

### Kit of Parts of the United States Postal Service

The NOVA Award was presented to the Kit of Parts, the Post Office Design System of the United States Postal Service, for innovation in flexible computer-aided modular design of buildings.

The United States Postal Service designs and builds about 100 local post office buildings every year. In the 1980's, building plans and drawings for each post office were unique, requiring an average of 30 months to develop.

In 1986, the U.S. Postal Service assembled a task force to create a computer-aided design (CAD) system to shorten this process. Today, the agency uses a unique design system called the Kit of Parts to produce the plans and specifications for buildings in less than a month.

The Kit of Parts is a CAD-based system that allows postmasters and local architects to create customized building plans using flexible design modules, or "templates". These modules integrate architectural, electrical, and mechanical components and accommodate the design of post offices ranging from 8,000 to 35,000 square feet.

An entire post office building, tailored to local community needs, can be designed by combining modules for six functional areas: the service lobby, box lobby, workroom, administrative offices, delivery vehicle loading, and loading dock.

With the Kit of Parts, local postmasters, resident architects, and other parties work together to quickly plan the layout of a new post office. Modules are assembled through CAD into a total building plan, and complete working drawings are produced in only three to four weeks.

In addition to accelerating building design time, the Kit of Parts has reduced construction costs, improved design quality, and enhanced the efficiency of new post offices.

The Kit of Parts is a CAD system that integrates architectural, electrical and mechanical components into design modules and have reduced the time required to create U.S. Post Office working drawings from 30 months per building to just one.

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