

HOW BUILDING PERFORMANCE EVALUATION FITS INTO THE GERMAN EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

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Abstract

The Conceptual Framework for Building Performance Evaluation (BPE) is the basis for this paper. This framework was developed as an approach that results in better design decisions, more involvement by users, buildings of better quality and more cost-effective management.

Thus, with its consideration of the entire building life cycle, BPE fits perfectly into the holistic view of Facility Management (FM), taught by the author at a German University in the School of Architecture and Civil Engineering in a course on Construction project management. Both, FM and BPE constitute new fields not only within the school's curriculum, but within the changing world of the academy and the profession. Some of the challenges are:

- by 2006, Diploma courses at German universities have to be replaced by Bachelor and Master courses
- these courses have to have a clear, future-proof profile in order to get approved by an accreditation agency
- 'architecture' has to reduce its student capacity by 15 % as unemployment and density are high (one architect per 650 inhabitants)
- construction project managers and facility managers as new professions are becoming increasingly important on Germany's building market in terms of time, costs, and quality.

The paper reports on dealing with these challenges. Benefits and problems will be discussed.

Key Words: Building Performance Evaluation; Building Life Cycle; Architecture; Facility Management; Education.

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