

With Help from Synergis, Cianfichi & Scholl Architectural Associates Slash Project Time Using Autodesk Revit Software

Architectural Firm Improves Competitive Advantage and Communication with Clients

For architects, communicating their creative ideas is critical to successfully serving existing clients and to winning new business. Cianfichi & Scholl Architectural Associates, LLC is a small architectural firm that is always looking for ways to keep themselves competitive and to do more for their clients at a lower cost. Finding ways to design faster and more efficiently are keys to achieving those goals. By partnering with solutions provider Synergis Technologies, Inc. and software vendor Autodesk, Inc., Cianfichi & Scholl successfully made the move from 2D to 3D design and reduced project design time.

Cianfichi & Scholl, based in Carlisle, PA, was formed in July of 2000. The firm designs commercial and municipal buildings, such as a recent \$3 million police station, and residential projects ranging from \$30,000 additions to 6,500 square foot new residences.

Taking the Show on the Road

Cianfichi & Scholl were recently introduced to the Autodesk Revit building design and documentation system at a trade show. They were also given a demonstration by Synergis, who explained to them how Revit would fit in with their company and give them the competitive advantage they were seeking. Cianfichi & Scholl were intrigued by the software's inherent capabilities. More importantly, they felt confident in their decision to move to the new software because of Synergis' commitment to aid them in their transition and training.

Cianfichi & Scholl recently replaced its AutoCAD 2D software and began using Autodesk Revit 3D software for their building designs and realized the powerful capabilities of the product within five minutes of sitting down in front of a client. Revit software's 3D viewing capability allows their clients to see a realistic interpretation of the design, enabling them to more easily understand the model while the product's instantaneous change feature allows clients to see changes immediately and make final design decisions on the spot. Now architectural designers can basically "take the show on the road" and collaborate on designs at the client's office.

"Using Autodesk Revit, clients quickly become integrated in the design process, eliminating the time lapse normally experienced in the building industry," said Bob Cianfichi, a principal at Cianfichi & Scholl. "For the same project cost as other architectural firms would charge, we found the capabilities Revit offered allowed us to provide even greater service and value to our customers."

Project Lifecycle, From Concept to Completion

Using Revit at the design conceptual stage, Cianfichi & Scholl principals save time and provide more value to their draftsperson. Paper sketches become less necessary, as basic conceptual designs can be created in Revit and then built upon as the design concept continues to flourish.

Cianfichi & Scholl utilizes Revit's inherent ability to pull in AutoCAD drawings from consultants, as well as others. This process enables Cianfichi & Scholl to export drawing information to their design consultants, and in return, import the revisions received from these consultants back into the design.

Schedules in Revit are dynamic to the building model, and will be immediately updated with any addition, deletion, or change made within the model. No manual updating is required as in other CAD packages. Repetitive work is eliminated and errors are dramatically reduced. The designers at Cianfichi & Scholl have found that by using Revit, their time to put together a finished schedule was reduced significantly.

In fact, according to Scott Lupfer, a designer at the company, "Using Revit can cut the time needed to complete an entire project while still providing even more design capabilities than through conventional AutoCAD."

Proper Training is Critical to Success

Training was necessary before Cianfichi & Scholl designers could begin using Revit, and they credit Ed Lick, director of Training and Architectural Solutions at Synergis Technologies, Inc., as the highlight of their Revit experience.

"Ed's upbeat attitude helped designers jump into the software with confidence, and his training sessions proceeded at a good pace, and were followed by unparalleled support and response time from Synergis," commented Cianfichi.

"It's a big risk for a company to invest time and money upfront, but it's easier to do when you have positive backup and support," said Lick.

Synergis Technologies, Inc. (www.synergis.com) is the premiere Autodesk Solutions Provider in the Mid-Atlantic region. An Authorized Autodesk Systems Center for Building Design, Manufacturing, Civil/GIS, Government and related industries, Synergis provides the best quality training, consulting, and implementation services to ensure that companies improve their design processes and maximize productivity and return on investment with Autodesk design solutions.

Benefits of Autodesk Revit

Autodesk Revit software lets users make a change anytime, anywhere, and that change is automatically coordinated everywhere in the project. Autodesk Revit increases productivity, so users make better use of their high-value time. Its parametric change technology automatically coordinates design and documentation, helping users to make more of their work their best work with more control over the design and quality of their projects. From large projects spanning entire city blocks to the most carefully designed interiors, the Autodesk Revit building information modeling system is everything users need from concept through completion.

"Unique to other building design software were its relative ease of use and ability to make instantaneous changes right in front of a client," added Cianfichi. "The software's capabilities, backed by the outstanding training and support from Synergis, gave us the extra edge we needed to stay on the cutting edge of architectural design."

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