

Information and Knowledge Management in Construction

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What is this session about?

- Overview of IM and KM in construction management
- Two complementary perspectives
- Implications for technology mediated projects

Recap

- Construction is largely **project**-based
- Industry is highly fragmented
- Needs high levels of coordination across numerous factors and actors
- Importance of last planners- workers
- **Right People** to **Right job** at the **Right time** **requires timely information sharing and access**

Information systems in AEC

- Computer Aided Design (CAD)
- Building Information Modelling (BIM) applications
- Project information management (PIMs)
- Document Management Systems (DMS)
- Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) Systems
- eCommerce and eBusiness
 - B2B, B2C, C2C, ...
- Emails, instant messaging and chats, ...
- Tracking, monitoring and sensing devices...

What else can you think of as part of projects and organizations IM and KM practice?

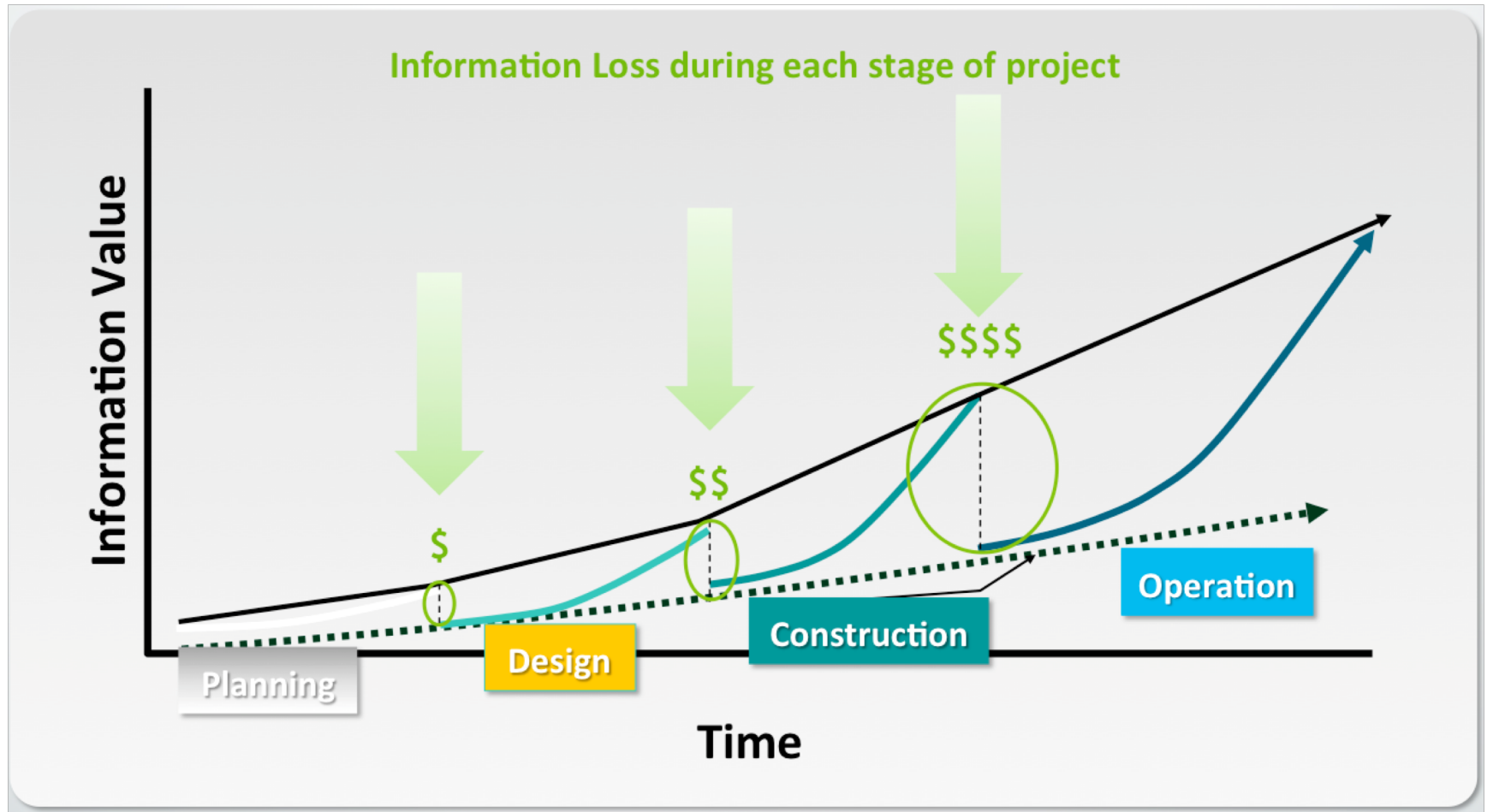
Islands of Automation in Construction

After the ice period 10.000 years ago the land is still slowly rising and exposing new terrain never before stepped on by man.

The challenge is to build bridges between the islands while new islands are constantly appearing.



Information loss between project phases



Information management- basics

Data- Information-Knowledge

What data to seek?
How to make sense of the data?
Do we have enough data?

Map of the world

Knowledge

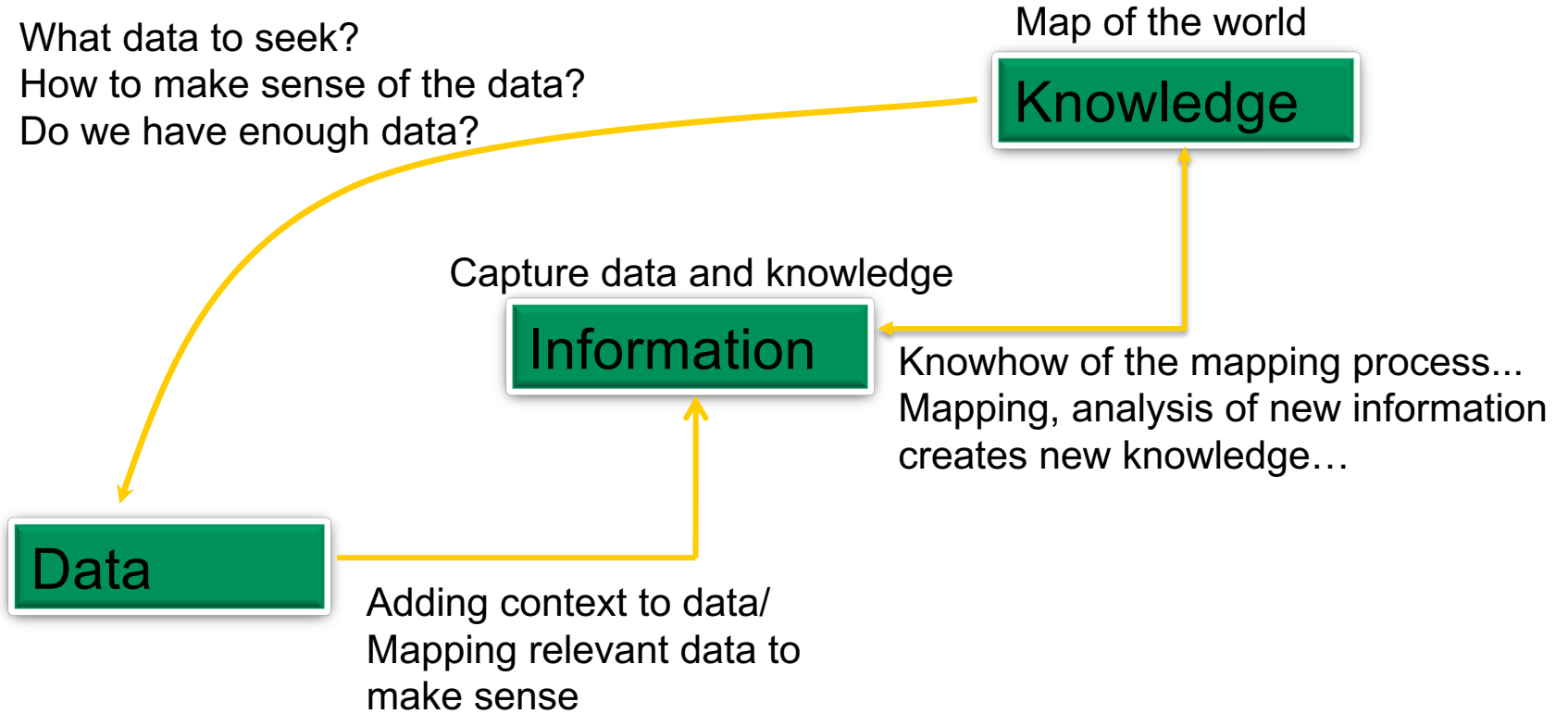
Capture data and knowledge

Information

Knowhow of the mapping process...
Mapping, analysis of new information
creates new knowledge...

Data

Adding context to data/
Mapping relevant data to
make sense



Attendance?
Temp?

T1	T1	T1	T1	T2	T2	T2	T2
Lec 1	Lec 2	Lec 3	Lec 4	Lec 5	Lec 6	Lec 7	Lec 8
30	20	18	15	20	26	25	26

IM and KM in construction projects

Information and Knowledge about what?

Products

Processes

People

Policies

Partners

Projects

Plans

Places

Procurements

Permits

Prices

Phases

Project level
Organizational level
Industry level

Contracts

Collaboration

Coordination

Communication

Knowledge management perspectives

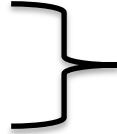
Knowledge creation

Knowledge distribution

Knowledge acquisition

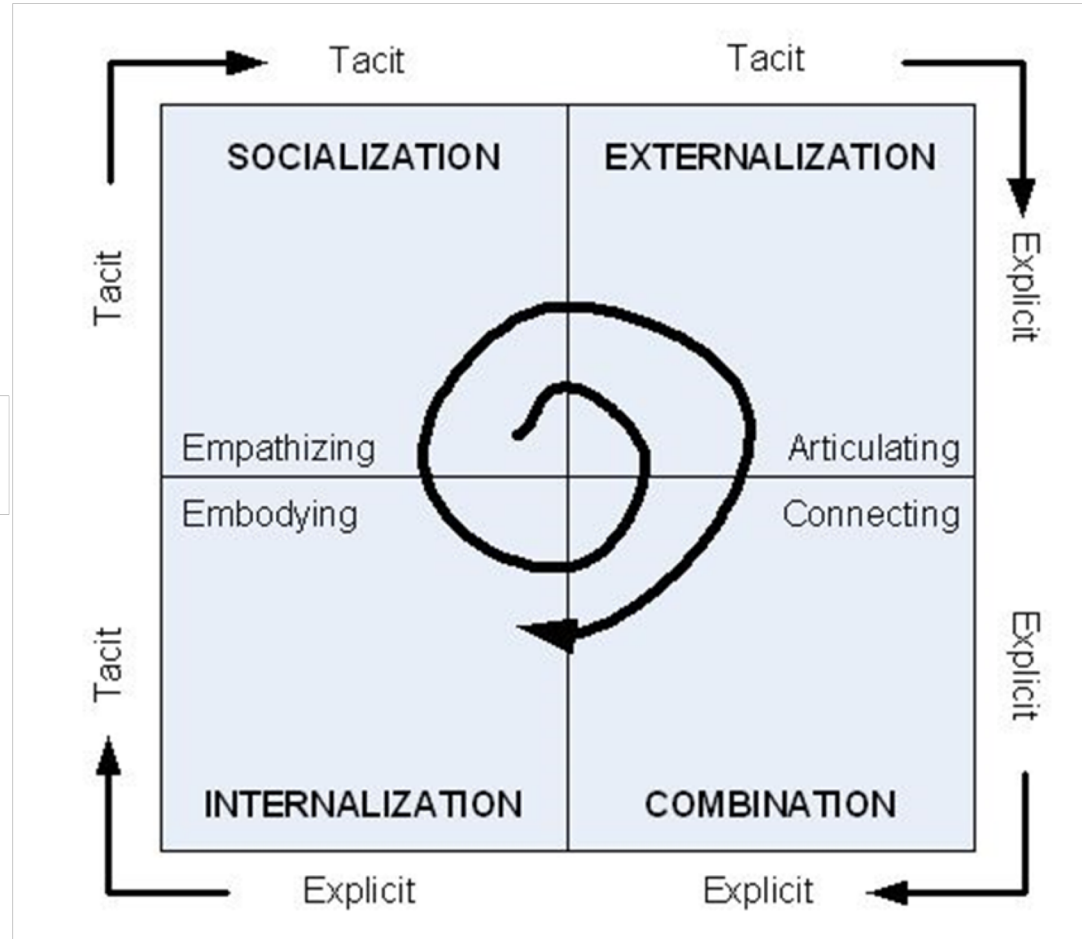
Knowledge application

Knowledge transfer



Knowledge creation cycle

The SECI model
By Nonaka and Takeuchi



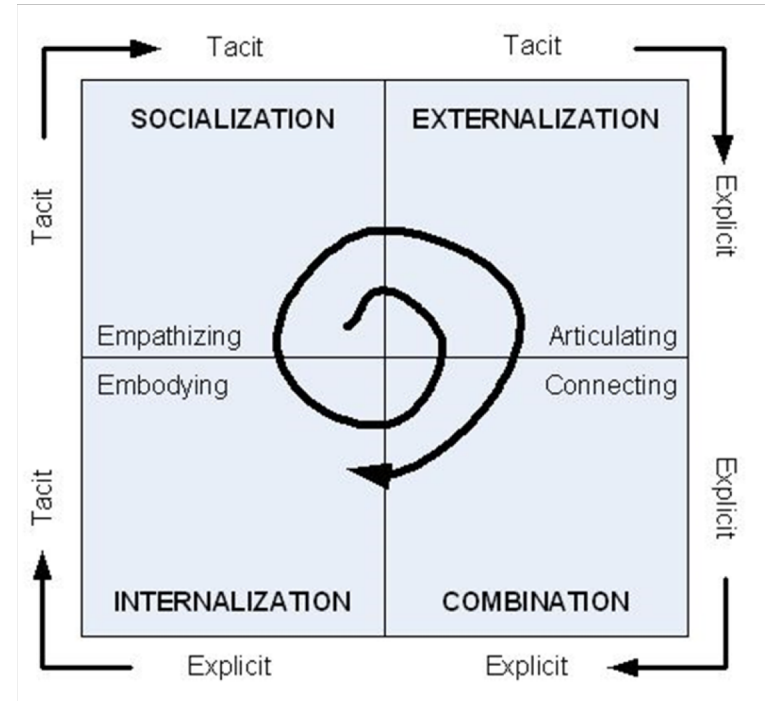
Knowledge creation cycle- About design/ product

Who? Designers, consultants, site engineers...

What? design features, concepts, strengths and weaknesses, rules (thumb-rules to standards)...

When? Where?

How to bring from site to office? From field and practice to classrooms?



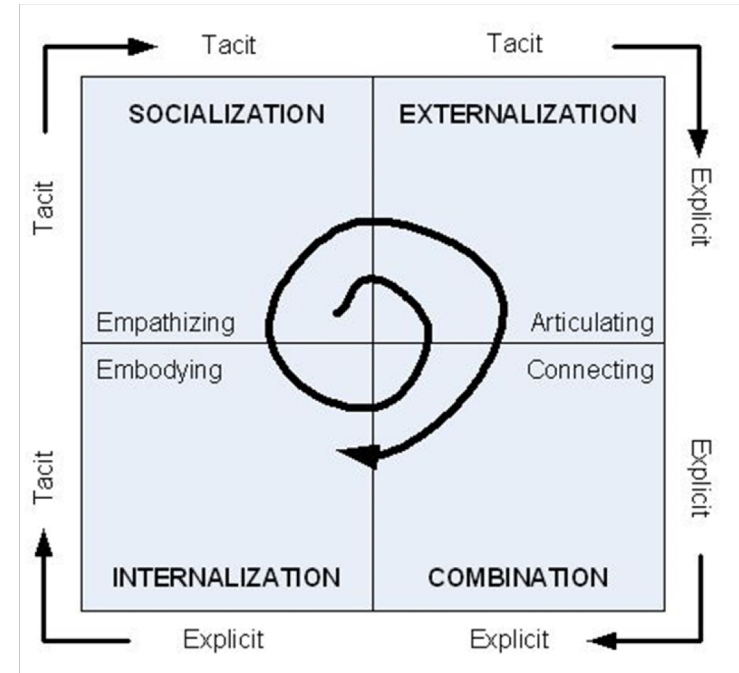
Knowledge creation cycle- About the process

Who? Designers, consultants, site engineers...

What? Best practices (thumb-rules to guidelines and protocols), Do's and Don'ts ...

When? Where?

How to bring from site to office? From field and practice to classrooms?



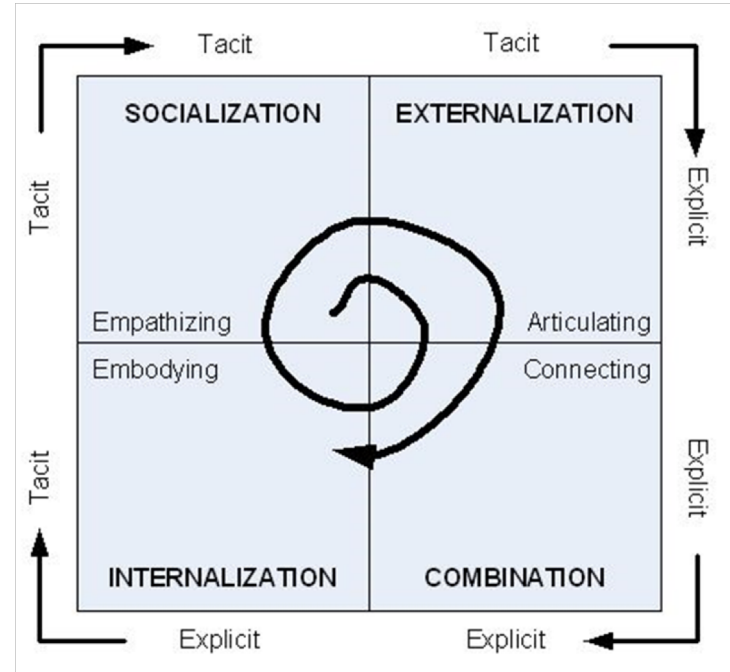
Knowledge creation cycle- About project management

Who? Designers, consultants, modelers...

What? Best practices (guidelines and contracts), Do's and Don'ts, updates in tools ...

When? Where?

How to bring from practice to tools?

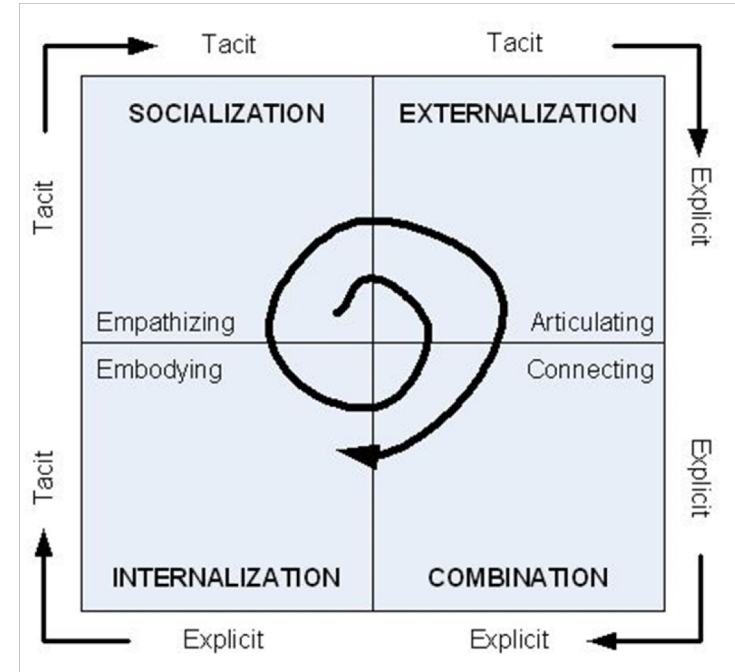


Knowledge creation cycle- About the project team

Peer to peer referrals

Does it get externalized? Any examples?

What is combined?



Managing distributed Information and knowledge

Distributed knowledge management

- Distributed knowledge
- What, who, where, how, and when?



BIM/CAD
(IS)

Other
Systems?

People/
Team

Books/
Guides



Distributed knowledge management- What are the critical factors?

- Connectivity and access
- Allocation, **sharing** and redundancy
- Accuracy, reliability and trustworthiness
- Sufficiency of knowledge/ information
- Information quality/loss in transfer
- Updates and relevance
- Backup...



Connectivity and access

- How **often** do project team members **need to** connect and access information from other project members or an information system?

Is the team co-located or distributed? Is the connection between the team members formal or informal?

- How **easy or difficult** it is for a team member to connect with/ access another team member or an information system when needed?

Is the information on cloud or on the local machine? Is the information through a simple messaging tool, e.g. Whatsapp or is it in a BIM model?

- Are the different information systems able to talk to each other?

That is, what is interoperability of the different tools and applications?

Allocation, sharing and redundancy

- How well are the **roles and responsibilities distributed** in the team?
- Are there **duplications and overlaps** in roles and responsibilities of team members? **Is it good or bad to have duplications?**
- To what extent can some of your responsibilities be allocated to an information system? Example, remembering scheduled meetings, calculations, checking, etc?
- How often do users need to manually check and validate the calculations or other results from BIM and other applications?

Accuracy, reliability and trustworthiness

- How much do project team members trust the information provided by another project member or an external source?
- How accurate is the data or information stored-in or generated-by the following information system? [How accurate or trustworthy is an old drawing?](#)
- To what extent do you trust the computational operations performed by a BIM or similar application?

Centrality

- Who is the critical/ central member of the project, if any? How critical is the role of this person? **Is this person the designated central person of the project, or is it because of the person's informal role?**
- Is there a centralized information system in the project for project collaboration? **Is all information exchange through this central information system?**

Information quality/loss in transfer

Is the exchange of information clear between team members? To what extent is the information misinterpreted by others?

When you import or export data from one application to another, is there an information loss? Is the lost information critical?

Updates and relevance

- How updated are you about the changes and status of other's tasks, responsibilities and skills?
- How updated are you about the new features and changes in the information systems?
- Are your software and applications updated? Are the updates compatible with what other project members are using?

Backup

- How often do you backup the information related to your project?
Where do you do it?
- Is there a backup or potential substitute for you in the project, in case you are not available anymore for the project?

Conclusion

- Projects are about coordinating knowledge and information
- Knowledge and information networks are both formal and informal
- Project-based teams add further complexity
- Coordination needs planning...
 - Various factors need to be considered in managing distributed knowledge

Questions?

Mandatory readings

Egbu, CO and Robinson, HS (2008) Construction as a Knowledge-Based Industry, In Knowledge Management in Construction, edited by Chimay J. Anumba, et al., John Wiley & Sons, Incorporated, 2008. ProQuest Ebook Central, <http://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/aalto-ebooks/detail.action?docID=351237>

Khanzonde, A and Senescu, R (2012) Making the Integrated Big Room Better, DPR Construction/ Stanford University, URL: <https://www.dpr.com/view/making-big-room-better>

Thank You!