

TRAUTMAN & SHREVE

CASE STUDY

Mechanical, HVAC, Design/Build & Specialty Piping Contractor headquartered in Denver

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“We’re loving what we’re doing and what we’re working with. It’s made a lot of people pretty happy here.” Adam Hebert has been CAD Manager at Trautman & Shreve for about five years. “We grew up using AutoCAD,” Hebert says of himself and his team member Sam VanValkenburgh, sheet metal CAD engineer and duct specialist. He admits the temptation is always there to alternate between AutoCAD and Revit. Sometimes it’s quicker, and the

pressure is always on to get jobs done faster. “We’re comfortable with it, so it’s been quicker going back to CAD. But we want to just work in Revit . . . Revit is the route we want to go – and we’re working on it.”

“The fact that eVolve MEP asks for customer input is a huge deal.”

For over 82 years, Trautman & Shreve, an EMCOR company, has provided sophisticated mechanical, facilities and construction engineering services to the commercial, high-tech, industrial, municipal, medical and institutional markets in the Rocky Mountain region. Trautman & Shreve provides mechanical services and building information modeling (BIM) expertise with which to conceptualize a project from design, through engineering, budgeting, scheduling, fabrication, construction, maintenance to management. The corporate goal is to strive for excellence in completing projects on time within a cost-efficient budget.

The transition to BIM over a decade ago was a natural outgrowth of that corporate goal. According to Hebert, at first the designers simply used Revit to extract backgrounds and 3D files from the engineers then drew everything in AutoCAD. After using Revit off and on, the decision was made to make the jump to all-Revit in 2018.

As a first step in streamlining the inhouse design and fabrication process, Trautman & Shreve purchased Fab Value Pack from Applied Software. A lot of content was built over the years using Autodesk Fabrication. “It got to the point where it’s a little too much to manage to go back and forth.” Trautman & Shreve was looking to speed up the process. Hebert explained, “Over the years, we attended Autodesk University. We saw quite a few other companies using Revit and being successful. But they were paying coders and programmers writing backend software to make it work best for them. When we learned that the fabrication database [Fab Value Pack] was compatible with Revit, we started talking to Applied Software.”

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We get the training.
We get what we need.”**

eVolveMEP

In early 2018, it just clicked. “We decided, we’re going to do that. We’re going to make it work.” When the decision was made to make the jump into Revit, eVolve MEP software was added. “Spooling, hangers... eVolve MEP has everything we were looking for in one tool instead of multiple other add-ons. And we know that it will all function properly.”

eVolve MEP is a total package. You don’t have to purchase multiple add-ons and tool bars that may not be compatible with each other. “This was a one-stop-shop. It works with Fab Value Pack. It was a no-brainer.”

Using eVolve MEP makes spooling and detail sheets – shop drawings – faster. “We don’t have to go back and manually dimension all of the spools. That’s automated now and saves a huge portion of time for us.”

Trautman & Shreve faced the same challenge a lot of other mechanical firms face: “Accurate content has been our biggest issue with any drafting software.”

“We make suggestions, and within a matter of weeks, it’s there, it’s updated.”

Hebert says the firm’s objectives in using eVolve MEP are:

1. Speed us up. “The quickness that the company addresses help requests . . . that’s big in this industry.”
2. Make us more accurate. It’s good “knowing at the end of the day, when we kick out a document, it’s accurate.”
3. Spend less time managing the database. “We can manage the database in Revit.”
4. Do spooling faster. “We believe that’s going to be a big help to us – a huge time saver.”
5. Get reports working. “We’re getting the support. We get the training. We get what we need.” The eVolve MEP team’s industry background and experience are unrivaled.
6. Reduce doing everything manually. “Text, dimensions, verifying pipe sizing . . . there’s a lot of room for error. When you’re doing 2000+ shop drawing sheets, that’s a lot of potential errors.”
7. Stop going back and forth from Revit to CAD. “We’re not always going to have to go back. If you need help, there’s actually help.”
8. Improve. “The fact that eVolve MEP has webinars on the software development and asks for customer input is a huge deal.”

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What does Trautman & Shreve appreciate about working with the eVolve MEP team? “It’s the honesty,” Hebert says. “In the past, everybody we dealt with promised so many things, but when it really came down to it, we never got what we were told we were going to get. Now, working with Brett Stacks and his team – we make suggestions, and within a matter of weeks, it’s there, it’s updated.”