

Converging Futures: Technology, Business Models and People in the Built Environment

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ABSTRACT

The built environment is entering a period of significant change. For decades, digital transformation has often been framed around the adoption of individual technologies. That framing is no longer sufficient, as value is increasingly being created through technology convergence. This is changing how projects are conceived, delivered and operated. It is also beginning to reshape relationships across the construction value chain and challenge traditional business models. This keynote explores the problem through the lens of construction and the wider built-environment professions. It argues that innovation increasingly lies not simply in adopting new technologies, but in connecting technology with data and decision-making across the asset lifecycle. At the same time, human judgement, leadership and the ability to work across professional boundaries will become even more important as technology convergence accelerates. Drawing on industry evidence and the author's research on technology convergence and business models, the keynote considers how better integration of technology, organisations and people can create a more productive, resilient and sustainable built environment.

Index Terms— *Built Environment; Construction, Technology Convergence, Business Model Innovation, Integration.*

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Speaker's short biography:



Dr Asheem Shrestha is a Senior Lecturer and Deputy Associate Head of School, International, at the School of Architecture and Built Environment, Deakin University, Australia. Trained as a civil engineer, he also holds a Master's degree in Construction Management and a PhD from the University of Melbourne. His doctoral research was recognised with the Chartered Institute of Building Award for Excellence in Building Research. He has more than 20 years of experience across construction consulting, teaching and research. His research focuses on the procurement and delivery of major infrastructure projects, construction technology, construction economics and the sustainable built environment. He has published extensively, with close to 70 journal articles, book chapters, industry reports and conference papers, as well as a book. Dr Shrestha is also actively involved in the international academic community and currently serves as an Associate Editor and editorial board member for several leading international journals in construction and the built environment.