BASEBUILDERS™
Makers of Smart Management Tools for
Architects and Engineers

Case Study

Architecture firm chooses præsto AE™ over ArchiOffice®

Alice Travis struggled with ArchiOffice for years before she and the firm's Principals at CHAS Architects decided it was time for a change. "I was so frustrated, it wasn't easy to navigate the system and I couldn't get the reports we needed to manage our projects efficiently. In addition, our staff felt the same frustration as they tried to use the program for everyday tasks like entering or editing a timesheet."

This ten person firm needed a system that offered time entry that was specifically designed for Architects so they could report on phases and break out profitability by project as well. Although QuickBooks met their accounting needs they knew they had to maintain an industry specific solution to manage their projects. They needed to monitor project budgets so they could react quickly if a change was needed and they wanted close out reports to help them with estimating for the next project. They found what they needed in Praesto AE, a robust business/project management system offered by Base Builders.

Travis, Office Manager for CHAS, says that they were sold on Praesto AE from the first time they were introduced to it. Firm Principals Charles Travis, AIA and Evan Fisher, AIA, were immediately impressed and knew it would be user friendly. They didn't even review other systems because they knew that Praesto AE was what they were looking for.

Their satisfaction with Praesto AE continued as they began implementing the system. They used the on-line training videos for much of the implementation process and Alice enjoyed the fact that these could be viewed on her own time. The fact that training and support was included in the cost of the software was an added benefit as well because they knew the total cost of ownership up-front and knew there wouldn't be any surprises.

It is also an added benefit for them that the support staff is personable and reliable. When needed, which Travis quickly adds "isn't often", they always get a quick call from a live person. A great part of their overall frustration with ArchiOffice was their feeling that the product support was lacking and feeling like the support person was often not very knowledgeable.

Who Is CHAS Architects

CHAS Architects, with offices in Austin, TX and Santa Barbara, CA was established in 1999. They design by the belief that creating extraordinary places requires a balance between understanding today's needs and the history, traditions, and character of a place. Their goal is to create architecture that is timeless, lasting, and of heirloom quality where people remember it affectionately, not for its glamour or flash but for its subtle elegance and understated modern sophistication. Their services include Architecture, Urban Design, Planning, and Place Making. They have done work from coast to coast and in Mexico, China and the Arabian Gulf. Learn more at www.chasarchitects.com.

CHAS also has seen marked improvements in efficiencies and administrative tasks since implementing Praesto AE just over two years ago. Being able to bill with a summarized phase breakdown has made billing much simpler and getting invoices out quicker means better cash flow overall.

Alice says she is "very pleased" with what Praesto AE has meant for their firm and she looks forward to implementing more components in the future.

About Base Builders

Headquartered in Reno, NV, Base Builders was founded in 2002 and is home to the innovative Praesto products. Base Builders founder, Doug Rawson, PE established very specific and focused goals for the company, which is dedicated to providing its customers with products and solutions that add significant value to their organization, and providing the ultimate satisfaction in customer service, experience and support. Based on many years of firsthand experience, Praesto AE has evolved into an all-encompassing solution that helps architecture and engineering firms to efficiently manage projects, to improve client relations, and increase bottom line profits. Visit www.basebuilders.com for additional information.