

1 Formal CPD point

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FAÇADE INNOVATION – THE PATHWAYS & THE PITFALLS

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1. What are some recent façade design trends?

Architects remain as creative as ever, and their desire to design distinctive façades that make a lasting impact has not diminished. However, because they are now faced with the carbon reduction imperative and associated regulatory responses, they have had to get smarter. As such, we are seeing a shift to advanced technologies and things like artificial intelligence, generative design and even energy harvesting façade technologies.

2. For architects involved in façade design, the pathways from concept to delivery tend to be particularly difficult to navigate. What are the most common frustrations?

Budgetary issues; compliance challenges; value engineering of designs; poor quality outcomes; product limitations.

3. Façade design and construction has become a multi-disciplinary exercise. Name the types of professionals typically found in façade design teams.

Architects, façade designers, industrial designers, structural engineers, mechanical engineers, façade engineers, and façade delivery management specialists.

4. Name some procurement pitfalls associated with façade design.

Relying on builder trades for delivery of complex designs; Not prototyping and sampling sufficiently during design; Insufficient quality control during manufacturing; Paying high costs through poor design; Paying high prices due to multiple party procurement mark-ups.

5. What types of technical design challenges do design teams have to address when working on façades?

Challenges around the design and documentation capabilities, delivering unique aesthetics with common materials, ensuring appropriate durability, ensuring compliance, delivering on sustainability objectives.

6. Where can architects hoping to address the challenges associated with façade design and unlock their design creativity go for help?

They can seek help from facade designers and industrial designers, or simply discuss these issues with colleagues.

Competency Codes: Project initiation and conceptual design PC 18/PC 25/PC 28, Detailed design and construction documentation PC 39/PC 46