

'aSa Has the Whole Package' Says Saskatchewan's Rebar Leader

aSa integration helps Canadian fabricator run its business and serve its customers.



In 2008, Ardell Steel found itself in a less than ideal situation. The company had been using a rebar software system for about four years, but the system was not meeting their needs. "We were disheartened ... We couldn't get the rebar (components) and financials to talk," says Craig Matt, who runs the day-to-day operations at Ardell. After doing some research, the company decided to replace their existing system with aSa.

"At first, people were like, 'We're changing again?' but it has worked out great," says Craig. Arnie Matt, Craig's father and founder of the company, was instrumental in the decision to go with aSa. Craig says the key factor was integration between rebar operations modules and contract accounting functionality. "aSa has the whole package," he notes.

According to Craig, aSa's consulting team, and particularly Colleen Pesi, was very helpful in implementing aSa software at Ardell. He says, "They handled all the questions, all the 'what ifs.' It went very well."

Dedicated to customer service. Craig talks with pride about his company's customer service.

He points out that Ardell has its own fleet of trucks and an installation team that places most of the steel they fabricate. "When we say a shipment will be there at a certain time, it will be there," says Craig.

With facilities in Regina and Saskatoon, Ardell Steel provides reinforcement

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Ardell Steel Facts

Ardell calls itself

"Saskatchewan's rebar leader" with good reason.

Some Ardell firsts:

- First automated shearline in Saskatchewan
- First automatic bender in Saskatchewan
- Only indoor fabricating shop in Saskatchewan

▲ *Challenging Reinforcing Project. One of Ardell's more interesting projects was providing rebar for the Saskatchewan Indian Federated College, a First Nations university. Why so challenging? Most bars had to be arced with one leg bent downward. First Nations cultures believe evil spirits dwell in corners: there isn't a straight wall in the facility!*

The Evolution of BIM

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specifications, project phasing details, scheduling data, and so much more into your design model. Prior to BIM, this information could still be managed, but sharing and coordinating it was much more difficult.

A Changing Mindset. As BIM takes its foothold in the industry, decisions regarding staffing will adapt as well. Currently, architects and engineers design a project, then rely on the detail drafting department to create 2D detail drawings. With BIM, everyone involved with the design of the model will have a hand in understanding the entire project and how every piece fits together.

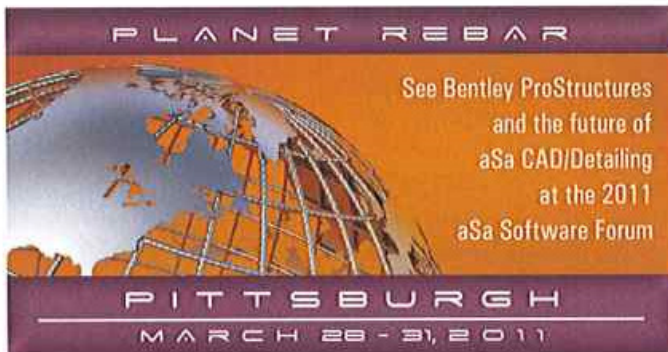
On the other hand, many architects currently bypass using CAD and other technologies. With BIM, they will soon be forced into the digital world as BIM gains ground in the industry.

An Evolving Process. According to the National Institute of Building Sciences, BIM is the future and is on its way to becoming an industry standard technology for most major construction

projects. However, BIM is currently an evolving process in an industry that is typically slow to adopt new changes. It will take time to develop standards and to get everyone on board.

aSa in the BIM World. aSa is preparing for the leap into the BIM workflow for rebar detailing. At the 2007 aSa Software Forum, Scott Leib announced a collaboration project with Bentley Systems to develop the next generation aSa CAD/Detailing tool. Since then, aSa and Bentley staff have been working together to release a product that is capable of bringing their respective customers closer to the world of BIM than ever before.

Currently, teams from both companies are building advanced rebar functionality into Bentley ProStructures — which includes ProSteel for structural steel modeling and ProConcrete for concrete and rebar modeling. aSa is also developing an add-on to integrate Bentley's 3D modeling package with aSa's existing CAD/Detailing and rebar modules. □



Century of Rebar Experience

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Originally hired as a software programmer for the Interactive Detailing system, Cathy Friend, Vice President, Software Development, currently leads the entire aSa software development process. During her tenure, Cathy has managed the Reinforcing Systems and CAD/Detailing departments.

As the original software developer for DOS Estimating, Vice President, Operations and co-owner of aSa, Mitch Leib was also instrumental in the *Up and Running* training programs for Bar List and Estimating, and the conversion of aSa Bar List to the Windows platform. Today, Mitch leads the Administration and Multimedia teams, in addition to overseeing all operations while managing human resources and accounting functions at aSa.

Frank Zambotti, Director, Systems Integration, began his career with aSa in 1984, as a software developer. Since then, he has managed the IT department, ensuring that every computer that aSa built and delivered to customers was "perfect." Frank's dedication to detail continues today as he now works closely with all departments to ensure complete system integration, seamless software implementations, and that sales and marketing efforts are coordinated.

As aSa celebrates 40 years in business, we would like to thank our loyal customers for making our industry-leading software and services successful. We also congratulate Michele, Linda, Tim, Cathy, Mitch, and Frank for their dedication to aSa and our clients. □

aSa: The Whole Package

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for projects throughout Saskatchewan. In addition to fabricating rebar, Ardel also supplies several products for residential construction, including steel beams, custom designed teleposts, and channel iron bracing.

Ardel was founded in 1980, when Arnie purchased an existing small fabricating firm. For several years, the company served the residential market, purchasing rebar from local service centers. Eventually, Ardel grew large enough

to buy directly from the mills and broke into the industrial and commercial market. The business grew steadily over the years. In 1996, Craig joined Ardel and added new products and services. The company recently restructured from a corporation to a partnership in order to make future growth easier. Craig, whose title was Vice President before the restructuring, is now President of CLM Enterprises Ltd., a partner of Ardel Steel. □