



"We're marketing ourselves in three ways. One, as a full-service architectural firm. Two, a technologically forward-thinking group. And three, we use Revit Architecture as our primary design and documentation tool."

Alan Tomasi
Partner
TSArchitects

Small startup architectural firm tackles large projects.

With Revit® Architecture design and documentation software, small startup firm TSArchitects meets the challenges of complex projects and delivers better service to clients.

The Company

When Alan Tomasi and Chris Serrao founded TSArchitects in 2004, they knew from the start that their primary design and production tool would be Revit Architecture software. "After seeing a presentation of the software, we were so impressed that we knew this would change the way we approached the design and documentation process of projects," says Tomasi. TSArchitects' goal was to provide architecture and interior design services to clients across a wide range of markets, including commercial, retail, tenant improvement, multifamily, and custom single-family residential. "It was a big step. Not only were we starting our own company, but we had to produce 13 separate building construction documents in a short period of time. Revit Architecture helped us easily accomplish this previously impossible task." Since implementing the powerful building information modeling (BIM) software, TSArchitects has successfully seen their first project, Bridge Street Town Centre in Huntsville, Alabama, through to construction documentation and is in the design phase for the Bridge Street Town Centre project in McKinney, Texas.

The Challenge

The Bridge Street Town Centre project was both large and extraordinarily complex. Centered around a 10 acre lake on a 100 acre site, the project also includes a six-story, 140,000-square-foot office building and 400,000 square feet of high-end retail space spread among 12 separate buildings with 40 units of housing.

Complex Design Challenges

"The retail core buildings were the most difficult part of the project," says Serrao. Each building was modeled after the architecture of a traditional European village. "There was so much detail—in the ornate facades, window trim, and the various types of columns and cornices that had to be modeled in Revit Architecture."

"We had no idea if Revit Architecture could handle all of the detail," says Tomasi. "For example, we didn't know if we could use it to design a Corinthian column. This wasn't something they showed us in the demo. We wondered if Revit Architecture was up to the challenge."



Using Revit Architecture design and documentation software, the architects at TSArchitects were able to

- Produce large, complex projects as a small firm
- Allow multiple people to work on one project simultaneously
- Create customized parametric components
- Minimize time wasted on printing and layer management
- Automatically coordinate changes throughout the project
- Produce accurate construction documentation more efficiently
- Enable other disciplines—such as structural engineers—make use of the data-rich building information model
- Improve client communications with detailed 3D images

The Solution

To overcome these hurdles and ensure that the firm's architects could hit the ground running with Revit Architecture, Tomasi and Serrao decided to invest in training. "We had a project that we had to get out. It was sink or swim."

Get Started Quickly

After exploring the basic features of Revit Architecture on their own for a week, the architects at TSArchitects participated in three days of training. "We picked it up very quickly," says Jon Walters, one of the firm's project managers. "It's not a difficult program to learn. The software is very intuitive, which is evidence of the fact that it was developed for architects by architects."

Impress Your Clients

Working with a building information model gave the designers at TSArchitects an immediate advantage. Because the building model contains all the information about a project, the designers were able to concurrently create accurate plan, elevation, section, schedule, 3D, and rendered views—and impress their clients.

"Revit Architecture allows us to cross the bridge between drawing a building and virtually building a building," says Walters. "This is important because it minimizes errors caused by drawings that are not coordinated. The fact that Revit Architecture is, at its core, a database means that we spend less time internally coordinating drawings and more time refining the model and fine-tuning the design."

Easily Share Information

Revit Architecture also made it easy to share information with consultants and clients. "Because of the software's ability to easily convert to AutoCAD file format, consultants were able to continue working on their existing platforms," says Walters.

Make Changes Quickly

When the architects needed to make design changes, the parametric change engine in Revit Architecture enabled them to make the change once, while the software automatically coordinated changes throughout the project as necessary—model views, drawing sheets, schedules, sections, and plans. "Revit Architecture dramatically helps in maintaining coordinated drawings when making changes," says Serrao.

The Result

TSArchitects' success with Revit Architecture has already inspired the firm's structural engineer to adopt Revit® Structure software. One of the firm's engineering consultants—structural firm TRC International Ltd.—is also interested in using the software. "We're looking forward to getting a team started on this technology as soon as possible," says Suri Ramanna of TRC.

Better Service

"Revit Architecture allows us to work and think as architects," says Serrao. "We no longer have to reduce a three-dimensional object to two dimensions. Revit Architecture allows users to virtually construct their documents rather than simply draw them. Ultimately, the software allows for faster results for both client and architect, and better service through a changed workflow. This software is our strategy."

To learn more about Revit Architecture, visit www.autodesk.com/revitarchitecture. To learn more about TSArchitects, 2050 S. Bundy Dr., Suite 225, Los Angeles, California visit www.tsarch.com, or call 310-895-7901.