



“Building information modeling and Revit Architecture are key components of our larger strategy to provide a much more comprehensive and integrated service to our clients.”

Riaan de Beer
Senior Project Manager
Reno C. Negrin Architects

A better way of working.

Reno C. Negrin Architects significantly improves coordination and collaboration on complex projects—and wins new business—with Revit® Architecture software.

Project Summary

Reno C. Negrin Architects (RCNA) is one of the oldest architectural and interior design firms in Vancouver, B.C., Canada. “We’re a full-service architectural consulting firm specializing in hotels, resorts, and large-scale residential developments,” says Riaan de Beer, senior project manager at the firm. Currently, RCNA has a staff of 20 architects and interior designers. “About two years ago, we realized that our profession was gradually losing territory to other disciplines and new technologies,” says de Beer. “That meant less work for us—and less money.” They also noticed an industry-wide trend toward declining quality in project documentation. “To take back territory for architects—and improve project quality—we realized that we would need a very different kind of tool, one that would fundamentally change the way we present information to our clients, consultants, and contractors. That’s why we’ve standardized on Revit Architecture.”

The Challenge

One of the first tests for the new building information modeling (BIM) software was The

Erickson, a 17-story high-rise building by renowned designer Arthur Erickson. “We were approached to do design development and construction documentation,” says de Beer

High-End Design

“The building’s key feature is that it twists as it rises,” says de Beer. “Each floor has three apartments and an average footprint of 10,000 square feet. It’s very high-end. In fact, it’s the most expensive building ever sold in Vancouver.”

Complex Systems

“Although the building is visually quite simple, it has a complex underlying structure that includes sloping columns, a vast curtain wall, and a very challenging glazing system,” says de Beer. “When we looked over the initial work Erickson had done, we realized that it would have presented a significant challenge to complete using traditional, two-dimensional drawings.”



Achieve Rapid ROI

"On one of our initial Revit Architecture projects we had four months to produce design development drawings. After the time was up, we had not only fully paid for the implementation through our fees, but had also produced a set of drawings that was so far ahead of what everyone else had done that the client actually asked us to stop work for two months to allow everyone else to catch up."

The Solution

"The client's initial reaction was that this building was simply too complex for the implementation of a relatively new design platform," says de Beer. "But we believed that the building's complexity was the strongest argument in favor of using Revit Architecture. And in the end, it worked out fantastically well."

Get up to Speed Fast

"Right away, we had to move very quickly into really advanced functions," says de Beer. "Our reseller, Global CADD Systems, helped us through those hurdles with an initial week of training followed by ongoing support."

Produce Better Drawings

"Once we started designing, the Revit Architecture parametric change engine automatically produced basic elevations, sections, schedules, and other project documentation," says de Beer. "That really helped us spend more time actually designing the details of the building and produce a much more comprehensive set of drawings." As a result, RCNA was able to discover—and resolve—most significant design issues during design development, long before beginning construction documentation.

Share Project Information

Because the structural consultants at Glotman Simpson Construction Engineers already used Revit® Structure software, they were eager to share project information using a Revit building information model. "Together, we saw an incredible improvement in coordination," says de Beer.

Maximize Coordination

"For example, this building twists as it rises," says Jos Arpink, CAD Manager at Glotman Simpson Consulting Engineers. "And the columns slope inward all the way up. Coordinating all of that

would have been difficult without being able to link our model to theirs."

Easily Update the Model

"Using the Revit platform, keeping everything up-to-date was very easy—even when we had to make changes," says Arpink. "As we updated our model, RCNA was able to link our revised version into their model. That definitely resulted in much tighter integration between structure and architecture."

The Result

"Our first Revit Architecture client was actually dubious about being the guinea pig for our big switch to building information modeling," says de Beer. "Now, they've become our biggest repeat customer. Three of the four new projects we started in Revit Architecture are from that customer—and it's all new business."

New Business Opportunities

Their success with the new platform has not gone unnoticed among local design professionals. "Other architects are coming to us and asking us to tell them more about what we're doing," says de Beer. "That itself has become a business opportunity for us."

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