Architecture Firm Current Issues & Tools Used for Resolutions

How the difficulties faced during the pandemic were confronted and fixed

White Paper

The Current Issues in Architecture And The Tools That Helped Resolve Them

Introduction

The coronavirus pandemic has hit every industry hard, and the current issues in architecture are no exception.

Countries worldwide have required non-essential workers to stay home, and the lack of a workspace has caused the architecture industry to face a serious shift from office environments to virtual or cloud-based working spaces.

This white paper will focus on how architecture firms cope with pandemic restrictions and how this changes the way they operate, and who they work with.

Architecture And Technology

Technological advancements are radically expanding the toolkits available to architects. From the earliest CAD or Computer-Aided Design to more commonly used BIM, the industry has embraced this positive change.

In the contemporary world, tech in architecture, from apps to computational designs, has forced architects and firms to do more than just supervise and design a building's edifice.

Today, they are chasing new horizons in algorithm and design, experimenting with robotics, 3D printing, adaptability, and more.

Overall, architects now have access to analytics and data, which creates room for innovation against production while maximizing performance.

Architecture Shifts Virtual

Even though technology has revolutionized the architecture industry, the pandemic has created obstacles for individual architects and firms alike.

It caused a sudden change in the firms' construction site and office policies—employees are asked to work from home, and those who have private transport may come to the office but need to abide by strict protocols. Since most employees began working remotely, it affected productivity as there was a lack of clear communication between administration and institutions responsible for advising.

In addition, various firms have either canceled or postponed their vendor presentations, meetings, group tours, group meetings, and office presentations because of the pandemic. As this is an unprecedented situation, many firms and architects make efforts to address it in real-time.

They are shifting to virtual offices, creating task forces based on leaders who decide on employee safety, infrastructure and technology, and business continuity during the uncertainty.

Architectural Design Process Challenges and Solutions

The pandemic has forced the architecture industry to go from office-based work to virtual, creating new problems and disrupting the overall workflow.

The Current Issues in Architecture And The Tools That Helped Resolve Them

Working remotely has created many difficulties which were otherwise unheard of. The most significant issues architects and architecture firms face are poor communication and challenges with collaboration and design.

These problems can be addressed and solved by incorporating IT solutions such as digital architecture software and more.make up for the lack of in-person meetups. Here are three practical and equally effective solutions:

Communication Software

Not only is it hard for architects to maintain effective team communication virtually, but they also face problems communicating with third-parties such as fellow consultants, clients, contractors, developers, and more.

With limited site visits, any project's success depends on effective communication. Poor communication can foil the whole deal. To ensure successful business operations during the pandemic, architects must use efficientcommunication software. It will help them be in sync with clients and avoid further delays.

Thankfully, there are numerous communication software available such as:

- **Zoom:** one of the leading video and audio calling and conference tools
- **Slack:** a comparatively new communication software that provides unrivaled team communication
- **Skype**: a well-known communication tool for free chats and calls

Another popular means of virtual communication is through Monday.com (a viable blend of communication and collaboration). It helps architects and their teams plan efficiently while completing complex projects on time.

These communication solutions provide effective means of connecting with various players, team members, and third parties within the project.

Collaboration (Project Management) Software

Having efficient project collaboration software has become all the more necessary for architecture firms due to COVID-19.

With an all-encompassing collaboration software or project management software, the entire team can communicate and collaborate easily. This means that architects will be able to plan their projects and even manage and collaborate with other members within that one app.

Some other benefits of using collaboration software for smooth sailing of projects include:

- **Task Control:** Add tasks in just a few clicks, set estimation, duration, priorities, cost, assignees, statuses, etc
- **Progress following:** Manage all your projects' progress and execute it on time
- **Attachments**
- **Comments**
- **Real-time notifications**

In short, collaborative tools provide architectural firms with space for virtual collaboration and project management to ensure the successful and timely completion of projects.

Some of the useful collaboration project management software include ArchiCAD, BQE Core, Deltek Ajera, etc. These collaborative tools are built explicitly for engineering and architecture projects. They come with essential collaborative tool features:

- **Project Planning**
- **Business Intelligence**
- **Project Management**
- **Project Accounting**
- **Real-time performance**

From ArchiCAD to Deltek Ajera, these tools can manage accounting, invoicing, and more.

Design Software

Digital architecture design software is vital for the contemporary architecture sector, especially since the pandemic.

The clients want more than just concept drawings, physical models, and blueprints; instead, they want virtual representations of projects that provide more detail.since the pandemic.

A 3D design software allows architects to create and populate their interior and building concepts, while other software solutions provide features like light effects adjustment and more.

Apart from this, design software automates other standard processes, saving both time and effort. It also allows you to get your designs to clients faster.

Digitizing your studio design is useful as it keeps projects running uninterrupted, even during remote work.

Some of the best design software that most architects prefer are:

- **Revit Architecture:** Offers BIM, automation, and an opportunity to create consistent, coordinated, and thorough model-based designs
- **SketchUp:** Offers real-world applications at an affordable rate
- **AutoCAD Architecture:** One of the most comprehensive architecture design tools available with 8000+ intelligent styles and objects

Architecture Solutions with CRA

Incorporating digital architecture software has enhanced the workflow for architecture firms, even if they work from home.

Communication software such as Zoom, Skype, and Monday.com have armed architects to conduct precise, constant, and transparent communication. And because of collaboration (project management) and design software like ArchiCAD, BQE Core, Deltek Ajera, Revit Architecture, and SketchUp, firms can ensure timely completion and innovative, real-world applications.

As one of New York's leading managed IT service providers, we offer support NYC businesses can rely on to keep their operations running strong.

Need support with your day-to-day operations? Contact our team at Computer Resources of America to learn more about our services, current cloud computing trends, and more.

CRA
Transform IT
Computer Resources of America

Corporate Headquarters

64 West 48th Street, New York, NY 10036 – 212-376-4040 – www.consultcra.com – hello@consultcra.com