

How to achieve more productive design processes

Technology solves problems. Whatever you want to do, there's an app for that—or some type of software that can help. New innovations emerge daily, many of which improve productivity.

It's seen in the consumer market as more and more people rely on their mobile phones to stay connected, informed and organized. The calendar app replaced the need to pull out a day planner; maps are accessible at the click of a button instead of printing turn-by-turn directions. Nearly every part of someone's day can be managed through a single device.

Similar efficiencies are seen in professional environments. Virtual meetings can be held so that groups don't need to be in a single, physical location. What someone sees on their computer is easily accessible on a mobile device or tablet so that being tethered to a desk isn't required. Technological advancements and increasingly available amounts of data enhance productivity for everyone—from the building maintenance team controlling resources to architects designing new buildings.

Architectural evolution

"There's been a huge shift in the use of technology over the past two decades with the advancement and adoption of Building Information Modeling (BIM)," says Elizabeth Price, customer success lead at Allegion™. "Intelligent, data-rich models are becoming preferred over traditional 2D Computer Aided Design (CAD) drawings. BIM enables firms to intelligibly use, process and share data amongst entire design teams, enabling stronger coordination and collaboration."

The design process has come a long way from pencil and paper. The American Institute of Architects (AIA) Business of Architecture: 2016 Firm Report found that nearly all projects at large firms use BIM. While there are many benefits, BIM improves operational efficiencies by making

the entire process faster and smarter. Much of this is due to the information contained within each of the objects.

Looking to the future, architectural firms have started to embrace virtual design and construction technologies earlier in design to help visualize, analyze and evaluate a project before construction even begins. Big data, drones and the Internet of Things are also influencing the way the industry designs, constructs and manages buildings.

Business efficiencies

As with other trades, architects seek technologies that are proven to improve routines. Just as solid BIM workflows reduces errors and miscommunication from user to user, successful firms embrace technology that betters collaboration and boosts business.

Project comprehension is better when the correct technology is in place. "Better mobility leads to more productive meetings, and collaborative workflows and shared information lend to better partnerships," says Price.

She adds, "The technological evolution has led to better coordination, increased collaboration and consistency across design. We can leverage data between disciplines and the flow of information is streamlined."

BIM, for example, improves consistency and accuracy and reduces miscommunication as everyone is working from the same models. This reduces rework, which can result in delays and wasted costs. And, since all of the models rely on the underlying data, if the information in a model is changed in one view, all others views are automatically updated. Manual changes aren't needed. Overall the information available in BIM improves the project delivery and collaboration across stakeholders.

In addition to strengthening partnerships and workflows, adopting new systems or processes can spur innovation.

New technology that's designed to enhanced collaboration and communication encourages idea sharing, which leads to cutting-edge thinking, teamwork and growth.

Today's landscape

"The industry has seen an increase in collaboration tools," says Price. "Firms want the ability to design in 'live' environments, easily communicating with all on their design teams. They want comprehensive design information at their fingertips in readily accessible formats—within a common data environment."

There's also been an increase in the demand for IT capabilities and techniques, such as cloud storage, mobile applications and machine learning. Programming and scripting abilities are highly desired and utilized within BIM teams to help drive innovation within the firms. The speed of technological evolution in the building industry continues to elevate as we see more firms dive into the space of computational design.

While technology rapidly expands architects' capabilities, a common pain point that continues to exist is coordination, especially during specifications.

"Design changes are inevitable throughout a project," says Price. "Staying in tune as a design team is key, but it can be difficult."

Considering all the channels of communication between architects and specification writers—email, phone calls, text messages and instant messages—information is bound to be lost or missed. Collaboration within a single platform will help track and coordinate decisions throughout a project.

Simple specifications

Hardware is a very complex problem. On a project with 2,000 doors, there could easily be 10,000 pieces of hardware to coordinate. [Allegion's Overtur™](#) is a cloud-based suite of tools where architects and door hardware consultants collaborate on specifications and the security design of doors and openings. The platform allows for the review of designs in an online environment. And decisions are easily captured in a single location to avoid confusion or miscommunication. Architects can review designs online, transfer door data, upload from BIM and more—making the specification processes more efficient than ever before. Learn more at discover-overtur.allegion.com or [contact an Allegion representative](#).

Allegion has a team of more than 150 specification writers located around the world who would be happy to assist on your next project. [Contact an Allegion specification writer](#), or check out the [iDig Hardware blog](#) for information and updates on door hardware codes.

About Allegion

Allegion (NYSE: ALLE) is a global pioneer in safety and security, with leading brands like CISA®, Interflex®, LCN®, Schlage®, SimonsVoss® and Von Duprin®. Focusing on security around the door and adjacent areas, Allegion produces a range of solutions for homes, businesses, schools and other institutions. Allegion is a \$2 billion company, with products sold in almost 130 countries. For more, visit www.allegion.com.

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