Autodesk University Round Table Summary

SESSION TITLE	Are the Days of MEP Engineering Firms Numbered?
SESSION ID	MP6447-R
SPEAKER	Jason Boehning
COMPANY	CADLearning by 4D Technologies

MAIN DISCUSSION POINTS

- Current state and trends of MEP Engineering Firms
- Project deliver methods
- How contractors and engineers are working together today
- How Revit models are currently being used by contractors

KEY TAKE-AWAYS

- There is an education process:
    - Owners – need to understand what is available and be able to dictate the process.
    - Plan Reviewers/Code Enforcers – changes need to be made so that these people can look at a model besides relying on the design team to take the model to 2D. (Future unknown in this area)
    - Design Team – as design teams change, (from drafters to modelers and as engineers learn to model/add information) there is a need for education on the design side as well.
- During the session, about half the attendees saw the future of VDC going in the direction where the design team would be creating a model that would be used for construction. The other half saw more of a traditional approach where there would be a design intent model and then the construction team would take that model to add more detail in order to create a construction model.
- If the design team needs to create the construction model, then we will see several changes in workflows/contracts/etc. For example, the following ideas were mentioned:
    - More design-build projects.
    - More collaboration during the design process.
    - Contractors hiring design firms for design-build projects.
    - Designers being educated more on how things are actually constructed.

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SUGGESTED FOLLOW-UP

- We can continue to improve as an industry by helping one another and learning from one another. We can continue to educate ourselves and add value to ourselves by attending events like AU. Then we can take that knowledge back to our companies to help improve our employees and processes.
- As far as educating owners and governing bodies, we can do the best we can. The process will take time, but we can "chip away" on each project and opportunity.