BSD
CaseStudy

Efficiency.
Standardization.
Productivity...

"SpecLink allows project teams across the company to develop specifications the same way, using the same tools, while producing similar results."

Architecture and engineering consulting firm, Shive-Hattery, has completed stunning projects in its 120+ years of existence. With a storied history dating back to 1895, the firm has expanded over time to include eight locations, 400 employees, and countless successful projects.

Shive-Hattery has proven its client-intimate consulting approach goes beyond traditional design, with versatility across key markets including civic, education, commercial, healthcare, and more,

Powered by a legacy of great work and a successful team, Shive-Hattery needs little help to achieve great things in architecture. But one tool they are able to count on to streamline their operation while adding value for clients is Building Systems Design's *SpecLink*.

SpecLink is a software product currently utilized by over 1800 firms to craft specifications for projects of all kinds. With over 10,000 professionals who utilize the platform and over 18 years of producing hundreds of thousands of successful project specifications, *SpecLink* is uniquely capable of responding to the needs of an equally epic firm.

Mitchell Kelchen, Project Delivery Specialist for Shive-Hattery, recently took the time to reflect on his experience with *SpecLink*, which the firm has been using for well over five years. Their principal use of the product is "detailed construction documents specifications", but they also produce preliminary and outline specifications, taking advantage if its unique expanding/collapsing database.

Although they have experimented with other dedicated specification tools, word processing was the chief alternative to *SpecLink* prior to its adoption across the firm. "Home-grown" master specification documents manually edited in word processing is a very tedious and inefficient process, because the documents have no built-in intelligence and require manual updating.

According to Kelchen, many *SpecLink* features provide significant benefits for Shive-Hattery, including:

■ Ability to produce and maintain an office master that addresses the needs of the specific practice.

■ Ability to add user notes to any paragraph, including photos and hyperlinks.

■ The automatic coordination of cross-references.

■ Ability to add unique links to improve automation.

■ Hyperlinks to the listed manufacturers' web sites.

■ Automatic table of contents.

■ Changing the project name and other standard terms globally

■ Setting the headers and footers once for the whole project.

■ Having the reference standards checked and updated frequently.

■ Having the manufacturer names and web addresses checked and updated frequently.

Ultimately it was the project management and collaboration enabled by *SpecLink* that convinced the firm to make the switch years ago.

Said Kelchen, "With eight office locations, each office was working in slightly different ways. *SpecLink* allows

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Software is a leading contributor to efficient project management across all industries. And few industries hold such significance for efficiency, accuracy and collaboration as architecture, engineering, building and construction.

SpecLink helps manage projects by bringing team members together on a collaborative platform and providing the product and systems data needed by the various members of the team.

In the case of Shive-Hattery, using *SpecLink* has saved the firm an estimated 30% of the time and resources previously allocated to the specification process.

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One concern firms have prior to adopting *SpecLink* is the required onboarding – the training and education required not only to use the software, but to gain stakeholder buy-in. After all, standardization requires wide acceptance to be effective.

Shive-Hattery was able to integrate *SpecLink* into their process after just one hour of training, via the standard introductory webinar from BSD – a feat that speaks both to the engagement of their team and the intuitive design of the software.

BSD's *SpecLink* provides a nearly instant upgrade for firms operating in today's fast-paced, tech-driven architectural industry. Accurate, efficient and standardized specifications are central to collaborative processes at firms that rely on *SpecLink*.

And as Shive-Hattery builds on its impressive story – one of industry leadership, innovation and sustainability – it will continue to set the bar for the effective use of *SpecLink* and will serve as an excellent example for firms of all kinds.

Find out more about how your company can benefit from *SpecLink* by calling the number below, or by visiting **www.bsdspeclink.com**

Telephone: **1–888–273–7638**

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