

HOW SOPHISTICATED TECHNOLOGY CAN HELP THOSE IN THE AEC INDUSTRY

AEC firms benefit by using sophisticated technology in many ways including the bottom line.

Many in the construction industry continue to use rudimentary technology, such as 2D CAD. While this software can help those in the AEC industry, continued use of it can leave companies behind. After all, versions of 3D CAD arrived on the scene in the mid to late 1990s, signaling a modernization of software that continues to this day.

Sophisticated technologies such as Revit, BIMpro, FABpro, and HoloLive offer AEC firms a host of high-level services. Learning how to use these technologies is made easier with readily available support. When AEC professionals gain these technological skills, they recognize the positive impact the technology has on the construction process. With the added capabilities the technology provides, AEC firms can take on larger more complex projects. Since work can also be done quicker and more efficiently, the investment in the technology will easily pay for itself and more.

Most importantly, these sophisticated technologies can help the construction process.

How does rudimentary technology limit an AEC firm?

CAD traces its roots back to the late 1950s, whereas BIM's beginnings go back to the early 1960s although the term itself was first coined in 1992. The technology and its offshoots, such as Revit (created in 2000), have become standard in the AEC industry. Rapid technological advances are affecting the AEC industry just as every workplace is feeling the effects of the digital revolution.

AEC firms that continue to utilize rudimentary technology are left behind as they ignore the dramatic changes and upgrades that new technology and advanced tools offer.

New sophisticated technology geared toward the construction industry empowers AEC firms, helping them improve their service, speed, accuracy, and ultimately their bottom line.

How can sophisticated technology help your AEC firm compete for more lucrative projects?

Before investing in new equipment, every business needs to consider its bottom line. When an AEC firm upgrades to more sophisticated technology, it can bid on more advanced, hence lucrative, projects.

To compete and win bids on advanced buildings that have complex mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems (hospitals, residential high rises, university buildings, etc.), AEC firms need access to sophisticated technology such as Revit.

Revit's powerful tools enable AEC firms to design MEP building systems with greater accuracy and in better coordination with architectural and structural components. One can design, model, and document building systems in the context of a full building information model, including architectural and structural components. Revit enables better workflow between design and detailing with tools that let AEC firms model to a higher level of detail, creating better-coordinated and more accurate steel and concrete models.

With the increased capabilities that sophisticated technology enables, AEC firms can bid and win highly sought-after projects and grow their bottom line.

At which stage of the construction process does up-to-date technology provide benefits?

From conception to design and through post construction, myriad tasks are necessary to complete a construction project. The pressure to ensure things progress at a rate that will keep clients happy is felt by everyone in the AEC industry.

Sophisticated technology, such as BIMPro can help your AEC firm complete its tasks in the construction process quicker, without sacrificing accuracy. A cloud-based plug-in that automates the spooling process, making it up to 90 times faster than manual methods, BIMPro also helps track productivity, progress, and resources, and enables more effective and efficient collaboration.

Sophisticated technology enabling greater speed and facilitating better communication throughout the entire construction process helps keep even the most challenging project on schedule.

In what ways does sophisticated technology allow your AEC firm to differentiate itself?

The AEC industry has moved beyond the introductory phase of new technology.

A couple other products that are becoming standard are HoloLive, a sophisticated technology that allows AEC firms to visualize and interact with their models from applications like Revit before and during construction, and FABPro, which focuses on granular real-time tracking of the entire fabrication process.

Basically, AEC firms have a choice: innovate or perish.

AEC firms that avoid improving communications and technological capabilities limit their potential as client expectations continue to grow. AEC firms can reach and exceed client expectations and differentiate themselves if they integrate sophisticated technology.

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While particular elements of sophisticated technology are localized, those AEC firms that have the with the most up-to-date technology can differentiate themselves from local competition and expand into outside markets.

Complex construction projects require multiple subcontractors. Firms that can most quickly form the best and most innovative team of subcontractors save money and differentiate themselves. Sophisticated technology helps AEC firms effectively manage subcontractors and obtain the best from them.

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