

computer aided design [CAD]

Computer aided design was developed during the 1980s and now its uses range from creating the detailing on a piece of jewellery to the plans of a building façade. Some of the advantages of using CAD are that drawings can be made with great precision and can be modified easily and rapidly. Previously, the technical drawings could be sent to a paper printer, however in the past five years this has evolved, drawings can now be converted into instructions for 3D printing. CAD has also shifted from being solely an industry based manufacturing tool to 3D rendering computer programmes that can be used at home, such as Google SketchUp, which is free of charge. {March 2012}

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computer aided design [CAD] {see also workshop}