

**FRAMEWORK OF UNDERSTANDING FOR BIM ADOPTION
IN A BIM INFANT INDUSTRY: CASE OF SRI LANKA**

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Doctor of Philosophy

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Faculty of Architecture

University of Moratuwa

Sri Lanka

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Thesis submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree
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DECLARATION

I declare that this is my own work, and this thesis does not incorporate without acknowledgement any material previously submitted for a degree or diploma in any other University or Institute of higher learning and to the best of my knowledge and belief it does not contain any material previously published or written by another person except where the acknowledgement is made in the text. I retain the right to use this content in whole or part in future works (such as articles or books).

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The above candidate has carried out research for the PhD thesis under my supervision. I confirm that the declaration made above by the student is true and correct.

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DEDICATION

Dedicated to Sanjeevi
my beloved wife
for not just being by my side

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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ABSTRACT

Being a technological innovation with ability to address many of the problems in the construction industry, Building Information Modelling (BIM) has got significant attention both in academia and in practice. Proper strategizing of BIM adoption by both adopters and supporting agents is crucial for success. In this, inability to formulate structured understanding of BIM adoption decision context was found a limitation, and this study aimed to develop a framework of understanding of BIM adoption decision in a context of BIM infant industry taking Sri Lanka as a case. Affordances concept was utilized to conceptualize wide knowledge in BIM adoption into one framework. Introduced in ecological psychology, affordances are the potential uses or actions that an object or environment offers to a user. It is a versatile concept that could effectively represent not only what an adopter perceives and expects from BIM implementation, but also, what the adopter in fact can achieve from it. With the assertion that there is a generalizable underlying framework of BIM adoption decision that can be observed through socially constructed experience it caused, the study took a Retroductive Approach to theory with Critical Realism research philosophy. Data was collected through semi-structures interviews with nine participants purposively selected to maximize the breadth and depth of data. After each interview, an iterative inductive and deductive data analysis process was followed by developing thick narratives and qualitatively validating the developing framework with data thus far. Findings present the Affordance-led Framework of Understanding that can effectively capture the BIM adoption decision context in a BIM infant industry and offer a deeper contextualized view of BIM adoption decision that was absent in current innovation studies. Study findings contribute pertinent affordances as a new concept for which an equivalent concept or an explanation was not found either in behavioural or innovation adoption theories. While the framework supports the strategizing of BIM adoption, it has shown potential use in many other contexts even outside of construction.

Keywords: Building Information Modelling, BIM, BIM Infant Industry, innovation, adoption

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Declaration	i
Dedication	ii
Acknowledgements	iii
Abstract	iv
Table of Contents	v
List of Figures	ix
List of Tables.....	xi
List of Abbreviations.....	xii
List of Appendices	xvi
Chapter 1 Introduction	1
1.1 Background.....	1
1.2 Problem Statement.....	6
1.3 Aim and Objectives	8
1.4 Scope and Limitations of the Study.....	8
1.5 Methodology.....	9
1.6 Organization of the thesis	9
Chapter 2 Literature Review	10
2.1 Building Information Modelling	10
2.1.1 BIM as a Technological Advancement.....	11
2.1.2 BIM as a Shift in Paradigm.....	15
2.1.3 BIM Infant Industries	16
2.2 BIM Innovation Decision	17
2.2.1 Innovations.....	17
2.2.2 Innovation Adoption and Diffusion in Theory.....	20
2.2.3 BIM Innovation Adoption.....	21
2.3 Models of Innovation Adoption	26
2.3.1 Tarde’s laws of Imitation (1890)	26
2.3.2 Theory of Diffusion of Innovation (1962)	27
2.3.3 Bass Model (1969)	27
2.3.4 Social Network Theory (1973).....	28
2.3.5 Theory of Reasoned Actions (1980)	29
2.3.6 Model of PC Utilization (1977)	30
2.3.7 Social Cognitive Theory (1985).....	30
2.3.8 Technology Acceptance Model (1989).....	31
2.3.9 Theory of Planned Behaviour (1991).....	31
2.3.10 Motivational Model (1992).....	32
2.3.11 Combined TAM & TPB (1995).....	33
2.3.12 Decomposed Theory of Planned Behaviour (1995).....	34
2.3.13 Unified Theory of Acceptance and Use of Technology (2003).....	36

2.3.14	Value-Based Adoption Model (2007)	38
2.3.15	Reasoned Action Approach (2010)	39
2.3.16	HMSAM - hedonic-motivation system adoption model (2013)	40
2.3.17	Integrated Models of Diffusion (2018)	41
2.3.18	Other Theoretical Developments in Innovation Adoption	42
2.4	Determinants of Innovation Adoption	45
2.4.1	Perceived Characteristics of Innovation	45
2.4.2	Behavioural Characteristics of Adopters	52
2.4.3	Other Characteristics Affecting the Adoption of Innovations	57
2.5	Innovation Decision	61
2.6	Innovation-Decision Process	61
2.7	Knowledge about Innovation	63
2.7.1	Mass media	63
2.7.2	Interpersonal Channels	63
2.7.3	Social Media	64
2.8	Adoption of BIM	64
2.9	Materiality of BIM	65
2.10	Affordances	66
2.11	Summary of the Literature Review	66
Chapter 3	Affordance-led Framework of understanding	68
3.1	Understanding the BIM Adoption Decision	68
3.2	Affordance based study framework	72
3.3	BIM Affordance Gap	74
3.4	Development of AFU in Summary	74
Chapter 4	Methodology	76
4.1	The Role of the Researcher	76
4.2	Research Design	77
4.2.1	Research Philosophy	77
4.2.2	Approach to theory development	79
4.2.3	Methodological choice	79
4.2.4	Research Strategy	80
4.2.5	Time horizons	81
4.2.6	Techniques and Procedures	81
4.2.7	Research Onion	81
4.3	Research Process	82
4.3.1	Interviewee Selection	82
4.3.2	Interviews	84
4.3.3	Analysis Process	88
4.4	Validity of Findings	94
4.4.1	Reflexivity	95
4.4.2	Collaboration	95

4.4.3	Peer Debriefing	96
4.4.4	Triangulation	96
4.4.5	Thick Description	97
4.4.6	Member Checking	97
4.4.7	Additional Measures	98
4.5	Alternative Quality Criteria for Validity	98
4.5.1	Dependability	98
4.5.2	Credibility	98
4.5.3	Transferability	99
4.5.4	Authenticity Criteria.....	99
4.6	Reliability of Findings	101
4.7	Research Ethics	101
4.8	Limitations of Methodology	103
4.9	Summary of Research Methodology	104
Chapter 5	Analysis and Findings	106
5.1	Analysis of BIM Adoption Experience	106
5.1.1	Revit Implementation by Nicole Pierre.....	107
5.1.2	5D BIM implementation and CostX adoption by Sydney Dias	110
5.1.3	Revit and Solidworks adoption by Shane Sandalwood.....	118
5.1.4	Revit MEP Implementation by Shirley Ratatron	125
5.1.5	Revit Adoption for BIM Modelling by Terry Perret.....	129
5.1.6	Architectural BIM adoption by Shawn Pilkington.....	134
5.1.7	Revit MEP Implementation by Noel Priestley.....	141
5.1.8	BIM in Design and Build Projects by Morgan Ramsden.....	147
5.1.9	Structural Engineering BIM Implementation by Billy Edmondson ..	155
5.2	Findings	158
5.2.1	Nature of Affordances.....	158
5.2.2	Venn Diagram Representation of Affordance-led Framework of Understanding	163
5.2.3	Pertinent States of Affordances.....	165
5.3	Expert Validation of Transferability	166
5.3.1	Session with Winter Skylar	167
5.3.2	Session with Morgan Ramsden.....	168
5.4	Summary of Analysis and Findings	169
Chapter 6	Discussion of Findings	171
6.1	Affordance-led Framework of Understanding	171
6.2	Pertinent Affordances as a Concept	173
6.3	Perceived Characteristics in the Framework	177
6.4	Representation of Behavioural Characteristics	180
6.5	Representation of Other Factors and Concepts	182
6.6	AFU and BIM Adoption Studies	185

6.7 Summary of Discussion.....	188
Chapter 7 Conclusions and Recommendations.....	189
7.1 Summary of the Study	189
7.1.1 Objective One.....	192
7.1.2 Objective Two.....	193
7.1.3 Objective Three.....	193
7.1.4 Objective Four.....	194
7.2 Conclusions and Contributions.....	194
7.2.1 Contribution to Theory.....	195
7.2.2 Contribution to Practice	195
7.2.3 Contribution to Society	195
7.3 Recommendations	196
7.4 Limitations of Study	197
7.5 Further Research.....	198
References	199
Appendix A: Sample Interview Transcript	248
Appendix B: Expert Validation Session Presentation Slides.....	253

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 2-1 <i>Theory of Reasoned Action</i>	29
Figure 2-2 <i>Technology Acceptance Model</i>	31
Figure 2-3 <i>Theory of planned behaviour</i>	32
Figure 2-4 <i>Combined TAM & TBP Model</i>	34
Figure 2-5 <i>Decomposed theory of planned behaviour</i>	35
Figure 2-6 <i>UTAUT Research Model</i>	37
Figure 2-7 <i>The model of Reasoned Action Approach</i>	40
Figure 2-8 <i>Hedonic-motivation system adoption model</i>	41
Figure 2-9 <i>Innovation Decision Process</i>	62
Figure 3-1 <i>Complexification of Affordances</i>	72
Figure 4-1 <i>Research Onion of the Study</i>	82
Figure 4-2 <i>Analysis Process of an Interview Data</i>	90
Figure 5-1 <i>AFU at the beginning of data analysis</i>	106
Figure 5-2 <i>AFU after the interview with Nicole Pierre</i>	110
Figure 5-3 <i>Real and Material Affordances</i>	112
Figure 5-4 <i>Possible interactions of perceived non-affordances</i>	114
Figure 5-5 <i>Extended AFU sets incorporating Sydney's experience</i>	114
Figure 5-6 <i>Dynamics of CostX BoQ Affordances for Sydney</i>	117
Figure 5-7 <i>Expanding material affordances with Solidworks</i>	121
Figure 5-8 <i>Dynamics of Imm Accuracy Affordances for Shane</i>	122
Figure 5-9 <i>Change of expected affordances with perceived affordances</i>	126
Figure 5-10 <i>Dynamics of plumbing modelling affordances for Shirley</i>	127
Figure 5-11 <i>Dynamics of topographical surface modelling for Terry</i>	132
Figure 5-12 <i>Formation of expected affordances</i>	137
Figure 5-13 <i>Dynamics of live rendering affordance for Shawn</i>	138
Figure 5-14 <i>Dynamics of electrical design modelling affordances for Noel</i>	143
Figure 5-15 <i>Dynamics of MEP affordances for Noel</i>	146
Figure 5-16 <i>Dynamics of two different affordances for Morgan</i>	150

Figure 5-17 <i>Affordance-led Framework of Understanding</i>	163
Figure 6-1 <i>Basic dynamics of affordances to reach pertinent state</i>	175
Figure 6-2 <i>Dynamics of expected but not pertinent affordances before adoption</i> ..	175
Figure 7-1 <i>Complexified affordances in AFU</i>	190
Figure 7-2 <i>Summarized Findings of the Study</i>	192

LIST OF TABLES

Table 2-1 <i>Perceived characteristics affecting adoption of an innovation</i>	46
Table 2-2 <i>Origin and use cases of perceived characteristics</i>	48
Table 2-3 <i>Behavioural characteristics affecting the adoption of innovations</i>	53
Table 2-4 <i>Origin and use cases of behavioural characteristics</i>	54
Table 2-5 <i>Other characteristics affecting the adoption of innovations</i>	57
Table 2-6 <i>Origin and use cases of other characteristics</i>	58
Table 3-1 <i>Seven Types Affordances in AFU</i>	73
Table 4-1 <i>Interviewee Profile</i>	84
Table 4-2 <i>Standard Interview Questions</i>	87
Table 4-3 <i>Iterative Analysis of Interview Data</i>	91
Table 4-4 <i>Code book of the study</i>	92
Table 4-5 <i>Ethical Principles and Adherence</i>	102
Table 5-1 <i>Types of Affordances in Affordance-led Framework of Understanding</i> . 164	

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

Abbreviation	Description
3D	3-Dimensional
4D	4-Dimensional
5D	5-Dimensional
ABM	Agent-Based Modelling
AC	Air Condition/Conditioning
AEC	Architecture, Engineering, and Construction
AECO	Architecture, Engineering, Construction and Operation
AFU	Affordance-led Framework of Understanding
AOT	Availability, Observability and Trialability
ATT	Analog Terrestrial Television
BC	Before Christ
BIM	Building Information Model / Modelling
BoQ	Bill of Quantities
BS	British Standard(s)
CAD	Computer Aided Design/Drafting/Draughting
CDN	Common Data Environment
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
CNC	Computer Numerical Control
CoP	Communities-of-Practice
COVID19	Coronavirus disease 2019
DB	Distribution Board
DOI	Diffusion of Innovations

Abbreviation	Description
DTT	Digital Terrestrial Television
ed.	edition
Ed. (Eds.)	Editor (Editors)
e.g.	for example
et al.	and others
HMSAM	Hedonic-Motivation System Adoption Model
IAI	International Alliance for Interoperability
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
IDDS	Integrated Design and Delivery Solutions
IFC	Industry Foundation Classes
IIA	Infant Industry Argument
IKBMS	Integrated Knowledge-based Building Management System
IMB	Integrated Model of Behaviour
IMD	Integrated Models of Diffusion
IPD	Integrated Project Delivery
IT	Information Technology
MEP	Mechanical, Electrical and Plumbing
MIS	Management Information Systems
MM	Motivational Model
MPCU	Model of PC Utilization
MSBA	Model of Systemic BIM Adoption
NBS	National Building Specification
n.d.	no date

Abbreviation	Description
nD	n-Dimensional
p. (pp.)	page (pages)
PC	Personal Computer
PDF	Portable Document Format
QS	Quantity Surveyor/Quantity Surveying
QTO	Quantity Take/Taking Off
RAA	Reasoned Action Approach
ROI	Return on Investment
SCT	Social Cognitive Theory
SI	Social Influence
SMEs	Small and Medium Enterprises
SNA	Social Network Analysis
SNS	Social Network Site
SNT	Social Network Theory
SP	Sustainable Procurement
T&M	Transcript and Memos
TAM	Technology Acceptance Model
TPB	Theory of Planned Behaviour
TRA	Theory of Reasoned Action
TV	Television
UK	United Kingdom
US	United States (of America)
UTAUT	Unified Theory of Acceptance and Use of Technology

Abbreviation	Description
VAM	Value-Based Adoption Model
viz.	namely
Vol.	Volume
WAP	Wireless Application Protocol
WC	Water Closet

LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix	Description	Page
Appendix A	Sample Interview Transcript	248
Appendix B	Expert Validation Session Presentation Slides	253