

# Cutting-edge CAD collaboration solutions

## IBSECAD, London/UK



Improving collaborative working by using a SMART Board® interactive whiteboard.

Since 1996, IBSECAD has grown into an industry leader in the CAD (Computer Aided Design) co-ordination field. IBSECAD helps to bridge the gap between design and build by utilising the latest technology to visualise construction plans. IBSECAD invested in a SMART Board® 885ix interactive whiteboard with Meeting Pro™ software in its London office.

### Capturing the review process

The main software tool used by IBSECAD for collaborative work is Autodesk Navisworks, a specialist product for the architecture, engineering and construction industries which requires flythrough and collaborative workshops. However, as explained by Richard Baglow, Regional Director of IBSECAD, the traditional process for reviewing with projectors and paper copies left something to be desired:

“IBSECAD has a lot of workshops, running through CAD models on the screen, for which we use a package called Autodesk Navisworks. This is a big step forward from looking at paper drawings and makes it easier for the clients to visualise their projects. However, the challenge lies in how we work with those models, record the collaborative process and capture the changes we want to make to the plans. We were limited to using screen grabs of images and marking them up by hand, using Photoshop packages or the commentary tool on Autodesk Navisworks, but it was a relatively slow process.”

### The design industry is about collaborating and sharing ideas

For IBSECAD the solution was a SMART Board Interactive whiteboard. Richard explains how the SMART Board supports their work: “As a 3D design company, IBSECAD is heavily involved at all stages of the building process. With our SMART Board, we can make any annotations that we see fit, manipulate the display with touch gestures on the board, write in digital ink on the display and save, print and distribute the outputs at any time.”

### Challenge

To find a better way of collaborating with clients to review and agree 3D models of construction projects.

### Solution

A faster, more effective and more collaborative process for working together with clients to refine, amend and agree construction project models.

### Result

Construction projects are kept on schedule and on budget.

As Richard explains, the SMART Board has been a tremendous help in delivering more effective collaboration with colleagues and clients: "The design industry is about collaborating and sharing ideas and the SMART Board takes this further than ever. We can pass the pen around the meeting so that everyone can input directly onto the SMART Board, with a level of interaction that we hadn't seen before. Previously, we would have to think carefully about any annotations we made because they were always on paper. With the SMART Board, it is quick and easy to alter a design without ruining the plan."

"The main benefit of the SMART Board is for client interface meetings. You can take screen captures while using the board, so it allows us to show our models to clients and to make real time alterations in line with our discussions with them. It allows everyone to understand what we have created, how we have created it and why."

### Delivering contracts on schedule and under budget

The benefits that the SMART Board® is delivering for IBSECAD and its clients are immediately apparent, according to Richard: "The feedback from clients has been universally positive. It is much easier for clients to understand what they are looking at in workshops and to contribute their ideas, and easier for us to capture the discussion and action the agreed decisions. The SMART Board is a massive benefit and is making a huge difference to our projects."

The SMART Board plays a key role in ensuring that projects stay on schedule. This is very important in the construction industry, where any delay can prove extremely costly. It also helps to ensure that any disputes over the decisions taken are kept to a minimum, thanks to its ability to accurately document the design process:

"The SMART Board takes meetings to a whole new level. Having relied on marked-up hard copies of the plans, we can now keep everything electronically. This makes the whole process a lot quicker. The SMART Board is superb at keeping everyone on track with project schedules. By capturing a detailed record of the collaborative process, it provides greater clarity and transparency, which reduces the risk of last minute disputes over the decisions taken."

Richard believes that the SMART Board has helped IBSECAD to stay ahead of the competition: "The SMART Board is the best piece of technology we have ever invested in. We're leading the way in our industry with this technology. We make sure that we write it into tenders and tell prospective clients all about our SMART Board and the benefits for progress review meetings and sign-off workshops. On the University Medical Centre project in Louisiana, we use the SMART Board to work with colleagues on the other side of the Atlantic. It proves that with these tools, we can bid for, win and deliver contracts anywhere in the world."

### The Future

IBSECAD is currently considering investing in additional SMART Boards in its Leeds and London offices: "Clients always request to have meetings in our London boardroom because of the SMART Board, so we need to think about investing in a another board."



Using the SMART Board® to enhance client interface meetings.

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**Richard Baglow,**

Regional Director of IBSECAD

### About SMART

SMART Technologies Inc. is a leading provider of collaboration solutions that change the way the world works and learns. As the global leader in interactive whiteboards, our focus is on developing a variety of easy-to-use, integrated solutions that free people from their desks and computer screens, making collaboration and learning with digital resources more natural. Our products have transformed teaching and learning in more than two million classrooms worldwide, reaching over 40 million students and their teachers. In business, our Freestorm™ visual collaboration solutions improve the way that people work and collaborate, enabling them to be more productive and reduce costs.

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### Steljes Ltd

Steljes is a SMART authorised distributor for SMART Technologies

info@steljes.co.uk

08450 758758

[www.smartwaystowork.co.uk](http://www.smartwaystowork.co.uk)