Quality Management Procedures and Applications for Implementing Manufacturing Integration Modeling in an Engineering Company

Yara Kablan[1,*], Rana Maya[2]

[1] BIMM Master Student, Syrian Virtual University, Damascus, Syria
[2] Professor, BIMM Master, Syrian Virtual University, Damascus, Syria

Emails: Yara_216712@svuonline.org ; t_rmaya@svuonline.org

Abstract

Engineering companies in Syria suffer from a lack of comprehensive quality management implementation, leading to inaccuracies in components and design flaws during execution. This research aims to develop quality procedures for implementing Manufacturing Integration Modeling (FIM) in engineering firms. The study is of significant importance in enhancing efficiency, productivity, and fostering collaboration among different departments, while mitigating risks and ensuring safety. The research addresses challenges[1] such as difficulties in accessing information, participant availability, and data consistency, and poses questions on improving quality management procedures to tackle these challenges. Through literature review, case studies, and interviews with industry experts, the research seeks to provide recommendations to enhance the quality and efficiency of engineering operations in Syria post-crisis, thereby contributing to sector development and boosting innovation and competitiveness for engineering companies.

Keywords: Total Quality Management; Manufacturing Integration Modeling; Efficiency and Productivity Improvement; Departmental Collaboration; Risks and Safety; Information Accessibility Challenges; Participant Availability; Data Consistency; Quality in Engineering Operations

1. Introduction

This study represents a deep exploration of implementing Flexible Integrated Manufacturing (FIM) within the context of quality management for engineering firms. FIM signifies a qualitative shift in how engineering and construction projects are executed[2]. The research aims to gain a profound understanding of the challenges and opportunities associated with applying this modern approach, and how it can enhance operational efficiency and the quality of final products. In the engineering industry, quality management is crucial for ensuring business sustainability and effective competitiveness in the market[3]. Through the adoption of FIM,[4] engineering companies seek to integrate manufacturing and production processes in the early stages of project lifecycle, thereby enhancing their capability to deliver high-quality projects and achieve sustainable customer satisfaction. This study explores the complexities of integrating FIM with traditional quality management systems, examining how to strike a balance between streamlining processes and maintaining high-quality standards. The research employs a methodical analysis of FIM's impact on overall project quality, providing valuable insights and guidance for engineering enterprises to improve their practices and enhance operational efficiency.[5]

2. Literature Review

Manufacturing Integration Modeling (MIM) represents a modern and advanced technique aimed at integrating various manufacturing processes into a comprehensive and efficient model[6]. This approach utilizes advanced technologies such as additive manufacturing and digital simulation to achieve seamless integration and enhance

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manufacturing process efficiency.[7] Previous studies highlight the importance of these technologies and their challenges within real manufacturing contexts, underscoring the critical need for comprehensive and effective operational frameworks aligned with modern production advancements.[8, 9]

Current literature includes the study "Towards Fabrication Information Modeling (FIM): Four Case Models to Derive Designs informed by Multi-Scale Trans-Disciplinary Data," which demonstrates the use of multi-disciplinary data to improve design and manufacturing processes. Additionally, the study "Fabrication Information Modeling:[10] interfacing building information modeling with digital fabrication" explores integrating Building Information Modeling (BIM) with digital fabrication to enhance productivity and reduce costs. Furthermore, the study "Quality Management Method for Prefabricated Building Design Based on BIM and VR-Integrated Technology"[11] reviews the application of BIM and Virtual Reality (VR) technologies to enhance quality management during prefabricated building design.[12, 13]

These literature sources indicate that Manufacturing Integration Modeling is a necessary step towards improving production process efficiency. However, ongoing research is required to develop modeling frameworks that adapt to the complexities of real manufacturing environments, thereby enhancing manufacturing process efficiency and supporting innovation in production engineering.[14]

3. Methodology

The research methodology to achieve the research objectives includes a comparative analytical approach. This will be conducted by comparing companies or industries of similar size and scope that have implemented Fabrication Information Modeling (FIM). [15] Data related to quality procedures and FIM practices will be gathered through interviews, surveys, observations, and document analysis. Subsequently, the collected data will be analyzed using comparative research methods such as benchmarking or gap analysis.[16] This analysis will involve identifying similarities and differences in quality procedures and FIM practices between the engineering company and similar industries. Based on the data analysis, quality procedures incorporating best practices from comparable companies or industries will be developed. These procedures will address areas for improvement through a case study of the FIM model and conducting interviews with company employees and targeted managers responsible for implementing quality procedures for FIM application[13]. By engaging a diverse group of stakeholders from various departments and levels within the engineering company,[17] a comprehensive understanding of challenges, opportunities, and best practices related to implementing quality procedures for Manufacturing Integration Modeling can be obtained.[18]

Data Analysis

Designing a cabinet using Revit software led to an applied study on the SCM Morbidelli CX 100 CNC Drilling Center and its integration into Manufacturing Integration Modeling processes. The study focuses on best practices for implementing quality assurance within an engineering company. Using Revit to integrate the CNC machine involves several steps to ensure accurate translation of design data into machine instructions. The workflow proceeds as follows:

Design: Begin by creating a detailed three-dimensional model of the part or assembly in Revit. **Parameters:** Set common parameters for model elements that will be used to generate the **Scheduling:** Use Revit's scheduling feature to create cut lists or part lists that include all .**Export:** Export the data from Revit to a format understandable by the CNC machine, such as DXF or CSV, depending on the machine's requirements.[19] **Machine Setup:** Input the exported data into the CNC machine software, and configure the machine with the correct tools and materials. **Simulation:** If available, run a simulation of the machining operation to verify for errors or inefficiencies. **Manufacturing:** Execute the automated machining operation on the CNC machine.[20]

Create a New Family for the Cabinet:In Revit, families represent individual components or objects. Since the Morbidelli CX100 is not a standard Revit family, we will create a custom family for the cabinet. Begin by navigating to the "Manage" tab and selecting "Family Types." Then, create a new family using the "Generic Model" template and name it "Cabinet."

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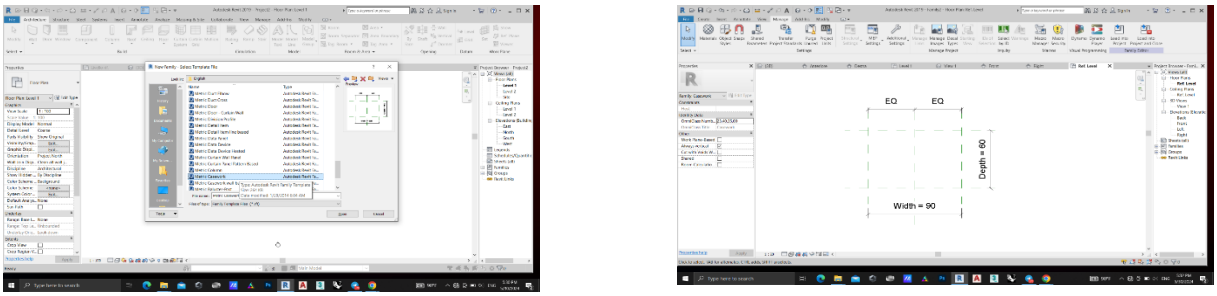

Figure 1. The first stage of modeling

In the family editor, use the following tools to create a basic representation of the cabinet:

- Extrusion: Create the main body parts of the cabinet and its components (e.g., doors and shelves).

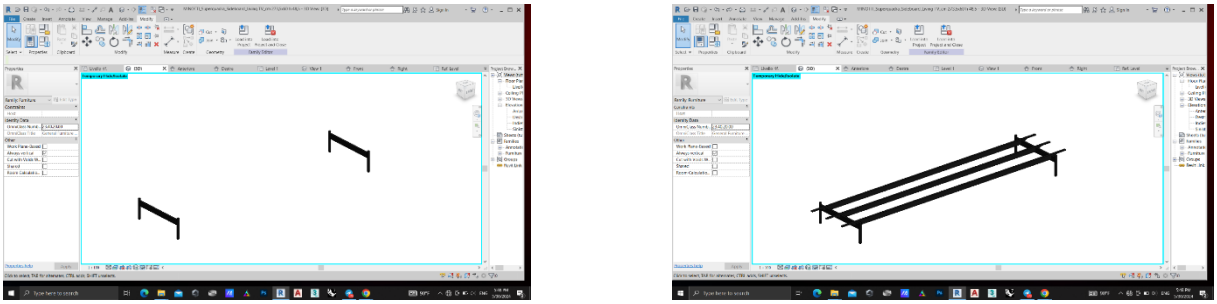

Figure 2. The second stage of modeling

- Void Forms: Use void forms to cut holes for hinges, handles, and other hardware.
- Parameters: Define parameters for dimensions, materials, and other properties.
- Loadable Families: If you have specific components (e.g., handles), load them as separate Families into your main cabinet family. Place handles, knobs, and hinges using appropriate Revit families.
- Add shelves and partitions: Create additional extrusions for shelves and compartments within the cabinet and adjust their heights and positions.

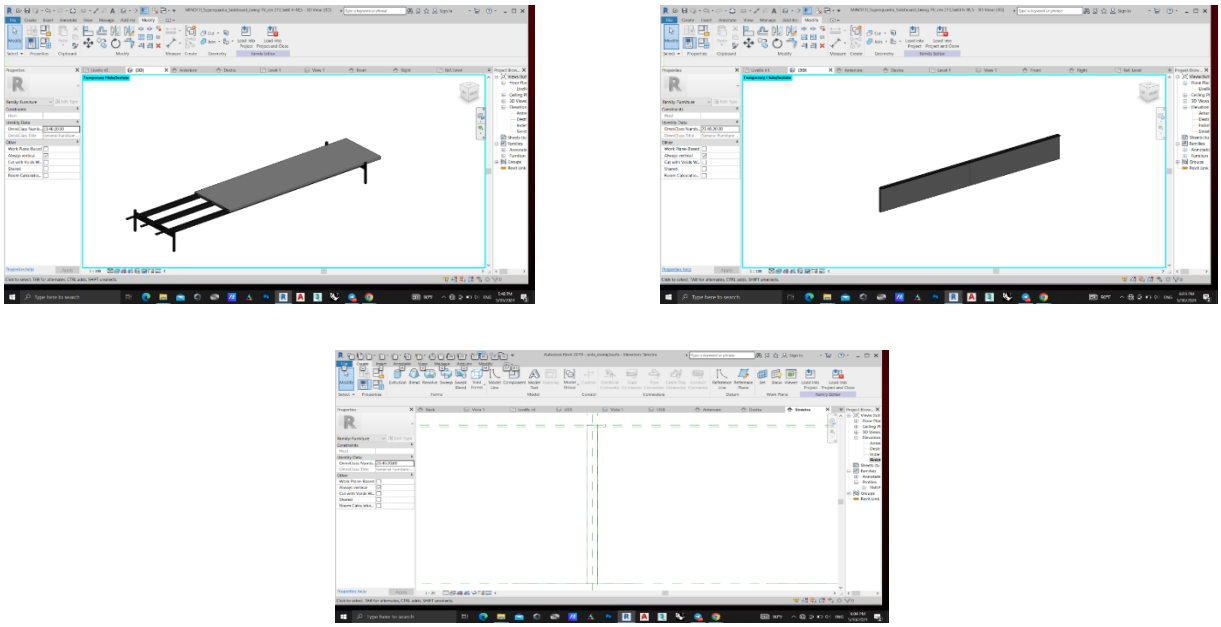

Figure 3. The third stage of modeling

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Integration with Morbidelli CX100 Features

Drilling Holes: To simulate holes drilled by the CNC machine, create void forms within cabinet panels.

Use the Void Extrusion tool to cut holes where adjustable shelf pins or screws are desired.

Adjust the dimensions of the holes based on your design.

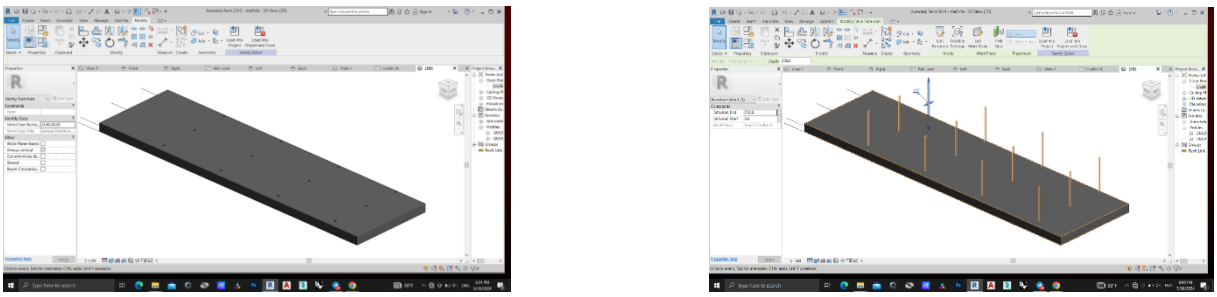


Figure 4. The fourth stage of modeling

Grooves: For grooves or channels, create additional void forms. These can represent decorative grooves on cabinet doors or side panels and adjust their dimensions and positions.

Vertical Grooving (CNC Feature): Similar to grooves, create void forms to represent vertical grooving where these can serve as decorative patterns or functional features.

Apply Materials: Apply appropriate materials to different parts of the cabinet such as wood for the cabinet body and shelves, metallic texture for hardware components (handles and hinges), and glass texture for any transparent sections (such as glass doors).

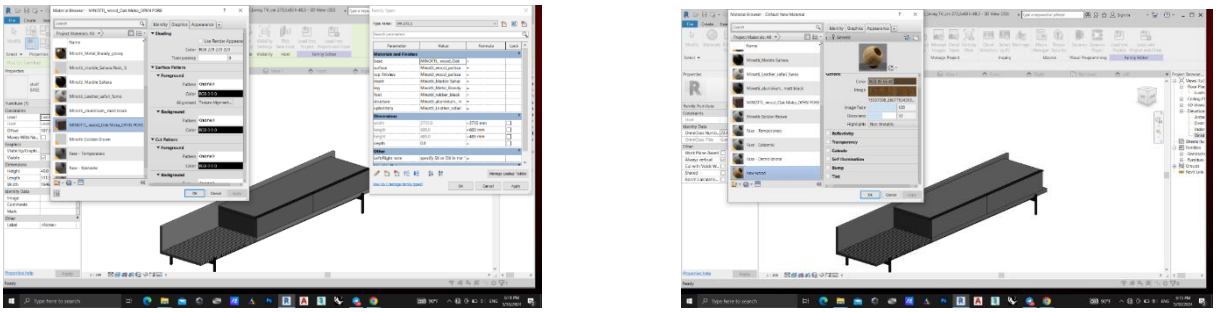
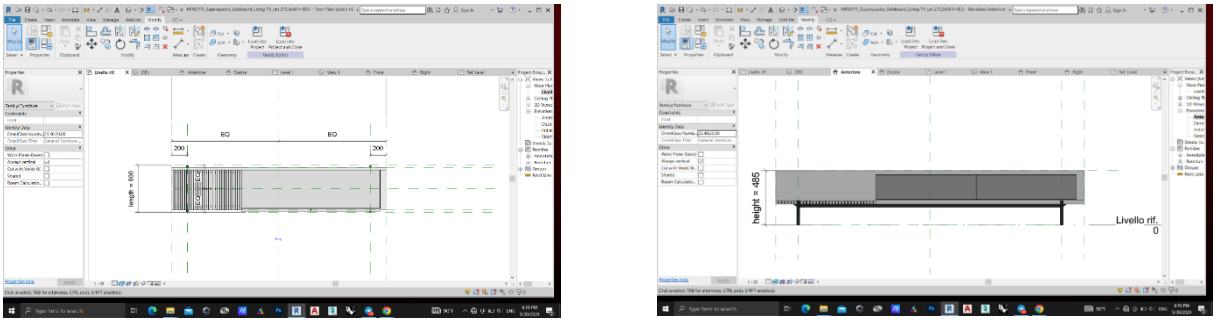


Figure 5. The fifth stage of modeling

Create plan views, elevations, and sections to document the cabinet.



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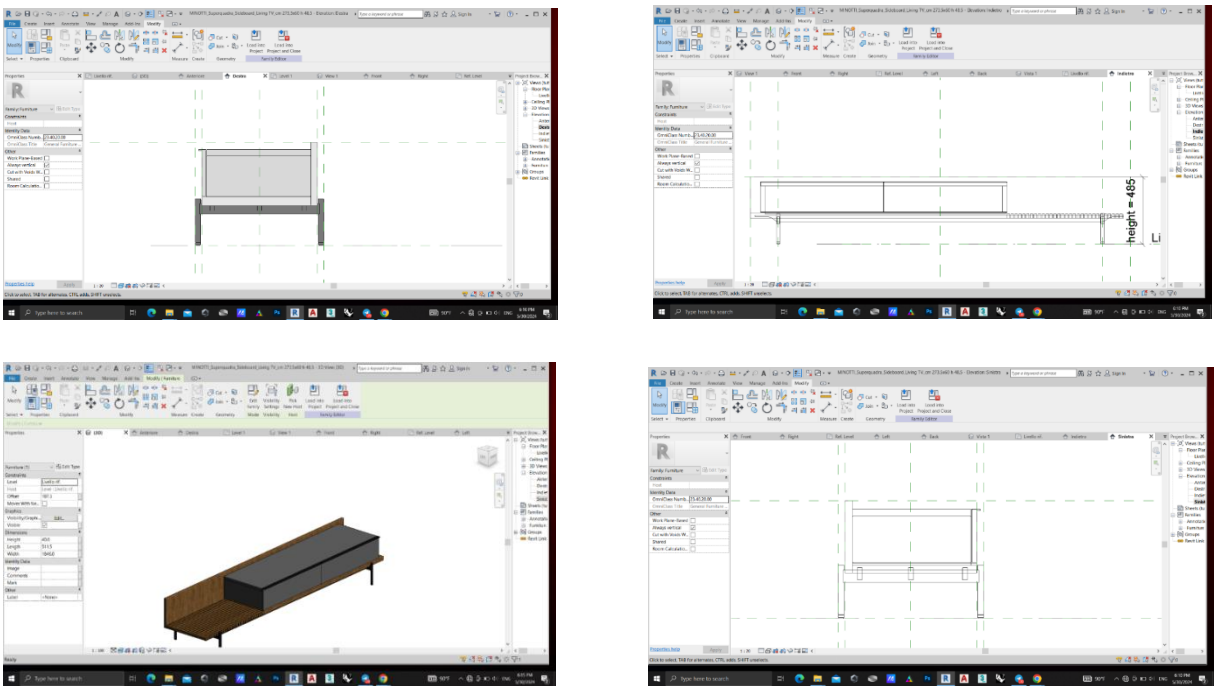

Figure 6. Add dimensions and labels for informational connectivity.

4. Discussion

Integrating Revit effectively with a CNC machine like the SCM Morbidelli CX100 is a fundamental step in streamlining manufacturing processes and enhancing their efficiency. Revit, as a BIM[12] software, empowers designers to create precise and detailed 3D models, including accurate dimensions, material specifications, and visualizations.[3] This level of detail facilitates CNC machines such as the SCM Morbidelli CX100 to read and interpret models accurately, leading to reduced errors and improved accuracy in cutting, drilling, and shaping processes. Consequently, the integration between Revit and CNC machines achieves consistent quality, high precision, increased productivity, efficiency gains, waste reduction, cost savings, simplified workflow, and project management. Despite these benefits, challenges and obstacles exist in manufacturing operations using this integration, such as initial setup and software integration requiring preliminary setup of supplementary programs and ensuring model compatibility with machine requirements.[11] Optimization of tool paths and settings is also crucial to enhance efficiency and improve cutting quality, involving the correct tool path information such as speed and depth of cut. Adequate training for employees and development of necessary technical skills are essential for the effective use of Revit-CNC integration [21].

5. Conclusions

- **Summary of Key Findings**

Strategically implementing Integrated Manufacturing Modeling, supported by Comprehensive Quality Management procedures, is considered a fundamental element in the engineering company's pursuit of excellence. This integration facilitates seamless transition from design to production, ensuring that each manufactured component meets the highest standards of accuracy and quality.[22] Leveraging these advanced methodologies not only enhances the company's operational efficiency but also fosters a culture of continuous improvement and innovation. Quality management procedures play a prominent role in this integration, providing a structured framework for systematic monitoring, evaluation, and enhancement of manufacturing processes. These procedures ensure alignment of all stakeholders with the company's quality objectives, leading to improved operational efficiency, reduced production costs, and minimized errors. Moreover, Integrated Manufacturing Modeling serves as a catalyst for collaboration among multifunctional teams, bridging the gap between engineers, manufacturers, and quality assurance personnel. This collaborative environment encourages knowledge exchange and problem-solving, thereby enhancing workflow and product lifecycle robustness [22].

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- **Concluding Remarks**

Companies should enhance education and training on financial information management, alongside regular quality audit procedures and fostering a culture of continuous improvement. This aims to strengthen the understanding of financial methodologies among all team members and effectively implement them, contributing to monitoring and improving the financial information system and ensuring compliance with quality standards. The use of feedback loops and data analysis enhances the effectiveness of quality control processes and ensures continuous improvement in financial information management[23], thereby enhancing overall company performance and effectively achieving financial and operational objectives.

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