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Whitman Readies for New Dimension, Trains Staff in Breakthrough Design Software

By Betsy Kraat

EAST BRUNSWICK, NJ--Whitman is among the first engineering companies in the state to implement Autodesk Revit software, training design staff and upgrading computers to remain at the forefront of developing design models and contract documents.

Revit is an alternative to the well-established method of Computer Aided Design (CAD), allowing engineers, architects and developers to design in three dimensions as opposed to two. The program uses a building information modeling (BIM) system to design entire projects down to the finest detail before generating drawings and plans. This revolutionary concept flips the traditional design process on its head, resulting in fewer planning mistakes and a more complete approach to building design and construction.

"The software works as a complete database for any individual project. All of the information you need is right there," said Jim Major, vice president of Whitman. "You build the entire project in the computer before taking it out to the field. From this virtual building, you can extract all of the information you need, including drawings and plans. It makes coordination among teams - the architects, developer and engineers - much easier than the traditional method."

While the basics of the program can be picked up relatively quickly, it can take several months to get used to the new design process. But the benefits of seeing a completely designed project before it ever comes out of the design phase are worth the investment.

BIM model systems, and Revit in particular, are already being adapted by architects and developers. By investing in and implementing the software now, Whitman can ensure that they will remain at the forefront of technology and design well into the future.

Whitman

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