

From initial site sketches to preparing construction documents, AutoCAD 2011 software helps to accelerate the design process. It seems that each new version includes enhancements that save time on our projects.

—Kevin Stober
CAD Manager
Gonzalez-Strength & Associates

Accelerating site design.

Gonzalez-Strength & Associates takes advantage of AutoCAD software to complete civil engineering projects faster.



Image courtesy of Gonzalez-Strength & Associates.

Project Summary

Based in Birmingham, Alabama, Gonzalez-Strength & Associates provides civil engineering, land surveying, and land planning services to clients throughout the southeastern United States. The firm's reputation for quality and responsiveness has helped it to grow and thrive. The civil engineers and drafters at Gonzalez-Strength rely on AutoCAD® software along with a third-party civil engineering add-on application to help them design projects that meet—and exceed—client expectations. In an effort to boost productivity and efficiency even more, the firm is in the process of adding AutoCAD® Civil 3D® software, which is purpose built for building information modeling (BIM), to its workflow.

Leading retailers have been especially pleased with the firm's ability to efficiently engineer projects, resulting in significant repeat retail site development business. So when the Publix supermarket chain wanted to add a store on the perimeter of the Eastern Shore Centre shopping center near Mobile, Alabama, the company chose Gonzalez-Strength to survey and engineer the site. To begin the design, the firm loaded the survey team's data into the latest version of AutoCAD software. The software's compatibility enabled the firm to quickly turn the raw survey data into an initial site plan. Following Publix's specifications, Gonzalez-Strength designed the grading, drainage,

and parking plans for the complex. Using the enhanced transparency and coloring features in AutoCAD software, the firm prepared easy-to-understand versions of the design for the client and local permitting authorities to review. Customizations further accelerated the design process by helping the firm to apply its design standards more automatically. On the project, AutoCAD software is helping Gonzalez-Strength to:

- Save time preparing designs for review
- Leverage transparency, layering, and 3D features to enhance design reviews
- Streamline the permitting process
- Accelerate the design process with embedded standards

About Gonzalez-Strength & Associates

Founded in 1993 with four employees, Gonzalez-Strength & Associates has a staff of more than 50 today, and it is one of the largest survey and civil engineering firms in the Birmingham, Alabama area. The firm handles a wide array of project types, including subdivisions, commercial developments, business parks, and water distribution systems.

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