Kasian Architecture
Interior Design
and Planning Ltd

Customer Success Story

AutoCAD® Architecture
Autodesk® Buzzsaw®
DWF™

"AutoCAD Architecture is much more than just a design tool. We see it as a partner in the work that we do."

Bill Chomik
Principal
Kasian Architecture Interior Design
and Planning Ltd

Verdict is in on AutoCAD Architecture.

Kasian Architecture Interior Design and Planning Ltd uses AutoCAD® Architecture software and the Autodesk® Buzzsaw® service for one of the largest court centers in North America—and boosts productivity by almost 20 percent.

Project Summary

Experience. Expertise. Passion. Kasian Architecture Interior Design and Planning Ltd brings these qualities and more to its pursuit of excellence in design consulting services. With more than 185 dedicated professionals, Kasian is one of the largest integrated architecture and interior design firms in Western Canada. Together, the firm's architects, designers, and support personnel serve clients from a broad range of building types, including health care, residential urban development, transportation, retail, education, public recreation, and commercial office space. Recently, Kasian was appointed the Prime Consultant for the new $300 million Calgary Courts Center. This new facility has more courtrooms than any other facility in the world—73. To meet this project's aggressive production schedule, Kasian standardized on AutoCAD Architecture. "We're converting all of our CAD workstations to AutoCAD Architecture," says Bill Chomik, a principal at the firm. "And we plan to implement it in our sister offices as well."

The Challenge

When complete, the Calgary Courts Center will encompass more than one million square feet of modern architectural design in downtown Calgary. It will include two towers joined by a soaring 28-story glazed atrium, a major civic park, and a 450-car parking garage.

Speed Is Essential

"More and more of our projects are on aggressive production schedules," says Chomik. "The Calgary Courts Center is a design-build project that is a sequential tender. Quickly issuing drawings and responding to changes is even more important. We had to be able to rapidly modify architectural components such as walls, doors, and windows, and produce contract documents much faster than is typical for a project of this scale."

Autodesk

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Using AutoCAD Architecture, the architects at Kasian were able to

- *Increase time spent on design*

- *Implement the software at their own pace, with familiar working methods and user interface*

- *Produce more accurate and better-coordinated drawings*

- *Improve communication with clients and consultants*

- *Use object libraries and shared knowledge to reuse previous work*

- *Link drawing and schedule information*

- *Automate the sharing and management of information by converting designs into DWF files and posting them to Buzzsaw*

The Solution

Such challenges demanded a new approach to design and documentation productivity. "The Calgary Courts Center project is driving the initiative to convert from vector-based CAD to an end-to-end object-based CAD process," says David Burch, IS manager at Kasian. AutoCAD Architecture is a key component of that change.

Maximize Productivity and Efficiency

"The object-based model has helped us pack more information into the drawings than ever before," says Burch. "We're really extending the definition of the model, and on this project it's coming back to us in spades. Now, we can accurately make design changes without breaking away from production and documentation. That's minimized rework."

Improve Documentation

Using AutoCAD Architecture, Kasian was able to reduce the number of RFIs (requests for information) issued by the builders. "We've already constructed $30–35 million worth of product on site, and we've only issued 25 site instructions," says Chomik. "In fact, the general contractor can't believe the clarity and thoroughness of the drawings they're receiving."

Streamline Collaboration

AutoCAD Architecture also helped coordinate work with experts across North America. "Our outside consultants worked on very specific projects," says Burch. "Courtroom areas. Prisoner circulation. They worked directly on our drawings—without any rework, conversion, or coordination. AutoCAD Architecture was amazing at making the connections."

Keep Everyone Informed

Kasian converted drawings to DWF™ files and made them available to the extended project team on the Autodesk Buzzsaw online project collaboration service. By using the free Autodesk® Design Review software to view the drawings, the Government of Alberta, the judges, and the other stakeholder were able to keep informed. "Most of them didn't have AutoCAD," says Burch. "We used Buzzsaw to share DWF files with them during web conferences. Everyone had access to the same drawings for discussion."

Quickly Make Changes

Last-minute changes can seriously disrupt project schedules, but Kasian found that AutoCAD Architecture makes such changes much easier. "At the very last minute, the judges asked for a significant change to a couple of the courtrooms," says Chomik. "It meant touching everything—architecture, interior design, and all of the mechanical and electrical aspects. We made the changes without any delays to the review process and at minimal cost."

The Result

"Our design process is faster and more efficient with AutoCAD Architecture," says Chomik. "Using traditional methods, it would have taken us about 22 months to go from schematic design through design development to contract documents. In fact, we're going to get it done in 18 months. AutoCAD Architecture helped us easily shave four months off the normal process."

Award-Winning Designs

Six years ago, Kasian won recognition for the first building it designed with AutoCAD Architecture. "The City of Calgary Animal Services Center was selected as one of the Top 50 Best Buildings in Alberta," says Chomik. Given their recent success with AutoCAD Architecture, more awards are sure to follow.

To learn more about AutoCAD Architecture, visit www.autodesk.com/autocadarchitecture.

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