

BIM Services for Small Architects & Contractors

Small firms - where a few individuals work on the entire project are finding BIM very efficient to use. The fact that you are working in one model, and a change in any view of the model affects all views is one of the major advantages of BIM to the small firms. In fact, smaller firms transitioning to BIM may actually have an advantage over their larger counterparts, particularly if they adhere to the best practices outlined above. Their size gives them quickness to move to BIM, and the luxury of making nimble decisions once speeding up their ability to stay ahead in the competition with larger companies in an ever changing marketplace.

Small firms are discovering they can more effectively compete on larger [projects](#) because of the cost savings gained from implementing the process change to [BIM](#). Moving to BIM is often easier for the small firm since decisions can be made more quickly and implementation does not require complex schemes for rolling out new technology across multiple offices. Cultural resistance to change is less of an obstacle and once the new paradigm is adopted, firms find that they can compete on larger projects than their staff could previously support. Small firm can provide added value by leveraging technology to provide expanded in-house services, such as green design, that improve their bottom line and better serve their [clients](#). On the other hand, small firms also face their own set of challenges in implementing new technology.

Small-firm status, coupled with early [BIM](#) adoption, meant that many of small firm's consultants were not up to speed with the technology. This required small firms to review with each consultant how their respective packages would be assembled and the level on integration with the BIM platform. Small were inputting a portion of the consultants' project information into the BIM model to assess and assist with conflict resolution since consultants were not using a BIM platform and more often than not, when the subcontractor had no computer literacy and had been building off 2D drawings for the majority of his career. This level of awareness of integration is crucial in order to best set-up and implement the BIM platform into a small firm scenario.

The amount of time involved in modeling small 3D details for design's sake could easily suck up major blocks of production time that would be better spent at a later date on larger issues such as coordination with consultants.