

Model-Centric Design Benefits Clients

SSFM International Uses AutoCAD Civil 3D Software to Combine Creativity, Practicality, and Understanding for Their Clients

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When Shimazu, Shimabukuro, and Fukuda launched their structural engineering firm nearly a half-century ago, they could hardly have imagined their little company's impending growth, any more than the mind-boggling changes that would occur in the industries they sought to serve. We now employ a talented staff of more than 130 professional managers, engineers, architects, and technicians, working on projects from airports and high-rise buildings to luxury resorts and residential subdivisions. Having been in this business for a while now, we know that the advances in 3D modeling represent a pivotal shift in the way we and our clients work. For the most intuitive toolset and optimal competitive advantage, SSFM has been using AutoCAD® Civil 3D® software since 2005.

Of the more than 75 projects on which we have used Civil 3D, a project such as Stanford Carr Development's The Villas at Kehalani on Maui has been a particularly exciting challenge. This new gated community features 103 elegant two-story townhomes on 25 acres of land overlooking Wailuku, Kahului, and the Pacific Ocean. Imaginative, luxurious subdivision projects like Kehalani are typically subject to many design iterations as the project evolves from creative vision into a practicable, achievable development. The bulk of our challenge most often grows out of a continuously evolving engineering objective within a very tight timeline.

Civil 3D software enables a truly dynamic design process that projects like the Kehalani Villas require. 3D is important, of course, but the true benefit is not that the software simply makes our work three-dimensional. Plenty of software packages can do that. Civil 3D enables a model-centric design process that intelligently connects design and documentation for quick evaluations of what-if scenarios. To be able to make changes that propagate dynamically throughout our drawings is tremendously useful. More than that, the software's visualization capabilities help both designers and clients gain a more visceral understanding of the project.

With the software's dynamic nature, we have been able to quickly and efficiently implement a multitude of design changes in short periods of time. Civil 3D helped us do everything faster, reducing design revision time from weeks to days, and increasing our clients' understanding of what's possible.



Using Autodesk products like Civil 3D for surface, grading and road design, Revit Building for Architectural Elements and Viz for surrounding backdrop scenes and landscaping we were able to bring together the entire project digitally.

To learn more about SSFM International and their use of Civil 3D software, visit www.cenews.com/autodesk. ●

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