



"We recently submitted a proposal that required scorecards from some of our previous clients. Four of them rated our performance near perfect. Revit Architecture definitely played a part in that success."

Alan Hart
Founding Owner
VIA Suzuki Architecture

Fast track to success.

Revit® Architecture software helps VIA Suzuki Architecture improve customer confidence, maximize profitability, and finish complex transit projects—such as the new Vancouver Olympic LRT Line—faster.

Project Summary

VIA Suzuki Architecture is a world leader in the urban and architectural design of transit systems. From Kuala Lumpur and Moscow to the streets of Seattle, the professionals at VIA have completed dozens of complex transit projects. VIA architects blend functionality, sustainability, and beauty into projects that fully match the needs of the client and the surrounding community. For the last two years, Revit Architecture software has been a vital part of that process. "We are problem solvers," says Alan Hart, a founding owner at VIA. "We've always looked for a program that responds to the way architects actually think and design, as well as something that engages the client early in the process. Nothing does that better than Revit Architecture." Since adopting the new software, VIA has already completed 10 new projects.

The Challenge

In December 2004, VIA Suzuki joined the design-build team as one of two lead architectural firms for the \$1.4 billion Richmond-Airport-Vancouver

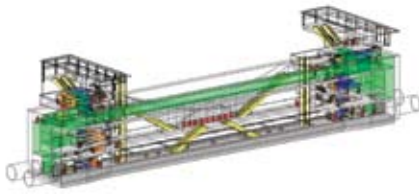
LRT rapid transit line, to be constructed for the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver, BC. This automated transit system is planned to encompass 12 miles of track and 16 stations from the airport to downtown.

Complex Urban Community

A key component of the design process for all of VIA's transit work is the neighborhood consultation that helps ensure that the finished project meets the needs of the commuters who will use it every day. Communication of the design work in 3D is a tremendous way to engage the public, to help them envision what the experience of the stations will be when completed, says Hart.

Aggressive Schedule

Most transit systems are built on a fast-track schedule that demands precise coordination among the many architects, engineers, planners, and contractors involved in the project.



Revit Architecture has helped the architects at VIA Suzuki Architecture

- Complete very complex projects with fewer staff members
- Resolve technical issues and conflicts before construction ever starts
- Completely eliminate cumbersome management of hundreds of linked files
- Collaborate dynamically on a shared, fully coordinated digital project model
- Efficiently manage the design and project information in a single, compact database

The Solution

With more than 25 years' experience in automated elevated transit system architecture, urban design, and urban infrastructure planning, Alan Hart was the perfect choice for Lead Architect on the Vancouver Olympic LRT Line project. He was also instrumental in the firm's decision to standardize on Revit Architecture.

Work the Way You Think

"Traditional CAD tools are drafting programs," says Hart. "Revit Architecture is truly a building program. It gives you the ability to draw the way architects actually think. You're not drawing lines. You're really creating parts of the building and putting them together."

Dive Right In

"Using other CAD programs, it takes four to six weeks just to learn the basics," he continues. "But with Revit Architecture, our architects and designers were up and running within two weeks. We were very impressed."

Improve Customer Confidence

Traditionally, architects have had to rely on hard-to-understand 2D documents to explain design intent. "Plans, sections, and elevations are very abstract," says Hart. "Revit Architecture and its 3D capabilities help our clients and other stakeholders understand the project early in the process. Their anxiety level drops when that happens."

Gather Input

"Asking for community input is a key part of our process," says Hart. "We want to hear their comments, and we want to hear them early. Revit Architecture has enabled us to respond very quickly. On some projects, we've been able to turn their comments into design changes within a day. That knocks their socks off and let's them see we really listen. And it gives us a huge competitive advantage."

Change Anything, Anywhere, Anytime

At the heart of Revit Architecture is a powerful database—the building information model. "When we change a detail in one place, it changes everywhere—in every part of the model—which increases our productivity and profitability," says Hart. "In one recent case, we were told about changes on a Friday, and had updated drawings ready on Monday. If we'd been using other software, it would have taken another week."

Generate Impressive Renderings

"Revit Architecture helps us generate impressive renderings at any point of the project," says Hart. "We don't have to take it to a third-party rendering package. And because we can make changes in real time, we can look at the rendering, make any necessary changes, develop a new rendering, and then print it out for a meeting the next morning."

The Result

VIA is securing its niche in the transit system market. "We have the experience, and we're very innovative," says Hart. "And now, Revit Architecture is putting us in an even stronger position. A few months ago, we decided that all new projects will now be in Revit Architecture. We're not going to use the other CAD programs any more."

To learn more about Revit Architecture, visit www.autodesk.com/revitarchitecture.