

Success stories - MBH Architecture

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PROJECT: Residence Bassonia

Design Brief

A contemporary residence for a Dutch client on a plot 15m wide with a 6m drop from one side to the other. The final design featured sloping roof slabs to facilitate one level to the next, skylights over the stairs, and an entertainment room below ground level, featuring two inset glass panels with views into the pool. An indoor lift was fitted to access the three floors and to accommodate a wheelchair.



Small practise success

As a word-of-mouth business, and with a specialisation in medical centres such as Medicross nationwide and Pharmacross, as well as high security cash management facilities, Manus and Beata are a husband and wife team who like to offer the personal touch of the smaller practise, yet keep full control of the design process.

Realising they were not coping with the amount of work on board, and having worked in the past on Caddie, ArchiCAD and TurboCAD, Manus knew he needed a parametric design programme. He chose Autodesk Revit.

Purchased in October 2004, Manus has to-date never had any formal software training, yet within the first three weeks of using Revit, he was presenting his first designs to the client on Residence Bassonia - and within 5 weeks he had his constructions drawings completed for site.

"As a design tool, Revit visually freed me up to fully participate in the creative process. I am not guessing anymore as to what the design is going to look like and I am able to achieve my

full creativity. The best part is that the usual surprises on site are completely eliminated now. I can say Revit is a great design tool. AutoCAD is a sound product but the link between elevations and sections is simply not there, as they are in Revit. Revit's magic has made our lives easier and our production time has decreased by up to 60%.

"As a presentation tool, Revit also provides great visuals, together with full documentation. This has directly improved our professional image in business. Perception is reality: when you show clients a 3d walk through model and are able to make changes immediately as they sit with you, there is a 'wow' factor. And the



Manus and Beata

word gets around - Revit has expanded our efficiency which has subsequently expanded our client base"

"Another advantage is Revit saves us enormous amounts of time. Information is always readily available with a parametric building information model, there is no updating of sections since you are always working in a live model. If I want a section, it takes me four seconds and there it is. Normally it would take us two days to figure out the section!"

Another time-saver has been the scheduling ability says Manus. "We battled in the past to keep track of door quantities, when trying to tie it all together. We were continually counting how many windows, how many basins etc. Revit does it all for us, immediately and accurately."



Implementing Revit

"It was an easy process to implement Revit into our business - in fact it has become the crux of our business. I found it an easy package to learn, despite having had no training and I find it very user-friendly. Previously we would do our rendering by hand and draw it up with markers. With Revit I get two high quality renderings printed overnight in my home office."

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Manus needed to upgrade his hardware to a 1 gigabyte Ram machine with a Pentium 4 processor with 3 gigahertz. Presently he has more than eight projects on the go, nationwide.

Increased productivity, increased income

For Manus and Beata, Revit has meant SUCCESS. "We are currently showing tremendous growth, success for us is the personal touch, people like to know they are dealing with owner

of the business, that we are personally involved in their project, and it is not handed to some junior person behind a desk. We have a good relationship with our clients and Revit has allowed us to step up the business and keep that competitive edge."

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