

Starka Betongelement cuts lead time with the 3D model in the factory

When Starka Betongelement, in Sweden, began working with IMPACT, it meant a change of the work in the factory. With the help of the 3D model, as a messenger, it facilitates the production of prefabricated elements, which leads to efficient production time.

Manufacture of precast concrete is not only about design in a 3D environment, but also that the drawings come to the factory, so that production can begin and deadlines are met. This is necessary in a competitive construction industry, where short lead times are high on the list of demands.

Starka Betongelement, which is a part of the cement group Starka, produces approximately 100 000 tons of elements. A key role, in the company, is the communication between the design department and production. The information flow goes through a server and when the production drawings are completed, workers are informed at the factory, which retrieves drawings in paper format.

WAITING TIME IS SHORTENED

This process has been simplified since the company first began using IMPACT. In the first phase a general model over elements in the program is established. This has an important function for the work ahead.

– Workers receive a 3D model of the building at an early stage, says Claes Andersson, who is the design manager. This means that the planning process for the production and assembly can begin earlier.

Workers at the factory can form an understanding about the elements dimensions in terms of size, weight and how they can be manufactured. They can identify where the various element drawings are placed in the building, and warn if there is



Claes Andersson, and on the screen appears the project Consul Persson's Place in Helsingborg.

anything that is unclear, or if something needs to change. The different professions in carpentry, reinforcement and installation, can provide feedback and thus problems can be prevented in the manufacturing process, and also in the assembly, at the construction site.

This means a new work approach that has not been available earlier. When planning of production goes hand in hand with the design department's work, the flow of information becomes more efficient. The result is that, it saves time for the production of elements in the factory.

– Previously, the workers at the factory, had to wait for the drawings to be prepared and finished, states Claes. Only then could the production of the elements take place, and the wait could be a couple of weeks.

Nowadays, the drawings are not dependent on the production process to be ready. The step from optimal drawings for prefabricated elements is shortened and Claes sees this as an advantage that IMPACT provides.

Starka Betongindustrier

Number of employees: 250

Turnover: 55 M EUR

Number of designers: 8

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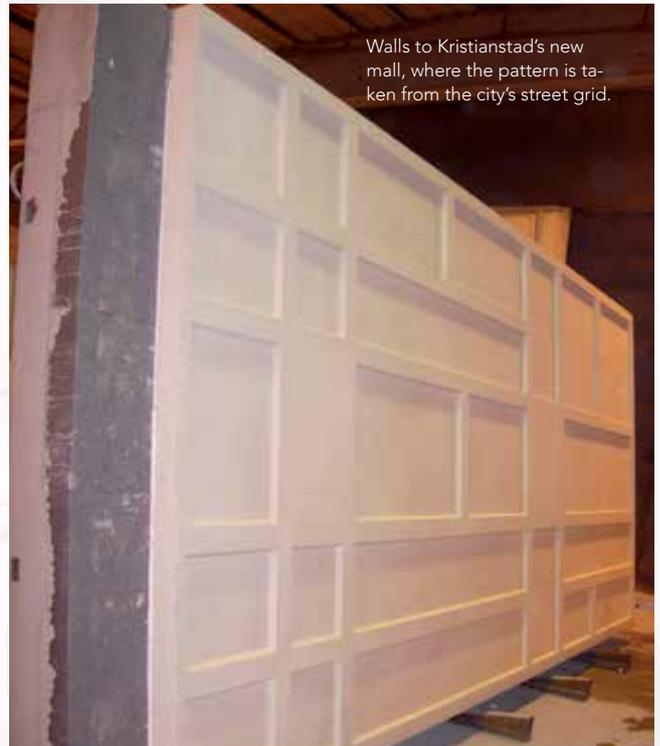
PROXIMITY TO MALMÖ, SWEDEN

This is understandable because the company handles large elements. They must continually make decisions about how the elements should be designed according to practice. For example, the elements must be adapted after physical attributes like size of the mold table, where the elements are formed. It is important to know that the elements must be distributed without breaking or deforming. In addition, transport and crane capacity needs to be taken into account.

It has now been two years since the introduction of IMPACT at Starka Betongelement. Today, the company has eight licenses of the basic program, and two to five licenses for each element type. The designers are located in Kristianstad and Arboga in Sweden. Claes has a clear understanding of the reasons why they have invested in the program. This program is suited for us, in the manufacturing sector, and it is the only program that I know of. The proximity of the support in Malmö also plays a role.

A Swedish program, which is developed for the concrete industry, has support near to Kristianstad, motivated Claes and his team to choose IMPACT. It is one of the tools that they use in some on-going projects, such as Consul Persson's Place in Helsingborg and Malmö University.

By Love Janson



Walls to Kristianstad's new mall, where the pattern is taken from the city's street grid.

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