

# Roof detail becomes trademark feature

For Alchemy Architects, Autodesk Revit has more than proved itself in developing brands for clients.



Amândio Castanheira, who has extensive experience in developing corporate architecture, was recently briefed by kopi-k@t – a new network of high-tech business service centres – to develop interior and exterior architecture that would communicate a strong brand identity.

Castanheira utilised the corporate colours of orange and silver, vast stretches of glass, high gloss finishes and functional steel to create a minimalist look that conveys the efficient delivery of technology-driven services. The design can also be adapted to different locations – from stand-alone outlets to shopping centre environments.

The point of departure for the overall design was the functional, easy-to-manufacture

barrel vault roof that ran the length of the building. Castanheira used Autodesk Revit to 'peel back' the roof over the entrance, creating a negative of the roof shape.

The software enabled him to juxtapose the positive and negative roof shapes to dramatic effect. Glassing the entrance up to the roof has created a defined entrance portal, which, together with the eye-catching roof design, has become the kopi-k@t icon – both night and day.

"Autodesk Revit enabled us to explore a host of different options, while keeping an eye on the budget. One week after our initial brief, we made our first conceptual presentation. It was an outstanding success and immediately sold the concept to the client."

*kopi-k@t's distinctive icon ... created with Autodesk Revit.*

Castanheira believes that software like Autodesk Revit is levelling the competitive playing field. He introduced the software to his firm after losing a prestigious project to a much larger practice.

"I discovered that Autodesk Revit gave other firms the advantage of being able to turn concepts around much faster than we could.

"Now as a four-person firm, with Autodesk Revit we can produce concepts just as quickly as a practice with 10 or more staff. Design ability and skill, rather than financial resources or head count, are the differentiators now." ♦

## News flash: Design competition

Bookmark [www.designcomp.co.za](http://www.designcomp.co.za) – the official web site of the Autodesk Revit UrbanPlayMobile design competition – and keep up-to-date with competition developments.

The website mirrors the dynamic nature of the competition, in which entrants are to create roving event units that invent new uses for public space, and is regularly refreshed with up-to-the-minute competition information.

Watch out for a lively graphic diary depicting public space in Johannesburg and detailed information about the competition judges – Tatjana Dzambazova, Peter Fattinger and Professor 'Ora Joubert. Monitor the site for news flashes, check the competition rules and ensure you're ready for the submission deadline of 31 July.

Not to be missed is the announcement of the winners in a real time webcast at 15:00 on 1 September 2006. ♦