



THE COMPANY:

Peter Napier is a Chartered Building Surveyor with RICS Accreditation in Building Conservation. Located in the beautiful Shropshire Hills he has been handling conservation work since 1991 but has always worked on “old” buildings. Prior to setting up his own Practice he was a Partner in a Shrewsbury Based Practice.



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Building Blocks of Support For Chartered Building Surveyor.

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When the practice was first established Peter was using AutoCAD LT for all of his work and knew the program inside out. He had toyed with the idea of moving over to 3D and had originally looked at TurboCAD but decided at the time that there was no incentive to move to 3D and was just too busy to be able to make the time to learn it.

One of his clients, Dogs Trust was already working in 3D using AutoCAD Architecture and whilst investigating this Peter found Worcester based reseller Cadspec who suggested that he might find Autodesk Revit Architecture more use.

Peter still didn't have the incentive to move to 3D until Dogs Trust asked him to design a new rehoming centre a year later and then he had to make the move from a commercial perspective and not just because he'd like to. Now he'd have to make the time to learn it.

He approached Cadspec for a demonstration and was completely taken with Revit Architecture. Dogs Trust visited him and Cadspec arranged a second demonstration via a web session for both of them. Dogs Trust was also very impressed and both companies decided to purchase Revit Architecture. Peter purchased his copy through Cadspec as well as a Subscription contract and training and has really felt the benefits of doing so, together with the support he has since received from Cadspec and Applications Specialist Rob Powers.

Peter had a three day training course at his own premises and this 1-to-1 training was invaluable in the initial understanding of Revit. The next couple of weeks brought some frustration with Revit being so different from AutoCAD, but help was at hand from Rob and very soon Peter overcame his difficulties. Peter has learnt a huge amount from Rob Powers and is constantly learning more which has made a huge difference to the service that he can provide.

He's invested in additional training to cover more advanced features such as family creation and rendering which he says is “excellent value for money”. Now he says “I don't think there's a single thing where I have thought, 'Revit won't be able to do that', and there's nothing that it hasn't been able to handle”.

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**Peter Napier
Owner, Peter Napier & Co. Ltd**

THE BENEFIT:

Increased knowledge and understanding of Revit has enabled Peter to work alone, without the cost and time required to employ assistance. The level of support he has received from Cadspec both in terms of technical assistance and personalised training has been key to this.



The Dogs Trust project involves plans for a new rehoming centre for dogs. One part of this is built under a mound of earth in line with an ecological brief and as Peter says Revit made this simple. "There's no way I could have drawn that in AutoCAD."

When it comes to Renovation work according to Rob Powers people often see 3D as being too rigid, time consuming and not flexible enough to use. However Peter has disproved this with Revit. "it's so flexible" he says "the rendering is a bit limited for stonework, but take that away and nothing else is a problem."

One of Peter's current projects, Bishops Castle Town Hall is one which he has taken on voluntarily as a cause he believes in. After one lottery fund had already been spent on architectural fees which got them nowhere, Peter offered his services and has found that the project has increased his skills considerably as he's having to do things he couldn't have done without Revit and wouldn't have learned to do without the need. With Revit and Peter's knowledge he just gets on with the work alone without the cost and time he would have had to spend employing assistance.

The Bishops Castle project involves installing a lift, heating and various outside repairs. Currently there is a staircase across a large picture window blocking a spectacular view down the main high street. This was installed many years ago whilst the Town Hall was being used as the local jail and they needed a way to bring the prisoners up from the basement jail to the top floor for sentencing. Installing a lift in the corner will allow them to do away with this staircase and once again enable the splendid view to be enjoyed.

In order to present the alterations to the public consultation meeting Peter has had to create a Revit plan of the existing building as well as the new one containing the alterations. Both drawings have been rendered to show the 3D image, and includes lighting through the now enlarged windows and the view out of the window once the staircase is removed. A 2D flat plan makes little sense to the public but they have been amazed by what he's doing when they see the 3D images. But Peter knows the secret of this amazement - Revit! It's so much more than just designing a building, it's about selling a concept to the various approval publics, planning permission, councils etc.

Peter currently has a student Oliver working for him whilst at the same time studying Architecture at University. As part of the course he has to learn five different packages. Judging by the comments on his Facebook page and those of his student friends it is clear that for them all Revit is by far the favourite. It's easy to see that Peter's enthusiasm is catching. As he says himself "Nothing good was ever done without enthusiasm and Revit gives you that." For all that Peter says he "couldn't have done it without Cadspec. The support from Rob Powers in particular has been fantastic."

Peter has kindly said that he is very willing to talk to anyone considering purchasing Revit as he is so convinced it's the way to go. You can contact him by email or view his website.

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