

Is BIM Right for Your Church?



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BIM (Business Information Modeling) is an integrated process that provides owners (churches), architects, engineers, and contractors the opportunity to examine a project's key physical and functional characteristics...before it is built. BIM makes some of its biggest contributions to a church project before you begin construction. Along with coordinating and detecting problems that decrease the use of RFI's (Request for Information) and architectural induced change orders by up to 70%, decreasing construction costs, and accelerating project schedules by as much as 10%, the biggest advantage is effectively communicating the design intent to the church committee members.

When you use 2D (two dimensional) drawings methodology, which most architects are still using, it is often difficult for church committee members who do not have a construction background to understand the Architect's design intent. There is a significant amount of guesswork involved in interpreting the designer's intent, as well as determining design constructability. With the 2D process of preparing architectural drawings flat layers are overlaid to depict different building elements, and it can take years of experience for someone to look at these types of drawings and know whether the elements can be constructed as easily or cost-effectively as intended.

With the BIM process, early in the design process, a conceptual building model is digitally prepared in 3D. It lets you see how the design comes together. There is no interpretation involved of what the designer is intending. Church committee members can see early on what they are getting.

Building Information Modeling has too many pluses for your church not to consider hiring architects and design/builders who can utilize BIM for your project. The most important reason for considering BIM is the lower construction costs derived from easy to read drawings, along with other tangible, inherent benefits of BIM which include faster schedules, fewer RFI's and architectural induced change orders, and well-orchestrated field work.

