



CHELSEA GROUP LIMITED

CG Explores New Virtual Technology in Hopes of Better Serving Clients

By Andy Beth Miller

Honolulu, HI – Have one conversation with Chelsea Group Building Scientist Shane Webb, and there's no question as to his impressive level of expertise regarding the technical world. So when Webb, who enjoys gaming as a personal hobby, approached Chelsea Group CEO George Benda with the possibility that the virtual reality tools he utilizes within his video games may also prove of benefit to the firm's clientele, Benda was immediately interested.

"It projects a different image into each eye, so you can see it in 3-D...almost like watching a 3-D movie, but it's something that you can look at in real time, just as if you're there," said Webb of the HTC Vive virtual reality headset with which he approached Benda. "I originally bought it for gaming, but I brought it here to Chelsea Group, so that I could use it to tour our models..making a 3-D virtual model of many of our projects, particularly the mechanical rooms, to help us see how things are going to be built, what the final product will look like, and if things will fit, criteria like that."



Mr. Webb is virtually inside of a mechanical room

Basically, explained Webb, this was yet another way for Chelsea Group to check the validity of its models before ever even starting work on the actual project. "The whole point is to be able to preview everything," Webb reiterated. "What I'm hoping is that it can be used as a collaboration tool, to communicate intent with other engineers, making it easier for us all to be on the same page, and to eliminate what can be costly—and easily avoidable—mistakes."

Although Webb accedes that the firm has only just begun exploring this concept, he does feel there could be potential for it moving forward. "I'd like to think of this as demonstrating Chelsea Group's intent of utilizing new tools, to use what is the absolute best for the job, and to get the job done as efficiently as possible, delivering the best solution for the lowest price," said Webb. "Everything we do here is focused on achieving that main purpose, and so we are hoping that this new technology could also be a part of that grand design."

Regardless of whether or not the firm decides upon adopting this virtual technology for business use, Webb is hopeful, and proud of the fact that Chelsea Group continues to explore

new ideas and evolve with the changing times. "I like to think of us as craftsmen of sorts, and we need to have the best tools, and know how to utilize those tools to serve our purposes," said Webb. "So right now, we are exploring this new tool, and learning how it could really help us accomplish our—and our clients'—objectives here at Chelsea Group."

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ABOUT Chelsea Group

Chelsea Group is a Hawaii-based building science consulting firm specializing in preserving and enhancing the mechanical infrastructure in existing commercial office, institutional, retail, and industrial facilities. For more than 25 years, Chelsea's building scientists and engineers have solved problems and found opportunities that add asset value to these properties. The Chelsea team is widely recognized for its thought leadership in sustainable, high performance buildings.