

An Account Of The UK Construction Industry Reform Movement 1993 2003 Routledge



Change in the Construction Industry: An Account of the UK Construction Industry Reform Movement 1993-2003 (Routledge Studies in Business Organizations and Networks Book 36) by David M. Adamson

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

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Word Wise : Enabled
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The UK construction industry has undergone a significant transformation over the past few decades, driven by a series of reform initiatives aimed at improving efficiency, quality, and sustainability. The Construction Industry Reform Movement (CIRM), which spanned the period from 1993 to 2003, played a pivotal role in shaping the industry's current landscape. This article, based on the comprehensive book "An Account of the UK Construction Industry Reform Movement 1993-2003" by Routledge, provides an in-depth exploration of this transformative era, examining its key drivers, initiatives, and outcomes.

The Genesis of CIRM

The CIRM emerged in response to a number of challenges facing the UK construction industry in the early 1990s. These included low productivity, poor quality, fragmented supply chains, and a lack of innovation. The industry was also perceived as being adversarial and inefficient, with a poor safety record. In 1993, the government commissioned a report by Sir John Egan, which became known as the Egan Report, to identify the root causes of these problems and propose solutions.

The Egan Report and Its Impact

The Egan Report, published in 1998, was a watershed moment for the UK construction industry. It set out a vision for a more efficient, sustainable, and collaborative industry, based on the following five key principles:

1. **Rethinking Construction:** The industry needed to adopt a more holistic approach to project delivery, considering the entire lifecycle of a building from design to demolition.
2. **Focusing on the Customer:** The needs of the client should be at the heart of all construction projects.
3. **Integrating the Supply Chain:** Collaboration and communication between all parties involved in a project is essential for success.
4. **Investing in People:** The industry must invest in training and development to ensure that it has a skilled and knowledgeable workforce.
5. **Using Technology:** Technology can play a vital role in improving efficiency and productivity.

The Egan Report had a profound impact on the UK construction industry. It led to the establishment of a number of new initiatives, including Constructing Excellence, which was tasked with promoting best practice and innovation. It also helped to raise awareness of the importance of sustainability and modern methods of construction.

The Latham Report and Other Initiatives

In addition to the Egan Report, a number of other initiatives were launched during the CIRM period. These included the Latham Report, which focused on reforming the procurement process, and the Construction Best Practice Programme, which provided guidance on how to implement best practice on construction projects.

These initiatives, together with the Egan Report, helped to create a momentum for change within the UK construction industry. They led to a number of positive developments, including improved productivity, reduced costs, and a greater focus on quality and sustainability.

Outcomes of the CIRM

The CIRM was a period of significant change for the UK construction industry. The initiatives that were launched during this period helped to create a more efficient, sustainable, and collaborative industry. Some of the key outcomes of the CIRM include:

- **Improved productivity:** The UK construction industry has seen a significant increase in productivity over the past two decades. This is due in part to the adoption of new technologies and modern methods of construction.

- Reduced costs: The cost of construction projects has fallen in real terms over the past two decades. This is due in part to the improved efficiency of the industry.
- Greater focus on quality: The industry has placed a greater focus on quality in recent years. This is due in part to the of new quality standards and the growing awareness of the importance of sustainability.
- Increased collaboration: The industry has become more collaborative in recent years. This is due in part to the establishment of new collaborative frameworks and the growing use of technology to facilitate communication and information sharing.

The CIRM was a watershed moment for the UK construction industry. The initiatives that were launched during this period helped to create a more efficient, sustainable, and collaborative industry. The lessons learned from the CIRM are still relevant today, and they continue to inform the way that construction projects are delivered in the UK.

About the Book

"An Account of the UK Construction Industry Reform Movement 1993-2003" by Routledge provides a comprehensive overview of the CIRM. The book draws on a wealth of research and interviews to provide a detailed account of the key drivers, initiatives, and outcomes of this transformative period. It is an essential resource for anyone who wants to understand the evolution of the UK construction industry.

Image Alt Attributes

RETHINKING



CONSTRUCTION

INSTRUCTION TASK FORCE



Competitive advantage

A Timeline of the UK Construction Industry



Middle Ages
Craft Guilds founded



1666
Great Fire of London



1760s
Start of the Canal Age



1800s
New methods of contracting

15 BC Marcus Vitruvius Pollio, the first recorded architect dies

Direct Employment of craftsmen
1563 Statute of Artificers
7 year apprenticeship

Building Act
Early surveyors

1779 Le Societe des Ingenieurs
Engineering Profession

1720 First regular use of Architects
1784 Cast Iron starts to be used
1794 Portland Cement patented
1797 First iron framed building

General contractors established, Fixed price contracting develops

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