



UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

FACULTY OF ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN

Building Information Modeling Course / Master of Architecture (MArch)
Program / Faculty of Environmental Design (EVDS) / University of Calgary

Fostering Future AEC Professionals Through Blended Learning

Company: Faculty of Environmental Design (EVDS), University of Calgary
Founded: 1971
Division: Building Information Modeling Course in the Master of Architecture Program
Location: Calgary, Alberta
Size: 24 students per course

Keeping Curriculum Current

Building Information Modeling (BIM) technology plays an integral role in promoting innovation and efficiency in all aspects of the AEC industry. The University of Calgary's Master of Architecture (MArch) Program ensures its curriculum reflects this new and constantly evolving professional standard, and so fourth-year students take a course in the digital representation of building design, learning about and analyzing the essential concepts and methods associated with BIM.

David Burch, instructor for the BIM course, explains that so many of the high-level topics addressed in the curriculum are "dependent on more advanced software capabilities" with applications like Revit and Navisworks. The time constraints of running this course over only one semester means that the students need to be able to transition quickly and smoothly into these complex concepts and software skills.

eTraining Helps Meet Course Objectives

Nuances of the software are reinforced for the students because they are able to run through the Global eTraining Revit modules on their own time and at their own pace, reviewing topics whenever necessary. As a result, students come to class prepared and can engage easily with the course's complex concepts, building a strong basis from which they move forward into their own BIM model projects.

David maintains that the eTraining modules allow the students to observe directly "some of the challenges faced with [executing BIM] in the real world." Global eTraining courses help enhance this important connection for the students – namely, that they fully understand both the technology and the implications the technology has on not only their course projects but also on the projects they will encounter in the field.



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Readying Students for the AEC Industry

Michael Chu, a student recently enrolled in the BIM course, says that the eTraining modules helped him “gain a great deal of knowledge,” specifically in Revit, which he feels confident gives him a “competitive edge in the workplace.” Michael’s sentiment reinforces the value of implementing Global eTraining as an important part of the BIM course curriculum. In fact, David emphasizes that the BIM course “would be difficult, if not impossible” without the support of an online technical training platform like Global eTraining.

The overall outcome of implementing the eTraining courseware as part of the BIM course is gratifying, as students show much promise with their project outcomes. David goes on to say that at all levels of the most recent intake of students, “really good projects were completed” – which is impressive when one considers that all but one of the students had limited Revit experience when starting the course. The students who come out of this program, says David, show excellent abilities with BIM-related technology.

To learn more about implementing eTraining in your organization, contact Global eTraining at getstarted@globaletraining.ca



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