

CES502730

## **Drawing from Experience: CAD Management Is More Than Being a CAD Expert**

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Kate Morrical Towne  
Silman, a TYLin Company

Mike Thomas  
Prairie Machine

Curt Moreno  
Kung Fu Drafter

### **Learning Objectives**

- Learn how to communicate better with management and other nontechnical people
- Learn how to work remotely and support remote users
- Learn how others have successfully implemented CAD standards
- Learn about keeping your skill set sharp and maintaining pace with rapidly changing technology

### **Description**

So many CAD managers came to their position because they were expert CAD users. However, CAD skills are only a part of what it takes to be a good CAD manager. This award-winning panel is back to share important lessons they've learned from decades of experience. Learn from this panel of diverse CAD managers who are widely respected as leaders in their field. Hear their unique perspective and solutions to challenges faced by CAD managers from organizations of all sizes and backgrounds. Topics include CAD standards, keeping up with rapidly changing technology, managing users, communicating with management and other nontechnical people, budgeting, working remotely and supporting remote users, and more. Join us for a panel discussion that's become an anticipated Autodesk University tradition. Take this opportunity to learn from four CAD managers who have been there-and done that.

## Moderator

### Rick Ellis

Rick Ellis is the President of CADapult Software Solutions, Inc., where he provides training and consulting services to clients around the country, helping them get the most out of their design software investment. Rick specializes in Autodesk® Civil 3D®, AutoCAD® Map 3D, Autodesk® InfraWorks™, AutoCAD® Raster Design, and AutoCAD®. He is a member of the Autodesk Developer Network, and author of several critically acclaimed books on Autodesk Civil 3D, AutoCAD Map 3D and AutoCAD; including the Practical Guide series. Rick continues to use Autodesk Civil 3D on projects in a production environment, in addition to teaching classes to organizations both large and small around the country. This practical background and approach have made him a sought-after instructor by organizations around the world.



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## Meet the Panel

### Kate Morrical Towne

Silman, a TYLin Company, is a structural engineering firm with six offices across the US. As the Digital Design Manager, Kate is responsible for coordinating procedures and standards for software used in the design process, whether CAD, BIM, or design/analysis programs. Before rejoining Silman in 2012 (where she also worked from 2003 to 2008), Kate was a Technical Marketing Manager for Autodesk, Inc. There, she worked on the AutoCAD software family of products, specifically AutoCAD LT software. She has over 15 years' experience with Autodesk products, served on AUGI's Board of Directors from 2013 to 2018 (including as President 2017-2018), and has presented at numerous technical events, including Revit DC, BILT North America, Midwest University, and several Autodesk University conferences.



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### **Curt Moreno**

Curt Moreno is a freelance content creator for clients such as the Autodesk, Inc.; Hewlett-Packard; and other corporations, large and small. He has a long-time member of the CAD community having been a member of the board of directors for Autodesk User Group International (AUGI), and an award-winning Autodesk University speaker. He has written and spoken on topics revolving around the CAD profession, management issues, presentation topics, and customer relations for the past 9 years, and he hopes to broaden his reach. Moreno currently lives in Houston where he is the IT Manager for a Texas-based engineering firm. He is a public speaker and trainer and enjoys spending time with his dogs. Visit his new site at [www.kungfumanager.com](http://www.kungfumanager.com) or follow him on Twitter.

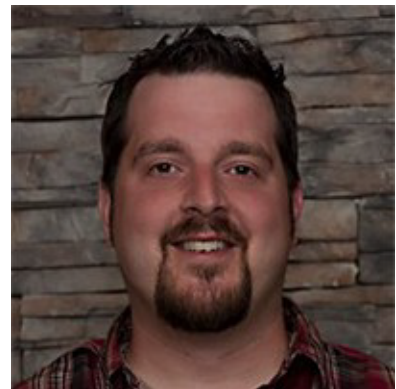
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### **Mike Thomas**

Mike is the Technical Services Manager at Prairie Machine, a mining equipment manufacturer. Reporting to the general manager, Mike is responsible for overseeing the company's technical operations and the strategic technical growth. He has over 20-years' experience with Autodesk software, primarily in the manufacturing and data management realm. In his spare time, he creates training content for Global eTraining and coaches one of his daughters' various teams.

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**R.K. McSwain**

R.K. has worked in the Civil Engineering/Survey field for 25 years, designing projects for public and private clients using skills ranging from hand drafting to the use of the latest CAD applications. Most recently, he accepted the position of IT Customer Service Manager after many years serving as a CAD Manager for leading Civil Engineering firms in Texas, furthering his technological reach beyond the CAD world.

R.K. has 20 years experience in application development for various CAD applications using autolisp and VBA, and has been presenting professional training seminars in this field for almost as long. He continues to serve as a contributing editor for Cadalyst magazine.

R.K. created CAD Panacea [www.cadpanacea.com](http://www.cadpanacea.com) in 2005 as a resource for CAD users all over the world. He is a member of the Autodesk Expert Elite and multiple Autodesk Customer Councils.



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**Your chance to ask a question to the panel**

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