

COMPANY

Martinez + Johnson Architecture

LOCATION

New York and Washington, D.C.

SOFTWARE

Autodesk® A360 Collaboration for Revit®
Autodesk® Revit™

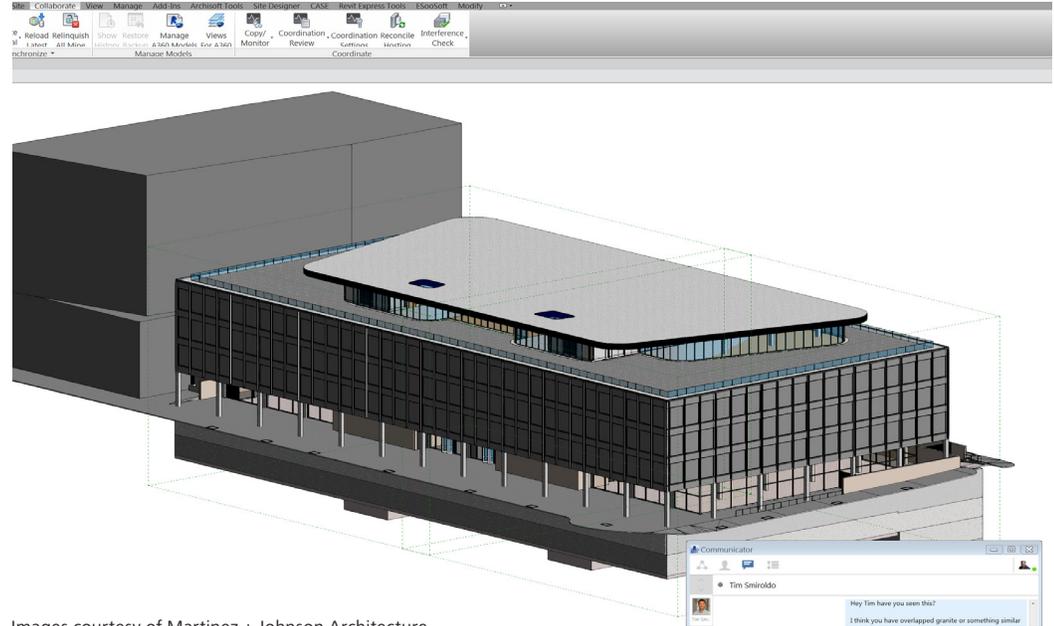
Revolutionizing BIM collaboration

Collaboration for Revit transforms joint venture teamwork for Martinez + Johnson

Collaboration for Revit was like a dream come true. As soon as we began using it, we knew it was going to revolutionize our collaborative design process.

—Kal Houhou

Director of Technology
Martinez + Johnson Architecture



Images courtesy of Martinez + Johnson Architecture.

The firm

Martinez + Johnson Architecture is an architectural firm specializing in the restoration and adaptive reuse of historic structures and performing arts venues from its offices in New York City and Washington D.C. The firm uses Autodesk® Revit® as its primary design tool and often works on joint venture projects with other design firms who are also using Revit design software.

For example, one of the firm's current projects is the modernization of the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library (MLKML) in Washington D.C. The 400,000 square-foot library is the main facility of the city's public library system. The steel and glass structure, designed by famed modernist architect Ludwig Mies van der Rohe, is a rare example of modern architecture in D.C. and was designated an historic landmark in 2007. Martinez + Johnson and Netherlands-based Mecanoo Architecten, which also uses Revit software, are design partners on this project.

The challenges

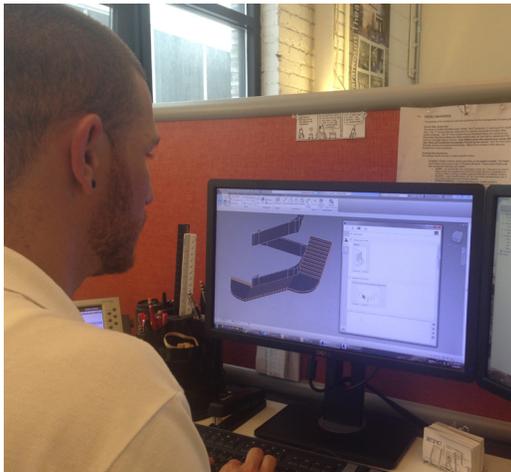
Joint venture projects like this library renovation are common for Martinez + Johnson, requiring a collaborative design platform. "Our distributed design team, as well as staff working remotely, needs 24 hour access to Revit design models," says Kal Houhou, director of technology at Martinez + Johnson. "We have a lot of experience with WAN

optimization, acceleration, and other virtualization processes that provide shared access to Revit models. But these processes can require additional software, costly hardware, and a substantial IT commitment for implementation and ongoing management."

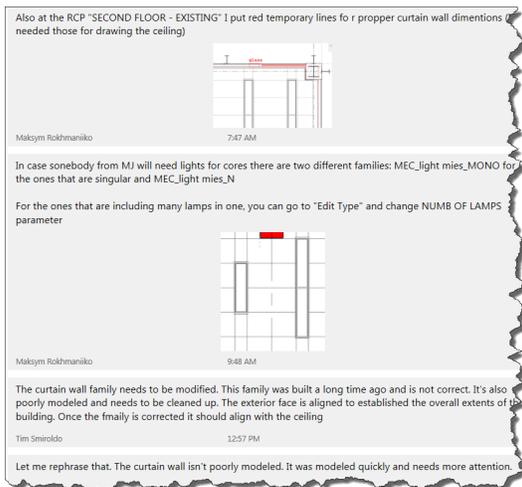
In addition, project communications based on these solutions occur outside of the main design environment—using Skype or email or instant messaging for example—thereby disrupting design work. Moreover, these workarounds to enable access to Revit models can pose security risks when design partners are accessing internal networks and servers. Even for internal projects, the entire firm must shoulder expenses associated with shared access, although not all of its projects require this type of inter-company or even inter-office collaboration.

The solution

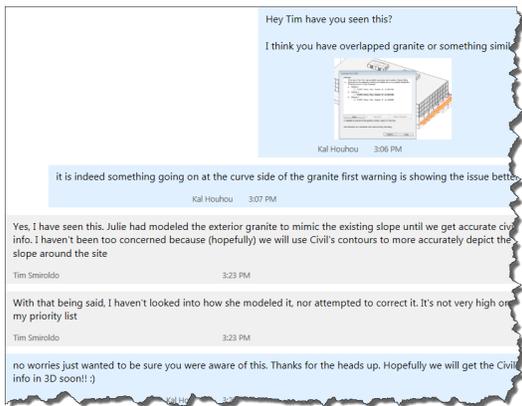
In mid-2014, the firm began investigating cloud collaboration strategies for the MLKML project, particularly ways to provide shared access to Revit models without the heavy IT cost and burden. In the same timeframe, Autodesk announced a new cloud-based collaboration service for Revit—Autodesk® A360 Collaboration for Revit®—and Martinez + Johnson became one of its first users. "Collaboration for Revit was like a dream come true," recalls Houhou. "As soon as we began using it, we knew it was going to revolutionize our collaborative design process."



Images courtesy of Martinez + Johnson Architecture.



Communicator Images courtesy of Martinez + Johnson Architecture.



Communicator Images courtesy of Martinez + Johnson Architecture.

Simple, flexible, user-friendly

As a cloud service, Collaboration for Revit requires no IT installation or maintenance, and no setup costs. It is built on Autodesk's A360 project collaboration platform, which facilitates sharing and viewing of data by project teams. "The setup was very straight-forward—simply downloading and installing a Revit plugin," says Houhou. "It only took 30 minutes to train a dozen designers on how to access the Revit project information and how to collaborate and communicate from within the Revit environment."

On the MLKML project, Martinez + Johnson and Mecanoo currently have 12 designers using Collaboration for Revit, with more being added as the project progresses. "It doesn't matter if the designer is in D.C., in another state, or at an airport hotel—they can access the Revit project model as if they're all in one office," says Houhou. "And after almost a year of using the service, the most common words we hear from our designers is 'flexible' and 'user-friendly'."

Communication by design

The Communicator feature within Collaboration for Revit provides real-time chat functionality with other project members, as well as an awareness of who is working on which models at any given time and of their model changes. While working in Revit, a person can chat with other team members and attach files, images, or Revit screen captures. "Communicator makes it easy for our designers to collaborate and communicate with each other, and without leaving their design environment," says Houhou. "They don't have to open their email or pick up the phone. They can stay engaged in their design environment and the design process." In addition, integration with A360 enables project participants to view models, even on a mobile device without the use of Revit software.

The result

Already Martinez + Johnson has expanded its use of Collaboration for Revit. In May of 2015, the firm was recently awarded a new project working with an architectural firm in Pennsylvania on the renovation of the Cincinnati Music Hall in Ohio and their first submission was due just two months later. The two firms are working together using a centralized Revit project model. "In the past, it would have taken several months and probably the purchase of additional hardware to set up a collaborative environment for this project," says Houhou. In addition to the expense, the set up time would have jeopardized the project schedule. With Collaboration for Revit, the firms were able to start working together in a matter of days.

"Collaboration for Revit is a great solution for joint venture partnerships, interoffice collaboration, and staff who work remotely," says Houhou. "Using the cloud to collaborate on our Revit projects is no longer on our 'wish list'. Instead, it's just how we work."

For more information, visit www.autodesk.com/products/collaboration-for-revit

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