

## Switching from Autodesk AutoCAD® to Revit® A Roundtable Discussion

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As a group, we will share ideas, workflows and techniques to help make for a smoother and less painful transition from Autodesk AutoCAD® to Revit Architecture® so that others may benefit from our successes and failures.

You may have heard that the only way to switch to using Revit is to just dive right in and take the plunge. Well maybe there are options to this “*sink or swim*” approach. Can you afford to re-train your entire staff? Do you know who should learn (or more importantly, who should not learn) Revit? Well maybe this discussion will help answer some of your questions and address some of your fears.

We will share with one another how switching to Revit as affected our office, workflow, staffing and efficiency. We will discuss our biggest successes and failures. We want to hear about any unique ideas or work flows which you have discovered to help make for a successful transition to Revit. We will hopefully share our personal experience, knowledge and advice with anybody who is considering, but who has not yet made the move to Revit. Together as a group, let’s share how we all made the switch while putting some common fears and myths to rest.

### **Class Goals:**

- Discuss and compare various approaches to successfully transitioning from AutoCAD to Revit.
- Share ideas and workflows with one another which possibly take advantage of Revit’s strengths while still retaining your AutoCAD-based production workflow and staff.
- Who really should be learning and using Revit in your office?
- What is the best way to learn Revit, or more importantly, how do you get your staff to *want* to learn Revit?
- Help others benefit from our mutual successes and failures.

### **About the Speaker**

*Steven C. Shell graduated from the University of Arizona in 1982, and has had his own architectural firm in Tucson, Arizona for over 30 years. He has been using Revit Architecture® exclusively for over 15 years and is the co-founder and co-chair of the Southern Arizona Revit Users Group. Mr. Shell is certified by Autodesk in Revit Architecture. He is a Top Rated Speaker at Autodesk University and lectures at the University of Arizona’s College of Architecture. He is an Adjunct Professor at Pima Community College. He has presented at all of the BIM Workshops and has been the Top Rated speaker at most of them. He has presented at 8 Revit Technology Conferences (US, Canada, Australia & Europe), where his classes are always voted in the top 5 and he was the Top Rated Speaker in Europe.*

## **Class Discussion Outline:**

This class will be a round table discussion, moderated by myself. The discussion will follow this class outline and we will all share our thoughts and experiences on each topic of discussion. Please remember, your individual participation is vital to the overall success of this discussion as there will be many in attendance who have not yet made the switch from AutoCAD. Many 'not-yet-Revit' users will be here looking for guidance and answers which will help them with the transition as well as being able to take the ideas discussed here back to their offices and firms in order to share what they have learned with their colleagues.

Hopefully, the more experienced Revit users will also get something out of this discussion. I hope that we hear other proven ideas, opinions, workflows and experiences from other experienced Revit users which we may not have thought of or experienced. I hope that we all can benefit and take advantage of our group's communal knowledge and experience regarding each of our good and bad experiences as we discuss this complex issue.

### **Discussion Topic 1:**

How many people work in your office?

How long have you been using Revit?

What percentage of your work is produced in:

Revit?

AutoCAD?

Other?

### **Discussion Topic 2:**

Is Revit really better for what you do?

How has Revit affected your office?

Staffing

Management

Financially

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## Discussion Topic 3:

Making the switch to Revit: Best approach

Sink or swim?

Foot in the water...gradual approach?

## Discussion Topic 4:

Who should learn Revit (and who should *not* learn Revit)?

How should they learn it?

Professional Training

In-house Program

Individual Self Training

## Discussion Topic 5:

AutoCAD in a Revit office?

None: Pure Revit, never looking back with no regrets

Maybe: Just temporarily, until we master Revit

Minimal: Imported backgrounds and 2D details only

Integrated: Revit for Design & AutoCAD for Working Drawings

## Discussion Topic 6:

Based on your experience, what has been your biggest::

Success?

Failure?

What advice do you have for others?

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Thank you very much attending and participating in this very important Round Table Discussion.

I hope that you have heard some new ideas, methods, opinions and ways to help you and your office transition from AutoCAD toward a more productive 3D - Building Information Model (BIM) and Revit based workflow which will insure your place in the future.

Let's help others in the same way all year long!

Thank you and good luck!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Shell', enclosed within a light gray rectangular border.

Steven C. Shell, Architect  
Tucson, Arizona

[www.scsshell.com](http://www.scsshell.com)  
<http://scshell.wordpress.com>