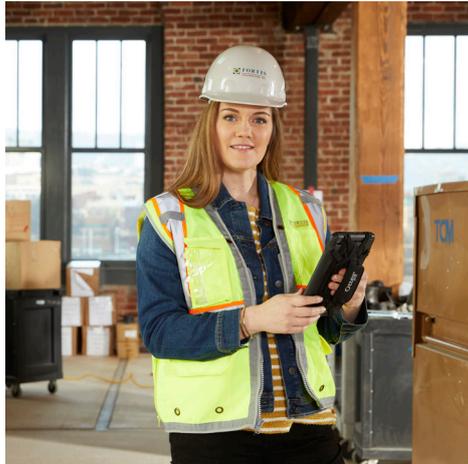


COMPANY
Fortis Construction

LOCATION
Portland, Oregon, USA

SOFTWARE
 Autodesk® Revit®
 Autodesk® Navisworks®

“On a recent project, a design element posing a significant conflict got all the way to the clash detection phase before it was discovered. Identifying the error before construction ultimately saved more than \$200,000 in potential rework.”



Supporting Quality Construction

Fortis Construction: A General Contractor with a Mission

‘We make an impact’ is the purpose and at the heart of the core ideology of Fortis Construction, an employee-owned general contractor based in Portland, Oregon. The company is consistently recognized for its ingenuity and prides itself on building positive relationships with its clients. These strong relationships pay off as repeat customers account for more than 90 percent of Fortis’ business, demonstrating the quality of the company’s work.

Fortis specializes in managing construction projects across the globe, with a broad portfolio of work including data centers, education, healthcare and commercial/offices. The integration of BIM (referred to internally at Fortis as Building Information Management) into the planning and preconstruction process has enabled its project teams to strategically resolve issues and optimize constructability before breaking ground on the project.

Pushing the Envelope

Motivated by a pioneering spirit, Fortis and its customers consistently look at shared ways to innovate on projects. According to Monica Emmons, Fortis BIM Manager, “The relationships we have with our clients is key to our ability to pursue ideas in innovation. It’s through an established level of trust that we are able to challenge the traditional notions of how things should be built and ultimately push the boundaries of what is possible in construction.”

Bringing in BIM

Six years ago, Fortis implemented BIM for preconstruction to pioneer new workflows and proactively respond to the needs of its data center customers. Ideal for these complex projects, BIM also enables a smoother handover process with owners, who can continue to use this design and construction data long after the completion of the project.

At the time, Fortis saw the potential of enabling a model-based workflow, but as a smaller company of 75 employees, it took time to hone in on how best to fit BIM workflows to the right construction



challenges. Gradually, both Fortis and its customers began to uncover the true value of BIM for construction projects. Over time, it was Fortis’ established relationships with owners that provided the right opportunities to influence the processes that were used—which ultimately laid the foundation for the Fortis BIM program today. As the company has quadrupled in size, Fortis now implements BIM-based workflows for nearly 100 percent of projects that are of an economically feasible scale.

Autodesk Tools for Adaptable BIM Workflows

Fortis Construction is always looking to expand the technology it uses to build more streamlined construction processes that improve the quality of its projects and benefit the bottom line for owners. During preconstruction, the company currently uses Revit for compiling design models and mining those files for critical construction data. To complete its end-to-end workflow, Fortis combines authoring and cloud platform tools with Autodesk BIM 360 construction management software that provide multi-discipline coordination, field layout and quality and issue tracking.

The Benefits of BIM for Preconstruction



“One of the biggest advantages of BIM is that it takes away the ambiguity that owners often experience during the design and construction phase.”

Working with Revit models combined with Navisworks and BIM 360 allows Fortis to collaborate with multiple teams and identify potential risk and safety issues before construction begins. Additionally, the company can create and deliver up-to-date information to the field teams, helping to reduce RFIs and costly rework.

Using a BIM-based process has helped Fortis to expand its services while offering owners a level of detail, collaboration and quality that goes beyond paper drawings. Fortis has been able to deliver better projects to its customers while recognizing increased efficiencies.

Getting the Bigger Picture

To proactively address spatial coordination issues (or “clashes”) and potential constructability hurdles during the preconstruction phase of the project, Fortis runs model-based simulations to optimize the fit of building components and resolve any routing issues or spatial conflicts before breaking ground. This information is fed back to clients and design teams to help them improve quality and safety for future projects.

Monica’s team finds Navisworks invaluable for picking up the human errors that can creep into designs, especially when teams are working to tight deadlines. Walking through the model with the client and the design team before construction gives the team a chance to make any changes before construction and avoid costly rebuilds. On a recent project, a design element posing a significant conflict got all the way to the clash detection phase before it was discovered. Identifying the error before construction ultimately saved more than \$200,000 in potential rework.

Fortis Construction and the Future

As a known innovator, Fortis is working to expand and improve the BIM-based workflows it currently uses. The company is looking to increase their use of live field-data collection including reality capture technologies such as laser scanning, augmented reality and drone-based photogrammetry to enhance construction documentation, streamline quality control and collect real-time construction metrics.

