
Daylighting simulation tools

Posted by mETAPHYS - 2008/02/01 16:09

What are some of the most effective 3D computer programs that offer solar simulations. I'm trying to animate a space to visually demonstrate daylighting controls, interior ambient light changes and exterior light changes simultaneously. If anybody knows of such an application, let me know. Thanks!

=====

Re:Daylighting simulation tools

Posted by photon - 2008/02/01 16:17

Have you checked out Ecotect? It's not a CAD program, but it is a very well-designed comprehensive environmental design tool, and I think it has animation capabilities. It uses Radiance as a rendering engine, which is great. What sets Ecotect apart in a class of its own, though, is the user interface. It's the most intuitive I've seen in a tool of that type.

=====

Re:Daylighting simulation tools

Posted by mETAPHYS - 2008/02/01 16:22

Hrm...interesting, I'm going to have to look into that. Do they have a trial version? So you said its not a 3D CAD platform, so does that mean you have to draw a space in the program to run simulations, or can you import simple 3D vector files? I heard that Blender has an animation tool, but I don't know if it has an integrated solar path/tool. I'll keep looking around but thanks.

=====

Re:Daylighting simulation tools

Posted by TheShortAzn - 2008/02/01 16:28

I think that 3ds max, maya, lightwave, have light engines that does it, there might be add on programs to those programs that would further enhance the realism of the simulation

=====

Re:Daylighting simulation tools

Posted by jtsmith - 2008/05/23 11:34

You can also try COMFIE: http://www.eere.energy.gov/buildings/tools_directory/software.cfm/ID=346/pagename_submenu=energy_simulation/pagename_menu=whole_building_analysis/pagename=subjects
It can perform hourly simulations of buildings, in order to provide mechanical, energy and architectural engineers or architects with accurate estimates of a building's energy needs and temperature profiles.

=====