

Editorial



*Assoc. Prof. Peter Stewart
Head, Department of Property,
Construction and Project
Management
RMIT University*

Welcome to the December 2003 issue of *The Australian Journal of Construction Economics and Building*. This edition holds an interesting series of papers on topics ranging from the role of the professions to education.

The first paper sees Loosemore discuss the difficulties of implementing reform within our industry. He argues that to achieve these reforms then we will need to fundamentally change the way that construction projects, construction companies and the government-industry interface are managed. Given the fragmentation of the industry and the project based nature of our work, one can only foresee a significant challenge for our industry leaders. In the second paper, Mills provides the views of industry leaders on challenges for the professions. The results of this research highlight that public status, maintenance of skills, and ethical standards, will remain the main objectives of professional societies. These findings underline the operational focus of professional groups in responding to the needs of their members and the leadership role each of these groups could take in tackling the reforms outlined in the previous paper. In the following paper, Lingard and Lin examine the work experiences of women in the construction industry. This paper is well written, and it encourages the reader to reflect on how rigid work practices create difficulties for some groups in our workforce. They conclude that there is a need for cultural and attitudinal change if women are to encouraged to take up site based roles in construction. Oyedele, Jaiyeoba and Fadeyi then identify the five most important design factors influencing the quality of building projects. While the research outcomes are clearly specific to building projects in Nigeria, their findings do provide interesting reading for others concerned with improving the quality of our building products. The next paper by Liu, Lyle and Langston examine the demolition costs of projects, and make cost comparisons of demolition and deconstruction approaches. They find that the lower costs of deconstruction and the reduced levels of waste entering land fill make this a viable approach for demolition. The final paper, presented by McLaughlin and Simpson discusses how teamwork and consulting skills can be developed by students undertaking tertiary study. Students have found that the focus on developing these skills has enhanced their learning experience and created a more professional approach to their work.

My thanks go to all members of the Editorial Board who provided their valuable time and expertise in reviewing the papers submitted by our contributors. I would also like to personally thank the production staff from RMIT, particularly Mary Tomsic who has worked closely with reviewers and contributors. I hope that you find this edition as interesting as the last, and that in 2004 you will continue to publish and share the outcomes of your research with your colleagues.

Assoc. Prof. Peter Stewart

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The incorrect Figure 1 was printed on page 55 in the last edition, please see below for the correct figure, from Lam, Edmond, Chan, Albert and Chan, Daniel, (2003). Why is design-build commonly used in the public sector? An Illustration from Hong Kong. Australian Journal of Construction and Building Economics, 3(1), 53-62.

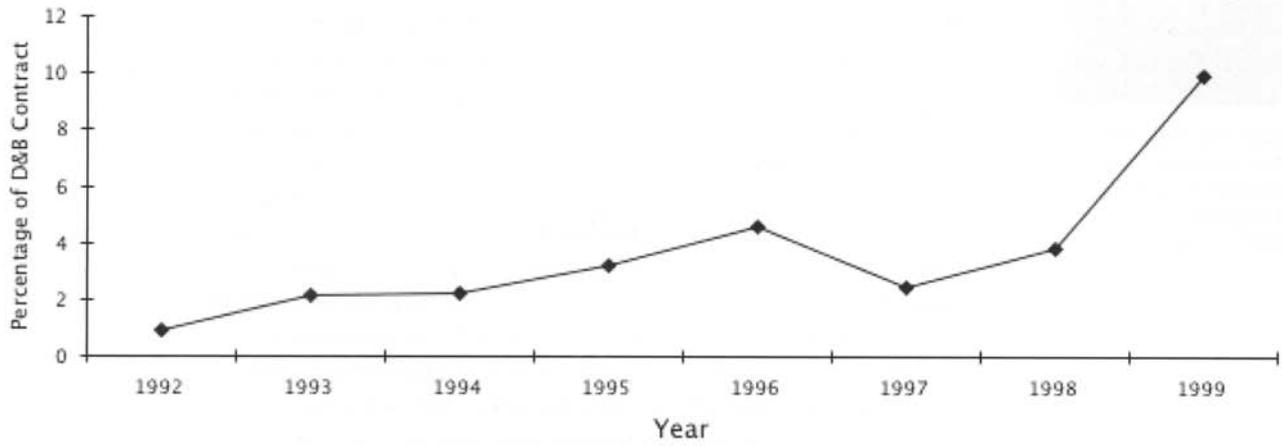


Fig. 1: The trend of the use of D&B projects in the ASD over the past 8 years (Source: Chan et al., 2001)