

SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS

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Liability Factors and Conceptual Framework for Contracts to Manage Design for Digital Fabrication in Construction Projects

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TABLE S1. Qualifications of the 14 experts for the Delphi survey. Abbreviation: DFAB = digital fabrication

	Role for Project Q	Current position	Profession	Experience of work	
				Contracts	Abroad
1	Project owner	Project Manager	Project Manager	✓	
2	Project owner	Engineer	Civil Engineer		
3	Design Architect	Director	Architect	✓	✓
4	Design Architect	Director	Architect	✓	✓
5	Executive Architect	Vice President	Architect	✓	
6	Executive Architect	Vice President	Architect	✓	✓
7	General Contractor	Vice President	Civil Engineer & Contract Manager	✓	✓
8	General Contractor	Project Manager	Architect & Project Manager	✓	
9	DFAB Trade Contractor	Vice President	Civil Engineer	✓	
10	BIM Consultant	President	BIM Manager	✓	✓
11	BIM Consultant	Project Manager	BIM Manager		
12	Facade Consultant	Consultant	Facade Engineer		✓
13	Geometry Design Consultant	Architect Lead	Architect		✓
14	Geometry Design Consultant	Director	Architect	✓	✓

TABLE S2. 163 liability factors identified in this work. Abbreviation: DFAB = digital fabrication; n = total number of valid observations = 163; μ = mean; σ = standard deviation.

	Round 1, Round 2 and Round 3			Ranked by			Definition
	μ Med.	Min.	Max.	n	RI	σ	
ACTORS (n=13)							
General contractor	4.56	3	5	14	4	62	Team(s) who is responsible for the overall coordination in delivery of a project
DFAB Trade contractor	3.79	4	0.89	5	54	54	Team(s) who is responsible for delivering the digital fabrication
Executive architect	3.79	4	1.12	5	14	107	Team(s) who is responsible for delivering the design (incl. design intents) through the construction
On-site assembly contractor	3.75	4	1.14	2	5	111	Team(s) who is responsible for on-site assembling the system(s) which has been fabricated digitally
3D Modeller	3.71	4	1.2	1	78	124	Team(s) who is responsible for modelling in 3D
BIM specialist	3.71	4	1.14	1	79	112	Team(s) who is responsible for/specialising in BIM-based work (e.g. modelling using BIM-based platforms)
DFAB engineer	3.71	4	0.99	2	5	80	Team(s) who is responsible for the engineering design work for the digital fabrication
Project manager	3.64	4	1.08	1	89	130	Team(s) who is responsible for managing the project throughout the process from design to construction completion
Design architect	3.64	4	1.28	1	94	134	Team(s) who is responsible for delivering the design concept and the design intents
3D scanner	3.57	4	1.18	2	106	115	Team(s) who is responsible for capturing the digital fabrication process
Design engineer	3.43	4	1.34	1	122	139	Team(s) who is responsible for delivering the engineering design (e.g. structural design, MEP design)
Consultant	3.14	3	1.25	1	149	129	Team(s) who assist certain part(s) of the project deliverables (e.g. facade systems, geometry design)
3D scanning specialist	3.14	3	1.48	0	159	157	Team(s) who is responsible for the 3D scanner execution or consulting work
RESOURCES (n=18)							
	μ	σ	Max.	n <td>RI <td>σ <td>Definition</td> </td></td>	RI <td>σ <td>Definition</td> </td>	σ <td>Definition</td>	Definition
BIM capability	4.45	5	0.69	3	1	11	Capability to manage the digital design and digital fabrication process
BIM expertise	4.43	5	0.85	3	2	46	Expertise in BIM-based work for design, construction and project management
BIM modelling coordination platform	4.36	5	0.84	3	14	44	BIM-based platform(s) that enables modelling and coordination work amongst multi-disciplinary teams
Platform's 3D interface capability	4.29	4.5	0.91	2	5	59	Capacity to handle the interface(s) between systems in 3D within the platform(s)
Platform for performance analysis	4.17	4.5	1.03	2	3	16	Platform(s) that enables performance analysis during the design/construction process (eg structural analysis)
Coordination/information exchange platform	4.08	4	0.79	3	22	31	Platform(s) that enables coordination or exchange of design/digital fabrication information amongst multi-disciplinary teams
Technical skillset	4.08	4	0.95	2	7	23	Skills to handle technical aspects (eg system design detailing or robotic control) in design and/or construction
Affordable BIM platform	4	4	1.22	1	34	126	BIM-based platform(s) which is affordable by most people in terms of price
Digital performance hardware	3.97	4	1.36	2	5	40	Hardware (eg computer) that has a high-performance specification (eg with high-speed processor)
Digital performance software	3.97	4	1.36	2	5	41	Software that has a high-performance specification (eg with high-speed processor)
Fabrication method intents	3.58	3.5	1.44	1	98	156	Concepts that captures the intended fabrication method to be executed in the construction process
Precise design provision	3.54	4	1.13	2	104	109	Providing accurate and detailed design information and documentation
Cost control system	3.38	3	0.87	2	126	49	System/mechanism/approach that assists in controlling costs in a project
Project lifecycle management platform	3.31	4	1.03	1	134	88	Platform(s) that enables lifecycle assessment and the corresponding management approaches
3D Point cloud technology	3.23	3	1.36	1	142	142	Technology that generates 3D point cloud model/visualisation/data
Flexible interface system	3.15	4	1.07	1	147	96	Interface system (digital or physical) that has a high degree of flexibility
3D scanning camera	3.14	3.5	1.51	0	148	159	Camera that scans a physical object into 3D model/data/data
Stranding machine	2.5	3	1.57	0	162	161	Machine that is used to fix, squeeze or tighten an element
CONDITIONS (n=23)							
	μ	σ	Max.	n <td>RI <td>σ <td>Definition</td> </td></td>	RI <td>σ <td>Definition</td> </td>	σ <td>Definition</td>	Definition
On-site constructability	4.29	4.5	0.83	3	1	40	Feasibility to construct on-site after the off-site digital fabrication
DFAB information involved early	4.17	4	0.94	2	16	66	When digital fabrication information is provided during the design process or before the fabrication process starts
Common Virtual Environment	4.08	4	0.64	3	6	7	A mutually accessible virtual environment that allows multi-disciplinary teams to co-create, coordinate and collaborate
Design-contractor involvement	4.08	4	0.95	3	25	69	When the general contractor/digital fabrication trade contractor actively get involved during the design process
Early contractor involvement	4.06	4	0.88	3	36	53	When the general contractor/digital fabrication trade contractor actively get involved during the design process
Information integration	3.92	4	1.19	1	42	121	Where information from multi-disciplinary teams are integrated
Flexible design	3.79	4	0.8	3	61	36	Where the design has a high degree of flexibility for changes
Appropriate project design delivery models	3.77	4	1.09	2	65	104	Project model(s) for design and delivery which is feasible to deliver project target values
Cost control	3.69	4	1.03	2	82	89	Competence to control or manage costs for the digital fabrication
Common Data Environment	3.67	4	0.78	2	86	25	Mutually accessible virtual environment of database that allows multi-disciplinary teams to access, edit and share data
Immersive VR Environment	3.67	4	0.89	2	87	55	Virtual Reality (VR) environment that provides an immersive experience for collaboration and coordination amongst teams
Building codes for 3D implementation	3.54	3	1.13	1	105	110	Building codes that assist industry to implement technology and workflow involving 3D information
Project lifecycle Management (PLM)	3.5	4	1.28	0	117	160	Management for handling project(s) as they progress through the typical stages of the project lifecycle
On-site adaptable logistics	3.42	4	1.08	1	123	101	Logistics provision is adaptive to real-time on-site situations or requirements
FM management requirements	3.38	4	1.39	1	127	152	Information and management-related requirements regarding future Facility Management (FM) after construction
On-site adaptable logistics	3.38	4	1.39	1	127	152	Logistics provision is adaptive to real-time on-site situations or requirements
Point cloud simulation	3.38	4	1.39	0	128	153	Logistics of visual forecasting simulation using technology that generates point cloud data
Detailed contracting environment	3.31	3	0.63	2	135	5	Environment where contracting requirements and/or potential provisions are described in details
Knowledge transfer	3.08	3	1.12	1	150	108	Provision or environment that facilitates knowledge-sharing or exchange amongst multi-disciplinary teams
Human-robot interaction	2.92	3	1.16	1	164	116	Interactive environment or provision that enables coordination between humans and robots
3D-scanning provision	2.79	3	1.57	0	164	146	Providing environment or technology to scan in 3D and generate 3D data
Liability waiver	2.55	3	1.57	0	161	147	Legal proposition that can exempt team(s) from legal liability for the specified activities (with acknowledged risks)
ATTRIBUTES (n=20)							
	μ	σ	Max.	n <td>RI <td>σ <td>Definition</td> </td></td>	RI <td>σ <td>Definition</td> </td>	σ <td>Definition</td>	Definition
Customisable	4.15	4	0.55	3	18	2	With the capability for design customisation
Mutual trust and sharing amongst teams	4.14	5	1.03	2	20	90	With trust and the willingness to share information (eg models) or risk/rewards amongst multi-disciplinary teams
Optimisable	4.07	4	0.73	3	30	13	With the capability for architectural/engineering/construction optimisation
Constructable	4	4	0.78	3	36	26	With the capability to construct appropriately and correctly
On-site integrable	4	4	0.62	3	41	4	With the capability to integrate the digitally fabricated system with other systems during the on-site assembly process
Multi-disciplinary	3.93	4	0.62	3	47	4	Attribute where the digital fabrication team is design/construction
Certainty in cost	3.92	4	1.04	2	43	94	Attribute where certainty regarding the resultant cost of digital fabrication
Knowledge capture	3.85	4	0.99	2	51	79	Attribute where multi-disciplinary knowledge is documented to a certain extent
2D & BIM integrable	3.83	4	1.11	2	55	106	With the capability to integrate 2D drawings and BIM information (e.g. 3D models)
Risk sharing/agile management	3.83	4	0.58	3	56	3	With the capability to share risks amongst teams or provision of agile management (e.g. costs)
Automated in fabrication	3.77	4	1.01	2	66	85	With the fabrication process being operated automatically
Prefabricatable	3.77	4	1.01	2	67	86	With the capability to fabricate in advance before on-site assembly
Precise design information	3.77	4	0.95	3	68	65	Design information is accurate and contains sufficient information of the design intents
Flexible design information	3.72	4	1.22	2	72	127	With the capability to adapt to changes
Integrable design-build	3.75	4	1.22	2	72	127	With the capability to integrate design and construction process (e.g. Design-Build model)
Fulfill legal & regulatory requirements	3.62	4	0.96	2	93	102	With the compatibility to satisfy the legal/contractual and regulatory requirements (e.g. building codes)
Inclusive	3.58	3	1.08	2	99	102	With the feasibility or intention to include all actors or acactors under a general situation
On schedule	3.54	4	0.97	2	106	73	With the feasibility to assure plans or activities proceed according to a defined schedule
Systemic Innovation	3.45	3	0.52	3	121	1	Innovation(s) that cuts across traditional discipline and supply chain boundaries and fosters system integration
Incentive	3.42	4	0.79	2	124	32	With the impact that motivates or encourages team(s) to achieve defined values

- to be continued on the next page -

		Rounds 1, 2 and 3				Rk. by		Definition
μ	Med.	σ	Min.	Max.	μ	σ	R I n	
PROCESESSES (n=22)								
4.21	4	0.87	3	3	14	6	1	Process to optimise the architectural design (eg. geometry)
4.14	4	0.71	3	5	14	1	1	Process to integrate the digital fabrication packages (eg. 3D printing)
4.08	4	0.69	3	5	12	1	1	Process to integrate the engineering design (eg structural/MEP performance)
4.04	4	0.73	3	5	12	1	1	Process to optimise the performance (eg. efficiency) during the construction process
3.92	4	0.9	3	5	14	1	1	Prefabrication process undertaken digitally
3.92	4	0.9	3	5	12	2	2	Process to improve the values (eg. cost-effectiveness) of the outcomes by examination of design
3.86	3	1	3	5	14	1	1	Process to form modules
3.79	4	0.8	3	5	14	3	3	Process to review shop drawings for digitally fabricating the system(s)
3.74	3	0.93	3	5	14	1	1	Communication process where a detailed design is further rationalised to suit the constructability
3.75	3	0.73	3	5	12	3	2	Process to test the performance (eg. structural performance) of the system(s)
3.73	3	1.1	2	5	11	1	1	Process to modify the performance (eg. structural performance) of the system(s)
3.69	4	0.75	3	5	13	2	2	Process to test the performance of the system on-site after the off-site digital fabrication
3.64	4	0.92	2	5	11	1	1	Refinement process of the system/system performance after a test
3.5	3	1.24	1	5	12	1	1	Simulation process for visual forecasting that considers time/schedule
3.5	4	1.38	0	5	14	1	1	Design development process to adjust the design to suit a defined requirement/request/function
3.5	4	0.85	2	5	14	2	1	Process to optimise the system performance (eg. process's CO ₂ emission)
3.5	3	0.7	2	5	12	1	1	Design process with features being shaped according to algorithmic processes
3.46	3	0.67	3	5	12	1	1	Design process that primarily involves modularity, prefabrication, pre-assembly and mass production
3.38	3	1.39	1	5	13	1	1	Process that commonly includes modularity, prefabrication, pre-assembly and mass production
3.38	3	1.26	1	5	13	2	2	Process of making a system/workflow conform to a certain standard of rule/definition
ARTEFACTS (n=14)								
4.29	4.5	0.83	3	5	14	8	41	Output of precise BIM-based model(s) for construction or generated during the construction process
4.23	4	0.73	3	5	12	4	15	Output of data for construction that comprises those from multi-disciplinary teams
4.21	4	0.89	3	5	14	4	13	Output of BIM-based model(s) that comprises those from multi-disciplinary teams
4.21	4	0.7	3	5	14	5	13	Output of BIM-based model(s) that comprises those from multi-disciplinary teams
4.07	4	0.83	3	5	14	4	32	Output of precise BIM-based model(s) in 3D that comprises those from multi-disciplinary teams
4	4	0.78	3	5	14	6	42	Output of drawing(s) in 3D that matches the model(s) in 3D
4	4	0.76	3	5	14	4	38	Output of specification including information about the digital fabrication process
3.92	4	0.94	2	5	13	2	49	Output of automated systems that can track the progress of the digital fabrication process
3.79	4	0.97	2	5	11	2	49	Output of 2D drawings with detailed information (e.g. interfaces, material specification)
3.62	4	1.04	1	5	13	6	63	Output of detailed measurements of materials and labour needed to complete a process in a project
3.62	4	1.04	1	5	13	6	94	Output of detailed measurements of materials and labour needed to complete a process in a project
3.5	3.5	0.76	2	4	12	5	84	Output of arrangement of engineered parts to create a variety of families of related objects
3.08	3	0.76	2	4	13	1	151	Output of data or visualisation from the point cloud simulation
VALUES (n=25)								
4.36	4	0.63	3	5	14	4	6	Reward of error reduction in manufacture or assembly during the construction process
4.07	4.5	1.14	1	5	14	4	6	Reward of quality improvement in construction or assembly (e.g. structure) of the products
4	4	1.18	2	5	14	2	33	Reward of reduction in construction or assembly costs during the design process
3.77	4	1.17	2	5	13	4	39	Reward of uncertainty reduction during the digital fabrication process
3.71	4	1.33	1	5	14	2	70	Reward of capability (e.g. competence of design and digital fabrication) of the teams
3.64	4	0.93	2	5	14	2	92	Reward of construction complexity (e.g. manufacturing steps) reduction
3.62	4	1.26	1	5	13	4	92	Positive impact on human skills (e.g. manufacturing steps) reduction
3.57	3.5	0.78	2	5	13	2	96	Positive impact on encouraging development and fabrication of highly complex design
3.54	4	0.92	2	5	14	4	103	Positive impact on reducing conflicts (e.g. system interfaces) during the fabrication process
3.54	4	0.97	2	5	13	3	103	Positive impact on process efficiency and reduction of time spent on fabrication
3.5	3.5	0.76	2	4	13	1	108	Positive impact on facilitating digital design development
3.46	3	1.34	1	5	14	7	116	Positive impact on reducing the overall project costs (including costs in design and construction)
3.46	3	0.78	2	5	13	1	119	Positive impact on fostering creativity of the project team(s)
3.38	4	1.19	1	5	13	2	120	Positive impact on reducing costs in particular for system interface (e.g. between two systems)
3.36	4	1.29	1	5	11	3	131	Positive impact on facilitating knowledge sharing or exchange amongst multi-disciplinary teams
3.31	3	1.03	1	5	13	1	133	Positive impact on facilitating the adoption of automation in construction
3.25	3	0.86	2	5	13	3	136	Positive impact on facilitating sustainability performance (e.g. reuse of materials)
3.21	3	0.92	2	5	14	1	143	Positive impact on fostering industrialisation processes (e.g. modularisation)
3.21	3	0.92	2	5	14	1	143	Positive impact on ensuring that cost(s) are under controlled and monitored
3.17	3	1.27	1	5	13	1	145	Positive impact on the return of investment from profits, cost reduction etc.
3	3	1.08	1	5	12	1	146	Positive impact on ensuring that the process schedules are under controlled and monitored
2.92	3	1.38	0	5	13	2	152	Positive impact on reducing manpower to actively work on the fabrication process
2.92	3	0.79	2	4	12	1	155	Positive impact on reducing manpower to actively work on the fabrication process
2.92	3	0.79	2	4	12	1	156	Positive impact on reducing manpower to actively work on the fabrication process
RISKS (n=28)								
4.17	4	1.03	2	5	12	1	92	Risk where the design information or BIM information does not match the information on-site
4.15	4	0.8	3	5	13	1	92	Risk with uncertain feasibility in construction (manufacture and/or assembly)
4.08	4	0.95	2	5	13	3	19	Risk where there is insufficient skilled labour to conduct the digital fabrication work
3.92	4	0.86	3	5	13	2	29	Risk where the expectations amongst teams are not matching
3.92	4	0.79	3	5	12	2	48	Risk when digital fabrication knowledge is not integrated in design
3.85	4	1.07	2	5	13	1	52	Risk with errors within the platform(s) or during format exchange within platforms
3.82	4	1.07	2	5	12	2	53	Risk of an increase in the overall costs during the digital fabrication process
3.82	4	0.83	2	5	13	2	53	Risk when training of workers is required to conduct digital fabrication
3.83	4	0.93	2	5	13	2	93	Risk when the design documentation does not match the construction documentation (outputs)
3.83	4	0.93	2	5	13	2	58	Risk when the design documentation does not match the construction documentation (outputs)
3.75	4	0.87	3	5	12	2	75	Risk of over depending on BIM platform or BIM usage
3.75	4	0.87	3	5	12	2	76	Risk of over depending on the supply chain during the construction process
3.69	4	0.75	2	5	13	1	84	Risk of increase in design costs (e.g. fee to hire DFAB design coordinator)
3.69	4	0.75	2	5	13	2	84	Risk of extending the duration of the design process (e.g. extra time is needed for design coordination)
3.67	4	0.78	2	5	12	2	85	Risk with uncertain feasibility during the digital fabrication process
3.62	3	0.77	2	5	12	1	88	Risk of an increase in manpower to work on a certain task
3.58	4	0.9	2	5	13	1	97	Risk of the digital information (e.g. from different teams) are not consistent
3.58	4	1.26	1	5	12	3	100	Risk of the digital information (e.g. from different teams) are not consistent
3.58	4	1.26	1	5	12	3	132	Risk that there is no suitable materials for implementing digital fabrication
3.51	3	1.38	1	5	13	1	137	Risk that there is no suitable materials for implementing digital fabrication
3.29	3	1.07	1	5	14	2	138	Risk where the skills and knowledge amongst teams are not aligned
3.25	3	1.14	1	5	12	1	139	Risk of the team(s) depends too much on electricity consumption
3.25	3	1.36	1	5	12	1	140	Team(s)' sceptical attitude towards the adoption of digital fabrication
3.25	3	1.36	1	5	12	3	141	Team(s)' sceptical attitude towards the adoption of digital fabrication
3	3	1.48	1	5	12	2	153	Risk of cyber attack in systems, networks, programs, devices and data
2.92	3	1.66	0	5	12	1	158	Risk of the buildings codes do not align to the situation in digital fabrication
2.92	3	1.66	0	5	12	1	158	Risk of the buildings codes do not align to the situation in digital fabrication
2.5	2.5	1.57	0	5	12	1	163	Risk of demoting human's development of skills and knowledge