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Douglas Palladino
Principal
RTKL Associates Inc.

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David Davison
UK CAD Manager
RTKL-UK Limited

High-performance architecture

For a more co-ordinated and integrated design process, RTKL chose the Autodesk® Revit® Building design and documentation system.

The Firm

RTKL is a multidisciplinary architectural firm that prides itself on its breadth of services to clients in the public, hospitality, healthcare, corporate, and residential sectors. From urban planning, and architecture to branding and sustainable design, their comprehensive approach ensures excellence in the design and development of long-lasting client relationships.

After exhaustive research, RTKL is moving to standardise on the Autodesk Revit Building design and documentation. After a year-long pilot programme, the firm is now ready to launch a companywide rollout. "We're trying to do the best job for our clients," says Douglas Palladino, a principal in the firm. "Autodesk Revit Building helps us meet our goal of creating the best in high-performance architecture."

A Clear Choice

Before standardising on Autodesk Revit Building in 2004, RTKL assembled a task force with representatives from each of the firm's 10 locations. "The group interviewed the most competitive architectural software vendors in the world to fully understand their short and long-term development plans," says Palladino. "As a result, we decided to begin using Autodesk Revit Building at the earliest practical time."

From Design to Documentation

By January 2005, Autodesk® Consulting, working with an Autodesk Authorised Reseller, had trained and provided project mentoring to about 60 RTKL architects and interior designers on Autodesk Revit Building. RTKL has since completed 8 projects, including its first 100% Revit Building–documented project, a 300,000 square foot office building and a 850 car parking structure for the Food and Drug Administration in the US. "Our strategic goal is to begin a pilot project using Revit Building in every office as soon as possible," says Palladino.

Revit Building is also already bringing benefits in the UK: "We're using Revit on a £4 million healthcare project and are finding massive advantages through the way it co-ordinates changes across the entire design, saving both time and project costs. Also, visualisations are much easier to generate because, as the building model is being developed, we are able to generate a rendered perspective from the same design file. Therefore, when the client wants to view the finished development, it's a quick and simple process," says David Davison, UK CAD manager.



After exhaustive research and a year-long trial, RTKL Associates is launching a companywide rollout of the Autodesk Revit Building design and documentation system. Revit Building helps architects

- Design on a single, integrated: building information model
- Automatically co-ordinate all work across the entire model
- Quickly and easily create multiple design scenarios
- Enhance collaboration among project team members
- Boost repeat business
- Increase productivity and competitive advantage

The Solution

"We see Autodesk Revit Building as a way to do what we do in a more in-depth and efficient way," says Palladino. In addition to providing integration with AutoCAD® software, Revit Building enables designers to work on a single, integrated building information model. Revit Building automatically co-ordinates work on individual drawings and schedule views across the entire model, right down to the construction documents. "As a result, people spend their time thinking about the more important aspects of the project, rather than just repeating menial tasks."

Building Information Modelling for Better Results

For example, in its work on the 300,000-square-foot FDA Centre for Drug Evaluation and Research, RTKL designers used Autodesk Revit Building to study many different design possibilities and better understand the implications of their choices. The 3D Revit Building model enabled them to quickly and easily show stakeholders how the project appeared from any vantage point, resulting in more-informed decisions, and a better finished design.

Improved Co-ordination

Before using Autodesk Revit Building, RTKL routinely maintained and updated separate design models and documentation. "At a certain point during construction documentation," says Palladino, "we would stop keeping the design model up-to-date. Now, as we continue to develop the design, Revit Building automatically updates the entire model—including construction documents and 3D design views."

Enhanced Collaboration

"Autodesk Revit Building has changed the dynamics of the project team," says Heidi Stemkoski, a designer at RTKL. "People aren't so isolated working on just plans or sections or elevations. It's just not possible to work that way anymore. The team understands the building as a whole—and that's better for the project."

Heightened Productivity

Autodesk Revit Building leverages work performed on previous projects or away from the office. With Revit Building, RTKL designers can:

- Work at home on a laptop and then plug designs back into the model
- Integrate and co-ordinate work performed using AutoCAD software, or hand off work generated with Revit Building to consultants for documentation in AutoCAD
- Reduce the number and frequency of requests for information (RFIs) thanks to more accurate documentation

The Result

"Creating higher-quality architecture gives us a competitive advantage in the marketplace," says Palladino. "Autodesk Revit Building helps us spend less time drafting and more time designing." As a result, clients are happier with the design and keep coming back. And the designers? "I personally find it more enjoyable," says Stemkoski. "We'd all prefer not to go back to 2D drafting."

Learn More

For more information about Autodesk Revit Building, go to www.autodesk.co.uk/revit.