



BRANDT COMPANY

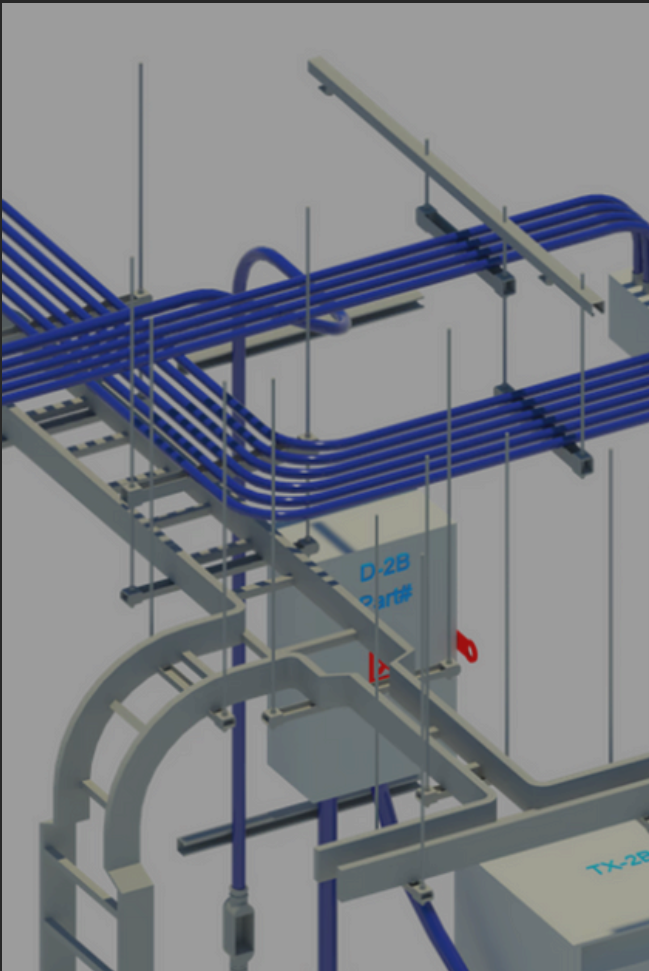
Brandt + EVOLVE:
A Case Study on Product Quality Impact

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OVERVIEW

With over 65 years of industry expertise and more than 2,700 highly trained craftsmen, engineers and technicians, the Brandt Companies have a recognized commitment to quality and safety.



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

After navigating through a tumultuous transition to Revit for mechanical, VP of VDC Alex Basham and Electrical VDC Manager Leland Brown decided to double down on the switch and implemented EVOLVE Electrical to help them get there.

With the help of EVOLVE technicians, the Brandt staff quickly learned and implemented EVOLVE Electrical and have been dedicated to using it on all new jobs.



Top results when using EVOLVE Electrical:

- Higher quality product
- Better field installations
- Shorter project timelines
- Smart bills of materials (BOMs)
- Open API for data integration
- Ability to win more work

THE CHALLENGE

Moving from AutoCAD to Revit came with some hurdles. As Chad Salge, VP of Virtual Design and Engineering, put it, “there are some things that get messy.”

Driving the change to Revit were VP of Virtual Design Production Alex Basham and Electrical VDC Manager Leland Brown. The Brandt detailing department was drawing from 2D AutoCAD backgrounds, followed by coordination in Autodesk Navisworks.

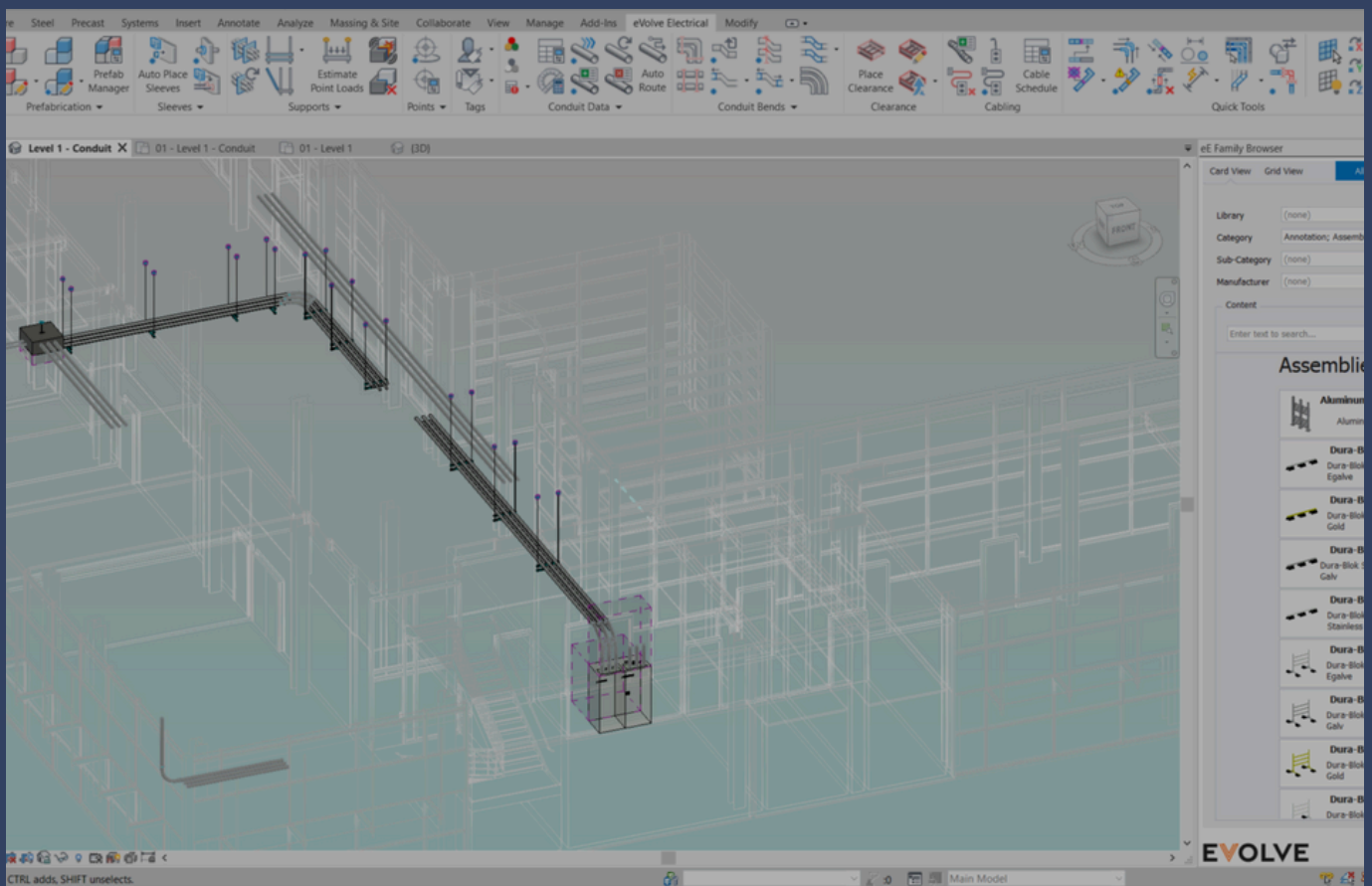
Collaboration among the trades was cumbersome. “We weren’t always sold on Revit for electrical, but it was easier to collaborate since everyone – the architect, the engineer – is drawing in Revit.”

Working from the same software, the drawings were quicker to edit and it was a resource to share with teammates.



According to Basham, Brandt historically used Excel spreadsheets for BOMs. When it came to electrical, Brandt needed a lot of family-type content, especially for conduit (kick 90s, conduit bends, custom bends).

There was also a goal during the transition to become one team – from engineering to estimating – all on the same page. Salge stressed, “We want to be one team working in one software. We don’t want different databases.



“A residual benefit of EVOLVE Electrical is that we’re able to use it to visually depict our construction intent. We can get to that level of detail in the model more quickly.”

THE OPPORTUNITY

John Trammell, Director of VDC Technologies, explained, “The industry is moving toward Revit whether we’re with it or not.”

"Brandt Companies had been going down the Revit road for mechanical, plumbing and piping. Then they learned about EVOLVE Electrical during an MEP Force conference hosted by Applied Software for the MEP community. Since the firm's electrical group was smaller than its mechanical group, they used EVOLVE Electrical in a test case to determine what works and what doesn't when combined with Revit.

Trammell said, “The power is in the database . . . and EVOLVE has intuitive content that we could just plug and play. It was an instant win because we didn't have to develop that database.”

He described the discussion with the leadership team that it would be less expensive to use EVOLVE Electrical than to program their own intelligent database for jobs. In addition, Salge admitted, “We never really knew how little content there was for electrical drawings.”

Elements like fittings, hangers and schedules are already built, and there are more automated processes in EVOLVE Electrical than other Revit plug-ins. “EVOLVE is head and shoulders above every other software vendor.”

THE RESULT

In the Revit transition, productivity didn't take a hit. As Brown described, "We were learning the new processes of Revit, but EVOLVE Electrical helped balance that out." With Revit, you can extract information from the model that "goes above and beyond, and it's even better with EVOLVE. It adds a lot of value."



While some plug-ins focus on sheet metal and piping, Basham said, "EVOLVE is miles ahead when it comes to electrical. It's great for electrical to be on the same database, and it's smaller."

The databases can be cross referenced with historic work, and Brandt can extract data out to compare apples to apples. The process has intelligence now that it didn't before.

Basham added, "It was a big advantage, producing a smart BOM quickly" compared to manual spreadsheets.

The detailers are saving time doing conduit bends, and the customized features of EVOLVE Electrical have helped them considerably.

But the true savings it enables is on the front end of the design process.



While Basham explained there's no magic wand, he compared it to starting at the 50-yard line of a football game, not at your 5; or like starting at half-time instead of the fourth quarter. More thought can go into the final deliverable.

Rework is reduced because you don't have to reinvent the wheel going from one department to the next. In addition, the availability of an open API enables Brandt to integrate some of their internal accounting/enterprise resource planning (ERP).

For Brandt's internal processes, using EVOLVE Electrical has had a huge impact on product quality. Basham explained, "Our number-one customer is the field – they have a hard job, and we can do the thinking on the front side to help them." It's easier to create the flow from initial design to producing or quickly modifying a drawing for the field. "Job timelines are getting shorter, so we need to do it faster."

EVOLVE Electrical gives Brandt Companies the ability to do that. Salge elaborated, "The overall timeline is reduced, but quality is more important to us. We're able to develop a much higher quality product, and the further level of granularity sets us up on the VDC side." EVOLVE Electrical provides the intelligence for a better product. "That's more important to us at the end of the day." Externally, the value is in negotiating more work. Brandt can showcase its quality and competency, which brings value to the discussion.

Using EVOLVE Electrical also helped Brandt in partnerships with general contractors because the resulting quality allows them to demonstrate the constructability of 3D models. Salge stressed, "The field guys can knock it out of the park for the next job. It's setting us up to succeed down the road."



THANK YOU!

Inspired by Brandt's success story?
Get in touch with us to start your journey
toward outstanding results.



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