ASSOCIATION OF RESEARCHERS IN CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT

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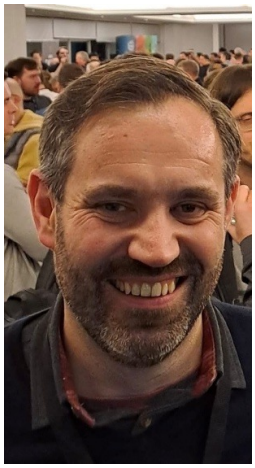
The Digital Issue, looking back on 2025

Reflections of the 41st Conference "Building Regenerative Cities"



"The theme of Building Regenerative Cities challenges traditional socio-economic interpretations of urban regeneration. It reframes the concept as a holistic process …"

In 2025, I had the honour of bringing the ARCOM conference to my hometown of Dundee – a first for our association. While Dundee was a new destination for ARCOM, it proved to be a vibrant and inspiring setting for a dynamic conference, and the city more than delivered.

Having previously hosted the conference in larger cities such as Belfast, Glasgow, Leeds, and London, I had voiced concerns during the planning stages about whether we could attract enough delegates to a smaller city on the East of Scotland. Thankfully, those fears were unfounded with a strong number of abstracts submitted transitioning through to a high number of papers and delegates. This reaffirmed that ARCOM's strength lies not just in its choice of venue, but in the commitment of its community with delegates traveling from far and wide to be part of the event.

Those arriving on Sunday were greeted by a city quietly buzzing with anticipation, as a local football match between Dundee's two Premiership teams unfolded. This lull whilst the game was being played offered delegates a chance to explore a walkable, welcoming city that blends rich history with a modern edge, shaped by its youthful energy as a university city and thriving creative industries.

Dundee's transformation over the past two decades is a testament to the power of strategic urban planning. The waterfront redevelopment, reimagined transport infrastructure, and revitalised city centre reflect a city on a regenerative journey. The Tay Estuary, once obscured from view, now serves as a stunning visual anchor – crowned by the V&A Dundee Museum, a landmark building at the heart of the city's masterplan. It's no exaggeration to say that Dundee's waterfront is among the finest of its kind in Europe.

Building Regenerative Cities

The design of the 41st ARCOM Conference was a deliberate effort to draw on experience of Dundee in its regeneration journey and allow the delegates to consider how their research aligns with more progressive interpretations of future development with the theme "Building Regenerative Cities". Since 2020, ARCOM has embraced themes that resonate with the prevailing experiences of the time dominated by the pandemic and the recovery from this period. In 2024, we marked the association's 40th anniversary by looking back at its legacy. In contrast, the 2025 conference looked forward – offering a thematic programme that explored regeneration as a transformative and healing process.

The programme sought to ensure this theme was reflected through an alignment between the Keynote Lecture, Langford Lecture, Expert Panel, and Academic Panel discussions. This coherence created connecting threads throughout the event, enabling deeper conversations and reflective dialogue. Presenters and delegates frequently referenced earlier sessions, enriching the discourse and fostering a sense of continuity.

The theme of Building Regenerative Cities challenges traditional socio-economic interpretations of urban regeneration. It reframes the concept as a holistic process –

ARCOM Conference delegates before the Banquet at Verdant Works

one that not only enhances the built environment but also contributes meaningfully to addressing the environmental challenges we face. The *Eden Dundee Project*, currently in its design phase, served as a compelling illustration of this regenerative ethos. It provokes important questions for those involved in planning, delivering, and managing the built environment.

Cross-disciplinary collaboration

A consistent thread throughout the conference was the emphasis on cross-disciplinary collaboration. The programme highlighted the need for integrated approaches that span policy, practice, and academic research — reinforcing the idea that regeneration is not the domain of any single discipline, but a collective endeavour.

Keynote and panel discussions

This vision was powerfully articulated in the keynote lecture delivered by Professor Husam Al Waer of the University of Dundee, who framed the theme of *Building Regenerative Cities* through the lens of architecture, urban planning, and sustainability. Opening the conference on Monday, Professor Al Waer invited delegates to rethink urban living — urging a shift toward new processes and methodologies that enable us to live better and realise what he termed "sustainable urbanism."

His lecture underscored the importance of research that operates at the intersections of disciplines, spatial scales, theoretical frameworks, policies, and real-world applications. He challenged delegates to reflect on their own roles in advancing regenerative urbanism and to actively collaborate with researchers, policymakers, practitioners, and stakeholders who collectively shape this ecosystem.

The session was expertly chaired by Professor Paul Chan, who offered thoughtful reflections and facilitated a rich and engaging discussion with delegates, setting the tone for the conversations that followed throughout the conference.

One delegate shared with me after the keynote session that, while they thoroughly enjoyed it, they initially felt it could have been more focused on construction management. However, as the conference unfolded, they returned to say that the theme of cross-disciplinarity had prompted them to reflect more deeply on their own role as a researcher. They recognised the importance of engaging with other disciplines across the built environment and listening to diverse perspectives.

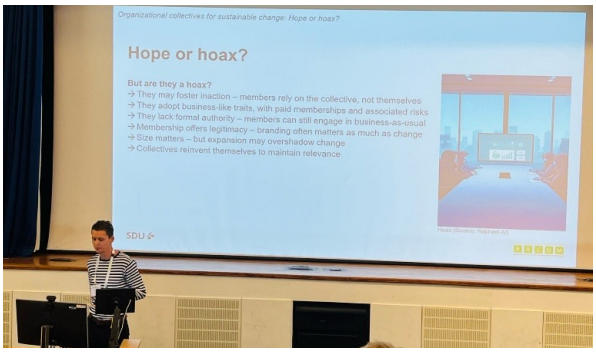
By the end of the conference, they saw the keynote's relevance more clearly — understanding that construction management has a vital contribution to make, but also that it must position itself more effectively within the broader development process. This kind of reflection was exactly what the conference aimed to inspire: thoughtful engagement, openness to new ideas, and a willingness to explore the intersections that shape regenerative cities.

These ideas were further explored on Tuesday in the Plenary Expert Panel chaired by Professor Daniel Gilmour. Panel members included Gillian Dick (Planner from Glasgow City Council), Lorna Edwards (Senior Manager – Strategic Projects and Waterfront with Dundee City Council) who both provided a short presentation to help set the scene for a broader discussion. Professor Husam Al Waer joined the panel, with Dr Yifei Yu (Circularity Researcher from University of Twente), and Professor Malcolm Horner - (Emeritus Professor in Engineering Management and Chair of Whole Life Consultants Ltd). They provided an insightful and challenging discussions which reflect some hard truths from a practical level of delivering cities from a Regenerative model. A call for more ambition was clear from all panel members, but also the need for cross disciplinary approaches was clear and this enabled discussion points from the keynote lecture to be developed.

Plenary expert Panel Chaired by Professor Daniel Gilmour

On Wednesday, a panel session chaired by Dr Vivien Chow aimed to bring together five selected authors who had presented papers at the conference to explore from a construction management researcher's perspective. The discussion sought to reflect a more global perspective and to explore how a bolder approach to sustainability, circularity and regenerative development can be better encouraged and understood through a more ambitious research agenda which encourages co-creation with different disciplines..

The Langford Lecture on Tuesday provided a showcase for Dr. Nicolaj Frederiksen (South Denmark University) to share his thoughts from the award-winning paper. *Organisational Collectives for Sustainable Change: Hope or Hoax?* A lecture which provided a thoughtful and challenging presentation which sparked a discussion which everyone who was in the audience really enjoyed.



Dr. Nicolaj Frederiksen at the Langford Lecture

Overall, the wider sessions at the conference saw more papers than previous years, reflecting a stronger conversion rate of abstracts into papers across our review process. This was very encouraging and shows a strong engagement by authors with the editorial process demonstrating its invaluable role as a developmental process. We received 294 abstracts, which although slightly down from our record number of 339 in 2024, was comparable to our 2023 conference and provides a strong foundation for the conference. 180 papers were submitted which again was comparable with our 2023 conference, with 147 (100 indexed and 47 working papers) being accepted following our 2nd stage review which is in line with our 2024 conference. This represents a stronger conversion rate which is down to the hard work of our Scientific Committee and the time that they spend on reading the papers and crafting thoughtful reviews which aim to challenge the authors to question and improve their papers.

Social programme
Monday evening saw delegates gather at Discovery Point for our social evening. The venue is the visitors centre hosting the pioneering Royal Research Ship Discovery which was built in Dundee. The ship under Captain Scott sailed for its Antarctic expedition of 1901 and delegates were able to board the ship and visit the museum. Located on the banks of the River Tay it sits adjacent to the V&A Museum, so delegates were able to appreciate the outstanding architecture of this iconic building as their backdrop whilst visiting the RSS Discovery. Despite a couple of showers which made the outdoor experience more limited than anticipated, delegates were able to mix in an informal environment.

The Verdant Works Museum hosted our conference dinner and prize giving. The venue is a hidden gem of the city showcasing Dundee's industrial heritage at Verdant Works Museum. Delegates were able to visit the museum prior to being shown into a beautifully refurbished Mill building where dinner was served. Long before Dundee was known as City of Discovery, it was known as Juteopolis as it was the centre of the Jute industry in the 19th and early 20th Centuries, and this venue allows delegates to step back in time to the heart of Dundee's industrial era to discover more about the city's fascinating social history.

Thanks to everyone involved
Welcoming everyone to Dundee for the ARCOM Conference was, on a personal level, a true career highlight. The success of the event was only possible thanks to the dedication and hard work of many individuals. I'm especially grateful to Christopher Neilson (Conference Secretary), Cath O'Connell (Website Designer), Daniel Gilmour (our local host), the teams at our venues, the ARCOM Committee, and our Scientific Committee for their invaluable support throughout the review process. Each played a vital role in shaping a conference that I hope will be remembered by delegates as something a little different — thoughtful, engaging, and thoroughly enjoyable.

Finally, my sincere thanks to Abertay University for providing an outstanding venue for our academic programme. Though a relatively small institution, Abertay offered generous space and a layout that was both intuitive and easy to navigate — all within a prime city centre location. Its contribution was instrumental in creating a seamless and welcoming environment for our delegates.

Prof. Craig Thomson
Conference Chair, 2024
ARCOM Chair 2024-2026

ARCOM 2025 delegates during the Monday Evening Social Evening

Best Paper Prizes

At the Dundee conference, the ARCOM's prize committee led by Professor Paul Chan of Delft University of Technology selected the winners of best paper awards, presented during conference dinner. Ahead of the ceremony, Prof. Chan, who will be retiring from the committee, was acknowledged for his significant contribution to the Prize selection process over the past few years.

All indexed papers are available via the abstracts database on the ARCOM website. The following 7 prizes were awarded.

Rod Howes Award

Rod Howes was a former committee member who is always passionate about innovation in construction and the built environment. The Rod Howes Award is given to the paper that makes a contribution to innovation.

The Rod Howes Award is presented to Léon olde Scholtenhuis, Tom Coenen, Andreas Hartmann and Ramon ter Huurne for the paper entitled: 'No More Cursory Summaries: Rethinking Literature Reviews In Construction Management'.

Expertly and thoughtfully argued, this paper presents a timely and insightful critical review of a researcher's relationship with the ubiquitous task of reviewing literature. The paper serves as a crucial reminder to the CMR for self-examination, while pushing for higher standards of CMR scholarship. A mandatory read for any aspiring or established researcher. (The award was presented by Dr. Apollo Tutesigensi).

David Langford Award

David Langford is ARCOM's first honorary president, who was always passionate about the development of early-career researchers and of societal value. The David Langford Award is given to the paper that makes a significant contribution to societal value.

The David Langford Award is presented to Loretta Lipworth and Andrew Dainty for the paper entitled: 'That's my lifeblood: Atmospheric connectivity and digital innovation'.

This paper combines the richness of ethnographic data with the introduction of a new conceptual lens of atmospheric connectivity, giving voice to lived experiences of digital change in construction through accounts of real people on site. (The award was presented by Dr. Ani Raiden).

Paul Townsend Award

Paul Townsend was the first committee member to have come from practice. The Paul Townsend Award is given to the paper that can make a significant contribution to practice.

The Paul Townsend Award is presented to Jip Leendertse, Hans Wamelink and Marleen Hermans for the paper entitled: 'The Pilot Trap: interactions between sustainable startups and clients in the built environment'.

This paper demonstrates strong methodological rigor and uses established techniques to corroborate qualitative data, resulting in a framework that maps the interaction patterns between clients and sustainable entrepreneurship start-ups in the built environment. It offers valuable insights for both policy and practice, particularly highlighting how client interactions shape the development of sustainable entrepreneurship ventures. (The award was presented by Dr. Simon Smith).

Taylor and Francis Award

The Taylor and Francis Award is given to the most theoretically-informed paper.

The Taylor and Francis Award is presented to Nicolaj Frederiksen, Stefan Gottlieb, Christian Koch and Martine Buser for the paper entitled: 'Organizational collectives for sustainable change: Hoax or hope?'.

This paper moves the sustainability debate beyond organizational boundaries and invites new thinking on how systemic change might (or might not) happen. The paper addresses a gap in understanding how inter-organizational efforts tackle sustainability and critically questions their transformative potential. (The award was presented by Dr. Fred Sherratt).

CIOB Award

The CIOB Award is given to the best international paper.

The CIOB Award is presented to Dilek Ulutas Duman and Christine Räisänen for the paper entitled: 'Seize the sense and learn while doing! Developing capabilities for model-based project delivery'.

The authors trace micro-level incremental moves of how a large-scale infrastructure project team in Sweden shift towards drawingless 3D digital models. With growing intensification of the digital transformation in the built environment, this paper provides useful insights into how digital practices unfold in reality through iterative processes of sensing, seizing and transforming. (The award was presented by Prof. Paul Chan).

Emerald Award

The Emerald Award is awarded to the best paper on research methodology.

The Emerald Award is presented to Devindi Geekiyanage and Amila Liyanage for the paper entitled: 'Regenerative Cities in Action: The Interplay of Strategies to Restore Ecosystems, Strengthen Resilience, and Drive Sustainable Urban Transformation'.

This study challenges conventional disciplinary boundaries to examine the interdependencies among 36 regenerative city-building strategies through a Causal Loop analysis. The authors inject a much-needed systems approach to advance our understanding of urban planning problems and lay the foundation for further interdisciplinary and multinodal investigations relevant to Construction Management research. (The award was presented by Paul Kidd).

Chair's Award

The ARCOM Chair's Award is given to the best paper related to the conference theme.

The Chair's Award is presented to Philippa Boyd and Graeme Larsen for the paper entitled: 'From initiative to action: building regenerative cities using lessons from the journey to net zero through retrofit..

This paper fits strongly with the conference theme and identifies that the aims of achieving net zero could sometimes be lost in translations between stakeholders. The co-creation framework presented by the authors offers a useful approach to bridge siloed approaches in the drive for sustainability in the built environment. (The award was presented by Prof. Craig Thomson).

We congratulate all the prize winners!

On equality and transparency in membership of ARCOM and routes to Committee of ARCOM

Since promulgation of the new Constitution of ARCOM on 5 September 2023, ARCOM has streamlined membership and governance for equality and transparency. ARCOM is a membership organisation, and any interested individual or institution is required to actively take steps to become a member and retain membership of ARCOM on an annual basis (membership year is 1 May – 30 April). Membership of ARCOM is open to all with an interest in studying and researching any aspect of the delivery and management of the built environment. Becoming a member of ARCOM confers privileges that are not available otherwise. All members in respective categories have equal opportunity subject to provisions of the Constitution of ARCOM and relevant policies. The Constitution of ARCOM and relevant policies are published within the Governance section of our website and this, together with ARCOM's promise to respond to any queries about how association operates, constitutes ARCOM's guarantee for transparency.

ARCOM's strategic and day-to-day business is the responsibility of the Committee of ARCOM which is normally composed of eight Executive and thirteen Non-Executive Members. The following paragraphs illustrate how equality and transparency are integral to the formation of the Committee of ARCOM.

The main route to becoming a Non-executive Member of the Committee of ARCOM, as provided for in the Constitution of ARCOM and relevant policies is as follows:

- ensure that your individual membership fee for the membership year has been received by ARCOM by 31 May;
- submit a 100-word statement (outlining your academic, research or professional background and what you envisage to bring to the Committee of ARCOM) by 31 May of the membership year as advised by the Immediate Past Chair;
- submit a completed nomination form after request from the Immediate Past Chair;
- become elected to the Committee of ARCOM unopposed (if thirteen or fewer nominations are received) or become elected if you are placed in the top thirteen from votes (cast on instruction of Immediate Past Chair) of individual members of ARCOM whose individual membership fee has been received by ARCOM by 1 August in the membership year; and
- get approved as Non-executive Member of the Committee of ARCOM at the AGM in September of the membership year and serve with immediate effect and maintain membership of ARCOM until the next AGM.

The route to becoming an Executive Member of the Committee of ARCOM, as provided for in the Constitution of ARCOM and relevant policies is as follows:

- gain experience as a Non-executive Member of Committee of ARCOM;
- ensure that your individual membership fee for the membership year has been received by ARCOM by 31 May;
- submit a 100-word statement (outlining your academic/research/professional background and what you envisage to bring to the Committee of ARCOM) by 31 May of the membership year as advised by the Immediate Past Chair;
- become nominated by the incumbent Committee of ARCOM; and
- get approved as Executive Member of the Committee of ARCOM at the AGM in September of the membership year and serve with immediate effect and maintain membership of ARCOM until the second AGM after your approval.

ARCOM is marching into the second quarter of the 21st century with confidence and clarity of purpose as well as commitment to bringing together - with equality and transparency - all interested in studying and researching delivery and management of the built environment.

Dr. Apollo Tutesigensi
Immediate Past Chair 2024-2026

News from Emerald Publishing

New Publishing Mission: Can we build a future we can't predict?

From climate change and resource pressures to rapid technological and social shifts, the built environment faces a world defined by uncertainty.

Emerald's new mission, *Can we build a future we can't predict?*, invites researchers and practitioners to explore how construction and infrastructure can adapt to change. We're asking:

- What does resilient, future-ready infrastructure look like amid deep uncertainty?
- How can we embed adaptability and foresight into planning, design, and management?
- What tools, data, and frameworks can help systems respond to environmental, technological, and societal change?

If your work explores uncertainty, resilience, foresight, or transformation in construction and the built environment, please share your insights and join the global discussion. We welcome blogs, videos, case studies, or traditional research articles.

Find out more at
https://www.emeraldgrouppublishing.com

New special issues

Emerald is always on the lookout for high-quality special issues to publish in its property management and built environment journals.

If you have an idea for a focussed special issue of a publication, please contact the journal's Commissioning Editor at Emerald, or the academic Editor (contact details on each journal's website) to discuss the idea further.

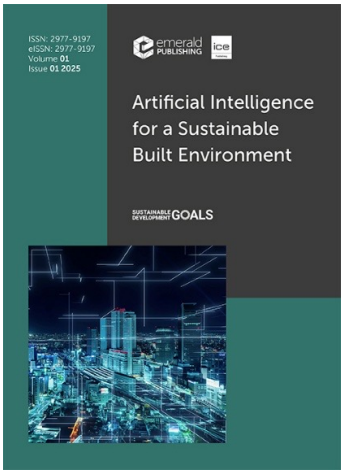
New journal: Artificial Intelligence for a Sustainable Built Environment (AISBE)

Emerald is excited to launch Artificial Intelligence for a Sustainable Built Environment, a gold open access journal, publishing peer-reviewed research at the intersection of AI, sustainability, and the built environment.

The journal welcomes research on AI-driven design, smart construction, digital twins, BIM, transportation planning, and decision support systems, as well as research exploring the ethical and social impacts of AI. With sustainability at its core, AISBE supports multiple United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

An APC of £1,250 is waived for all papers submitted before 30 September 2026, offering an excellent opportunity to share your work with a global audience.

Use this link to discover the journal or to submit your work
https://www.emeraldgrouppublishing.com/journal/aisbe



Forthcoming special issues with open calls for papers

Below are a selection of open special issues which are currently seeking submissions:

- Built Environment Project and Asset Management: Regenerative and Future-Proofed Smart Built Environment: Targeting Circularity, Resilience and Social Value Realisation
- Construction Innovation: Revolutionising offsite construction skills, capacities and capabilities: A catalyst for Industry 5.0 transformation in construction
- Management, Procurement and Law: AI and the Future of Projects in Construction

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New Routledge books for the ARCOM community

It's been a bumper year of new books both from and for the ARCOM community from Routledge. Highlights for me include the edited books *Routledge Handbook of Smart Built Environment* edited by Weisheng Lu and Chimay Anumba; *Applications of Immersive Technology in Architecture, Engineering and Construction* edited by Abhinesh Prabhakaran, Abdul-Majeed Mahamadu, Colin Booth, and Patrick Manu; and *Sustainable Communities through Digital Transformation* edited by Yusuf Arayici, Niraj Thurairajah, and Bimal Kumar. I know that many of you reading this newsletter will have made contributions to the chapters in these books, and I thank you for your continued interest in working with us to bring your work to a wide audience.

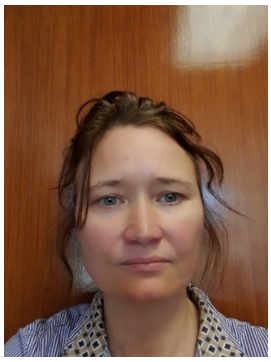
We have also published a number of useful books for students like an updated 3rd edition of *Construction Mathematics* by Surinder Virdi, Roy Baker, and Narinder Kaur Virdi, and professional readers too like *A Practitioner's Guide to the JCT Design and Build Contract - 2024 Edition* by Seán Mac Labhraí, which will also be of use to any of your students studying construction law.
2026 should see this trend continue with forthcoming titles such as *Integrated Perspectives in Offsite Construction, Understanding Blockchain in Construction: A Practical Guide*, and *Constructing Building Integrity: Raising Standards through Professionalism*. Watch this space!

I am always happy to hear from the ARCOM community about new book projects they are planning, to answer questions about book publishing with Routledge, or make recommendations for those who are less familiar with our catalogue. Please don't hesitate to contact me at any time and I hope to continue what has been a long and productive relationship with members of the community.

Ed Needle
Publisher, Engineering
ed.needle@tandf.co.uk https://www.routledge.com/

New Routledge books for the CM Community

A Professional Doctorate in Engineering? Reflections by Dr. Elma Mc Mahon, University of Limerick



As I approach the final stages of my Professional Doctorate in Engineering (PD Eng), having successfully completed my Viva Voce in May 2025, I've been reflecting on what has made this journey unique, not just compared to a PhD, but as a formative personal and professional experience.

Unlike the more traditional PhD route, the PD Eng model is deeply embedded in industry collaboration, and it often comes with the challenge of balancing rigorous academic work with real-world impact. While a PhD often aims to contribute to theory, the PD Eng is more about developing and testing solutions that make a tangible difference in practice.

A major part of that journey was shaped by my engagement with ARCOM. Providing a platform for early career researchers has always been a vital part of the ARCOM tradition and from the outset, I found an academic home where I could present, test, and refine my ideas. ARCOM has fostered a community for me, one where the familiar faces I have seen year after year have become more than just fellow delegates; they've become mentors, collaborators, examiners and critical friends who have supported my growth throughout this journey.

From the first time I attended the ARCOM conference in Glasgow 2022, I felt welcomed and encouraged. Presenting my work in a supportive yet intellectually stimulating environment helped me build not only confidence, but also credibility. I have come to realise, explaining your work to different audiences brings not just feedback, but clarity and new perspectives.

Having to communicate with both academic and professional stakeholders sharpened my thinking and made the research more robust and relevant. Having peer-reviewed publications emerge from these conferences gave me a sense of academic legitimacy that was later complimented at the Viva and the examiners report.

From Glasgow in 2022, to Leeds in 2023, and then London in 2024, following the ARCOM community each year has been fantastic. With every conference, familiar faces become friends, conversations pick up where they left off, and new chances to network and collaborate on papers emerge.

I am grateful to ARCOM for offering a platform that supports researchers at all stages and from all backgrounds including those of us on the less conventional, but equally rigorous, PD Eng route.

So now – here are my top five tips for new ARCOM presenters:

• Do the ARCOM Run with Henning and Ani on the first morning. It's the best fun you will have before 9am.

• Engage in conversation, there are kindred spirits everywhere. You might even find next years Prize Winning collaborator.

• Plan your day – it flies by, so bring a notebook and mark where you want to be for each session.

• Eat everything that's offered to you – especially the pasties, they are delicious!

• Mind your footing – while there are lots of ARCOM prizes – there are no prizes for most dramatic fall in an airport or going up stairs (trust me).

I hope you get as much benefit from this year's ARCOM conference as I have year on year. Enjoy every second!

Go raibh míle maith agaibh go léir.

(Supervised by Dr. John Spillane)

PhD Abstract: "Making Sense of Reuse in Procurement Processes: A Multiple Case Study of Swedish Reuse Building Projects"

by Sean Elliot Wisse, Chalmers University of Technology

As construction and demolition waste is the largest waste stream in the EU, efforts to reduce environmental impacts caused by the construction industry are increasingly turning to circular economy (CE) strategies. Sitting atop the CE hierarchy, reuse aims to extend the life-cycle of building components, structure and materials, but introduces legal, logistical and organizational challenges. As stakeholders wrestle with interpreting and acting on set-out reuse targets, procurement acts not only as a contractual mechanism but offers a communicative and strategic process where priorities are negotiated, risks distributed, and legitimacy sought.

Positioned within the interpretive tradition of organizational theory, sensemaking provides insight into how meaning is socially constructed and maintained in the face of equivocal events. Rather than assuming organizations operate with full clarity and rationality, sensemaking assumes that actors act based on constructed interpretations of their reality. As reuse challenges established construction processes and questions conventional assumptions about quality, risk, cost, and time, new forms of coordination such as design-for-availability or supply-driven specifications need to be established.

Studying reuse processes in Swedish building projects provides insights into how actors construct meaning and coordinate action under ambiguity, how stakeholder dynamics and organizational learning processes unfold, and how institutional constraints in applying reuse strategies can be addressed. Applying the theoretical lens of sensemaking, I aim to clarify how meanings around reuse are interpreted, scaled, and institutionalized at the level of procurement.

Based on preliminary findings, including interviews with stakeholders from these projects as well as public and private actors driving circular ambitions forward in the Swedish construction sector, some patterns already emerge that suggest how procurement might act as a lever for reuse ambitions to be translated and scaled. Whereas contractual arrangements such as partnering allow necessary exploration and experimentation, narrow percentage targets or price-focused evaluations reproduce uncertainty around quality, timing, and liability. Procurement choices are not just contractual details but are where different interpretations of reuse are negotiated, stabilized, or resisted.

Technical and logistical issues, often noted in earlier studies, take on new meaning when seen through this lens. Further, the framing of risk allocation and responsibility by stakeholders regarding storage, reverse logistics, and mismatches between demolition supply and new-build demand can be addressed therein. Likewise, as currently quality assurance and certifications leave room for competing interpretations of what counts as acceptable practice, such ambiguities reinforce the importance of procurement as a communicative process, where the conditions of reuse are not only solved technically but also legitimized institutionally. Digital tools also stand out as more than technical enablers. Inventories, BIM models, and material passports act as coordination artifacts, allowing actors to visualize and track availability, and construct a shared sense of control over reused materials. In their absence, reuse often reverts to champion-led initiatives, with this reliance on individual initiative highlighting both the potential and the fragility of reuse efforts, reinforcing the role of procurement in institutionalizing practices that move beyond ad-hoc solutions.

As a result, what early data suggests is not a fixed set of solutions but a trajectory of how reuse might become more repeatable. Pointing to recurring tensions between flexibility and standardization, climate metrics and cost targets, and individual champions and organizational routines, my aim is to explore how these dynamics can be conceptualized and eventually translated into frameworks or guidelines that support procurement as a vehicle for scaling reuse. In this way, procurement becomes not only a lever for scaling reuse but also a means of providing the certainty and repeatability needed for it to become embedded in everyday practice.

(Supervised by: Dr. Daniella Troje and Dr. Mattias Roupé)

PhD Abstract: "Scalable Solutions to Mitigate against Overheating in New Build Homes in the UK" by Dr. Callistus Gero, Birmingham City University

Overheating in houses is a growing concern because of low energy requirements and increases in climate change-instigated heatwaves. Overheating causes discomfort to occupants with a potential for serious health risks. In the UK, avoiding overheating has become part of building regulations which indicate methods of determining the potential for overheating. Solutions are not prescribed but are open to being met in various ways. It is possible to address every house individually in its context however, this is time consuming and expensive. For overheating mitigation to be a reality, scalable solutions (excluding air conditioning) that can be easily applied and assessed at a mass scale, are needed. This research investigates the scalability of overheating mitigation measures in new build developments in the UK to determine an evaluation framework for their effective and practical use.

The study adopts a holistic, multi-method, and multi-disciplinary approach, combining technical, behavioural, and process-oriented analysis. It includes interviews with industry stakeholders and home occupants, real-time temperature monitoring in five occupied UK homes, dynamic simulation modelling of five mitigation solutions, and validation workshops with home developers. This mixed-methods framework enabled a comprehensive understanding of how overheating risk is created, experienced, and potentially mitigated within the broader context of housing development.

Analysis of home development processes revealed systemic challenges and gaps in decision-making that contribute to overheating. Environmental considerations are often excluded at key planning stages, and design alterations after planning approval are difficult to implement. Decisions around material selection, timing of MEP (mechanical, electrical, and plumbing) involvement, and cost-driven construction choices further limit opportunities for incorporating effective mitigation measures. Five core criteria—cost implications, occupant perception, supply chain resilience, decision-making stage, and stakeholder involvement—were identified as critical to evaluating and achieving scalability of overheating mitigation solutions.

Real-time monitoring of five homes during the record-breaking summer of 2022 revealed substantial overheating risk. Indoor temperatures frequently exceeded 30°C, with mean values of 24.3°C across the sample, and retrospective TM59 analyses showed that only one home passed the first overheating criterion, while all failed the second. These findings highlight a possible discrepancy between regulatory compliance at design stage and actual thermal performance during occupancy. Current design methods, which rely on synthetic occupancy profiles and standard weather data, could be underestimating overheating severity

Simulation modelling of five mitigation strategies—external shutters, fixed shading overhangs, high-albedo roofs and walls, low-e double glazing, and ceiling fans—showed that external, fabric-based solutions were most effective in reducing degree-hours of overheating. Internal solutions, such as ceiling fans, had limited impact. East- and west-facing orientations recorded the greatest overheating intensity, underscoring the importance of contextual design strategies. Air conditioning was excluded from analysis to maintain alignment with national decarbonisation objectives.

Based on these findings, the research developed a scalability framework for integrating effective overheating mitigation into home development processes. This framework emphasises early environmental assessments, climate-responsive design optimization, cost and supply chain analysis, stakeholder engagement before planning approval, and adherence to regulatory standards. During construction, it highlights the importance of quality control, skilled labour, and verification of installations, while in the occupation phase, it calls for occupant education, digital engagement, and continuous temperature monitoring.

The research demonstrates that addressing overheating requires a systemic shift—from isolated technical fixes to integrated, scalable strategies embedded in the home development lifecycle. For developers and housing associations, the findings stress the urgency of adopting stringent design parameters and evaluating scalable, cost-effective solutions. For occupants, the study highlights their role in managing indoor comfort and supporting innovative mitigation approaches. For government and policymakers, it underscores the need for stronger integration between regulatory standards, industry consultation, and incentives for scalable solutions within upcoming policies such as the 2025 Future Homes Standard.

(Supervised by: Dr. Monica Mateo-Garcia and Prof. David Boyd)

ARCOM Run

ARCOM 2025 Enthusiasts, Ready to Run

It has become a lovely tradition for those who enjoy some exercise to start the ARCOM conference with a social run. This year, we selected Dudhope Park. The park is a beautiful green space just a few minutes from Abertay University. It was September and Dundee is in Scotland, so it was no surprise that it rained in the early hours of Monday morning. Nevertheless, 16 runners turned up, the rain stopped before the run, and we had almost ideal even sunny conditions.

Once again, we saw a remarkable diversity of participants, with the University of Twente team once more being the largest. Even three supporters joined the run, with Ani Raiden recording the runners' times and Heleen Smit taking the photograph in the small report.. At 9:00am, in bright sunshine, we set off for a five-lap run around Dudhope Park. It was a pleasant mix of joggers and runners taking it easy, running just two or three laps, or completing the entire five 1-km laps. Naturally, some runners were more ambitious, running at full pelt on the slightly hilly course. Especially Oluwapelumi Abiodun was incredibly swift. He lapped almost all runners and finished first in 19:51. However, he did not manage to overtake Ad Straub, who crossed the finishing line after 23:10, followed by Gregg Watts, who came in third at 25:19. After about 30 minutes, all runners finished and returned to their accommodations.

It has become a tradition that the prize is not awarded to the fastest runner. This year, we chose to give in to Ad. We learnt during the race that Ad aimed to avoid being lapped and managed to do so. To learn about the ARCOM Run in Loughborough in 2026, please contact me at henning.grosse@arcom.ac.uk.

Prof. Henning Grosse, Hochschule für Technik und Wirtschaft Berlin

Ad Straub receiving the ARCOM Run prize

Runners in Dudhope Park, Dundee. As has become traditional, Ani Raiden gave the start signal

Our Fastest Runner Oluwapelumi Abiodun

The ARCOM Newsletter

This first post-covid Digital Issue of our newsletter reflects on the past conference achievements and is dedicated to showcasing young researchers work (Engineering Doctorates, PhDs) while at the same time providing a reflection by esteemed publishers in the Construction Management field.

Through this more frequent publication of ARCOM News, we continue to connect to the membership and conference delegates, hoping to sustain academic debates beyond the scope of our Workshops and Conferences. We hope to also create a more vibrant debate online, for example via our LinkedIn ARCOM Group. Are you already member?

At the time of publication of this issue, the Conference Secretary prepares the 2026 conference, and the Committee discussed plans for 2027, the anticipated workshops, and other strategic matters such maintenance of the ARCOM CM Abstracts Database. News about these items is expected to be printed in the September issue.

If you are interested in becoming an ARCOM member, please contact our Membership Officer. We also warmly welcome content submissions for the ARCOM newsletter.

Finally, I am already writing my ARCOM abstract for the Loughborough conference. I hope that this newsletter signals and helps you develop your ideas further too!

Dr Léon olde Scholtenhuis, University of Twente
Newsletter Editor
Outreach and Communications Officer

Next Doctoral Workshops

The following workshops are being developed the next months by ARCOM Members. Once the Call for Participation is open, the details about the workshop will be distributed on the ARCOM-website, via LinkedIn and the CNBR-email list.

Digital pathways to Circular and Sustainable Construction –
Date: March/April 2026
University of Nottingham
Lead: Dr. Serik Tokbolat

Sustainable Development and Future Homes
Date: June/July 2026
Birmingham City University & University of Manchester
Lead: Dr. Emmanuel Aboagye-Nimo

Should you require more information already, please reach out to our Researcher Development Officer, Dr Emmanuel Aboagye-Nimo

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Call for Papers

We are delighted to announce that the 42nd ARCOM Annual Conference will be held on **7-9 September 2026** at **Loughborough University**, Loughborough, UK.

In addition to being home of Loughborough University, Loughborough has historically acted as a hub for people, goods, and technology. It has one of the oldest and largest street fairs in England, documented as early as 1221, and around this time farmers and workers gathered in 'Hiring Fairs' where contracts for the year were negotiated and agreed on the spot. During the industrial revolution, Loughborough benefited from the canalizing of River Soar and the opening of the Grand Central Railway, where it gained its status as a trading hub for hosiery and textiles.

Due to its central geographic position and extensive transport links, Loughborough is well connected nationally and internationally by rail, road, and flight. Loughborough is 80-minute train ride to London St Pancras Station, and 2 hours train ride to Manchester Piccadilly Station. The nearest regional airport is East Midlands Airport (30 minutes by car) which services a variety of European cities. The nearest international airport is Birmingham International Airport (1 hour by car).

The rich industrial heritage of Loughborough and its strategic logistical location links perfectly with the theme for ARCOM 2026, "**Network and Connectivity in Construction**". This theme captures issues at the heart of construction management research – namely, bringing disparate elements together to build solutions to meet societal needs. In the broadest sense, this can relate to the collaborations of project teams, the interface between construction processes, the creation of new linkages by use of digital technology and data exchange, innovative use of construction logistics, integrated solutions to meet sustainability objectives, and inclusive practices for a resilient workforce. Furthermore, ARCOM 2026 will explore the link between theory and praxis, with the aim of enhancing the quality of academic discourse beyond academic settings and inviting active dialogue with industry to strengthen the potential impact of research outcomes.

Conference updates

Preparations for ARCOM 2026 are already in progress. There will be regular updates on deadlines, the conference theme and other information for authors. Please visit the conference section of the ARCOM website (www.arcom.ac.uk) to download the Call for Papers but also keep an eye out for the next issue of the ARCOM Newsletter for further updates.

Contact and Further Information

Conference Chair: Dr. Vivien Chow, University of Loughborough
Conference Secretary: Dr Christopher Neilson, The University of Manchester
Email queries should be directed to conference@arcom.ac.uk in the first instance.

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