

# The Design Explorer

## The Ashlar-Vellum User Newsletter

Fourth Quarter, 2009

### Happy Holidays from Ashlar-Vellum™



The Ashlar-Vellum administrative offices will be closed December 21st until January 4th. During this time, **orders** placed through our website will be processed through our European offices and registration codes sent via email as usual. Shipping of physical materials will resume the week of January 4th.

Requests for **demo codes** will be monitored and fulfilled. **Technical support** will be handled as usual through our website. To start a support ticket go to our [Support Center](#) or send an email to [support@ashlar.com](mailto:support@ashlar.com).

We wish you a blessed holiday season and a new year filled with joy.

### Cobalt™ vs. SolidWorks: The Movie

Are you an Ashlar-Vellum user living in a SolidWorks world? In our movie [Organic Workflow: Cobalt & SolidWorks](#), seven design engineers who use both products talk about the differences and why some projects are more appropriate in one program than the other.

They discuss SolidWork's linear workflow with its robust but very ridge parametric history versus Cobalt's organic, non-linear workflow with its flexible parametric history on demand.

They also talk about starting a project in Cobalt because of its easy ideation, then moving it to SolidWorks to deliver the file, including the parametric history in SolidWorks format.

Featured designers include:

- Nelson Au, USA
- Carol Catalano, Catalano Design, USA
- Aaron Double, Catalano Design, USA
- Graeme MacDonald, Cube Industrial Design, Australia
- Kevin Quigley, Quigley Design, United Kingdom
- Celso Santos, Rio 21, Brazil
- Jeanine Wong, Catalano Design, USA

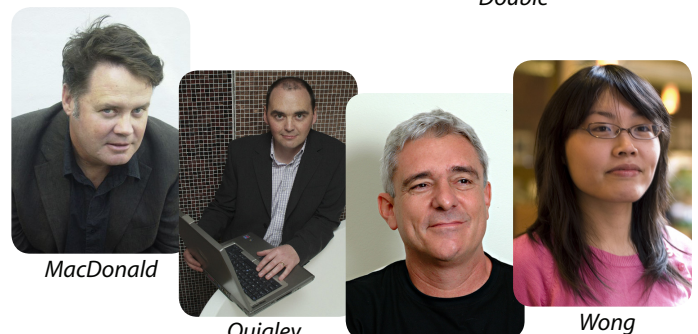
There's more than one way to model in 3D. This movie will help you see how you can utilize the advantages and creative power of Ashlar-Vellum's Organic Workflow while working in a SolidWorks-dominated world.



Au

Catalano

Double



MacDonald

Quigley

Santos

Wong

## V8 SP2 for Cobalt™, Xenon™ & Argon™ Released

Cobalt, Xenon, Argon and Cobalt Share v8 SP2 were released on Tuesday, October 27th. Hot Patch 1 for SP2 was released December 14th.



They are available for download together at [www.ashlar.com/v8](http://www.ashlar.com/v8). The highlights of this build include:

### Major Features:

- Sketch Renderings
- Stroke Shortcuts
- Layer Sets
- Enhanced Drafting Assistant Preferences
- Revised Model to Sheet Dialog Box
- Faster Loading History Tree
- Editable Templates in Model to Sheet (New in Argon only)

### Minor Enhancements:

- Tutorials in Help Menu
- Samples in File Menu
- Enhanced Access to Drafting Assistant Settings
- Faster Render Library Rebuild (Windows only)
- Improved Object Visibility with Construction Lines
- Direct Access to Folders Paths Defined in Preferences

- Changeable Mouse-wheel Zoom Direction
- More Entities Accepted with the Fill Command
- Special Copy/Paste Command to and from Graphite v8 SP2
- Feature Tree Replace Curve Option Now Supports Multi-curve Selections (Xenon & Cobalt only)
- Formulas Entered in Status Line Now Stored as Equations Instead of Results (Cobalt only)



### Hot Patch Enhancements (released December 14th):

- Photo-rendering options added to Argon's Model to Sheet
- Polyline added as identified entities
- Text and dimension sizes enabled to remain relative to scale outside Model to Sheet
- Lip and Rib tools added to Argon
- Slovak language support added
- STL mesh creation parameters and preview of Change Object Type and STL export corrected and enhanced
- Miscellaneous bugs introduced in SP2 features fixed
- Miscellaneous regression errors fixed
- Several file specific crash conditions fixed

## Graphite™ v8 SP2 Adds Large Format Printers at High Resolution

Graphite v8 Service Pack 2 is in final testing and is anticipated to be released in January. This service pack is a free update to all Graphite v8 license holders including those with courtesy licenses with their Cobalt and Xenon software.

SP2 adds support for large format printers at high resolution on Mac. This issue was resolved for Windows in Graphite v8 Service Pack 1 several months ago.



Support for large format printers and plotters at resolution has become a critical issue since many printer drivers for Leopard and Snow Leopard are shipping without the ability to control output resolution.

On the Mac, Graphite and Vellum classic can support up to roughly 32,000 steps/pixels per inch in either direction. (Plotters are measured in steps, printers in pixels.)

For example, at 300 DPI (pixels) the maximum paper size is calculated as:

$$32,767 \div 300 = 108 \text{ inches in either direction}$$

The problem arises, however, at 4800 DPI which is the standard, fixed resolution for HP printer drivers. This means, the maximum paper size is calculated at:

$$32,767 \div 4800 = 6.8 \text{ inches in either direction}$$

Now in SP2, we have enhanced Graphite to work around this issue. Be aware, however, that physical and virtual printers (PDF) have their own limitations on these sizes.

In addition to support for large format high resolution printers on Mac, the service pack will also include a number of enhancements and fixes such as:

- Special Copy/Paste Command to and from Cobalt, Xenon and Argon v8 SP2
- Minor Fixes for DXF Bugs
- Hatching for Smart Walls
- Copy/Paste Command fixed to and from Microsoft Word

## Support for Windows 7 and Snow Leopard



Current versions of Ashlar-Vellum Cobalt, Xenon, Argon and Graphite v8 are compatible with the following operating systems:

- **Mac 10.4+ (Tiger)**
- **Mac 10.5+ (Leopard)**
- **Mac 10.6+ (Snow Leopard)**
  
- **Windows XP**
- **Windows Vista**
- **Windows 7**

## Keeping the Fun Factor in Design



British designer Jonty Sherwill, of Sherwill Design, uses Ashlar-Vellum™ Xenon™ to conceptualize new products, packaging and interiors. In a career spanning thirty years in consumer and capital goods, transport interiors and yacht styling, finding an advanced CAD design package that offered as much fun as freehand sketching seemed an impossible dream. But Ashlar-Vellum delivered what was needed: an affordable 2D and 3D development tool with the ability to generate stunning visuals quickly.

As Sherwill puts it, "There are plenty of 3D design and engineering packages around, but for the product designer the creative end of the project is where the key decisions are made. Xenon allows me to conceptualize on screen and transform a sketch idea into something tangible in minutes. I frequently work in parallel with development engineers and the production facility. Inspiring them with smart visuals while simultaneously delivering useable data for mould or machine shop development is extremely valuable."

He particularly enjoys the combination of easy conceptual sketching with the underlying precision modelling. "You can create something which you know is accurate and you can generate virtual sketches with this product and also hang your hat on it since you know it's the right size and it's going to work, even if you haven't put a huge amount of hours into early work."

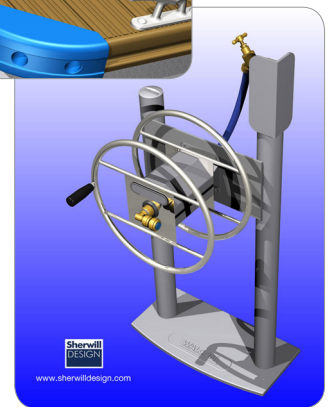
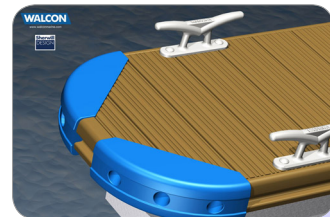
***"I think one of the great attractions of this type of interface in this sort of software is that you're not having to make dimensional commitments early on. You can pull and push and play around with the thing which makes it a more creative process. Because design has got to be a creative thing, and the minute you're constrained it gets boring and then you lose your spark."***

Sherwill likes the intuitive interface found in all Ashlar-Vellum products. "Navigating around a 3D workspace can be confusing in some programs, but with the subtle prompts built into Xenon you always know where you are, and what to do next. The trimetric view soon becomes your best friend. If you don't use the software for days or even weeks, the intuitive interface means there is no warming up period, you just get straight back into highly productive work."

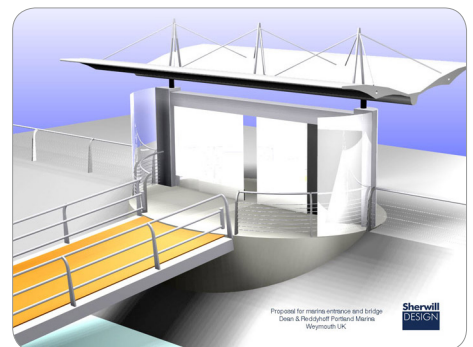
A key factor in Sherwill's choice of Xenon was the Mac/Windows cross-platform capabilities of Ashlar-Vellum products. The decision was clinched by a free pre-purchase demo that was an ideal route for exploring the product and gaining confidence before buying. Says Sherwill, "Some developers charge a lot for their products and hide them behind slick demonstrations and sales pitches. Ashlar-Vellum has a more open and supportive approach to evaluation."



This retail concept was developed in Xenon then composited effectively into the environment using PhotoShop with great visual impact for the client.



Sherwill's passion for sailing made him an excellent designer for Walcon Marine including these dock fenders, cleats and hose reel.



Sherwill proposed this entrance and bridge for Dean & Reddyhoff Marinas.

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