

Information Management for Built Heritage: CDE and HBIM for Educational Buildings. The case of the Pistelli school in Rome.

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Abstract

The integration of Heritage Building Information Modeling (HBIM) with Common Data Environment (CDE) is essential for the efficient management and preservation of historical school buildings. This study explores their combined application through the case of the Ermenegildo Pistelli school in Rome. The methodology involves advanced surveying techniques, archival research, and digital modeling to create an accurate HBIM model, stored and managed within a CDE. The results highlight the role of public administration and stakeholder collaboration in ensuring effective data structuring, accessibility, and long-term conservation. Despite challenges in interoperability and digital literacy, the findings emphasize the importance of standardized workflows and stakeholder engagement in heritage management. Future research should enhance open-source solutions, improve training programs for public entities, and promote broader interdisciplinary cooperation. This study contributes to advancing digital strategies for the sustainable preservation of educational building heritage.

Keywords: HBIM, CDE, School Building, Built Heritage, Digital Preservation

1. Introduction

The integration of advanced technologies in the management of school buildings plays a critical role in the context of contemporary educational environments. As institutions strive to create conducive learning spaces, the adoption of Heritage Building Information Modeling (HBIM) offers an effective solution. This approach not only facilitates the preservation of historical school buildings but also enhances the management of information related to their structural and functional attributes [1-2]. This paper explores the intersection of HBIM, school buildings, Collaborative Data Environments (CDE), and information management, highlighting their collective potential to optimize educational facilities.

The concept of HBIM extends beyond traditional Building Information Modeling (BIM) by incorporating the unique characteristics and historical significance of the building. This approach allows for the detailed documentation and analysis of school buildings, ensuring that their architectural integrity is maintained while simultaneously improving operational efficiency [3-4]. By leveraging HBIM, educational institutions can create a comprehensive digital representation of their facilities, enabling better decision-making regarding maintenance, renovations, and resource allocation.

The implementation of CDEs similarly plays a crucial role in enhancing collaboration among stakeholders involved in school building management. CDEs provide a centralized platform for sharing, facilitating communication, and streamlining workflows among architects, engineers, facility managers, and educators. This collaborative approach ensures that all parties have access to up-to-date data, thereby reducing the likelihood of errors and miscommunication during the planning and execution of the design. The integration of these platforms with HBIM can further improve school facility governance by providing a seamless exchange of relevant insights throughout the building's lifecycle. Effective information management is essential for optimizing the performance of educational facilities. The ability to collect, analyze, and utilize data related to building performance, occupancy, and environmental conditions can significantly impact the overall quality of the educational experience. By employing robust data-driven strategies, institutions can make informed decisions that enhance the functionality and sustainability of their facilities. This paper will examine various information management frameworks and

52 their applicability to school buildings, emphasizing the role of data-driven decision-making in educational
53 environments. The integration of HBIM and CDEs presents an opportunity to address the unique challenges
54 associated with school facilities, particularly those of historical significance. In Rome, where the study is based,
55 many educational institutions occupy buildings from different historical periods. Preserving these structures while
56 adapting them to modern needs requires a careful balance. To illustrate effective strategies, this study will explore
57 case studies showcasing successful implementations of HBIM and CDEs in school building management,
58 highlighting best practices and key lessons learned.

59 *1.1 HBIM for school buildings*

60 HBIM integrates various data acquisition techniques, including terrestrial laser scanning (TLS) and
61 photogrammetry, to create detailed 3D models of historical buildings [1–3]. The process typically involves several
62 stages: data collection, point cloud generation, model creation, and the incorporation of historical and architectural
63 information into a cohesive digital framework [4]. For instance, Liu et al. [1] emphasize the importance of
64 interdisciplinary integration in developing HBIM models for ancient structures, including educational buildings such
65 as the Rosenwald Schools in the United States. The application of HBIM in school buildings has been documented
66 in various case studies, showcasing its utility in preserving educational building heritage. The digital
67 documentation of the Tankersley School in Alabama utilized HBIM techniques to reconstruct the building's
68 historical significance and architectural details [1]. This approach not only aids in restoration efforts but also serves
69 educational purposes by providing a digital archive of the building's history and architectural features. Moreover,
70 the integration of HBIM with virtual reality (VR) technologies has been explored to enhance the immersive
71 experience of historical school buildings. This combination allows for interactive learning environments where
72 users can explore the architectural heritage [5, 6]. Such applications demonstrate the potential of HBIM to preserve
73 and actively engage the public in historical educational sites.

74 The use of HBIM for school buildings facilitates comprehensive data management, allowing for the integration of
75 various types of information, including architectural, historical, and structural data [7, 8]. This holistic approach
76 enhances the understanding of the building's lifecycle and informs conservation strategies. For instance, the use of
77 HBIM in the management of the Master Gate of San Francisco in Portugal illustrates how detailed modeling can
78 support diagnostic assessments and maintenance planning [2]. Secondly, HBIM promotes collaboration among
79 stakeholders involved in heritage conservation, including architects, historians, and conservationists. By providing
80 a shared platform for data access and visualization, HBIM fosters interdisciplinary cooperation, which is essential
81 for effective heritage management [9, 10]. This collaborative aspect is particularly crucial in educational contexts,
82 where multiple parties may be involved in the preservation of the buildings.

83 Despite its advantages, the implementation of HBIM in school buildings faces several challenges. The complexity
84 of modeling intricate architectural details and the need for specialized skills in both heritage conservation and
85 digital modeling can hinder widespread adoption [11, 12]. Additionally, the integration of intangible cultural
86 heritage aspects into HBIM models remains an area requiring further exploration [9, 13]. Future research should
87 focus on developing standardized protocols for HBIM applications in educational building heritage, enhancing
88 training programs for practitioners, and exploring the integration of emerging technologies such as artificial
89 intelligence to automate certain aspects of the modeling process [14, 15]. Furthermore, expanding the scope of
90 HBIM to include community engagement initiatives could enhance public awareness and appreciation of historical
91 school buildings. HBIM represents a transformative approach to preservation and management. By facilitating
92 collaboration among stakeholders and integrating diverse data types, HBIM holds significant promise for
93 advancing the preservation and management of educational built heritage.

94 *1.2 Information management: platforms and uses*

95 BIM implementation requires integrating the diverse professional roles involved in a project, facilitating efficient
96 knowledge exchange. This approach ensures the continuous and accurate updating of available information,
97 minimizing errors and optimizing processes. Specific tools, such as collaborative platforms based on open systems,
98 are required to achieve these objectives. These platforms must support professionals in the architecture,
99 engineering, and construction sectors in general, including Public Works Managers and contracting authorities, in
100 the proper management of BIM models. This encompasses specialized aspects such as plant design, energy
101 analysis, structural analysis, site management, maintenance of works, and much more. The integration of BIM and
102 Common Data Environments (CDE) has emerged as a pivotal aspect of modern construction management and
103 architectural design.

104 This literature review synthesizes current research on the interplay between HBIM and CDEs, highlighting their
105 roles in enhancing collaboration, data management, and project efficiency. CDEs are essential for facilitating
106 effective collaboration among stakeholders in BIM projects. They provide a centralized platform for data sharing,
107 which is crucial for maintaining consistency and accuracy in project information. According to Patacas et al. [16],

108 a well-structured CDE can significantly enhance the operational efficiency of BIM processes by ensuring that all
109 participants have access to the latest project data, thus reducing the likelihood of errors and miscommunication.
110 Furthermore, Min Ho Shin [17] emphasizes the necessity of standardized data definitions within collaborative
111 environments, asserting that commercialized CDEs can streamline the implementation of BIM across various
112 participants in the architecture, engineering, and construction (AEC) sectors. The use of CDEs not only improves
113 data accessibility but also enhances data quality and interoperability among different systems. Sheehan et al.
114 discuss how CDEs facilitate cross-study comparisons and data aggregation, which are vital for meta-analyses in
115 clinical research, and these principles can be analogously applied to BIM environments. The standardization of
116 data through CDEs allows for better integration of various tools and technologies used in BIM, promoting a more
117 cohesive workflow. This interoperability is particularly important in projects involving multiple stakeholders, as
118 it ensures that all parties are aligned in terms of data usage and project objectives. The development of frameworks
119 for CDEs is crucial for their successful implementation in BIM projects. Patacas et al. [16] propose a framework
120 that incorporates open standards and existing technologies to create a prototype CDE aimed at improving facilities
121 management through BIM. This framework addresses the operational aspects of BIM and emphasizes the
122 importance of a collaborative approach to data management. Similarly, Abbas et al. [18] highlight the necessity of
123 a Master Information Delivery Plan (MIDP) within the BIM Execution Plan (BEP), which outlines the information
124 deliverables and protocols necessary for effective collaboration in BIM projects.
125 Despite the advantages of integrating CDEs with BIM, challenges remain in achieving seamless collaboration and
126 data management. The complexity of managing diverse data sources and ensuring data integrity across platforms
127 can hinder the effectiveness of CDEs [19]. Future research should focus on developing stronger frameworks that
128 address these challenges while enhancing user experience and data security in collaborative environments.
129 Additionally, exploring the potential of emerging technologies, such as cloud computing and artificial intelligence,
130 could provide innovative solutions for improving the functionality of CDEs in BIM applications [20]. CDE
131 integration within BIM frameworks is essential for fostering collaboration, enhancing data quality, and improving
132 overall project efficiency. As the construction industry continues to evolve, ongoing research and development
133 will be crucial for addressing existing challenges and leveraging new technologies to optimize collaborative
134 workflows.
135 These new workflows also bring some new issues to deal with, such as the critical need for improved collaboration,
136 interoperability, and data security in heritage conservation efforts. As highlighted by Zhou et al. [21], who propose
137 a framework that utilizes blockchain technology to enhance data security and collaborative efficiency.
138 Furthermore, the role of CDEs in facilitating high-quality data exchanges and ensuring the effective management
139 of heritage data is underscored by Oostwegel et al [22], who emphasize the importance of openBIM standards in
140 mitigating data loss during the digitalization of culturally significant buildings. Additionally, the potential of CDEs
141 to support dynamic information integration, as discussed by Moyano et al. [23], illustrates the need for a
142 comprehensive understanding of how these environments can streamline workflows and improve decision-making
143 processes in HBIM applications.

144 *1.3 Paper aim and research question*

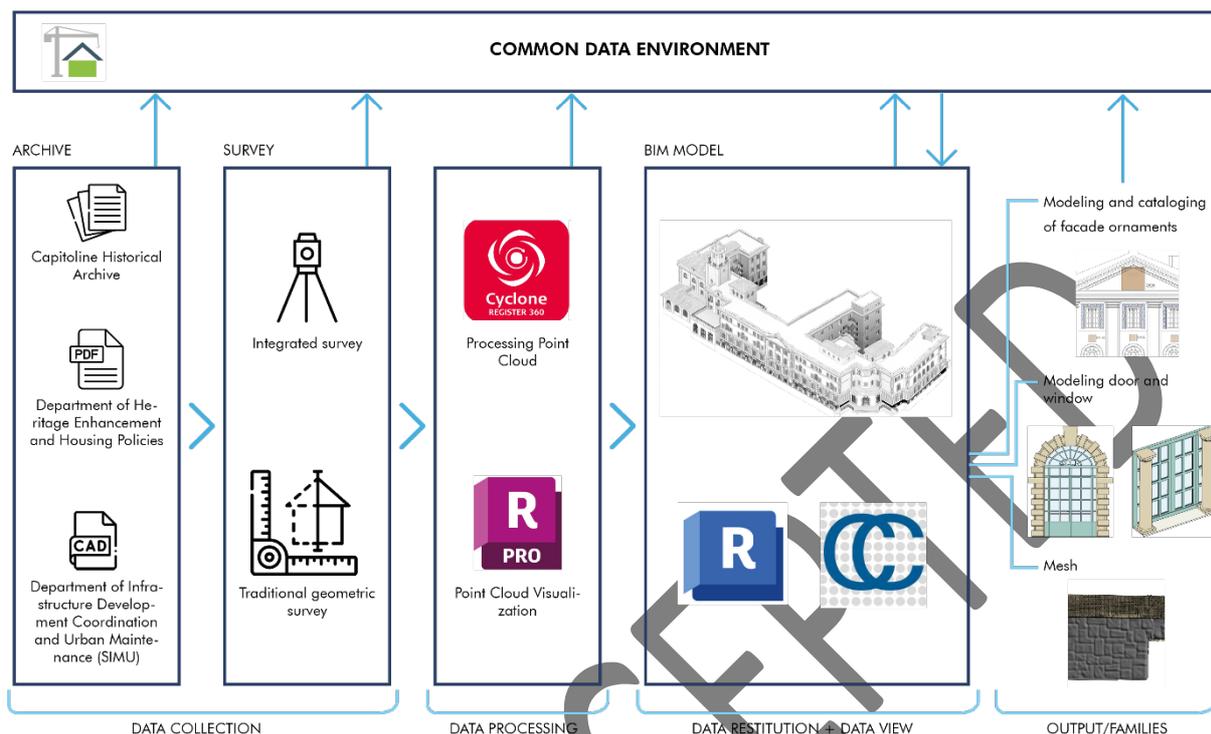
145 The integration of CDEs and effective information management strategies, within HBIM methodologies, holds
146 significant promise for enhancing the management of school buildings. By embracing these technologies,
147 educational institutions can create environments that support academic achievement and highlight the historical
148 significance of their facilities. This paper aims to address some fundamental issues related to the use of CDE in
149 HBIM applications, with a specific case study on a school building of public heritage in Rome, Italy, the
150 Ermenegildo Pistelli Complex. The research unit cooperates for the historical-constructive investigation and
151 performance verification of historic schools in Rome in a knowledge transfer path [24, 25]. The paper presents a
152 consolidated workflow developed and used in collaboration with the Public Administration owner of a vast public
153 patrimony of school buildings in the city of Rome, in particular those of the I Municipality. The following research
154 question not only aligns with current trends in digital heritage management but also seeks to contribute to the
155 development of best practices for implementing CDEs in the context of architectural heritage: How can the
156 integration of CDEs enhance interoperability and data management in Heritage Building HBIM applications,
157 particularly in the context of architectural heritage restoration design and their management?

158 **2. Methodology**

159 The research methodology presented in this paper, designed for the development of integrated planning and
160 management processes of public school assets in alignment with and supporting the Public Administration, is
161 structured into activities: 1. Data Collection and Data Processing (§ 2.1); 2. Data Restitution and Modelling Output
162 (§ 2.2); 3. Management of CDE for HBIM (§ 2.3). The core of the process is represented by the last subsection
163 concerning the use of the CDE. The chosen platform allows integrating the documentary aspects, technical

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documents, and information modeling, specifically to create a complete HBIM of all the fundamental aspects for the management of a public heritage. The methodology is illustrated in Fig. 1:



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Fig. 1– Methodology Workflow

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2.1 Data Collection and Data Processing

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The integrated survey involves both traditional and TLS (Terrestrial Laser Scanning) methodologies. The point cloud of the Ermenegildo Pistelli school building in Rome was created using Leica's RTC360 3D laser scanner. This device operates based on the high-speed time-of-flight principle, enhanced by Wave Form Digitizer Technology (WFD). This type of survey provides a precision of up to 5 millimeters and a maximum range varying between 800 and 1000 meters. The scanner can collect up to tens of thousands of points per minute (up to 2 million points per second) by directing the laser pulse across the surface of an object using a rotating mirror or prism. It also allows for data acquisition in less than 2 minutes per scan and provides an HDR spherical image with a resolution ranging from 6 mm to 10 m.

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The scanner also enables automatic alignment of the point cloud based on real-time motion detection through a mobile device, which simultaneously offers a 3D and 360° visualization of a single scan or the entire point cloud. The automatic in-field registration without targets (based on VIS technology) and automated data transfer to the office further maximizes productivity, significantly reducing survey time.

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The Leica Cyclone FIELD 360 app (version 5.2.1) was employed as part of Leica Geosystems' 3D reality capture solutions, connecting field-acquired data to the scanner and office data registration using Cyclone REGISTER 360 (version 2021.1.2 build r20092). In the field, users can acquire, register, and automatically review scan data and images. The reduced "noise" in the data results in sharper, high-quality scans rich in detail and ready for use in various applications. Combined with the Cyclone FIELD 360 software for automatic in-field registration, the Leica RTC360 scanner ensures high accuracy that can be verified directly on-site.

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The survey of the E. Pistelli complex consisted of 157 scans, resulting in 272 connections between different setups. There is a 50% overlap between the scans, which makes the connections robust. The margin of error for the point cloud is 0.0005 m. It is therefore possible to conclude that the survey was carried out correctly.

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In the process of reconstructing the building's original design, it is undoubtedly essential to conduct a cognitive investigation of the existing heritage, consulting and carrying out a careful analysis in several archives in Rome. In this specific case, the Capitoline Historical Archive, the Department of Infrastructure Development and Urban Maintenance (SIMU), and the Department of Heritage of Rome Capital were consulted. From these results, it was possible to reconstruct and structure the model in several phases, mainly reconstructing the historical evolution of the building, consisting of extensions and adjustments to fire regulations. Through this phase of consulting the existing documentation, it was possible to simplify the subsequent phases of survey and modeling.

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198 The survey campaign for the building was conducted over multiple days due to organizational constraints and the
199 availability of the school. Once the survey campaign was complete, all scans were merged and aligned using the
200 Cyclone Register 360 software (version 2021.1.2 build r20092). This software enables the merging of various
201 point clouds, aligning them, and strengthening the connections between setups, i.e., the different scanning points.
202 A separate point cloud was created for each survey day, and these were subsequently "cleaned" to remove noise
203 and unwanted elements. After processing the point clouds, they were exported in the .rcp format, which is readable
204 and compatible with Autodesk software.
205 A key feature of Leica's RTC360 laser scanner is its ability to orient the model based on the geographic coordinates
206 of the location. This ensures that the point cloud is automatically georeferenced, eliminating the need for additional
207 steps once the data is processed in the office. The point cloud was then imported into Autodesk's Recap software
208 to be used for visualization, analysis, and sectioning according to specific needs.

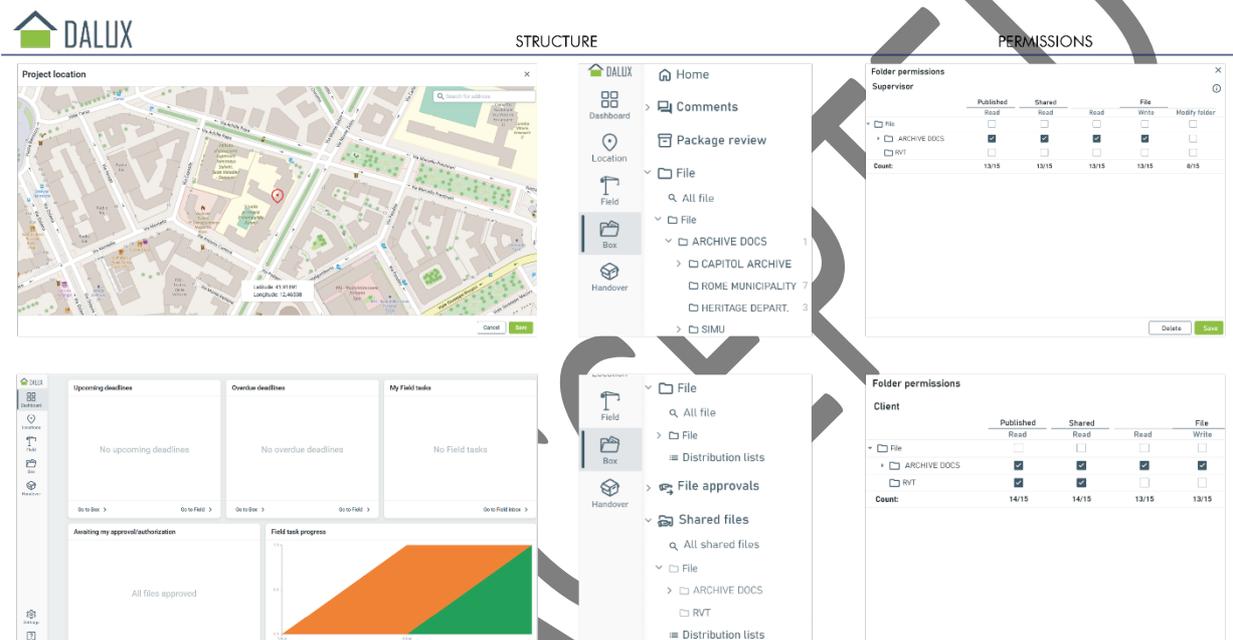
209 *2.2 Data Restitution: BIM Modelling*

210 To create the BIM model of the Ermenegildo Pistelli Complex, the Autodesk Revit v2024 BIM Authoring software
211 was selected. The first step involved identifying and semantically defining the various building components. The
212 primary structural elements and detailed components were identified. The modeling process was developed in
213 accordance with Italian regulation UNI 11337-part 3 and 4, and ISO 19650 standards, with the specific request
214 from the Public Administration to achieve a Level of Development (LOD) E-F-G and a high granularity of Level
215 of Information Need (LOIN) for windows, doors, and ornamental elements, to support future restoration and
216 conservation interventions. LOD was evolved both in geometrical aspects (LOG – Level of Geometry) and
217 information (LOI – Level of Information). LOIN was articulated across three distinct dimensions: the geometric
218 component (representation of shape, size, dimensional accuracy, and spatial positioning of elements), the
219 alphanumeric (data expressed through characters, numerical values, codes, and symbolic identifiers necessary for
220 classification and analysis), and the documentary component (structured set of historical records, technical
221 drawings, and supporting documents associated with each modeled element). Specifically, all appropriate
222 components were set up with the correct dimensions based on the surveys and accurately positioned. Thanks to
223 the historical information gathered and the on-site survey, it was possible to recreate a highly accurate model. The
224 majority of components were modelled as loadable families, while for some complex elements, conceptual mass
225 modelling was employed, allowing for the creation of any shape. The parametric modelling of families facilitates
226 their reuse, as families within the same category can be adapted by changing parameters, such as length. Each
227 model component is assigned parameters defining its creation and demolition phases. These alphanumeric
228 characteristics are managed within the model's database or schedules to produce thematic deliverables or interact
229 more effectively with the information component, even remotely and using specialized tools. Information was
230 added to the building model during and after its creation. A BIM model can incorporate extensive and
231 multidisciplinary information, including: Building geometry, Materials and their properties, Images of various
232 kinds of the investigated asset, Historical documentation, Traditional or high-definition surveys with point clouds,
233 and other types of information. All this data is collected and managed within the BIM model, which functions as
234 a three-dimensional and virtual database.
235 The main phases of the standard modelling process were: 1. Importing the point cloud into the modelling software,
236 2. Generating the primary geometries based on the point cloud, 3. Defining system families, 4. Creating,
237 parameterizing, and inserting loadable families, 5. Creating local families.

238 *2.3 CDE: Information Management*

239 National (UNI 11337 – part 5) and international regulations (ISO 19650) describe the CDE as a virtual environment,
240 such as a Cloud or Server, where all project stakeholders can store their work. This environment is organized and
241 structured to track all activities, define roles and responsibilities, and provide up-to-date and comprehensive
242 information to all participants. Within this context, the collaborative and integrative aspects typical of the BIM
243 methodology take shape. This tool is central to the digital construction process because it allows digital models to
244 fulfill their primary function: serving as the basis for integrated and shared decision-making.
245 A collaborative BIM platform (namely CDE) must provide a range of functionalities to enhance team productivity,
246 stakeholders engagements, and achieve several benefits, including: 1) comprehensive control of construction
247 processes (use of cloud infrastructures accessible from any device and by all operators, ensuring continuous
248 supervision of processes); 2) defined roles and responsibilities (clear and precise assignment of roles and
249 responsibilities to protect informational assets, ensure data security, and prevent fraud and errors); 3) action
250 traceability (monitoring actions performed and recording revisions and modifications made to shared data among
251 various stakeholders. Each user is granted specific permissions based on their role, ranging from read-only access
252 to full editing rights); 4) review and approval (implementation of structured processes for the review, approval,
253 and validation of documentation, facilitating control and sharing of updated document and model versions); 5)

254 effective communication (promoting continuous communication among stakeholders through information
255 coordination and management of internal CDE, rather than external channels, such as email). Finally, the use of
256 CDE permits automatic data backup, ensuring data recovery in case of partial or total loss.
257 In this research, it was possible to share and review all acquired materials and work progress using the Dalux
258 software provided by the developer for the purposes of the research and study (Fig. 2). This software, structured
259 according to BIM regulations, allows project participants to manage file access, consult the project in its three-
260 dimensional form while overlaying it with the point cloud, and create two-dimensional sections and plans directly
261 from the viewer itself.
262 The digital archive thus constructed contains all documents organized into defined categories and sections. The
263 database can be continuously updated over time. This ensures the orderly and ongoing management of documents
264 by incrementally adding new ones as needed. The main advantages of managing an entire asset in this manner
265 include: accessibility and retrieval of documents; measurement of the available archival assets; management and
266 continuous updating; and stakeholder discussions on design objectives.
267



268
269 *Fig. 2 - Structure of Dalux, CDE folders organized for the research and stakeholders permits.*

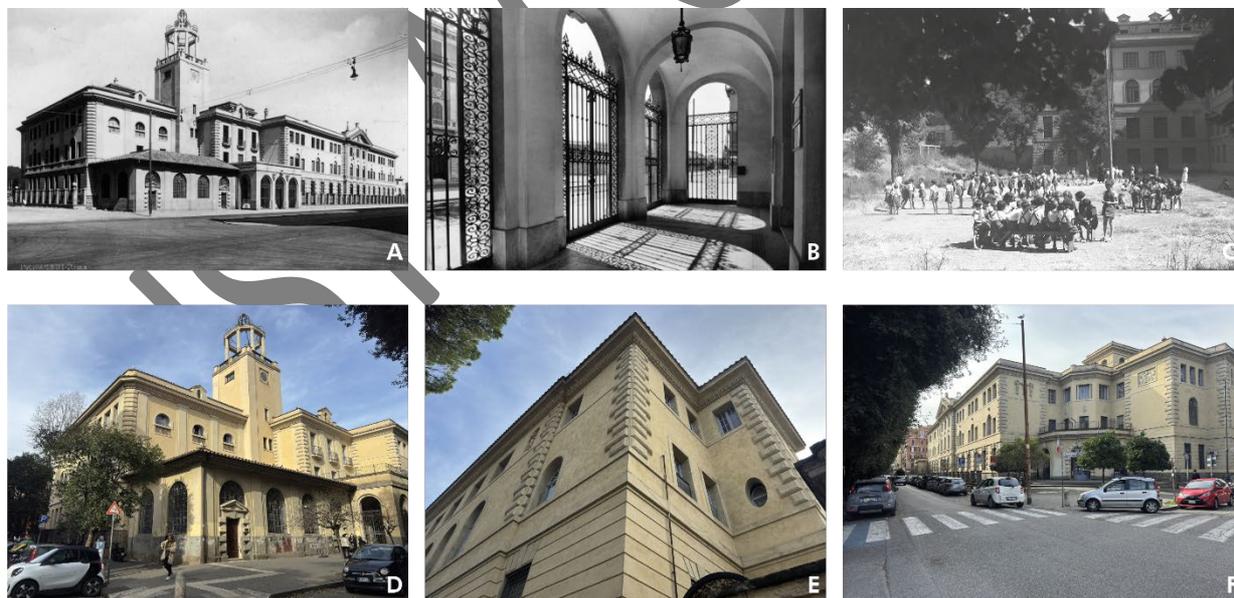
270 All the archive documentation, the 3D model of the building, and the elaborated point cloud were archived within
271 the Dalux software. The peculiarity of this CDE is to update, comment, and keep track of all the people and changes
272 that make up the project. In particular, it is possible to keep track of the progress of the modeling thanks to the
273 plugin that allows for instant connection of Revit and Dalux. Furthermore, in the Dalux viewer section, it is
274 possible to view the overlapping of the model with the point cloud.

275 3. Case Study: the Pistelli School in Rome

276 The case study is the Ermenegildo Pistelli school building, part of the Claudio Abbado Comprehensive Institute,
277 which houses a kindergarten and elementary school. It is located in Rome's Municipality I, at Via Monte Zebio 35
278 (Fig. 3). The building, large and C-shaped, is arranged along the perimeter of the lot, defining the entire frontage
279 on Via Monte Zebio and extending along two sides to create two distinct angular spaces [26]. The corner between
280 Via Monte Zebio and Via Cantore is notable for the low gymnasium structure, which visually balances the clock
281 tower, and for the portal of one of the building's original entrances, which once separated the male and female
282 sections of the school. Another corner, located at the intersection of Via Monte Zebio and Via Achille Papa,
283 features a recessed entrance portico relative to the two main façades. This design harmoniously connects the two
284 wings of the building and creates an inviting urban access space to the school. The internal garden could originally
285 be accessed both from the building and through two side gates located on the wings of the building; today, only
286 one gate remains, on Via Achille Papa.

287 The school building was designed according to modern criteria. The classrooms are spacious and bright, with large
288 and tall windows that allow natural light and sunlight to enter. Gardens and terraces were conceived to enable
289 outdoor teaching. However, following the subdivision of the courtyard, the original layout of the garden was lost,

290 with most of the area now paved except for a small portion allocated to the kindergarten [26]. The building consists
291 of three above-ground floors and a semi-basement, also featuring large windows on the main frontage. The interior
292 spaces were organized based on solar orientation, with all classrooms facing southeast or southwest. The layout is
293 serial, with rectangular classrooms of identical dimensions, each approximately 27 square meters.
294 The building's façades follow a classical design approach, with a clear hierarchy of floors. On the first floor, the
295 central body windows feature a serliana motif, while the entrances are marked by arcaded porticos with round
296 arches. The building's volume is complex and well-balanced, with a clear distinction among its various
297 architectural components [26]. Distinct elements include the entrances with their terraces, the gymnasium, and the
298 clock tower topped by a belvedere. The architecture is enriched with extensive use of stucco and decorative
299 elements, enhancing its aesthetic value. The building was designed and constructed as an integral part of the new
300 Piazza D'Armi district, now known as Piazza Mazzini. Morphologically, it has a traditional layout, adhering to the
301 lot's shape and responding to the surrounding urban requirements. At the intersection of the tree-lined avenues of
302 Via Monte Zebio and Via Achille Papa, the designer conceived a small resting area that expands the public space,
303 providing a place of relief within the urban fabric.
304 The school building was designed in 1909 by architect G. Venturi. In 1924, following the signing of the contract,
305 construction began under the supervision of the Gianicolense Cooperative Construction Company. By 1926, as
306 the building neared completion, heating systems were installed. Prof. G. Jacobucci and Prof. B. Marescalchi were
307 responsible for the façade decorations in 1928. In the same year, consolidation and underpinning work were
308 required due to widespread structural settlements. The building works were officially tested and certified in 1932,
309 and in the following year, the Fire Brigade Guard Post was constructed within the same block. The original design
310 of the school was modified during construction, including lowering the level of the internal garden to match the
311 basement floor. This change affected the internal façades and, functionally, altered access to the garden, which
312 became primarily accessible from the basement level. In 1953, expansion plans for the school were drafted, involving
313 the construction of the central block that divided the internal courtyard into two sections. The work commenced
314 in 1955 and was completed in 1956. The expansion retained the proportions of the main building in terms of
315 distribution and functionality but differed in terms of materials and, especially, window design. The architectural
316 language of the façades was distinct, with a minimalist layout without decorative elements. In 1971, final testing
317 was conducted for fire safety compliance, which included the construction of two external emergency staircases
318 made of reinforced concrete. In 2019, the first-floor premises of the building, previously used by the former Opera
319 Sante de Sanctis, were returned to their original use.
320



321
322 *Fig. 3 - Historical and current pictures of Pistelli School. A) ICCD - Morpurgo Fund - inv. n. G016928 -*
323 *Morpurgo, L. B. 1924, Cultural Association info.Roma.it - cod. 3896. C) Archivio Storico Luce. D) E) F) 2025,*
324 *De Bellis, M.*

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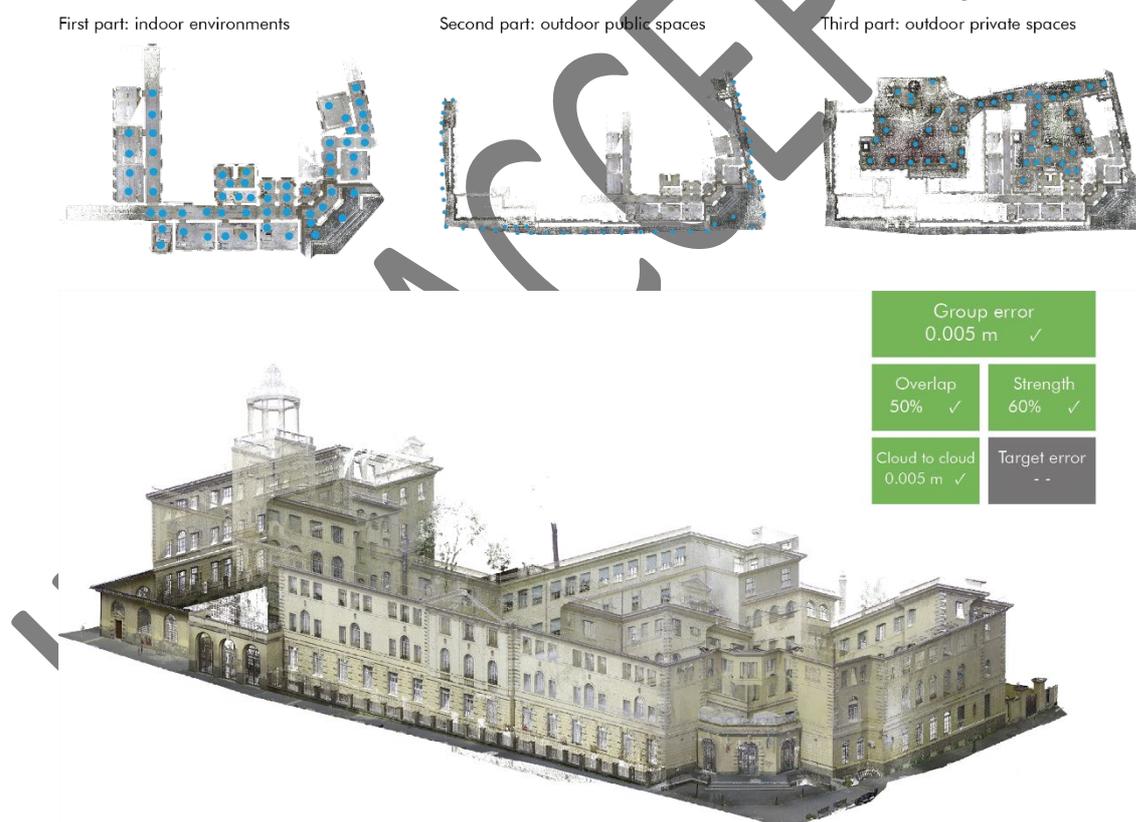
327 **4. Results**

328 The results of the developed process are divided into three areas: 1) integrated survey, where archive documents,
329 traditional techniques and TLS survey are merged to establish the basis for information modelling (§ 4.1); 2)
330 information modelling for heritage, the HBIM process, with particular attention to the modelling of building
331 components subject to cataloguing for subsequent redevelopment and restoration interventions (§ 4.2); 3)
332 conscious use of the CDE for the HBIM specifications, cataloguing the construction elements and the archival
333 information (§ 4.3). The modeling in particular proposes different approaches depending on specific construction
334 elements; some with more regular geometries can be parameterized with a defined procedure, while for those with
335 more irregular ones, it is necessary to develop ad hoc strategies which, in the proposed case, combine the use of
336 meshes with informative modeling.

337 The greatest challenge is certainly represented by the management of information for heritage buildings, where it
338 is necessary to correctly store the archival information, create catalogues of the construction elements, and then
339 generate the relative HBIM models, complete both from a geometric and an informational perspective.
340 Furthermore, the possible and facilitated interaction between the stakeholders involved assumes a fundamental
341 aspect in the phase of model development first, and of management of the heritage asset afterwards.

342 *4.1 Integrate survey*

343 The survey campaign for the building was conducted over multiple days due to organizational constraints and the
344 availability of the school. Once the survey campaign was completed, all scans were merged and aligned. The 157
345 scans performed are shown in Fig. 4. For a total of 2,158,318,110 points, which constitute the entire point cloud.
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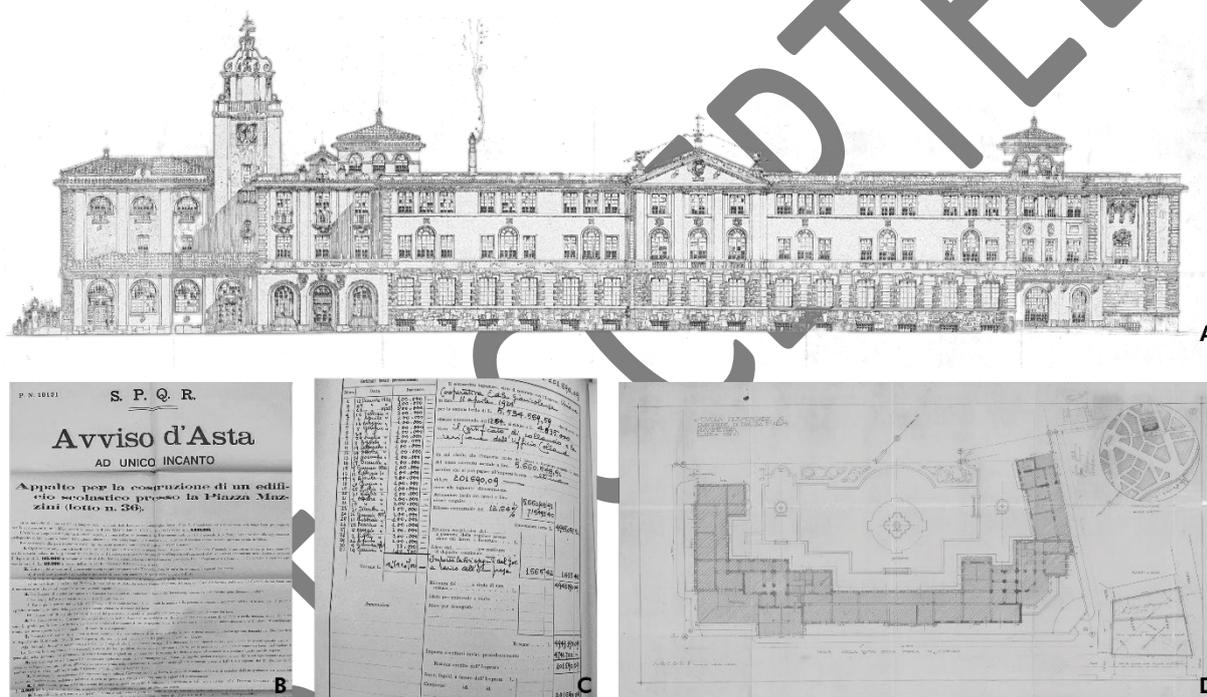
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348 *Fig. 4 – Division of integrated survey and complete restitution of cloud point.*

349 In order to outline the history of the building, it was necessary to consult as much archive material as possible (Fig.
350 5). The only document in possession at the beginning of the work was the knowledge sheet of the building, drawn
351 up by the architect P. Capolino. This document proved to be essential to understand, in general terms, all the
352 aspects of the building, which allowed us to outline the subsequent historical investigations in the various archives
353 of the Municipality.

354 The Capitoline Historical Archives of Roma Capitale preserves most of the documentation found on the case study.
355 Thanks to the archival sources, which also included design plans for the heating systems, it was possible to identify

356 the different figures involved in the construction of the building and, at the same time, the problems faced during
357 its construction. It was interesting to note how, after about a century, due to the war and the consequent increase
358 in costs, a request was made by the construction company to review the prices, because both the labour and the
359 materials had undergone increases. In addition, the Capitoline Archives also preserve the last progress report with
360 the reservations made by the construction company for works not provided for in the contract and for increased
361 costs. The accounting of the work also made it possible to identify the assignment of the decoration and sculpture
362 work to the two professionals in charge, a document that proved crucial in cataloguing the façade elements.
363 The Department of Heritage Valorization and Housing Policies of Rome Capital preserves the original design
364 layouts of the building. Furthermore, it was possible to view the documents relating to the expansion of the
365 building, and consequently, it was possible to reconstruct its history, namely the planning that took place in 1953,
366 the construction that began in 1955, and ended in 1956.
367 To conclude the historical investigations on the building, an inspection was also carried out at the Department of
368 Infrastructure Development and Urban Maintenance of Rome Capital (SIMU), where the latest interventions
369 carried out on the school are archived, including maintenance of the systems and checks of compliance with fire
370 regulations. In addition to the verification documentation of the building, it was also possible to recover the plans
371 of the building in CAD format, whose last update dates back to 2010.
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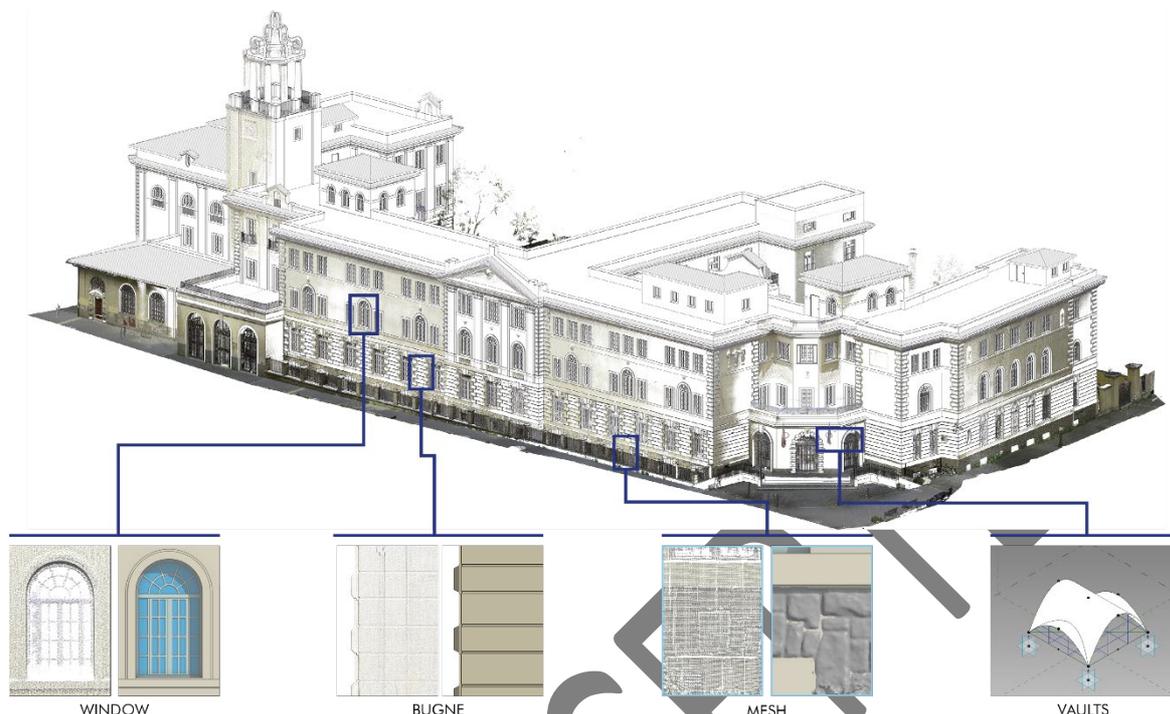


373
374 *Fig. 5 – Archive documents. A) View of the elevation on via Monte Zebio, original design (1928). B) Tender for*
375 *the construction of the E. Pistelli school (1924). C) Latest progress report of the E. Pistelli school (1932). D)*
376 *Plan of the original design (1928). [Archives A, D: courtesy of the Department of Heritage Enhancement and*
377 *Housing Policies of Rome- Dir. Acquisition Deliveries Conservatory - Conservatory Archive - pos. n. 486-XIX,*
378 *folder 38; B, C: -courtesy of the Capitoline Superintendency of Cultural Heritage – Capitoline Historical*
379 *Archive - Ripartizione V-Ragioneria Appalti Esauriti, b. 89, fasc. 231, sf. Bis]*

380 4.2 HBIM Model and Building Components Informative Modelling

381 The modeling process followed the consolidated Scan2BIM process, where the elaborated point cloud served as a
382 scaffolding on which to model the building. The historical analysis elaborated through archival sources also
383 allowed us to obtain essential information for information modelling.
384 An explicit request from the public administration was to pay attention to the valuable elements of the school,
385 which had to be modeled with great attention to detail (always both geometric - LOG - and informative - LOI).
386 Among these, in the case study analyzed in the paper, the following certainly stand out (Fig. 6): the geometric
387 rustication of the ground floor, the irregular rustication of the basement, the vaults of the ground floor, the
388 ornamental elements of the façade, and the windows and door frames (internal and external ones). In particular,
389 on these last two elements, it was considered essential to develop a filing system that would allow the information

390 to be stored in order to proceed with a restoration (for the ornaments) and a performance requalification with
391 conservation of the historical-constructive values (for the windows and door frames).
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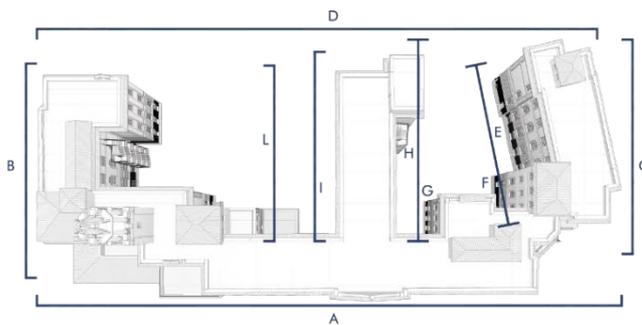
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Fig. 6 – HBIM model and specific informative objects elaborated.

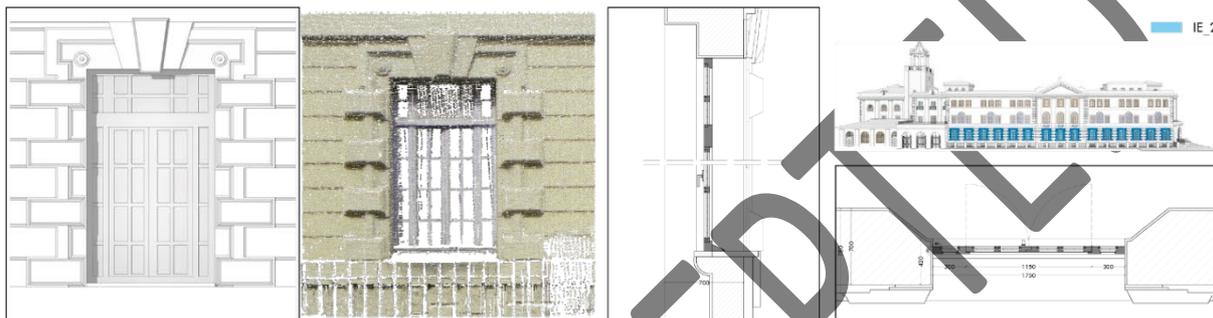
395 A critical aspect of this study was the approach to modelling the external and internal windows and door frames.
396 Staying within the constraints of Revit's built-in libraries proved nearly impossible, especially considering the
397 unique elements required, such as the fixtures and frames in this case. These elements, inherently unique, are
398 difficult to simplify into generalized categories because they were specifically designed and constructed for
399 particular applications. Additionally, they often reflect the craftsmanship and modifications introduced over time.
400 For the windows, it was decided to create specific families for each type, nesting them based on their components
401 and decorative elements while geometrically simplifying them as much as possible. A closer inspection of the
402 building reveals a division of the façades into three distinct architectural orders, each corresponding to a specific
403 type of fixture. The fixtures are more ornate at the lower levels and become progressively simpler on the upper
404 levels. Furthermore, on each façade, the decorations of the fixtures differ, making it necessary to identify each
405 façade of the building using letters of the alphabet. Overall, the building contains 435 windows and French doors,
406 along with 227 internal and external doors.

407 In the HBIM modeling of the E. Pistelli school, the development of the digital model was structured according to
408 the Italian regulation UNI 11337 for LOD and the ISO 19650 standard for LOIN. The overall model reached a
409 geometric development corresponding to LOD C-D (according to Italian UNI 11337), ensuring sufficient accuracy
410 for general analysis and decision-making processes. However, for specific components explicitly prioritized by
411 the Public Administration (i.e., windows, doors, and ornamental elements), the geometric modeling (LOG)
412 attained a higher level of detail, corresponding to LOD E-F. These elements were modeled with a high degree of
413 morphological accuracy, often through bespoke parametric families and mesh modeling to capture irregularities
414 and artisanal features. From an informational perspective (LOI), the objective was to reach LOD F-G for selected
415 components, with a focus on comprehensive metadata supporting maintenance, restoration planning, and
416 performance assessment. The LOIN defined for the project required high granularity of information, including
417 historical references, construction features, material properties, typological classification, and performance-related
418 data. This level of detail enabled an accurate and interoperable dataset aligned with the asset management needs
419 of the Public Administration, supporting long-term conservation strategies and integration into broader heritage
420 information systems.

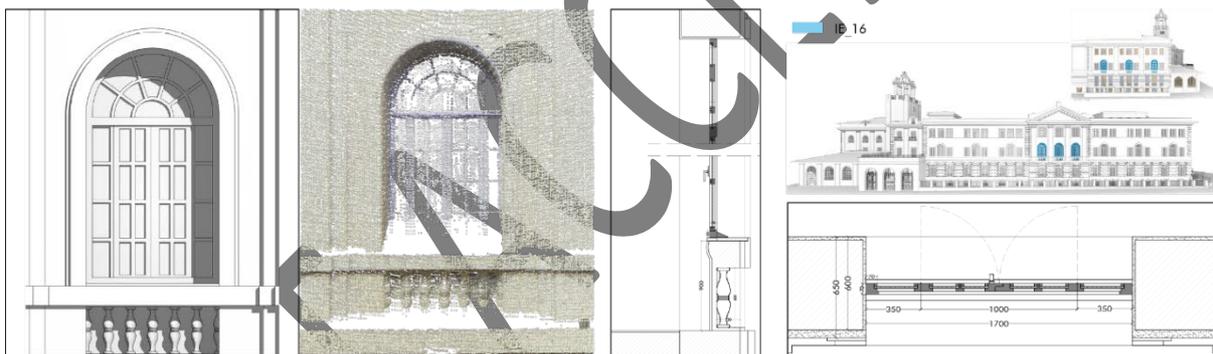
421 A great deal of cataloguing work was carried out on the doors and windows (Fig. 7). Given the number and the
422 difference in types for each façade, first, the elevations were distinguished with a letter (from A to L). Secondly,
423 they were coded with an acronym IE (external frame) and a number regarding the different typologies. The
424 modelling followed the same cataloguing, so the informative family was named with the cataloguing IE - NN
425 (code-number) and then each different family (which therefore corresponds to a typology different from frame).



IE 02 - 175 x 295 cm - Windows of elevation A (south-east) - nr. 15



IE 16 - 170 x 305 cm - Windows of elevation A and B (south-east and south) - nr. 6



PE 2 - 290 x 445 cm - Door of elevation C (north) - nr. 1



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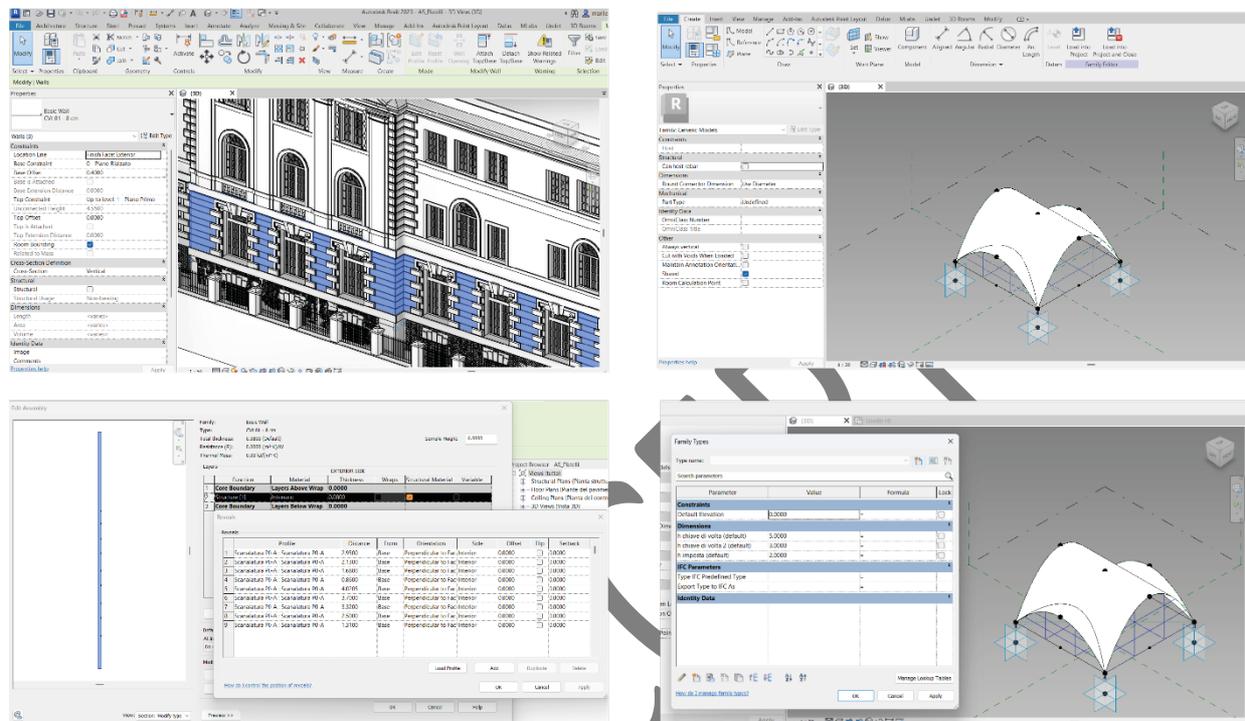
Fig. 7 - Windows and door informative modeling.

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As with the windows, another distinctive feature of the façade of the E. Pistelli school is the rusticated finish on the external walls. The ornamental and rusticated masonry follows the same principle as the fixtures: more elaborate on the lower levels adjacent to the street and progressively simpler as the height of the building increases. Rustication is present on all façades of the building, except for the new construction, which is devoid of any decorative elements. For all the rusticated elements that characterize the ground floor façade of the building, a highly realistic modeling approach was achievable, given their regular geometry (Fig. 8). The same principle was applied to other elements of the façades, such as string courses and quoins.

Bugna family

Vault family



436

437 Fig. 8 – Regular bugne modelling and parametrization in the HBIM model and vaults specific families modelling

438 Almost all the interior spaces on the ground floor are covered by vaults. It was discovered that the majority of the
439 vaults are ribbed, but the building also features barrel vaults with lunettes and dome vaults. Since Autodesk Revit
440 does not have a specific command for creating vaulted ceilings, several methods were experimented with to
441 reproduce and catalog the various vaults present in the rooms of the building, to evaluate which methodology could
442 be considered the most effective, reliable, and easiest to implement.

443 In order to create a model as faithful to reality as possible, and given that the spaces covered by the vaults have
444 different geometric dimensions, it was decided to use adaptive component families as the basis for modeling the
445 vaults. This type of family adjusts to the irregularities that typically characterize existing buildings.

446 For the elaboration of the more complex ornaments of the façade, in order to provide a comprehensive
447 interpretation, it was decided to approach them through the development of meshes (Fig. 9). This choice was also
448 influenced by the fact that modeling programs typically assume the design of a new building, where the geometries
449 are perfectly aligned and free of irregular elements. In the specific case of the E. Pistelli school, the elements in
450 question were the fountain, located in the internal courtyard of the school, and the rustication of the raised basement.
451 The latter, in fact, features rustication that does not follow a precise and repeated geometric pattern, in addition to
452 being made of an equally irregular surface, which overall adds movement to the façade. Moreover, this type of
453 decoration is characteristic of the neighbourhood and the period of construction, and consequently, it was deemed
454 essential to represent it. The software used for data processing was Autodesk's Recap and Cloud Compare.
455

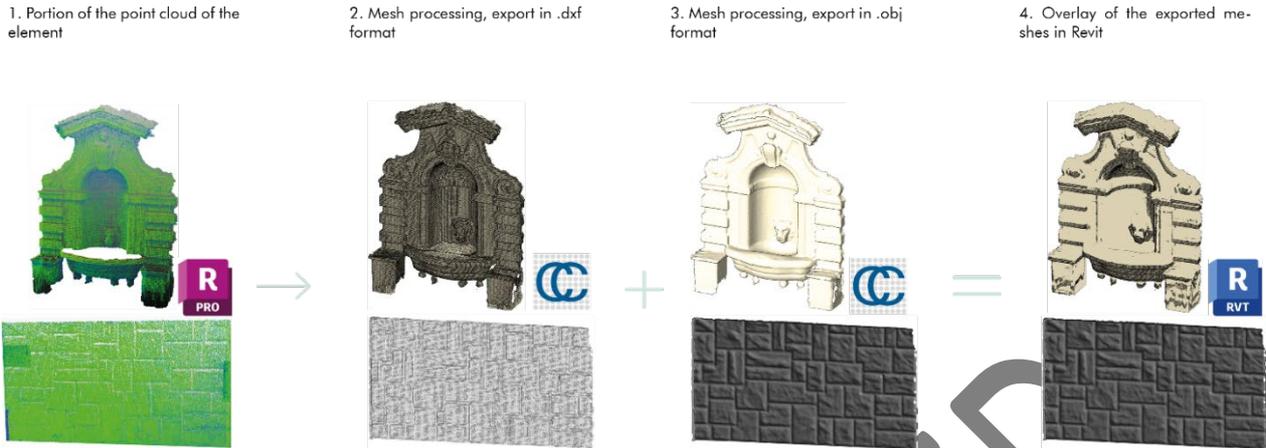


Fig. 9 – Ornaments modelling workflow.

4.3 Use of CDE for HBIM applications

The use of CDE is a real challenge in the information management of the built heritage. In the research project presented, the Dalux platform was selected for a series of specific functions that allow for expanding the capabilities of the HBIM as much as possible. The process according to which the CDE is structured is the classic one, divided into 4 phases by technical regulations: WIP - SHARED - PUBLISHED - ARCHIVED. The information passes to the next step depending on the approvals provided by the actor of the building process responsible for validating each phase. Commercial CDE platforms have undergone significant developments and can lend themselves significantly to implementation in the HBIM process if used consciously. They certainly present a series of fundamental functions in the HBIM process, such as: cataloguing in a single storage of all the information relating to the building, even if in different formats; the interaction between the stakeholders involved, in particular the public administration, still not very familiar with the logic of BIM modeling, but instead more willing to interact with BIM Viewers and management platforms; the possibility of verifying responsibility and completion of tasks and activities; and finally the cataloguing of construction elements through the detailed explanation of information models and other documentary sources.

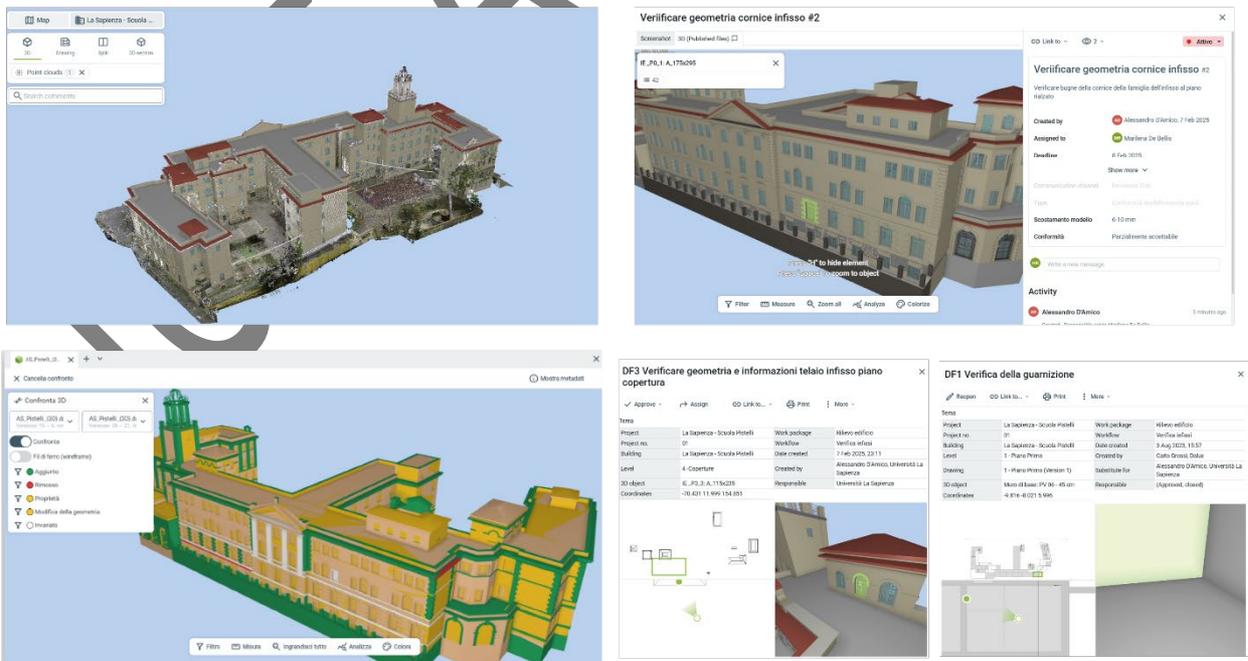


Fig. 10 – CDE HBIM management and Stakeholders' interaction.

First of all, the possibility of interacting between the interested stakeholders has allowed sharing information,

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revisions, and comments on all shared aspects: archival information, technical representations, point clouds, and models (Fig. 10), and also visualizing by overlapping them. Each comment can also be assigned to a process actor and has a deadline. In this way, it is always possible to verify responsibilities and implementation times of the activities (Fig. 10). Secondly, a fundamental aspect is to verify the progress of the information modeling, comparing the versions uploaded by the operators. In Fig. 10, it is possible to view the HBIM model divided by colours depending on the updates (i.e., red: removed; green: added; yellow: modified).



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Fig. 11– Scheme of ornaments modelling and information storage into the CDE.

484 Finally, the cataloguing for the detail elements (described specifically in 4.2 for the fixtures) is reported with all
485 the aspects of the digital archive produced within the CDE in Fig.11 for the façade ornaments. The archive is
486 translated into a table that reports the label of the modeled element, explanatory comments, geometric aspects, and
487 archival descriptions; to these are added photographs of the survey carried out and meshes extracted from the point
488 cloud. This procedure allows for a complete archive of the aspects necessary for the analysis and possible
489 restoration of the construction elements, and is open, since it can be implemented at any time, with data and
490 documents relating to specific analyses that the public administration will want to conduct (e.g., material,
491 degradation, performance analyses for the fixtures, etc).

492 **5. Discussions**

493 The findings of this study highlight the significant advantages of integrating HBIM with CDE for the information
494 management of built heritage, and in particular, with a case study on school buildings. The methodology exposed
495 allowed for a comprehensive approach to digital documentation, fostering interdisciplinary collaboration among
496 the stakeholders (architects/engineers, historians, real estate and facility managers, and public administrators). The
497 integration of advanced surveying techniques, including TLS, ensured a high level of precision in data collection,
498 which was instrumental in creating a robust and information-rich HBIM model of the Ermenegildo Pistelli school
499 in Rome.

500 The use of CDEs proved to be a pivotal component of the research, facilitating seamless communication and data
501 exchange among stakeholders. By structuring the digital environment according to standardized workflows, it was
502 possible to efficiently manage historical documentation, architectural and construction modeling, and collaborative
503 decision-making. The research also demonstrated the effectiveness of cataloguing construction elements and
504 archival information within the HBIM framework, offering a replicable model for other heritage preservation
505 projects.

506 The study also encountered limitations. One of the primary challenges was the complexity of modeling intricate
507 architectural details and integrating them with historical data in a structured manner. The use of HBIM
508 methodology proved to be effective in documenting tangible aspects of the building, but the inclusion of intangible
509 cultural heritage remains an ongoing challenge. The reliance on authoring software, such as Autodesk Revit and
510 Dalux, may also pose constraints in terms of interoperability and long-term data accessibility.

511 Furthermore, the process of historical data collection presented obstacles due to fragmented archival records,
512 requiring efforts to piece together a coherent reconstruction of the building's evolution. The accuracy of the final
513 model is inherently dependent on the quality and availability of archival materials, which may not always be
514 sufficient. Another limitation is the adoption of CDEs by public administration entities, which often lack the
515 necessary technical expertise to fully utilize these digital tools. The study underscores the need for tailored training
516 programs to enhance the digital competencies of heritage management professionals.

517 To address these limitations and expand upon the research findings, significant future directions can be proposed.
518 The development of standardized protocols for HBIM applications in educational heritage management could also
519 improve consistency and facilitate broader adoption. Further research should focus on enhancing the
520 interoperability of HBIM and CDEs through open-source platforms and standardized data exchange formats. This
521 would mitigate the challenges associated with proprietary software and ensure long-term accessibility and usability
522 of heritage data. Additionally, community engagement initiatives could be developed to involve local populations
523 in heritage conservation efforts, ensuring that HBIM applications align with broader societal and cultural
524 objectives.

525 The debate on data ownership, in terms of security and protection, certainly remains open. In accordance with the
526 actual legislation (UNI 11337), the responsibility for the CDE is assigned to the client, who can either manage it
527 directly or delegate this function to an external entity. The client specifies the procedures for managing the flow
528 of information to and from the CDE in the Information Specification, also defining the parties responsible for
529 and/or custodians of the CDE. The regulations establish a general framework for the information flow within the
530 CDE. The presented work could allow a framing in the proposed framework, also of the issues of data management
531 to support the public administration for the future conservation and sharing of information.

532 **6. Conclusions**

533 The study highlights the significant role of integrating HBIM with CDE for the efficient management and
534 preservation of historical school buildings. The case study of the Ermenegildo Pistelli school in Rome
535 demonstrated that HBIM not only enables accurate digital documentation of architectural and historical features
536 but also enhances data structuring for long-term conservation. The involvement of public administration and
537 stakeholders played a fundamental role in ensuring the effective storage, management, and accessibility of models
538 and data within the CDE. By fostering collaboration among architects, engineers, historians, and facility managers,
539 the structured digital workflow facilitated informed decision-making and optimized heritage management

540 processes. Despite challenges related to the complexity of architectural modeling, data interoperability, and the
541 digital literacy of public entities, this research underscores the necessity of robust digital strategies in heritage
542 conservation. Future efforts should focus on enhancing interoperability through open-source platforms, developing
543 training programs for public administration, and promoting stakeholder engagement to ensure sustainable and
544 inclusive heritage management practices.

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555 Author Contributions

556 A.D. Conceptualization, Methodology, Validation, Writing - Original Draft, Supervision, Project administration,
557 Funding acquisition; M.B. Visualization, Investigation, Surveys, Formal analysis; E.C. Writing - Review &
558 Editing, History of construction supervision.

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