

VECTORWORKS CASE STUDY



DIRTWORKS, PC™, DESIGNS A LIVING CLASSROOM
WITH THE HELP OF VECTORWORKS LANDMARK



WHEN KEENE STATE COLLEGE WANTED TO EXTEND THE LEARNING EXPERIENCE INTO THE OUTDOORS FOR ITS KEENE STATE SCIENCE CENTER, VECTORWORKS LANDMARK HELPED DIRTWORKS, PC™, SIMPLIFY A COMPLEX DESIGN AND DOCUMENTATION PROCESS.

It sounds simple. Design a courtyard for a college campus building. Since the building was the Keene State Science Center, the challenge for Dirtworks, PC™, was to design an outdoor gathering space that was educational—a living classroom. So the New York-based landscape architecture firm set out to create a design that captures the essential character of the New Hampshire landscape and distills it into an idealized snapshot of the state to help students learn about local botanical life and geological formations.

Working with the college's Natural Science faculty, Dirtworks developed elements for use in teaching. The paving patterns and materials represent strata and indigenous stone types. Large boulders, representing rock outcrops, provide opportunities to study natural rock formations. Dirtworks considered the Science Center building as a giant sundial that casts shadows on the courtyard's main walkway. The shadows align with bronze markers indicating important astronomical dates, such as solstices and equinoxes. The plant palette was carefully selected to represent native New Hampshire flora, as well as plants significant in botanical evolution.

LESSONS IN CLASS MANAGEMENT

According David Kamp, ASLA, LF, president of Dirtworks and the project's lead landscape architect, the courtyard's design and documentation were particularly complex. But using VectorWorks helped make the project more manageable. Dirtworks was able to meet the college's deadline to have the courtyard complete within one school year and not interrupt the school's teaching schedule.

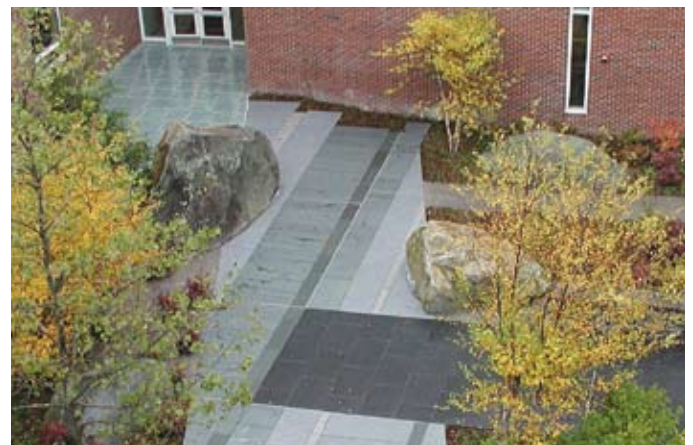
"Representing the fluid forms of a landscape, the project's intricate details and the complex coordination necessary between the other project team members can be challenging with CAD programs," says Adrian Smith, ASLA, project manager and senior associate. "For example, the in-situ

snow melt system required complex design and coordination between the engineers and architects. Since the tools in VectorWorks are so accessible, once the standards were established, drafting the detailed design became a straightforward exercise."

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Careful management of classes and layers enabled Dirtworks to create a full set of CD plans for the project from one plan document file.

"The VectorWorks user interface allowed us quicker access to layer and class visibility settings," explains Smith. "Classes and layers are easier to manage and help us organize our drawings. The ability to modify or control class properties for a specific viewport does not affect other viewports or the model data. This saves us production time and money. And this added control feature makes it significantly easier to produce legible drawings. Grades can be hatched in one viewport and not another, line thickness for a detail can be increased to highlight a particular area, and so on."

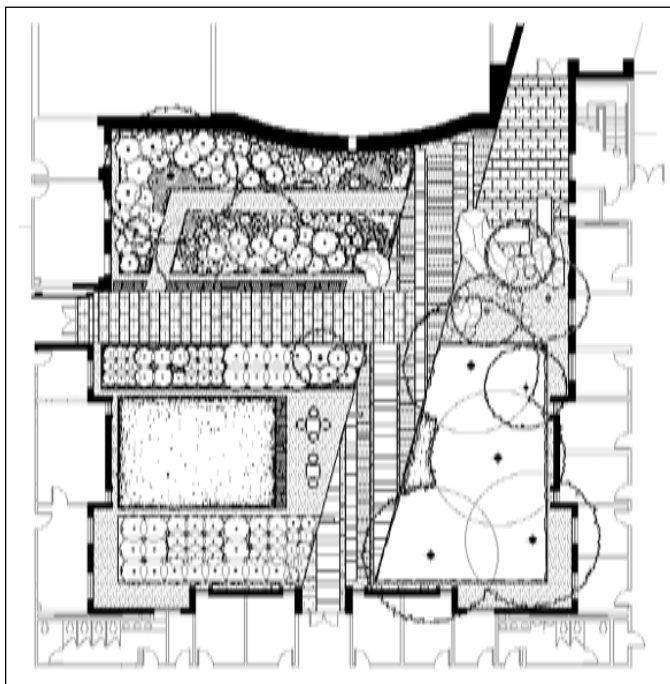


DIMENSIONING MADE EASY

When Dirtworks needed to create a series of intricate paving plans for the courtyard, using VectorWorks technology made it easy.

"Using the fill function in VectorWorks is quite simple and much less complex than using the hatch function of AutoCAD," Smith says. "Dimensioning the intricacies of the paving pattern also seem much simpler due to VectorWorks' easy-to-use dimension tool. Changing fonts, their size and their orientation was quite straightforward."

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THE DIRT ON DIRTWORKS, PC™

Dirtworks' philosophy is that interaction with the natural environment is essential to health and well being and that providing a closer connection to nature enhances the built environment. These principles are applied to all projects, including educational, healthcare, residential and commercial settings.

Numerous design awards, national and international publications, exhibitions and television documentaries have recognized Dirtworks for its expertise, creativity and sensibility to the environment and architecture. Most recently, Dirtworks received the 2006 Honor Award for General Design from the American Society of Landscape Architects. Its Legacy Groves project, a memorial to those lost on Flight 93 on September 11 in Somerset County, Pennsylvania, was recently featured in an HGTV series, Recreating Eden. The firm will also be featured in the Public Broadcasting Service's (PBS) series, "Garden Stories," slated for 2007.

VECTORWORKS— AHEAD OF THE CLASS

A relatively new VectorWorks user, Dirtworks has already uncovered some of its advantages over AutoCAD.

"I find the dimension tool in AutoCAD to be extremely complex," says Smith. "The VectorWorks dimension tool is much easier to use due to the ease with which you can switch between scales. Now, with viewport annotation, it's much easier to dimension drawings than with AutoCAD."

"I prefer VectorWorks over AutoCAD, because VectorWorks is much more intuitive. The tools are so much easier to find and use, yet all the capability is still there."

While the firm acknowledges that most architects and engineers use AutoCAD, VectorWorks will continue to be the software of choice for Dirtworks.

"I prefer VectorWorks over AutoCAD, because VectorWorks is much more intuitive," concludes Smith. "The tools are so much easier to find and use, yet all the capability is still there."

For more information, contact Nemetschek North America, makers of VectorWorks, at 888-646-4223. Or visit us on the web at www.vectorworks.net.

