

# DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES IN CONSTRUCTION: USE OF VISUAL DATA AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE FOR SAFETY AND PRODUCTION MONITORING



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*17th among Brazilian universities*

*World University Rankings (QS)*

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- ✓ **Enrollments: 44,015**

### **Graduate**

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- ✓ **Faculty Staff: 2,876**
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- ✓ 70 Administrative Staff

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## Research Areas

### Performance Measurement and Benchmarking

Design and implement performance measurement systems on construction sites and companies, involving management, construction and environmental processes.

### Construction Management

Develop models and methods to improve construction management, embracing processes such as planning and construction control, cost, safety as well as quality. These studies also include the use of information technology in order to improve management.

### Sustainable Management in Construction

Develop studies about strategies, technologies and tools with the purpose of reducing environmental impacts in construction, especially on construction sites.

### Innovation in Construction

Develop methods and models for dissemination and evaluation of the innovation management in construction, as well as evaluate emergent and information technologies in construction, such as the use of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles/Systems (UAVs/UASs) and Building Information Modeling.

## Team

4 Faculty Professors

1 Pos-doc

6 PhD Students

2 Master Students

11 Undergraduate  
students

**Close development with the industry**

**Implementation and evaluation of artifacts developed**

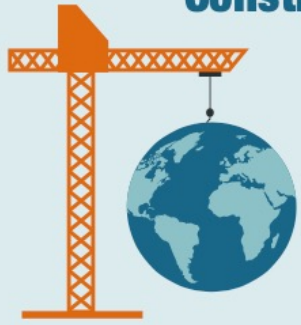
**Great opportunity to better investigate strategies for effective implementation, capabilities needed for the adoption of digital technologies, and AI data analysis**



# The productivity opportunity in construction



**Construction matters for the world economy**  
... but has a long record of poor productivity



Construction-related spending accounts for

**13%** of the world's GDP

...but the sector's annual productivity growth has only increased

**1%** over the past 20 years

**\$1.6 trillion** of additional value added could be created through higher productivity, meeting half the world's infrastructure need

## REINVENTING CONSTRUCTION: A ROUTE TO HIGHER PRODUCTIVITY

FEBRUARY 2017

Private Equity & Principal Investors Practice

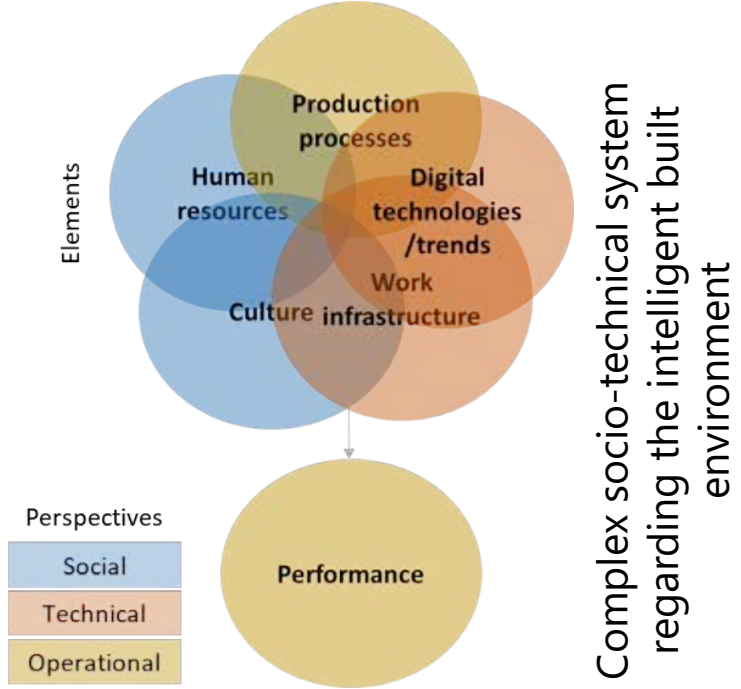
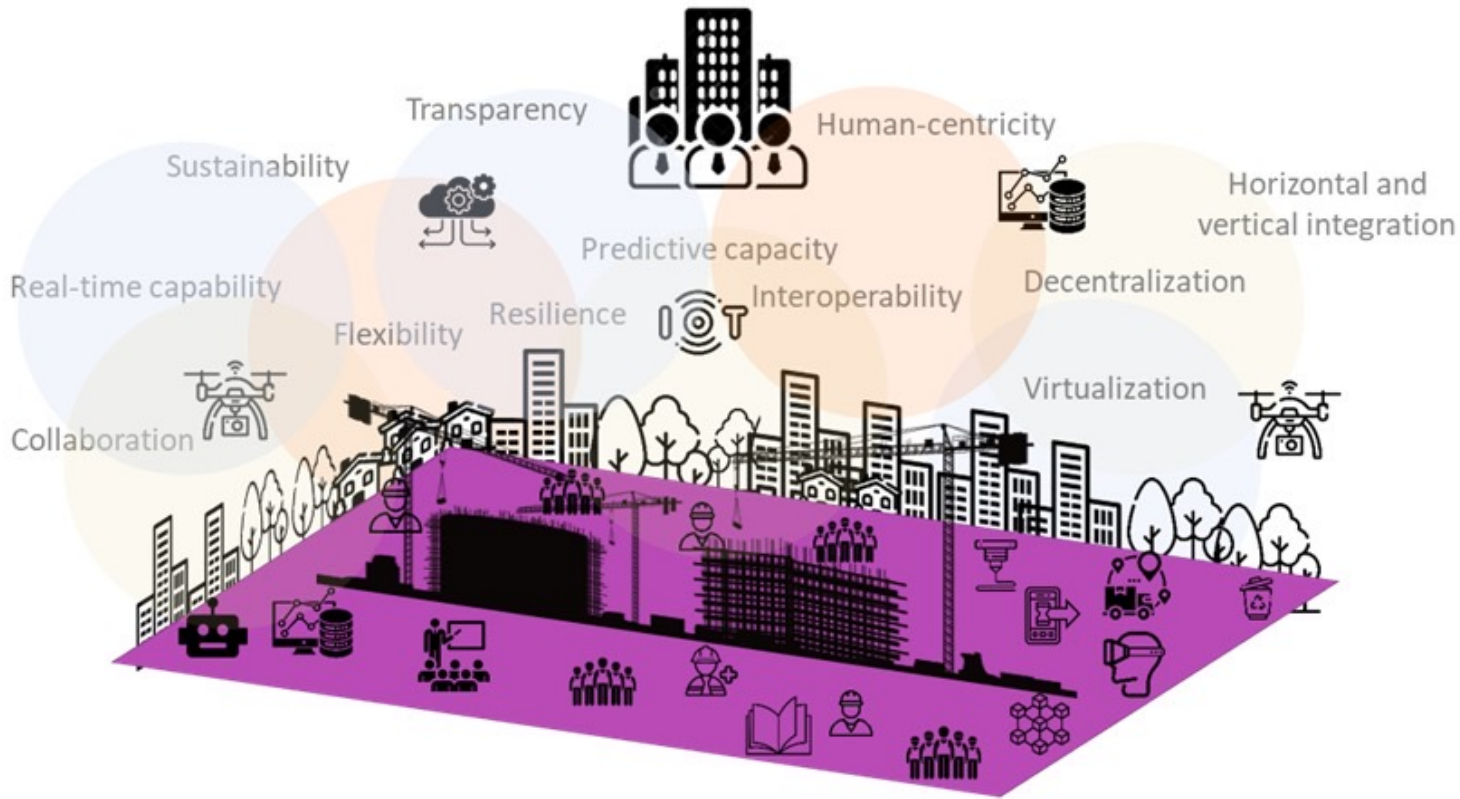
# Rise of the platform era: The next chapter in construction technology

The construction technology ecosystem is shifting toward integrated software platforms that better serve customer needs. Significant opportunities exist for strategic and financial investors.

McKinsey & Company, October 2020



# INTELLIGENT CONSTRUCTION ENVIRONMENT



*An intelligent construction environment is an efficient, resilient, human-centered, and sustainable environment composed of a complex socio-technical system that uses technologies as tools for continuous improvement. (Fernandes, 2023)*



# IMPACTS

- Enabling an **innovative environment**
- Improving **sustainability**
- Improving the **image of the industry**
- **Cost** savings
- **Time** savings
- Enhancing **safety**
- Better time and **cost predictability**
- Improving **quality**
- Improving **collaboration and communication**
- **Customer and end-user centric** world view

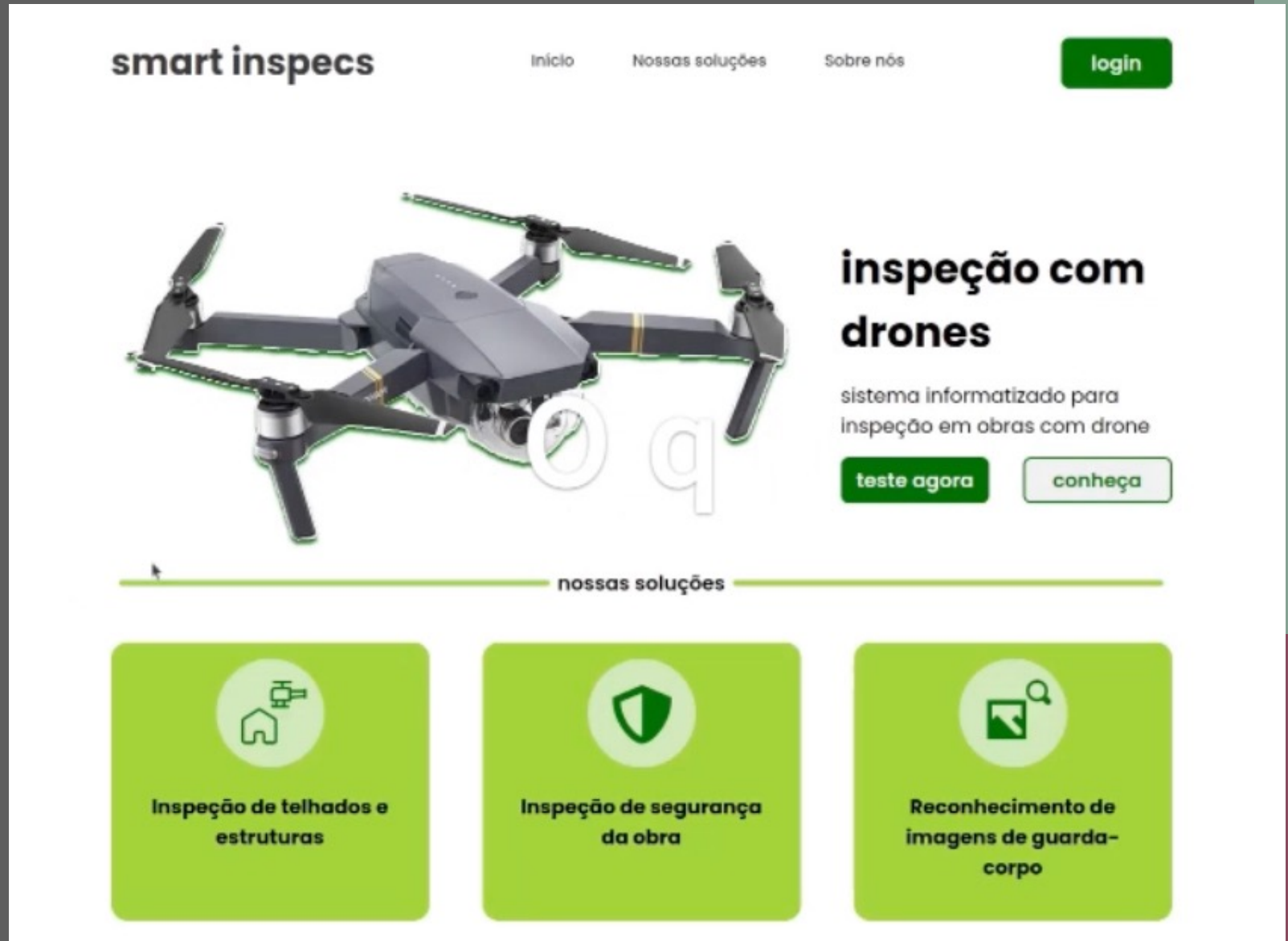
# CHALLENGES

- Resistance to change
- Unclear **value proposition**
- **High** implementation **cost**
- **Low investments** in P&D
- Need for **enhanced skills**
- **Longitudinal fragmentation**
- Lack of **standards**
- **Data security, data protection, and cybersecurity**
- Legal and contractual uncertainty
- Island of automation
- Ethics for data collection and decision automation

# SMART INSPECS PLATFORM


Platform for construction monitoring supported by **drones, mobile devices, BIM and Artificial Intelligence**

- SAFETY AND GUARDRAILS CONDITIONS
- ROOFS AND FAÇADE DEFECTS AND PATHOLOGIES
- PROGRESS MONITORING AND TERMINALITY



smart inspecs

Início Nossas soluções Sobre nós [login](#)



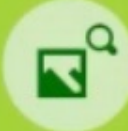


## inspeção com drones

sistema informatizado para inspeção em obras com drone

[teste agora](#) [conheça](#)

nossas soluções

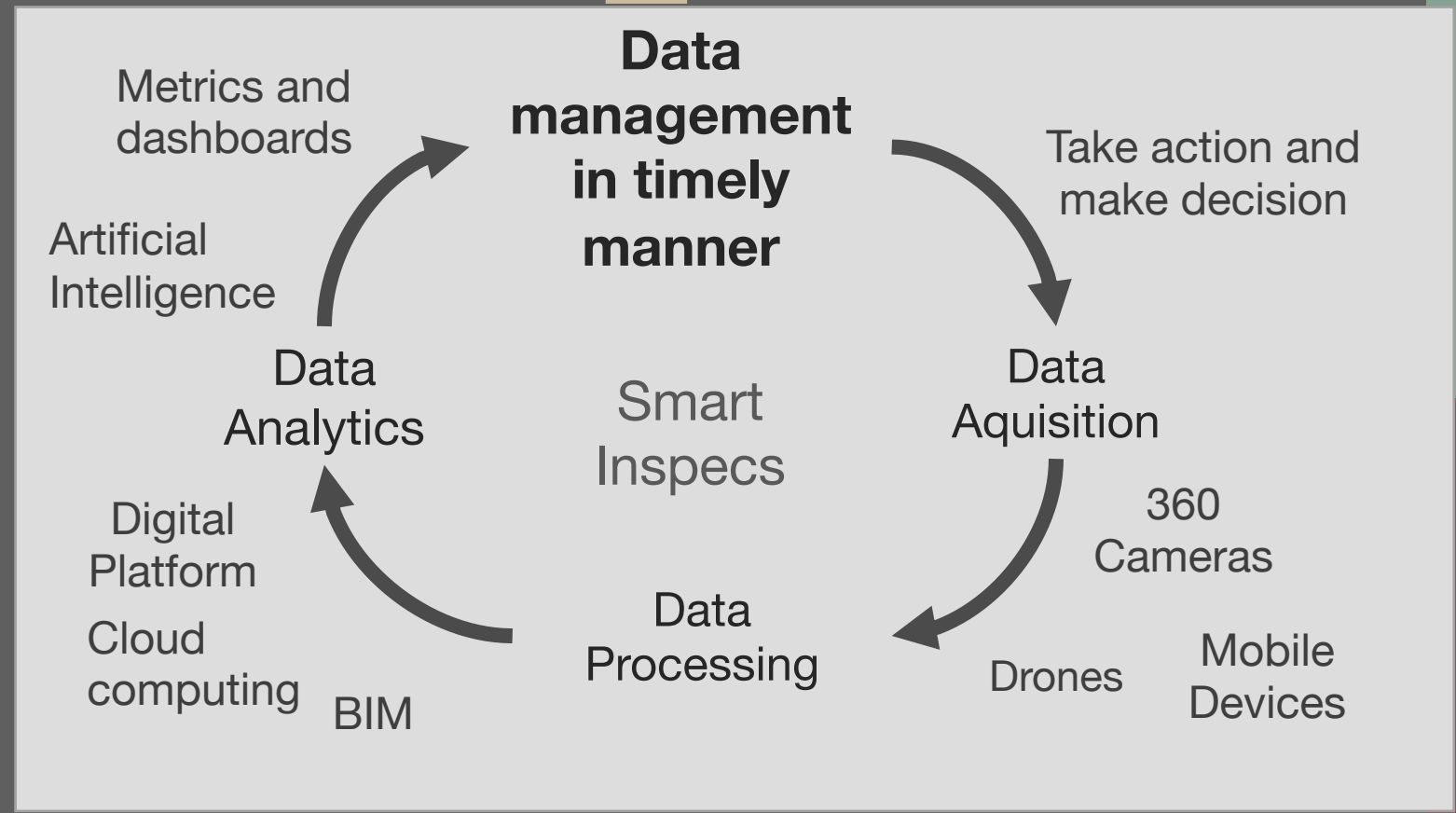
-   
Inspeção de telhados e estruturas
-   
Inspeção de segurança da obra
-   
Reconhecimento de imagens de guarda-corpo

# SMART INSPECS PLATFORM

1. Project control based on visual data
2. Production management based on lean principles
3. Focus on continuous improvement



Safety and Guardrails  
Conditions  
Roof and Façade defects and pathologies  
Progress Monitoring





# SMART INSPECS JOURNAL PAPERS

Case Study Irizarry & Costa (2016)

## Exploratory Study of Potential Applications of Unmanned Aerial Systems for Construction Management Tasks

Javier Irizarry, Ph.D., M.ASCE<sup>1</sup>; and Dayana Bastos Costa, Ph.D.<sup>2</sup>

The current issue and full text archive of this journal is available on Emerald Insight at: [www.emeraldinsight.com/1471-1175.htm](http://www.emeraldinsight.com/1471-1175.htm)

## Exploratory study of using unmanned aerial system imagery for construction site 3D mapping

Juliana Sampaio Álvares, Dayana Bastos Costa and Roseneia Rodrigues Santos de Melo  
Department of Structural and Construction Engineering, Federal University of Bahia, Salvador, Brazil

Study of using unmanned aerial system

Received 20 May 2017  
Revised 13 September 2017  
20 November 2017  
Accepted 7 February 2018

Álvares, Costa & Melo (2018)

International Journal of Civil Engineering  
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s40999-020-00512-9>

RESEARCH PAPER

## Field Test-Based UAS Operational Procedures and Considerations for Construction Safety Management: A Qualitative Exploratory Study

Sungjin Kim<sup>1</sup> · Javier Irizarry<sup>2</sup> · Dayana Bastos Costa<sup>3</sup>

Received: 9 December 2019 / Revised: 26 February 2020 / Accepted: 6 April 2020  
© Iran University of Science and Technology 2020

Kim, Irizarry & Costa (2020)

## Recomendações e boas práticas para a integração do monitoramento da segurança com drone ao planejamento e controle da segurança de obras

*Recommendations and best practices for incorporating safety monitoring with drones into safety planning and control at construction sites*

Mahara Iasmirne Sampaio Cardoso Lima   
Dayana Bastos Costa  Lima & Costa (2023)

Safety Science 143 (2021) 1154–1165  
Contents lists available at ScienceDirect  
Safety Science  
journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/sasci](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/sasci)

## Applicability of unmanned aerial system (UAS) for safety inspection on construction sites

Roseneia Rodrigues Santos de Melo<sup>a</sup>, Dayana Bastos Costa<sup>b,c</sup>, Juliana Sampaio Álvares<sup>c</sup>, Javier Irizarry<sup>d</sup>

Melo, Costa, Álvares & Irizarry (2017)

The current issue and full text archive of this journal is available on Emerald Insight at: [www.emeraldinsight.com/0969-9188.htm](http://www.emeraldinsight.com/0969-9188.htm)

## Integrating resilience engineering and UAS technology into construction safety planning and control

Roseneia Rodrigues Santos de Melo and Dayana Bastos Costa

Integrating RE and UAS technology

Received 6 December 2018  
Revised 13 February 2019

Melo & Costa (2019)

Safety Science 143 (2021) 1105430  
Contents lists available at ScienceDirect  
Safety Science  
journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/safety](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/safety)

## Design and implementation of a computerized safety inspection system for construction sites using UAS and digital checklists – Smart Inspeps

Rafaela Oliveira Rey<sup>a</sup>, Roseneia Rodrigues Santos de Melo<sup>b</sup>, Dayana Bastos Costa<sup>c,\*</sup>

Rey, Melo & Costa (2021)

The current issue and full text archive of this journal is available on Emerald Insight at: <https://www.emerald.com/insight/2398-4708.htm>

## Web platform for building roof maintenance inspection using UAS and artificial intelligence

Luciano de Brito Staffa Junior, Dayana Bastos Costa, João Lucas Torres Nogueira and Alisson Souza Silva  
Department of Structural and Construction Engineering, Federal University of Bahia, Salvador, Brazil

Web platform

Received 1 December 2022  
Revised 22 April 2023  
Accepted 9 August 2023

Staffa, et al. (2023)

# SAFETY CONDITIONS INSPECTION

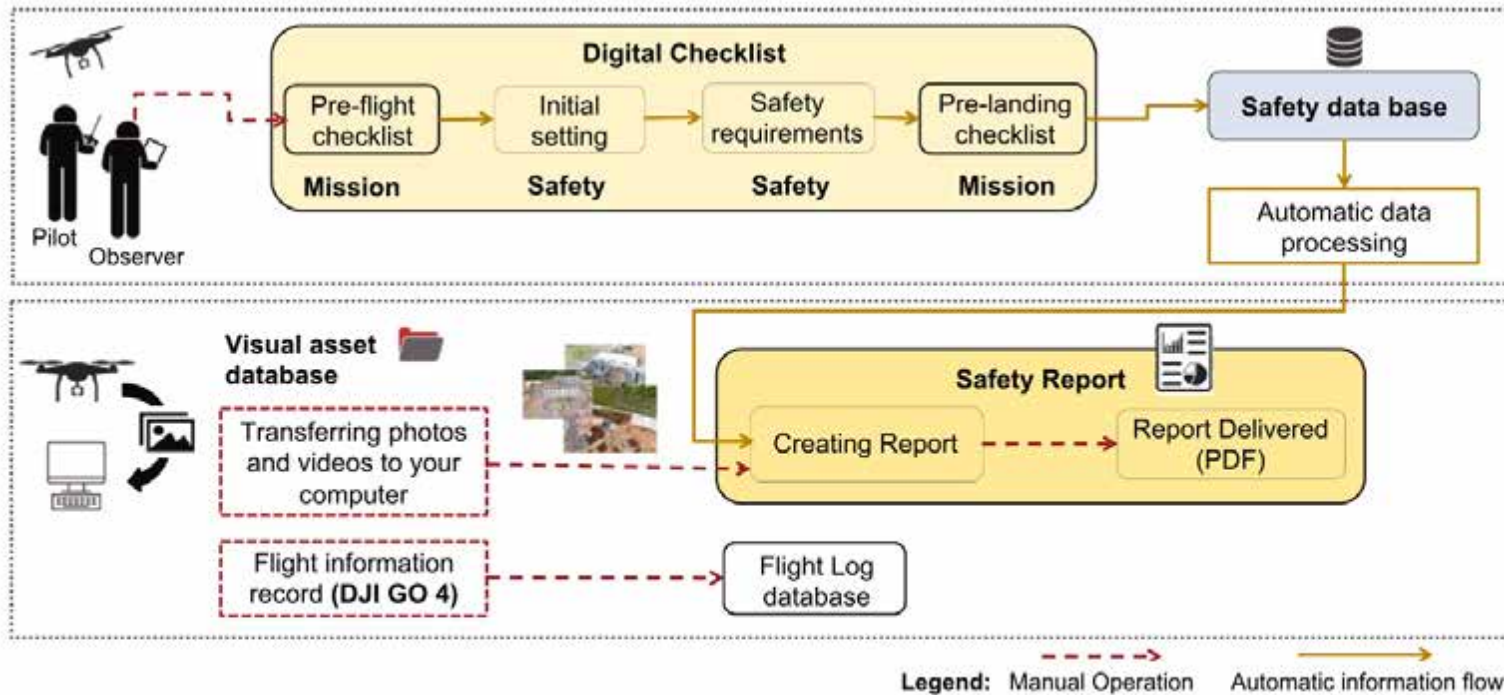


Fig. 3. Information workflow of Smart Inspects.

Rey, Melo & Costa (2021)



# PRODUCTION AND SAFETY INTEGRATION



## Plan

Monthly and Weekly planning meeting

## Do

Remove safety constrains

## Check

Inspect with drone and smart inspecs

## Act

Corrective action

SMART INSPECS  
SAFETY

- Safety Report
- Action Plan

Dashboard Analyze





# IDENTIFICATION OF FAILURES IN GUARDRAIL SYSTEM

a) Temporary metallic guardrail system



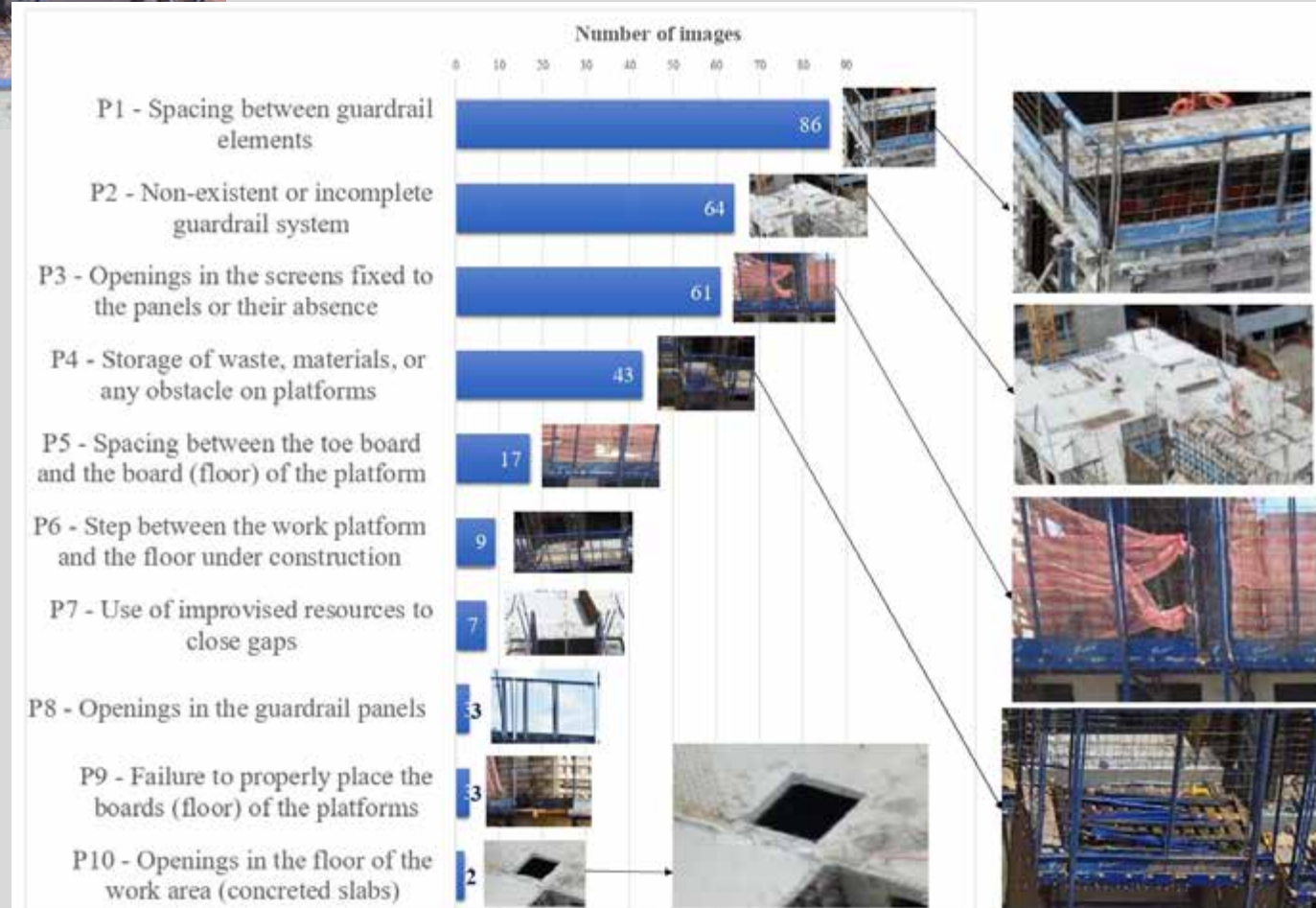
b) Temporary work platform with guardrails



Types of problems in temporary guardrail systems and work platforms



Detecting Performance: **96,8%** - **97,6%**





# IDENTIFICATION OF FAILURES IN GUARDRAIL SYSTEM

- ✓ Application of data collection protocol in **3 projects**
- ✓ Training and test with *Deep Learning* algorithm (ongoing)



Non-existent or incomplete guardrail

Precision\* = **73,0%**



Spacing between guardrail elements

Precision\* = **71,1%**



Openings in the screens fixed to the panel

Precision\* = **68,8%**

\* Ongoing research

# OUTCOMES SMART INSPECS SAFETY



- Implemented in **5 residential projects** (Out 2017 a Dez 2021)
- Currently implementing in **huge infrastructure projects** in Salvador
- More than **130 inspections**
- Average of **58 pictures** per inspection
- Average of **17,5 minutes** of flight per inspection
- Average of **1.209,25 m** distance per inspection
- Average time reduced to **25% of the initial time (2017)**
- **System Developed for the Industry**

**Table 6**  
Average time spent during site safety condition inspection.

Activity	General Safety Condition Inspection - without system	Average time	General Safety Condition Inspection – with system	Average time
1	Image collection with UAS	20 min	Image collection with UAS and fill out the digital checklist	20 min
2	Image analysis and manual checklist fill out	90 min	Image analysis and upload the images into the report	30 min
3	Report preparation	90 min	Report delivery through email	5 min
4	Report delivery through email	5 min	–	–
–	Total time	205 min	Total time	55 min

Rey, Melo & Costa (2021)



**Table 9**  
Workers' perception about safety inspection with UAS.

Question	Sample	Average	Standard deviation
During the drone's flight, what is your degree of ...			
Perception of privacy invasion	63	1.27	0.63
Distraction from working	63	1.29	0.58
Concern to hazards of falling or collision	63	1.63	1.10
Support improvement of site working conditions	63	4.48	0.90

Likert scale (1-very low to 5 - very high).

Rey, Melo & Costa (2021)



# ROOF DEFECTS AND PATHOLOGIES APPLICATION

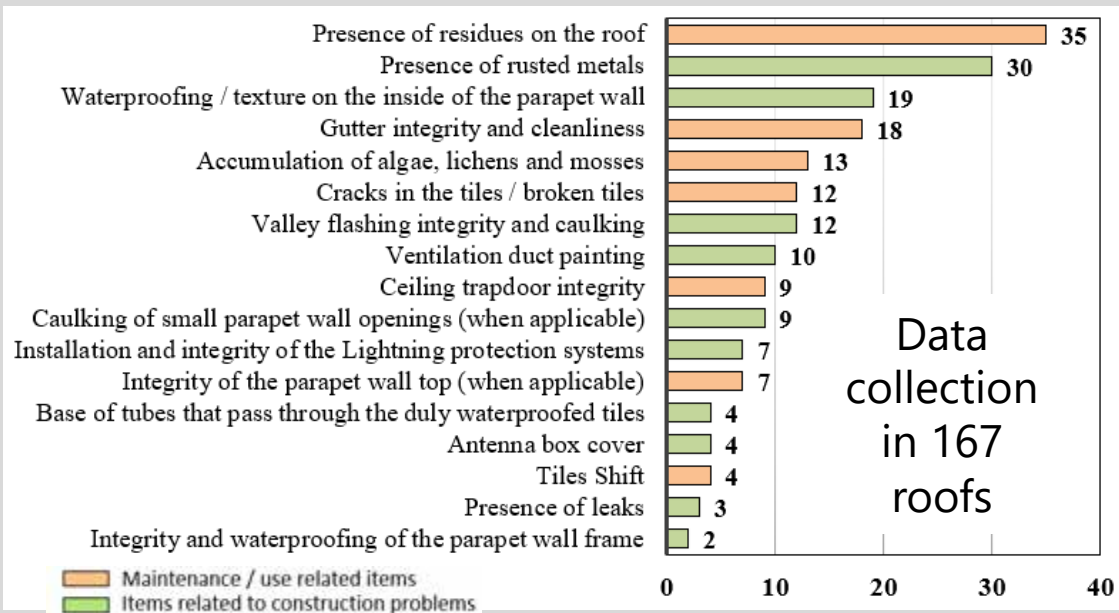


Fig. 3. Most recurring pathologies identified during all roof inspections



Silveira, Melo & Costa (2020)

## Artificial Intelligence and Data Augmentation



Staffa et al. (2023)

# ROOF DEFECTS AND PATHOLOGIES APPLICATION

Table 2. Results of the Custom Vision model training (precision and recall)

Classes	Staffa et al. (2020)		Training 1		Training 2	
	Precision	Recall	Precision	Recall	Precision	Recall
Gutter cleanliness	62.10%	29.50%	<b>87.90%</b>	<b>39.70%</b>	<b>80.50%</b>	22.90%
Accumulation of algae, lichens, and mossesa	73.50%	56.80%	<b>81.80%</b>	28.10%	70.80%	19.80%
Presence of residues on the roof	82.10%	51.10%	<b>84.20%</b>	<b>56.10%</b>	<b>86.20%</b>	40.30%
Flashing's integrity	58.10%	38.30%	<b>83.30%</b>	37.00%	<b>87.50%</b>	25.00%
Gutter integrity	77.80%	43.80%	50.00%	17.60%	0.00%	0.00%
Sealing the meeting between flashings	42.90%	6.80%	<b>50.00%</b>	<b>9.80%</b>	<b>66.70%</b>	4.90%
Presence of extra tile on the roof	75.00%	66.70%	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>80.00%</b>	<b>90.00%</b>	<b>75.00%</b>
Trapdoor cover open	100.00%	57.10%	83.30%	<b>83.30%</b>	91.30%	<b>75.00%</b>
Poor fastening of the flashing	0.00%	0.00%	<b>80.00%</b>	<b>25.00%</b>	0.00%	0.00%
Proper arrangement of antennas and wires	-	-	-	-	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>41.20%</b>
Integrity of the tiles (broken)	-	-	-	-	<b>87.50%</b>	<b>53.80%</b>
<b>Average</b>	<b>63.50%</b>	<b>38.90%</b>	<b>77.83%</b>	<b>41.84%</b>	<b>69.14%</b>	<b>32.54%</b>

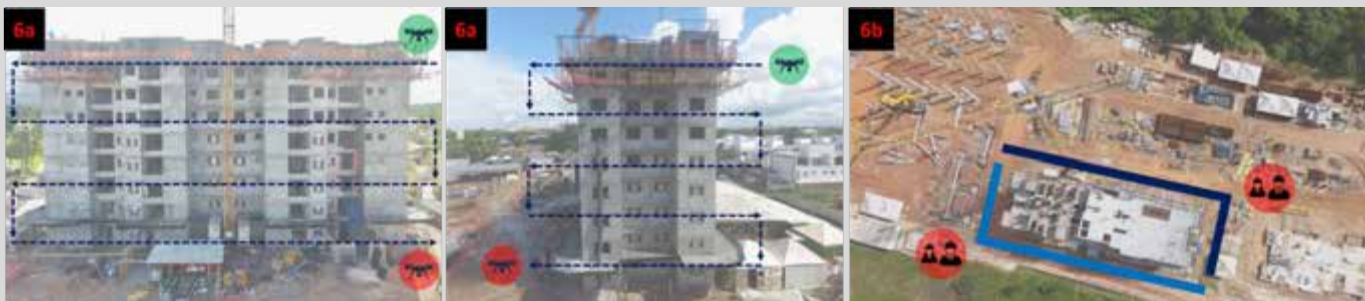
Staffa et al. (2023)





# FAÇADE DEFECTS AND PATHOLOGIES APPLICATION

Probability of recognition during tests



Flight trajectory performed on the four facades and Position of operators during the Flight



Classified defects and pathologies



Cracks



Lack of façette removal



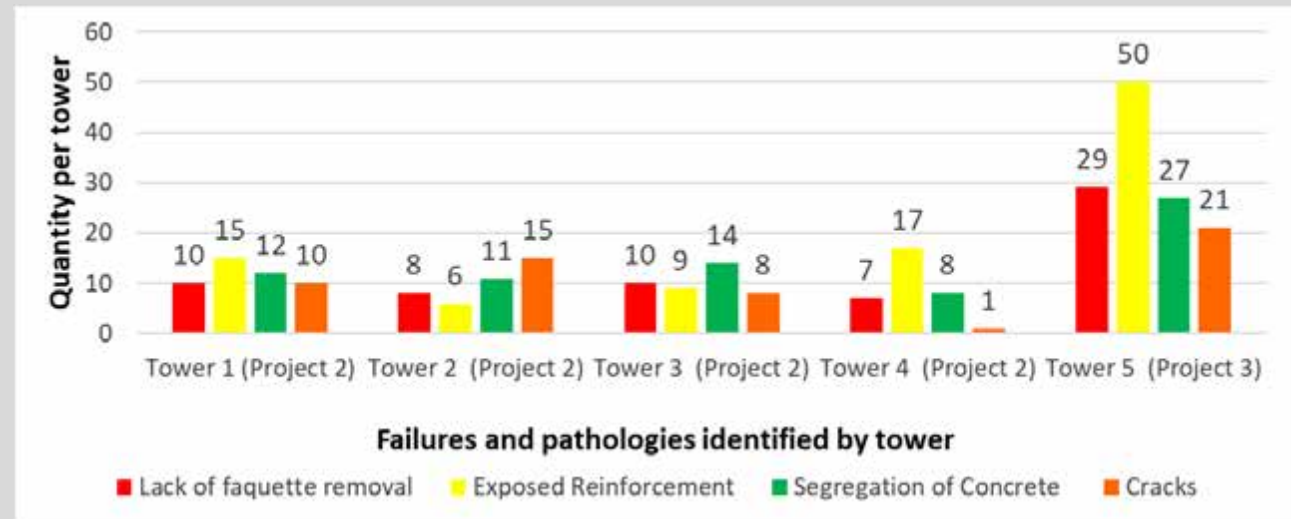
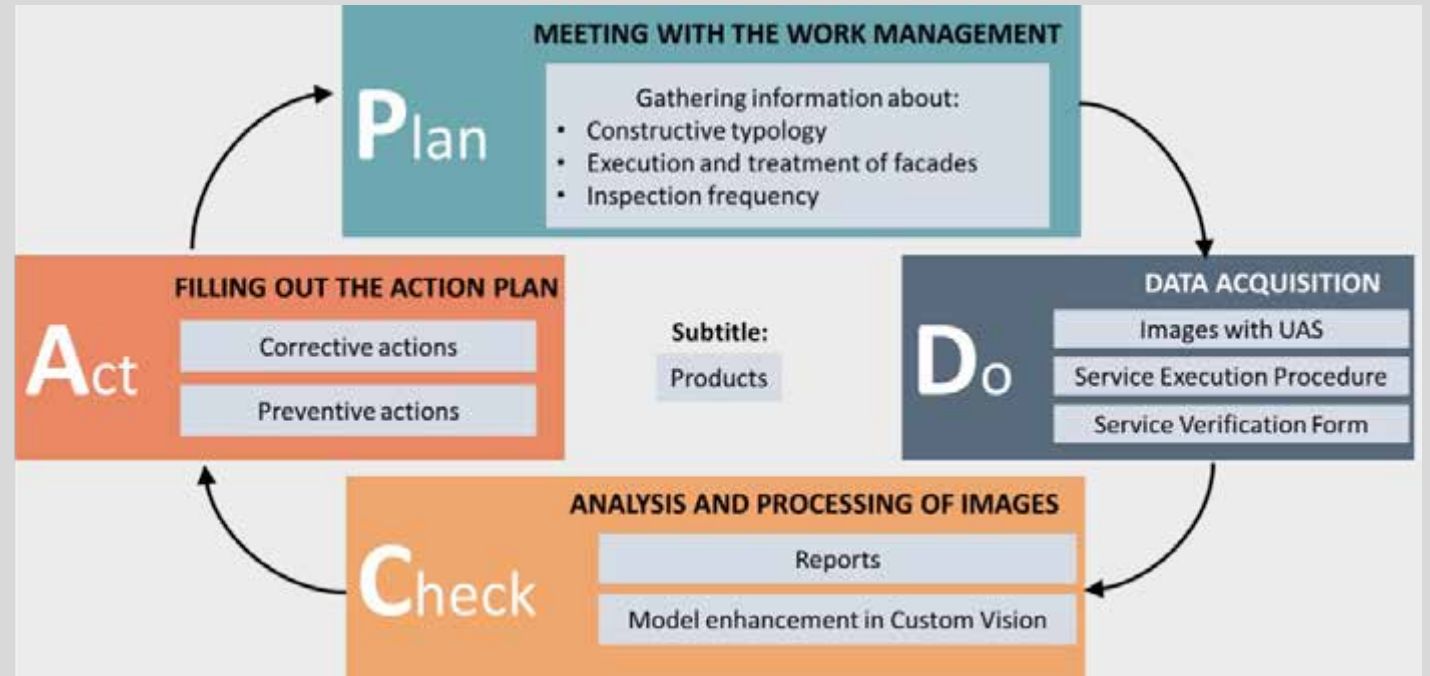
Exposed reinforcement



Segregation of concrete



# CASE STUDY A



# OUTCOMES SMART INSPECS

## ROOF

- ✓ Implemented in **13 projects** (Aug 2018 a Dec 2021)
  - **211 roofs**
  - **Database with 3482 photos** and **757 photos** with defects and pathologies

## FACADE

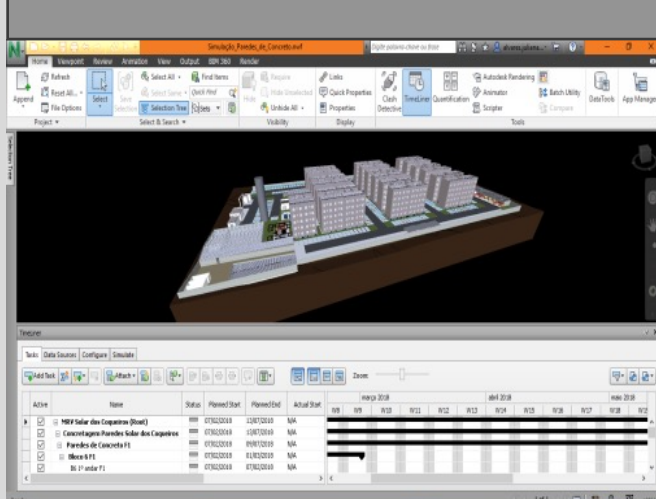
- ✓ Implemented in **3 projects** (Jan 2022 a Jan 2023)
  - **9 towers**
  - **Database with 2450 photos** and **720 photos** with defects and pathologies

Activities	Average time per project inspection	
	Roof	Façade
Image collection with UAS	26:00	34:00
Download UAS photos	01:03	02:00
Registration of the work	02:28	
<b>Manual analysis of images and report</b>	-	40:00
Loading and Processing of images for automatic recognition	01:56	
Automatic processing report generation	03:58	
<b>Total time</b>	<b>35:25</b>	<b>86:00</b>

**Impacts:** Improving quality of roof and façade inspection, faster data collection and data recognition, and reduction of accident during inspection

# APPLICATION IN PROGRESS MONITORING – EXTERNAL AREA

## 4D BIM model development



## Overlap of the 3D as-built point cloud model to the as-planned 4D BIM model



## Visual progress identification and color coding progress deviations in 4D simulations



## Using Navisworks Autodesk

Table 4: The results of performance indicators over the method's implementation period – Case Study A

Month	Planned Progress (PP)	Work Progress (WP)	Work Progress Deviation (WPD)	% of the Work Progress Visually Measured (WPVM)	% of Activities Started in the Estimated Period (ASEP)	% of Activities Finished in the Estimated Duration (AFED)
April	9.59%	8.75%	-8.75%	66.75%	69.57%	30.43%
May	10.91%	10.75%	-1.43%	60.18%	77.27%	31.82%
June	12.70%	9.97%	-21.50%	59.51%	82.22%	35.56%
July	8.04%	8.51%	5.81%	44.09%	91.67%	64.58%
August	7.11%	7.66%	7.72%	33.93%	95.92%	63.27%

Progressive drop of WPVM due to the amount of inner activities in the building

Alvares & Costa (2019)



# APPLICATION IN PROGRESS MONITORING – INTERNAL AREA



360 Cameras for internal data collection

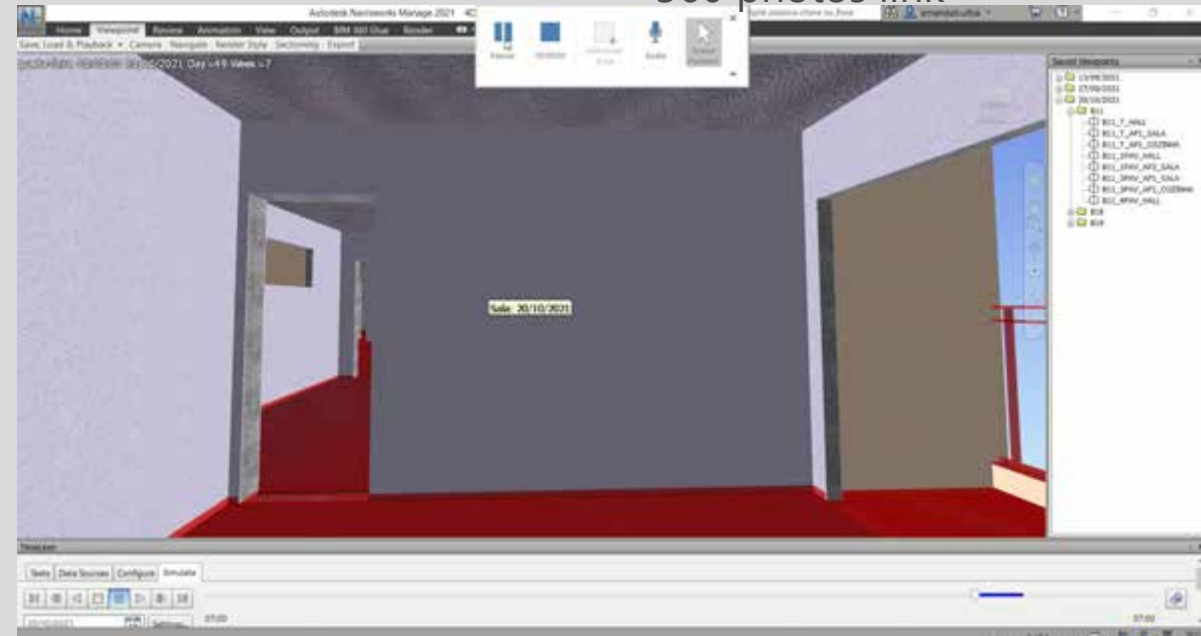
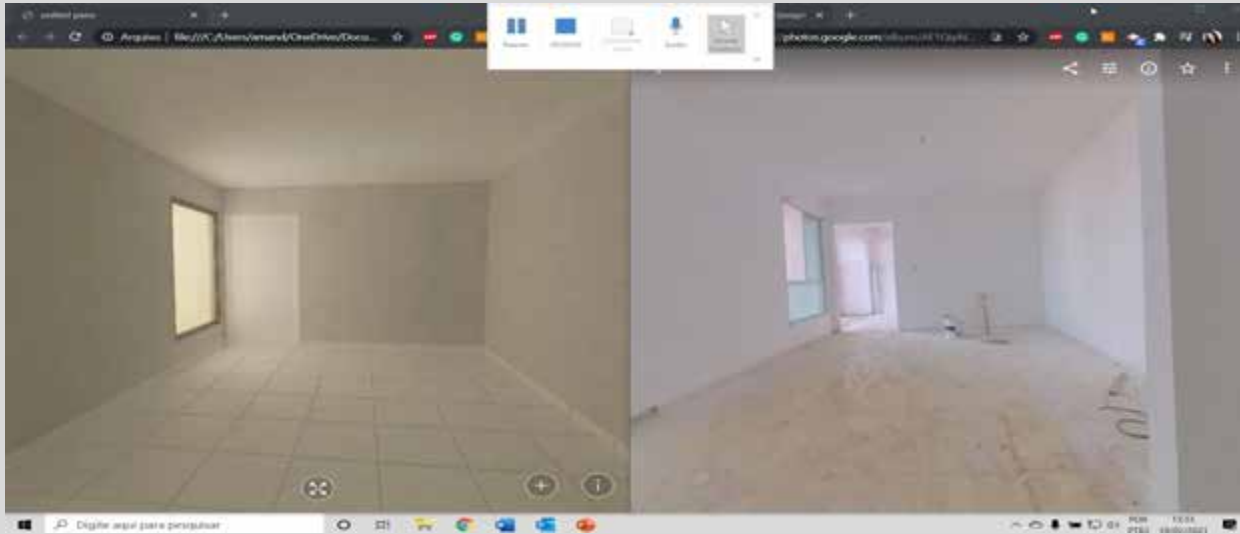
Comparison project *as planned* (BIM 4D) and project *as built* (360 camera)



360° Camera Insta360° One X

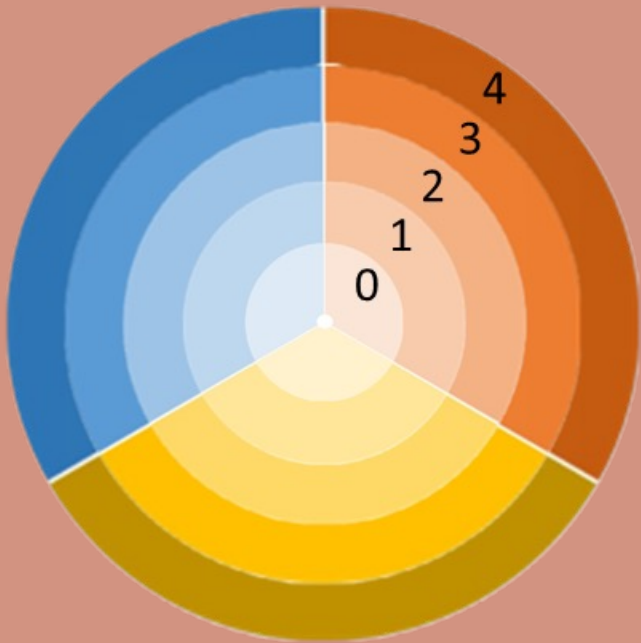
Use of viewpoints to save capture locations

360 photos link



Good application for terminality but is too manual to process yet

# A MATURITY MEASUREMENT SYSTEM FOR AN INTELLIGENT CONSTRUCTION ENVIRONMENT



## How the construction industry can be positioned towards digital transformation?



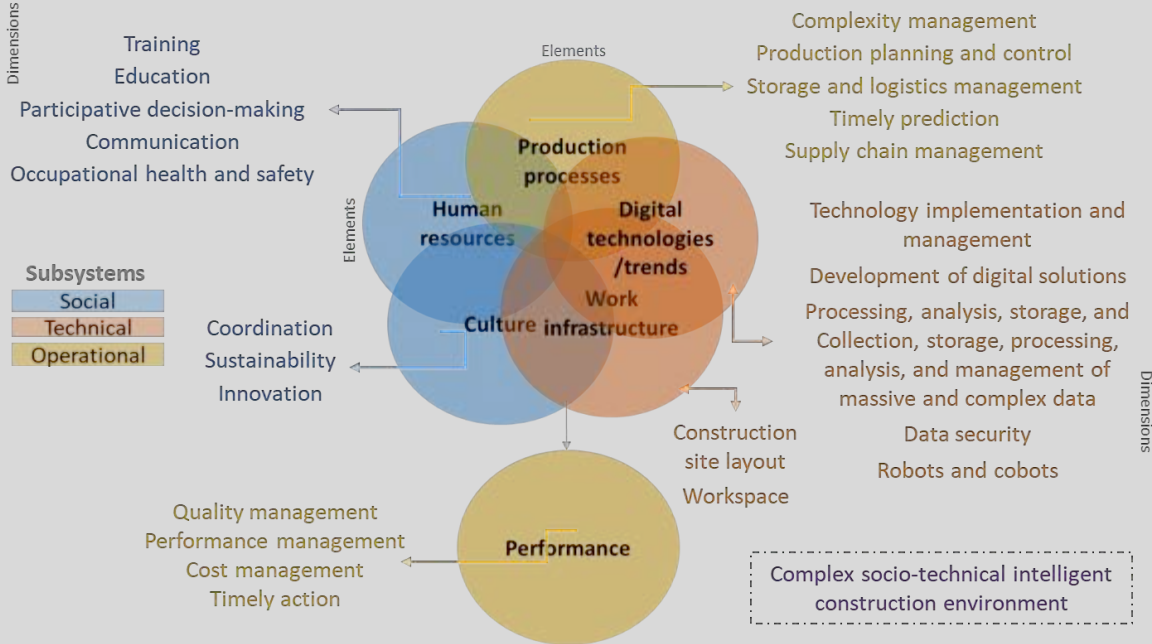
Maturity Models are tools to assess the effectiveness of a system and are helpful in a transformation process aimed at making something **grow from an initial to a final stage through a set of intermediate ones** (SPALTINI et al., 2022).

# Digital Transformation

Principles

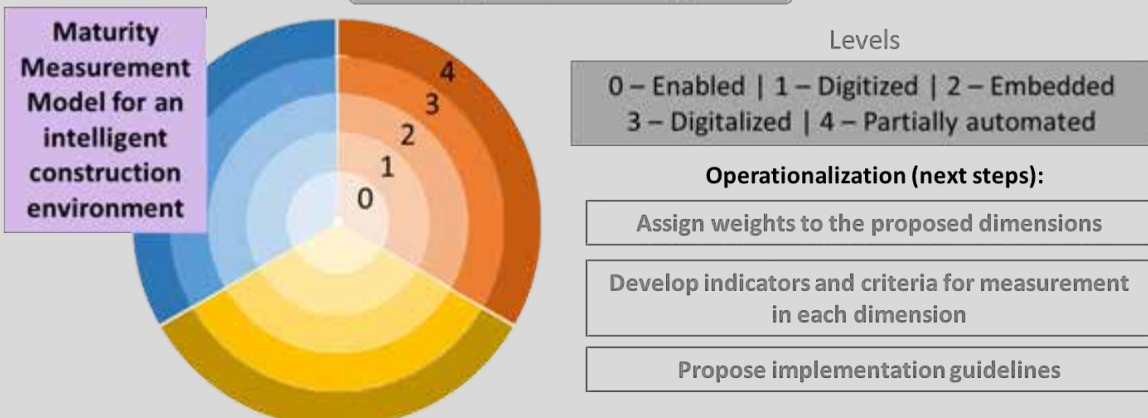
Human centricity | Flexibility | Resilience | Efficient use of time and resources | Transparency | Collaboration | Decentralization | Virtualization | Horizontal and vertical integration | Timely capability | Sustainable management | Predictive capacity | Interoperability

What critical areas need to be managed in a construction environment to achieve these principles?



How should these critical areas be measured?

## Maturity assessment approach



# A MATURITY MEASUREMENT SYSTEM FOR AN INTELLIGENT CONSTRUCTION ENVIRONMENT

Data collected in the Exploratory and Case studies and the literature review provided the foundation for developing the Conceptual Model for Measuring the Maturity of an Intelligent Construction Environment.

It comprises **24 measurement dimensions** associated with **14 principles** and **five maturity levels**.

The maturity dimensions are the construction system's aspects that must be monitored and improved to achieve the intelligent construction environment principles



## Five maturity levels

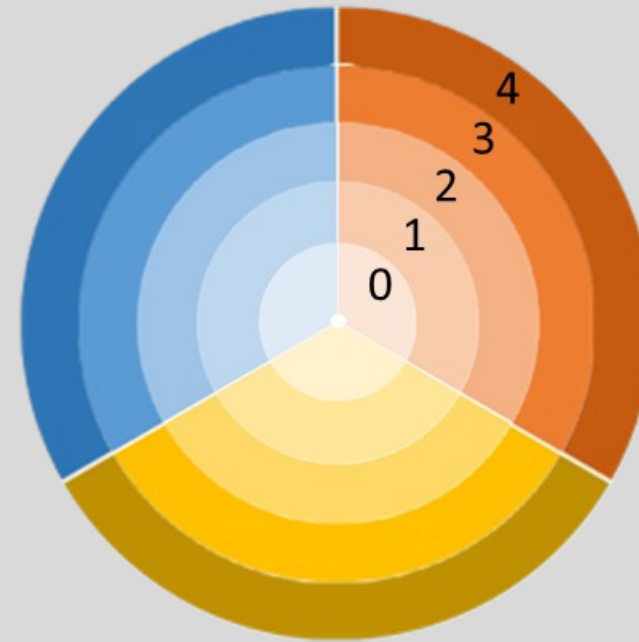
**Level 0 (readiness level) – Enabling:** This level positions the construction system with the basic requirements to evolve into an intelligent construction environment.

**Level 1 – Digitizing:** At this level, the construction system has already converted most of its critical process information to digital and implemented its first digital solutions.

**Level 2 – Embedding:** The level at which the system focuses on integrating the implemented digital solutions and preparing to incorporate them into the work routine.

**Level 3 – Digitalizing:** At this stage, digital transformation has reached all organizational processes related to the construction phase, and it is part of strategic planning, changing the business model.

**Level 4 – Semi-automating:** The semi-automating level presumes innovation and continuous digital transformation as company values.



### Following steps:

- Assigning weights to the measurement dimensions.
  - Proposing indicators and criteria for each dimension.
  - Implementing the measurement system in four empirical studies.
  - Evaluating the system from preestablished constructs and variables.



**USO DE VEÍCULO AÉREO NÃO TRIPULADO (VANT) PARA INSPEÇÃO DE SEGURANÇA EM CANTEIROS DE OBRA**

Dayana Bastos Costa

Rosemeia Rodrigues Santos de Melo

CBIC



W099 Hinze Award  
Rosemeia Rodrigues Santos receiving the Jimmie Hinze Award for best

Case Study

**Exploratory Study of Potential Applications of Unmanned Aerial Systems for Construction Management Tasks**

Javier Irizarry, Ph.D., M.A.S.C.E.<sup>1</sup>; and Dayana Bastos Costa, Ph.D.<sup>2</sup>

**Exploratory study of using unmanned aerial system imagery for construction site 3D mapping**

Juliana Sampaio Álvares, Dayana Bastos Costa and Rosemeia Rodrigues Santos de Melo  
Department of Structural and Construction Engineering, Federal University of Bahia, Salvador, Brazil

Study of using unmanned aerial system

Received 29 May 2017  
Revised 12 September 2017  
30 November 2017  
Accepted 7 February 2018



<https://cbic.org.br/relacoestrabalhistas/cbic-promove-amplio-debate-sobre-questoes-de-seguranca-e-saude-no-trabalho-4/>

W099 Paper Titled: Contributions of Resilience Engineering and Visual Technology to Safety Planning and Control Process. Pictured with Prof. Billy Hare

**Integrating resilience engineering and UAS technology into construction safety planning and control**

Rosemeia Rodrigues Santos de Melo and Dayana Bastos Costa  
Department of Structural and Construction Engineering, Universidade Federal da Bahia Escola Politécnica, Salvador, Brazil

Integrating RE and UAS technology

Received 6 December 2016  
Revised 7 February 2018  
28 March 2018  
Accepted 2 April 2018



**Applicability of unmanned aerial system (UAS) for safety inspection on construction sites**

Rosemeia Rodrigues Santos de Melo<sup>a</sup>, Dayana Bastos Costa<sup>b,c</sup>, Juliana Sampaio Álvares<sup>c</sup>, Javier Irizarry<sup>d</sup>

<sup>a</sup>School of Engineering, Post Graduate Program in Civil Engineering, Federal University of Bahia-Brazil, Avenida Nova, 2, Federação, Salvador, State of Bahia Zip Code: 40210-630, Brazil  
<sup>b</sup>School of Engineering, Department of Structural and Construction Engineering, Post Graduate Program in Civil Engineering, Federal University of Bahia-Brazil, Avenida Nova, 2, Federação, Salvador, State of Bahia Zip Code: 40210-630, Brazil  
<sup>c</sup>School of Engineering, Department of Structural and Construction Engineering, Federal University of Bahia-Brazil, Avenida Nova, 2, Federação, Salvador, State of Bahia Zip Code: 40210-630, Brazil  
<sup>d</sup>School of Engineering, Department of Structural and Construction Engineering, Federal University of Bahia-Brazil, Avenida Nova, 2, Federação, Salvador, State of Bahia Zip Code: 40210-630, Brazil





# FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES

- Advances in scaling Smart Inspects System to be used in large infrastructure projects (safety) and university campus for facilities management (roof and façade)
- Advances in understanding how to support the construction projects with a **Maturity Measurement System for an Intelligent Construction Environment**
- Advances in **digital technology integration**
  - Digital Twins, including Scan-to-BIM, IoT, sensors, artificial intelligence, blockchain, autonomous system
- Advances in **evaluating solutions**, considering the impacts on the management process:
  - Quality of decision-making (cost, time, usability)
  - System performance (speed and accuracy)
  - User satisfaction
  - Generalization and scalability

Ongoing Research Project  
funded by CNPq

## SMART TWINS 5.0



Digital twins aiming production and safety management integrating technologies as drones, IoT, AI, BIM and blockchain.



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