



ARCHITECT'S PERSPECTIVE

MySmartPlans saves project time, encourages paperless sharing

What do you do when a general contractor exits a project in the middle of construction, and you need to bring a new contractor rapidly up to speed?

In one case, the solution came from MySmartPlans, which assembled the pre-construction documents, plans, changes and current-state documentation for the new players. All the information was logically archived and quickly available to the new contractor and subcontractors.

Rick Thompson, senior associate and project manager with Gould Evans Affiliates PA, recalled the challenge of bringing in new contractors to pick up the pieces on a \$100 million, 2.4 acre urban mixed-use project in Kansas City, Missouri. "When the lead contractor left the project, a tremendous amount of knowledge went with them. We had to make sure the correct documents were in the hands of the new contractors," he said. "We found MySmartPlans to be very useful. I can't imagine any other way of doing it, quite frankly."



Rick Thompson, Gould Evans

MySmartPlans is a project information management tool, with revolutionary capabilities to coordinate planning and accelerate every step of the construction cycle, for every member of the construction team. The MySmartPlans program is a secure desktop application that provides a single virtual archive for all project documentation.

In this case, Thompson notes, it took about a month to gather all the information. There were a thousand pages of submittals, plans and specifications, construction administration documents, RFIs and photographs, not to mention team logs, contact information for consultants and owner equipment specifications.

MySmartPlans consolidated the information and presented it in an easy-to-use fashion. For example, when the project team members needed to capture the current state of the partially completed construction, MySmartPlans's solution was to link floor plans with photographs of the site.

Thompson also found benefit in MySmartPlans support for reviewing submittals. MySmartPlans scanned all the previous submittals, simplifying the review to determine what submittals were still

needed on the project. “The Submittal Exchange portion of MySmartPlans was crucial,” states Thompson. “This was a large, complex project and documenting the state of the submittals would have been insurmountable without this tool. It was an incredibly useful tool for this purpose.”

Thompson states he now encourages the use of MySmartPlans. Gould Evans, one of the nation’s leading architecture, design and planning firms, has included the tool on other projects as well. For example, Gould Evans is currently using MySmartPlans on the University of Central Missouri campus reconstruction project and Health Science Institute project at the Metropolitan Community College.

Gould Evans is an advocate of using resources wisely in all areas of its business, which includes only printing documents that absolutely need to be printed. MySmartPlans helps eliminate using paper to send current information to others outside the office – the old way of doing business.

“This tool allows you to stay paperless longer – to print only at the point of use, as needed,” Thompson states.

“Technology has made promises over the years that someday we would all be paperless and all electronic,” Thompson says. “But there has been a missing link in sharing information between groups. This is the medium that fills that gap.”

For more information on Gould Evans Affiliates, see www.GouldEvans.com.

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