

BSD Case Study

“SpecLink gave us the ability to seamlessly assimilate a tremendous amount of client-specific requirements, standards, procedures, and preferences.”

Specifications for the University of Alabama’s Science and Engineering Complex Phase IV were produced using BSD SpecLink, a powerful specwriting tool that improves the efficiency of the designers and produces documents that are much better coordinated. SpecLink’s unique capabilities led to more accurate and up-to-date construction documents and allowed for improved coordination and accuracy among the entire design team.

This project’s many client-specific requirements were easily accommodated by the SpecLink system, which led to improved confidence in the documents and a smoother construction process. The university’s newest engineering students will now study inside a beautiful structure that was created through the use of the construction industry’s latest software technology.

Bill Williams and Joel Blackstock started a company based on the idea that structures should be monuments connected to all the history, culture, and tradition impinging on a project. The principals of Williams Blackstock Architects [WBA] together have over 40 years of experience, and they have developed a team that listens, collaborates, and challenges its members to reach the highest level of excellence in their craft. They provide services for clients in corporate, health care, educational, municipal, industrial, religious, and recreational environments, and their robust staff provides a full range of architectural, planning, and interior design services. Computer technology is employed early

Future students learn engineering inside structure specified by the latest technology



in the design process to provide realistic simulations and demonstrate the impact of various design concepts.

WBA's projects involve restoration, remodeling and renovation, as well as new construction, and the firm prides itself on the high degree of personal attention they offer their clients. This individualized focus results in highly customized projects characterized by sophistication and sensitivity. Headquartered in Birmingham, Alabama, WBA has become a well-respected bastion of excellence in architecture.

The need

As is the case with many businesses, the TRO staff has had to become more efficient and versatile. They no longer have the luxury of having a single individual who is dedicated to just setting up and maintaining specifications.

According to S. Jay Sweeney, an architect/specification writer with TRO, "Before SpecLink, keeping headers and footers consistent, maintaining the proper format for duplicated product data and printing out final specifications was very difficult with a dedicated person handling it. It was even more difficult without a dedicated person."

TRO's philosophy of excellence permeates every aspect of their business. They wanted their specification writing process to have the same high level of quality as their architectural design, planning and other services.

They knew SpecLink could help them maintain this.

The solution

TRO started using SpecLink in 1998. They selected SpecLink because they saw it as a way to help them consistently manage their projects and maintain product updates.

Says Sweeney, "The ease of copying the office master into individual projects and then turning required sections 'on' and 'off' saves so much time. Because the system is so easy to understand, it significantly cuts down on the errors and omissions common to previous methods."

This is especially important when multiple people are working with the specifications.

Sweeney continues, "Reviewing project status is simplified by the global view – being able to see the entire project helps us better manage the project. And the automated reference standards are helpful by not only saving time required to obtain the correct standard, but also in



providing a source and a crosscheck for new standards that need to be investigated.”

The process of creating, maintaining and printing specifications can be time consuming. While a main benefit of SpecLink has been to help TRO produce consistent, up-to-date specifications, it has also given them significant time-savings on average of 40%.

The outcome

The time-savings aspect of SpecLink became very apparent when TRO worked on a group of projects for one of their healthcare clients. Sweeney recalls these projects, “They were all interior infill spaces and had the same basic construction requirements. Many of the projects, however, were located in buildings of varying construction types.

The contract requirements and general requirements were nearly identical for all projects, and the core set of specification projects were identical.” Using SpecLink, TRO was able to easily select and deselect specification sections as needed, copy the project information and update the product data over the extended life of the multiple projects.

“With many of the projects going on at the same time, we were able to remain confident that each project was being tracked separately and completed on time. Our entire spec writing process was greatly simplified by SpecLink!” word processing program, they can be more efficient using the software.”

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**