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Building Boston: Spotlight on BIM

BIM boom?

Modeling technology has its skeptics, but fans say it's here to stay

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Three-D. It's all the rage in movies. And to hear some design and construction industry professionals tell it, it's all the rage in their professions, too.

In design and building circles at least, building information modeling has over the past few years become quite a buzzword. The technology involves the use of computer software to generate 3-D models of buildings and their component systems, and link these models with databases of detailed information on building products, material types, costs and other items.

Fans of BIM say it enables designers and builders to head off glitches early, and the detailed plans BIM generates allows for faster, more efficient material preparation and building, which saves on labor costs.

"We can do things more cost-effectively than we could have done them before," said **Marc Margulies**, founder of **Margulies Perruzzi Architects** in Boston.

"BIM is a revolutionary change in the way we approach built environments. These changes enhance the quality of what we do and the services we provide," Peter Campot, CEO of Berry, a division of Suffolk Construction, said in an e-mailed statement.

But while BIM has its fans, it also has its share of skeptics, as reporter Mike Hoban points out on Page 31. Even so, while BIM is still very much in its early stages, a lot of people are in agreement that it continues to gain traction.