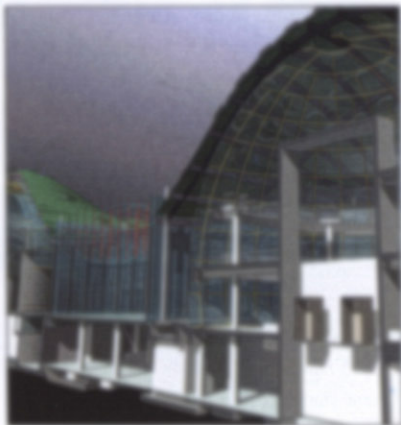


AEC new release round-up



It's been a busy month in the world of AEC technology, with all the traditional vendors releasing new products and updates onto the market. There has even been a rarer occurrence, that of the launch of a completely new AEC modelling solution. This month's AEC has in-depth coverage of all these products and strategies.

Autodesk has introduced a new Civils solution (see page 9), called Civils 3D, which works in conjunction with AutoCAD Map, Land Development Desktop, AutoCAD Survey and the existing AutoCAD Civils. The move represents the start of a new focus on the Civils market for the company and is also the beginning of a multi-year

product rationalisation.

Graphisoft has been quiet for over a year but has suddenly come to market with a solid update (version 9 page 21) to its ArchCAD Virtual Modelling tool, as well as a brand new product aimed at modelling the construction process. Called Graphisoft Constructor (page 16), the new 3D program offers construction firms the ability to model not just the building but the quantities, fabrication 'recipes', costs and construction schedule. There is also an estimation package and Graphisoft has set-up a Services business (to assist early adopters deploy what they call 'SD' technology) as it models the building (3D), the time schedule (4D) and the costs (the 5th D). The development indicates a new approach to selling 3D modelling tools to the AEC market.

The final big announcement comes from LA, California, as Geffy Technologies (GT), part of Frank Geffy's famous design firm, launched its first version of Digital Project (see pages 22-27). Geffy's practice has used Dassault Systemes' Catia modelling tool for over ten years to alter the way it worked with contractors and fabricators. Geffy Technologies was set up to 'productise' its parametric Catia-based solution and address the inefficiencies in the AEC by re-thinking the way it currently works. On page 22, Jim Glymph, CEO of GT explains how he sees the challenges that need to be addressed.

Autodesk celebrates Building Systems wins

Leading international professional design and building services consultancy, Buro Happold, has cross-graded its existing AutoCAD licenses in its Leeds office, to Autodesk Building Systems 2005.

"As an organisation, we have used Autodesk products successfully for many years," confirms engineering systems development manager, Jon Hardy, "and this move to explore the scale of benefits achievable with 3D design by acquiring Building Systems 2005 is a logical step for us."

Meanwhile, Engineering, transportation and environ-

mental consultancy, Faber Maunsel, has also acquired Autodesk Building Systems 2005 for its Edinburgh office.

"In selecting Building Systems 2005 from Autodesk, we wanted a flexible, responsive 3D solution which offered a high level of intelligence," said CAD technician, Michael Parkinson. "It takes operating efficiency and productivity to a new level, by enabling us to identify and resolve potential conflicts at design stage rather than on-site, so eliminating costly reworking and delays."

www.autodesk.co.uk

Axomic upgrades asset management tool

Axomic, a provider of digital asset management solutions for architects, has announced the latest version of its flagship browser-based image library software OpenAsset. Version 2.1 of the software offers significant productivity benefits and reduced management costs through the introduction of Batch Upload, Batch Update and a Saved Albums facility.

OpenAsset is designed to solve the digital asset management issues faced by project-driven organisations like architectural practices. OpenAsset assumes the responsibility for managing libraries of images and other digital assets associated with architectural projects. Images are searched for via a standard web browser interface and can be collected for output and converted to the appropriate formats and resolutions for use in various applications. The software improves workflow by opening up digital assets to everyone in the company and boosts productivity by reducing time spent searching for and re-formatting images.

www.axomic.com

New visibility for Buzzsaw



With the release of Version 6, Autodesk has announced significant enhancements to Autodesk Buzzsaw to provide more visibility and control on building, manufacturing, and infrastructure projects. Autodesk Buzzsaw provides a platform that enables building owners, developers, architects, construction, and facilities managers the ability to manage and share information more effectively throughout planning, design, construction and operations processes.

www.buzzsaw.com

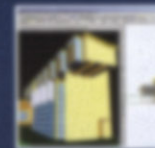
CAD training merger



CABS has announced the merger of its training division with Premier Training Solutions to form CABS Premier Training Limited. CABS Limited are an established Autodesk approved reseller, specialising in the build environment and mapping solutions offered by Autodesk. The CABS Premier Training team see the new alliance as the perfect way to enhance the architectural training skills of the CABS training division and combine them with the Autodesk and industry accredited courses of Premier Training to provide high quality, technical training in all disciplines that is Autodesk and industry accredited.

www.cabs-training.com

NavisWorks 3.6 released



NavisWorks has announced the release of NavisWorks3 version 3.6. This latest version is compatible with Architectural Desktop 2005, Vuz 2005 and is Inventor 9 certified to further enhance the Autodesk file format support offered by NavisWorks3.

www.navisworks.co.uk

Construction Computing



The 2004 Construction Computing Event - IT Solutions for the Construction Industry, will take place on the 3rd and 4th of November 2004 at London's Barbican Centre. The event will present the construction industry with the business case for change to new technologies and offer IT business solutions for every aspect of the construction process.

www.constructioncomputing.co.uk

More news stories, updated daily, at:

www.cadserver.co.uk