

BSD SpecLink Streamlines Specification Process at Hitch, Inc.

"Before using SpecLink, it was difficult for us to maintain consistency from project to project. Now our SpecLink Office Master is a repository of valuable knowledge."

Michael Drewyor
Professional Engineer
Hitch, Inc.



Using SpecLink, Hitch worked with the White Cloud Public School system to construct a new 76,400 square foot elementary school on the existing school campus. The project includes a 3,000 s.f. elementary media center with reading circle and access to a computer lab.

For over 25 years, Hitch, Inc has been providing planning, architecture and engineering design services to a diverse client base throughout the Upper Midwest.

Since their inception in 1978, this 22-person firm has acquired a reputation for developing efficient, cost effective designs that meet or exceed their client's expectations. Because they provide a full range of architectural and engineering services, all design disciplines are addressed – from concept through completion.

Hitch, Inc. creates thoughtful, innovative designs for a range of projects that includes: commercial, educational, health care, government and religious facilities. They have been serving educational clients for over 25 years. Their work in this field includes

additions, remodeling and new construction for Head Start, elementary, middle and high schools, as well as secondary educational facilities. In the arena of government and public use buildings, they have worked to combine both practical and distinctive qualities.

Hitch, Inc. believes strongly in the team approach where the owners, design professionals and contractors work together to successfully complete the project. In this team-based approach, Hitch often acts as project coordinator. This ensures that all parties work together to fulfill the project requirements.



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BSD CUSTOMER CASE STUDY

HITCH, INC.

The Need: Michael Drewyor is a Professional Engineer and Professional Surveyor with Hitch, Inc. He knows that Robert Hitch (the firm's founder) has always had a desire to generate time and cost saving solutions in construction engineering. They share a belief that streamlining the creation of specifications can help solve many of the logistical challenges in their engineering projects.

BSD SpecLink provides a great way for them to streamline the specification process.

The Solution: Drewyor and his team began using BSD's SpecLink in 1997. One of the things that drew them to SpecLink was how easy it was to use – especially for their design professionals. They learned the software on their own and have used it on "hundreds" of projects since. He says, "It is easy to call up the master, copy to a project and begin editing. The global add and delete, as well as the section linking, have been real time savers." For small projects, they can create a draft copy for in-office review within a few hours. And time is key when creating specifications. Drewyor estimates that SpecLink has reduced specification time by 30-40%.

"Our Office Master is a repository of knowledge at

Hitch," states Drewyor, "Before using SpecLink, it was difficult for us to maintain consistency from project to project. We had to remember to add or delete items from a document." With the creation of the SpecLink Office Master, this obstacle has been removed. Specification writers at Hitch can easily add information specific to the project, while maintaining a uniform appearance.

The Outcome: Michael Drewyor and the team at Hitch have successfully utilized BSD SpecLink for over seven years. They have been especially pleased with the way they have been able to use it for their educational clients. Drewyor says, "Schools have very exact needs – especially if we are working on a remodeling project. Using our SpecLink Office Master ensures that we are reminded of the codes and that we include them in the specs."

In addition, they like how easy it is to create RTF (Word-compatible) and PDF files. This allows them to easily send information to clients and associates via e-mail. This facilitates communication by allowing everyone involved in the project to have access to the information.



Illustrations courtesy of Hitch, Inc.

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BSD SpecLink is a powerful specification writing, management and production system with built-in intelligence designed to dramatically speed up editing tasks and reduce specification production time while minimizing errors and omissions. Users' project files are each maintained in a single database, rather than in multiple word processing files. Several model projects are included that allow the user to start with a pre-edited set of complete specifications. Because the master data is always visible and never deleted, it is easy to review project choices or select alternatives. Users can also import their own custom sections and/or create model projects specific to company or project-related requirements.