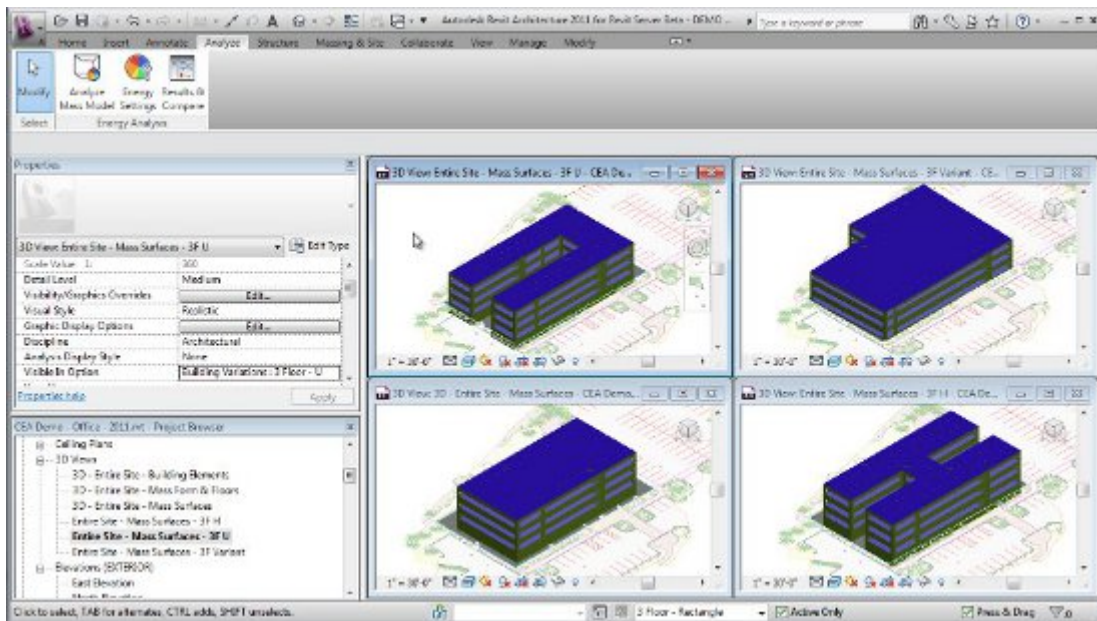


Autodesk Releases Exciting Energy Analysis and Collaboration Updates for Revit

Autodesk has some exciting news for Revit Subscription customers. Revit Architecture and Revit MEP 2011 will soon have conceptual energy analysis tools embedded directly into the software. This will make it easy for architects and engineers to complete energy analysis on early conceptual designs, since there will now be a button within the Revit software which users can push to submit their model(s) for energy analysis.

As Joy Stark, Autodesk industry marketing manager, explained, architects will be able to start building conceptual parametric mass models, and once created, these models can be submitted for energy analysis. This allows for architects to test early conceptual designs from the get-go and receive information on how their designs perform. "The analysis is presented graphically for users to easily understand the different design options," said Stark. She described the process as being more of directional analysis that makes energy analysis accessible to any architect, even if the project isn't classified as "green." Even better, different designs can be tested from the very beginning to determine which option to pursue. This emphasis on energy analysis tools derives from Autodesk's observation that sustainable design is no longer considered just a trend but instead has become a normal part of the design process. These tools help meet users' demand for sustainable design from directly within the application according to Stark.



Does this mean that tools like Ecotect Analysis and Green Building Studio are obsolete? Not at all. According to Stark, these new tools are for conceptual analysis, and more robust tools like Ecotect Analysis and Green Building Studio still address the need for more in-depth analysis.



Autodesk

The other tools recently released are web-based collaboration tools, under the Revit Server Extension, designed to help project teams located in different parts of the country or world work on the same model more quickly and easily. Because Autodesk's larger customers needed help facilitating large team workflows, Revit now allows for teams to work over wide area networks, said Stark, which improves efficiency. It allows for Revit users to maintain a collection of Revit central models on a single server that can then be accessed from local servers, and the way in which the local and central servers talk to each other has been optimized. In addition, projects can be managed on the Revit central server through the web-based Revit Server Administration tools. "This is a big need that has come about as larger teams are working in different locations," said Stark.

Other updates include the new Frame Generator Extension, which will help architects generate structural elements like columns, beams and support, and automate this process. These updates are available for download by Autodesk Subscription users only. You'll no doubt agree that there is much to be excited about in the realms of both sustainable design and design collaboration.