A peek into ALEC & Cundall's collaborative BRAINS

The winning group, which included Calum Perey, structural engineer for Cundall and Shaun Mahlungu, contract quantity surveyor for ALEC, developed an innovative model called BRAINS - the Built Environment Ranking Artificial Intelligence Network System, which leverages ubiquitous computing and "artificial intelligence fed by global information", applying it for the built environment and the construction industry.

Construction Week's editor, Ashley Williams sat down with Perey and Mahlungu to get details on the collaborative project as part of the *Construction Week Viewpoint* weekly series.

"Going beyond emerging technologies"

Speaking with *Construction Week* about the project, Perey, said: "While thinking of what could be the 'project of the future', we decided to go beyond the emerging technologies in the built environment such as artificial intelligence and 3D printing and combine it together to better serve the society."

Perey aptly compared the BRAINS model, born out of the Cundall and ALEC partnership, to an "artificial brain", which is structured to help designers, developers and contractors to create what the built environment needs.

"The model evaluates everything from the cradle of procurement to the design as well as compares other designs and passes on information about delivering improved designs to the society."