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Jos Arpink
Digital Design Manager
Glotman-Simpson

A strategic advantage.

Glotman-Simpson counts on Revit® Structure software to help them make better, more-informed decisions, significantly improve coordination, and win new business.

Project Summary

Glotman-Simpson delivers high-quality structural engineering consulting services throughout Canada and in the United States. Since 1964, the firm’s energetic professionals have won numerous awards and completed more than 4,000 residential, commercial, industrial, and institutional projects. To create maximum value for clients, Glotman-Simpson is committed to continual improvement and investment in technology and training. That’s why the firm recently adopted Revit Structure—powerful building information modeling software designed specifically for structural engineers. “When I first saw Revit Structure at Autodesk University, I realized immediately that it was going to change the way we work,” says Jos Arpink, Digital Design Manager at Glotman-Simpson. Since adopting the software in 2005, Glotman Simpson has used it on many of its major projects.

The Challenge

One of those projects is the Grigio development in the heart of San Diego, California. “We’re collaborating with KMA Architecture & Engineering on that project,” says Arpink. “It’s a 43-story, 1.2 million square-foot mixed-use building commissioned by Gray Development Group.”

Mixed-Use Complexity

“Grigio is the largest mixed-use building currently under development in San Diego. The tower will contain over 740 rental and condominium units; a 275 suite hotel; 65,000 square feet of retail space; and six levels of underground parking,” continues Arpink. “And because the steeply sloped site has a footprint at 5 podium levels and 2 of the curtain walls slope outward as they rise up the tower, conditions vary at every floor.” A project of this size and scope demanded close coordination with the project architects.



Using Revit Structure, the professionals at Glotman-Simpson were able to

- Streamline the production of project drawings
- Help clients make better decisions early in the design process
- Easily review and mark up design files with Autodesk® Design Review software
- Quickly make—and fully coordinate—design changes
- Win more business

The Solution

Revit Structure was the perfect solution to these challenges. Purpose-built for building information modeling, Revit Structure enables structural engineering firms to streamline many of the processes involved in the design and documentation of complex projects such as the Grigio development.

Provide More Information—Earlier

“Our clients typically require a lot of information early in the process—information that you can’t readily generate from a set of AutoCAD drawings or preliminary sketches,” says Arpink. “Sometimes they’re still considering a variety of design options—or even whether to build the project at all. Those jobs are perfect candidates for Revit Structure.”

Make Better Decisions

“Using Revit Structure, we’re able to extract rich data directly from the model—without having to spend a great deal of time producing sketches and drawings,” says Arpink. “And since Revit Structure automatically updates the entire model when we make a change, we’re able to quickly report the effect of various design options. As a result our clients are better able to make informed decisions, faster.”

Significantly Improve Coordination

And because the architects at KMA rely on Revit® Architecture software, Glotman-Simpson was better able to coordinate many of the project’s complex systems, such as the highly variable grade condition and sloped wall planes. “Using the Revit platform, architects can link our structural model directly into their architectural model,”

says Arpink. “So when we look at architectural drawings, we can see the structural components from our model reflected in theirs. It has resulted in much tighter integration between structure and architecture.”

Win More Business

“In fact, we know many architects who have decided to use Revit Architecture,” says Arpink. “They’re specifically looking for consultants who are familiar with Revit Structure. That is a definite business advantage for us.”

Go Paperless

Glotman-Simpson also takes advantage of other Autodesk® products. “DWF technology has enabled us to go almost completely paperless in maintaining records of our currently published design information,” says Arpink. “All of that used to be very difficult to maintain. Now, we publish our most current drawing sets in DWF format and make them available to all of our staff online.”

The Result

“We’re definitely heading toward 100 percent Revit implementation,” says Arpink. “The benefit to our stakeholders, as well as within our own organization, is clear.”

To learn more about Revit Structure, visit www.autodesk.com/revitstructure.