

BIM Director at Perkowitz+Ruth Architects finds workflow bliss with 3Dconnexion SpacePilot® Pro, Autodesk Revit and Wacom tablet

3D Mice: SpacePilot® Pro, SpaceNavigator® for Notebooks

Application: Autodesk Revit™



BIM Director, Autodesk certified instructor and frequent lecturer, Jay Zallan, relies on 3Dconnexion 3D mice when working in Autodesk Revit

Perkowitz+Ruth Architects (P+R), headquartered in Long Beach, Calif. with offices throughout the United States and China, provide quality design and construction contract administration services to a range of clients. From neighborhood groceryanchored shopping centers to movie theaters and urban streetscapes, this award-winning firm has been engaged in a wide variety of architectural projects, both domestically and internationally.

BIM Director Jay Zallan has a special expertise in multiple building, large project realization and guides the BIM platform implementations and process development throughout P+R. He serves as BIM facilitator on multi-discipline projects, as well as a technology instructor and mentor to BIM teams. Considered one of the industry authorities on BIM and one of the few Autodesk® Revit® ICE (Implementation Certified Expert) professionals, Zallan relies on the 3Dconnexion SpacePilot Pro for his design needs, as well as when capturing training videos and presentations.

Zallan was first introduced to 3Dconnexion 3D mice in 2006, and instantly saw the value of the productivity and design benefits. When 3D mouse support was introduced with Revit 2012, he was very eager to get a SpacePilot Pro and integrate it into his daily workflow in order to improve his ability to position, view and manipulate 3D content. As an Autodesk certified Instructor, Zallan is a frequent lecturer at universities, museums, Autodesk University, Revit Technology Conference, the AIA, as well as being a contributor to several AECO publications.

“One of the things I love is the way I can capture training videos for presentations,” says Zallan. “When using the SpacePilot Pro, I can fly, walk or rotate through the model so smoothly and the variable speed at which I can move is just great.” Feedback from one of Zallan’s most recent presentations in which he used the SpaceNavigator for Notebooks was very positive and attendees highlighted it as one of his best. “Some of that credit goes to the 3D mouse,” notes Zallan.



It only took Zallan about two hours over the course of a day to feel comfortable with the 3D mouse. He notes, “I found if you go through the training modules included with the 3Dconnexion driver about three times, you should feel pretty good.”

Along with the SpacePilot Pro, Zallan opts for using the Wacom® tablet in his right hand, rather than a traditional mouse. “The pressure sensitivity of the Wacom pen tip and the advanced navigation from the SpacePilot Pro work really well together.”

Zallan guesses the SpacePilot Pro helps to increase his workflow and productivity by at least 5-10 percent. And while for him it’s about the creative process, not only getting work done faster, being able to zoom in really quickly and have functional tools on his desktop is paramount. “I can select and move virtually at the same

time, with nearly no delay in between, which makes every action a bit faster. It compresses the time it takes to do everything.”

Zallan has most recently been working on a retail flagship market in the Los Angeles area and as the BIM director, is using the SpacePilot Pro to help with coordination as well as modeling. “I don’t need two hands to navigate anymore, simply two or three fingers. And it’s not like you’re even moving the model – with the 3D mouse it’s such a gentle, natural motion that it’s as if you are thinking about what you want to do and then it just happens.”

In the end, it’s all about what’s comfortable, functional and productive for Zallan, and “with the SpacePilot Pro on the left hand and the Wacom on the right, I’ve found the smoothest, dexterous and most logical set of tools.”