

autodesk®

## Customer Success Story

## DMJM Design Focuses on Design and Quality

DMJM Design, an AECOM company, is a leading full-service architectural and engineering design firm with more than 3,000 professionals. The company's Washington, DC-based division has 250 architects, engineers, and other professionals serving clients in higher education; state, federal, and local government; and justice (courthouses, public safety centers, and jails).



*With Autodesk Revit our clients see us as a leader in using technology to deliver a better product and higher level of service.*

—Rob Smedley, AIA  
Project Design Manager  
DMJM Design

Leading the way for the company, the Washington Office is supporting design teams that are standardizing the use of **Autodesk® Revit®** building information modeler. Led by Rob Smedley, AIA, architectural teams are realizing building information modeling and Autodesk Revit as an important shift in the design delivery process. "This is the best application of technology to the building design and documentation process available today," says Smedley, "and it is laying the foundation to fully implement building information modeling as our way of doing business."

"These days, many clients come to DMJM assuming that the firm uses state-of-the-art technology," Smedley says. "Autodesk Revit meets, and exceeds, these expectations. With Autodesk Revit our clients see us as a leader in using technology to deliver a better product and higher level of service."

#### On-The-Fly Design Studies

The DMJM team has used Autodesk Revit on projects ranging from concept and program planning work for the Department of Justice to the detailed design of an entryway for a university residence hall—an octagonal lobby supported by an articulated beam structure.

Currently, the Washington Office is working on a new project for the Federal Government that has

given the design team another opportunity to once again show what can be accomplished with the Autodesk Revit solution. The project—an 84,000-square-foot, two-story building—required that the team be able to quickly explore multiple designs and produce presentation drawings and visualizations at any point in the delivery process.

At a design meeting, the client, himself an architect, suggested a significant change to the building design. "With any other software, plan changes

of this magnitude would prove to be too complicated and time consuming," says Smedley. "But we were able to make those changes on-the-fly with the client's guidance, model it, and present it within minutes of his first thought." The final concept benefited from strong client feedback and buy-in. The result: a smoother process and a satisfied client.

Smedley says that the flexibility of Autodesk Revit software gives his team a competitive advantage and is a contributing factor for winning additional work. They can easily show clients several design alternatives, and "we have 20 more ideas to pull out of our bag if we need to. Other software doesn't allow that."

DMJM has since been awarded a second project from the client. "They awarded it to us because they see the value in what we bring to them as a cutting edge design team. Revit is an important element in the whole concept of how we deliver a product."

### Multiple Team Members, a Single Model

When a complex building project involves multiple architects, optimum productivity requires that all team members have access to the model at all times.

In such cases, the DMJM Design team uses Revit worksets, so designers can work on the same model simultaneously. With worksets, one designer can work on the building's exterior, while another works on the interior, and all their work is fully coordinated. Architectural designer

Antonella Cortez has been pleased with the results: "You see your team members' changes as you save your own work."

In addition, Cortez has found the software easy to learn. "I was able to pick up Revit quickly without costly or time consuming training," she says. "What really helped were the step-by-step tutorials that I could access at my convenience."

### No Surprises

Clients come to the table with widely differing backgrounds and abilities to visualize buildings and interpret drawings. A rendered view makes design intent clear and "gives most people an immediate sense of the building," says lead technical designer Mike Brainerd. Autodesk Revit software's powerful visualization capabilities enhance DMJM's communication with clients, helping to eliminate costly surprises.

### Focus On Creativity

From schematic design through construction documentation, Autodesk Revit eliminates the manual CAD processes that sap design creativity. "You spend less time prepping drawings because you're working on the design and your final construction documents in the same model, simultaneously," says Galen Hoeflinger, architectural designer. And fewer tedious tasks mean more time for design. "We like to design—Revit gives us a chance to do more of it, which results in a better building. If you don't have that time, exploration is limited," says Smedley.

### The Benefits

For the DMJM Design team, the benefits of Autodesk Revit software are clear:

- Visualization encourages fast, accurate decision making.
- Clients understand the design, and their expectations are met.
- Risk of changes in the field is reduced.
- The team is better able to deliver high-quality service.
- The entire office can get up to speed quickly and easily.

"I'm extremely pleased by the work that we are able to do. Our designers are very talented, but Autodesk Revit is allowing them to really push things," says Smedley. "With Revit our architects spend less time on tedious documentation and coordination, and more time on tasks that enhance the value of a project: design and quality."

For more information about Autodesk Revit, see [www.autodesk.com/revit](http://www.autodesk.com/revit).

**autodesk®**

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

Autodesk and Revit are registered trademarks of Autodesk, Inc., in the USA and/or other countries. All other brand names, product names, and trademarks belong to their respective holders.

© 2003 Autodesk, Inc. All rights reserved.

00000000000113328