

Ahead of the Curve

Featured Designer

October 2009 - Todd Lanphear

At Transoft Solutions, we're very interested in the people who use our software and the projects they work on. We have been fortunate to work with some really great designers over the years. Top designers and scholars have written (and continue to write) some fantastic case studies and white papers focusing design obstacles that come with designing transportation projects and the power of our software to overcome those challenges. However, we wanted to take a closer look at people who develop the ideas and designs to shine a spotlight on them in a new regular feature aptly named, Featured Designer.

For the first edition of Featured Designer, we are honored to shine a spotlight on Todd Lanphear, CADD Manager for Traffic Planning and Design Inc. (TPD) in Pottstown, Pennsylvania. TPD was recently chosen by CE News magazine as the number 1 Civil Engineering Firm to work for in the US in 2009. We chatted with Todd to get to know him a little better.



Todd Lanphear

CADD Manager, Traffic Planning and Design, Inc.

Pottstown, Pennsylvania, USA
AutoTURN, GuidSIGN user

Years as a designer: 16

CAD platform: MicroStation V8 XM Workstation: Dell Precision T3400, Quad Core 2.6 GHz with dual 20" Dell monitors

Favorite non-CAD based productivity software: Microsoft Outlook

Transoft Solutions (TS): What drew you into being a designer?

Todd Lanphear (TL): *As a kid I was interested in Architecture and drawing. By the time I got to high school I was taking drafting classes and it grew from there.*

TS: So, it was a natural progression for you?

TL: *Yes, for sure.*

TS: Now that you are an established designer, how do you tackle tough design challenges?

TL: *I always try to keep an open mind. The design constraints are given upfront and I pick it part...sometimes a bit too much. And it's important to always keep in mind that there are no perfect solutions.*



TS: What is a memorable project that you have been working on lately?

TL: *That's a good question. Typically with traffic planning we're brought in towards end of the overall project design process, but recently we have been doing a lot of conceptual traffic design work up front. We've been preparing multiples of concepts and laying them over aerial photos. It's been a hit with our clients and they've found it very informative.*

TS: Did you use any Transoft Solutions software on those projects?

TL: *We use AutoTURN for every project. It's a must. There's no other truck turning software to use; it's everything you need.*

TS: Do you have any tips or tricks that you've developed for using AutoTURN for your projects.

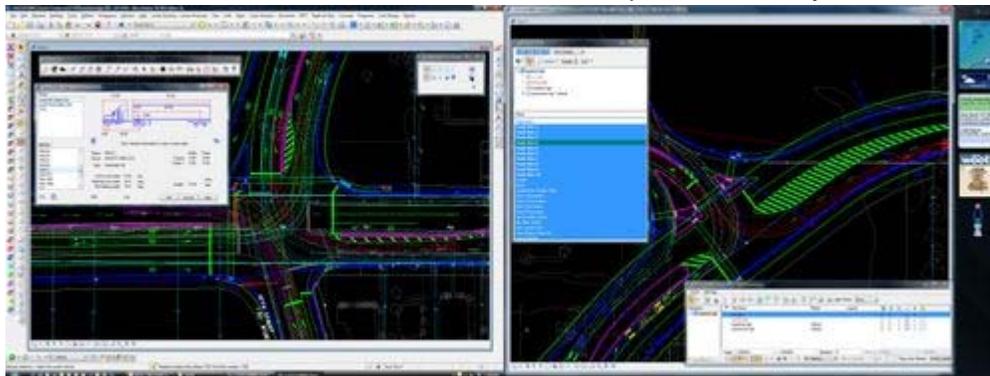
TL: *Not for AutoTURN, it's pretty much straight forward. The software is flexible enough to do what we need it to. But, we also use GuidSIGN and we've customized the reporting to make our own tailor made reports.*

TS: Have there been any recent projects that you wish you could have worked on?

TL: *There was a big project here in Pennsylvania for a multiple highway interchange redesign that I would have loved to be part of. The project was huge.*

TS: Whether the project is big or small having the right workstation is paramount. What hardware and software do you think designers need right now for the best possible workstation?

TL: *Right now, Quad Core machines with as much RAM as you can afford as well as the highest quality graphics card. We use dual 20-inch flat panel monitors, which is great. For software... Bentley as the CAD platform, and AutoTURN. PDF's are the way of the world right now, so designers need to have access to a full version of Adobe Acrobat and of course Microsoft Office products – everyone uses them.*



TS: I'll switch focus from workstation to designer for this last question. Is there any key wisdom you'd like to share with young designers or those students wanting to become a designer?

TL: *Keep an open mind and be accessible to change. I think this is key software and hardware is changing at a*

rapid pace. Also, communicate as much as possible – it's essential.

If you know an outstanding designer, or are one yourself, let us know by sending your nomination to dh@transoftsolutions.com. Please include your full professional contact information including name, title, company, and phone number.

Transoft Solutions appreciates the talents and privacy of all of the nominees for the Featured Designer and does not in anyway sell, exchange, or share your personal information to a third party.

Comments

Verify your Comment

Previewing your Comment

Posted by: |

This is only a preview. Your comment has not yet been posted.



Your comment could not be posted. Error type:

Your comment has been posted. [Post another comment](#)

The letters and numbers you entered did not match the image. Please try again.

As a final step before posting your comment, enter the letters and numbers you see in the image below. This prevents automated programs from posting comments.

Having trouble reading this image? [View an alternate.](#)



