

## Styles & Wood Design

### Moving to Apple and Mac OS X

When the design department of Styles & Wood Design decided they wanted to move from a PC setup to a Mac-based one, we provided them with the hardware, software and support during the introduction. We worked with S&WD's CAD Development Manager Mark Couch and their senior IT Technical Support Analyst Sam Akroyd to help with problem-solving and integration.

#### Wowing clients with high-performance hardware

"The move to Apple was strongly supported by our Design Director, Nick Openshaw, who initially proposed Apple before I took up the CAD Development Manager position with S&W Design," explained Mark. "I initially had my doubts and misconceptions; however, after extensive research I discovered that costs were comparable to PC workstations, and performance tests produced good results.

"Prior to joining S&WD I had seen firsthand Apple installations in architects' offices, and appreciated the instant impact that permeates through visitors and prospective clients. After meeting with Jigsaw24, reviewing some of our concerns and involving our IT team from the outset to get the technical aspects clarified, we put our case studies together in a report and Nick made the proposal to our board."

#### Ensuring maximum efficiency and usability

In order to ensure there would not be an impact on usability or efficiency, S&WD decided to instigate an initial pilot batch of Apple hardware. Their plan was to introduce a small number in each branch of the design department and assess the impact on overall perception and workflow. All being well, they would then begin a three year rollout to completely replace their existing PC equipment.

To get started, we provided S&WD with nine high-spec iMacs and four MacBook Pros, all ready to run AutoCAD for Mac. Our advice to S&WD was to utilise Boot Camp – a function of OS X which allows installation of dual operating systems on a single machine – so their users would have a choice of which to run at power-up.

We also recommended the staff use desktop virtualisation software Parallels to access their Windows-only apps. This would allow them to run Windows and Mac OS X simultaneously, so they wouldn't need to reboot every time they wanted to move from a Mac app to a PC-based one, and could review work created on either platform at the same time.

"From seeing other architects using Macs I knew we would be able to integrate them as well," Mark said. "With Jigsaw24 explaining the concept of utilising Boot Camp for an initial Windows setup, and IT agreeing that this would be our base point, we were able to plan the initial deployment to prevent any issues whilst Mac configurations were developed and tested in isolation.



### In a nutshell...

#### Who are Styles & Wood Design?

Based in Manchester, with teams in London and Nottingham, S&W Design tackle everything from new builds to refurbishments, with a strong bias on interior design, working for key names in the retail banking sector. The mainstay of the company is Construction Services, with many projects designed and then constructed by S&WD.

#### What did they need?

S&WD wanted to move from PCs to Macs, and needed someone to source new hardware, support them through a trial scheme and then facilitate a three-year programme to move all of their hardware over to the Mac platform.

#### How did Jigsaw24 help?

We provided S&WD with nine high-spec iMacs and four MacBook Pros for their pilot scheme, and helped their IT team configure Boot Camp and Parallels Desktop for users who would still need to connect to a Windows desktop. We also developed a long term deployment plan, and ensured future software updates and installations could be easily controlled by the IT team.

#### What were the benefits?

- The company can now use powerful, reliable Mac hardware without experiencing any performance lags.
- Users on Macs and PCs can still collaborate on projects.

"We plan to move from a straight Windows bootup to running with Parallels in Mac OS X, as suggested by Jigsaw24. We have a number of CAD applications that are not yet supported in Mac, so Windows will need to be maintained for the foreseeable future."

would be reflected in their Parallels workspace. We also developed a long term deployment plan to solve some initial build issues, and ensure future software updates and installations could be easily controlled by the IT team.

"We have a long way still to go and a lot of development work ahead of us to achieve our ultimate three year plan, but we are confident that AutoCAD for Mac will soon be in use and we can start utilising the Apple architecture to its full potential."

### Enabling a high-speed Revit workflow

There were concerns that a virtual machine wouldn't be fast enough to support some of the company's heavy-duty applications, including Revit. We advised that the IT team configure Parallels to use the same Windows files as Boot Camp, meaning that when someone needed the extra speed of a native system they could switch over to Boot Camp, confident that all their changes

### Realising your software's full potential

"When the hardware arrived there was an immediate buzz around the workplace and anticipation of the deployments," said Mark. "While it would be great to paint a rosy picture and say everything went without a hitch, we did have build problems, and experienced delays in deploying the hardware. It was reassuring to have Jigsaw24 available throughout to troubleshoot and advise us as we hit various snags.

“The Jigsaw24 team have been a great and reliable help. Already the impact of the Apple hardware has made a positive impression on the business, promoting our professional approach with high performance kit.”

Mark Couch, **CAD Development Manager, S&W Design.**

For more information about implementing Macs and OS X, get in touch with us on the details below.