# Case study

# Glass office configurator



# Biff Bang Pow!

Based in Oxfordshire, UK, with a fully remote team, Biff Bang Pow started life in 1997 as a graphic design agency creating artwork for record companies and recording artists.

Since that time, BBP has progressed into developing complex software solutions, integrations and elegant brochure websites for a wide and diverse range of industries such as Recruitment, Health & Life Sciences, Travel & Tourism, Professional Services and The Built Environment.





Photo courtesy of Radii Planet Group









# Tackling a new challenge

- Desire to show the client what they are getting
- Real-time pricing information
- Allowing the client to build up a complete enquiry and retrieve it later
- Each variable has dependencies
- A lot of variables!

# Understanding the complexity

- The space must be scalable
- Multiple layout options
- Different ranges
- Different frameworks
- Choice of glass style
- Different doors, per style
- Acoustic performance
- Every door style has different hardware
- All the hardware in all the colours



## Making a plan



#### Rendering considerations

- Fast enough to provide real-time updates
- Versatile enough to provide flexibility
- Lightweight enough to run in a browser



Visit threejs.org for author credits

# Prototyping

- Scene
- Camera
- Lights
- Geometry (Fundamental shapes in ThreeJS)
- Materials

(The surface of objects, with controllable attributes)

• Textures

(Adding more realism and depth)

• Meshes

(Combining the primitives to render things)

• Objects

(Bringing 3d models into the scene)



# Prototyping

- 1. Create a geometry object (eg. BoxGeometry)
- 2. Create a material object (eg. MeshStandardMaterial)
- 3. Create a mesh object, and apply the geometry and material
- 4. Add the mesh to the scene

#### The end result



#### Project-specific challenges

Rendering glass behind glass (no ray tracing)

Flying camera / dynamic positioning

Huge variety of configurations and options

Scaling the space without affecting the build



#### **Top-level** architecture

- Lightweight client
- As little hard-coding as possible
- Complex work done in the back-end

#### Silverstripe

All information in Data Objects

CMS-managed relationships and pricing models

Simple controllers with dedicated tasks

Helper code for calculations and render generation



Configuration-led

Simple translation from JSON to renderer

#### API

JSON-based messaging

Simple, extensible configuration syntax

Rendering functions broken down to smallest viable components

```
{ 🖂
   "data":{ 🖃
      "camera":{ 🕀 },
      "scene":{ =
         "floor":{ + },
         "lights":[ ],
         "walls":[ 🛨 ],
         "ceiling":{ []}
      "office":{ =
         "globals":{ 🖃
            "glass":[ 🛨 ]
            "frameworkcolour": "#0e0e10",
            "ironmongerycolour": "bronze",
            "ambientlight":{ + }
         "glass":[ 🛨 ],
         "doors":[ 🛨 ],
         "objects":[ 🛨 ],
         "manifestations":{ 🕀 },
         "topRails":[ 🛨 ],
         "bottomRails":[ ],
         "abutments":[ 🛨 ],
         "verticalRails":
   "version":1726587384
```

#### API

Describe everything separately

Avoid close-coupling of the configurator logic and the renderer

```
{ 🖂
  "data":{ 🖃
     "camera":{ 🖃
        "position":{ 🖃
           "x":0,
           "y":2,
           "z":6
        "centre":{ 🖃
           "x":10.5,
           "z":-12,
           "y":1
        }.
        "limits":{ 🖃
           "minpolarangle":0.6283185307179586,
           "maxpolarangle":1.5707963267948966,
           "minazimuthangle":5.183627878423159,
           "maxazimuthangle":0
        },
        "updatecamera":true,
        "zoom":{ 🖃
           "enabled":true,
           "minzoom":5.
           "maxzoom":17,
           "initialzoom":12
     "office":{ 🗄 }
   }.
   "version": 1726587384
```

#### API

Describe everything separately

Avoid close-coupling of the configurator logic and the renderer

```
"data":{ 🖃
   "camera":{ 🛨 },
   "scene":{ 🖃
      "floor":{ 🖃
         "size":{ 🖃
            "width":27,
            "height":0.001,
            "depth":27
          },
         "position":{ 🖃
            "x":0,
            "y":0,
            "z":0
         },
         "style":"clean"
      "lights":[ 🛨 ],
      "walls":[ 🖃
         { 日
            "size":{ 🖃
               "width":27,
               "height":8,
               "depth":0.1
            }.
            "position":{ 🖃
               "x":0,
               "y":4,
               "z":-13.55
             }.
            "style":"clean"
```

Ξ

#### Doors



yiass .[ 😐 ], "doors" :[ 🖃 { 🗉 "leaf":{ 🖃 "type":"frameless", "position":{ 🖃 "x":9, "y":1.3249849999999999, "z":-10.5 }, "size":{ 🖃 "width":1, "height":2.6499699999999997, "depth":0.04 }, "handle":{ 🖃 "type":"LeverHandleGlass", "position":{ 🖃 "**x**":9.5, "y":1, "z":-10.5 }, "hardware":[ 🖃 { 🖂 "type":"LeverHandleGlassStrikerBox", "position":{ 🖃 "x":9.5, "y":1, "z":-10.5 {日 "type":"BottomPivot", "position":{ 🖃 "x":8.5, "y":0. "z":-10.5

#### Doors

```
"handle":{ 🗖
   "type":"LeverHandleGlass",
  "position":{ 🖃
     "x":9.5,
      "y":1,
      "z":-10.5
},
"hardware":[ 🖃
  { 🖂
      "type":"LeverHandleGlassStrikerBox",
      "position":{ 🖃
         "x":9.5,
         "y":1,
         "z":-10.5
```



# **Optimisation and testing**

Problems with earlier IOS devices

Balancing rendering speed with image quality

Only render when something changes

```
{ 🖂
   "data":{ 🖃
      "camera":{ 🕀 },
      "scene":{ =
         "floor":{ + },
         "lights":[ ],
         "walls":[ 🛨 ],
         "ceiling":{ []}
      "office":{ =
         "globals":{ 🖃
            "glass":[ 🛨 ]
            "frameworkcolour": "#0e0e10",
            "ironmongerycolour": "bronze",
            "ambientlight":{ + }
         "glass":[ 🛨 ],
         "doors":[ 🛨 ],
         "objects":[ ],
         "manifestations":{ 🕀 },
         "topRails":[ 🛨 ],
         "bottomRails":[ ],
         "abutments":[ 🛨 ],
         "verticalRails":
   "version":1726587384
```

# Optimisation and testing

Performance issues with over-complex lighting



## **Optimisation and testing**

Screen-grabbing for enquiry system



#### An industry-leading solution

Let's have a look...

# Thank you!

ThreeJS: https://threejs.org

Silverstripe CMS: https://silverstripe.org

Biff Bang Pow Ltd: https://biffbangpow.com

