

Proteus Group – Chicago, IL



This visionary firm recognized how the right mix of software and services, including seat licenses, subscription, training, support and implementation, could help them realize their vision of “Progressive Design for a Changing World” while increasing employee productivity, process efficiency and overall cost-effectiveness.

Company Profile

Proteus Group

www.proteusgroup.net

2007 \$9.3 million net revenue

Gross Construction sales:

\$550 million

Employees:

60

Headquarters:

Chicago

Service:

Planning, Architecture, Interior Design and Engineering

.....
 “Dwane [of MasterGraphics] was an essential part of the success of the implementation, training our team on-site and providing ongoing support.”

— Cliff Farrell

The challenge:

In 2006, Proteus Group was at a crossroads. They had invested a great deal of time and resources in the accepted CAD platform from previous years, but their designers complained the software was counterintuitive and inefficient. Insufficient control of office standards, scaling issues, long processing times for simple functions – the system had become more of a liability than an asset. And while Building Information Modeling (BIM) was quickly becoming the industry norm, the add-on components necessary for working in 3D made the platform even more cumbersome. In the face of these challenges, Proteus Group opted to outsource rendering, visual communication tools, modeling, etc., paying significant fees to off-shore firms with the specialization and capacity to handle that time-intensive work. In spite of these challenges, the prospect of bringing in a new software solution presented similar pitfalls of time, expense and loss of productivity.

The solution:

Over the course of some months, Cliff Farrell, Principal/Director of Operations at Proteus Group, worked with a MasterGraphics Account Manager and Application Engineer to learn more about Revit Architecture software from Autodesk. He and other key personnel attended hands-on workshops and seminars to gain exposure to Revit, as well as User Groups, to understand the experience of others who had gone before them. Eventually, he gained enough confidence and gathered enough information to persuade Proteus Group’s executive team that a move to Revit Architecture would cost-effectively address their technical needs while improving productivity. The management team recognized the potential benefits and embraced the new technology. In keeping with their visionary philosophy of “Progressive Design for a Changing World,” Proteus Group became an early adopter of this technology.

The result:

Proteus Group designers quickly began to realize the benefits of working with Revit Architecture and implemented the program firm-wide. Not only were they able to create their designs more easily, quickly and efficiently, but the additional functionality of estimating, rendering and virtual tours reduced their need to outsource these tasks. Generating graphics for city review boards, for example, now takes days instead of weeks, and the end models are often delivered electronically.

continued...

The Revit solution has assisted the Proteus Group's clients in the conceptual understanding of their designs and facilitated a quicker decision-making cycle; thereby increasing overall efficiency of the project process. They can focus on both the big picture and small details at the same time. For example one client stated that they were able to gauge the visual and functional impact of their building addition options and at the same time make interior detail changes to the soffits during the virtual stage. This improvement shortened the project design time, which directly related to project savings and schedule improvements.

Because of the stronger coordination features Revit provides, it is helping Proteus Group reduce or avoid change orders by as much as 50%, thereby enhancing time and cost efficiencies for both the design firm and their clients.

One of the keys, according to Farrell, was securing executive commitment to the initial investment of 10 Revit Architecture seat licenses including subscription, training and a full implementation. The number of seats was quickly expanded to accommodate all employees firm-wide. This support allowed them to set, and hold, a hard deadline for adoption and usage of the new software. The transition went smoothly under the watchful eye of Dwane Lindsey, MasterGraphics Application Engineer. His technical expertise and support was another of the keys: "Dwane was an essential part of the success of the implementation, training our team on-site and providing ongoing support," said Farrell. "With his support, we've been able to do things with Revit that would have been difficult, if not impractical, with other solutions."

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

© 2009 MasterGraphics Inc. All rights reserved.