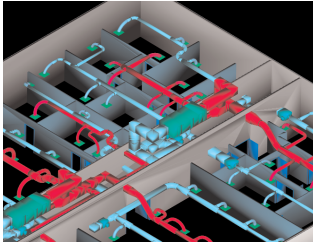


South Coast Engineering Group, Inc.



*HVAC system replacement
for building on Edwards Air
Force Base*

"We lose money on jobs when we have to redraw something we have already drawn. Autodesk Building Mechanical saves us money there."

—Peter Kraut, President,
South Coast Engineering Group

True Competitive Advantage— Autodesk Building Mechanical

As a startup mechanical engineering firm in Southern California, South Coast Engineering Group, Inc. was looking for a distinct competitive advantage to thrive in a crowded market. Founder Peter Kraut and Senior Associate Bill Siler brought industry knowledge and experience from a top design firm, The Syska Hennessy Group, and seized on their entrepreneurial spirit to grow their own business. They chose a foundation of Autodesk® products including AutoCAD®, Autodesk® Architectural Desktop, and Autodesk® Building Mechanical software. Their biggest advantage so far comes from the newest product.

"We bought Autodesk Building Mechanical the first month it came out. In a sense it is a secret weapon," says Peter Kraut, South Coast Engineering Group president. "We have improved productivity by 100 percent or more."

Unparalleled Productivity and Cost Savings

South Coast Engineering was selected to design a new HVAC system for a veterinary clinic on Edwards Air Force Base. The 6,000 square foot building was compact, with lots of turns, making the HVAC more complicated to draw.

"We drew a single line from the heat pump placed in the ceiling to show the routing of the ductwork, and Autodesk Building Mechanical software automatically completed the fittings, corners, connections, and everything else that was required," notes Kraut.

Kraut estimates that the ductwork alone would have taken 30 hours to design without Autodesk Building Mechanical. Using the product, his team completed the work in just 10 hours. His experience also shows that 50 percent of the effort in HVAC is resizing something because of new information. For example, an architect can add a window that makes an area hotter, requiring more cooling and larger air conditioning systems. "In Building Mechanical software, the smart entities allow us to click on the size, enter the new information, and change everything automatically," adds Kraut. "We

lose money on jobs when we have to redraw something we have already drawn. Autodesk Building Mechanical saves us money there."

Poised for Growth

The South Coast Engineering team is using Autodesk software to help streamline costs and present more competitive project bids. They are finding that using 3D renderings created in Autodesk Architectural Desktop for company brochures adds credibility and polish to their practice. In time, they hope that more of the firms in Southern California begin designing with modeling tools like Autodesk Architectural Desktop in order to integrate their work more easily.

Other projects for the firm include timeshare units for Marriott hotels and schools in Saugus, California.

Autodesk Building Mechanical is now part of a comprehensive software package called Autodesk® Building Systems, a premier design solution for mechanical, plumbing and electrical engineers.



Autodesk, Inc.
111 McInnis Parkway
San Rafael, CA 94903
USA

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