

A Canvas Case Study: Green Stories Architecture

About Green Stories:

Green Stories is an architectural design consulting firm specializing in hurricane-resistant design as well as the rehabilitation of long-abandoned residential properties. Led by architect Thomas Reynolds, AIA, the firm typically works on between 100 and 120 projects per year in New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania.

The Challenge

With their focus on long-term abandoned buildings, most of Green Stories's projects start with understanding and documenting the property's existing as-built conditions. As the buildings are often vacant and in a state of disrepair, there are typically no reliable plans to reference. Thomas is the sole designer at the firm and painstakingly hand-measuring and reconstructing derelict properties in Revit was preventing the firm from taking on additional projects and clients.



The Solution

Eager to solve this bottleneck, Thomas sought out tools that would enable him to speed up his as-built creation process and spend more time on the creative part of the job: reimagining the properties. Many of the existing solutions on the market, such as tripod-based LiDAR scanners, cost upwards of \$50,000 and are geared toward industrial applications — making them inaccessible for a smaller, residential-focused business like Green Stories.

Thomas had been following Canvas from afar for years. However, he decided to invest in it as a solution when he saw it launched support for Apple's new LiDAR sensor embedded in the latest line of iPad Pros. At only \$799, it was a reasonable upfront investment, and he didn't have to worry about purchasing additional hardware or spending time learning how to use a complex new piece of equipment.

RESULTS AT A GLANCE



Three hours of labor time saved on a typical project



More capacity available to expand the business



More detailed as-built conditions to work from



3D Web Viewer excites clients early in the process



I have reduced the time to measure a 2,500 square foot building from two hours of measuring and an hour and a half of data input to 30 minutes of scanning and sending the scans to be converted to a Revit model.

**– Thomas Reynolds,
Principal, Green Stories**

Thomas and his contractors now use Canvas to scan entire properties in minutes by simply walking around the space — “painting” the structural details as they go with the iPad. Instead of spending two hours manually measuring each individual dimension, Canvas captures every dimension that it sees in seconds.

Once back in the office, Thomas uploads the scans to Canvas’s Scan To CAD service — a fully-integrated, turnkey, and semi-automatic pipeline that processes the 3D scan data into a variety of industry-standard formats. Within approximately two business days, Thomas receives an editable, professional-grade BIM model (in native .rvt format for Revit) of the space at a LOD 200 specification (including all the major structural elements).

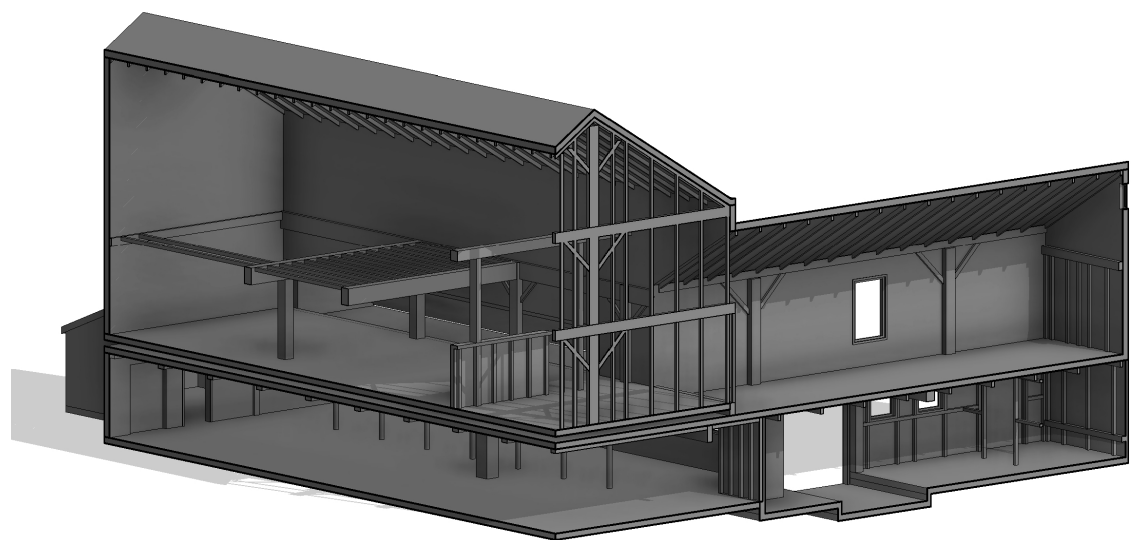
While he waits for the Canvas-generated Revit models, he’s able to spend time working on other projects. Once the Revit files are delivered, Thomas can jump right into reconfiguring the space, having skipped hours of work measuring and modeling. The files are structured and organized in native families and elements, ready to be manipulated.

Additionally, while juggling multiple projects simultaneously, Thomas can leverage the Canvas app and Canvas Web Viewer to virtually revisit any scanned space to refresh his memory on the details of the properties he’s revitalizing. This eliminates the need for additional site visits for tasks such as checking the condition of existing materials to determine whether something requires restoration or replacement. It also enables him to share a visual reference of the property with other professionals collaborating on the project.

What does Canvas do for Green Stories Architecture?

Canvas enables Thomas and his team to:

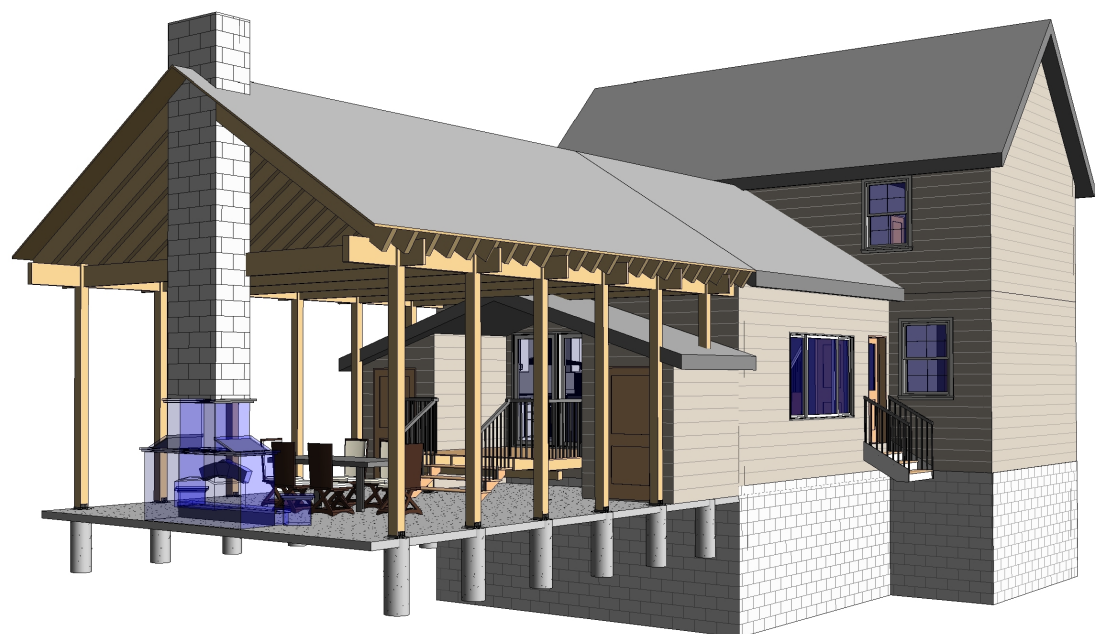
- Grow the business by taking on additional projects and clients, and allocating more time to marketing
- Save time measuring and modeling spaces
- Cut back on money spent on drafting consultants
- Virtually revisit spaces



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The amount of time I've been able to save measuring buildings allows me to better advertise the work I'm doing.

– Thomas Reynolds,
Principal, Green Stories



Canvas powers thousands of businesses across the home improvement industry, including renovation, architecture, design, and more.

Let's talk

If you're curious about how Canvas might work for you visit canvas.io.