



## Role of Heritage Building Information Management in Indian Urban Infrastructure

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### Abstract

Building Information Modelling has almost replaced CAD as an industry standard and yet when it comes to Historic buildings, Historic Building Information Management/ Modelling (H-BIM) is still in its formative stage and face many challenges before they can truly be accepted as mainstream tool.

The paper draws upon the experiences of the authors in using BIM tool for modelling historic cores as part of their professional as well as academic engagements. Through example of their professional work (one of which has involved modelling of heritage precinct of DN Road, Mumbai), the paper makes a case for better awareness amongst the professional community as well as governance about the potential of the HBIM for better conservation and management practices. The paper would further suggest measures in academics as well as policies for enabling an effective adaptation of these digital age tools for better communication and transparency amongst all stakeholders involved in the process of urban development and conservation.

**Keywords:** DN Road, Heritage modelling, Historic Building Information Modelling, HBIM, Digital tools Heritage.

### 1 Introduction: Heritage Conservation and the Indian context

Heritage Conservation has come a long way in the last 7 decades. Starting with when it meant Preservation of Legacy of Past (related to artefacts and objects) ....to Buildings and Monuments .... And soon enough covering larger areas and cities including the overall landscape. By late 70's Heritage was not just about built form... It acknowledged Intangible aspects...Around the same time Heritage also

acknowledged people's interactions with nature. Today, thanks to various regional, national and global organisations and institutions, one witnesses varied deliberations about the value association with heritage amongst communities, field workers, professionals and academicians.

The field is looking at a paradigm shift from the act of 'conserving' to the act of 'utilizing' existing resources (built and natural) in a wiser manner. Built heritage is understood as a valuable resource. Contemporary Conservation practice is thus expected to be