



## **AEC Design Practice Survey Identifies Opportunities to Accelerate 3D-CAD/BIM Adoption and Green Building Design**

**Streaming the whole building energy analysis and LEED rating processes will drive 3D-CAD and BIM use in design practice**

**San Francisco, California - September 21, 2004** - GeoPraxis, an architectural, engineering and construction software and services company and Pacific Gas & Electric, in conjunction with McGraw-Hill Construction, Autodesk, Inc., and Bentley Systems, recently completed an extensive industry survey of CAD usage in building design practice. The study updates results from previous surveys conducted by GeoPraxis in 1999 and 2000. The new survey was expanded to address the movement to building information modeling (BIM) and 3D-CAD tools, data exchange between design team members and applications, as well as green building design and LEED rating.

According to the survey of 585 architects and engineers, the use of next generation 3D-CAD and BIM building design software is happening more rapidly than originally thought, and will accelerate with the release of a wider range of engineering analysis tools that can interact and share data across design teams. Of the CAD using respondents, 52% indicated they produce a 3D model on 75% or more of their projects. This movement will streamline the design process, and reduce the costs of reviewing alternatives and making informed building design decisions, at the earliest project stages.

Architects and engineers report that integrating whole building energy analysis, cost estimating energy code compliance, and LEED certification into 3D-CAD and BIM applications are key drivers for the expanded use of 3D-CAD and BIM modeling at their firms. They also report that 3D-CAD and BIM approaches would be used more if clients and design team members simply asked for BIM files rather than 2D drawings. This suggests that building departments, utility efficiency programs, and green building rating organizations could become major drivers of change by specifying documentation derived from BIM or 3D-CAD models as part of their regular programmatic requirements.

"The GeoPraxis survey confirms that adoption of building information modeling is definitely accelerating," said Jon Pittman, Senior Director of Strategic Research at Autodesk. "The survey offers new insight into which key engineering design and analysis applications are necessary to drive changing design processes and BIM adoption within the AEC industry. The sharing of critical information between architectural design and engineering analysis applications to facilitate green building design, for example, is a real testimony to the value of this new way of working."

Using a cutting-edge survey and analysis tool, the survey was conducted on-line between May 24 and June 30, 2004. The entire project was completed in less than 60 days. Results are available at [www.GeoPraxis.com](http://www.GeoPraxis.com).

With the release of this survey, GeoPraxis announces the expansion of its Market Research & Consulting practice, led by construction and energy utility industry veteran, Thomas P. Conlon. Contact Mr. Conlon ([tconlon@geopraxis.com](mailto:tconlon@geopraxis.com)) to discuss your organization's next strategic planning, survey or focus group project.

### **About GeoPraxis**

GeoPraxis, Inc., an architectural, engineering and construction software and services company, is the industry leader in the development and implementation of building energy analysis tools and web-based solutions. With the release of the Green Building Studio web service and paid placement advertising and sales lead channel, GeoPraxis is pioneering integration with architectural 3D-CAD programs using gbXML.