

TG39 - Deconstruction



This is one of the two new TGs established at the Meeting of the Programme Committee in Gainesville. More details and an invitation to participate in its work can be found [here](#).

It held an organisational meeting of a preparatory nature at the University of Florida on 5th May 1999, with eleven participants.

It was noted that Task Group 16, Best Practices in Sustainable Construction, no longer existed. TG39, was slated to have a four-year life (1999-2003) and the focus would be placed on the disassembly of the built environment and the reuse/recycling of building components and materials.

Its goal was stated to be to develop documentation on subjects related to deconstruction. It was suggested that additional topics be addressed, including safety, training, hindrances, regulations, life cycle analysis, socio-economic factors, techniques, design, remodelling and others. The tasks will be restructured to reflect these suggestions.

Its potential to evolve into a Working Commission at a later stage was discussed. However, the first initiative would be deconstruction which would continue to completion in 2003.

Interest from Architects

It was mentioned that architects in Germany are interested in the principles of deconstruction. In the UK also, this interests exists among architects, especially in facilities where the contractor maintains the completed facility. The issue of recovering building materials after a natural disaster was discussed and may be a worthwhile area of investigation.

The administration of the Task Group through email and the Internet was discussed. The Rinker School already has a deconstruction website managed by the Center for Construction and Environment and the activities of TG39 will be incorporated into that web site. An active membership list will be needed and it is hoped that one of the member organizations will take on the task of maintaining that list. A list server will be considered for use with the website. Clearly, TG39 could learn much from the third world and this should be explored. It was recognised that the third world is primarily concerned with saving on material costs and not on labour costs.

Meetings and Structure

Future meetings were discussed and it was agreed to have annual meetings during the life of the Task Group.

TG39 will have a horizontal and vertical structure to accomplish its tasks. Regional Coordinators will be responsible for raising interest in the subject of deconstruction in their regions and soliciting participation while Technical Coordinators will focus on the many specific aspects of deconstruction such as techniques, design, economics, and policy.

The Coordinators are looking forward to receiving via the General Secretariat the names of people who want to be involved with TG39.