



# Ernest Bock & Sons Enhance Collaboration on Large Project with Autodesk BIM 360 Tools

## The Organization

**Ernest Bock & Sons** (EBS) is a family-owned, full-service construction management and general contracting firm operating in the Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Mid-Atlantic areas. Their experience gained over more than 70 years includes the management and construction of schools, airports, hospitals, municipal buildings, housing, sports facilities, restaurants, and mixed-use developments.



## The Challenge

When working on design-build projects, EBS serves as the single point-of-contact for both the design and construction phases. They manage all contracts with subcontractors, equipment vendors, and material providers through every aspect of the project, including estimating, assessing, pre-construction, architecture, schematics, engineering, subcontracting, construction, and post-construction.

"Working on large, complex, multi-year design-build projects means dealing with dozens and dozens of subcontractors, engineers, and others who all need access to a massive amount of information," said Matt Carey, Superintendent, EBS. "While people within one company may have the ability to collaborate in the Cloud amongst themselves, communicating between companies can be a nightmare. Managing the distribution of large files, tracking updates, following up on punch list items, and maintaining version control takes a lot of time and leaves a lot of room for errors."

After the first year of a three-year project to design and build a 300,000 square foot high school, EBS contacted Autodesk to discuss technology that could connect the entire team to reduce time spent managing documentation and increase the accuracy of that documentation.



## The Solution

EBS discussed their situation with Autodesk, who recommended they contact IMAGINiT for more information about BIM 360 construction management software as well as training and support implementation to help everyone learn and use the software.

"With Autodesk's endorsement, I didn't hesitate to contact IMAGINiT," said Matt. "From the first phone call, they were very responsive. They weren't just interested in selling the software. Instead, they asked about what we needed and then recommended a solution that fit."

The recommended solution included:

- **Autodesk Software:**
  - **BIM 360 Docs** – Addresses the initial concern of giving the entire project team access to project documentation when and where they need it for activities such as viewing current and past versions, redlining drawings, noting issues, and obtaining information from the various building model elements
  - **BIM 360 Build** – Connects the team in the field with office personnel through a mobile application; Supports quality and safety programs, requests for information, submittals, cost controls, and daily reporting by supporting the process of uploading documents, viewing and comparing 2D documents, linking documents with hyperlinks, using measuring tools, reviewing and approving documents, and creating, viewing and downloading transmittals
  - **BIM 360 Coordinate** – Provides a space to upload, review, and detect clashes in a set of project models
- **Training:** To ensure the team had the skills needed to use the software efficiently, IMAGINiT recommended that account administrators and end users attend their LIVE, online training sessions led by IMAGINiT professionals with extensive construction industry and BIM 360 experience
- **Support:** To keep the project moving smoothly, IMAGINiT recommended that EBS use the training and implementation jumpstart program with design assistance support, which provides access to a dedicated team of technical support professionals with a guaranteed two-to-four business-hour response time

“The IMAGINiT team provided demonstrations of the software and talked about how training and support have proven to be successful in software adoption,” said Matt. “We agreed and engaged them for all components to help ensure a successful move and implementation, even for folks resistant to new technology.”

## The Results

With 25 seats each of BIM 360 Docs and BIM 360 Build, one seat of BIM 360 Coordinate, training for 50 administrators and end users, and an 18-month support contract, EBS was prepared to tackle this project.

“Because the engineers, contractors, and others easily collaborated through every phase, issues were identified and addressed early, options were evaluated quickly, and we never had a problem with version control,” said Matt. “We are a few months away from completing the project, and I’m sure we would be further out if we hadn’t gone this route.”

“The training and support were critical,” said Matt. “It took a while to get all 50 people trained and some people even resisted. But the real-world examples presented by instructors with real-world experience got everyone on board. They learned how to use the software, tips and tricks, and best practices, so they could use the tools as soon as they got back to the project. And knowing that questions would be answered quickly made it easier to jump right in and give it a try.”

“When this project is complete and the next big project begins, we will look into using these tools again,” said Matt.

[Contact us](#) to learn how IMAGINiT’s construction management solutions can enhance your team’s productivity.

## Solutions Beyond Software

IMAGINiT Technologies, a division of Rand Worldwide, helps architects and engineers become more proficient in the use of 3D technologies to design, develop and manage complex engineering projects faster and more cost-effectively.