

National Institute of Building Sciences

Provider Number: G168

3D-Printing in the Built Environment: Today and Tomorrow

Course Number: TH2B

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Bjorn Birgisson, PhD

TEES Distinguished Research Professor, Center for Infrastructure Renewal, Department of Civil Engineering

Research interests:

Material science and mechanics for infrastructure materials; Additive manufacturing; life cycle analysis



Zofia Rybkowski, PhD Associate Professor, Texas A&M University Department of Construction Science Research interests:

Sustainable construction; Serious games for leanintegrated project delivery; Self-regulated building envelopes; Additive manufacturing



Negar Kalantar, PhD Assistant Professor, Texas A&M University Department of Architecture

Research interests:

Transformable design principles; Adaptive designs; Additive manufacturing



Manish Dixit, PhD Assistant Professor, Texas A&M University Department of Construction Science

Research interests:

Life cycle energy modeling; Building Information Modeling (BIM); Additive



Credit(s) earned on completion of this course will be reported to AIA CES for AIA members. Certificates of Completion for both AIA members and non-AIA members are available upon request.

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Questions related to specific materials, methods, and services will be addressed at the conclusion of this presentation.





Course Description

3D-printing (additive manufacturing) facilitates construction of intricate and previously unexplored building forms. It also enables mass customization of design, low waste, reduced cost, increased precision, reduced time to construction, remote control of the building process, and is potentially ideal for tackling the repair and replacement of aging infrastructure, especially in times of skilled labor shortages, as has been observed in the United States. Recent milestones in additive construction (3D printing) are gaining global attention. In 2015, China unveiled the first multistory 3D-printed apartment building and mansion, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) announced intentions to print a 2,700 SF museum in Dubai. In 2016, Amsterdam claimed creating a prototype of the world's first 3D-printed steel bridge with robots. In 2017, the UAE revealed plans to print the first 3D-printed skyscraper, and in an article in the same year, *The Economist* discussed the first large 3D-printed commercial building, in progress in northern England. The four-member research team will speak on the current state of 3D-printing in the building industry in the U.S. and abroad, and the challenges and opportunities associated with this exciting and potentially disruptive form of innovative technology.





Learning Objectives

At the end of this course, participants will be able to:

- Identify global challenges in the built environment that need to be solved by 2030;
- Envision how 3D-printing offers opportunities to address these challenges;
- Understand the current state of 3D-printing in construction around the world;
- Understand the technical capabilities of existing 3D-printing equipment; and
- Identify specific opportunities where 3D-printing can be of assistance to individual participant needs and goals*

* During an interactive exercise participants will build scenarios of the AEC industry in 2030 and envision how 3D-printing can address these concerns.





1. Introduction of team

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- a. Who we are as a team
- b. Pre- workshop "quiz"
- c. Why we are interested in 3D-printing→Opportunity to solve specific global challenges
- 2. Overview of 3D-printing in the built environment around the world
- 3. Current state of 3D-printing equipment & examples of what each can do
- 4. Where TAMU is going with respect to 3D printing
 - a. Center for Infrastructure Renewal
 - b. NSF workshop on 3D-printing, summer 2017
 - c. CIR brainstorming retreat
 - d. Post-workshop "quiz"



Why we are here?

- Create a consortium for leadership in 3-D printing
- Create a forum for dialogue
- Seek collaboration & resources
- We see an opportunity for industry





How we plan to conduct this workshop?

- Pose a workshop question
- Go through the following four sessions, each connected to the five learning objectives:
 - Global challenges & opportunities
 - Overview of 3D-printing in the built environment around the world
 - Current state of 3D-printing equipment & examples of what each can do
 - Interactive participatory exercise
 - Where TAMU is going with respect to 3D printing
 - Revisit the workshop question





Workshop Question

How is 3-D printing technology going to affect you and your business?





The Role of 3D Printing in Solving Global Challenges

Designing & Printing for Sustainable Construction

Manish Dixit, PhD mdixit@tamu.edu







Climate Change

- Sea level rise
- Radical weather
- Natural disasters

Resource Depletion

- Food security
- Raw material
- Energy & water
- Workforce

Economic Crisis

- Profit
- Efficiency
- Value
- Ethics

Quality of Life

- Health
- Comfort & safety
 - Personal control



IMAGE CREDITS: https://www.flickr.com/photos/102642344@N02/10080584183; https://pixabay.com/en/workers-construction-sile-hardhats-659885; https://pixabay.com/en/financial-crisis-stock-exchange-544944/; https://pixabay.com/en/filed-commitment-determination-839827/









SUSTAINABILITY





SUSTAINABLE CONSTRUCTION

To enhance the three dimensions of sustainability





How to define sustainable construction ?

- Using construction resources to enhance
 - profitability,
 - environmental quality, and
 - health & safety of workforce
 - of construction supply chain





What resources are used in construction supply chain?





What resources are used in construction supply chain?



















IMAGE CREDITS: https://www.dwaarchitects.co.uk/building-information-modeling-bim/









3D printing's digitalization of information: Improved accuracy; less error & rework; less or no paperwork.









3D printing: Less environmental constraints; construction in difficult locations or conditions (i.e. arctic cold, planet Mars, ebola virus outbreak locations).







3D-Printing could simplify laydown areas; reduce the need for secured storage facilities maintained by multiple specialty contractors.



IMAGE CREDITS: https://www.dwaarchitects.co.uk/building-information-modeling-bim/





3D-printing from a common digital model would enhance coordination of dimensions, etc. with pre-requisite work so there is less rework.



IMAGE CREDITS: https://www.dwaarchitects.co.uk/building-information-modeling-bim/







- Material
 - Multi-dimensional & dynamic properties
 - Locally available, natural & renewable
 - Intelligent & adaptive





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- Material
 - Multi-dimensional & dynamic properties
 - Locally available, natural & renewable
 - Intelligent & adaptive
- Technology
 - Hardware, 3-D printing technology
 - Software, interoperability with other tools



IMAGE CREDITS: arch2o-25-of-dubai-buildings-will-be-3d-; http://money.cnn.com/2017/05/02/technology/3d-printed-building-mit/index.html; https://3druck.com/gastbeitraege/shanghai-10-haeuser-aus-dem-3d-drucker-innerhalb-eines-tages-2616651/



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- Building Design
 - Building design compatible with 3-D printing technology
 - Adaptive & biomimetic designs
 - Customization & social acceptance
 - Regulatory/compliance issues





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- Building Design
 - Building design compatible with 3-D printing technology
 - Adaptive & biomimetic designs
 - Customization & social acceptance
 - Regulatory/compliance issues
- Education
 - Teaching & training future workforce
 - Occupant awareness




current state of 3D-printing in construction

A Global Perspective

Bjorn Birgisson, PhD, P.E. Bjorn.Birgisson@tamu.edu





A Global Perspective

- Additive manufacturing (AM) is the process of joining materials to make parts from 3D model data, usually layer upon layer, as opposed to subtracting manufacturing and formative manufacturing technologies
- Worldwide, since inception in the late 1980's, AM industry has grown into a \$5.165 billion industry in 2015.
- Applications of AM technology include:
 - Aerospace (17%)
 - Industrial/business machines (20%)
 - Motor vehicles (14%)
 - Consumer products/electronics (13%)
 - Medical sectors (12%)
 - Architectural industry (2.1%)



Current 3D printing practice in other industries

In 2012, 3D printing market was \$777 million in sales,

A350AIRBUS

- with predicted 18% annual growth,
- predictions for 2025 are \$8.4 billion in sales.
- The auto, aerospace and medical industries are 84% of that market







Europe-America

MAIN TRENDS QUOTED OF EUROPE - AMERICA

90% OF RESPONDENTS FROM AMERICA AND EUROPE CONSIDER 3D PRINTING AS COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE

69% + 59% ARE SKILLED 3D PRINTING USERS

TOP MATERIALS USED

BUILDING

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EUROPEANS Plastic 75% Metal 23% Resin 29%

AMERICANS Plastic 69% Metal 23% Resin 30%



Most Used Materials

MOST USED 3D PRINTING MATERIALS





Most Common Application Areas

3D PRINTING APPLICATIONS





Objectives with 3D Printing

THE OBJECTIVES OF USING METAL 3D PRINTING

Cost reduction	11%
Small batch	9%
Complexity	9%
Impossible Design	7%
Less assembly	6%
Time reduction	5%
Mass reduction	4%
Manufacturing limit	4%
Mass customization	2%
Remote production	2%
Internal channels	1%
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Sculteo: The State of 3D Printing, 2017

47% OF OUR RESPONDENTS SAW GREATER RETURN ON INVESTMENT THAN LAST YEAR

3D Printing is showing positive results for companies that use it consistently, delivering an increasing Return on Investment over the years. Our respondents consider this technology a vital part of their business operations.

EXPENSES IN 3D PRINTING ARE EXPECTED TO RISE

55% THIS YEAR

Respondents expect their investment in 3D Printing to strongly increase this year. The market for additive manufacturing is growing, and growing rapidly.

COST DECLINE WILL HAVE A MAJOR IMPACT ON 3D PRINTING

Respondents said the declining cost of the technology will have the biggest impact on the continued use and growth of 3D Printing over the next few years.



Benefits & Opportunities for Increasing Efficiency





Specific Benefits to the Building Industry

- Greater design freedom and system integration
- Reduction of material interfaces
- Additional functionalities into structures

 Custom parts
- Structure as a homogeneous unit
- Better internal and external finishes
- Less human factor related problems due to automation



Typical metrics of success

morale





Photo source: http://c12solutions.com/blog1/sustainability-green-business-models-fdu/ morale







Image sources: Handyman: <u>http://www.ceh18.com/2015/08/hiring-an-electrician-during-your-bathroom-remodel/</u> Wonkee Donkee tools: <u>https://www.wonkeedonkeetools.co.uk/drywall-t-square/what-is-plasterboard</u> Touch Wood Constructions: <u>http://touchwoodconstructions.com.au/category/cID/20</u>





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The 3D Printing Process





3D Printing in a Connected World





COST

3D printing is cost competitive with traditional processes and products

Pilot studies show three key issues that affect how Freeform Construction impacts traditional methods:



http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0926580506000227



3D printing can be faster than traditional processes and products





3D printing can provide value added over traditional processes and products

VALUE ADDED



http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0926580506000227



Design for Multifunctionality Cool Bricks



- Design studio Emerging Objects has come up with 3D-printed porous bricks called Cool Bricks that can be filled with water to bring down temperatures.
- Each 3D-printed cool brick, has a three-dimensional ceramic lattice-like structure that can hold water in its pores, like a sponge.
- When air flows through the porous brick it absorbs evaporated water vapour, becoming cooler in the process.



3D Printing Robot





3D Printing in Russia









China





3D Printed Urban Cabin Amsterdam





United Kingdom Loughborough University



Using a robotic arm means that the team can print up to 10 times faster and create a huge variety of forms, including curved, hollow and geometrically complex shapes

Bridges in Amsterdam





Bridge In Spain



National Institute of BUILDING SCIENCES









Automation is Coming Our Way





Bricklaying Robot - Roads





Bricklaying Robot - Walls



Surveying Drone

BUILDING B

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The Future Construction Site

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- Skycatch drones give a bird's-eye view of a site and provide progress reports, speed up the logistics of construction by monitoring deliveries and offer real-time updates on any changes that may need to be made to the plans.
- Komatsu has gone one step further using the Skycatch drones to provide the eyes for automated bulldozers. The drones send 3D models of a building site to a computer which then feeds the information to unmanned machinery to plot their course.



Demolition Robots





Other Useful Robots



Gaps and Challenges

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- Delivery components not large enough for building structures
 - Printing on site, or
 - Printing components in a factory
 - Need new systems and approaches
- Materials not optimized for 3D printing
 - Ex: Concrete has a slow setting time
- Construction speed not always greater than traditional approaches
 - Need to redesign the automation process

Significant opportunities for innovative designs and multifunctional materials and structural components



A PERFORMATIVE APPROACH TO 3D PRINTED ARCHITECTURE

PUSHING THE LIMITS OF FORM TO PERFORM

Negar Kalantar, PhD kalantar@tamu.edu




There is **NOT** (yet) a 3D printer for Architects.







Exploring the potential for unique, and weight optimal node components with off-the-shelf, standard structural components to achieve complex building form.



Placing matter only where structurally needed

Main barriers of having 3D printed Joints The cost of production at the scale of buildings

The **uncertainty** of structural & mechanical behavior of materials







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THEFT ALC: NO PPPPPPPP



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Project EGG Pavilion, Michiel Van Der Kley

The Saltygloo, Emerging Objec

Bloom, Emerging Objects

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Rather than 3D printing massive parts, several linked components are printed.









3D Printed Grid: Serving as the **formwork, scaffold**, or **core** that integrates common building materials like spray-foam insulation, spray-applied concrete, and cladding.



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Philippe Morel, Studio EZCT

3D PRINTED MO





ilippe Morel, Studio EZ





What is the proper combination of **TECHNOLOGY + MATERIAL + APPLICATION** towards the use of 3D printing in architecture?



Most of 3D printed projects are less concerned with ENVIRONMENTAL & STRUCTURAL PERFORMANCES than with

the expressive FORMAL potential of digital technologies



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Adding Performance & Functionality to Printed Parts



The Difference between Natural & Man-made Constructions





Designing buildings at the intersection of Additive Manufacturing, new Computational design methods, Smart Materials, and Bio-Inspired Approaches



BREATHABLE WALL





BREATHABLE WALL



Running water along designated paths is proposed as a means of adding humidity and cooling the air as it passes over the 3D printed blocks





BREATHABLE WALL













tranSTUDIO Research Collaborator: Borhani, Kalantar, Wilt, Armenta, Reyes, Lambeth, Bush, Woodruff & Palmer – Texas A&M



Prevent the transmission of sand via the structure of building, made out of 3D printed porous blocks



Research Collaborators: Kalantar, Borhani, Ritter, Gilbert & others, Texas A&M













Woven Structure



tranSTUDIO, Adaptive Design, Thought & Fabrication Texas A&M University, College of Architecture



Bi-material Strips

tranSTUDIO Research Collaborators: Akleman, Zarrinmehr, Cagin, Al Mezrakchi, Kalantar, Creasy & Rybkowski



LIGHT MATTERS

Conducting light into darkness & moving it 90 feet









Research Collaborator: Borhani, Kalantar, Gonzalez & Morgan- Texas A&M



HYDRO-WALL

The goal is to not only make interlocking structural elements, but also to integrate environmental performance to generate water directly into the entire structure.



Research Collaborator: Borhani, Kalantar, Fernandez, Robinson & Konopka - Texas A&M

HYDRO-WALL

DUILDING SCIENCES

Harnessing the water vapor in in the atmosphere in its natural setting via building structures enabled by 3D printing









The exploration of 3D printed construction with simultaneous structural and environmental functions will help to turn tons of water molecules floating overhead into liquid water











HYDRO-WALL

Exploiting the concept of night radiative cooling and naturally chilling a porous 3D printed structure below the dew point



















tranSTUDIO

Research Collaborator: Borhani, Kalantar, Brown, Howard & Marcello- Texas A&M



HYDRO-WALL

Different layers of hydrophilic and hydrophobic surfaces, controlled pore structures, and osmotic effects will be investigated as means to attract water from the air.



Research Collaborator: Borhani, Kalantar, Hluza, Adame & Springer- Texas A&M



TESSELLATED INTERLOCKING STRUCTURES

The assembly of unreinforced and mortar-less structures, working purely under compressive forces











tranSTUDIO Research Collaborator: Borhani, Kalantar, Heger, Allen, Metcalfe, Casto, Kim, Dempsey, Gregory, Morahan & Wilson - Texas A&M



TESSELLATED INTERLOCKING STRUCTURES

The force of gravity locks adjacent components together: Creating seismically resistant structure to diffuse seismic forces











Research Collaborator: Borhani, Kalantar, Houser, Hergert, , Casto, Kim, Dempsey, Gregory, Morahan, Wilson , Clark & Kolodziej



TESSELLATED INTERLOCKING STRUCTURES





Disassembling the structure and transporting the components to a new site.





tranSTUDIO Research Collaborator: Borhani, Kalantar, Houser, Hergert, McGilberry, Allen, Burro, Marshall & Loofs – Texas A&M



QUAKE COLUMN Fine-tuning Quake Columns to work with seismic events





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TRANSFORMABLE SHADING DEVICE

















tranLAB- Research Collaborators: Borhani & Kalantar



TRANSFORMABLE SHADING DEVICE



3



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FLEXIBLE YET RIGID



3D Printed Textile Structures




FLEXIBLE YET RIGID



tranLAB Research Collaborators: Kalantar, Borhani & The Dream LAB at Virginia Tech



Summary

Bjorn Birgisson, PhD, P.E. Bjorn.Birgisson@tamu.edu



Center for Infrastructure Renewal at Texas A&M

Center for Infrastructure Renewal

138,000 square feet:

 High-tech, high-impact multi-disciplinary center for supporting research, innovation and workforce development



Accelerating Research into the Marketplace

CIR Knowledge and Innovation Communities (CIR KICs)

A Multidisciplinary, Multi-Stakeholder Systems Approach to Research, Innovation and Workforce Training



Research & Technolo

Innovation

Educatio



Megamanufacturing KIC

- An interdisciplinary group of 27 faculty from architecture, construction science, civil engineering, industrial engineering, mechanical engineering and computer science
 - NSF Workshop, Summer, 2017
 - IDEA LAB, September, 2017
 - Create a consortium for leadership in 3-D printing
 - A forum for dialogue and collaboration
 - Industry Meetings in 2018
 - Joint National Roadmap Planning?



Workshop Question

 How is 3-D printing technology going to affect you and your business?





Thank You!

This concludes The American Institute of Architects Continuing Education Systems Course



For more information, please contact:

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