



**International Council  
for Research and Innovation  
in Building and Construction**

## **CIB Student Chapters**

# **Annual Report 2023**

**Prepared by**

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**CIB Programme Manager**

**November 2023**



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## 1. Overview of CIB Student Chapters in 2023

CIB has 20 Student Chapters of which 14 are active, three were established in 2023, and six chapters are unfortunately inactive. Table 1 and Figure 1 provide an overview of CIB Students Chapters in 2023.

**Table 1.** List of Active, Recently established, Inactive, and Invalid CIB Student Chapters in 2023

No.	Student Chapter's Name (i.e., parent organization's name)	Status	Further Details
1	Hong Kong University	Active	2.1 Annual Report of Hong Kong University Student Chapter
2	Hong Kong Polytechnic University		2.2 Annual Report of Hong Kong Polytechnic University Student Chapter
3	London South Bank University		2.4 Annual Report of London South Bank University Student Chapter
4	Massey University		2.5 Annual Report of Massey University Student Chapter
5	Purdue University		2.6 Annual Report of Purdue University Student Chapter
6	Polytechnic of Milan		2.7 Annual Report of Polytechnic of Milan Student Chapter
7	RMIT University		2.8 Annual Report of RMIT University Student Chapter
8	University of Huddersfield		2.9 Annual Report of University of Huddersfield Student Chapter
9	University of Salford		2.10 Annual Report of University of Salford Student Chapter
10	Virginia Tech		2.11 Annual Report of Virginia Tech Student Chapter
11	Western Sydney University		2.12 Annual Report of Western Sydney University Student Chapter
12	Nelson Mandela University	Established in 2023	No report yet
13	Newcastle University		No report yet
14	Pretoria University		No report yet
15	Curtin University	Inactive	No report yet
16	Hungarian Universities		No report yet
17	Association of Schools of South Africa		No report yet
18	CIB Working Commission W080		No report yet
19	Middle East Technical University		No report yet
20	Tsinghua University		No report yet

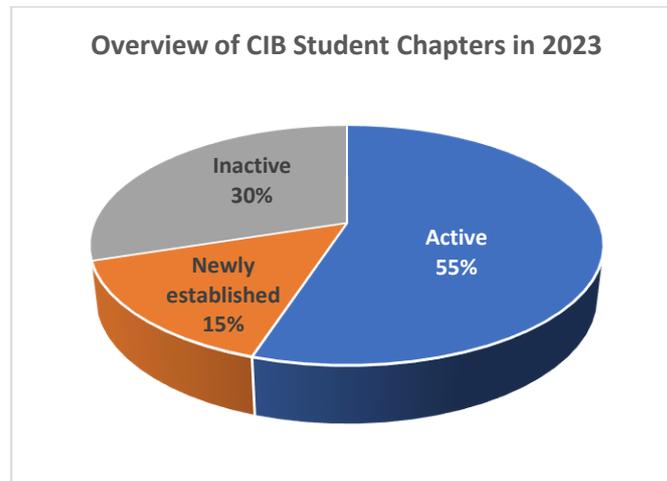


Figure 1. Overview of CIB Student Chapters in 2023

## 2. Annual Report of CIB's Active Student Chapters

CIB Programme Management team started an initiative in 2023 and asked all CIB Student Chapters to prepare an annual report (according to the provided template) and submit it by the end of October 2023. The following sub-sections present active student chapters' annual report.

### 2.1 Annual Report of Hong Kong University Student Chapter

#### 2.1.1 Brief Explanation of the History of the Chapter and its Objectives

The CIB-HKU chapter is a student-professional organization established in 2005, about 18 years ago, supported by the committee of CIB with the assistance of the Faculty of Architecture, The University of Hong Kong.

Our major aim is to establish an international platform providing local and international connections and to promote discussions and debates on general issues and cutting-edge research trends among all the RPG students in the Faculty of Architecture, The University of Hong Kong. Based on this major aim, we develop three guiding objectives:

- 1) Linkage among the Department of Architecture, Real Estate and Construction, as well as Urban Planning and Design in the Faculty of Architecture, HKU
- 2) Collaborative internationally research
- 3) A series of globally research sharing session

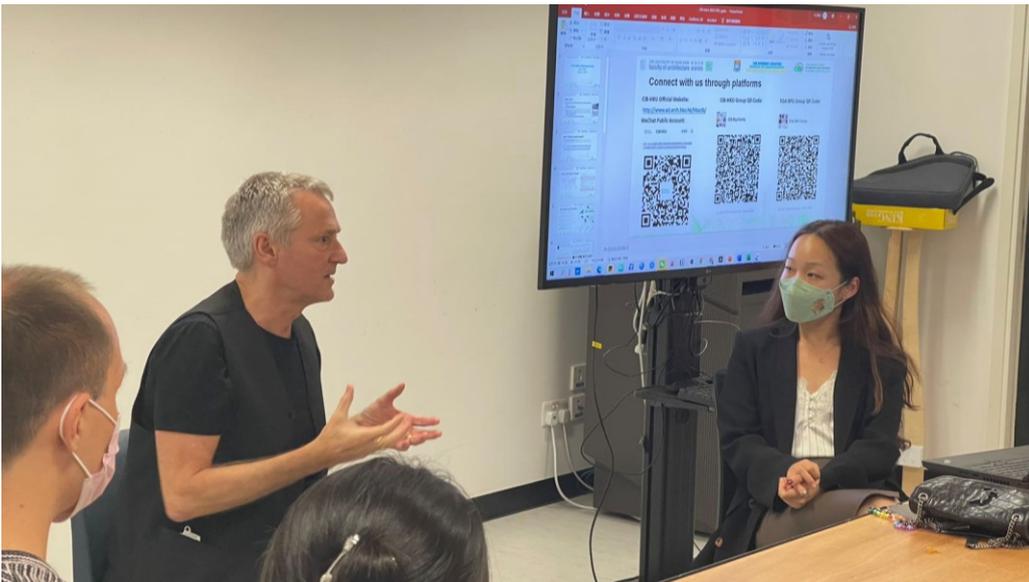
For the past few years, with the collaborative efforts by the CIB-HKU committees, we gradually achieved the goals by the diverse activities. The yearly events included the network construction, the Sebestyén Award, the funding award, the seminars, and reading sessions.

#### 2.1.2 Completed and Upcoming Activities of the Chapter in the Current Year

We have successfully organized a series of academic events as well as connection building activities this year. Including one recruitment welcome activity, and two research seminars.



- **Welcome party.** We hosted a New RPGs Welcome Party and recruitment event facing the whole architecture department. The event includes warm-up games, detailed introduction of global and HKU CIB, our past and future works, the recruitment plan, and the keynote speech from dean, and other supervisors.



- **Research Seminar.** We organized a research seminar focusing on "Planetary Health and Human Well-being", and invited Prof Bin Jiang for the University of Hong Kong as the guest speaker to give a lecture and discuss with students.



CIB-HKU 2022 Research Seminar  
Urban Green Landscape and Mental Health



Bin JIANG

Associate Professor, The University of Hong Kong (HKU)  
Director, Virtual Reality Lab of Urban Environments and Human Health (UEHH), HKU  
Co-Chair, Research & Methods Track, Council of Educators in Landscape Architecture (CELA), USA  
PhD, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, USA

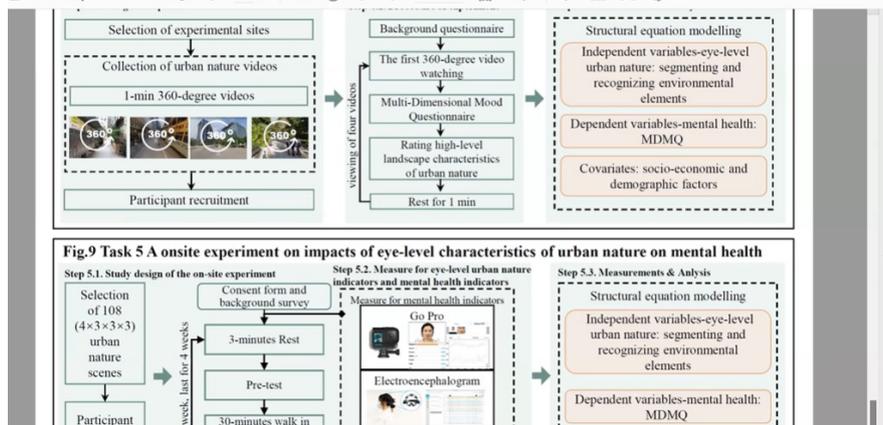


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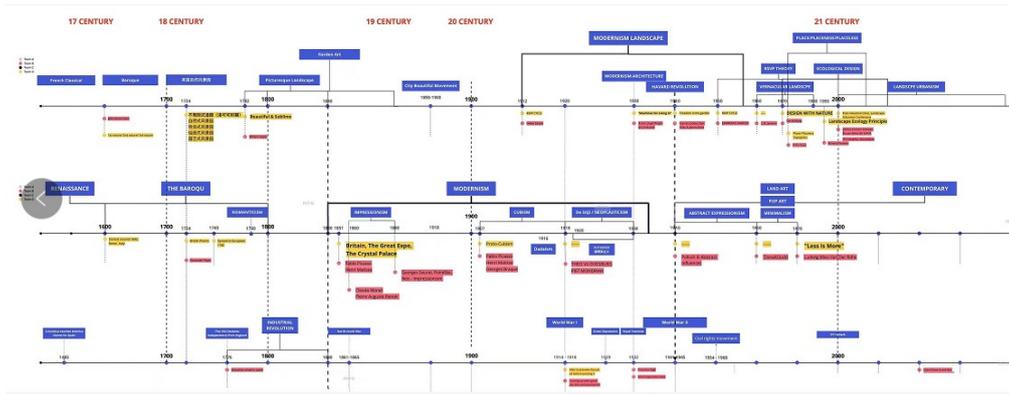
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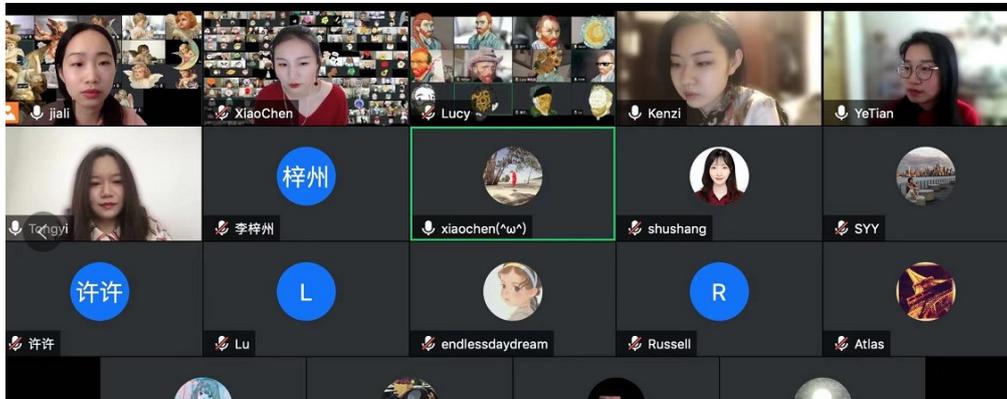
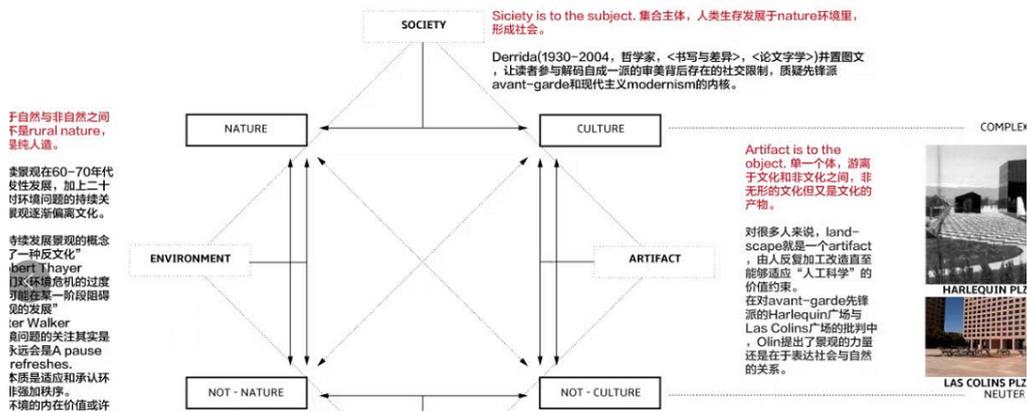
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- CIB reading club.** We also consistently organized a series of reading activities, focusing on the classic books and theories in architecture and landscape field. Each time we gave a reading list, and assigned the participants their reading duties, and they will draw diagrams in a shared MIRO board. During the reading session, each participant will share the reading notes. We selected the books based on participants' research topics.



### Landscape in the Expanded Field – Peter JACOBS



### 2.1.3 The Planned Activities for the Chapter in the Upcoming Year

- **Welcome party for the new semester (Done).** We planned to host a New RPGs Welcome Party and recruitment event facing the whole architecture department. The event includes warm-up games, detailed introduction of global and HKU CIB, our past and future works, the recruitment plan, and the keynote speech from dean, and other supervisors.
- **Leadership transition board meetings in 2023 (Done).** Chapter meeting for leadership transition to next generation will be conducted to decide the new committee structure



of CIBHKU. The goal is to get involved more diverse members from different departments and different backgrounds.

- **Research sharing of newly come professors in the faculty, HKU (In process).** CIBHKU serves as a platform to promote a better understanding between our professors and RPG students on both their research ideas and their teaching.
- **A series of research seminars for international scholars (In process).** We did the survey during the welcome party, and initiated a list of scholars to give seminar facing the existing RPG students in the faculty of Architecture.
- **Job hunting or research experience sharing of early career researchers.** A series of seminars will be organized to help equipping our current RPG students with necessary career related skills both on their goal establishment and horizon expanding.

#### **2.1.4. Contact Information of the Executive Members of the Chapter**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Email</b>
JIALI LI	President	<a href="mailto:jli11@connect.hku.hk">jli11@connect.hku.hk</a>
QIAO LIN	Vice-president, Media & Communication	<a href="mailto:lynnq@connect.hku.hk">lynnq@connect.hku.hk</a>
SOU-HAN	Vice-president, Academic Development	<a href="mailto:hankchen@connect.hku.hk">hankchen@connect.hku.hk</a>
Dr. Beisi Jia	Advisor, ARC	<a href="mailto:bjiaa@hku.hk">bjiaa@hku.hk</a>
Dr. Jianxiang Huang	Advisor, Urban	<a href="mailto:jxhuang@hku.hk">jxhuang@hku.hk</a>
Professor K. W. Chau	Advisor, REC	<a href="mailto:hrrbckw@hku.hk">hrrbckw@hku.hk</a>

## **2.2 Annual Report of Hong Kong Polytechnic University Student Chapter**

### **2.2.1 Brief Explanation of the History of the Chapter and its Objectives**

The name of the Chapter is the Hong Kong Polytechnic University (HKPolyU)'s International Council for Research and Innovation in Building and Construction (CIB) Student Chapter (CIBSC). The HKPolyU's CIBSC is an organization with the intent to develop the desire, on the part of students, to become more involved with the international construction research community. The Chapter is designed to provide a forum for sharing and discussing research-related issues in construction management and technology. It aims to bring together both undergraduate and postgraduate students to develop research interests and meaningful exchange between the entire spectrum of building and construction and with the global research community.

### **2.2.2 Completed and Upcoming Activities of the Chapter in the Current Year**

1. Orientation for new research students in the Department of Building and Real Estate.
2. Research seminar in collaboration with the Department of Building and Real Estate.
3. Sharing of CIB souvenirs for students in the Department of Building and Real Estate to enhance awareness creation in the department.

### **2.2.3 The Planned Activities for the Chapter in the Upcoming Year**

1. Research seminar in collaboration with the Department of Building and Real Estate.
2. Hiking for CIB members.
3. Meet-and-greet event.
4. Plan an exchange event to some universities within the Asia region to create more research connections and collaborations.

### **2.2.4. Contact Information of the Executive Members of the Chapter**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Email</b>
Caleb Debrah	President	<a href="mailto:caleb.debrah@connect.polyu.hk">caleb.debrah@connect.polyu.hk</a>
Eric Ohene	Vice President	<a href="mailto:eric.ohene@connect.polyu.hk">eric.ohene@connect.polyu.hk</a>
Prince Asher Nkrumah	Chief Promotion Officer	<a href="mailto:prince-asher.nkrumah@connect.polyu.hk">prince-asher.nkrumah@connect.polyu.hk</a>
Rongsheng Liu	Chief Exchange Officer	<a href="mailto:rongsheng1.liu@connect.polyu.hk">rongsheng1.liu@connect.polyu.hk</a>
Benjamin Oluleye Ifeoluwa	Treasurer	<a href="mailto:benjamin.oluleye@connect.polyu.hk">benjamin.oluleye@connect.polyu.hk</a>

## **2.4 Annual Report of London South Bank University Student Chapter**

### **2.4.1 Brief Explanation of the History of the Chapter and its Objectives**

The CIB students' chapter at the School of the Built Environment and Architecture at London South Bank University (LSBU) was set up in 2018 to provide a means by which students who will be the future leaders of building research and innovation can engage with and be inspired by current leading edge building research worldwide, and to appreciate at first hand the value of international exchange and cooperation. Introducing students to the advantages of CIB membership so that they are convinced of the value of maintaining membership of CIB in their future professional research and careers.

The Student Chapter's objectives are:

- to encourage the development of the research interests of its members.
- to encourage and enhance communication and exchange of research and academic work among its members.
- to encourage and provide opportunities for networking among research students and to develop research leaders.
- to facilitate and promote joint research and academic exchange with other national and international CIB Student Chapters and the global research community.

LSBU CIB Student Chapter key actions:

- Developing the CIB communication strategy.
- Creating a succession plan for the committee.
- Raising the profile of CIB and research at LSBU.
- Developing the CIB/LSBU website (Link to the CIB official website). Create a social media platform (Twitter, Facebook, WhatsApp). Initiate PhD student mentor scheme.
- Holding Quartile CIB events.
- Sending LSBU representative to the Global CIB conference.

### **2.4.2 Completed and Upcoming Activities of the Chapter in the Current Year**

The group has not been functional since the last executive committee members graduated in 2020. This is because COVID-19 impacted the students' engagement, and new executives could not be formed. On this note, no activities are completed or planned in the current year. However, the activities below were the activities the 2018-2020 committee engaged in:

- Arranged forums and conferences throughout the two years among PhD researchers.
- Organised competition among PhD students to present their research in 10 minutes,
- selected the top 3 presentations through our panels and judges (professors and lecturers) and provided prizes to students for the top 3 presenters.
- Invited industry experts to interact and identify potential opportunities to commercialise PhD students' work.
- Organised workshops to learn from each other's new findings.
- Round table discussion among PhD researchers, every month



## 2.5 Annual Report of Massey University Student Chapter

### 2.5.1 Brief Explanation of the History of the Chapter and its Objectives

The Massey University student chapter has 3 years of existence:

- 2021
  - March
    - Designation of new Committee
      - President: Alice Bui
      - Vice president-General: Achini Weerasinghe
      - Vice President – Chintaka Atapattu
      - Vice President – Niransha Rodrigo
      - Outreach Coordinators Raymond Tan
      - Academic Coordinator Advisor Dr Eziaku Rasheed
    - Runing an online Seminar.
  - June:
    - Run online Seminar
  - October:
    - The committee presented a project CIB Sebestyén Future Leaders Award. ‘Lessons learned from the impact of Covid-19 – A case study of skill shortage on the global construction workforce’.
- 2022
  - January:
    - 2022 CIB Sebestyén Future Leaders Award. ‘Lessons learned from the impact of Covid-19 – A case study of skill shortage on the global construction workforce’, by Alice Bui, Achini Weerasinghe, Chintaka Atapattu, Niransha Rodrigo and Raymond Tan. The proposal was developed in collaboration with CIB working groups W123 – People in Construction and W055 – Construction Industry economics.
  - March:
    - Designation of new committee.
      - President: Nazanin Kordestani Ghalenoiei
      - Vice president-General: Natalia Ortega
      - Vice President – Finance Hesam Khorrami
      - Vice President – Administration Jack Guan
      - Outreach Coordinators Mitansha, Masoud Mahmoodi
      - Academic Coordinator Advisor Dr Eziaku Rasheed
  - April:
    - Support CIB Task Group Information Session TG124 Zero-carbon 11 and 12 April 2022, by Prof Suzanne Wilkinson and Dr Niluka Domingo.



- June:
  - CIB World Building Congress (WBC) 2022 conference CIB World Building Congress 2022 will take place in Melbourne, Australia from 27-30 June. Attendance: Ramin Asadi, Alice Bui
  - Presentation to CIB Board about the plan and updated of the project 2022 CIB Sebestyén Future Leaders Award. ‘Lessons learned from the impact of Covid-19 – A case study of skill shortage on the global construction workforce’.
- September:
  - The committee participated CIB Student Chapter Information - Session 2.
- November:
  - Research with Impact – Student: Achini Shanika Weerasinghe, (former Vicepresident of CIB Student Chapter 2021). The 2022 Australasian Green Gown Awards’ finalists represent over 500,000 students and more than 50,000 staff from 15 different institutions.
- December:
  - CIB Hampson ECR-Industry Award “Work-Life Balance (WLB) of Women Professionals in the New Zealand Construction Industry and Potential Opportunities for Improvement”.
- 2023
  - March:
    - Designation of a new committee.
      - President: Mitansha Ranjan
      - Vice president-General: Natalia Ortega
      - Vice President – Finance: Masoud Mahmoodi
      - Vice President – Administration Nazanin Kordestani Ghalenoei
      - Outreach Coordinators Jack Guan
      - Academic Coordinator Advisor Dr Eziaku Rasheed
    - The committee presented to CIB board and guests the findings of the project from the CIB Sebestyén Future Leaders Award, ‘Lessons learned from the impact of Covid-19 – A case study of skill shortage on the global construction workforce’.
  - November
    - Being part of Built Environment Research Workshop, 29th November 2023.

### ***2.5.2 Completed and Upcoming Activities of the Chapter in the Current Year***

- The student chapter has completed the final draft of ‘Lessons learned from the impact of Covid-19 – A case study of skill shortage on the global construction workforce’. Prior to submitting it to CIB, the student chapter sought approval of Academic Coordinator Advisor Dr Eziaku Rasheed and Head of School Dr. Monty Sutrisna. The report received

minor suggestions which are being addressed by the student Chapter. It is anticipated that the final report will be submitted soon.

- Currently, the chapter is also collecting data for “Work-Life Balance (WLB) of Women Professionals in the New Zealand Construction Industry and Potential Opportunities for Improvement”. By the end of October, the process of data analysis will commence. The chapter has already completed the literature review part and based on which, the qualitative approach is formulated. Once, the findings is extracted from data collected, the process of report preparation will begin.
- The study chapter will also be a part of Built Environment Research Workshop, 29th November 2023
- The chapter was also a part of Meet and Greet event for CIB student chapters in March.
- The student chapter also collaborated with Dr. Kolasa Madikizela for her feedback on our projects.

### ***2.5.3 The Planned Activities for the Chapter in the Upcoming Year***

The aforementioned project on “Work-Life Balance (WLB) of Women Professionals in the New Zealand Construction Industry and Potential Opportunities for Improvement” is the prime focus of research in the upcoming year. The student chapter intends to complete it by next year. Furthermore, the student chapter will prepare to apply for prominent research awards like Keith Hampson, Sebestyén Future Leaders award etc.

### ***2.5.4 Contact Information of the Executive Members of the Chapter***

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Email</b>
Mitansha	President	<a href="mailto:mitansha@massey.ac.nz">mitansha@massey.ac.nz</a>
Natalia Ortega	Vice president (General)	<a href="mailto:n.ortega@massey.ac.nz">n.ortega@massey.ac.nz</a>
Nazanin Kordestani	Vice President (Administration)	<a href="mailto:n.kordestani@massey.ac.nz">n.kordestani@massey.ac.nz</a>
Zechan Guan	Outreach Coordinator	<a href="mailto:z.guan@massey.ac.nz">z.guan@massey.ac.nz</a>
Masood Mahmoodi	Vice president (Finance)	<a href="mailto:m.mahmoodi@massey.ac.nz">m.mahmoodi@massey.ac.nz</a>

## **2.6 Annual Report of Purdue University Student Chapter**

### ***2.6.1 Brief Explanation of the History of the Chapter and its Objectives***

The International Council for Research Innovation in Building and Construction (CIB) student chapter at the School of Construction Management was established to foster innovation and research in the building and construction field. Its history can be traced back to recognizing the need to create a platform encouraging graduate students interested in construction management and related disciplines to actively engage in research, development, and community-building activities.

Chapter's Objectives:

1. **Supporting Graduate Students:** The primary objective of the CIB student chapter is to support graduate students within the School of Construction Management. It accomplishes this by providing networking opportunities, access to research resources, and mentorship from experienced professionals. Through these initiatives, the chapter enhances its members' educational journey and career prospects.
2. **Promoting Research and Innovation:** The chapter strongly emphasizes promoting research and innovation within the building and construction industry. It encourages students to participate in research projects, collaborate on innovative solutions, and contribute to advancing knowledge in the field. The chapter may organize seminars, workshops, and conferences to facilitate knowledge exchange.
3. **Community Engagement:** Beyond academic pursuits, the CIB student chapter actively engages with the community. This engagement may involve volunteering for construction-related community projects, organizing educational events for the local community, or advocating for sustainable building practices. By doing so, the chapter aims to positively impact the broader community.
4. **Professional Development:** The chapter is dedicated to the professional development of its members. This includes workshops on resume building, interview skills, and career guidance. Additionally, the chapter facilitates internship opportunities, site visits, and interactions with industry professionals to equip students with the skills and knowledge needed for successful careers in construction management.

In summary, the CIB Student Chapter at the School of Construction Management has a history of promoting research and innovation in building and construction. Its main objectives are to support graduate students, promote research and innovation, engage with the community, and facilitate the professional development of its members within the construction industry.

### ***2.6.2 Completed and Upcoming Activities of the Chapter in the Current Year***

The completed activities of the chapter in 2023 are as follows:

1. **Resume Review for Career Fair:** Prior to the career fair twice in academic year, the chapter hosted a resume review session. This session offered students the opportunity to have their resumes evaluated by professionals and receive constructive feedback to improve their chances of success during the career fair.



2. Career Advertisement: The chapter actively assisted students in finding the best job offers over the previous year by providing career advertisements and job search support. This initiative connected graduating students with suitable career opportunities in the construction industry, demonstrating the chapter's commitment to helping members launch their careers.

#### Upcoming Activities in 2023:

1. Resume Review for Career Fair: The chapter will host a resume review session in [February] before the career fair. This session will allow students to have their resumes evaluated by industry professionals and receive constructive feedback to improve their chances of success during the career fair.
2. Career Advertisement: The chapter will assist the students in finding the best job offers over the previous year by providing career advertisements and job search support. This initiative connected graduating students with suitable career opportunities in the construction industry, demonstrating the chapter's commitment to helping members launch their careers.
3. Research Symposium: Towards the end of the year, the chapter will organize a research symposium where graduate students can present their research findings and projects. This event will showcase members' academic achievements and foster academic collaboration within the chapter.

These completed and upcoming activities continue to demonstrate the CIB student chapter's commitment to supporting graduate students, promoting research and innovation, engaging with the community, facilitating professional development, and now assisting students with resume reviews for the career fair in construction management.

#### ***2.6.3. The Planned Activities for the Chapter in the Upcoming Year***

1. Resume Review for Career Fair: The chapter will host a resume review session in [September and February] before the career fair. This session will allow students to have their resumes evaluated by industry professionals and receive constructive feedback to improve their chances of success during the career fair.
2. Career Advertisement: The chapter will assist the students in finding the best job offers over the previous year by providing career advertisements and job search support. This initiative connected graduating students with suitable career opportunities in the construction industry, demonstrating the chapter's commitment to helping members launch their careers.
3. Community Outreach Project: The chapter members will participate in community support by organizing a blood donation event. We did that before, and we are aware of how to organize it.
4. Research Symposium: Towards the end of the year, the chapter will organize a research symposium where graduate students can present their research findings and projects.



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This event will showcase members' academic achievements and foster academic collaboration within the chapter.

#### ***2.6.4 Contact Information of the Executive Members of the Chapter***

The current president of the chapter, Elsayed Salem [esalem@purdue.edu](mailto:esalem@purdue.edu) will graduate in this semester. We will conduct the election for the new members soon and keep you updated.

## **2.7 Annual Report of Polytechnic of Milan Student Chapter**

### **2.7.1 Brief Explanation of the History of the Chapter and its Objectives**

In June 2003, the CIB Programme Committee, during its Paris meeting, greenlit the application of the students from the Architecture, Built Environment, and Construction Engineering Department of the Politecnico di Milano (<https://www.dabc.polimi.it>), as a CIB Endorsed Student Chapter.

The department's mission is to smartly tackle challenges in the construction and built environment sector, providing international expertise to turn problems into opportunities for growth and innovation. The key areas of research include innovative building design, technological and digital transformation, advanced materials, risk mitigation, cultural heritage, and cooperation with emerging countries, particularly Africa.

The Student Chapter aims to:

- Spark research interests among members.
- Strengthen ties with other CIB Student Chapters and the global research community.
- Facilitate joint research and academic exchange.
- Promote internal activities to foster community, connecting with CIB

Membership is open to postgraduate and research students with a keen interest in building research and innovation. Members are expected to actively engage in functions and events organized by the CIB Student Chapter. This joint CIB Student Chapter is integrated into the ABC-PhD, the department's doctoral program, and is accessible to all eligible students (<https://www.dabc.polimi.it/en/phd/abc-phd-programme/>).

Membership of the student chapter has led to the realization of collaborations between students and researchers, but it is in recent years that the chapter's activities have intensified, also thanks to the introduction of new participants. Here some examples of the latest activities. The student chapter won CIB funding for a joint program with the University of Salford on Post-Covid Collaborations Models. Moreover, Polimi chapter members will present their research articles at CIB WBC 2022 congress in Melbourne. And finally, a member of the Polimi CIB student chapter was selected for CIB World Student Chapter Committee, which would broaden Polimi's networks and open new collaboration opportunities with other CIB student chapters worldwide.

### **2.7.2 Completed and Upcoming Activities of the Chapter in the Current Year**

It is with great honour and pleasure that our student chapter won this year's CIB Sebestyen-future-leaders-award (<https://cibworld.org/winner-of-cib-sebestyen-future-leaders-award-2023-announced/>), with a proposal for courses and workshops about Integrating Artificial Intelligence in the Building Sector.

The proposal was designed to develop courses and workshops to provide students with the knowledge and skills necessary to integrate AI into the building sector, including building design, construction, operation, and maintenance, with the purpose of creating a link between academia and industry for further collaborations and industrial research.

The completed activities included:

- a summer school course,
- online bootcamps
- lecture series.

All of them were successful and served to promote the CIB's activities and gathered numerous valuable contacts of professionals, students and researchers interested in the proposed topics.

- On July 7th, in collaboration with the CIB W078 commission and during a designated session in EC3 summer school in Crete, Professor Fulvio Re Cecconi and Ania Khodabakhshian delivered a lecture on "Machine Learning Application for Building Energy Performance". This 6-hour lecture consisted of 3 hours of introductory and educational seminars and 3 hours of interactive hands-on exercises.



- On September 11th under the general topic of "AI in construction" a 2 hour lecture was held by leading professionals and researchers in the field. The invited keynote speakers were: Josh Canner from Oracle, Fazel Khayatian from EMPA and ETH and Ania Khodabakhshian from Polimi. The specific topics of the lecture were about The impact of AI on design and construction such as on building performance assessment. At the end of each presentation, a short Q and A session was moderated

by Prof. Re Cecconi, where participants asked questions from the keynote speakers in an interactive manner. 131 people registered for the event (15 CIB Members), which is a great success for such an event, and the event recording is available [here](#).



International Council  
for Research and Innovation  
in Building and Construction

POLITECNICO  
MILANO 1863

CIB Student Chapter of Politecnico di Milano Presents

Lecture Series on  
**AI in Construction**

Keynote Speakers:

 **Josh Kanner | Oracle**  
Senior Director of Product and Strategy |  
Construction and Engineering Business Unit  
Topic: "How advances in Artificial Intelligence  
are impacting design and construction"

 **Fazel Khayatian | EMPA, ETH**  
Research Scientist at the Swiss Federal  
Laboratories (EMPA), Lecturer at ETH Zurich  
Topic: "Machine learning for building  
performance amid data scarcity"

 **Ania  
Khodabakhshian**  
Polimi | PhD Candidate and  
Researcher  
Topic: "AI for large building  
stock energy retrofit"

Event Details:  
September 11, 2023  
16:00-18:00 CET

Registration link:

Event Chair:  
Prof. Fulvio Re Cecconi | Polimi



- On October 11 the first session of the bootcamp on “Machine Learning for Building Clustering and Energy Performance Analysis” was made. The title of the first session was Data Preprocessing for Building Energy Analysis. It started with introducing Python basics and relevant libraries, then participants moved on to decode energy performance in buildings and certificates. Practical skills include accessing global databases, cleaning and preprocessing energy data, and mastering graphical presentation techniques. The recording of day one is available here. 72 people registered and 45 of them participated, which is a great number for such a practical course.



The poster is for a bootcamp event. At the top left is the Politecnico di Milano logo and name. At the top right is the CIB logo and name. Below this, it says 'CIB Student Chapter of Politecnico di Milano Presents'. The main title is 'Bootcamp Wednesdays on Machine Learning for Building Energy Analysis'. Underneath, it lists two instructors: Fulvio Re Cecconi (Associate Professor, Politecnico di Milano) and Ania Khodabakhshian (PhD Candidate, Politecnico di Milano). It then states '3 Wednesdays, 3 Bootcamps on:' followed by three topics: a) Data Cleaning and Preprocessing for Energy Databases, b) Building Stock Clustering based on Energy Measures, and c) Developing Predictive Energy Models using Machine Learning. Event details are given as October 11, 18, 25, 2023, from 17:00-19:00 CET. A QR code is provided for registration. The bottom half of the poster features a stylized illustration of a person at a computer desk with various programming language logos (PHP, HTML5, Golang, R Language, JS, Java, Kotlin, Python, C#, Ruby, CSS3, Swift) floating around.

Upcoming activities:

- We will conclude the Bootcamp with the latest two appointments, with 2 sessions of two hours each:
  - 18/10/23 Session 2: Unsupervised Learning Techniques for Building Clustering
  - 25/10/23 Session 3: Machine Learning Modelling for Energy Performance Analysis and Energy Saving Prediction

This bootcamp aims to equip participants with the necessary knowledge and practical skills to leverage ML techniques for analyzing the energy performance of buildings and clustering them based on energy-related parameters.

The bootcamp contributes to the body of knowledge of two main cutting edge and important disciplines: a) Digitalization and automation of decision-making processes in the construction sector using the advancements of AI and ML, and b) Energy retrofit of existing buildings to decrease their energy consumption and carbon emission levels and contribute to the sustainability of the building sector.



We are planning to have at least two other lecture series, held in October and November, on other AI technologies applications in the construction industry;

The first one will be on the 30/10/23 with the following keynote speakers: Luca Rampini – PWC, Juan Diego Nunez Morales – University of Illinois of Urbana Champaign, Yuwei Cao – Polimi, moderated by prof. Re Cecconi. The topics covered will be about Computer Vision and Image Processing application for performance forecasting, Management and Design.

International Council  
for Research and Innovation  
in Building and Construction

POLITECNICO  
MILANO 1863

CIB Student Chapter of Politecnico di Milano Presents

Lecture Series on  
**AI in Construction**

Keynote Speakers:

**Luca Rampini, Ph.D. | PWC**  
Senior Associate | TLS Business & Data Intelligence team  
Topic: "Computer Vision applications for Construction and Facility Management"

**Juan Diego Nunez Morales |**  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
Ph.D. Candidate and Researcher  
Topic: "AI-Driven Project Controls in Building Construction: Computer Vision Production Tracking & AI-driven Performance Forecasting"

**Yuwei Cao**  
Polimi | Ph.D. Candidate  
Topic: "Deep Learning based Label-Efficient LoD3 Building Point Cloud Semantic Segmentation: Learning from Weak Supervision"

Event Details:  
October 30, 2023  
16:00-18:00 CET

Event Chair:  
Prof. Fulvio Re Cecconi | Polimi

Registration link:

The one in November will be, most likely, about Parametric design and building optimization, and the details will come soon.

### **2.7.3 The Planned Activities for the Chapter in the Upcoming Year**

In 2023 our CIB Student Chapter has enrolled five new members, all PhD students. This is also thanks to internal promotion activities, word of mouth, and events promoted throughout the year.

In our plans, there will be the possibility of creating a dissemination event where we can showcase the CIB's activities, successes, and completed events to new PhD students. We plan to organize this introduction event between September and November 2024, in a structured manner. For the current year, the willingness of the CIB executive board to organize an online

presentation to introduce the activities of the CIB to new PhD students starting activities in November 2023 will be assessed.

Given the great success and participation of the lectures in AI we will consider holding more meetings. We would like to involve other CIB members, broaden the type of topics proposed, and positively exploit the expertise of various committees. We will certainly try to give value to the list of contacts we have acquired during the organized events.

Furthermore, if there are new collaboration opportunities proposed by CIB in the upcoming year, such as awards, conferences, workshops, and publications, we would like to actively participate and collaborate with other CIB student chapter, as our previous collaboration experience with Salford University was valuable and intense. Given the diverse and extensive backgrounds and research directions of the PhD students and professors at our department in Politecnico di Milano, we are willing to participate also in activities organized by other commissions and involve more members in the process.

#### ***2.7.4 Contact Information of the Executive Members of the Chapter***

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Email</b>
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Dr. Ania Khodabakhshian	Executive Member	<a href="mailto:ania.khodabakhshian@polimi.it">ania.khodabakhshian@polimi.it</a>

## **2.8 Annual Report of RMIT University Student Chapter**

### ***2.8.1 Brief Explanation of the History of the Chapter and its Objectives***

RMIT University Student Chapter is a university-based Chapter based at and supported by RMIT University. It was formed in September 2016 to provide a support network for postgraduate and undergraduate students in the dissemination and sharing of research interests, skills, experiences, and capabilities. The Chapter also serves as a platform to showcase the research identity, work, and activities of its members and to engage with the wider academic community and industry. Membership is open to all postgraduate and undergraduate students (honours level) involved with research-based activities and or with an interest in research areas related to the built environment.

### ***2.8.2 Completed and Upcoming Activities of the Chapter in the Current Year***

- Panel Discussion: Navigating the PhD Journey and Beyond; Thursday, 17 Aug. '23





- a. End of Year Networking Session (tentative)

### **2.8.3 The Planned Activities for the Chapter in the Upcoming Year**

- Panel Discussion: Navigating the Professional Workplace after Postgraduate Studies
- Crafting your CV for the Industry
- How to be a More Productive Researcher
- End of Year Networking Session

### **2.8.4 Contact Information of the Executive Members of the Chapter**

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## **2.9 Annual Report of University of Huddersfield Student Chapter**

### ***2.9.1 Brief Explanation of the History of the Chapter and its Objectives***

The University of Huddersfield is an associate member of the CIB. The CIB student chapter at the University is open to all postgraduate and undergraduate students with an interest in research and innovation in architecture and the built environment.

The University of Huddersfield launched the CIB Student Chapter, open to all postgraduate and undergraduate students with an interest in research and innovation of built-environment related subject-areas in 2016. The University of Huddersfield CIB Student Chapter looks to encourage students who will be among the next generation of leading researchers in building and innovation and aims to promote an exchange network, whereby members can discuss their experience, knowledge and research skills both together and with other local and international research communities. It offers the opportunity to demonstrate the significant advantages of CIB membership to students in the future professional, research and innovation careers.

The Student Chapter organises informative, educational, and relevant workshops, seminars and symposia that will further promote the research interests of Huddersfield students. All architecture and BE PhD students are automatically part of the CIB student chapter. The objectives of the student chapter are given below:

- The students have the opportunity to meet and network with fellow PhD students nationally and internationally
- The students have the opportunity to engage fully with CIB activities and Working Commissions, meet internationally leading professors in their research area
- The students have an opportunity to apply for The CIB Sebestyén Future Leaders Award - which awards up to €2500 annually
- The students are able to develop their networking and academic leadership skills
- The students are able to organise and deliver research events of interest through the CIB, so the events will be backed by an important international research organisation and could have international impact and dissemination
- The students can take part of the CIB World Building Congress, which happens every 3 years
- The students can be part of the Early Career Researchers network when you obtain your PhD

Research outputs and publications developed within the CIB student chapter and by its members will be disseminated in the chapter's website and other available medias. Once a year, the CIB student chapter of University of Huddersfield, will produce a newsletter or similar vehicle for communication with its membership and externally. The CIB General Secretariat will facilitate the external dissemination of such a newsletter.



### **2.9.2 Completed and Upcoming Activities of the Chapter in the Current Year**

- Completed Activities
  - Meeting the CEO, Don Ward: October 2022
    - We had a very productive meeting at The University of Huddersfield welcoming Don Ward, CEO of the CIB, International Council for Research and Innovation in Building and Construction. The agenda included a presentation of our research centres, a discussion of the world- leading research we develop at the School of Arts and Humanities, and opportunities to further develop our international collaboration across student chapters and with early career researchers.
  - Discussion way forward: Joint PhD supervisory meeting January 2023
    - The University of Huddersfield research organizes monthly supervisory meetings, where we can discuss our research outputs and receive feedback from the academic staff and teachers. This year, we discussed how to promote CIB Events within the research team and collaborate on a worldwide joint platform. We concluded the discussion with a proposal to organize a seminar to present individual research within a larger team and improve presentation skills.
  - Smart House & Immersive Technology Open Event & Living Lab March 2023
    - Step into the future at the University of Huddersfield's 2nd Living Lab and Smart House Open Day! Explore the cutting-edge of smart home technology and dive into our immersive VR Cave. Get hands-on with the latest innovations and witness the possibilities of smart living. Don't miss this extraordinary experience!
  - Presentation of Paper in CIB World Building Congress Australia, 2022
    - The conference was held as a hybrid event due to travel restrictions associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. Several researchers presented their research on this platform from The University of Huddersfield. This offered a great discussion with researchers worldwide about housing trying to engage in a sustainable built environment. All the academics involved in the discussion ignited a discussion among different approaches to construction techniques.
  - International PhD workshop Hybrid event, 8<sup>th</sup> September 2023
    - The Innovative Design Lab International PhD workshop provides an opportunity for students to present ongoing research and get feedback from a panel of senior academics. Presentations are welcomed across Architecture and the Built Environment. In this one-day event, each student will have 10 min to present their work and 15 minutes of discussion and feedback from the panel.
  - Digital Twinning the Built Environment, 27<sup>th</sup> September 2023



- This talk introduces research conducted at the University of Cambridge on inexpensive methods for generating object-oriented infrastructure geometry, detecting, and mapping visible defects on the resulting Digital Twin, automatically extracting defect spatial measurements, and sensor and sensor data modelling. The results of these methods are further exploited through their application in design for manufacturing and assembly (DfMA), mixed-reality-enabled mobile inspection, and proactive asset protection from accidental damage.
- Upcoming activities
  - Seminar Series in Architecture and the Built Environment
    - Prof. Song Wu, From eyes to lens, a journey towards digital bridge examination, 4th October
    - Prof. Dr. Carlos Formoso, Modular design and construction, 18th October
    - Prof. Vicente Gonzalez-Moret, Digitalisation of the Construction Industry through Lean Construction 4.0, 1st November
    - Dr.Zofia K. Rybkowski, The Complete Guide to Serious Games and Simulations for Lean-Integrated Project Delivery, 8th November
    - Prof. Rakesh Mishra, Digital twins for infrastructure systems, 15th November
    - Prof. Kalle Kähkönen, BIM enabled learning platform and solutions, 22th November
    - Dr Aso Hajirasouli, The integration of emerging technologies in Architecture, construction and Engineering Higher Education Pedagogy, 29th November
    - Prof. Sigrun Kabisch, Large housing estates in East Germany- challenges over 40 years, 6th December
  - Research over an Afternoon Tea, December 2023
    - The student chapter intends to initiate an afternoon Tea event in the University of Huddersfield. The agenda of the event is to meet the researchers informally and discuss on building skills over a cup of tea. The location for this event will be Create Lab followed by a writing session in Postgraduate research room SHB/01. We will also be presenting a couple of individual research to show progress from 1st year to 3rd year. This will allow discussions on academic writing, publishing papers, and building rapport.
  - Event: Are you struggling with Data Collection? Proposed date: 12 December 2023
    - Often the researchers struggle through data collection in the research period, we are planning to acknowledge this issue, and run a two- hour session on how each of the students are planning to collect data, how to develop the protocols and research ethics. This discussion will enable to

understand the problems that arise from previous experience, and how these can be approached and solved.

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### **2.9.3 The Planned Activities for the Chapter in the Upcoming Year**

- Student-Led Research Discussion – (Friday Sessions)
  - The student chapter plans to run several discussion sessions among the peers at the University. This will be informal presenting sessions among researchers to get peer-feedback, on how to overcome challenges, how to improve academic writing and progress monitoring, and publishing in journals and conferences. The proposed dates are:
    - 5 January 2024- (Writing techniques)
    - 16 February 2024- (Academic Referencing)
    - 22 March 2024- (Progression Monitoring Report)
    - 19 April 2024- (Progression Monitoring Viva)
- Discussion way forward: Joint PhD supervisory meeting November 2024
  - We will organize our monthly supervisory meetings, where we discuss our research outputs and receive feedback from the academic staff and teachers, and discuss the CIB student chapter activities.

### **2.9.4 Contact Information of the Executive Members of the Chapter**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Email</b>
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## **2.10 Annual Report of University of Salford Student Chapter**

### ***2.10.1 Brief Explanation of the History of the Chapter and its Objectives***

The University of Salford (UOS) CIB Student Chapter has been always a platform for postgraduate students in the School of Built Environment to enhance their skills and engage in international collaboration and information exchange related to research and innovation. The chapter has played a crucial role in fostering relationships among postgraduate researchers and promoting awareness of CIB and CIB Student Chapters. Over the years, the chapter has facilitated interactions, communication, and knowledge-sharing among PhD students in the Built Environment field. Additionally, it has been actively involved in applying for grants, conducting research projects, and participating in international and national conferences.

The objectives of the UOS CIB Student Chapter are as follows:

1. **Enhancing Relationships:** The chapter strives to create opportunities for postgraduate researchers to improve their relationships with one another, thereby fostering a sense of community and collaboration within the school. This collaborative atmosphere can be instrumental in advancing research and innovation efforts.
2. **Skill Development:** A primary objective is to identify and capitalise on opportunities for developing the skills and capabilities of its members. This likely involves organising events and activities that contribute to skill enhancement, ensuring that students are well-prepared for their research endeavours and future careers.
3. **Expanding Research Networks:** The chapter aims to broaden its research networks within the school and among other CIB Student Chapters. This expansion of networks provides students with the chance to connect with a more extensive academic community, exchange ideas, and collaborate on research projects.
4. **Promoting CIB Awareness:** The chapter places a significant focus on raising awareness of the CIB (International Council for Research and Innovation in Building and Construction) and the CIB Student Chapters. Such awareness is vital for engaging students in the organisation's mission and fostering a global perspective on research and innovation in the built environment.

The University of Salford CIB Student Chapter has a rich history of promoting collaboration and skill development among postgraduate students in the Built Environment field. Its ongoing objectives include building and nurturing relationships, enhancing members' skills, expanding research networks, and increasing awareness of CIB and CIB Student Chapters, thereby contributing to the development of the field and the academic community.

### ***2.10.2 Completed and Upcoming Activities of the Chapter in the Current Year***

The chapter is undergoing an ambitious shift in its vision. The new committee is not solely focused on facilitating and enhancing knowledge exchange among PhD students in the field

of built environment and capacity-building. Instead, the new committee is placing a strong emphasis on nurturing the mental and psychological well-being of the students. As a result, the chapter has made a dedicated commitment to host at least one event per month. These events will cover a wide spectrum, including academic and social activities, all geared towards supporting the holistic well-being of the students.

The List of Completed Activities in 2023:

The Salford CIB Student Chapter had a series of notable activities throughout the year:

1. Thesis Talk by Dr. Ahmed (May): The chapter organised an enlightening thesis talk by Dr. Ahmed AboMoamen, a former CIB member and PhD holder. This event delved into diverse topics related to research and innovation in the built environment, with a focus on sharing real-life experiences and insights to help PhD students overcome challenges in their academic journey.
2. PGR Chat Club (June): the chapter hosted a relaxed picnic at Peel Park in Manchester. This event allowed PhD students to connect with nature, unwind, and engage in conversations. It provided students with an opportunity to socialize and take a break from their rigorous academic pursuits.
3. Astronomy Tech with Dan - How to present scientific content to the non-scientific audience: In June, this webinar took place before the SPARC Conference 2023 at the UOS and aimed to assist SPARC presenters in enhancing their presentation skills, particularly in the context of conveying scientific content to a broader audience. Mr. Dan, an experienced Astrology scientist from the University of Central Lancashire, specialises in a complex field, often referred to as "rocket science" in everyday language. He shared his expertise in simplifying the communication of his scientific work to make it accessible to all.
4. SPARC Conference 2023 Participation (July): The chapter celebrated the active involvement of its members in the SPARC Conference 2023 held at the University of Salford. Beyond merely participating in the conference, chapter members made a mark by earning multiple awards and chairing numerous conference sessions. These accomplishments showcased their outstanding contributions to the field of research and innovation in the built environment.
5. CIB PGR Outing (August): Early in August, the chapter organised an outing to a bowling centre in Manchester city centre. This event was meticulously designed to foster camaraderie among postgraduate researchers. It provided an enjoyable opportunity for students to relax, have fun, and temporarily step away from their academic responsibilities.

These activities demonstrate the chapter's dedication to enriching the academic and social experiences of its members, supporting their holistic well-being, and encouraging their success in the field of built environment research and innovation.

Photos of previous events

PGR Chat Club



SPARC Conference





## CIB Outing



### Upcoming Activities:

We are looking forward to our upcoming orientation week, tailored for new postgraduate students joining the CIB community. As a key component of this orientation, we are organising a welcome event to introduce these newcomers to our dynamic community. Furthermore, the committee will also play a role in the SEE PGR new starter induction and welcome event, with a CIB member addressing the induction and shedding light on the CIB's work and objectives.

- November 2023
  - Thesis Talk
    - This opportunity will give you the chance to tell us the why of your research, practice to grab the audience's attention, give some interesting details about your research, and end by offering what you hope you find as a conclusion. Your takeaway from talking about your research is: Becoming confident in talking about your research, getting advice and help, and making friends and colleagues.
- December 2023
  - Christmas Celebration Outing
    - PhD students' outings- Place and time will be announced based on a prior questionnaire.



### **2.10.3 The Planned Activities for the Chapter in the Upcoming Year**

- January 2024
  - Using AI in Data Collection and Construction (Part 1)
    - In this engaging and innovative activity organized by our chapter, we delve into the exciting realm of harnessing Artificial Intelligence (AI) for data collection and construction practices. In an era driven by technological advancements, this activity serves as a dynamic platform for members to explore and understand how AI is transforming the landscape of the construction industry. This activity offers a unique opportunity for you to stay at the forefront of industry advancements, furthering your knowledge and skill set, and contributing to the future of construction through AI technology. Join us in exploring the boundless possibilities AI holds for the construction sector and be a part of this transformative journey towards smarter and more efficient construction practices.
- February 2024
  - Using AI in Data Collection and Construction (Part 1)
    - In this engaging and innovative activity organized by our chapter, we delve into the exciting realm of harnessing Artificial Intelligence (AI) for data collection and construction practices. In an era driven by technological advancements, this activity serves as a dynamic platform for members to explore and understand how AI is transforming the landscape of the construction industry. This activity offers a unique opportunity for you to stay at the forefront of industry advancements, furthering your knowledge and skill set, and contributing to the future of construction through AI technology. Join us in exploring the boundless possibilities AI holds for the construction sector and be a part of this transformative journey towards smarter and more efficient construction practices.
- March 2024
  - Chatting Club
    - We believe that all PGR students are experiencing to some extent the same problems and life issues such as the cost of living and relationship with supervisors. We believe also that they badly miss their families, especially international students. Speaking out is the most effective way of getting advice or even seeking psychological relief. This session aims to gather all the PhD students in the built environment to talk about their lives, difficulties they have, or any other thing related to their life; to share experiences and seek advice.
- April 2024
  - Spring Food Festival



- Allowing people to gather and bring their favourite food plates to share. This amazing experience is perfect for taking a break, having fun, meeting people, and making new friends. We aim to get all the PhD students in Built Environment to such lovely events where games and lots of fun will be waiting for them.
- May 2024
  - SPARC Abstract Writing Club
    - Writing is a fundamental aspect of our responsibilities, and many of us encounter challenges when it comes to writing on a regular basis. Often, we attribute our perceived lack of productivity or writing skills to ourselves. In this dedicated workshop, we aim to support PhD students in the built environment as they craft abstracts for the SPARC Conference 2024. Our goal is to create a space where students can share their written work with peers and benefit from the collective writing experience. By the end of the workshop, participants will have developed abstracts that are meaningful, focused, and effective in achieving their intended purpose, all while ensuring readability for others.
- June 2024
  - Thesis Talk (Reflection on SPARC)
    - This event will centre on the opportunity to discuss and refine the strengths of your research, building on the insights garnered from the SPARC Conference 2024. Here, you will have the chance to delve into the 'why' of your research, practice captivating your audience's attention, share intriguing details about your work, and conclude with your envisioned outcomes. Participating in these discussions will enable you to gain confidence in articulating your research, receive valuable advice and support, and cultivate meaningful connections with fellow researchers and colleagues.
- July 2024
  - Chatting Club
    - We believe that all PGR students are experiencing to some extent the same problems and life issues such as the cost of living and relationship with supervisors. We believe also that they badly miss their families, especially international students. Speaking out is the most effective way of getting advice or even seeking psychological relief. This session aims to gather all the PhD students in the built environment to talk about their lives, difficulties they have, or any other thing related to their life; to share experiences and seek advice.
- August 2024
  - Outing



- PhD students' outings- Place and time will be announced based on a prior questionnaire.
- September 2024
  - Writing Club
    - Writing is such a central part of our job, that most of us struggle with writing regularly, and then we blame ourselves for a lack of productivity or lack of skill at writing. In the writing club, we will encourage the PhD students in the built environment to represent a piece of their work that will be read by other students. This workshop aims to share the writing experience and ensure that each produced piece of work would be meaningful, focused, achieving its goal, and readable by others.

#### **2.10.4 Contact Information of the Executive Members of the Chapter**

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## **2.11 Annual Report of Virginia Tech Student Chapter**

### ***2.11.1 Brief Explanation of the History of the Chapter and its Objectives***

The CIB student chapter at Virginia Tech was established in 2013. The chapter served as vehicle to facilitate collaboration and fellowship among the students in the different graduate construction programs at Virginia Tech. Members of the student chapter were primarily graduate students who were active and had an interest in research. The graduate construction programs at Virginia Tech are found in two independent organizational units:

- The Vecellio Construction Engineering and Management Program in the Via Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering.
- The Building Construction Department in the Myers-Lawson School of Construction

It is worth noting that an undergraduate program in construction engineering and management also resides in the Myers-Lawson School of Construction, and students in civil engineering in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering also are involved in construction-related courses and undergraduate research.

After its founding the chapter was quite active. It established itself as a recognized student group at Virginia Tech (which made it eligible for some funding from the Virginia Tech Office of Student Affairs), elected officers, held frequent meetings and hosted events such as research seminars and social outings.

The chapter responded to calls for the Sebestyén Award in 2013 and 2014. The chapter won the award in 2014, and the report from the project entitled: “Toward Understanding of Information Diffusion about Infrastructure: An Empirical Study of Twitter Data” was published in 2016 as Serial Title #409 with ISBN 978 9063 63 09 42.

The chapter remained active through 2018-19 academic year. However, it entered the 2019-20 academic year without a strong slate of officers. Consequently, its activities were far less. In 2020, the COVID pandemic and subsequent lock-downs caused the chapter to become inactive.

This fall semester leaders in the construction programs at Virginia Tech started discussions about getting the chapter active again.

### ***2.11.2 Completed and Upcoming Activities of the Chapter in the Current Year***

The chapter has no completed activities to report in the current year.

Upcoming activities include:

- Identifying candidates for the student leadership positions in the chapter.
- Conducting elections of these candidates in accordance with the chapter’s by-laws.
- Organizing and holding activities for spring semester of 2024.
- Confirming or reinstating the chapter as a recognized student group at Virginia Tech.

### ***2.11.3 The Planned Activities for the Chapter in the Upcoming Year***

The focus of the chapter in the upcoming year will be to re-establish the chapter as a viable student group among the construction programs at Virginia Tech. The timing of this is very good since there is a renewed commitment to strengthening the collaboration among the graduate construction programs.

Expectations are that by academic year 2024-25 that the chapter will have elected officers and will be as active as it was during the 2014-2019 timeframe.

### ***2.11.4. Contact Information of the Executive Members of the Chapter***

Current faculty co-advisors of the chapter are:

- Michael J. Garvin, Professor, Via Dept. of Civil and Environmental Engineering, [garvin@vt.edu](mailto:garvin@vt.edu)
- Georg Reichard, Professor, Dept. of Building Construction, [reichard@vt.edu](mailto:reichard@vt.edu)

## **2.12 Annual Report of Western Sydney University Student Chapter**

### ***2.12.1 Brief Explanation of the History of the Chapter and its Objectives***

The CIB student chapter at Western Sydney University officially inaugurated by Professor Srinath Perera (The Senior Academic Advisor) and Dr. Robert Osei-Kyei (Academic Advisor) at Centre for Smart Modern Construction (c4SMC), School of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. An election was held for the appointment of first executive committee members and Priyadarshai Das was elected as the first president for WSU-CIB chapter in 2019. CIB election involves with the student members, and it is the first right to participate to the activities conducted by WSU-CIB Chapter. Before the election, every student who wish to vote was registered as a member for the Chapter. The first executive committee comprised of Priyadarshani Das, Buddhini Ginigaddara, Amer Hajazi, Lavender Liu and Kasun Gunasekara. In 2019/2020, the elected chapter initiated and executed a series of impactful activities. We were honoured with the Western Sydney University -Vice Chancellor's Excellence Awards in December 2020, recognising the outstanding contributions for University Engagement and Sustainability.

In the following year, from 2020 to 2021, a new committee was appointed by an election and Buddhini Ginigaddara was selected as the President for the WSU- CIB Chapter in (2020/2021). The executive committee members were Buddhini Ginigaddara, De-Graft Joe Opoku, Thilini Weerasuriya, Amer Hijazi and Kasun Gunasekara. Number of noteworthy events such as the CIB c4SMC Collective Sensemaking Research Competition, The Student Sunset Social, CIB Conversations and CIB Student Chapters Collaborative Research Seminar was organised by the WSU-CIB student Chapter. These activities aimed to foster intellectual growth, collaboration, and research engagement among members.

Consecutively, a new executive team was appointed for the years 2021/2023 and De-Graft Opoku Was elected as the president. The executive team comprised of De-Graft Joe Opoku, Thilini Weerasuriya, Shiyamini Ratnasabapathy, Kola Olayiwola, Lavender Liu and Daniel Bonatti. Despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic between 2021 and 2023, c4SMC Colloquium was organised to enhance the engagement of staff. Further, AUBEA 2022 conference hosted by Western Sydney University in November 2022 was organized with great honour.

Another new chapter was started on 01 of August 2023, with the appointment of new executive committee. Prasad Perera was appointed as the President for 2023/2024 and the executive team consists of Mathusha Francis, Sachindra Hewavitharana, Mona Jahangir Zadeh, Sashini Jayakodi, Iresha Gamage and Tusharbai Gajjar. Number of exciting events are planned for the 2023 and 2024 year by the executive committee.

Aim of our WSU-CIB Student Chapter is to work align with CIB Student chapters and to provide a means by which students who will be the future leaders of building research and innovation are able to engage with and be inspired by current leading-edge building research worldwide, and to appreciate at first hand the value of international exchange and cooperation. Vision of the chapter is to be a recognised industry – collaborated research

group with a culture of knowledge sharing and intellectual interaction among higher degree researchers and undergraduate students alike.

Objectives of the Western Sydney University Student Chapter are,

1. To raise awareness among students about activities of the CIB and significant developments in research in built environment.
2. To establish a platform for students to connect with like-minded peers, academics, and professionals in their field of interest.
3. To offer resources and workshops aimed at equipping students with enhanced research and technical skills, positioning them for success in careers as industry professionals or researchers.

### ***2.12.2 Completed and Upcoming Activities of the Chapter in the Current Year***

- Completed activities
  - February 2023
    - Industry – Academic Roundtable
      - Academic Roundtable themed ‘Digital Imperatives for Net Zero Built Environment’ held 28 February 2023 at the Peter Shergold Building (1PSQ), Western Sydney University. This event was led and organized by CIB student members, who also had the opportunity to present their research to a distinguished audience of international academics and industry professionals. The event was graced by the presence of the Pro Vice-Chancellor for Research and the Dean of the School of Engineering, Design, and Built Environment, and Professor Srinath Perera, who serves as both the Director of the Centre for Smart Modern Construction and the Senior Academic Advisor for the CIB student chapter at WSU. The Executive Director of Compliance at the NSW Department of Customer Service delivered a keynote address titled 'Delivering NSW a More Capable & Productive Industry.' Following this, two industry experts presented on digital solutions aimed at enhancing compliance within the industry. Subsequently, student researchers had the opportunity to showcase three of their cutting-edge research projects, aiming to secure high-level acceptance within the industry."

## CIB Student Chapter Members at c4SMC Industry - Academic Roundtable

February 2023



- Upcoming activities

- December 2023

- AI Odyssey: Directions and Implications for the Society and Industry

- The event titled "AI Odyssey: Directions and Implications for the Society and Industry" will be organised by the Western Sydney University CIB student chapter in collaboration with the Centre for Smart Modern Construction (c4SMC), at the School of Engineering Design and Built Environment (SoEDBE).

The event aims to provide HDR students with an opportunity to probe into cutting-edge AI topics, encouraging them to think beyond existing boundaries and pioneer new ideas. Research is a pursuit of pushing knowledge borders and shaping the future, making it crucial for HDR students to critically understand AI's potential impact on their research areas and how they can contribute to the evolving landscape of intelligence. AI is inherently multidisciplinary, spanning various domains.

However, a debate and discussion surrounding AI and its implications for the construction industry and society are both timely and crucial. This multifaceted topic necessitates a comprehensive exploration of both the advantageous and detrimental effects AI would create for modern businesses. While AI undeniably proffers advantages such as efficiency, safety, and strategic planning, it concurrently introduces challenges encompassing workforce displacement, prejudices, ethical considerations, and the development of requisite skills. Striking a balance between embracing AI's capabilities and



addressing its potential downsides is imperative to ensure an equitable future for both the construction industry and society. The event comprises two AI-related research presentations by HDR students and a panel discussion with invited AI experts. Furthermore, the collaboration of international researchers at the event will disseminate knowledge on upcoming AI trends offering valuable insights. In conclusion, "AI Odyssey: Directions and Implications for the Society and Industry" promises to be an engaging, informative, and inspiring session for HDR research students, equipping them with the tools, knowledge, and motivation to become pioneers in the rapidly evolving landscape of Artificial Intelligence.

### **2.12.3 The Planned Activities for the Chapter in 2024**

- February 2024
  - Industry – Academic Roundtable
    - An inclusive roundtable session will be planned for collaborative engagement between industry experts and academic professionals. This event provides a unique platform for in depth discussions, knowledge sharing, and the exploration of mutual interests in research and technology.
- April 2024
  - Blockchain Proficiency Summit
    - A comprehensive, one-day virtual workshop dedicated to Blockchain Programming. Participants can anticipate an immersive experience aimed at exposing extensive knowledge, practical skills, and real-world insights in the dynamic field of blockchain technology. This event will feature insights and involvement of four distinguished blockchain experts as resource persons.
- August 2024
  - Digital Research Fusion Challenge
    - A stimulating poster presentation competition, focusing on the theme of "Collaborative Digital Research Solutions," inviting participation from a diverse spectrum of built environment researchers, ranging from PhD candidates to undergraduate students. Participants are encouraged to present collaboratively in small groups (3-4 individuals) to foster interdisciplinary collaboration. At the culmination of the event, three outstanding presentations will be identified and awarded. This event will be physically hosted, offering a dynamic platform for knowledge exchange and innovative research.



**2.12.4 Contact Information of the Executive Members of the Chapter**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Email</b>
Professor Srinath Perera	Senior Advisor	<a href="mailto:srinath.perera@westernsydney.edu.au">srinath.perera@westernsydney.edu.au</a>
Dr. Samudaya Nanayakkara	Advisor	<a href="mailto:samudaya.n@westernsydney.edu.au">samudaya.n@westernsydney.edu.au</a>
Parasad Perera	President	<a href="mailto:22048291@student.westernsydney.edu.au">22048291@student.westernsydney.edu.au</a>
Mathusha Francis	Vice President	<a href="mailto:22078099@student.westernsydney.edu.au">22078099@student.westernsydney.edu.au</a>
Ferose Sachindra Thathsarani Hewavitharana	Secretar	<a href="mailto:22068387@student.westernsydney.edu.au">22068387@student.westernsydney.edu.au</a>
Iresha Gamage	Treasur	<a href="mailto:22085159@student.westernsydney.edu.au">22085159@student.westernsydney.edu.au</a>
Shashini Jayakodi	Project Leads Events	<a href="mailto:22081055@student.westernsydney.edu.au">22081055@student.westernsydney.edu.au</a>
Mona Jahangir Zadeh	Project Leads Promotions	<a href="mailto:22081087@student.westernsydney.edu.au">22081087@student.westernsydney.edu.au</a>
Tusharbhaj Gajjar	Project Leads Membership	<a href="mailto:20023225@student.westernsydney.edu.au">20023225@student.westernsydney.edu.au</a>

**WSU-CIB Student Chapter Executive Committee Members**

 <b>Prasad Perera President</b>	 <b>Mathusha Francis Vice President</b>	 <b>Ferose Sachindra Hewavitharana Secretary</b>	
 <b>Mona Jahangir Zadeh Project Leads - Promotions</b>	 <b>Iresha Gamage Treasurer</b>	 <b>Shashini Jayakodi Project Leads - Events</b>	 <b>Tusharbhaj Gajjar Project Leads - Membership</b>