

**DataCad 8**  
**Computer Software**

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# Introduction

The computer project that will be discussed in this project is DataCad. DataCad is an architectural program that helps assist architects, engineers, and builders' design all types of construction projects. This is an excellent program for these professions as well as many other people who are designing a building or such. All a person has to do is start up the program and with a few clicks of the mouse they are building whatever they desire to build.

DataCad is part of the CAD software that many thousands of people have used for years. DataCad is a very popular program for the construction industry. Instead of basic drawings DataCad caters to construction. By using DataCad a person can either design a commercial and residential building. A person can even design a shop, garage, and anything else that involves construction. This paper will describe what DataCad actually is and how important it is to a person who is using the software.

# DataCad 8

One of the newest versions of DataCad was first released in early 1998. A software company released it by the name of DATACAD LLC. This software is referred to as DataCad8. This program was the first of its kind to be put on the market. DataCad is a two-dimensional or three-dimensional design and drafting software program. This program has been designed for use in architectural, engineering, and construction applications.

DataCad8 is an excellent program for many reasons. First of all, this program is fully compatible with previous versions of the DataCad software. Secondly, this program is much easier to use than earlier editions. The toolbars are easier to interpret and easier to use. Also, this program is fully compatible with Windows95 and new versions like Windows98.

Many of the toolbars are essentially the same as earlier versions but are easier to use. Everything is still there that was there in earlier editions, but they are new and improved. Along with the old characters, there are also new menus and icons to help the process move a little quicker.

This program will do many things for a person who is using the software. For example, there are many templates in the program that can cut down on time tremendously. A template is an item or group of item that

have already been drawn out by the program itself. An example of this would be a floor plan for a bathroom. Other examples include a list of many types of trees, shrubs, etc. There are also templates for vehicles and office equipment and many other items used in a building, whether it be commercial or residential.

Another nice feature of DataCad8 is a division called “macros”. Once a person is in this part of the program he/she has many options. Once in this area, a person can choose to roof their building or frame it. It is even possible to put a staircase in the building that has been constructed on the computer. A person would push on the macro that they wanted and follow the directions that are listed on the computer screen. The directions are very simple and usually involve just highlighting or outlining that part of the building that person would want roofed or framed.

Another interesting part of this program is the hatching function. This is a function that lets a person add character to a building. Hatching refers to the process of shading in particular parts of a drawing. There are many types of hatching items in this program. They vary from concrete to brick or even items like dirt or stone.

Once a project has been completed with this software there, are many ways to look at what you have constructed. A person has access to these

views at any time during their design process. While using this software there is a two-dimensional view and a three-dimensional view and a person must realize what view they are in before they begin to work. Two-dimensional drawing is where you do all your work in. Once you have a good start you can go to the three-dimensional view and see what your design looks like 3-D style. While in the three-dimensional view you can virtually walk through your building and look at every side of the building that you have constructed.

Another interesting fact about DataCad is the fact that the program is very quick and helpful. This program is very smart and saves a person a lot of time, especially if the person would be drawing the building otherwise. There are so many templates and macros to help the designer save time but still achieve a high degree of satisfaction.

# Conclusion

DataCad is a very popular software program that is out in the market right now. The price around \$500 may not be very attractive but when a person thinks of everything that has gone into the program they may change their mind. Also a person must think of the time that is saved in using this program versus hand drawing the same thing.

This program is very educational for beginners and it is very easy to get the hang of it. After just a few hours on this program a person should feel comfortable to use it. And if they would happen to have a question on how to do something, all they have to do is consult the help menu. It just takes practice to become a good designer using DataCad just like everything else.

If a person wants to design their own house or building this program is excellent. Anybody that is in the construction industry and like to design their own building should own a copy of this program. It will be worth their while in the long and also save a lot of time compared to hand drawing the same project. It is very useful program in design and should be on the market for a long time.

# References

Agricultural and Construction Systems 340 class. Blueprint reading

DataCad8 software

World Wide Web: [http://www.datacad.com/news/press\\_releases/dcadSvisrea](http://www.datacad.com/news/press_releases/dcadSvisrea)