

Harrison French & Associates, LTD

Rapidly Growing Firm Integrates Finances with Production

For larger architectural firms, managing many projects, along with the massive amounts of data they generate, can become an overwhelming task. And one that distracts from the core design activities of the firm. Without the ability to obtain a consolidated view of all activities company-wide, achieving operational efficiency will always be an elusive goal.

This was the case for Harrison French and Associates, LTD (HFA), a well-known Arkansas-based firm with more than 100 employees. They design in excess of 2,000 projects annually for their clients which include internationally-known retailers. HFA was growing very quickly, and as a result, found itself with numerous disparate information databases. Production data, such as staff time sheets, was housed one place, while accounting and billing information resided somewhere else. Since these systems couldn't interface, combining and cross-referencing data was impossible. And when the company built its own proprietary solution to provide in-depth project management capabilities, it was left with yet another application lacking integration with the rest of the company's systems.

In order to continue to facilitate their rapid expansion, Harrison French realized that they needed a single, fully-integrated solution that would support both the production and the financial sides of their business.

"We looked at 10 or 11 software solutions," said Christie Bowling, Project Manager for HFA. "None of them were comprehensive or full-featured enough to meet our requirements. And few of them enabled the kind of company-wide information-sharing we needed."

After the search for the right solution failed to produce a viable option, the company considered hiring a developer to design and build a new system from the ground up. Then, in the course of their research, Harrison French came across information about ArchiOffice. Larry Lott, Harrison French's VP of Operations explains:

"What impressed us most about ArchiOffice is that, unlike other project management systems that were designed for service companies in general, it was created by experienced architects, specifically for businesses like ours."

"We could see they really understood our industry, as well as our challenges and goals. And after speaking with other firms our size that currently use ArchiOffice, we were able to go forward with confidence that they could effectively address the needs of a larger organization."

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Success Story



Since implementing the solution in July of 2007, the firm has realized tremendous productivity gains. More than 50 employees, including project managers, production teams, and accounting personnel, utilize the system on a daily basis to enhance a variety of core business activities. For example, project managers find it gives them greater visibility into work in progress, making it easier for them to locate and review information about various activities within each project. Additionally, because it seamlessly links production data with accounting information, ArchiOffice helps them to better monitor and manage project budgets. And, production staffers say it has helped them to more efficiently and accurately account for the time they spend working on particular tasks.

“ArchiOffice has helped us bring all facets of our operations together, and enabled us to bring structure and organization to our business process,” Lott added. “At the same time, it’s given us tremendous flexibility, which is crucial to helping us satisfy the unique requirements of some of our national clients.”

About Harrison French & Associates

Harrison French and Associates, LTD is a nationally-renowned firm that offers a broad range of services including architecture, planning, mechanical and electrical engineering, and interior design. Headquartered in Arkansas and licensed in 49 states, Harrison French employs more than 100 staff members, all of whom are dedicated to working as a cohesive and collaborative team to make each client's vision a reality. For more information on Harrison French & Associates, visit www.harrisonfrench.com.

To learn more about ArchiOffice and pricing, email us at info@bqe.com or call us at (855) 687-1028.