



HURLEY PALMER FLATT GIVES PRINCIPAL PLACE A DIGITAL MAKEOVER

Hurley
Palmer
Flatt.

CHALLENGE

Hurley Palmer Flatt, a UK-based multi-disciplinary engineering firm founded in 1968, recently began development on a new high-end residential development called Principal Place on the borders of the City of London and Hackney. Billed as one of the tallest structures in Central London, the project consists of 175-metre-tall towers offering 300 new residential apartments. Given the complexity of the project, Hurley Palmer Flatt needed to improve the accuracy and quality of their design reviews, compliance documentation, and collaboration, while eliminating time-intensive processes involving DWG files and costly CAD programs.

SOLUTION

Hurley Palmer Flatt chose to incorporate a digital project delivery strategy for the project, centred around the use of Bluebeam® Revu®, an innovative, cloud-based project efficiency and collaboration solution that sets the standard for workflow efficiency for more than 1.3 million design and construction professionals worldwide.

BENEFITS

- Live design reviews saved six billable hours per review, at an estimate of four-figure savings per review.
- Compliance photos are now embedded in Revu against the plans and schedules for the project, providing a direct link between what was physically seen on-site and what's in the design plans.
- Revu PDFs can be measured, scaled and calibrated, eliminating the need for cross referencing bulky DWG files and supportive CAD programs. As a result, jobsite PDFs are more accurate and more sharable between the field and the office.
- Hurley Palmer Flatt's use of Revu is creating a paperless office and a modern workspace, attracting new talent to the firm.

“Bluebeam, as a piece of software, works a lot better than some similar pieces of software that I’ve used to do the same tasks. So much so, that it’s just become a by-word for a common action or a common design process within the office.”

Jairo Jaramillo
Senior Mechanical Engineer
Hurley Palmer Flatt

Implementing Revu

UK-based multi-disciplinary engineering firm Hurley Palmer Flatt understands the importance of efficient project delivery, and with good reason; the firm brings five decades of experience to the build world. No surprise then, that despite an increasingly adaptive industry, Hurley Palmer Flatt is still focused on innovation and efficiency. The firm's turn toward paperless project delivery keeps them on the cutting edge of the digital revolution, improving efficiencies while attracting new talent. One tool helping Hurley Palmer Flatt achieve those goals is Bluebeam Revu, a desktop, mobile and cloud-based solution for paperless workflows that improves project efficiency and collaboration across the entire project lifecycle. The firm implemented Revu on Principal Place, a residential high-rise in the Shoreditch area of London, planned to reach 50 stories.



"It's actually evolved," explains Senior Mechanical Engineer Jairo Jaramillo about the project. "I arrived about five years ago as just an engineer, working under the tutelage of two other engineers. And then it was a real design, a focus to producing drawings and doing designs for the heating/ventilation/air conditioning systems for all the apartments in the buildings. There are three of them and the basement systems, and I'm first port of call for any design issues. Because, as it's being built now by the contractor, any sort of deviation from our original design has to be authorised and looked at by us." Under the leadership of Paul Flatt, group chairman and CEO of Hurley Palmer Flatt, Jaramillo and his team decided that the Principal Place project needed to be a digital project, and that paper-based collaboration was not an option. Hurley Palmer Flatt adopted Revu to improve their processes.

Improving efficiency in design review

"What ultimately happened with the introduction of Bluebeam, is that the quality of what I was able to produce was such that, on two occasions, when we were doing things with more informal issues, we were able to just send it out straight away," cites Jaramillo. "We were able to get a suite of drawings out and not have to run them by 2D CAD, and instead just issue them as-was. That saved us using two or three personnel, a couple of hours each. The saving there was definitely in the four figures."

This has now become the firm's preferred process. "We were previously using a program called Visio, and we would draw 2D drawings of a typical floor plate across the building. You're looking at the apartment and where your pipework and your air conditioning units will be in a 2D space. The resolution suffers a lot. We then had to convert those to PDFs. And then those get sent as markups to our CAD dock design team, for them to then clean up and send to the client. As you can see, there's a lot of steps there." Bluebeam Studio in Revu allows Jaramillo's team to markup 2D drawings as well as 3D models and share the markups in real time to both the field and office via digital PDFs. "Bluebeam Revu has reduced the number of steps and been a massive help with regards to productivity," adds Jaramillo.

"It's allowed me to respond a lot faster, with a lot more accuracy and consistency and resolution. The clarity which Bluebeam allows me to communicate with the rest of the design team is fantastic."

Jairo Jaramillo

Senior Mechanical Engineer
Hurley Palmer Flatt

Striving for accuracy

The easy to adopt and scale functionality and industry specific tools in Revu have allowed Jaramillo to expand the use of the digital solutions to other business critical workflows. "Our key thing is spatial coordination. So, to be able to do that off of a 2D drawing in Bluebeam and complete area calculations; see metres squared, distances, clearances to plant, etc. That is the bread and butter of what we do. And I wasn't really able to do that until I started using Bluebeam. I no longer need to go to DWGs because with Bluebeam, I can check and calibrate the distances," says Jaramillo. "Bluebeam has helped massively with accuracy."

Compliance reviews have also seen an upgrade since the firm adopted Revu. "Bluebeam is particularly useful for us when we come on site visits because, when we're taking pictures to document compliance, we can then embed them against the plans and schedules for the project when we get back to the office. Which means we have a direct link between what we've physically seen on-site and what's in the design plans, to guarantee compliance," explains Sustainability Consultant Lucy Rees. In addition to that direct link, all document information is now in Revu, making information easier to find than previous multi-document formats. "Instead of having to have lots of different documents in different places, we just have it in the one that you can see together," clarifies Rees.

Taking digital PDFs into a paperless future

Hurley Palmer Flatt points to the digital PDF capabilities of Revu as the key to going paperless. CEO Paul Flatt believes that the future is now for firms like his to take advantage of the digital space. "Buildings have become a digital asset. So, with the evolution of building information modelling (BIM), the plans are becoming digital assets. Today, we are designing in 3D. You're creating this digital asset. This digital asset is going to evolve, and I believe that next destination of that digital asset is where you'll start to see an overlay of information that actually goes onto that digital asset; that's tagging of information." After using Revu to do just that on the Principal Place project, Jaramillo agrees. "It's such a recognisable and common format of electronic file, the PDF. So, Bluebeam allows me to

manipulate everything from marking it up and instantly emailing it out to the rest of the design team." Having the versatility of digital PDFs within Revu has helped Hurley Palmer Flatt to achieve their goals in improving the quality and efficiency of project deliverables. "We have designed deliverables in terms of what we do, our drawings and specifications," elaborates Flatt. "I think you've got all the other bits around it: project management, program managing, resource management and commercial management. At the end of the day, the deliverables that you're dealing with have to be designed and to do that, you need design tools. Having tools like Bluebeam, they're key if we're going to move forward."



Hurley Palmer Flatt's commitment to pushing the industry forward means using digital project delivery to bring forth the newest talent in engineering and construction. "I think it's all about breaking the old perceptions of engineering, and particularly being on-site, as being kind of heavy lifting, hard kind of work. It's all hard work but we have a lot of the latest technology that now helps us with those processes. We can work on the move," states Rees. Flatt cites the synergy between the industry and digital solutions along with Hurley Palmer Flatt's own developmental programs as the keys to the firm's future. "We have our own graduate programme, which we call Gates. Our Gates programme is successful at bringing that new talent in. A lot of that new talent and the younger talent coming in, they are already used to this digital stage," Rees concurs. "The grads come in and they expect to work in digital technology. They want to use BIM, Bluebeam, and they want to move away from being an office reliant on paper. So it's really helping drive the company towards its goal to become paperless. And also, it helps the digital revolution of Hurley Palmer Flatt."



About Bluebeam

Bluebeam develops innovative technology solutions that set the standard in project efficiency and collaboration for architecture, engineering and construction professionals worldwide. Our award-winning PDF-based software, Bluebeam Revu, continues to serve as an industry-leading markup and collaboration solution that connects all projects and teams, increasing productivity while saving both time and money. Founded in Pasadena, California, Bluebeam has grown to include additional offices in the United States, Canada, United Kingdom, Denmark and Sweden.

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