



*“Two years ago, a client challenged us to produce something exciting. Naturally, we accepted the challenge. Using Autodesk Revit Building for the very first time, we designed a new entrance for a major Savannah, Georgia, hospital and created an animated 3D walkthrough—set to music. The clients were so impressed that they approved the design concept in one meeting.”*

Forrest Lott  
Founder  
Lott + Barber Architects

## The future of design—now.

Lott + Barber Architects counts on Autodesk® Revit® Building software to design better buildings, impress clients, and generate project documentation faster and more accurately than ever.

### Project Summary

Founded in 1990, Lott + Barber Architects is an award-winning architectural and planning firm based in Savannah, Georgia. At every stage of the building process, the firm's professional staff offers a comprehensive array of services, including full architectural design and planning, green building, and interior design. “We do a lot of repeat work for state and municipal governments, colleges and universities, and banks,” says founder Forrest Lott. The firm also has a strong focus on traditional neighborhood design and urban planning. “When we started the firm in 1990, we had two rules of thumb,” says Lott. “First, we wanted to keep our clients coming back by exceeding their expectations. And second, we wanted to use the best tools on the market.” That's why Lott + Barber is standardizing on Autodesk Revit Building, the design and documentation software that works the way architects think. Since adopting the new software two years ago, the firm has begun work on more than 20 major projects.

### The Challenge

One of those projects was the Armstrong Atlantic State University Continuing Education Center. “It's a renovation,” says Lott. “The school acquired a shopping center and a large grocery store and plans to open the space to the business community for conferences.”

### Complex Design

“In the original grocery store, there was a high ceiling over the checkout line. We had to put in a second floor there to house the administrative offices, as well as a large open mezzanine that serves as a two-story lobby for the offices.”

### Data Disaster

“We had a mess of an existing database,” says Lott. “We began with some poor-quality CAD information that we translated to AutoCAD so we could have a base reference. It got to be such a mess that we just gave up.”



Using Autodesk Revit Building design and documentation software, the professionals at Lott + Barber Architects were able to

- Minimize change orders and requests for information (RFIs)
- Utilize valuable architectural data for marketing services
- Work simultaneously on the same model using Revit Building worksets
- Easily use data from AutoCAD® or Bentley® MicroStation® software
- Lay out furnishings and automatically calculate quantities and estimates
- Provide facilities management and planning services

### The Solution

To model the existing project and get back on track, Lott + Barber turned to Autodesk Revit Building. Purpose-built for building information modeling (BIM), Revit Building works by creating one model that contains all project information. “Once we did that, we were able to proceed with the design,” says Lott. “We were also able to use many of Revit Building’s other powerful features.

### Show Clients What You Mean

“For example, we used Revit Building to explain our design ideas and present them to the client,” says Lott. Revit Building made it easy for the architects to demonstrate what the tiered classroom would look like and where the marker boards and projection screens would be located. “We also showed them the view from any seat, as well as from the speaker’s podium.”

### Bring 2D Data to Life

“My clients live in a 3D world,” continues Lott. “Two-dimensional information is hard for them to understand.” But Revit Building makes understanding easy. “It explains the design concept to clients better than I do.”

### Share Information Painlessly

“And because all project information exists in the Revit Building model, getting another report, drawing section, or elevation out of the model is painless,” says Lott. “We’re not stingy with the number of drawings or views that we’ll create.”

### Easily Make Changes

“And if clients suggest changes to the model, Revit Building makes that easy,” says Lott. As the architects change the model, Revit Building’s parametric change engine automatically updates all other project information, including floor plans, elevations, sections, 3D views, and renderings, as well as area calculations, schedules, and quantity takeoffs.

### Finish Faster

“Once we get into schematics and design development, we can tell the story three times faster using Revit Building than we can by bringing out a series of boards with plans, elevations, and sections,” says Lott. “Building a 3D image in your mind from a 2D drawing is difficult for a lot of people. Revit Building skips that.”

### Drive Better Designs

Autodesk Revit Building was also instrumental in the final design choice for another Lott + Barber project, the Lakeview Village development. “Revit Building demonstrated the building design and site plan’s respect of the existing lake – a priority to the client,” says Lott. “It even drove the name of the project. Using Revit Building, we showed the client that almost every unit has a view of the lake.”

### The Result

“Autodesk Revit Building probably gives us a two-to-one advantage over other firms using traditional design software,” says Lott. “We are standardizing on Autodesk Revit Building for all new construction.”

“We’re at the point where waiting on our consultants is driving our project schedules,” says Lott. “That’s why our next Autodesk product focus is getting them to adopt Revit Structure. We see Revit software as the future. No doubt about it.”

### Learn More

To learn more about Autodesk Revit Building, visit [www.autodesk.com/revitbuilding](http://www.autodesk.com/revitbuilding).