as a little token of appreciation for the endless love and encouragement that both of you have showered me throughout this journey. There is no amount of gratitude that could match the sacrifices that you have made for me and so I will forever be grateful to have you as my backbone.

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ABSTRACT

Building information modeling (BIM) has been a global evolution of building technology due to its advantages and performance in the architecture industry. BIM can assist in achieving performance optimization: improving quality, saving time and cost, as well as sustaining architecture projects. In Jordan, in line with the industry's initiatives and requirements to deal with sustainability and performance, architectural firms in Jordan need to adopt innovative methods of design, cooperation, and documentation. Particularly, with the use of BIM and sustainable design tools, these firms can perform better and thus gain more credibility in the industry. However, BIM is a recent and newly emerging technology in Jordan, whereby very few studies on its adoption are available and the factors affecting this adoption by architects have not yet been explored. Investigating the current status, acceptance, and aptitude for BIM adoption in architectural firms is critical to effective implementation. An essential step is undertaken towards the effective use of BIM and facilitating its implementation, with the aim of studying the current status and the prospects for using BIM technology and its integration with sustainability in the architectural community in Jordan. Ultimately, this leads to the research objective of providing recommendations to boost BIM intake into the Jordanian architecture industry. To this end, this study used a quantitative approach for data collection technique and analysis procedure. A structured questionnaire survey was conducted targeting architects in Amman, the capital of Jordan. A web-based questionnaire was distributed by emails to a total of 249 registered Jordanian engineering and consulting enterprises. Then, an empirical statistics and analyses with a comparison between BIM users and non-BIM users were applied. Results showed that firms are progressing slightly in adopting the BIM system with a slow pace spreading. About 52% of respondents knew and used BIM software for at least some of their projects. However, only 14% of enterprises were familiar with BIM and used it in a large number of their projects. There is no resistance on the part of users. Four factors control the widespread of BIM in architectural firms in Jordan, and they were discussed sufficiently in the study. The users' attitude lies largely in three factors; drivers, i.e. personal and external motivation, management support, and BIM capability. The research also concluded that there are many barriers to the adoption of BIM among design firms, i.e. a lack of knowledge about the utility and sustainable integration of BIM, firms' preparedness, BIM promotions, management support, and resistance to change. Subsequently, the study identified the most prominent obstacles to integrating BIM and sustainability, and the results suggested improvements to their integration. It is also deduced that there is a critical relationship between sustainability and BIM, i.e. Green BIM practitioners use BIM in their projects more than non-Green BIM firms, so the strong growth of the green building market can boost BIM adoption. Finally, the research suggested some recommended strategies to enhance BIM adoption in Jordan. This examination is expected to give a more solidified status of BIM among architects in Jordan, to enable and motivate stakeholders to focus on addressing the critical barriers investigated in this study and to reach to a more effective BIM implementation.

ABSTRAK

Pemodelan Maklumat Bangunan (BIM) telah menjadi revolusi global dalam teknologi pembinaan disebabkan oleh kelebihan dan prestasinya dalam industri seni bina. BIM berupaya membantu mencapai prestasi optimum; meningkatkan kualiti, menjimatkan masa dan kos, serta melestari projek seni bina. Di Jordan, sejajar dengan inisiatif dan keperluan industri dalam mencapai kelestarian dan prestasi, firma seni bina perlu menerapkan kaedah reka bentuk, kerjasama dan dokumentasi yang inovatif. Terutama, dengan penggunaan BIM dan kaedah reka bentuk yang lestari, firma ini dapat menunjukkan prestasi yang lebih baik dan oleh itu dapat membina kredibiliti yang lebih teguh. Walau bagaimanapun, BIM adalah teknologi baru dan baru muncul di Jordan, di mana kajian terhadap keberkesanannya masih terhad serta faktor-faktor yang mendorong pelaksanaannya oleh arkitek masih belum diterokai. Mengkaji status terkini, penerimaan dan kebolehan menggunakan BIM dalam firma seni bina sangat penting untuk pelaksanaan yang efektif dalam industri ini. Melalui kajian ini, suatu langkah penting diambil ke arah penggunaan BIM yang efektif serta bagi memudahkan pelaksanaannya, dengan tujuan untuk mengkaji status terkini dan prospek penggunaan teknologi BIM dan integrasinya dengan kelestarian dalam komuniti seni bina di Jordan. Hal ini membawa kepada objektif kajian ini iaitu memberikan cadangan untuk mendorong penggunaan BIM dalam industri seni bina di Jordan. Untuk tujuan ini, kajian ini menggunakan kaedah kuantitatif sebagai alat pengumpulan data serta prosedur analisis. Tinjauan soal selidik berstruktur dijalankan dalam kalangan arkitek di Amman, ibu negara Jordan. Soal selidik berasaskan laman sesawang diagihkan melalui emel kepada 249 syarikat kejuruteraan dan perundingan berdaftar di Jordan. Kemudian, statistik empirikal dan analisis dengan perbandingan antara pengguna BIM dengan bukan pengguna BIM telah diaplikasikan. Kajian menunjukkan perkembangan yang perlahan terhadap penerimaan dan penggunaan sistem BIM. Kira-kira 52% responden mengetahui dan menggunakan perisian BIM untuk sekurang-kurangnya dalam salah satu projek mereka. Namun, hanya 14% organisasi yang mengetahui dan menggunakan BIM dalam projek mereka. Di dapati bahawa tiada penolakan daripada pihak pengguna. Terdapat empat faktor yang mengekang penggunaan BIM dalam kalangan firma seni bina di Jordan, seperti yang dibincangkan dengan terperinci dalam kajian ini. Sikap pengguna dipengaruhi oleh tiga faktor utama; pemacu, iaitu motivasi peribadi dan luaran, sokongan daripada pihak pengurusan, dan keupayaan BIM. Kesimpulannya, terdapat banyak halangan terhadap pelaksanaan BIM, seperti kurang pengetahuan dan pendedahan terhadap penggunaan dan kelestarian BIM, kesediaan firma, promosi BIM, sokongan pihak pengurusan serta penolakan terhadap pembaharuan. Selanjutnya kajian ini mengenal pasti halangan untuk mengintegrasikan BIM dan kelestariannya serta beberapa penambahbaikan turut dicadangkan. Juga disimpulkan bahawa terdapat hubungan penting antara kelestarian dan BIM, di mana pengamal BIM Hijau lebih kerap menggunakan teknik BIM berbanding firma bukan pengamalnya, justeru pembangunan pesat dalam bangunan hijau berupaya menggalakkan penggunaan BIM. Akhirnya, kajian ini turut mencadangkan beberapa strategi bagi meningkatkan penerimaan BIM di Jordan. Penyelidikan ini dijangka dapat meningkatkan status penggunaan BIM yang lebih mantap dalam kalangan arkitek di Jordan, serta menggalakkan para pemegang kepentingan untuk lebih fokus dalam menangani kekangan kritikal, lantas dapat mencapai pelaksanaan BIM yang lebih efektif.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AEC	Architecture, Engineering, and Construction
AIA	The American Institute of Architects
BAM	BIM Acceptance Model
BCA	The Building Control Authority
BDS	Building Description System
BIM	Building Information Modelling
BIMTG	BIM Task Group
BIS	Business Innovations and Skills
BPA	Building Performance Analysis
BREEAM	Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method
CAD	Computer Aided Design
CASBEE	Comprehensive Assessment System for Building Environmental Efficiency
CORENet	The Construction and Real Estate Network
EDGE	Excellence in Design for Great Efficiencies
ERP	Enterprise Resource Planning
FM	Facility Management
GBC	Green Building Council
gbXML	Green Building Extensible Mark-up
GCC	Gulf Cooperation Council
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GGBC	Global Green Building Council
GHG	Greenhouse Gases
GIS	Geographic Information System
HVAC	Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning
IAI	The International Alliance for Interoperability
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
IEQ	Indoor Environmental Quality
IES	Integrated Environmental Solutions

IFC	The Industry Foundation Classes
IPD	Integrated Project Delivery
IT	Information Technology
JEA	Jordanian Engineers Association
JEDCO	The Jordanian Enterprise Development Corporation
JGBC	Jordan Green Building Council
KM	Knowledge Management
LEED	Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design
LOD	The Level of Detailing
ME	Middle East
MENA	Middle East and North Africa
MEP	Mechanical, electrical and plumbing
MER	Ministry of Energy and Resources
MHC	McGraw Hill Construction
MOE	The Margin of Error
MoE	Ministry of Environment
MPS	Model Progression Specifications
MPWH	Ministry of Public Works and Housing
NBS	National BIM Standard
NIST	National Institute of Standards and Technology's
NRC	National Research Council
PCA	The Principal Components Analysis
PEU	Perceived Ease of Use
PRS	Pearl Rating System
PU	Perceived Usefulness
ROI	The Return on Investment
RWCM	The Readiness for Workplace Change Management
SMEs	Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SWOT	Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats
TAM	Technology Acceptance Model
USGBC	US Green Building Council
XML	Extensible Markup Language

LIST OF SYMBOLS

$Z_{\alpha/2}$	-	The Normal Distribution at $\alpha/2$
p	-	The Sample Prevalence
d	-	The Margin of Error MOE
KMO	-	Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin
α	-	Cronbach's Alpha
r	-	Pearson Correlations
IRA	-	Inter-Rater Agreement
WS	-	Weight Score
SD	-	The Standard Deviation
RA	-	Rank Agreement
RII	-	Relative Importance Index
M	-	Mean Rating
n	-	Number Of Raters
PA	-	The Percentage Agreement
PD	-	The Percentage Disagreement

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

The construction industry is one of the cornerstones of the social and economic growth of countries around the world, whether developed or developing countries. Throughout the years, the building industry has faced countless challenges like low performance and productivity improvements, where the main problem lies in failure to deal with teamwork; poor inter-disciplinary communication, lack of collaboration, as well as the disjointed structure of the industry and its flow of services (Aouad and Wafai, 2002). Moreover, among the significant reasons that hinder this industry from the improvement are clinging to old methods of working, industry's slow changes or ineffective and weak response to emerging technologies (Analysis *et al.*, 1988; Dulaimi *et al.*, 2002). The construction projects over the years have seen an increase in complexity and become sophisticated with more extensive information, as the projects rely on the consumption of high volumes of data throughout the various stages of the building, from planning to operation.

There is a large amount of information involved in project construction, and dealing with this information and its flow traditionally in a manual manner barely meets such demand. Ddoi *et al.* (2012) identified that weak coordination consequently leads to reworks, whereby changes in scope in construction projects are identified to be due to several issues; the most significant of which is the inappropriate flow of information among the parties involved. Indeed, this correspondingly results in a schedule delay (Hwang *et al.*, 2013). The construction industry is wasting \$ 15.8 billion a year due to inefficient interoperability, as reported in The National Institute of Standards and Technology's (NIST) publication in 2004 (Lee *et al.*, 2015).

A growing number of scholars funded by the industry are beginning to recognize and highlight the issues that lead up to the poor performance of the building industry and weak organizational integration within the sector, thus seeking solutions through information technology (IT) as a key tool for an integrated industry environment. Over the last decade, the evolution of IT has been significantly affecting the development of the Architecture, Engineering, and Construction (AEC) and Facility Management (FM) industries. The industries have been experiencing a qualitative leap; such as progress in knowledge management (KM), enterprise resource planning (ERP), and supply chain management for its information systems (Lin, 2014; Rezgui *et al.*, 2010). As a result, an increase in productivity, efficiency and infrastructure value has been perceived, where the quality and sustainability are enhanced through decreasing the project costs, time limits and unnecessary duplication of tasks, through effective cooperation and communication among AEC players in construction projects (Arayici *et al.*, 2012).

The National Research Council (NRC) concentrates on providing a strategy to enhance the competitiveness, efficiency, and productivity of the construction industry in the United States. NRC has conducted a study to explore the gap between the building industry and IT, where they have found that the interoperable technology applications i.e., Building Information Modelling (BIM) is a sound solution and is considered a promising technology to improve the quality, timeliness, and cost-effectiveness as well as the sustainability of construction projects (Matarneh and Hamed, 2017).

1.1.1 Building Information Modeling (BIM)

BIM is one of the tools that emerged as a solution to the lack of integration and collaboration in the building industry and has been considered to be a vital solution for addressing multidisciplinary deficiencies in construction projects. As construction becomes complex and sophisticated, the need for BIM technology will be more necessary. Its importance in facing the challenges of information management in the building industry cannot be overemphasized (Acquah *et al.*,

2018; Jung and Lee, 2015). BIM is quickly turning into the next IT trend and innovation that may influence AEC and FM participants, both public and private (Azhar, 2011).

BIM is defined as a systematic process of managing and distributing the whole information created throughout the entire project life cycle from planning, design, construction, operations, and maintenance. Most definitions of BIM primarily describe the exchange, management, coordination, simulation and use of metadata surrounding an intelligent 3D model, and BIM's role in serving as an aid in accomplishing a variety of tasks for different stakeholders from the AEC in the construction process (Gerrish *et al.*, 2017). Sun *et al.* (2017) stated that BIM has profoundly affected the building industry from its beginning.

Researchers from previous studies have observed numerous benefits of BIM's implementation on design performance in design firms worldwide, such as a decrease in design errors, cost, time, conflicts in construction, as well as improved customer service, and enhanced product quality (Bozoglu, 2016; Love *et al.*, 2011; Zhao *et al.*, 2017). Hundreds of architectural organizations have gained significant benefits from BIM when properly implemented. Consequently, these organizations have witnessed their productivity and quality increased, project cost decreased, while project delivery duration and construction waste are also significantly reduced. In addition to that, they have also begun responding to smart building requirements appropriately, and when design teamwork and supply chain are integrated, they have managed to achieve customer and users' satisfaction, increased in profits, and also gained significant competitive advantage in the market, as well as improvement in the sustainability of the construction projects (Azhar, 2011; Eastman *et al.*, 2011; Elmualim and Gilder, 2014; Sebastian, 2011).

Other than that, BIM is also capable to support sustainable design in the areas of orientation and massing of the building, daylighting analysis, energy modeling, sustainable materials, water harvesting, site and logistics (Krygiel and Nies, 2008; Lu *et al.*, 2017; Razkenari *et al.*, 2016). BIM facilitates an opportunity to incorporate sustainability gauges all through the design procedure (Autodesk, 2012). With the

assistance of these BIM applications, architects and engineers can share sustainability information more efficiently, such as daylighting and energy consumption, which can seamlessly integrate sustainability analysis into the design process. BIM can also help designers to use existing building datasets to improve the default configuration to simulate building performance during the early stages of new building design (Hiyama *et al.*, 2014). According to Lu *et al.* (2017), the majority of Green BIM applications are designed for building performance analyses and simulations, such as analyses of the energy performance (Kim and Anderson, 2013; Schlueter and Thesseling, 2009; Shrivastava and Chini, 2012; Wong and Fan, 2013), analyses of CO₂ emission (Basbagill *et al.*, 2013; Knight and Addis, 2011), and simulations of the lighting (Welle *et al.*, 2012).

Specifically, the architecture industry has been greatly affected since the introduction of the computer and related technologies in the practice (Ibem *et al.*, 2017). The study conducted by Celento (2007) revealed that architects mainly use BIM because it enables them to visualize their designs before starting the actual construction work on-site; thus contributing to reducing ambiguity and errors that help prevent potential loss of money for their customers as the changes that are made to either the model or the database are automatically updated and coordinated throughout the entire model.

The following benefits for architects who use BIM in the design process are particularly evident, including document errors and omissions reduction, reduced rework and cycle time for the design process (Construction, 2012). However, the benefits of BIM were not fully realized even during its implementation. According to the SmartMarket Report, only 3% of the entire respondents stated that they were experiencing BIM full benefits (MGH Construction, 2009). The discrepancy between the expected benefits and the benefits accrued from BIM could be explained by its low adoption rates by architects (Deutsch, 2011).

1.1.2 Sustainable Design as BIM motivator

One of the major contributors to global unsustainable development is the building industry. At present, global energy demand keeps growing steadily in almost every part of our lives; such as transport, communications, agriculture, and construction. With rising energy costs, there is an increasing focus on energy conservation and the promotion of sustainable design and construction through policies and programs. Moreover, with the trend that limited resources are scarce and increasingly costly, and the risk of pollution that harms human health, researchers have increasingly recognized that using renewable energies and upgrading existing energy sources are among the best ways forward in dealing with the many energy challenges the world is facing, day by day. Given the fact that the high cost and immaturity of most renewable energies such as solar power, or having a negative potential to destroy the world if it is out of control such as nuclear, this means that at the current level of technologies and conditions, rising the energy efficiency is considered as a sound, affordable and reliable solution for these challenges (Chan *et al.*, 2017; Malek *et al.*, 2016; Petri *et al.*, 2017; Saidan, 2012).

There is a growing worldwide realization that the earth cannot continue to absorb the harmful impact of human activities on the environment for a long time. The relationship between the architecture industry and sustainable development is essential to save the environment, due to the significant environmental, social, and economic impact that this industry possesses. Improving building practices are also necessary to minimize the adverse effects of the construction industry on the natural environment (Sev, 2009). It is worthy to note that most of the energy used in a building is expended in the operation phase or during the post-occupancy phase of the building's life cycle (Surahman *et al.*, 2015). There are multiple guidelines, for achieving sustainable building design available to architecture stakeholder. This is what the Global Green Building Council "GGBC" is about; maximizing the benefits of going green, which include economic benefits, health benefits, welfare, etc. One of its main goals is to make all buildings net-zero by 2050, particularly because buildings are one of the most influential factors affecting climate change (Asfour, 2017).

The achievement of green and sustainable buildings is in line with the objectives of energy efficiency and the reduction of greenhouse gases GHG for governments worldwide. One way to achieve this goal; reducing energy consumption and CO₂ emissions, is through the expected improvement of energy efficiency in all areas of the AEC industry, by reducing energy demand in the building. However, to attain this, both design and operation processes must be facilitated effectively. It is, therefore, this thesis addresses environmental sustainability and it worth the attention of the Jordanian government and will certainly be socially and financially beneficial to the development of the country.

BIM as a process of building design information management is becoming standard practice in the architecture industry. Applying this technology outside the design development zones and using BIM data for the optimization of building performance has managed to draw the attention of the industry members due to the perceived positive effect throughout the building life-cycle. The optimization of building energy performance can be a highly complex process, given the number of factors contributing to the overall construction performance (Gerrish *et al.*, 2017). Recently, BIM has become one of the most effective techniques and monitoring innovations in the architecture industry (Succar and Kassem, 2015).

1.1.3 The Architecture and Construction Industry in Jordan

The construction industry is amongst the major productive activities in the country and it has a significant spot in the national economy. The industry features by highly skilled experiences and has recently been strengthened as The Gulf and international organizations enter the market, and that requires a higher level of technical knowledge, i.e. the new high-rise towers in the capital city Amman (Al Awad, 2015). Due to rapidly rising opportunities in property investments, Jordan is currently experiencing a spurt in construction activities, primarily in the capital (Amman), Aqaba port on the Red Sea, and the Dead Sea (JCCA) (2018). This sector requires a lot of effort to confront numerous issues of construction projects that are related to the contracting and execution systems. Among the key issues, the building

sector have to be properly organized in the project management field to keep pace with the strong advancement of construction projects and growing complexity of its activities (Al-Azhari and Al-Najjar, 2012; Al Awad, 2015).

El-Mashaleh (2007) surveyed the use of IT in construction firms in Jordan and affirmed that Jordan would witness an aggressive plan to take full advantage of IT capabilities. Furthermore, he found that the engineering drawings production depends primarily on AutoCAD in most organizations that utilize the software most of the time. Even though BIM has been leading development worldwide for a long time, its related technologies in Jordan are still within the emerging stages, and traditional CAD vendors such as Autodesk, Bentley, and Archicad are the most popular among users (Matarneh and Hamed, 2017). The World Bank (2019) has classified 137 developing countries in the low and middle-income categories. These countries face significant gaps in knowledge and limited technological innovation (Bui *et al.*, 2016). Similarly, Jordan as a developing country faces various challenges in the construction sector, like its other counterparts, particularly in the Middle East. Parts of the challenges faced by the building sector in Jordan are the many obstacles and barriers in adopting BIM technology due to the lack of clear guidelines and studies on best practices, through which to improve their ability to implement BIM (Bouguerra *et al.*, 2019; Khalid, 2017).

Jordan is one of the major Arabic-Islamic countries that are witnessing unprecedented construction developments. It has become an international arena in which architects from around the world compete to exhibit their design excellence. Most of these designs are controlled by real estate developers and are global and standardized (Jarrar, 2013). The process of design has received only empirical attention in recent years. A Focus on practice can have a direct impact on policymaking, architectural education, and future research not to mention the practice itself (Merriam, 1988). Furthermore, research in professional practice is crucial in building an area for professional practice research that exposes the complex layers of action, dynamics, and the intervening parties responsible for the various decisions (Macpherson *et al.*, 2004). However, there has been very little research on the process of professional practice of architecture in Jordan.

Such an inductive approach to professional practice research has its own challenges. The world of practice, and in this particular case design and architectural practice, is complex and highly reflexive in nature and usually involves continuous interactive encounters (Hall and White, 2005). Moreover, the most important obstacle to affecting the contemporary architectural practice scene in Jordan and the world in general is the dominance of real estate developers and the proliferation associated with fashion-based architecture (Jarrar, 2013).

The Jordanian construction sector makes up 39% of the national power consumption and witnessed a momentous growth of around 16% in this field through 2018 across the country (Ali and Alkayed, 2019). The Jordanian construction market devours a huge amount of resources in order to produce outputs and demands a great expense throughout the procedure of construction and operation (Du Plessis, 2002). This implies that there is a wide gap between the ideal concept of sustainable construction and how it is practiced. To bridge the gap, we are initially looking at the causes behind the existence of this particular issue so as to create rational solutions towards achieving the ideal utilization of sustainable design practices (Al-Momani, 2000; Flynn, 2012). In order to overcome the growing competition either domestically or abroad, and thus being able to stay ahead of the game, architecture companies must turn their focus to innovative solutions. One of the proven ways to be innovative is through technology improvements.

Undoubtedly, the architectural organizations in Jordan need to prepare for these challenges which will oblige them to adopt recent and effective approaches of design, cooperation, and documentation. Therefore, under these circumstances, the Jordanian architects cannot neglect the utilization of BIM. According to Arayici *et al.* (2011a); Navendren *et al.* (2014), and Ramilo and Embi (2014) studies, BIM adoption results in efficiency gains that help eliminate waste and generate value in small and medium-sized architectural firms. Furthermore, mandating BIM leads to the effective development of the building by improving design coordination, as well as design and operational information management (Tuohy and Murphy, 2015). Therefore, this thesis intends to outline the current practices for implementing BIM

in Jordanian architectural organizations as well as to identify the most relevant factors that control and boost BIM implementation in the architectural industry.

1.2 Problem Statement and Research Rationale

As in the aforementioned scenarios, the Jordanian building sector has witnessed such a rapid growth recently, which sparked the interest of the investors and encouraged investment in the construction projects, therefore making the integration and use of technological developments like BIM a more substantial solution. In June 2011, an initiative towards promoting BIM in the Jordanian construction industry was launched, by signing an agreement among the Jordanian Ministry of Public Works and Housing (MPWH), the Jordanian Engineers Association (JEA), BuildingSMART Middle East and North Africa (MENA), BuildingSMART Middle East (ME), and BIM Journal, to establish a BuildingSMART Forum, to improve the construction process and performance in Jordan (MEConstructionNews, 2011). In addition, in August 2018, the BIM committee was formed by a group of volunteer architects in the Architecture Division board in an effort to keep pace with technological developments in the field design and construction, and to promote and enrich BIM adoption in Jordan. One of the most notable achievements has been the launch of the BIM design templates for engineering firms.

However, with a varying BIM adoption rate globally, Jordan was among the lowest and lagging in the use of BIM, with only 3-5% of the BIM adoption rate as compared to other countries in middle east and worldwide, as found by the BuildingSMART ME survey (Sharif, 2011), and a few recent studies by Al Awad (2015), Gerges *et al.* (2017), and Matarneh and Hamed (2017). There is still a lack of use of such technology in this county, mainly because of various social, financial, legal and technical elements. In the pursuit to change the condition of the existing state of the design and building sector, initially, the process; design technique and application must change, which then leads to the result being more efficient (McLennan, 2004). Despite the great importance of BIM's successful adoption by

design firms, an understanding of the factors affecting this accreditation by architects in Jordan has not yet been explored. Hence, it is important to study the question of the impact of these factors on the architect's decision to adopt BIM. Although there is an increasing body of research on BIM being used in the design process by construction professionals, very few studies on its adoption in a developing country like Jordan are currently available.

It is noted from the literature that some fragmented studies have been conducted on BIM in the context of the Jordanian construction industry. Some of these available studies such as those carried out by Al Awad (2015) and Matarneh and Hamed (2017) attempted to explore the level of awareness and BIM adoption in the Jordanian AEC industry. Such is also the case found in the studies conducted in the Middle East region in general. Unfortunately, most of the research was designed to assess BIM adoption in all AEC industry categories, whereas more accurate results will be obtained if the target population is narrowed. Thus, surveying the company's particular role in the AEC industry could lead to more robust outcomes. Moreover, architects play a prominent role in the design of construction projects and initiating BIM adoption; as they are the key players in creating information models for project integration. Investigating the current state, acceptance, and preparedness to adopt BIM in architectural firms is crucial to ensure effective BIM implementation (Arayici *et al.*, 2011b) and therefore, sufficient knowledge on the level of BIM adoption in the architecture industry is required.

Although previous research has explored a broader aspect of BIM in the context of the construction industry as a whole, focusing on the acceptance or penetration such as; Hwang *et al.* (2013), Enegbuma *et al.* (2014), and Lee *et al.* (2015), only a small number focus specifically on design firms and local architects and thus formed a knowledge gap that needs to be explored. On top of that, the increasing cost of energy and building materials, and the economic challenges facing Jordan, as well as the negative effects of construction projects on the environment, have required the population to consume alternative energy sources more widely and to develop techniques to reduce energy consumption in addition to developing materials and new methods of design, implementation, operation, and maintenance

(Malek *et al.*, 2016). Therefore, it is necessary to place more focus on specific areas in ensuring that the industry constantly seeks to adopt sustainable and innovative building methods throughout the value chain.

The main aspects of this study are the need for sustainable building industry practices, and the need for innovative technology to eliminate the performance problems of the design and building sector in Jordan. Consequently, this study concentrated primarily on addressing the negligence of BIM implementation among architects, by investigating its current use, awareness, benefits, driving forces, as well as industry readiness. On the other hand, there was a lack of studies exploring the use of BIM in achieving sustainable design. Therefore, this study focuses on trying to uncover the potential relationships between BIM and sustainable building practices as they relate to the built environment. On the whole, it is necessary to examine how various elements can either boost or forestall BIM implementation in the Jordanian AEC sector, particularly among architectural organizations. In an effort to address the above-mentioned gaps, this study examines the factors that are influencing BIM accreditation in Jordan within the architectural practice.

1.3 Research Goal

The main goal of this study is to evaluate the current perceptions and the state of utilization of BIM technology and its interrelations with sustainable design among architectural design professionals in Jordan.

1.3.1 Research Objectives

Under the research goal, the followings are the objectives of this investigation:

- (a) To examine the current situation of BIM adoption and processes in Jordanian architectural firms.
- (b) To assess the perceived factors influencing the BIM adoption in Jordanian architectural practice.
- (c) To evaluate the sustainable building design as a driving factor for BIM adoption.

1.4 Research Question

The study will attempt to answer the following research questions:

1. What are the current practices, attitudes, and awareness of BIM implementation in the Jordanian architecture industry?
2. What are the perceived effects of BIM adoption on Jordanian design firms' performance and sustainability management?
3. What factors influence and impose BIM adoption in the architectural industry in Jordan?
4. Given that sustainable design as prime motivator for BIM, what are the challenges facing users in implementing BIM, and how ready are the firms to adopt it?

1.5 Significance of the Study

The study attempts to contribute constructively to the knowledge base in this field by investigating where BIM is placed in daily practices of the architectural enterprises in Jordan. Also, this study provides further insight and results regarding BIM adoption, which is a significant reference point for architects in assessing the changes and impacts that are critical in determining BIM progress in Jordan. Consequently, it is expected that the research findings benefit the community of architects and designer through enhancing their understanding regards the influences that affecting BIM acceptance and its effect on the performance of architectural firms.

This study would provide the stakeholders, especially the Architecture Division Board in Jordanian Engineering Association (JEA), with an insight into the current situation that would help them to promote and mandate BIM adoption among the architecture industry and sustainability practices in the country. Moreover, it enriches the understanding of user acceptance of BIM in the Jordanian architectural industry. If the determinants are considered, this will lead to significant acceptance and subsequent accreditation of BIM in the industry.

1.6 Limitations of the Study

BIM is a fairly recent technology, and there is a shortage of experts with extensive experience in this field. Merely 10% of the participants had over 10 years of involvement in BIM. In addition, the survey was conducted in the capital, where most of the participants were based in Amman, Jordan. As BIM is growing in popularity in the coming years, future research is expected to survey more experienced respondents with a broader range of cities and regions. Another limitation of the research is related to how the study variables are evaluated at the firm level; where the respondents evaluated their performances by themselves and these responses are not objectively measured against genuine datasets from authorized records. However, this may not necessarily be the situation. A more

precise evaluation should be considered in future research. Lastly, several constraints need to be recognized, namely, time constraints and relatively small sample sizes, which may lead to concerns regarding the generalization of research findings.

1.7 Thesis Organization

The thesis is divided into five chapters; the structure of each of the chapters is as follows:

- **Chapter 1 - Introduction:** The first chapter entails an introduction to inform and guide the reader through the background of the research, problem statement, the rationale for the research, and it outlines the goal and objectives of the study. In addition to the research questions, this chapter then lays out the importance of the study followed by the limitations and delimitation of the study.
- **Chapter 2 - Literature Review:** The chapter proceeds with an insightful discussion of relevant literature and previous research studies related to BIM practices and its adoption, to form a deep understanding of the BIM concept and use with an emphasis on architectural practices. Subsequently, sustainable development and sustainability in construction were discussed. It then continues to explore the potential impact of BIM on sustainable design and its contribution to providing sustainable design practices and improved quality.
- **Chapter 3 - Research Methodology:** This chapter elaborates the intention of the research study to attain its purpose and objectives. It discusses the research approach, design, and methodology that embodies an overview of the quantitative research method, scope, survey instrument, and the selection criteria. In addition, the method of data collection was described by reviewing the survey questionnaire conducted among architects from Jordanian engineering firms of varying sizes, types, and structures. This is followed by a detailed description of the procedure and methods used to analyze the data.

- **Chapter 4 - Results and Discussion:** The fourth chapter provides a comprehensive analysis of the results deduced from the data collected through the investigation of the literature and the survey questionnaire distributed among the architects in Jordan. The analysis concludes the reliability of the results, BIM's relation to architectural design and sustainable practices. The chapter ends with the development of a SWOT analysis, where the findings from this evaluation provide valuable answers to the research objectives.
- **Chapter 5 - Conclusion and Recommendation:** In this final chapter, the research concludes with a review of the main research findings with integrated recommendations to assist stakeholders, i.e. Jordanian government and other key players in the architecture sector, to swiftly switch to BIM in order to achieve high performance, sustainable design, and sustainable building industry in Jordan. This chapter also describes how to overcome the barriers of BIM implementation as well as some recommendations and opportunities for improvement for future research.

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