Design Planner

Information Pack

An additional module to allow capacity management of the Design and Sample processes

In some sheet plants Design is a cross between Cinderella and a mushroom factory. Sample and design requests are tossed through the door and expected to be completed regardless of existing work. Often promises are made to customers without reference to the ability of the design department to deliver, resulting in broken promises, disappointed customers, annoyed reps, demoralised designers, war, famine, and rains of newts.
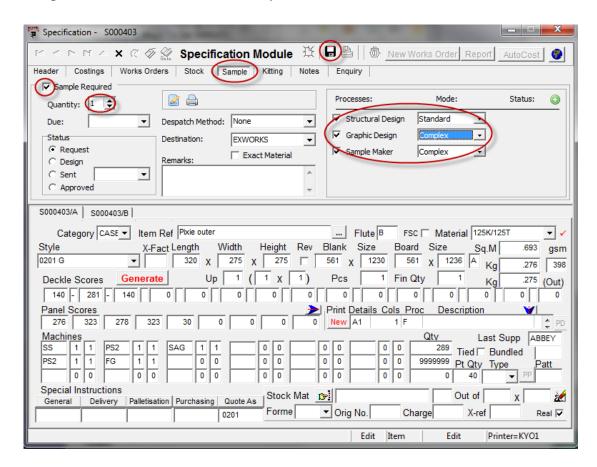
In fact design – however much CAD equipment is thrown at them – has finite capacity, and ignoring this simple fact can lead to all of the above disasters.

If your design and sample needs are relatively small then you can probably cope with the Sample Management system available in SPOCS32 (Main Menu>Modules>Sample Management).

If any of the above sounds familiar however then you should really have a look at the DesignPlan module available as an extra for SPOCS32.
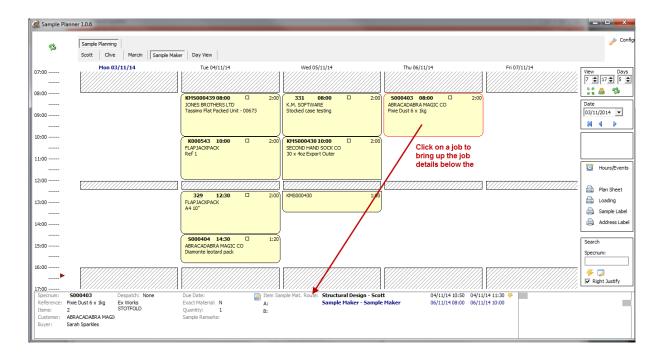
DesignPlan works like the Production Planner. New requirements for design are created when Specifications are raised and automatically create design tasks in the planner. It is then up to the design manager to spread these amongst the designers, at the same time adjusting the tasks for more realistic times.

Each requirement raised brings with it the default processes and each can be identified as simple, medium or complex with associated time costs. Additional processes may be added at the Specification. However unlike production machines competences of designers may vary. A design that takes Sarah two hours may take Joe four, or one!

The tasks are represented as blocks of time in a graphical interface.

The blocks may be moved around and as with the production planner any that become late will go pink. This makes it immediately obvious who will suffer if that "rush job" is given priority and gives the Design department the information they need to present reasoned options to management.

DesignPlan can be installed to all design computers for read-only access while the department manager/lead designer retains full access to reschedule and move work between designers. Printout is available for taking to meetings or to establish worksheets in a fluid environment.

Contact Us

Please feel free to call and discuss the product with us. We will be happy to arrange a demonstration for you, either at our offices, or at your own premises.

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