

Book Review

Bernd S. PALM: *Introduction to AutoCAD 2020. 2D and 3D Design*. Routledge, Taylor & Francis Group, London and New York 2020, 426 p., ISBN 978-0-367-41740-6 (hbk), 978-0-367-41739-0 (pbk), 978-0-367-81602-5 (ebk).

Bernd S. PALM is a member of the Autodesk Developer Network, and a lecturer and examiner for different CAD software programmes. His experience as a program manager and a teacher is reflected in the clear structure and the accurate organization of the volume *Introduction to AutoCAD 2020. 2D and 3D Design*. Topics and subtopics are listed and presented according to educational priorities, resulting in an attractive textbook, easy to browse and to understand, clearly explained and illustrated by more than 690 original images closely linked to the text, where tools and operators are explored in detail. Principles and processes are related in a way that the book is also valid as a basic manual for CAD users in general.

The volume is articulated in seven parts, four appendices and an analytic alphabetic index. In line with the educational purposes, each of the 21 chapters starts with a synthetic and useful introduction titled *Aims of this Chapter*, includes *Examples* and ends with targeted *Exercises*. The contents are presented as follows.

Part A – 2D Design introduces dashboard, drawing and modifying tools, viewing options and layers control.

Part B – 3D Basics is about 3D modelling and modifications in the three-dimensional working space.

Part C – Annotation and Organization tells about layout and dimensional control, blocks and file formats management, and sheet setting.

Part D – 3D Advanced focuses on rendering options and techniques, building drawing, working tools management in the three-dimensional space, and solid models editing.

Part E – Internet tools and design shows network, facilities and helps available on the web, including AutoCAD Mobile, then exposes the reasons for using AutoCAD in designing, and its place in the process, conforming to the usual stages of the design chart.

The four *Appendices* offer further insights on list of tools, set variables, 3D views, and keyboard shortcuts. A detailed *Index* suitable for a quick consultation concludes the volume.

The book is mainly addressed to new users, particularly those attending undergraduate courses in engineering and construction. However, the quality of the contents and the organization of the matter makes it also suitable and of help for experienced users. Last but not least, it can offer appropriate bases for CAD qualifications, as well as for obtaining BTEC and Edexcel qualifications, and it is relevant both for AutoCAD 2020 and AutoCAD 2021.

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