



23rd ARCASIA FORUM
8th – 12th September 2026
Delhi | Agra | Jaipur



The Impact of New Digital and Intelligent Technologies on Architectural Profession in Cambodia

ARCASIA, Council Meeting

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Architects Association Khmer



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Cambodia's Starting Point

Adoption is Advancing, but Evidence is Limited

Professional Capacity

2,502 Registered Architects (Jun. 2026)

140 BAC Architects (Jun. 2026)

47 Asean Architects (Jun. 2026)

39 Foreign Registered Architects (Jun. 2026)

71 Licensed Companies (Oct. 2025)

143 Licensed Architects (Oct. 2025)

9 Architecture Schools

A Transition with Constrains

Based on report and interview with practitioners, professors and users, we noted the movement from CAD toward BIM and AI-assisted work.

Firms face fragmented public data, skill gaps, fee pressure and difficult access to regulations.

Evidence gap

No national adoption survey or named, measured AI project outcome is supplied.



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Cambodia's National Digital Policy

Policy Creates a Foundation for Better Practice

National commitments and their potential implications for architects

Policy direction	Architectural opportunity	What still needs to happen
<i>Digital Economy & Society 2021–2035</i>	Stronger connectivity, digital skills and business capability	Affordable access, training and adoption within firms
<i>Digital Government 2022–2035</i>	More consistent data and more efficient public services	Sector workflows, usable datasets and clear access arrangements
<i>CamDX + interoperability + the Once-Only Principle</i>	Potential reuse of site and application data across agencies	Reliable exchange, data standards and secure permissions

- The nationwide BIM permitting is not available



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Deliverable

Digital Tools Can Reshape the Whole Lifecycle

The architect defines the brief, check the evidence and approves the output

Project stage	Digital / intelligent tools	Value for Cambodian practice
Site & feasibility	GIS, drones, scanning + AI analysis	Test access, density and flood exposure against verified site information
Concept & performance	Generative AI, parametric design, climate simulation + VR / AR	Explore alternatives; compare shade, airflow and client understanding
Technical & construction	BIM, quantity extraction, digital issue tracking	Coordinate disciplines; verify local costs, details and site changes
Operation & conservation	IoT sensors, digital twins, scan-to-BIM	Monitor comfort and energy; retain records for maintenance and heritage



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Cambodian Design Value

Use of Technology to Strengthen Place and Identity

Design for Tropical Living

Compare orientation, deep overhangs, courtyards, raised floors and screens.

Test heat, daylight, airflow and monsoon rain against actual site conditions.

Conserve and Reinterpret

Use scanning and BIM to document heritage, materials and traditional joinery.

Study Khmer spatial patterns and craft with local experts and communities.

A Practical Test

Does the design for Cambodian climate, culture, construction skills and everyday life?



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Work, Skills and Business Models

Professional Value Shifts toward Judgment

Tasks and services change

Automation can reduce time spent on rendering, drafting and routine documents.

More value can come from coordination, performance advice, client dialogue and accountable decisions.

Skills and fees must evolve

Teach BIM, data literacy and AI checking alongside design, detailing and site learning.

Define fees around scope, expertise and responsibility; retain time for quality assurance.

Cambodian Challenge

Small firms may gain capability, while software costs, fee pressure and weaker junior training can widen gaps.



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Professional Safeguards

Every Efficacy Gain Needs a Checking Process

Proposed safeguards for Cambodian firms and professional bodies

Risk	Consequence for practice	Practical safeguard
Errors & false confidence	Unsafe details, unreliable quantities or incorrect regulatory advice	Check primary documents and models; record competent human review
Confidentiality & authorship	Exposure of client plans; uncertain rights to inputs and outputs	Use approved systems and data rules; record permissions and provenance
Bias & weak local data	Generic designs or unsuitable climate and material assumptions	Validate Khmer references and local data with practitioners and users
Cost & loss of skills	Unequal access, tool dependency and weaker professional learning	Pilot affordable workflows; retain mentoring and independent checks

We noted that, several professional reforms acting by the **Government**, the **Board of Architects Cambodia (BAC)**, The **Association of Architects Khmer (AAK)** and Educational Institutions,



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Finding and Conclusion

Digital and Intelligent Technologies in Cambodia

For the Case of Cambodia

1.

The future of architecture in Cambodia will not be defined by how much technology architects use, but by how intelligently and responsibly they use it.

2.

The profession should move from “*digital production*” toward “**digital intelligence guided by architectural judgment.**”

3.

This transformation requires Cambodian architects to develop skills on BIM, AI, data literacy and digital coordination while maintaining strong foundations in design, construction, climate, culture, ethics and professional responsibility.



New digital and intelligent technologies can become a tool for professional advancement, higher design quality, greater efficiency and sustainable development while keeping Cambodian architecture rooted in local culture, climate and people.



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THANK YOU
