

# City of Houston's big plans



**PRODUCTS:** IQ Quattro 36" scanner and Nextimage 5 software

## CHALLENGE

Scanning the volume of documents that enter the City of Houston's Planning and Development Department is no small task. Speed is essential, and so is accuracy. A single oversight could potentially result in an unsafe build.

## SOLUTION

The City of Houston implemented a Contex IQ Quattro, which provides fast scans with exceptional accuracy. The scanner gives staffers the confidence to easily process the high volume of documents it receives on a daily basis.

## RESULTS

A Contex scanner is an investment that the City of Houston can benefit from for years to come. From the speed and reliability, to image quality and performance, the IQ Quattro is sure to exceed expectations with each new building or remodeling project.



**We receive volumes of documents daily, and it's important that we process them in a timely fashion.**

*Elizabeth Orton, Assistant Director  
City of Houston*

## Background

Like every city and small town across the U.S., the City of Houston's Planning and Development Department plays an important role in building safety. With each new commercial development or home remodel, the Department staff reviews the project drawings and maps — submitted by landowners and their architects, engineers, and contractors — to ensure the project meets the City's building code regulations.

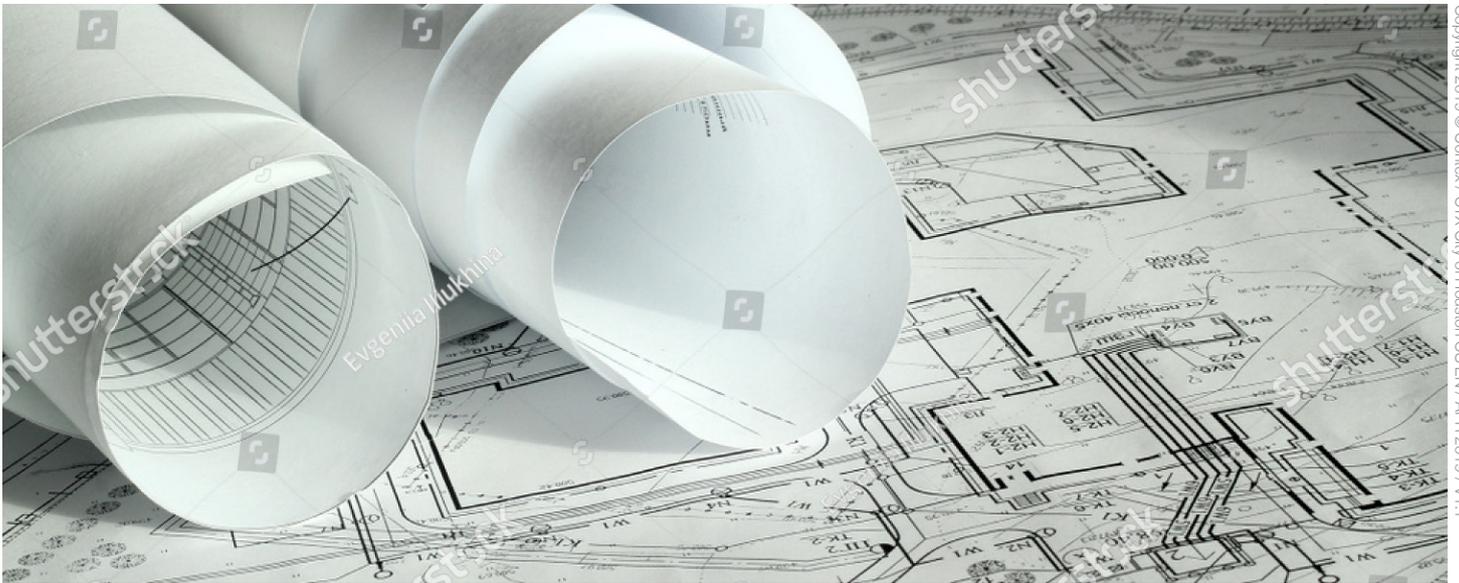
different than most cities, is its sheer size and scope. Houston is the 4th largest city in the United States by population, and the eighth most expansive city, in miles. No doubt, the City's Planning and Development Department is one of the busiest in the nation.

On any given day, the Department can receive up to 40 building projects, which can include anywhere from 2 to 1500+ drawings and maps per project, depending on the size and scope of the build. Skilled and efficient, the Department staff is swift

## CHALLENGE

### Subheading missing

What makes the City of Houston



to process these documents since any delays can become costly to landowners.

To initiate the review process, the building plans are scanned into the Department's repository. The plans are then reviewed by the different disciplines of the Department, including electrical and plumbing. Approved plans are then stamped by the assigned analysts, validating that the plans are up to code.

Speed is essential in scanning and review process, and so is accuracy. A single oversight could potentially result in an unsafe build.

#### **SOLUTION**

##### **Consistent quality in a high volume workflow**

The City of Houston implemented a Contex IQ Quattro large format scanner to scan maps and drawings up to 36" wide. Speed, quality and reliability enables the staffers to process the high volume of documents that come into the Department. Expedited projects are easily facilitated thanks to the

IQ Quattro's four-second scanning and CIS technologies, which deliver high-quality results. The Nextimage scanning software also gives a boost to productivity. The software automatically removes shadows caused by creases and folds. If a document is old or faded, the Department staffers can easily manipulate settings as needed to further improve imaging results.

On average, the Department processes mostly 24"x36" documents. Occasionally, staffers may receive documents that are 18"x24" or 36"x40". These plans are easily accommodated, simply by changing the orientation of the documents.

#### **RESULTS**

##### **Paper versus digital**

While the City of Houston is transitioning to online plan submissions, paper plans will continue to play an important role. For example, at the onset of the review process, customers are required to submit two sets of hard copy plans to the Department. One

set is used in the review process, which gives analysts the opportunity to reference either the hardcopy or scanned plans. The other set, once approved, are stamped and given back to landowners to keep on the job site for the inspectors to reference.

##### **Investment to last a lifetime**

The Contex IQ Quattro wide format scanner is an investment that the City of Houston can benefit from for years to come. From the speed and reliability, to the image quality and performance, the IQ Quattro exceeds expectations.



**The quality of the  
Contex scanner is  
consistent, and that  
saves us valuable time.**

*Kevin Fritz, Management Analyst,  
City of Houston.*

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