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## WATG Envisions Intelligent Lifecycle Management

For over half a century, the architectural firm of Wimberly Allison Tong and Goo (WATG) has been pursuing its goal of creating special environments for its clients and their guests. Best known for its work in the hospitality, entertainment, and leisure sectors, WATG also designs distinctive residences and multi-unit dwellings. WATG has been using Autodesk® Revit®, a powerful building information modeling design and documentation system, as well as Autodesk® Buzzsaw™, an online project collaboration service, to execute projects since both products were first introduced several years ago.



*“When you use applications like Buzzsaw and Revit to create and manage intelligent building information, significant cost and time savings and smart choices are likely to keep recurring throughout the building’s lifecycle.”*

—Larry Rocha,  
Wimberly Allison Tong  
and Goo

### In the Vanguard

As veteran users, the WATG team values the ways Revit and Buzzsaw have impacted their work, and believes that the products will play a central role in the trend toward more forward-looking asset management of building lifecycles.

“If you think of the lifecycle of a building as spanning from design to construction to operation and maintenance, including additions and renovations, using tools like Buzzsaw and Revit can streamline and enrich each of those phases,” says Larry Rocha, vice president and chief information officer of WATG. “They simply provide very powerful environments in which to design, manage, and communicate.”

### Quickening the Creative Pace

Recently, WATG used Revit and Buzzsaw to help design and coordinate communication and collaboration on an apartment complex to be built in Colorado. The complex consists of 30 one-, two-, and three-bedroom luxury units in seven buildings. Each building is approximately 50,000 square feet, and the

complex includes a 20,000 square foot clubhouse. “We didn’t use any two-dimensional graphical documentation tools to design the complex,” notes Jim Balding, an architect with WATG. “The entire design package was developed using Revit’s building information modeling strategy. The drawing coordination and visualization Revit provided proved invaluable: When we moved a wall, the change was coordinated and reflected in all references to the wall. With Revit, you can see the impact of changes instantly, which came in particularly handy on the project as it helped the client clearly visualize important aspects of the design as it evolved.”

The design team members on the apartment complex were divided between Newport Beach, California and Orlando, Florida, and they used Buzzsaw to facilitate the movement of Revit documentation and other information on the project. “With the design moving and changing so quickly, Buzzsaw helped the entire team stay on track,” says Jim Grady, WATG’s CAD manager. “Document management, file sharing, and version control are much easier with Buzzsaw especially

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when you are collaborating across time zones. For example, we took three-dimensional snapshots of the drawings in Revit and posted them to Buzzsaw. Our counterparts in Orlando then marked them up electronically, posted the revisions, and automatic email notifications informed the team of revisions.”

### The Future of Lifecycle Management

Revit and Buzzsaw are changing the way WATG executes projects, and WATG predicts that the advantages they enable will soon extend through the lifespan of buildings they design. “Throughout all segments of the industry, people are becoming more sophisticated about how they leverage technology to manage the lifecycles of buildings,” says Rocha. “When you design a building using Revit, you create an intelligent data model of the building that can be used more effectively than standard two-dimensional documents. It gives building owners infinite possibilities in terms of utilizing that data downstream in operations management, maintenance, and improvements. And Buzzsaw can coordinate and communicate that data intelligently, making it easier to manage and implement events during the entire building lifecycle—whether of a single building or a large number of buildings.”

### The Result: Smart Asset Creation to Smart Asset Management

The day-to-day benefits that WATG derives from using Revit and Buzzsaw have been quite impressive. According to Balding, “Revit cuts the time spent on coordinating the various aspects of the design and documentation of a building in half, which allows more time to be creative. Just as Revit coordinates the elements of the design, Buzzsaw coordinates the project communication, reducing the time we might spend tracking down information.”

Rocha adds that the benefits of using Revit and Buzzsaw can translate into very tangible savings: “We had a client who was having trouble visualizing how a flat roof would look from the upper floors of his building. We were able to quickly demonstrate that it had very little impact on the view, which saved the client a considerable amount of money. By speeding the flow of information, Buzzsaw helps save time and money too. When you use applications like Buzzsaw and Revit to create and manage intelligent building information, significant cost and time savings and smart choices are likely to keep recurring throughout the building’s lifecycle.”



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