

COMPANY

HFB

LOCATION

Rotterdam, the Netherlands

SOFTWARE

Revit®

ReCap Pro™

BIM 360™ Glue®

BIM 360™ Field®

3ds Max®

Navisworks®

HFB – Thinking People and Technology First

There isn't a better time to introduce BIM than now

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— **Sharif Ben Chamach**
Deputy Director at HFB



Image courtesy of HFB.



HFB is a full service BIM office in Rotterdam, Netherlands where human relations and technological applications, such as BIM, go hand in hand. The company's management highlights the extraordinary achievements of its personnel during its monthly HFB "lunch and learn", a platform everybody speaks passionately about working with BIM. So it's no surprise that HFB has been chosen as the best BIM office in the Netherlands.

From homes to a palace

HFB radically changed after the 2008 crisis, when leaders in the office knew they needed to embrace the latest technologies in order to continue towards a successful future. Rob van Dorp, HFB's Director, saw it from the beginning. "We were still part of an architectural firm in 2008. We saw the crisis coming and realised that it was going to be tough if we didn't act upon it."

HFB explored many technology solutions, and decided that the BIM 360 portfolio was the best set of tools to help them win new business and continue to grow their portfolio. "Before,

we used to limit ourselves to relatively easy housing construction, but now we can design labs, hospitals, office buildings and even a complete city center. We have also started working on renovation projects," says Van Dorp. "We streamline all communication using BIM 360 Glue, BIM 360 Field and Revit."

Now is the time

There isn't a better time to introduce existing BIM technology than now, according to Sharif Ben Chamach, Deputy Director at HFB. "Technology is no longer a limiting factor to innovation, but rather is leading the way. Legislation, processes, communication and reluctance to change are the biggest challenges in applying the technology that is available today. HFB tackles these issues head-on. Ultimately, BIM is about managing and sharing information." Using the whole portfolio extensively complements BIM 360 in ways they never though existed. From business development to collaboration, he adds "Autodesk software, such as 3ds Max, creates images in virtual reality that are essential for our communication with clients."

“The employees had to change the way they work, but BIM is now the backbone of every project.”

Consultative role

Implementing BIM in organisations requires a great deal of adaptability from employees company-wide. Ben Chamach explains: “You don’t just hand somebody some nails and wood and tell them: build a house. You provide the required materials and guidance so that the user gets to know the process. That is how we do it.” Amplifying this technique regularly allows HFB to provide extensive consultancy and guidance during the implementation of new technology methods in other organisations.

This is very important, says Ben Chamach: “All existing roles change when BIM is applied, from the role of the calculator and the work planner to the role of the contractor. There is constant monitoring and information is available to everybody,” he says. “This creates an integrated unit and better cooperation, but also reveals bottlenecks. Because everybody can see who does what, it is also instantly clear who is lagging behind in the work that was agreed upon. People often have to get used to the high level of transparency.” And they do – because time and time again, this collaboration provides a significant cost-benefit ratio. Projects stay on time and under budget, and allow teams to work more seamlessly together.

BIM in practice

Project Summertime, a design by Search Architecture and Urban Planning is being built by BAM Woningbouw Amsterdam, and is one example of proving how HFB is using BIM to drive results. The apartment complex is unique and no two corners are the same. Project manager Jeroen Horlings says, “We have designed and developed this project in Revit, and used Navisworks for simulation, clash control and quantity take-off.” BIM 360 Field has been a game-changer on the construction site. “BIM is now the backbone of the project. From safety checklists to management inspections, from material checks to the administration of suppliers, everything is done through BIM 360 Field.”

Best BIM office

The results for HFB are paying off time and time again. The National Business Success Award in the Netherlands is selected annually by a group of well-respected and well-known Dutch industry leaders. This powerful jury declared- you guessed it- HFB as the absolute specialist in the construction industry category. To top it all off, HFB was awarded the prize for best BIM office in the Netherlands.

A very proud Van Dorp says HFB didn’t just get the award by chance. The prize was won as the result of the hard work carried out by the team of HFB. “Winning the BIM award was one of the best moments of my career.”

For more information, visit <http://bim360.com>

About HFB

HFB is a full service BIM office in Rotterdam. The company started with 5 employees in 2008 and has now grown to 65 employees. HFB supports organizations from the foundation phase to management and maintenance. HFB provides consultancy for the technological and communicative sides of BIM. And they do this very well; HFB was recently chosen as the best BIM office in the Netherlands.



Image courtesy of HFB.