



AS9860

FormIt: Formidable-Implementation in Design Workflow

Kal Houhou
Martinez + Johnson Architecture

Learning Objectives

- Determine the goal you are trying to achieve from implementing FormIt
- Learn how to collaborate differently
- Learn how to set up programmatic targets at early conceptual phases
- Learn how to contribute to integrated workflow by using and generating content in Revit

Description

As a designer you need to perform on the fast track. What would you do if you had a very intuitive user-friendly interface? If you need or want a simplified high-performance workflow at several project phases, this session is for you. We're going to see together how technology has impacted design in a big way. We will see FormIt software in action during client meetings or being used for highly collaborative communication with others internally or externally. You will learn about different approaches and best practices for using FormIt software as an early part of your design processes. At the end of this session you'll be able to craft a successful plan for design goals.

Your AU Expert

Kal is a technology advocate and Building Information Modeling (BIM) evangelist. He has over 25 years' experience in the architecture, engineering, construction and owner-operated (AEC-Oo) industry and over 10 years managing BIM complex projects for the private and the public sectors Worldwide. His dual backgrounds in architecture and IT enable him to apprehend issues as they arise and help him design business strategies orientation.

➔ Each time you see  in this document expect a trick or a hint!

FINAL RESULT

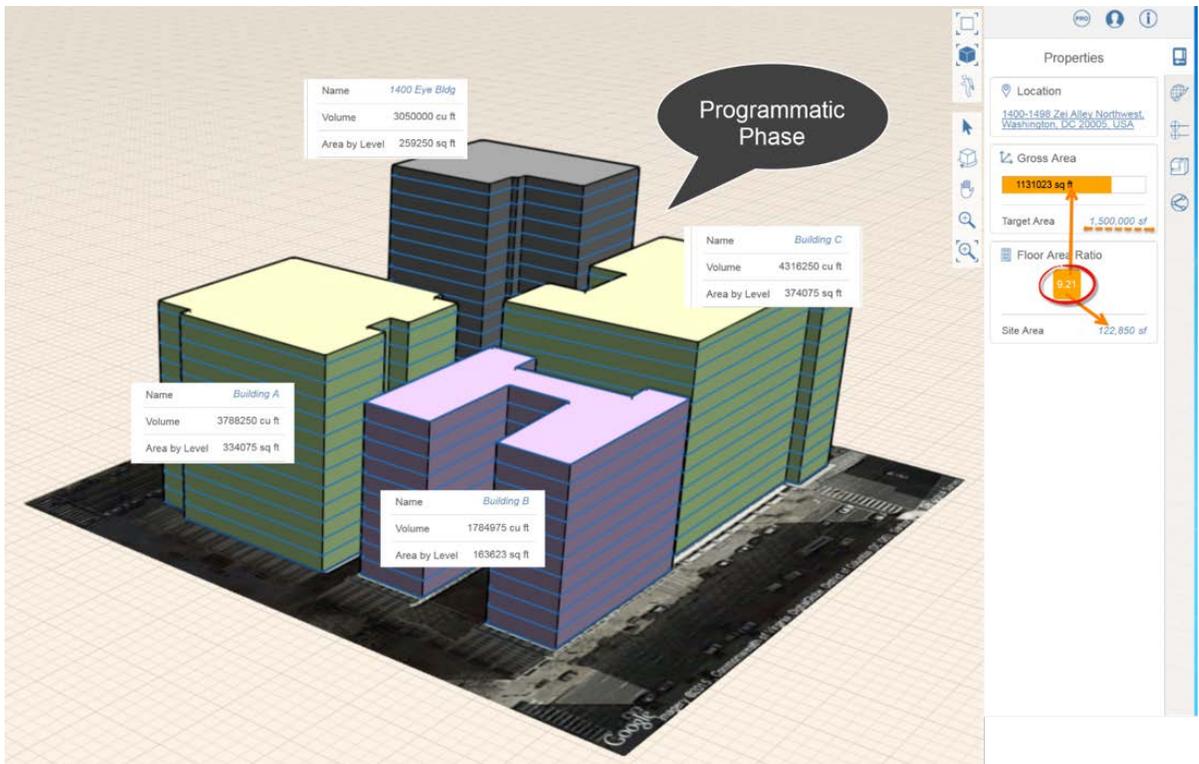


FIGURE 3: PROGRAMMING RESULT IN FORMIT

Start by setting up the project location -> Yellow tool



Type in the address, click on search, zoom in to the city block as needed, then click on Import Satellite image (top right) and finally click on Finish importing (top right) you should see something like the below image...



FIGURE 4: AERIAL VIEW (PLAN VIEW)



CLICK ON THE VERTICAL TOOL BAR WHITE SQUARE TO SEE YOUR VIEW FROM TOP OR TYPE ZT

If you need to learn the different tools the Help Menu is well documented and has also videos. I encourage everyone from the novice to the advanced user to seek the Help Menu, you will learn everyday new stuff on FormIt! Access is available through the  don't forget the What's New section.

Now let's get started....

Let's use the Create Sketch tools and specifically the Line Tool (L) to generate the context buildings

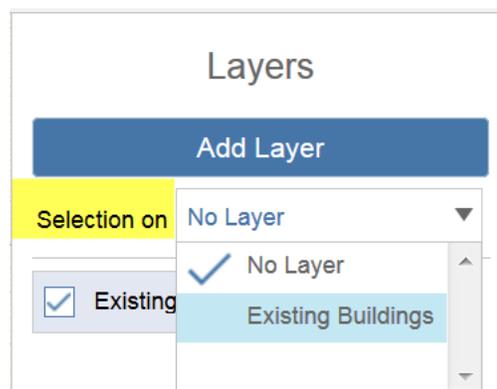


CLOSED LOOP WILL CREATE A SURFACE.

We can pull now up the surface created so we have our first building...Now for managerial purposes we have two options, either we name the building created (double click then got to properties) I like to use a X prefix (X stands for existing) or since version 12 we are able to set layers to manage visibility.



Layers are a great addition (new feature Oct 2015) select your elements then as show below you can assign a layer to the selection so actually I like to mix model naming and layers assignment.



After all our context buildings are modeled we can set our Target Area the gross area is calculated from the buildings you model, so if you are in the process of programming better to focus on your "new" buildings only and that's our case in this exercise...

Place your cursor on the top of the building and drag it up to reach the desired height.

Now we will set the correct amount of layers and also set the target area. What is your program set?

In this exercise we will set the target to 1,500,000 SF. We also know that the District of Columbia allow us a FAR of 10 or plus if the height is between 160 feet and 200 feet.





HIT TAB KEY TO SET THE DESIRED HEIGHT. UNITS BY DEFAULT ARE FEET (IMPERIAL) OR METER (METRIC)

Properties

Object Properties

Name *Building A*

Layer **2** BLDG-A

Volume 3320440 cu ft

Area by Level 87380 sq ft **4**

▼ Use levels **3**

Check All

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Level 5	48'
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Level 4	36'
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Level 3	24'
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Level 2	12'
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Level 1	0'

- 1** Click on Properties
- 2** Set Selection to layer
- 3** Click on Use Levels
- 4** Add more levels



Click on “Add multiple levels” we know we have 200 feet total and we already have 5 levels so we need 11 more levels

Define the distance between levels to 12 feet (default)

Now in order to calculate the Floor Area Ratio we need to know what is our Site Area: in order to proceed I create a surface that is my Site Area and check the face properties to get that area...

In our case it shows 101,324 SF let’s set that value in Properties

