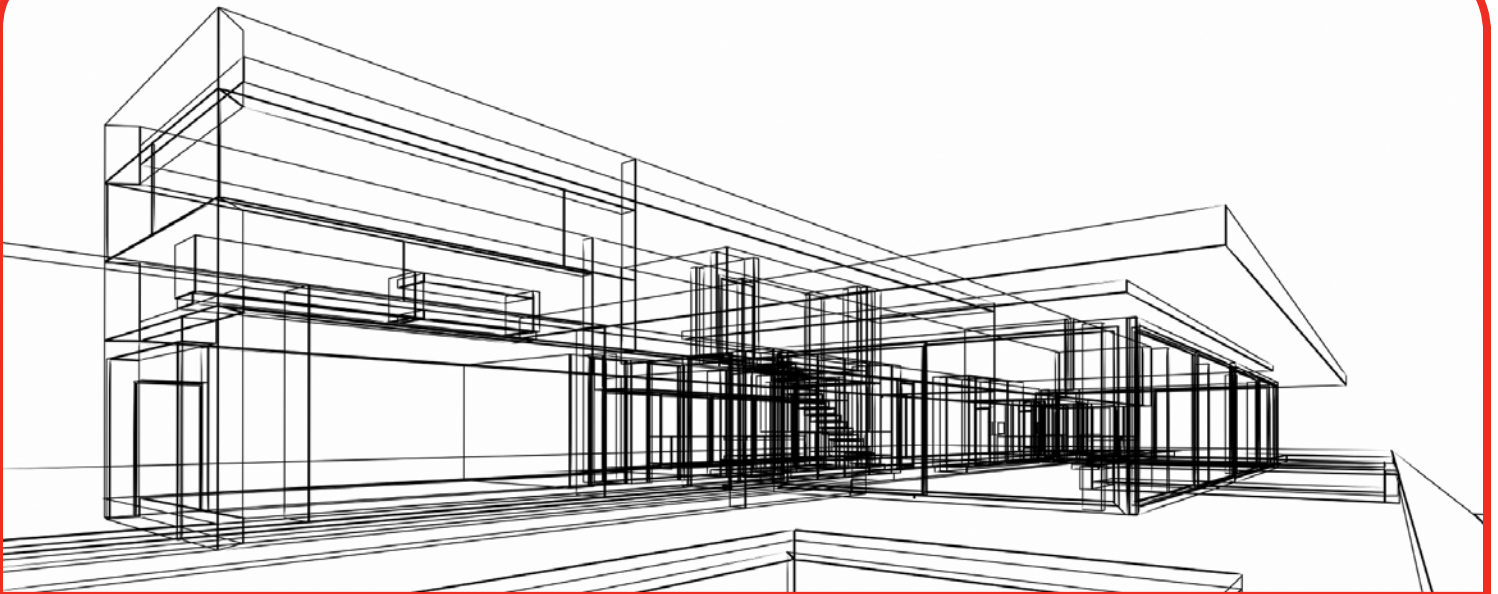


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THE ELECTRICAL ALLIANCE
National Electrical Contractors Association and Local 26 IBEW



Embracing Building Information Modeling (BIM)

Building Information Modeling (BIM) is sweeping through the construction industry. New technology has created a process that streamlines construction projects, making changes easier and reducing down time. BIM, simply defined as a 5-D model, takes a 3-D model of a construction project and adds time and cost information. It is most effective when all trades are involved in updating the model to create a complete picture.

The electrical contractors of the Washington, D.C. Chapter of the National Electrical Contracting Association (NECA) and the skilled electricians of the IBEW, Local 26 who make up the Electrical Alliance are embracing this process which is still in its infancy in the construction industry.

“Our contractors lead the industry when it comes to advancements, be it on the job as with green building, or in the process as with BIM,” says Andrew Porter, executive director of the Washington, D.C. Chapter of NECA. “We provide them with educational tools to support their continued growth.”



“Right now, BIM and 3-D modeling techniques are being used on the most technically complex projects,” says Randy Kurty, senior vice president at Mona Electric, an Electrical Alliance contractor using 3-D modeling. “Eventually, every project will use BIM on some aspect of it, if not use BIM for the entire project, so we’re preparing our staff for that now.”

Building Information Modeling (BIM) is the development and use of a computer software model to simulate the construction and operation of a facility.

The Associated General Contractors of America, *The Contractors' Guide To BIM*, AGC Publication No. 2926, Edition One, 2007, p. 3.

Like BIM, the 3-D model saves time and reduces confusion and conflict on the job site.

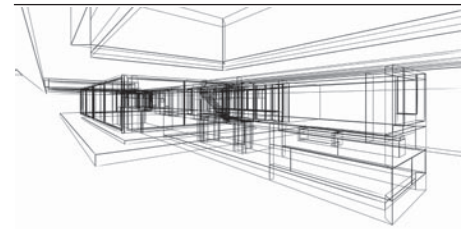
“Before the first pipe is put in the ceiling, you can discover interferences where two trades are trying to work in the same space,” Kurty explains. “It’s a lot easier and cheaper to fix it on a computer screen than after the material and equipment is installed.”

Over the next few years, the industry will continue to evolve from 3-D modeling to BIM and getting there will require a lot of training. The Electrical Alliance makes the latest information about BIM available for its members in NECA’s Electrical Design Library and will be offering increasingly advanced training in the future.

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Embracing BIM

Story inside



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“Eventually, every project will use BIM on some aspect of it, if not use BIM for the entire project...”

Recently, 20 Electrical Alliance contractors participated in a webinar sponsored by NECA to learn more about using BIM. Presenter, Thomas E. Glavinich, from The University of Kansas demonstrated the ways electrical contractors can use BIM to perform their work more efficiently as well as its benefits to building owners and later, even facility managers.

“Today’s buildings are more complex than ever and that’s a trend that will only continue,” says Porter. “BIM will help the Electrical Alliance contractors maintain their ability to perform high quality work on these buildings.”

Building Information Modeling Benefits to Electrical Contractor

- Better understanding of project
- Improved scope definition
- Improved planning and scheduling
- Ability to quickly perform “what if” analyses
- More accurate quantity estimates
- More accurate vendor price quotations
- Reduced errors in the field and rework
- Better trade coordination—collision avoidance
- Increased prefabrication ability
- Reduced risk
- Better ability to monitor and control project

Building Information Modeling Benefits to Owner

- Better understanding of project
- More accurate bids with less spread
- Reduced change orders and claims
- Reduced budget and schedule risk
- Reduced operational risk
- Better training of maintenance personnel
- Improved building information and accessibility
- Better O&M information and records
- Easier moves, adds and changes
- Reduced down time

—**Thomas E. Glavinich, DE, PE**
BIM and the Electrical Industry presentation

