

# Success stories - Fluid Architects

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– *Simon Mountford, Partner, Fluid Architecture, Cape Town*

Autodesk Revit builds virtual models of projects, with models embedded with every specification pertaining to the project - from terrain data, to the width of the windowsills and the pitch of the roof. All documentation - including conceptual drawings, floor plans, sections, elevations and details - are extracted from the model. They are created concurrently with information being added to the documentation as it's incorporated into the model.



**Fluid Architecture redefines itself with Autodesk Revit**

Cape Town's Fluid Architecture has been redefining itself - first with a new partner, then a new name, and now with new technology, the architectural design and documentation system, Autodesk Revit.

Established 12 years ago, Fluid Architecture, which was previously known as Mountford Russell, handles residential, commercial and industrial work. The firm has also been exploring opportunities offered by the burgeoning tourism market in the area.

"We have recently completed a guest lodge at Gansbaai on the Cape south coast," says partner, Simon Mountford. "The proverbial dream project, we were awarded the contract after competing in a limited design competition and were able to take the design from a concept right through to furniture design and the selection of art."



Fluid Architecture originally used AutoCAD LT and then AutoCAD - software that allowed it to create 2D representations of its building designs.

Mountford is the first of the Fluid Architecture architects to move to Autodesk Revit and, based on current performance enhancements, he hopes to see the whole firm adopting the software.

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"Clearly, there are huge time savings in producing conceptual and technical drawings concurrently," says Mountford.

"And the bonus is that you get 3D conceptual images over and above what you would normally have created."

Mountford says he's spending the additional time at his disposal refining his designs.

"I find the software valuable for testing different design options. I'm able to test different solutions quickly and feel more comfortable about pushing the design envelope."

He says the software is valuable in communicating design intent to clients.

"Autodesk Revit refines the whole communication process. Clients have a much clearer idea of their design and, as a result, the whole approval process is accelerated.

"The software has also enabled us to carry out analyses to identify the optimum placement of homes."

Fluid Architecture recently designed a 600 square metre home in Constantia, Cape Town. It comprised three levels - the basement included a utility area, home entertainment studio and wine cellar. While the ground floor comprised the living space and the first floor included the bedrooms, bathrooms and study.



"As the house is sited in a lush green space, Autodesk Revit allowed us to show the client the impact of both tall vegetation and an adjacent building on the quality of light that his site enjoyed. Armed with this information, we were able to position the house so that it would enjoy maximum sunlight without losing the spectacular trees that attracted the client to the site in the first place.

"It was an extremely valuable service to be able to offer," says Mountford.

**(Fluid Architecture is supported by the Cape Autodesk reseller, [Cadplan Cape Town](#).)**

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