



# EPICENTER Winter 2018

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## Message From Our President...

Happy New Year to all in 2018!

As we turn the calendar to a new year it provides an opportunity of reflection of the past and visions of the future, and for McNeil Engineering it is a bright future indeed! This year **McNeil Engineering is celebrating our 35th anniversary**. It's hard to comprehend where three and a half decades have gone plying our professional services with extraordinary staff, clients, and projects.

This milestone provides us an opportunity to both reflect on our past and to look forward to our future. As we celebrate, we say "Thank You" to all of our customers and co-workers, both past and present.

Without the support of our excellent team it would never have been possible. Each member of the McNeil Engineering team has played a very important role in the development of our company. It is their enthusiasm, support and dedication that brought us to this height. McNeil Engineering shall ever remain indebted to the contributions of its employees.

We are also grateful to our clients and customers who trusted in us to help them make their dreams and projects a reality. Their demands, challenges and feedback have pushed us to go ahead and improve vigorously. Our success story remains incomplete without the support of our clients.

We have established a track record of providing clients with innovative design options. At the heart of these accomplishments is a great deal of hard work and dedication to benefit our customers. However, now is not the time to rest. Although we may be tempted to indulge in a self-congratulatory moment on our 35th anniversary, we remain mindful that the world is an ever-changing place, and if anything, we must accelerate, not relax. We must think ahead to what the next 35 years will hold. What will the industry look like 35 years from now? One wonders what innovative design and engineering challenges there might be.

In summary, while we have come a long way, our work is not done! Building upon our expertise requires further dedication, commitment to customers, innovation, and execution of top priorities.

Sincerely,

**Ted Didas, President & CEO**  
**McNeil Engineering**

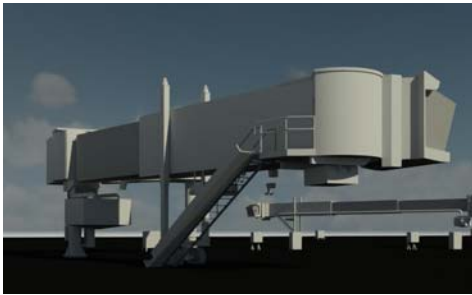


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# New Passenger Bridgeway for Salt Lake International Airport Expansion

McNeil Consulting received a call from JBT Aerotech in September asking us if we were able to help them with a BIM project for the Salt Lake International Airport expansion project. They had heard we were involved with BIM on site and wanted to know if our skillset included their unique requirements.

Our civil department has been providing BIM for the underground infrastructure since the project began. Our structural department has been providing BIM for the steel stud framing on the terminal construction. JBT wanted to know if we were capable of creating a model in Revit of their proprietary passenger bridgeway that links the new terminals with the actual aircraft. JBT uses a three dimensional soft-



**BIM Model of New Bridgeway at Salt Lake International Airport**

ware to complete their designs and aid with fabrication, but the airport required that their bridgeway be provided in a Revit format for compatibility issues with the hundreds of other models being managed for this project. We were absolutely up to the task!



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Ryan Filby in our department took this project on his shoulders and began to create a Revit family that not

*(Continued on page 5)*

# The Little Things Make the Big Things Easier

By Matthew Roblez, SE, SECB



As business people we are constantly fighting to complete projects, maintain client relations, direct our employees, and market potential and existing clients for future work. All of this needs to be completed in a 40 hour work week while also being responsible for answering emails, text messages and phone calls. In the busy world of engineering today, with this economy, it is easy to be overwhelmed with projects.

How does one stay ahead of the game? What does one do to keep from getting behind. It has always been my philosophy that if you are disciplined and “take care of the little things, the big things will take care of themselves.” – Emily Dickinson. It is easy to feel that one doesn’t have the time to do the little things because you are constantly focusing on the big things, or every minute of your day is accounted for. I submit to you that if you make time for the little things, you’ll have more time to take care of the big things. What are the little things? Here are some of the little things I do that I’ve found makes my time more manageable.

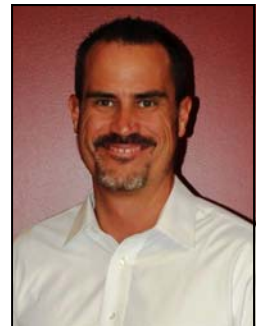
**Create a Living Priority List:** If you are not organized, you will waste time and you will become your own worst enemy. I have found the best way to stay organized is to create a list of tasks. You should have a list on your computer using electronic sticky notes, or a physical list on paper ordered from 1 to whatever with expected dates of completion next to each one. You should identify which completion dates are “hard” dates and which ones are “flexible”. As the day/week/month goes on, and as priorities change you update your list. You’ll find that if you do this as you take calls from clients or as a project progresses, problems and obstacles that affect your completion date will make themselves apparent earlier than if you didn’t have the list. If a client calls you and changes the scope of work, you will be able to tell them the immediate effect on schedule rather than to make a guess that may come back to haunt you. You’ll see later in this article how using this list with your phone memorandum can help mitigate scope creep as well. At the end of each day, revisit and read this list so that you know what tasks need to be done and when. If you have a task that is not done when you choose to leave the office, you have a choice to stay late to finish the task, or modify the completion or due dates of subsequent lower priority tasks. So to summarize: create a list, assign due dates, and order them in regards to priority. Read the list at the start of the day to see what you need to do, adjust the list as the day goes by, and revisit the list at the end of the day to check that you’ve done what you need to do and can prepare for the coming day. This takes only a few moments but as you can see it can have a big impact on your time management.

**Maintain a Phone Call Log:** In today’s electronic world with text messaging and emails, the telephone is still an important tool we all use to connect with clients. During these discussions, scopes of work are created or altered, schedules are discussed, and payments and fees are discussed and decided upon. Unless you record every phone call, the content of these calls can easily be forgotten or misinterpreted. Correcting these potential issues can take a lot of time and effort. A simple phone memo outlining the content of the call can prevent a lot of this. Taking down the content of the message and emailing it to the client avoids all confusion on an issue. It also keeps a legal record for, heaven forbid, court. Also, it keeps the “I called you on this time and you didn’t respond” to a minimum.

A phone call log should have as a minimum the following:

- Date and time of the call;
- Phone Number of the caller;
- Name of the caller;
- Company of the caller;
- Message left by caller;
- Date and time of the return phone call;
- Content of the phone call;

*(Continued on Page 5)*



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## Expansion of the Missionary Training Center

McNeil Engineering's Survey & 3D Laser Scanning Department was happy to play a small part in the recent expansion of the Missionary Training Center (MTC) located in Provo, Utah. McNeil Engineering scanned a vestibule and provided the data to Steel Encounters for a project they completed.

The new expansion of the MTC consisted of the construction of three new, six story, buildings just south of the existing buildings. This expansion increased the capacity of missionaries from 2800 to 3500 at a time.



**New Missionary Training Center Buildings**

The new buildings house classrooms, personal study areas and space for small group activities. The MTC expansion was completed and a public open house was held last August.

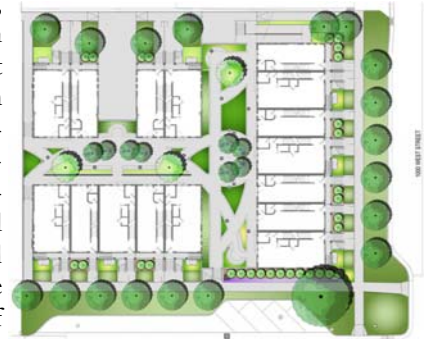


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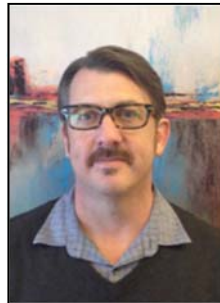
Employee Anniversaries this Quarter		
Employee	Date Started	Years of Service
Michael Hoffman	2/13/1995	23
Dave Sumner	3/11/2002	16
Matthew Roblez	3/18/2002	16
Cody Palmer	2/5/2007	11
Scott "Skip" Schoonover	1/1/2011	7
Shane Brower	3/25/2013	5
Jacob Hendrickson	2/18/2014	4
Shad Seitz	2/18/2014	4
Augusto Pereira	1/12/2015	3
Ryan Filby	2/23/2015	3
Jeanette Zimmer	1/4/2016	2
Brook Robinson	2/1/2016	2
Layton Asmus	2/29/2016	2
Wayne Bishop	3/27/2017	1

## Euclid Corners Townhomes: A new townhouse complex in growing Rose Park area of Salt Lake City

The nonprofit community development organization, Neighborworks Salt Lake, is moving forward with the design of Euclid Corners Townhomes, a 16-unit development located at 1000 West and 200 South in Salt Lake City, Utah. The townhomes, which are located within two blocks of two Utah Transit Authority TRAX stations, are comprised of two- and three-bedroom units in four separate buildings. Pascal Meyer, of Carpenter Stringham Architects, stated "It's been a combined effort in trying to create a nice project for this part of the neighborhood. In terms of design, the things that have driven this project were the opportunity to create public, private and semi-private interactions for the residents".



**Rendering of Euclid Corners**



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Unique to Euclid Corners Townhomes is the incorporation of a parking podium. The townhomes will sit above a parking podium—which extends approximately half a floor above the ground level—that will house private parking garages and be accessible via an alleyway directly north of the project. Residents of the townhomes will have direct access to their private garages for their individual units.

According to Meyer, the parking podium will also create space for a semi-private plaza at the rear of the buildings,

*(Continued on page 4)*



# The Sun Never Really Sets For McNeil Engineering

When McNeil Engineering employee's are saying good night to co-workers in our Sandy, Utah office and going home for the night, two McNeil Engineering employee's are saying good morning. These two employees are located in the Philippines. So the sun never really sets for McNeil Engineering.



The two employees located in the Philippines are Nathaniel Castillo who has been with McNeil Engineering for over 10 years and Gwendolyn Opinion. Nathaniel and Gwendolyn are part of McNeil Engineering's Structural Engineering Department. Nathaniel is a structural designer with a civil background and Gwen is a structural designer with an architectural background. They help us perform work all over the world. Staff in both offices use Skype to communicate with each other on a regular basis.

(Continued from page 3) - Euclid Corners

which can be accessed from the street level by small stairways located at the alleyway to the north and 200 South to the south.

The McNeil Landscape Architecture team, led by principal Landscape Architect Scott Schoonover, partnered with Carpenter Stringham Architects to develop the landscape design, entire-site irrigation design, and roof top garden design. The roof garden required below grade detailing of drainage on the roof deck, a determination of appropriate topsoil depths to minimize weight on the deck, and a sun angle study to determine sun patterns for selecting suitable plant material. The roof garden also utilizes mass plantings of low-growing plants which mimic lawn panels but require little to no maintenance. A simple, clean plant palette was selected to compliment the character of the building, for ease of maintenance, and to increase year-round visual interest. A 3-D SketchUp model was generated to illustrate the site landscape at maturity.

Beyond enhancing the aesthetic value of the townhome community design, the roof garden also provides multiple environmental benefits. Roof gardens can reduce the heat absorption of a building, subsequently reducing energy consumption<sup>1</sup>. According to the National Research Council of Canada, rooftop gardens, if widely adopted, could "decrease smog episodes, problems associated with heat stress and further lower energy consumption" within a city<sup>2</sup>. Furthermore, roof gardens can delay rain water runoff, which is key in a city full of impermeable structures, such as building and paved roads<sup>2</sup>.

McNeil landscape architects worked closely with SLC Urban Forestry to meet their strict requirements in the public right-of-way and to choose appropriate trees and planting material which worked with the complex network of utilities that run adjacent to the site.

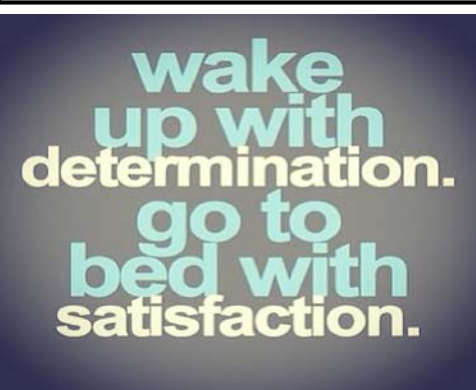


Rendering of Euclid Corners

A former planning commission member and resident of the Euclid neighborhood, Michael Fife, said of the design, "I believe this is an appropriate development for this location and this zoning district. This part of the Euclid neighborhood will necessarily evolve into a mixed-density neighborhood with single family, duplexes and [this type of] missing middle, small townhouse, small apartment complex types of developments".

<sup>1</sup>Ong, B. (2003). Green plot ratio: an ecological measure for architecture and urban planning. Landscape and Urban Planning, 63 (4). Retrieved June 19, 2009, from ScienceDirect database.

<sup>2</sup> Liu, K. "Energy efficiency and environmental benefits of rooftop gardens" (PDF). National Research Council Canada. Retrieved March 12, 2014.



**FUN FACT** The American football huddle was invented in 1892 by Paul Hubbard, a quarterback from an all-deaf Gallaudet University, to stop the opposing team from reading their signs.

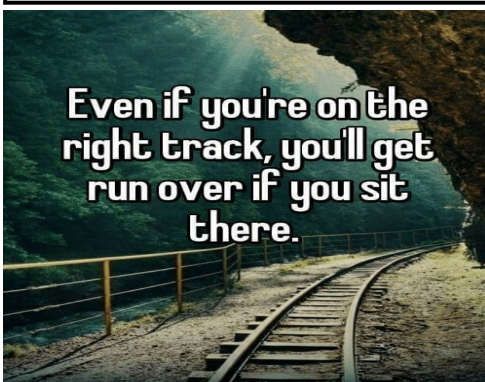
(Continued from page 2) - Bridgeway

only could be shared with all the project models, but that also had changeable parameters so that the bridgeway could be evaluated in any of the possible positions it could take. First Ryan had to create a rotunda at the end of the bridgeway that rotated 120 degrees, allowing the bridge to attach to an airplane regardless of how or on which side it is parked. Next he had to create an adjustable piston that would move the turret up or down depending upon the size of the aircraft. This also meant that the primary bridgeway had to pivot up or down with the turret. Once that was in place, Ryan created an exterior stair off of the turret, which allows access to the parking surface without having to go back into the terminal. This stairway had a fixed length, so it needed to pivot with the up and down movement of the turret, as well as slide in or out depending on the final height. Ryan was able to meet all of these requirements and more, which has allowed JBT to come from behind on the project and now be at the same design and production level as the other contractors, who started their projects far in advance of JBT.



**BIM Model of New Bridgeway at Salt Lake International Airport**

We have enjoyed the challenge of creating this unique family for the BIM process at the airport. We look forward to more opportunities in the future, simple or challenging. We'll tackle them all!



(Continued from page 2) - Little Things

One can add such refinements as job or project number, does a follow up phone call need to be performed and call duration.

An advantage of a phone log can help you triage phone call-backs and the time it takes to listen to messages. As you are working, a phone call can distract you from the task at hand. It is frustrating and time consuming to start and stop a project. The fact that you have to restart your thoughts, causes a loss of focus and energy. Knowing this, if you set a certain time during the day for your secretary or front office staff to listen to the messages accumulated and log them in a phone call log for you to read at a later time that day, you can work uninterrupted. As you complete a task, or at a predesignated time, you can read your phone messages and act upon them. It takes a lot less time for you to read a message than it does to listen to one yourself. Think of this, if you had 10 one minute messages, it would take you a minimum of 10 minutes to listen through all of them. But if these 10 one minute messages were in a phone log, you could read through all of them in about a minute. Once they are in front of you, you can triage your calls and act upon the most urgent. The end result is time savings.

As mentioned before, a phone memo in a log can be used to mitigate scope creep. As you goes through your task list mentioned above and see from your phone memo you received a call from a client who's direction changes the scope of a project that affects the schedule or fee of a project, there is documentation. This creates the opportunity for you to contact the client at that time and inform them that the scope has changed and as a result, the fee or schedule has changed. Jumping early on scope changes that affect time or fees saves time trying to collect money at the end of a project.

Avoid Time Burglars: Guard your time. Every minute you spend talking about the big game on Saturday is a minute away from your task. Work should be enjoyable, so if you want to engage in social discussions, do it on break or at lunch. If someone engages you, it is not rude to say, "That's cool, can we talk about this later?". It is not rude to close your door if you have to work on a task uninterrupted. If a coworker is interrupting your work flow you might say something like, "I don't mean to be rude but I have two more hours to finish this project." One can also utilize body language to communicate to the time burglar that you are busy. It can be as easy as avoiding eye contact, start taking steps away from the person. Make it seem like you have somewhere that you need to go. Don't allow the annoying person to get comfortable in your presence. Avoid being hospitable when they visit. You can do this subtly without being blatantly rude. You can have friends, and make work fun, but identify the best times to do it, before work, after work or during lunch.



Be Honest with Yourself: Lolly Daskal, one of the most sought-after executive leadership coaches in the world stated, "The best reason for starting small and with what is meaningful is that doing so ensures that you're being honest with yourself. If you focus on the things you cannot do, or the things that you think should be meaningful rather than the ones that truly are, you'll find yourself getting nothing done. So be honest as you identify and prioritize the small things that are important to you." As you look at your priority list and are honest and diligent with updating it, you can be honest with yourself about your schedule and your availability when a client has a new project for you.

I submit to you, that if you do these things in this article, you will see your time better utilized and you'll have a better understanding of where your time is spent during the day. You will find also that you will be saving time. These are little things that I believe cannot be overlooked. Once you make them part of your daily routine and how you do business, they'll become habit and you'll no longer state, "I don't have time to do all of this." "As leaders with all our responsibilities and our functions, it's hard to do all things great, but if as leaders we take care of the small things with excellence then we will have accomplished the big things with success." Lolly Daskal