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Additional Information



21 **KEYWORDS:** Building Residential, Integration, Owner, Spain, Success

22

## 23 **INTRODUCTION**

### 24 Problem Statement

25 The topic of project team integration has been studied internationally as a means to improve  
26 project success (Nam and Tatum 1992; Latham 1994). Project team integration, through more  
27 interaction and collaboration early in the design process, has led to success in mitigating  
28 industry fragmentation on a project-by-project basis (El Asmar et al. 2013; Konchar and Sanvido  
29 1998). Along these lines, Pocock et al. (1996) acknowledged that projects with low degree of  
30 interaction had a wide range of cost and schedule growth and number of modifications, while  
31 projects with high degree of interaction tended to have better and more consistent  
32 performance indicators. Konchar and Sanvido (1998) concluded that more integrated delivery  
33 methods (design-build, construction manager at risk, and design-bid-build in descending order  
34 of integration) provided better results in terms of cost and schedule. They also found that  
35 design-build projects performed equal to, or better than, the other less integrated delivery  
36 methods.

37 While these results are promising, there are gaps in knowledge about project  
38 integration and performance. For example, within the construction industry, the building of  
39 multi-family residential housing has always been the biggest piece of the market; i.e., it  
40 comprises at least forty percent of new construction in both the United States and Spain  
41 (Department of Commerce 2015; SEOPAN 2014). This market is characterized by private owners  
42 who have to comply with construction standards and zoning regulations basically, but have the  
43 latitude to form teams that can meet the customers' desires. Civil engineering works, on the  
44 other hand, are mainly developed by public agencies that have to follow strict procedures and  
45 regulations (Molenaar et al. 1999; de la Cruz et al. 2006; Winch 2010). The final piece of the

46 market is composed of industrial and commercial buildings in which, most of the time, the  
47 investment is very large and the design and construction show wider ranges of typology and  
48 complexity (Knutson et al. 2008). Therefore, the building residential sub-sector seems a  
49 promising target in order to analyze project team integration, due to the fact that owners have  
50 enough flexibility in their team configuration and development, there is a large enough sample  
51 of fairly homogeneous projects and, in general, owners are more willing to cooperate because  
52 they do not fear public exposure, such as in civil engineering infrastructures and in large  
53 industrial and commercial facilities (Flyvbjerg 2007). Little research exists to define project  
54 team integration in this setting and determine how it impacts project success.

55

#### 56 Context of Inquiry

57 This research is focused on the Spanish building residential sub-sector. Within this context, the  
58 design and construction market is fundamentally limited to design-bid-build project delivery  
59 (Pellicer and Victory 2006; Pellicer et al. 2014). In Spain, the building of residential housing has  
60 always been the biggest piece of the market: 43% out of the total new facilities built, a figure  
61 very similar to the one from the U.S. (Department of Commerce 2015), and 647,000 new homes  
62 built in 2007 (developed from SEOPAN 2014).

63 The financial crisis of 2007 affected the construction sector deeply, mainly in the  
64 European Mediterranean countries; this crisis was especially intense in Spain because of the  
65 real estate bubble (Carballo-Cruz 2011). Comparing data from the beginning of the crisis in  
66 2007 to the peak of the crisis in 2013, there was a reduction of 82% in public procurement, 94%  
67 in new building production, and 89% in isolated single-housing (CNC 2014). Furthermore, from  
68 2008 to 2013, 33% of the companies working in the construction industry were forced into  
69 bankruptcy (CNC 2014).

70 In this declining market with high numbers of offers and very low owner demand, only

71 the best can stay in business (Oviedo-Haito et al. 2014). During difficult economic times, owners  
72 frequently move towards low bid construction procurement to take advantage of competitive  
73 markets. Some multi-family housing developers have looked to low prices in the market to  
74 sustain business while others have employed integrated construction teams as a strategy. The  
75 multi-family housing market provides an excellent laboratory to explore the impacts of  
76 integration on Spanish building construction.

77

### 78 Goal of the Research

79 Given the gaps in understanding of how integration impacts performance combined with the  
80 opportunity to study the Spanish building market in this unprecedented time of change, the  
81 objective of this research is to explore the effect of integration on performance in the Spanish  
82 multi-family housing design and construction sector. Baiden and Price (2011, p.129) define  
83 team integration as “where different disciplines or organizations with different needs and  
84 cultures merge into a single cohesive and mutually supporting unit.” This paper will more  
85 specifically define integration for the Spanish residential building sector. The next section  
86 presents a literature review on performance measures as they relate to project delivery  
87 characteristics and integration. A thorough explanation of the research method follows. The  
88 approach involved a survey of 31 Spanish building projects (i.e., the building being the unit of  
89 analysis); the responses for each project were obtained from the owners and main contractors,  
90 all of them using structured interviews. The results were analyzed with a principal component  
91 analysis (PCA) to understand and categorize the level of integration on the projects. With this  
92 understanding, eight in-depth case studies were conducted, representing the best and worst  
93 performing projects for both integrated and non-integrated projects, to derive the conclusions.  
94 The research conclusions provide a characterization of integration in the Spanish residential  
95 building market and explore the effects of this integration on project success. The paper

96 concludes with a discussion of how these results relate to the body of knowledge in design and  
97 construction integration and how the findings may be generalized outside of the Spanish multi-  
98 family residential building market.

99

## 100 **MEASURING PROJECT SUCCESS**

101 As the methodology section of this paper explains, the research involves an examination of  
102 input variables, decision variables and outcome variables to determine the impacts of  
103 integration. A thorough literature review was used to identify more than 250 potential  
104 variables. The research team used a structured workshop or “research charrette” to prioritize  
105 the list of variables. The research charrette provides for multiple industry experts to interact in  
106 a structured manner (Gibson and Whittington 2009). A two-day charrette workshop was held  
107 with the authors and a panel of industry professionals, which included two general contractors,  
108 two specialty contractors, three owners, two lawyers and one architect. All attendees had at  
109 least 15 years of experience in the construction industry. Beginning with the end in mind, the  
110 outcome variables are explained first. Outcome variables define project success such as time  
111 and cost; the literature is rich in this area. Decision variables, which are those variables that  
112 define project team integration such as timing of builder involvement and procurement  
113 methods, are explained next. Again, the literature is rich in this area. Input variables are  
114 explained last. These are simply the project characteristics such as building type and size. This  
115 section explains each of these variables in order to describe how success and integration are  
116 measured in this study.

117

### 118 **Outcome Variables**

119 The literature is deep in the exploration of variables that define design and construction project  
120 performance. These are often referred to as success factors. Definitions vary based upon the

121 scenario that the researchers are analyzing and the perspectives of the stakeholders. For  
122 example, owners often look for a certain level of quality as the main driver when they will own  
123 a facility throughout its lifespan. They will also look closely at meeting a schedule if the project  
124 is revenue generating or if it has definitive occupancy needs. Contractors are also concerned  
125 with quality and schedule, but cost is usually the main factor that defines project success from  
126 their business perspective. Table 1 summarizes 15 of the most relevant contributions to this  
127 topic. The qualitative and quantitative measures refer to performance measures and project  
128 success. It draws attention to the fact that the 12 of the 15 studies use both quantitative and  
129 qualitative measures of success. All studies use some form of quantitative measures, generally  
130 through project cost and schedule growth. Fewer use qualitative measures, but those that do  
131 tend to apply these measures to project quality and/or general user satisfaction with the  
132 project.

133 *<Insert Table 1 here>*

134

### 135 **Decision Variables**

136 The decision variables are those that help us to explain the outcome variables in relation to the  
137 focus of the study, which is project integration. Project integration is directly discussed in the  
138 literature. It is also indirectly discussed through topics such as project delivery method,  
139 procurement procedures, team characteristics, and team integration.

140 The four primary delivery methods, in ascending order of integration, are: design-bid-  
141 build, construction management at risk, design-build, and integrated project delivery. It is  
142 worth saying that sometimes the boundaries between them can be ambiguous. The design-bid-  
143 build project delivery method is the most used method worldwide; it is commonly named the  
144 traditional method of project delivery. The owner grants the design to an architect or engineer  
145 (generally an architectural firm and consulting engineering). When the design is completed in

146 detail and approved by the owner, the project is bid to a constructor; in this approach the  
147 contractor has no input during the design phase. Construction management at risk begins to  
148 provide more integration by including the constructor in the design phase (Konchar and Sanvido  
149 1997). The owner still has separate contracts with the designer and constructor; the contract  
150 with the constructor contains two parts: (1) preconstruction services, and (2) construction.  
151 Design-build uses a single entity to delivery both design and construction (Beard et al. 2001;  
152 Molenaar et al. 1999); the single contract between the owner and design-builder, which is  
153 generally signed based on a basic design, inherently requires integration within the design-build  
154 entity. Integrated project delivery is an emerging approach to promote more integration and  
155 collaboration among the owner, designer and constructor (El Asmar et al. 2013). One  
156 multiparty contract is signed by all core team members. The basis of this contract is a  
157 relationship of trust between the contractual parties (Ballard and Howell 2003; El Asmar et al.  
158 2013). Some authors (Kumaraswamy et al., 2005; Rahman and Kumaraswamy 2008) indicated  
159 that cooperative team-working is improved by moving from classical to relational contracting;  
160 the main barrier to collaborative team-working is mainly the lack of trust. According to these  
161 authors there are four factors that encourage cooperative team-working: owner's  
162 competencies, prior interactions, compatible organizational culture, and better selection of  
163 project partners.

164 In the Spanish construction industry, the most popular delivery method among public  
165 agencies is the traditional design-bid-build (de la Cruz et al. 2006; SEOPAN 2014). Design-bid-  
166 build is also the most common delivery method used by private developers (Pellicer et al.  
167 2014). The reason stems from the fact that the Spanish Building Act 38/1999 shields the  
168 architect and prevents the implementation of other delivery methods (Pellicer and Victory  
169 2006). In addition, in Spain, integrated project delivery is virtually unknown in the industry,  
170 whereas construction management at risk is seldom used (and only by industrial or commercial



171 developers). Design-build was used in the past (starting in the 1970s) but abandoned twenty  
172 years ago maybe because of its misuse by some public agencies (Pellicer et al. 2014). Due to the  
173 fact that design-bid-build is the most prevalent delivery method in Spain, this research cannot  
174 directly explore project delivery methods as a means of integration in the Spanish design and  
175 construction industry. However, the characteristics of integration in project delivery methods,  
176 such as early involvement of key construction team members in design, can be studied to see if  
177 they lead to success. The effects of procurement and contracting methods on team integration  
178 and success can also be studied.

179         There are five primary procurement methods that can effect integration: low bid, one-  
180 stage best-value, two-stage best-value, pre-qualified negotiation, and sole source negotiation.  
181 Low bid procurement seeks competitive pricing through an open bidding process that awards a  
182 project to the lowest responsible bidder (El Wardani et al. 2006). Best-value procurements  
183 consider factors in addition to price, therefore requiring a request for proposal (RFP) from the  
184 owner and a proposal of technical and/or qualification from the constructor (Molenaar and  
185 Johnson 2003; El Wardani et al. 2006). When the RFP process is open, this is referred to as a  
186 one-stage best-value procurement. When process includes a short-listing of proposers (most  
187 often based on qualification) this is referred as a two-stage best-value procurement. In a pre-  
188 qualified negotiation, the owner makes a request for qualifications (RFQ) to short-list a number  
189 of firms (short-list) and they directly negotiates with the most qualified team(s) to achieve a  
190 reasonable price (Beard et al. 2001). When the request is made to only one company, it  
191 becomes a sole source negotiation (El Wardani et al. 2006). The type of procurement method  
192 can impact integration. Low bid procurement does not typically facilitate integration between  
193 the owner, designer and constructor. One and two-stage best-value procurements provide  
194 more opportunity for integration as more factors besides price are added to the  
195 technical/qualifications portion of the proposal. The use of negotiation in procurement

196 provides the highest opportunity to introduce team integration.

197           On the topic of the procurement procedures, open bid and one-stage request of  
198 proposals (RFP) are mostly applied in Spanish public contracting (de la Cruz et al. 2006). Open  
199 bid takes into consideration the price, while the one-stage RFP is focused on the best value,  
200 considering factors such as technical proposal, schedule, team experience, and quality and  
201 safety control procedures (Pellicer et al. 2014). For one-stage RFP, the price is weighted 50% or  
202 more in public contracts due to European regulations (European Commission 2004). The two-  
203 stage RFP is occasionally employed by public developers (de la Cruz et al. 2006); however, it is  
204 used by private owners (Pellicer and Victory 2006). For two-stage RFP, the technical proposals  
205 are delivered first and pre-qualified bidders are short-listed; later, these qualified bidders  
206 deliver the economic offer (Molenaar et al. 1999). Private owners from time to time apply other  
207 strategies such as the qualifications-based or the sole source (Pellicer et al. 2014).

208

### 209 **Input Variables**

210 Finally, the literature review provides us with definitions for input variables. Input variables  
211 refers to factors such as type of building, gross floor area of the project, number of floors above  
212 and below ground level, complexity, percentage of prefabrication, and so on. These  
213 characteristics vary a lot from study to study. The studies have ranged in size from just a few to  
214 more than 100 as seen in Table 1. Generally, these studies establish them a priori, determining  
215 the focus of the research: private or public, vertical or horizontal, minimum or maximum area,  
216 etc. With this description of output, decision and input variables, the study's research method  
217 can be explained.

218

219 **RESEARCH METHOD**

220 As stated in the Introduction, the goal of this study is to explore how integration affects  
221 performance in the Spanish multi-family housing sector. For this purpose, the unit of analysis is  
222 the building project. The research is carried out in the phases shown in Figure 1. In the first  
223 phase, the representatives of the owner and the constructor of 31 building projects were  
224 surveyed face-to-face in order to clarify any doubts on the questionnaire (structured  
225 interviews); most of the questions addressed owners, and only some of the questions targeted  
226 contractors (i.e., either to check the quantitative data or to get a more precise response on  
227 some topics). The questions were designed to capture the degree of integration in Spanish  
228 residential building projects.

229 After collecting the data, the research team aimed to compare highly integrated  
230 projects with less integrated ones. However, the variables included in the questionnaire were  
231 not mutually exclusive, which made it difficult to cluster projects based on their level of  
232 integration. For example, “timeliness of communication” and “team chemistry” can be  
233 correlated, which makes it difficult to give equal weight to all questions. Therefore, the  
234 research team needed to transform variables in such a way as to remove multicollinearity  
235 among variables. One of the most effective techniques for reducing multicollinearity among  
236 variables in a multivariate dataset is principal component analysis (PCA), which reduces the  
237 dimensionality of a data set consisting of a large number of interrelated variables while  
238 retaining as much of the variation present in the data set as possible (Hair et al. 2009; Field  
239 2013). A principal component analysis was performed on these 31 projects to determine how  
240 the variables relating to project integration interacted and to determine which projects would  
241 be best for in-depth case studies. Eight of the best and worst performing projects were selected  
242 and analyzed thoroughly as case studies to deepen the knowledge of integration, behavior, and  
243 performance.

244           <Insert Figure 1 here>

245

## 246   **Project Questionnaire and Data Collection**

247   The project questionnaire was written to comprehensively capture the input, decision and  
248   output variables that might apply to the research. The outcome variables were potential  
249   measures for cost, schedule and quality performance. The input variables in the project  
250   questionnaire were chosen to describe the physical and contextual aspects of the project. The  
251   input variables included items such as foundation type, square footage of project, number of  
252   floors and other physical items that describe the project. The decision variables included those  
253   that the owner could influence when defining the project. The team selected 16 potential  
254   decisions variables from the literature on project integration and project success. These  
255   variables included direct owner decisions and team behaviors that the owner could influence  
256   with their decisions. Examples of these decision variables include the owner's type of  
257   relationship with the project team, team's prior experience as a unit, project team chemistry,  
258   timeliness of owner decisions, owner's ability to make a decision, involvement of end users, co-  
259   location, formal vs. informal communication, compromise on project issues, timeliness of  
260   communication, contingency approach, and commitment to the project goals. The  
261   questionnaire survey was organized in the following sections to provide a logical flow in the  
262   interviews: project characterization, project costs, project schedule, project quality, project  
263   safety, sustainability, procurement, payment provisions, team characteristics, team behavior,  
264   process and technology, project success, and lesson learned. There were several questions on  
265   the questionnaire that required using a rating scale; some authors have suggested than using  
266   even number for response categories can lead to indecisive data, suggesting even numbers for  
267   response categories (Busch 1993; Cohen et al. 2011; Reid 1990). Considering these previous  
268   studies, the research team decided to use a Likert scale with six response categories. A detailed

269 explanation of the steps carried out to design this questionnaire survey can be found in Esmaili  
270 et al. (2013) and Pellicer et al. (2014).

271 This questionnaire was validated in two manners. First, the questionnaire was given to  
272 10 experts with more than 15 years of experience in the Spanish building residential sub-sector.  
273 Respondents were asked for feedback on completeness and clarity of the questionnaire.  
274 Second, pilot interviews were conducted with one owner and one contractor to ensure that the  
275 questions were properly understood. The validation resulted in minor changes to the  
276 questionnaire.

277 A broad sample of owners and contractors was considered to gather the data; they  
278 were chosen by convenience through professional associations. The research team decided to  
279 guarantee the maximum reliability of the responses in two ways: (1) the questionnaire was  
280 administered face-to-face as a structured interview so any doubts could be clarified by the  
281 interviewer in real time; and (2) for every project there was a pair of respondents,  
282 representatives of the owner and contractor. Therefore, two interviews were done for each  
283 project, even though not the same questions were asked to owner and contractor, as explained  
284 next. If there were inconsistencies in the answers for the objective data, the research team  
285 went back to check with every interviewee; regarding the subjective data, a protocol was  
286 followed and, depending on the question, the value from one of the respondents (for nominal  
287 variables) or the average value (for ordinal variables) was considered as the one representative  
288 of the project.

289 The process to get in touch with the respondents started with a telephone call  
290 explaining the basics of the research and inquiring about the potential respondent's willingness  
291 to participate. Then, the research team sent an email asking for the hard data of the project.  
292 Due to the fact that two respondents per project were needed, and considering the length of  
293 the questionnaire as well as the current crisis in the Spanish construction industry, only 35

294 projects were gathered; all of them were finished after 2005. However, four of them were  
295 discarded because of the incompleteness of the responses (two), inconsistency of the  
296 responses (one), or the outlying characteristics of the building project (one); the latter was an  
297 unusually tall building (43 floors) with a special design and location. Therefore, the final sample  
298 was comprised of 31 projects (comprising a total of 62 structured interviews, two per project).  
299 All the respondents were project managers working for private developers (owners) or  
300 construction companies (contractors) with, at least, 10 years of experience. The average  
301 duration of the face-to-face structured interviews was approximately two hours.

302

### 303 **Descriptive Statistics**

304 Data were analyzed using IBM SPSS Statistics (version 16.0). First, descriptive statistics of the  
305 variables were developed to provide an understanding for the context of the buildings being  
306 studied. The projects had a wide range of size, as measured by square footage and cost, as well  
307 as a wide range of duration. Cost data was updated to March 2015, considering economic  
308 inflation. Note that duration was inclusive of both design and construction. Project complexity  
309 was measured on a six-point Likert scale (1=low and 6=high). The median response was a 3 and  
310 the complexity level of the projects was quite well distributed. Table 2 provides the summary-  
311 level descriptive statistics for the study sample.

312 *<Insert Table 2 here>*

313 Tables 3 and 4 provide example decision variables. These tables do not include all of the  
314 variables that were explored; rather, the tables introduce the variables that were found to be  
315 related indicators of integration and success in the PCA that will be discussed later in this sub-  
316 section. These variables served to aid in case studies selection, which will be discussed in the  
317 next sub-section.

318 As previously stated, the Spanish design and construction industry relies almost

319 exclusively on design-bid-build project delivery. Constructors and specialty contractors normally  
320 enter late, if not at the very end, of the design process. These facts constrained the ability to  
321 study integration through delivery methods. Related to the project delivery method, however,  
322 is the fact that some developers maintain in-house construction services, thereby acting as  
323 integrated developer-builders. While these organizations are not true design-builders because  
324 they outsource design services, they demonstrate more integration than those developers who  
325 outsource both design and construction. As seen in Table 3, the projects had a good distribution  
326 of 58% non-integrated (outsourced construction) and 42% integrated (in-house construction)  
327 developers.

328 Table 3 also provides a description of the important procurement differences that were  
329 discovered. Although design-bid-build is the primary delivery method, Spanish developers have  
330 multiple options in procuring designers and constructors. Rarely is price the only selection  
331 factor. The study population used 61% two-stage best-value procurement and 39% sole source  
332 procurement. Given this flexibility in procurement, it was found that only 26% of the  
333 procurements resulted in a first-time relationship between the developer and designer or  
334 contractor. As discussed later in the paper, these procurement characteristics were discovered  
335 to be determinants of team integration and project success.

336 *<Insert Table 3 here>*

337 Table 4 provides Likert scale decision variable examples. Similarly, Table 4 is not  
338 exhaustive of the decision variables that were studied, but it provides a description of the  
339 variables that were found to be related indicators of success and that were used to select the  
340 project case studies. Spanish developers can chose from a variety of project types. They can  
341 also choose builders that have experience on similar facilities. Experience was measured on  
342 similar projects on a six-point Likert scale from low to high for both the owner and the  
343 contractor. As gleaned from the literature, owners' decisions regarding their timeliness of

344 communication, influence on team goal commitment and creation of an environment to enable  
345 team chemistry are among the decisions that owners control or influence and have the  
346 potential to impact project integration and success. These variables were most appropriately  
347 measured on the same Likert scale.

348 *<Insert Table 4 here>*

349 Table 5 summarizes the outcome variables that were chosen for the study. Although  
350 many outcome variables were identified to measure project success, some of them can be  
351 illusive or even inappropriate. In the data set, for example, schedule growth, as measured by a  
352 percentage difference between the original schedule and the final schedule, and cost growth,  
353 as measured by a percentage difference between the original cost and the final cost, were not  
354 appropriate measures of success. The reason is that the projects were speculative buildings  
355 (i.e., residences for sale). The ability of the developer to wait for a residential sale and add cost  
356 through upgrades was more important than minimizing the final time and cost against the  
357 budget; particularly during the Spanish financial crisis. From the data set, three outcome  
358 variables emerged as the best measures of project success: overall project success; overall  
359 quality; and amount of call-backs. While these variables are more qualitative, for example than  
360 cost growth, they are an appropriate measure of project success and agree with other work in  
361 measuring success relating to project integration (Konchar and Sanvido 1998; Molenaar and  
362 Songer 1998). They allow the respondents to synthesize the many facets of project success that  
363 some of the more quantitative measures cannot address. Additionally, these variables were  
364 assessed by the owner. Table 5 shows the results for overall project success, overall quality and  
365 call-backs. All three of these variables use a Likert scale, which is commonly applied in the  
366 literature.

367 *<Insert Table 5 here>*

368



## 369 **Principal Component Analysis**

370 To better understand the decision variables and remove multicollinearity among variables, the  
371 team conducted a PCA to condense the dimensionality of the data space using latent, or  
372 underlying, variables (Field 2013). The PCA computes a smaller number of variables (called  
373 factors or principal components) that are a linear combination of the original variables as well  
374 as independent among them; their average is 0 and their standard deviation is 1. The goal of  
375 the PCA is that the new factors retain as much information as possible from the original  
376 scenario based on the relationships among variables, but simplify the structure of the  
377 information (Cohen et al. 2011).

378         There are two types of assumptions for PCA, the conceptual and statistical (Hair et al.  
379 2009). The conceptual assumptions require that some underlying structure should exist in the  
380 set of selected variables and that the sample should be homogenous. In this study, an in-depth  
381 literature review was conducted to identify variables that define integration in a project, and  
382 consequently, the research team assumes that there is a latent structure among these variables  
383 that needs to be detected. In addition, the sample was selected from Spanish residential  
384 building projects, which satisfies the assumption of homogeneity of data.

385         In conducting PCA, conceptual assumptions are much more important than statistical  
386 assumptions, and the departure from normality, homoscedasticity, and linearity in a majority of  
387 cases does not have a significant impact on the final outcome. However, before conducting the  
388 PCA analysis, one needs to test whether the data are factorable or whether there is sufficient  
389 intercorrelation between variables. To test the overall measure of intercorrelation, the research  
390 team analyzed the anti-image correlation matrix and conducted the Bartlett test of sphericity  
391 and the Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin (KMO) test, as described in Hair et al. (2009).

392         The study began with 16 decision variables, as stated previously, and ended up with  
393 eight variables through a step-wise PCA process. Variables with a measure of sampling

394 adequacy of less than 0.5 were excluded one by one from the analysis (Field 2013; Hair et al.  
395 2009). In order to comply with a minimum ratio of four or five responses per variable in the  
396 PCA, the research aimed to get a final set of seven or eight variables for the PCA (Martin-Martin  
397 et al. 2008; Hair et al. 2009).

398         The adequacy of the data set for a PCA is checked by Bartlett's spherical test ( $p < 0.001$ )  
399 and by the Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin (KMO) measure of sampling adequacy ( $KMO = 0.658$ ). Bartlett's  
400 test checks the correlation between variables, mainly when the ratio of sample size to number  
401 of variables is 5:1 or fewer (as it is in this case). Bartlett's spherical test showed statistical  
402 significance ( $p < 0.05$ ) for the sample (Cohen et al. 2011). The KMO correlates pairs of variables  
403 and describes the magnitude of correlation among them. For the KMO test regarding the data,  
404 the output higher than 0.600 can be considered fair (Cohen et al. 2011). Furthermore, the  
405 determinant is 0.032 (much bigger than  $10^{-5}$ ); thus, there is no multicollinearity problem either  
406 (Field 2013). For the study, the results of the tests proved that the data were suitable for a PCA  
407 according to these criteria.

408         The first component is chosen so it explains the maximum possible variance; whereas  
409 the second explains the maximum variance not explained by the first one, and so on. Kaiser's  
410 criterion establishes that eigenvalues greater than 1.000 should be considered principal  
411 components (Field 2013). Three principal components meet this criterion for this research;  
412 these three principal components explain 76% of the observed variability in the input data set.  
413 It is worth mentioning that each of the three principal components has a similar percentage of  
414 the cumulative variance, thus, they contribute in a similar way to project integration.

415         After applying a Varimax rotation (Cohen et al. 2011; Field 2013), the factor grouping  
416 shows (Table 6) the scores of the eight variables for the three principal components identified  
417 in the PCA. Load factors with values less than 0.400 have not been displayed, considering the  
418 sample size. The analysis of the factor loading matrix leads to a reduced number of components

419 that can explain project integration in its various forms.

420 <Insert Table 6 here>

421 The three principal components can be interpreted in the following sense:

- 422 • *Owner integration* is comprised of Owner Type, Solicitation of Proposals from  
423 Contractor, and Relationship of the Owner with the Project Team. This component  
424 assesses the way the owner manages the different phases of the infrastructure life-  
425 cycle (particularly feasibility, design, procurement, and construction), establishing  
426 the functions and responsibilities of the different stakeholders.
- 427 • *Team behavior* is comprised of Timeliness of Communication, Team Chemistry, and  
428 Commitment of Project Team Members to the same Goals. This component displays  
429 the quality of the level of interaction among the different stakeholders.
- 430 • *Project experience* is comprised of Contractor Experience with similar Facilities, and  
431 Owner Experience with similar Facilities. This component measures the degree of  
432 knowledge and skills acquired by the main stakeholders (owner and contractor)  
433 because of their previous participation in similar construction projects.

434

### 435 **Case Study Selection**

436 With full understanding of the input, decision, and output variables, the case studies were  
437 selected for a detailed investigation. The team transformed the variables to dichotomous  
438 variables to simplify the case study selection. Integrated owner-constructor organization are  
439 show with a “+” and non-integrated organizations are shown with a “-”. The decision factors  
440 are calculated using the transformations required by the principal components analysis; those  
441 whose value is above the mean are considered “+” because they have the attribute present,  
442 while below the mean, the attribute is considered “-”. Overall success is a representation of the  
443 three individual success measures: overall project success; overall quality; and call-backs. When

444 at least two of these three success variables were above the mean, the project is noted as  
445 successful with a “+”. Similarly, when at least two of the success variables were below the  
446 mean, it was shown with a “-”. Table 7 visually simplifies the case study selection. Three  
447 different general configurations are apparent: (1) the best-performing projects; (2) the worst  
448 performing projects; and (3) outliers that do not fit a regular pattern, such as projects 19 and  
449 03.

450 *<Insert Table 7 here>*

451 Out of the 31 building projects, eight configurations were detected as most important  
452 to study in-depth. The criteria were not the repetition of configurations among the different  
453 projects, but the singularity in accomplishing the outcome with certain combination of causal  
454 conditions. The research team selected three “best” projects (two integrated and one non-  
455 integrated from the owner point of view), three “worst” projects (one integrated and two non-  
456 integrated from the owner point of view), and the two atypical cases that were previously  
457 mentioned. Figure 2 graphically shows the case study selection.

458 *<Insert Figure 2 here>*

459

#### 460 **Case Study Protocol**

461 A research protocol was developed for the case study design to allow for a systematic gathering  
462 of data and case study validation (Yin 2009). There were two main sources of data for each case  
463 study: (1) semi-structured interviews; and (2) archival data from the project as determined by  
464 the discussions. In order to encourage a productive semi-structured interview later on with the  
465 owner and contractor (if needed), detailed questions were written in each of the following  
466 areas:

- 467 (a) Design and construction functions that the owner organization possesses.
- 468 (b) Procurement process for the main contractor regarding the building project.

- 469 (c) Explanation of overall success, overall satisfaction and call-backs, regarding the  
470 building project.
- 471 (d) Explanation of how the procurement process impacted project success in each of  
472 the areas.
- 473 (e) Explanation of how the procurement process interacted with team behavior in terms  
474 of team chemistry, shared dedication to goals and owner decision making.
- 475 (f) Benefits and challenges of having (or not having) an integrated company.
- 476 (g) Company approach to withstand the Spanish financial crisis considering the issues  
477 brought up during the interview.

478 As for any semi-structured interview, the protocol also encouraged the interviewee to raise  
479 other topics that might relate to the principal research question. It was especially important in  
480 the interviews to determine the reasons behind the differences between configurations; the  
481 interviewer asked for specific examples and circumstances that could depict each configuration  
482 better. Topics of interest raised by interviewees were asked in later interviews to determine if it  
483 was a facet present in that particular project or one of general consensus. The interview was  
484 recorded, transcribed and organized. Finally, memos from every interview were developed,  
485 stating the concepts that were similar among projects, as well as the ones that were specific  
486 (Charmaz 2006). These concepts were continuously compared with new data coming from  
487 interviews and archival data from the projects, as well as from the literature review, using  
488 triangulation (Yin 2009). Although a saturation of findings was frequently reached in the first  
489 three to five interviews, all eight interviews were conducted to better ensure saturation (Guest  
490 et al. 2006).

491

492 **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

493 The results of this research stem from the triangulation of: (a) literature review, (b) survey  
494 analysis (structured interviews), and (c) case study investigation (archival data and semi-  
495 structured interviews). The research provides a definition of integration in Spanish building  
496 residential sub-sector. The results found that higher levels of integration positively influence  
497 both team behavior and project success. The case studies also point to a better resilience of  
498 developers with integrated construction services during the Spanish financial crisis, but these  
499 results are not conclusive as the recovery is not yet complete.

500 While Spanish owners are not able to benefit from more integrated forms of project  
501 delivery, they have achieved higher levels of integration through three primary means: (1)  
502 including construction services as a core business practice; (2) using qualifications-based criteria  
503 when selecting key team members (general and specialty contractors); and (3) relying on  
504 previous relationships to improve integration when selecting the team. The authors believe  
505 that these three factors serve to define integration in the Spanish multi-family housing sector  
506 and that this integration has a positive influence on project success. These three factors  
507 contribute directly to positive team behaviors. This definition of integration is in agreement  
508 with other research findings, particularly those of Kumaraswamy et al. (2005) and Rahman and  
509 Kumaraswamy (2008) who indicated that similar elements move teams from classical to  
510 relational contracting. The findings support their four factors that owner's competencies, prior  
511 interactions, compatible organizational culture, and better selection of project partners  
512 encourage cooperative team-working.

513 As seen in Table 3, 42% of the survey population was from developers who maintain  
514 construction services within their companies. This organizational structure was found to  
515 improve project success. It is the form that most resembles a design-build organization, but due  
516 to Spanish law and industry practices (de la Cruz et al. 2006; Pellicer and Victory 2006), these

517 owners procure designer services through a separate contract. Intuitively, these owners might  
518 have chosen to shed their construction services during the financial crisis. However, this was  
519 not found to be the case. In the case study interviews, these owners repeated stated the  
520 benefits of having in-house construction services. As one integrated construction developer  
521 stated from a highly successful project: “the culture of this company is to work in a team and  
522 help to achieve the common goal. This is achieved by transmitting from the top down, fostering  
523 communication and good relations.” Conversely, a common theme for owners who outsource  
524 their construction is represented by the following case study statement: “we couldn't get the  
525 team to follow a single and common approach, because the goals of the owner were  
526 completely different to the goals of the constructor.” While it may be difficult to maintain a  
527 larger staff during times of decreased activity due to external economic factors, it appears that  
528 successful Spanish developers are maintaining these services throughout the crisis.

529         The use of qualifications-based procurement factors and the selection of teams with  
530 previous experience together allow the Spanish developers to improve team integration and  
531 increase their chances of project success. Spanish law and industry practice are open to the use  
532 of best-value, qualifications based and sole source procurement (de la Cruz et al. 2006). As we  
533 discovered in the case study interviews of the best and worst performance projects, the use of  
534 non-price procurement factors with subsequent negotiation of price yielded higher levels of  
535 team integration. One statement from a developer who outsourced both design and  
536 construction, but relied on qualifications based selection of team members, was representative  
537 of the findings on the majority of projects: “we were companies with different objectives, but  
538 both sides had a common goal; we were running all in the same direction; we were all very  
539 committed and the objective was achieved.” The use of qualifications-based procurement and  
540 teaming with partners with whom the developers had previous experience yielded better  
541 performance. This agrees with previous research findings in regard to non-price selection

542 factors (Molenaar and Johnson 2003; Wang et al. 2013) and repetitive work with project teams  
543 (Chan et al. 2006; Nam and Tatum 1992).

544 Other studies have found that owners can increase the likelihood of project success  
545 through the promotion of integrated team behaviors (Baiden et el. 2006; Franz 2015). This  
546 study confirmed that trend, and specifically found that integrated team behaviors were most  
547 influenced by timeliness of owner communication, commitment to same goals and team  
548 chemistry, leading to more successful projects in the sample. In the Spanish industry, these  
549 behaviors are fostered during construction; after design and procurement. The owner obviously  
550 has direct control over the timeliness of their communications. Owners who function as  
551 integrated construction organizations have a better opportunity for timely responses.  
552 Promotion of a commitment to shared goals and an environment to foster team chemistry are  
553 influenced less directly by the owner. However, integrated teams on successful projects  
554 unanimously stated that a commitment to project. The following statements show the contrast  
555 between successful projects with integrated team behaviors and unsuccessful projects that  
556 lacked integrated team behaviors:

557 “The constructor was committed to the goals from the beginning of the work,  
558 the level of commitment was high because we could reach a compromise.”

559 “During construction there was no team. It was a group of people who were  
560 forced to work together, but each with different interests.”

561 Similar statements were found throughout the detailed case study interviews, even in the  
562 atypical case studies. As stated in one case with positive integrated behaviors, but a lack of  
563 project success: “the team had chemistry, because we have spent many years working  
564 together, but we were overconfident so the team was not committed enough to achieve the  
565 ultimate goal”. While the owner’s influence on commitment to goals and team chemistry may  
566 not be as direct as on the timeliness of communications, their indirect influence is important



567 nonetheless. Owners create the environment to foster commitment and chemistry. Owner  
568 involvement throughout the process was found to be important in the population of Spanish  
569 multi-family housing projects.

570 Procuring teams with previous working relationships increased the likelihood of success  
571 on the projects that were studied, and this finding is corroborated in the literature. Case study  
572 participants pointed to previous relationships as a means of achieving integrated team  
573 behaviors and successful projects. As one case study participant from a successful project with  
574 positive team integration explained: “the team selection was done by choosing recognized  
575 professions with experience that they proved to us in previous work [...] in this project we  
576 contracted only those companies that had worked with us before and that we knew were going  
577 to be committed [to the project goals] and involved in their work.” This finding is supported by  
578 numerous studies on team integration. Nam and Tatum (1992) found that long-term  
579 relationships were one of four non-contractual means of achieving integration on construction  
580 projects, promoting inter-organizational learning and building effective teams. The literature  
581 and our results show that selecting with previous experience together promotes behaviors,  
582 such as mutual goal alignment and trust, which were found to be critical in developing team  
583 integration (Chan et al. 2006; Nam and Tatum 1992).

584 Other research has shown that working in integrated teams with previous experience  
585 together has also been seen as a means of achieving a competitive advantage (Baiden et al.  
586 2006), which is particularly important as the Spanish developers are emerging from the  
587 financial crisis. The case study results corroborate this finding. Additionally, this study found  
588 that it is not only experience working together, but also experience of the developer and  
589 contractor working on similar types of construction. One participant from an unsuccessful  
590 project with poor team integration is representative of multiple case studies: “the constructor  
591 had little experience in this type of building [...] with more experience, the final result would

592 have been much better.” While Spanish multi-family housing development companies may be  
593 compelled to move into new markets with new partners as they emerge from the financial crisis,  
594 the research shows that there is a higher chance of success if they work on teams with previous  
595 experience together on similar building types.

596           Similar to other studies on the impacts of integration, our study did not identify a single  
597 factor that could predict project success. Rather it appears that a combination of variables  
598 needs to be present to increase the likelihood of a successful outcome. These variables begin  
599 with how the owner organizes the team for success (i.e., integrated builder services,  
600 qualifications-based procurement, and prior experience together), and promotes success  
601 throughout the project process (i.e., timeliness of communications, shared commitment to  
602 goals, and team chemistry).

603

#### 604 **CONCLUSIONS, LIMITATIONS AND FUTURE RESEARCH**

605 Through the literature review, survey and case studies, the authors defined integration in the  
606 Spanish building residential sub-sector and explored factors that influence team integration and  
607 project success. Even though non-traditional project delivery methods are scarcely used,  
608 owners have achieved higher levels of integration through three primary means: (1) including  
609 construction services as a core business practice; (2) using qualifications-based criteria when  
610 selecting key team members (general and specialty contractors); and (3) relying on previous  
611 relationships to improve integration when selecting the team. This study confirms previous  
612 research from other construction sectors which demonstrate that higher levels of integration  
613 can lead to better project performance (El Asmar et al. 2013; Konchar and Sanvido 1998;  
614 Pocock et al. 1996). This research extends the previous body of knowledge by providing a  
615 specific definition for integration in the Spanish residential construction sector. These findings  
616 are particularly helpful for building owners and developers in the Spanish market who are

617 attempting to grow after the long economic crisis. The findings point to more integrated  
618 building procurement strategies to improve the chance of project success. Additionally, they  
619 point to a long-term integrated organizational strategy that owners and developers should  
620 consider as their organizations grow. More generally, the results can promote discussion in  
621 Spanish public sector design and construction where the procurement and contracting laws are  
622 prohibitive of building integrated teams. Other countries have changed similar laws over the  
623 years to improve integration and project success (Latham 1994; Molenaar et al. 1999).

624         Readers should view these findings in light of the research limitations that were present.  
625 The most obvious limitation is the size of the study population. While eight detailed case  
626 studies of the best, worst and atypical case studies is adequate for the conclusions, a larger  
627 sample size from the survey portion of the work would allow for a statistical analysis of  
628 performance (Konchar and Sanvido, 1998; Pocock et al., 1996). Similarly, the focus on only the  
629 Spanish multi-family housing development sub-sector provides a view on one of the largest  
630 construction markets in Spain, but it limits the generalizability of the findings. It is possible that  
631 the factors for integration and project success could change in for the civil engineering or  
632 industrial sub-sectors of construction in Spain. The other notable limitation is that the study  
633 population is limited to Spain. However, the Spanish environment, with its constraints on  
634 project delivery methods that promote early contractor involvement, provides an interesting  
635 view on alternative methods to promote integration within the traditional delivery system.

636         Even with these limitations, the findings align well with the previously noted research on  
637 integration in other countries (El Asmar et al. 2013; Konchar and Sanvido 1998; Pocock et al.  
638 1996; Kumaraswamy et al., 2005; Rahman and Kumaraswamy 2008). The variables studied in  
639 this research were developed from literature across different construction sectors and  
640 geographic locations. The additional contributions to the body of knowledge in defining  
641 integration in the multi-family residential sector are likely to be applicable to similar sectors

642 outside of Spain. It is reasonable to assume that integrated builder services, qualifications-  
643 based procurement, and prior experience together), will increase residential developers'  
644 chances of success in other countries.

645         The study has raised some interesting research questions for future research. Since the  
646 United States and Spain have such different project delivery environments, a more in-depth  
647 study comparing and contrasting how the two countries are achieving integration would be of  
648 interest. The industries in both countries may learn new methods from each other given their  
649 unique constraints. For future research specifically focusing on Spain, studies could explore the  
650 benefits or drawbacks from using early contractor involvement through alternative project  
651 delivery methods. The evolution of project delivery methods in the United States has improved  
652 project performance (Konchar and Sanvido 1998; Molenaar, et. al 1999; El Asmar et al. 2013).  
653 However, it is not known if these delivery methods will have the same impact in Spain with its  
654 unique legal, political and cultural constraints. Similarly, future research could focus on how the  
655 United States might benefit from the use of procurement methods that allow for more  
656 qualifications-based selection and repeat work with key owners, general contractors and  
657 specialty contractors. A final topic for future research would be to re-examine these findings at  
658 the end of the Spanish economic crisis. At the time of this research and writing of this paper,  
659 the Spanish residential building industry had not recovered to any level near the production  
660 that was witnessed prior to 2007. When the industry does recover, additional research can be  
661 conducted to determine if the results hold true and additionally to explore the other factors  
662 that lead to success of building developers in the new economy.

663

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668

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791  
792

Previous Studies	Delivery Method/s	Project Type/s	Countries	Sample Size (#)	Quantitative Success Measures (#)	Qualitative Success Measures (#)
Pocock et al. (1996)	All	Military	USA	25	3	0
Songer and Molenaar (1997)	DB	Public	USA	88	2	4
Molenaar and Songer (1998)	DB	Public	USA	122	2	3
Konchar and Sanvido (1998)	All	Buildings	USA	351	2	1
Chan et al. (2001)	DB	Public	Hong Kong	53	2	2
Gransberg and Buitrago (2002)	All	All	USA	NA	2	0
Ibbs et al. (2003)	DBB+DB	NA	Worldwide	67	3	0
Ling et al. (2004)	DBB+DB	Buildings	Singapore	87	2	3
Korde et al. (2005)	All	All	Worldwide	NA	4	2
Lam et al. (2008)	DB	Public	Hong Kong	92	2	2
Korkmarz et al. (2010)	All	Offices	USA	40	3	2
Swarup et al. (2011)	All	Offices	USA	12	2	3
Cha and Kim (2011)	All	Buildings	South Korea	22	4	2
Mollaoglu-Korkmaz et al. (2013)	All	LEED Cert.	USA	12	2	2
Moon et al. (2011)	DBB+DB	Buildings	South Korea	44	2	2

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795

796 Table 2. Examples of Input Variables

	Mean	Minimum	Maximum	Standard Deviation
Building size (sq. foot)	96,875	5,166	318,482	72,095
Total Cost (thousands of US\$)	8,292	458	28,456	6,740
Total design & construction duration (months)	40	27	64	10.3
Level of Complexity (1=Low to 6=High)	3	1	6	1.4

797

798

799 Table 3. Categorical Decision Variables Examples

	Non-Integrated	Integrated
Owner Type	58%	42%
Solicitation of Proposals from Contractor	2-Stage RFP 61%	Sole Source 39%
Relationship of the Owner with Contractor	First Time 26%	Repeat 74%

800

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802 Table 4. Likert Scale Decision Variable Examples

LIKERT QUESTIONS (1=Low, 6=High)	Mean	Median	Standard Deviation
Owner experience with similar facilities	4.5	5.0	1.7
Contractor experience with similar facilities	4.9	5.0	1.3
Timeliness of owner communication	4.6	4.5	0.8
Project team member goal commitment	4.9	5.0	0.8
Team chemistry	4.6	4.5	0.6

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805 Table 5. Output Variables Examples

LIKERT QUESTIONS (1=Low, 6=High)	Mean	Median	Standard Deviation
Overall Project Success	4.3	4.0	1.3
Overall Quality	4.8	5.0	1.1
Call-backs	2.4	2.0	1.2

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808 Table 6: Rotated Component Matrix

Variable	PC1	PC2	PC3
Owner Type	-0.917		
Solicitation of Proposals from Contractor	0.909		
Relationship of the Owner with the Project Team	0.700		
Timeliness of Communication		0.826	
Team Chemistry		0.770	
Commitment of Project Team Members to the same Goals		0.725	
Contractor Experience with similar Facilities			0.915
Owner Experience with similar Facilities			0.865

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811 Table 7: Case Study Selection Summary

Code	Owner Integration	Team Behavior	Project Experience	Overall Success
<b>18<sup>b</sup></b>	+	+	+	+
<b>12<sup>b</sup></b>	+	+	+	+
22	+	+	+	+
07	+	+	-	+
02	+	+	-	+
<b>19<sup>a</sup></b>	+	+	+	-
11	+	-	+	+
01	+	-	+	+
06	+	-	-	+
20	+	-	-	+
13	+	-	+	+
25	+	-	+	-
17	+	-	+	-
<b>27<sup>a</sup></b>	+	-	-	-
<b>24<sup>a</sup></b>	-	+	+	+
10	-	+	+	+
09	-	+	+	+
08	-	+	+	+
15	-	-	+	+
04	-	-	+	+
<b>03<sup>a</sup></b>	-	-	+	+
23	-	+	+	-
21	-	+	+	-
16	-	+	-	-
30	-	+	-	-
28	-	+	-	-
31	-	-	+	-
29	-	-	+	-
05	-	-	-	-
<b>26<sup>w</sup></b>	-	-	-	-
<b>14<sup>w</sup></b>	-	-	-	-

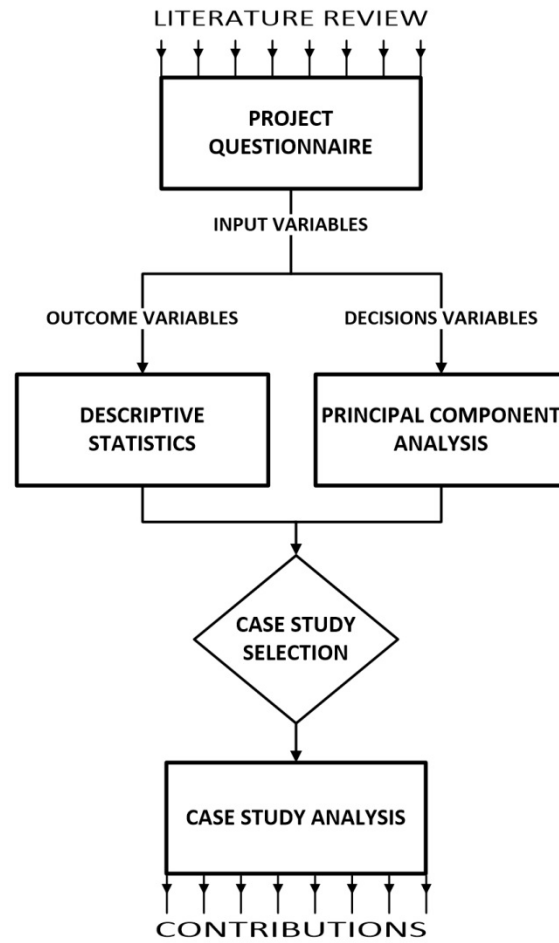
812 Note: (a) Atypical Cases; (b) Best Projects; and (w) Worst Projects

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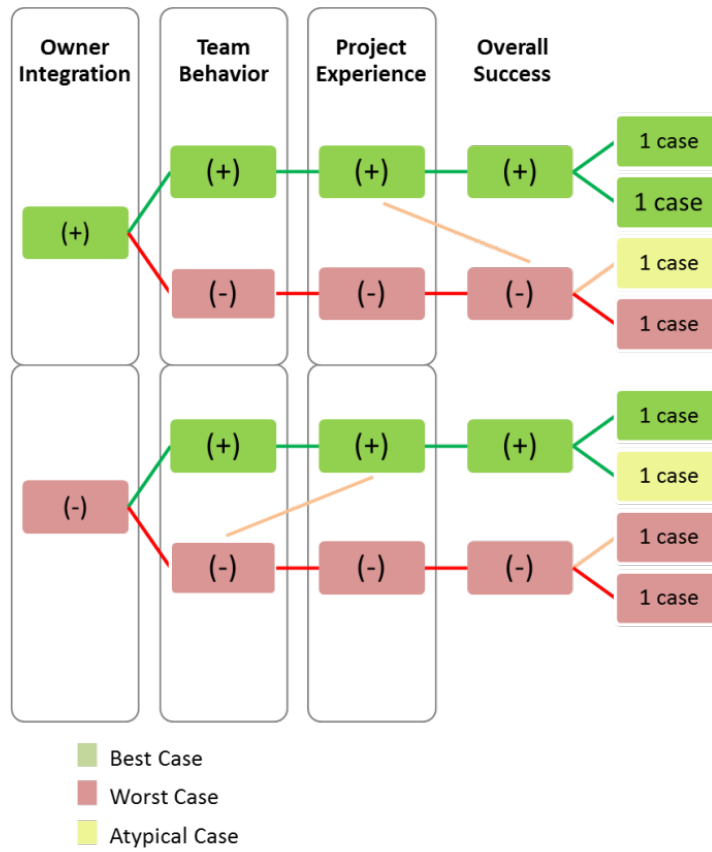
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Figure 1. Research Method



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Figure 2: Case Study Selection

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