



Turkish Delight

Global award winning Inspiration Architects select Revit Architecture to help it maintain leading position

“We now have the ability to quickly create 3D images and presentations which we use to demonstrate to clients what their finished design will look like before it is built”.

Annika Hatchwell, a director at Inspiration

Newbury-based Inspiration Architects works hard to live up to its name delivering clear, design-led solutions which combine the best in traditional and contemporary styles for commercial and residential projects both in the UK and overseas.

Some of Inspiration's recent work includes the renovation of a local school, a number of high end residential projects and a holiday complex in Turkey consisting of 250 houses, a 150 room hotel, restaurant, spa and swimming pool.

The firm has cemented its position as a leading player in the field of architecture having recently received a number of awards for projects including its work with client Nirvana International on the Villa Caesar development in Turkey. The practice does the majority of its design work using AutoCAD Revit Architecture Suite software, which it implemented just over a year ago.

3D Visions

Having won the Best Architecture and Multiple Units awards at the International Property Awards in 2006, Inspiration was looking to improve its coordination and introduce 3D capabilities in order to maintain and build on its leading position within the industry.

Following a thorough review of the available products including Google SketchUp and Graphisoft's ArchiCAD, Inspiration selected Revit purchasing six seats of the software. As the firm had been using AutoCAD LT, choosing Revit meant that it was able to build on its existing knowledge and designs rather than starting from scratch.

The firm also invested in basic entry level training as well as a second, more in depth session with Autodesk reseller Cadpoint. Annika Hatchwell, a director at Inspiration explains, “As Revit requires a whole new way of thinking about drawing, we felt it was important to invest in training to ensure we were getting the most out of the software. Once we grasped the basics it has made all stages of the design process much quicker.”

Having rolled the software out across the practice, Inspiration has been particularly impressed with its performance. Hatchwell says, “We now have the ability to quickly create 3D images and presentations which we use to demonstrate to clients what their finished design will look like before it is built. It has also helped to improve the general coordination of all team members on projects.” Using Revit, Inspiration has also been able to iron out inconsistencies within drawings at an early stage to ensure that all work is of the highest possible standard.

Recognition

This is clearly something that has not gone unnoticed by Inspiration's clients who have commented on the firm's use of Revit. “Clients have been very impressed when we present our designs, created using Revit, to them at the start of a project. We have also won a large contract off the back of having the software in place,” says Hatchwell.

One of the firm's most recent projects has attracted more than just good customer feedback, Villa Caesar, a luxury property in the south of Turkey was named the Best International Property at the International Property Awards and has also won three, five star



International Property Awards at country level; Best Architecture, Best Interior Design and Best Property.

After securing the country level wins, Villa Caesar was put forward for Best International Architecture, Best International Interior Design and Best International Property at the International Property Awards, which were held in Las Vegas in November. The nominations alone were a fantastic accolade for Inspiration and the practice was even more delighted when Villa Caesar went on to win the Best International Property Award on the night.

Sustainable Design

Villa Caesar was designed in association with Inspiration's client Nirvana International and it exemplifies how genuine sustainability can be achieved through good design. This was accomplished by concentrating on passive techniques of maintaining a comfortable living temperature and drawing inspiration from age old domestic architecture from around the world.

The project proved to be an excellent opportunity for Inspiration to study and apply the environmental control techniques which have been used in houses in hot climates for thousands of years.

The building utilises the concept of winter and summer living to offer the greatest comfort at different times of the year, the summer living space is on the shady side of the house to offer a cool retreat on hot days and features a dining terrace, sunken fire pit, hot tub and infinity pool. The winter side of the house has large glazed openings to maximise solar gain and open fireplaces.

Other passive elements include stack towers which are ventilated at the top to draw warm air up and out and encourage a cool draught through the rest of the building. Stone clad concrete is the main structural material which absorbs and holds heat during sunny periods and then releases this heat once the temperature drops.

The building generates its minimal energy requirements on site thanks to remote solar panels which heat the water and provide under-floor heating and an onsite windmill which means that the villa is zero carbon. The windmill is built of stone with canvas sails, and by using natural materials not only is the design sustainable it also fits in with the general environment.

The villa itself is also constructed from natural materials throughout, in order to meet ecological concerns and to ensure that it will 'grow old gracefully' with the aim being that it will eventually take on a 'rugged charm'.

Hatchwell continues, "To keep the building carbon neutral there is very little modern technology inside, which has the added benefit of ensuring that there is very little that can go wrong! It also means the building fits within its environment. The complete design of Villa Caesar takes its inspiration from its surroundings and architecture from this part of the world.

"It is to the credit of our client Nirvana International that in such a commercial industry as the overseas property industry it recognises the value of sensitive and sustainable design. We are extremely proud of Villa Caesar and the accolades that it is receiving are testament to the quality of the design."

Looking forward Inspiration will continue to use Revit to create similar award winning designs. Hatchwell concludes by saying, "Revit has helped us design in a faster and more efficient way, we are really pleased with the results and don't anticipate needing any other software for a long time."

For more information

To learn more visit us on the web at www.autodesk.co.uk/revitarchitecture