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Clarke/Tamaccio Architects

Autodesk Buzzsaw Used on Reconstruction of Historic Connecticut High School

Clarke/Tamaccio Architects is a small, nine-person firm based in Hartford, Connecticut. Faced with a design project that grew from a simple renovation to a full-scale redesign, the firm looked for ways to better manage the complex project. They turned to Autodesk for help. As Clarke/Tamaccio Architects began using **Autodesk® Buzzsaw™** to successfully manage the project design, team members from other disciplines also began using the software—until finally the whole team was involved.



Autodesk Buzzsaw is helping us to be more competitive, while maintaining the small size and individual character of Clarke/Tamaccio.

Susan Ferret
CAD Manager,
Clarke/Tamaccio Architects

The Situation

Founded in 1638 by Connecticut's early colonial settlers, Hartford Public High School is the second-oldest public high school in the United States. Originally housed in a building designed by Thomas Hooker—a Puritan English preacher and one of the founding settlers of Connecticut—the school was replaced over the years by a succession of larger, more ornate buildings: a modest classical structure in the early 19th century and two Gothic Revival buildings later in the 1800s. During the early 1960s, with enrollment surging in the post World War II baby boom, Hartford's city government erected a new facility in the modern style.

In 1999, the school district began formulating a plan to upgrade this building. They settled on a design that would encompass a reconstruction of the existing structure, and restore much of the school's historic character. Clarke/Tamaccio Architects was chosen to head the project.

The Challenge

Clarke/Tamaccio had signed onto the project early on, when the district was contemplating a relatively straightforward renovation. The project grew in scope and complexity, however, and school district officials decided to bring in additional design help. They asked Clarke/Tamaccio to take on the role of lead architect and manage a team of consulting architects from three other firms. "We knew that collaborating with and sharing work between four architectural firms—not to mention the engineers, owners, and other team members—would be a very complicated undertaking," said Jan Wojas, A.I.A., of Clarke/Tamaccio. "So we began looking into ways to better manage the project. That's when we found Autodesk Buzzsaw."

Clarke/Tamaccio Architects

The Solution

Wojas and his colleagues at Clarke/Tamaccio began using Autodesk Buzzsaw to share files, drawings, and work materials with their partners at the other firms spread out around the Hartford metro area. The architects quickly found that Autodesk Buzzsaw was very effective at expediting workflow, and they began to bring team members from other disciplines onto their Buzzsaw site.

By the summer of 2000, the Hartford High School Project site had grown to more than 40 individual team members representing 30 firms—including landscape architects, interior designers, and consultants for technology and lighting. “It dawned on people that Autodesk Buzzsaw was very useful, and it just made sense to get the whole team online,” Wojas remarked. “After the first few months some of our partners went out and changed their ISPs to ensure that they would have adequate bandwidth to upload and download materials smoothly and use the site as effectively as possible.”

The Result

Wojas believes Autodesk Buzzsaw has generated significant savings in time for him and the rest of the team. “I just have more time to focus on the important things,” he said. “In the beginning of the project, I had to write eight CDs a day to distribute drawings and project files to the rest of the team. Now I’m not doing any of that. I just load everything to the site.”

Wojas has seen a measurable improvement in productivity as well. “Using Autodesk Buzzsaw means that the typical person on a project will save at least 15 percent of their time in terms of communication, distributing materials, and eliminating errors. When this project expanded from a renovation to a reconstruction, we were all concerned that sharing files and managing the larger team was going to pose some real problems. But with Buzzsaw, it’s been no problem at all,” he remarked.

Susan Ferret, Clarke/Tamaccio’s CAD manager, feels that the Hartford High School Project site has helped the firm maintain its identity and boost the bottom line. “Autodesk Buzzsaw has actually helped us to function better as a team. A small shop like ours faces a lot of competition from larger firms, and there is pressure to grow bigger in order to contend. The reductions in operating costs and improvements in productivity we’ve seen with Buzzsaw have brought real gains in profitability. Buzzsaw is helping us to be more competitive, while maintaining the small size and individual character of Clarke/Tamaccio.”



Autodesk, Inc.
The Landmark @ One Market
Suite 500
San Francisco, CA 94105
USA

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