



The development and application of Virtual Reality and Building Information Modelling (BIM) technologies in the construction industry has steadily grown over the last decade. The concurrent advancement in computing power, graphics hardware and mobile technologies along with the development of international open standards for different types of architectural and engineering information have provided enormous opportunities for researchers and practitioners to investigate novel approaches, techniques and tools for the planning, design, construction and operational phases of projects. These include: assessment of design aspects such as energy, constructability, cost and compliance checking; site applications such as real-time asset tracking, visual-based progress estimation, as-built updating and safety assessment; facility management; collaboration, education and learning; interoperability between BIM and geographic information systems, and simulation of complex data and processes. Developments and applications of these were the focus of discussions and presentations at the 13th International Conference on Construction Applications of Virtual Reality (CONVR 2013, October 30th and 31th, London).

We have selected four best papers from the CONVR 2013 conference, for publication in this special issue. These papers were double blind peer reviewed through CONVR2013 review processes. The papers selected for publication in this special issue reveal significant opportunities for communities of practice and researchers to improve the ways in which projects are designed, built and operated. However, despite the proliferation of these novel tools, we are still facing significant technical and procedural challenges that must be resolved. Together with CONVR community we remain fully committed to addressing these challenges and providing benefits to an ever-evolving construction industry in which BIM and VR are becoming increasingly "indispensable and ordinary".

Guest Editors

Mohamad Kassem

Nashwan Dawood

Teesside University, UK