Building Information Modeling and virtual reality

Miqueas Guerrero

Robert Burnett and Engineering   Spring, 2023

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Introduction

What is Building Information Modeling?

Building Information Modeling (BIM) Robert F. Burnett

BIM is used across the AEC industries to facilitate Arch/Struct/MEP design. Building information modeling (BIM) is permeating the AEC industry at an escalating rate to the point where corporations and even countries are choosing to mandate the platform for large-scale project

Applications in Industry-Nathan Thomas

Construction managers or general contractors can use BIM to extract quantities of work to prepare cost estimates. Furthermore, they can provide powerful 3D renderings. Moreover, schedule integrated BIM known as 4D BIM can be used for animations, safety analysis, and to prepare site logistic plans 5D models enables the various participants (from architects, designers, contractors to owners) of a construction project to visualize the progress of construction activities and its related costs over time

What is VR?

VR (virtual reality) is a technology that uses computer software and hardware to create a simulated environment in which a user can be immersed. Users wear a VR headset equipped with screens and sensors that track their movements, allowing them to interact with the virtual environment. Virtual reality has many applications, including entertainment, education, and training, and can provide a powerful tool for learning and exploring new concepts.

Methods

VR / coordination process

The VR coordination process involves planning, designing, and executing a collaborative, multi-stakeholder virtual reality project. It starts with defining the project objectives and identifying the target audiences. The design phase includes layout, content, and interactive elements, and the development team creates 3D models, textures, animations, and codes interactive elements while integrating hardware components. Regular testing and feedback loops ensure that the VR experience meets user requirements and expectations, and multiple revisions can be made. Once complete, the VR app is deployed and may require ongoing maintenance and support.

VR/ Construction Management

Virtual reality (VR) technology has numerous applications in construction management, including design and visualization, safety training, remote collaboration, virtual site visits, and maintenance and repair. Virtual reality can help spot potential problems before construction begins, reduce the risk of accidents, save travel time and costs, improve communication, reduce the need for in-person site visits, and create a digital twin of the building for simulations and tests, reducing the risk of downtime and unexpected maintenance costs. In general, virtual reality is a valuable tool in construction management that offers benefits in multiple areas.

VR Efficiency

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VR in your program

Consumers

Virtual reality (VR) technology can benefit consumers in the construction industry by providing an immersive and interactive experience. It can be used for home design, home buying, home improvement, safety training, and project collaboration. Virtual reality can allow consumers to visualize and customize their home design, view properties remotely, plan home improvement projects, practice safety procedures, and collaborate with project stakeholders. VR technology can enhance the consumer experience and offer new ways to interact with the construction industry.

Contractors

Virtual reality (VR) technology can benefit contractors in the construction industry in a number of ways. It can help with design visualization, construction planning, safety training, equipment and materials training, remote collaboration, and progress tracking. Virtual reality can provide contractors with an immersive and interactive experience to visualize and plan construction projects, train workers, collaborate with project stakeholders, and track project progress. This can help reduce errors, save time and resources, improve communication and safety, and ultimately improve the contractor experience in the construction industry.

Mechanical engineer

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Electrical engineer

Virtual reality (VR) technology can provide several benefits for electrical engineers in the construction industry. These include design validation, electrical system testing, safety and maintenance training, remote collaboration, and product demonstrations. By offering an immersive and interactive experience, virtual reality can help identify potential problems early, reduce the risk of accidents, improve communication and collaboration, and showcase the features and benefits of electrical products and systems.

Architect

Virtual reality (VR) technology offers several benefits for architects in the construction industry. VR can be used to validate designs and test building systems, visualize concepts, analyze site conditions, collaborate with remote teams, test accessibility, and market your brand. This can lead to better decision making, better communication, and increased brand awareness. Overall, VR technology can enhance the architect's experience and offer new ways to interact with the construction industry.

Structural engineer

VR technology can provide structural engineers with benefits in the construction industry, including design validation and simulation, training, collaboration, site analysis, and visualization. Virtual reality can help identify potential problems early in the design process, reduce the risk of structural failure, improve safety and reliability, and optimize building designs for various environmental factors. It can also offer a realistic and interactive environment to showcase designs and concepts to clients and stakeholders, improving communication and understanding. In general, virtual reality can enhance the experience of the structural engineer and offer new ways to interact with the construction industry.

PROS and CONS

PROS

Enhanced Design – Virtual reality allows architects, engineers and contractors to visualize designs in 3D, making it easier to identify potential issues and make necessary adjustments.

Enhanced Collaboration: VR can make remote collaboration easier, allowing team members to work together even if they're not in the same location.

Increased Efficiency – VR can help reduce construction time and cost by identifying problems early in the design process, reducing the need for costly changes later.

Enhanced Safety – Virtual reality can simulate dangerous scenarios and provide workers with a safe environment to learn and practice safety procedures.

Better Communication – VR can improve communication between team members and stakeholders, reducing misunderstandings and improving overall understanding of the project.

CONS

Cost – The cost of VR technology can be a significant investment, especially for smaller businesses.

Learning Curve: Learning how to use virtual reality technology can be challenging and time consuming, especially for those unfamiliar with the technology.

Technical issues: Virtual reality technology can experience technical issues, such as glitches, delays, and software compatibility issues, which can delay or interrupt construction projects.

Limited Field Use – VR technology is best suited for the design and planning phases, and its application in the field is limited due to the need for specialized equipment and limited mobility.

Disorientation: Some users may experience disorientation or dizziness when using VR technology, which can affect productivity and cause discomfort.