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COMPUTER APPLICATIONS IN ARCHITECTURE:
A PILOT SURVEY OF THE USAGE IN EGYPT

ABSTRACT

This paper is the second among a series that explores computer and information technology (IT) applications in architecture. The goal of this paper is to investigate the usage in Egypt of the various computer and IT applications in architecture. The aim is to understand the points of strength in the Egyptian practices and the points of weakness and thus contribute in finding the solutions. To do so a pilot survey was performed on a number of Egyptian practices. The questionnaire objectives can be summarized as follows:

- Identify the purposes for which the industry now uses IT facilities, and the extent of such use.
- Identify the type of computer and IT facilities used within the surveyed organizations.
- Identify the barriers that prevent the industry from better using existing IT facilities.
- Identify the perceived benefits of using IT within the surveyed organizations work flow, and exploring the work processes affected due to such use.

In order to better understand the survey results, they were compared to a similar survey that was performed in Canada.
The study closes with the conclusions and directions for

further research. Among the findings of this study were that the usage of computers and information technology in the Egyptian architectural practices seemed to be biased towards: 1) getting good-looking drawings and documents and 2) towards controlling costs. The usage does not seem to be oriented towards improving the quality of buildings. Some directions for the solution of this problem are suggested.