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## FANNING HOWEY

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— Doug Wickstrom  
Chief Technology Officer  
Fanning Howey Associates

Fanning Howey Associates  
210 North Lee Street, Suite 208  
Alexandria, Virginia 22314  
[www.fhai.com](http://www.fhai.com)

# Implementing BIM when it counts

## Fanning Howey chooses \$67 million renovation as first Revit project and succeeds with help from Advanced Solutions



### Company Overview

In 2012, Fanning Howey became the first architecture/engineering firm to receive the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) ENERGY STAR Partner of the Year-Service and Product Provider award, solidifying the firm's place as a sustainable design leader and trendsetter. Fanning Howey currently maintains 12 offices nationwide, employs a staff of 175 professionals and is a leader in the planning and design of learning environments and facilities. From elementary schools, middle schools, and high schools to higher education facilities and public libraries, Fanning Howey creates places that spark the imagination and encourage a lifelong love of learning.

### Business Problem/Compelling Event

Sometimes diving headfirst into a new challenge creates greater momentum than a slow, deliberate, take your time method. Fanning Howey tested this theory on the renovation of Eastern High School in Washington, D.C., a project that required coordination within Autodesk® Navisworks® Manage, and in turn a compatible design software. For Fanning Howey, that software was Autodesk® Revit® Architecture.

When Fanning Howey won the project, the company was in its infancy stages of Revit use, utilizing Advanced Solutions to train users on the basic ins and outs

of Revit Architecture. The Eastern High School project was no small renovation. With construction costs of \$67 million, the design-build project, which began in January 2009 and was completed in August 2010, included a 4,000 square foot new addition and the renovation of 280,000 square feet of a school originally built in 1921. "Because the client required building information modeling (BIM), we had to jump in with both feet, rather than starting with a smaller project," recalls Doug Wickstrom, Fanning Howey chief technology officer.

### The Solution

As a result of the company's initial unfamiliarity with Revit Architecture, particularly its use on large-scale projects, Fanning Howey decided against going at the Eastern High School renovation alone and engaged Advanced Solutions to assist. The company's previous training experience provided a baseline level of confidence in the abilities of the Advanced Solutions team.

With the project already underway, Advanced Solutions undertook an on-call position of sorts, providing on-demand phone and email support for the duration of the project. Advanced Solutions' technical team worked with Fanning Howey's AutoCAD® files to assist in creating the Revit content needed for the renovation.

# Expedite workflows, stay on schedule and save money with BIM

## Performance

A renovation project as large as the Eastern High School project comes with its own set of headaches and unexpected complications. Fanning Howey admits that the Eastern project was one of the most challenging projects they could have chosen to implement Revit. Despite the challenges inherent in the project, Bob Pilger, Fanning Howey director of software solutions, stresses the importance of the “on-call, prompt, on-demand” services Advanced Solutions provided. “We made a call and Advanced Solutions was there,” says Pilger.

## Results & Benefits

Using Revit on the Eastern High School project expedited Fanning Howey’s workflow. The project team made design decisions earlier in the process, keeping the project aligned with its fast track schedule.

Fanning Howey found another advantage of having the project modeled in Revit to be the ability to pull data for LEED calculations and estimates a savings of at least 150 man-hours of work. Fanning Howey saved 80 hours alone on the calculation of two LEED credits related to the preservation or reuse of existing walls, floors and roof systems.

Since working on the Eastern High School project, Fanning Howey has used Revit to complete the initial design work on six projects, which equates to 34 models. Fanning Howey leveraged Navisworks on four of the six projects, not because it was a requirement, but because the company found it necessary for accurate clash detection and proof of design. Though still in the position of gathering return on investment data, the general sense is that Revit projects come together faster and issues are now identified earlier in the process.

Revit Server was not available for the Eastern High School renovation, however Fanning Howey began using it in January 2011 as an early adopter and has found it to be a pivotal coordination tool for work sharing on Revit projects. Fanning Howey credits Advanced Solutions’ technical support team and their coordination with the Autodesk development team as keys to the company’s successful Revit Server rollout. Advanced Solutions worked directly with Autodesk to correct the early issues Fanning Howey experienced with Revit Server. “We have a willingness to use technologies like Revit Server because of the confidence we have in Advanced Solutions,” notes Wickstrom.

## Final Thoughts

Making the decision to purchase Revit, train users and then utilize the software on a major project are three time-intensive, difficult decisions to make. “Anyone considering making a transition has to have confidence in their support team to make it even feasible to attempt. It’s not a change that you make lightly or without a good partner that you can trust. It would be beyond risky,” Wickstrom advises.

Advanced Solutions proved to be a reliable partner for Fanning Howey during each stage of the transition process. The professional solutions and advice provided by Advanced Solutions helped steer Fanning Howey’s decisions throughout as they explored and began utilizing Revit software. “We were comfortable with the fact that we had a phone number and resource. If we ran into a problem, we had someone to call,” recalls Pilger.

Fanning Howey expects to continue to develop its relationship with Advanced Solutions and appreciates the new, value-driven perspectives Advanced Solutions regularly delivers.