



**UNIVERSITY OF
CAMBRIDGE**

Department of Engineering

CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERING MASTERS DISSERTATION ABSTRACT

Co-located Design Teams for Major Infrastructure Projects in the UK: An Investigation into Industry Perceptions of Current Practice

Co-located design teams, where the client, contractor, and consultants work together in a combined office during the design phase of a project, is an increasingly popular approach that some in the construction industry believe can significantly benefit the design process. Previous research on co-located design teams has focused on the manufacturing industry, with little published information on the adoption of co-location in the context of engineering infrastructure projects. This study aims to investigate industry perceptions of current practice for co-located teams on infrastructure sector construction projects in the UK.

A mixed method research approach was used combining semi-structured interviews conducted with eleven industry professionals working in co-located design teams, and an online survey of the experiences of co-location of 149 others. While some problematic aspects of this way of working emerged from the research, the study found that practitioners appear to look very favourably on the effects of co-located teams. Project leaders on future projects can use the findings of this study when considering the implementation of a co-located design team on their project. It appears to be a very beneficial practice on appropriate projects, and the findings here will also allow the potential pitfalls raised to be anticipated and mitigated

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