



Duke Construction saves time and increases productivity with flexible large-format printing

Established in 1991, Duke Construction has 25 employees and works mostly with public sector and charity clients, including Dublin City Council, the Electricity Supply Board and Barnardo's. Projects range in size from €300k to €9m and often involve the detailed restoration of existing buildings. Handling numerous drawings and plans is integral to its business as a building contractor.



Industry sector: Architecture, Engineering & GIS

Business name: Duke Construction

Headquarters: Dublin, Ireland

Testimonial from: Neil Geraghty, Surveyor

HP solution: HP DesignJet T830 36-in Multifunction Printer

Annual turnover: £8 million

Website: dukeconstruction.ie



Challenge

“Architectural drawings are at the heart of what we do as contractors and getting them to the site quickly is key. However, outsourcing the large-format printing was causing delays and costing money. We wanted to explore an alternative way of producing large-format prints.”

Neil Geraghty, Surveyor, Duke Construction



Bringing large-format in-house

Every project, most of which involve restoration of existing buildings, requires detailed and accurate site drawings which are inevitably revised on a regular basis. However, outsourcing these large-format prints was both costly and time-consuming, causing delays to building schedules.

As with any building firm, large-format plans and drawings form the basis for the work carried out. Until recently, Duke Construction outsourced the production of these prints to a third party, however, that made the process both more expensive and time-consuming. The company wanted to look at how it could affordably bring its large-format printing in-house.

“Typically, we receive the drawings from the architect, I send them to the printers and two days later we pick them up and deliver them to the site manager, which is costly and causes delays,” explains Neil Geraghty, Surveyor, Duke Construction. “Furthermore, these drawings are also undergoing constant revisions so it’s a process we need to repeat throughout the course of the project. On a building site, time is money so bringing large-format printing in-house seemed like an attractive proposition.”

However, there were concerns about affordability, quality and reliability: “I hadn’t really considered purchasing a large-format printer so when HP called and gave me opportunity to test the HP DesignJet T830 36-in Multifunction Printer, I was more than happy to take them up on the offer. I have been pleasantly surprised at the quality and features available at a much more feasible price point,” adds Geraghty.

Solution

“The HP DesignJet T830 36-in Multifunction Printer produces high quality, large-format prints at speed and offers a wide range of extra features. We love the fact that we can easily wheel it around the office and the Android app makes choosing, editing and printing files so easy – from any location.”

Neil Geraghty, Surveyor, Duke Construction



Flexibility, speed and convenience at an affordable cost

With the annual outsourcing bill amounting to over €2,500 and unavoidable delays brought to projects, Duke Construction decided to install the HP DesignJet T830 36-in Multifunction Printer. This is a robust, flexible and high quality large-format printer that can handle all the company’s printing needs.

“We had it up and running within an hour and were soon producing A0 prints. Almost all of our printing is line drawn artwork so the result needs to be scalable, clear and accurate. The HP DesignJet T830 printer did not disappoint,” says Geraghty. “The fact that the printer is on castors and can be easily moved was an unexpected bonus. Our office is small and cluttered so being able to shift it with no effort is very convenient.”

The HP DesignJet T830 boasts a range of features to make production even simpler. For example, an intuitive touchscreen interface enables users to quickly and easily select files to print and upload to network storage simultaneously. This interface can also be replicated via an Android™ app, allowing users to control the printer from their tablets and smartphones.

“We were impressed with the additional features, such as scanning, touchscreen control and Wi-Fi connectivity – it definitely makes for a more efficient experience. I can print from a boardroom meeting without having to leave the room,” continues Geraghty. “And visiting architects can download the app and print from their tablets. That flexibility and convenience really adds value to the speed and quality of the print process.”

Result

“The HP DesignJet T830 36-in Multifunction Printer has transformed our business and made the complex building process more efficient. The fact that in six months I have only had to change the ink once is just another additional impressive outcome.”

Neil Geraghty, Surveyor, Duke Construction



Improving productivity at reduced costs

The HP DesignJet T830 has made an immediate impact on how Duke Construction does business. Drawings can be produced and delivered on site in hours rather than days so construction is never delayed. When you’re dealing with multiple sub-contractors and client representatives that makes a significant difference.

“The deadlines are always tight so getting drawings into the hands of the stakeholders so they can agree on what needs to be done helps move the project along,” comments Geraghty. “We mostly deal with refurbishing old buildings and usually we’ll uncover some feature that was not on the original plan. Now, we can produce the revised drawings and get them to site manager without causing costly delays.”

One current project that is benefitting from the new, streamlined in-house production capability is a renovation job for Dublin City Council. The conversion of 50 Victorian apartments into 28 modern flats in the historic Temple Bar district is a multi-million euro, year-long project that has seen multiple issues arise.

“There are six restaurants beneath the flats and we discovered partway through that there was nothing but joists and plasterboard between the ground floor and upstairs. That’s a huge fire risk but the restaurants couldn’t afford to close while we addressed it,” explains Geraghty. “By being able to print repeated revisions quickly on a near daily basis, we could get the structural steel in and pour a concrete floor without disrupting our schedule or the businesses below.”

“The HP DesignJet T830 has proved invaluable to our business,” concludes Geraghty. “We’ve printed over 500m of paper and only changed ink once, which is pretty impressive.”

At the time of press (November 2015), Duke Construction served as a beta test site for HP DesignJet T830 36-inch Multifunction Printer. Android™ is a trademark of Google Inc.



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