BQE CORE

AB Design Studio:

How an Architectural Firm Spent Less Time on Spreadsheets and More Time on Project Delivery

When a fast-paced architectural firm operates on outdated project management software and spreadsheets, their progress stalls and their profitability plummets.

AB Design Studio knew they needed to find a solution quickly so they could cut time-consuming spreadsheets and finally focus solely on project delivery.

They needed an all-in-one project management system that would keep their company running efficiently while streamlining their reporting system. With a powerful platform in place, the team could focus on designing stunning architectural projects that would delight their clients.

About AB Design Studio

AB Design Studio (ABds) is a full-service architecture, interior design, and urban planning firm headquartered in Santa Barbara, California. Founded in 2005, the studio's passionate, detail-oriented team is known for its comprehensive approach to every project based on environmental design principles.

The architectural team masterfully transforms ideas and concepts for living into buildings, spaces, and experiences. To achieve these high-quality projects, AB Design Studio had to ensure their business was running efficiently on the backend, so they could deliver profitable and creative projects to their clients.

For years, the firm was stuck using Excel spreadsheets for management and time tracking, along with various other project management software. However, none of these tools made their workdays more efficient. In fact, they spent so much time manually creating reports, tracking time, and correcting mistakes, that they had no time left to progress their firm. They knew they needed project management software that allowed them to drop the use of spreadsheets and fully manage their workload with advanced, yet easy-to-use features.

AB Design Studio

Located In: Los Angeles

Founded In: 2005

Number of Employees: Over 20

BQE Customer Since: 2018

Notable Projects: Forma Hotel- They partnered with a hotel owner to develop a plan to reposition a 60 year old, 605 room hotel that would modernize the property and elevate it to its highest value and best use.

"With CORE, it's a system that's very thought through in terms of ease of use, accessibility, and setup."

Josh Blumer
Architect
AB Design

Start with Well-Managed Projects

AB Design Studio was on the hunt for a project reporting system that made a measurable difference for the firm by streamlining administrative processes so that its team could focus on delivering excellent projects to clients.

"One of the big challenges in running an architecture firm is creating sound business practices. To be successful as an architect, you need to run a business well." Josh Blumer, owner of ABds.

A well-run business starts with solid project management. They found that using spreadsheets was too time-consuming and not easy to share information from team to team. Furthermore, the project management software they were using couldn't fully integrate with their other tools and didn't offer all the features they needed such as time tracking and project accounting.

Find an Innovative Project Management Solution

BQE CORE was exactly the business management and accounting solution that ABds was searching for.
In Blumer's words, "CORE's main value is that it serves the direct needs of an architecture and engineering firm. Most of the [other] systems required an advanced level of accounting acumen, cost a lot of money, and were laborious to set up."

Through features like project management, accounting, and business intelligence, CORE's cloud-based system makes it easy for ABds to marry architecture to good business practice by readily providing KPIs (Key performance indicators) to the entire team via real-time reporting dashboards.
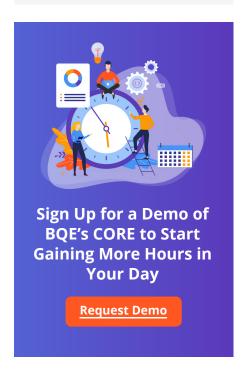
Now that everyone has access to the same crucial project data, the ABds team is flourishing in their roles and the firm is growing exponentially.

Blumer said, "CORE can grow with us. It scales very well if you have 10 people in one year and 15 in the next. You don't have to retool or buy new equipment, [it's] a system that's going to grow with you."

"Your time investment is minimized. [CORE] is doing all the work for you to keep an eye on your projects." - JOSH BLUMER, OWNER + PRINCIPAL, AB DESIGN STUDIO

One of the big challenges in running an architecture firm is creating sound business practices. To be successful as an architect, you need to run a business well

Sign Up for a Demo of BQE's CORE to Start Gaining More Hours in Your Day

Request Demo

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Email: sales@bqe.com | **Tel:** (866) 945-1595

The Unique Benefits of BQE CORE for Architects

Since adopting CORE, the ABds team is now able to spend more time on project delivery and can measure profitability throughout all phases of a project. Additionally, they can hold more effective meetings that move projects forward, either at the design, strategic, or production level.

"One of the things that CORE brings to the table is clear, actionable data that allows us to make confident decisions about what needs to happen next on the project with the resources we have available," Blumer said.

Another benefit? Blumer and his team display the CORE interface on its conference room video screen or in staff reports issued in advance of the meeting, so they can quickly align to analyze data, look at trending issues in projects, and gauge profitability. He notes that with CORE, the team no longer loses time to repetitive, manual calculations. Instead, they are more informed than ever and are empowered to do their best work.

As a business owner, Blumer cares deeply about the satisfaction of his employees, and in the past, he felt it was difficult to ask architects and designers to tackle the learning curve of most project management and financial reporting systems. With CORE, his team was able to learn the software quickly given how accessible it is for designers, architects, and engineers.

"With CORE, it's a system that's very thought through in terms of ease of use, accessibility, and setup. It gives us the ability to distribute an immense amount of data to a wide range of people in our firm with distinct roles and responsibilities. [Now,] we spend less time digging into data and we spend more time on project delivery, design, and figuring out how to make the project the best it can be."

Build a Strong Foundation with CORE

Beautiful design and a talented team go a long way, but it's accounting, time tracking, and invoicing that build a sturdy foundation to help drive your firm forward.

Our founders ran successful A&E firms — A&E is in our DNA. With our powerful firm management platform, back-office headaches are replaced with accurate, actionable insights at every level and project stage that help drive better decisions — and with intuitive tools that your employees will want to use.

Try a free demo today to see how CORE can empower your architecture firm.

> *One of the things that CORE brings to the table is clear, actionable data that allows us to make confident decisions about what needs to happen next on the project with the resources we have available*

Sign Up for a Demo of BQE's CORE to Start Gaining More Hours in Your Day

Request Demo