

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 spec writing 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 in the design

Future students learn engineering inside structure specified by the latest technology



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

Bill Williams and Joel Blackstock started Williams Blackstock Architects [WBA] in 1992 with a goal of creating projects that would celebrate their connection to place, culture and tradition. They assembled a team with an open curiosity towards design issues and a strong desire to reach excellence through research and exploration.

They fostered an environment in which they constantly evaluate their path and continuously challenge their team to critical thinking and new ideas with the ultimate goal of creating designs in perfect alignment with people, places, and events.

A crucial part of this process has involved their documentation processes. In time, WBA's team of architects and interior designers found their specification development process was not enabling the excellence they desired. Specs took too long to develop, and using outside consultants put them a step away from direct coordination with the drawings and the needs of their clients.

To maintain the superior value they wanted to offer, it became necessary for them to embrace the industry's newest technology.

The solution

They knew about SpecLink from peers in the industry and had an opportunity to use it when they were contracted by a firm that used SpecLink exclusively. Jamie Hewitt, Director of Technical Resources and Development said, "Our previous methods of preparing specifications were already presenting challenges for us and we were ready for a change." SpecLink provided the missing link in their ability to maintain the professionalism they desired. The basic mechanics and formatting challenges of word processing were easily overcome through the new technology. SpecLink's numerous productivity features brought efficiencies in both time and accuracy.



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“We estimate a 40% time saving using SpecLink that allows for more time we can dedicate to research and better coordination,” said Hewitt.

The outcome

They were surprised at how easy it was to switch to SpecLink – they were able to learn and use the software in less than a week. Hewitt said, “We immediately saw the benefits in the detail of our construction specifications. SpecLink allowed us to incorporate the client’s master specs into the documentation, and all updates kept previous information intact.” The fact they were not having to reconstruct client or building type customizations was a tremendous time-saving feature.

The automatic coordination of cross-referencing and linking to manufacturers’ websites were huge benefits. WBA found that their overall coordination and accuracy were greatly improved.

Because the documents had fewer inconsistencies and errors, contractors had much more confidence in them. WBA’s team of architects and interior designers pride themselves on strong connections with their clients and contractors, and SpecLink has assisted them in building long-term relationships.

One of their best projects using SpecLink was the Science and Engineering Complex Phase IV at the University of Alabama. Interestingly, the newest students of the construction industry will be learning their craft in a structure that was in part created through the use of its latest software technology.

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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