

# Gilfillan Callahan Nelson

e-SPECS® for Revit lets Gilfillan Callahan Nelson update building specs in real time, as design decisions are made, reducing addenda and improving quality.

**e-SPECS®**  
Success Story

## OVERVIEW

Gilfillan Callahan Nelson Architects is a full-service architectural firm that specializes in designing public spaces for communities throughout the Chicago metropolitan area. Its three guiding principles — High Touch, High Performance, Outcomes Based — have guided the successful completion of more than 300 projects, including schools, village and city halls, police stations, libraries, medical offices, restaurants, and amusement parks.

***"I would absolutely recommend e-SPECS. The ability to query the Revit model as you're making design decisions is worth the price of admission."***

Pat Callahan, Senior Partner  
Gilfillan Callahan Nelson

## CHALLENGE

Specification documents were not consistently at the high quality levels the firm demanded and its clients deserved. The firm's standard front-end requirements were not always correctly written into spec documents and the required product sections were frequently omitted. This lack of coordination resulted in extensive addenda hindering the entire project.

## SOLUTION

**e-SPECS® for Revit** reads the model's assemblies to determine the relevant product and material specifications required. This coordination and automation ensures firm preferences are included and reduces the manual editing requirements of each section.

To initiate the e-SPECS usage and integration, the firm opted for the popular **e-SPECS Pilot Integration Program**, which includes integration, training and

consulting services using the client's BIM model and design preferences. This significantly reduced the resources and time required for initial deployment, while laying the process and data management groundwork for subsequent projects.

**With e-SPECS' direct link to MASTERSPEC®**, Supporting Documents' editing instructions, descriptions and coordination checklists, the firm's Architects and Project Managers can verify the specifications on the fly as questions arise. "These features have greatly increased our ability to produce specifications faster and more accurately, not to mention delivering true integration of plans and specs," said Senior Principal Pat Callahan. "e-SPECS has truly added traction to our Integrated Project Delivery."

## RESULTS

Gilfillan Callahan Nelson achieved significant time savings, cost reductions and improved productivity and quality with the adoption of e-SPECS.

The first time Callahan used it was on a 40,000 sf municipal building. "It was an Architectural BIM Model, so integrating non-linked spec sections was crucial," Callahan said. "With the help of our support staff we managed to import specification sections from multiple consultants, query the Revit model, insert additional sections, then review, edit and publish the specification manual — over a long weekend! That would normally have taken 1-2 weeks. And this was the first time we'd ever used e-SPECS!"

e-SPECS' intuitive interface makes it easy to achieve measurable results. Standards and templates are a snap to set up, and the "check box" feature makes compiling specifications even easier. The firm can better utilize support staff, which now plays a more active role in production.

Already in use by Project Architects and Project Managers in all of the firm's offices, e-SPECS promises even higher productivity in the future. Gilfillan Callahan Nelson is also coordinating and managing their cost estimating software via their Revit



*Gilfillan Callahan Nelson uses e-SPECS for Revit to accelerate the spec writing process on projects like this 72,000 sf fitness & aquatic complex.*

management empowers users to make design changes in real time, knowing their specifications are coordinated.

"I absolutely recommend e-SPECS to others," said Callahan. "The benefits we realized immediately, just as sold."

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

To learn more about the e-SPECS family of products, contact your e-SPECS Solutions Provider or call toll-free 1-888-50-SPECS.

To read more customer success stories, visit [www.e-SPECS.com/customers/](http://www.e-SPECS.com/customers/).

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