

Case Study: AutoCAD Super Blocks



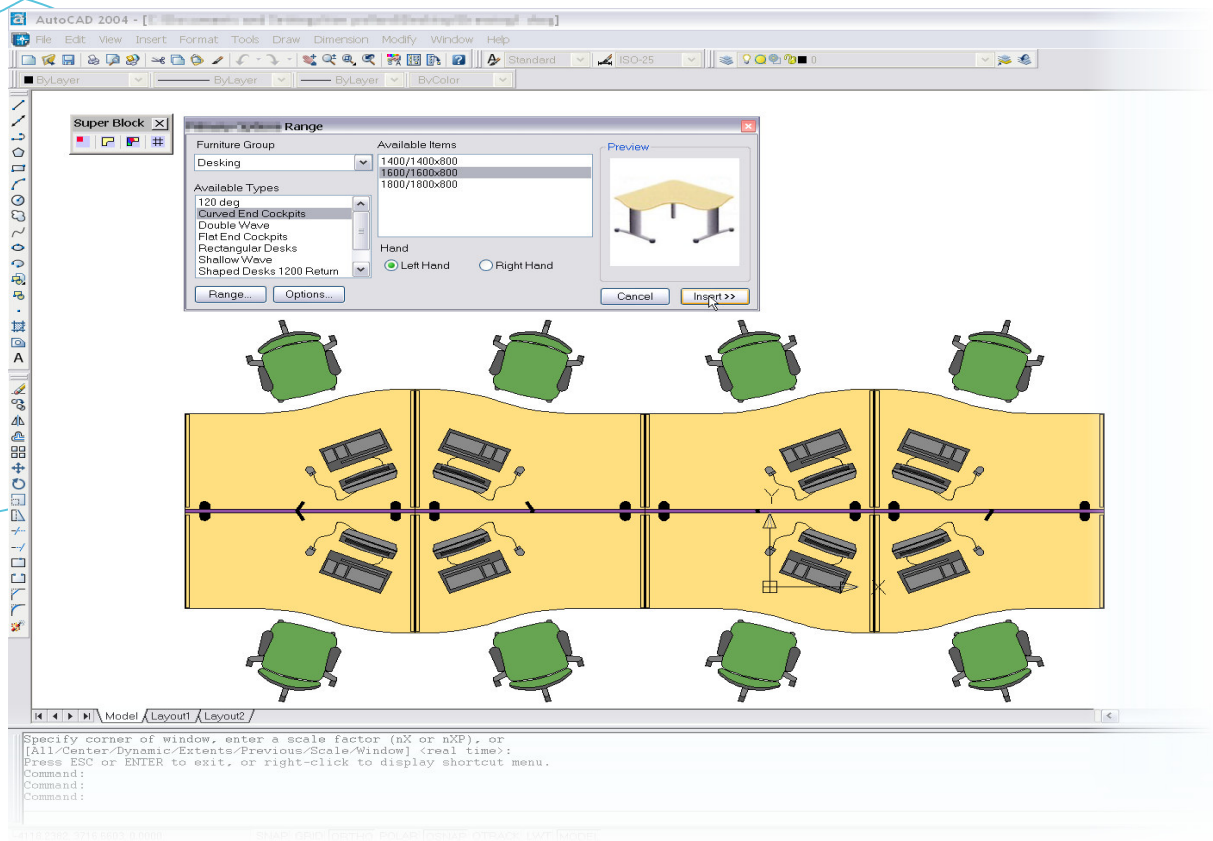
Background

Office space planning is the task of planning standard office components. The designer uses the industry standard CAD software, AutoCAD.

Problems:

- Planning with AutoCAD standard tools is very fast for the designer, however the production of the planning libraries is a time consuming and expensive task.
- In order to develop an accurate price for the scheme, it is necessary to 'take off' each block within the plan, apply the sale price and build a quotation document. AutoCAD does not provide this functionality as standard.

Super Block software running within AutoCAD.



Solution:

Office furniture consists of a number of basic shapes that are available in a range of sizes. Rather than draw a library containing each size variant of a desk, the Super Block software 'builds' the block using 'rules' set down in an easily maintainable database.

As each block is built as its required by the planner, the system automatically attaches data to the block. This data is extracted from AutoCAD via a custom take-off program. The take-off is then compared with the current price list to give a printable quotation.

Benefits:

1. Time / cost to produce new range libraries reduced by 80%.
2. Significantly fewer specification and quotation errors.
3. Furniture easier to browse and plan.
4. Improved links with production planning software.

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