Around the Commissions

W111 - Usability of Workplaces

Introducing the New Coordinator

The CIB Programme Committee has appointed Mr. Geir K. Hansen of Department of Architectural Design and Management at the Faculty of Architecture and Fine Art, NTNU, Norway the New Coordinator of W111 on Usability of Workplaces

Below follows a short CV.

Mr. Geir K. Hansen

Geir K Hansen is an Associate Professor in Architectural Management and Facilities Management and head of Department of Architectural Design and Management at the Faculty of Architecture and Fine Art, NTNU. He is also leader of two master programs in Real Estate and Facilities Management at NTNU. He graduated as an architect from the Faculty of Architecture at the Norwegian Technical University.

His main field of research is programming, evaluation of processes and buildings, and usability of buildings related to an user and organizational perspective where theory, methods and tools are developed through several projects and case studies. Hansen has previously worked with topics like adaptability and flexibility, new use and transformation of existing buildings and run several architectural design courses on this.

Mr. Hansen has been an active member of CIB Working Commissions W096 on Architectural Management, W070 on Facilities Management and Maintenance and W111 Usability of Workplaces.

He has been Scientific Member of the Steering Committee for Center for Facilities Management at Denmark Technical University from 2009 - 2013.

He has published a number of scientific papers and articles on usability, adaptability, flexibility in projects and processes and been reviewer for several papers and articles.

Additional Information

For further information about CIB W111 contact the Coordinator: Geir K. Hansen geir.hansen@ntnu.no.

You can find more information on the activities of CIB W111 here.

Personal Statement of Geir K Hansen

The CIB Working Commission on the Usability of Workplaces (W111) has since its inception in 2001 operated as an integrated, international network of researchers, practitioners and organisations. The network was originally formed as a Task Group (TG51) to investigate the application of an international standard on Usability, previously applied in the evaluation of consumer products, to the built environment. Professor Keith Alexander at Salford University was one of the founders of the Group and has been the coordinator until now.

The work of W111 extends the work of CIB by taking the perspective of people, organisations and communities who use the built environment. The concepts, methods and tools developed in the Usability work envision an environment that is user-centric, service-driven and value adding by emphasizing the effect of our environments on efficiency, effectiveness and user satisfaction. Usability has been found to be strongly related not only to the interaction between users and facilities, but also to clear strategies for the organisation of work and use of facilities. Usability is hence context dependent.
One of the success factors for the Working Commission from the very beginning has been the development of theory, methods and tools through a continuous process, both within the CIB Group and through different national case studies initiated by the researchers involved in W111. Senior managers from leading organisations in public and private sector in the national studies have participated in the network and have been directly involved in the series of action learning workshops used as the main vehicle for developing the concept of Usability.

My ambition and motivation for taking over as Coordinator for this Commission is to continue the work on Usability by combining national and international research using the network as a common arena for cross cultural collaboration and information exchange.

The last years focus on Usability of learning environments will continue. I also expect that usability related to health care and wellbeing, and communities will come up as important issues.

Many of the members of the CIB W111 are also members of related Working Commissions like W070 Facilities Management, W096 Architectural Management and W118 Clients and Users. It will be important to coordinate the activities in these commissions in order to use our common resources as efficiently as possible.