



## Leading Retailers Boost Efficiencies by Using Autodesk Solutions for Design and Construction

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Autodesk Lifecycle Solutions Speed Delivery on Over 500 Retail Store Refurbishing, Remodeling, and New Construction Projects Every Year

SAN RAFAEL, Calif., May 11, 2004 /PRNewswire-FirstCall via COMTEX/ -- As the nation's top retailers expand and modernize, they are increasingly turning to Autodesk, Inc. (Nasdaq: ASDK), the world's leading design software and digital content company, to help them make the most of their tight budgets.

Autodesk(R) Buzzsaw(R) Professional software is now being used by such household name retailers as Limited Brands and Barnes & Noble in their retail construction projects. Autodesk Buzzsaw Professional helps save these and other customers time and money by creating more efficient communication with internal and external team members, regardless of location or time zone.

Along with Buzzsaw, retail design architects are using the Autodesk(R) Revit(R) building information modeling platform for a competitive advantage in store planning, design, construction, and management. Leading firms, such as CASCO, Little Diversified Architectural Consulting, and Oculus Inc., are employing Revit software to create and quickly adapt store prototypes for rollout at multiple sites across the nation. The software's ability to automatically update design changes results in significant time savings while also helping reduce the costs associated with design errors.

Industry-wide, a large percentage of construction costs are wasted due to the result of poor communications -- whether wasted materials or time lost in making design changes. Autodesk's collaboration software attacks those losses by providing visibility and control throughout all phases of building lifecycle by streamlining and managing project information.

With Autodesk Buzzsaw Professional, all design and construction documents are hosted in one central, secure, online location. For retailers, Buzzsaw Professional has been tailored to the unique needs of the industry, with retail-specific templates, including updated dashboards, forms, logs, and reports.

"One of the biggest challenges in store development involve driving costs out of the equation, becoming more efficient and taking time out of the process," says Jeff Roster, Principal Analyst with Gartner. "One of the logical extensions to that is improving the infrastructures to the different parts of the process. Online collaboration, if done right, can do just that."

Retail companies realizing the benefits of Autodesk's online project collaboration services include:

-- Limited Brands, a leading specialty store chain, selected Buzzsaw Professional for its retail industry enhancements. For Limited Brands, Buzzsaw simplifies the management of multi-site retail projects and enables the company meet extremely aggressive store opening deadlines

-- Barnes & Noble, a leading bookseller, uses Buzzsaw to manage the dissemination of drawings and design data to its consultants, contractors and subcontractors, as well as to collaborate on that data, streamlining the process of store creation for this rapidly expanding chain.

Retail design firms realizing the benefits of the Autodesk Revit building information modeling platform include:

-- CASCO, a full-service architecture/engineering firm serving major national and international retail clients, including Bed Bath & Beyond, Toys 'R Us, Circuit City, and PETsMart, uses both Revit and Buzzsaw for design of store prototypes and their rapid adaptation for multi-state roll-outs.

-- Little Diversified Architectural Consulting (Little) provides complete architectural services (including visual merchandising, environmental graphics and brand consulting) nationwide to retailers such as Krispy Kreme Doughnuts, CVS/pharmacy, The Home Depot, Rack Room Shoes, Cosi and Plow & Hearth. Little uses Revit to help clients identify opportunities to increase sales by developing prototype documentation based on actual operational data, allowing retailers to test the effectiveness of merchandising within a virtual environment.

-- Oculus Inc., an architecture and interior design firm that also offers facilities management and strategic real estate planning services, is currently using Revit for the design of national, multi-location projects for Bank of America and Cingular Wireless and facility space planning assignments for Anheuser-Busch. With Revit, Oculus has reported 30 to 40 percent improvement in design efficiency, helping them speed the delivery of retail stores.

"Large retailers are challenged by the complexities of simultaneously managing multiple ongoing projects. The large workload, tight schedules and geographically distributed teams often create difficulties when coordinating with everyone involved in the project to achieve specific milestones and meet aggressive store opening deadlines," says Amar Hanspal, senior director of Autodesk Collaboration Services. "Autodesk addresses the need with the building modeling technology of Autodesk Revit and retail-specific enhancements from Buzzsaw Professional that include customized forms and templates that meet the requirements for store information, milestone tracking, change orders, punch lists, tasks/issues and applications for payment."

Autodesk Buzzsaw Professional advanced online project collaboration service is designed to handle communication and management of all project information throughout the entire building lifecycle. Buzzsaw Professional provides easy-to-use, retail-specific dashboards and reports to provide a comprehensive view and access to real-time intelligence from multiple ongoing building projects.

Buzzsaw Professional facilitates better collaboration among project team members by centralizing project information and communication for everyone involved the building process including internal design, real estate, and procurement teams and external vendors, suppliers, construction managers, architects, and engineers. By centralizing all information, enabling online markup and review, and providing instant email notification of changes and updates, project teams work more efficiently together to reduce cycle times and improve productivity.

About Autodesk

Autodesk is the world's leading design software and digital content company, offering customers progressive business solutions through powerful technology products and services. Autodesk helps customers in the building, manufacturing, infrastructure, digital media, and wireless data services

fields increase the value of their digital design data and improve efficiencies across their entire project lifecycle management processes. For more information about the company, see <http://www.autodesk.com>.

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