

APPLICATION STORY



Dimension 3D Printer Used as Output Device for Google Earth

“A handmade model of this scale would have been a tremendous time investment. Similar city replicas have taken years to construct. With the Dimension 3D printer and the images we gathered from Google Earth, a project that could have taken years to finished was completed in a matter of months.”

— Martin Jonsson
Co-owner & Designer, Mitekgruppen

In 2005, the city of Stockholm commissioned Mitekgruppen (Mitek-group), a Swedish design firm, to construct a scaled model of Stockholm to be used for exhibit. The firm used aerial photos and drawings to create the city's buildings in a computer aided design (CAD) program. Where aerial photos and drawings weren't available, designers relied on Google Earth to prepare these CAD files for the 3D printer. The CAD files were then sent to the 3D printer to produce models of Stockholm's buildings. The finished building replicas were then positioned, secured and hand painted along with other landscape features including bridges, cars, boats, trains and trees.

Combining the information from the photos, drawings and Google Earth with the 3D building models, the exhibit was completed in less than six months and unveiled on April 26, 2006. As of early 2007, the Stockholm city model exhibit was the second most popular exhibit in Sweden, drawing over 150,000 visitors since its introduction.

The Dimension Solution

Mitekgruppen, completed the project in a fraction of the normal time by using a Dimension 3D printer and Google Earth. One of Sweden's largest daily newspapers recently reported that the 157 square-foot replica was the second most visited exhibit in the country last year. Until recently, the exhibit was displayed at Stockholm's Kulturhuset (The Culture House) in Stockholm's city center. It is currently being stored and readied for shipment to another, yet-to-be determined, location within Sweden.

“The Dimension 3D printer offers a significant advantage to organizations looking to model architectural projects and cityscapes in a short amount of time,” said Jon Cobb, vice president and general manager of 3D printing for Stratasy. “We are excited to see how design and architectural firms use the Dimension 3D printer to produce these complex replicas so efficiently. The use of Google Earth for these projects is exciting, especially where aerial maps and drawings are unavailable or fall short of giving designers the information they need to create accurate replicas.”

For more information about Mitekgruppen, visit www.mitekgruppen.se.



Other companies have used the Dimension 3D printer to create neighborhood models within cities. Gordon Ingram Associates (GIA), a U.K. based lighting consultancy firm, used a Dimension to generate scaled 3D models of areas in central London, allowing interested parties the ability to witness the effects of light on the buildings in the cityscape.

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