Chief Architect® Software

Home Designer®

New Features 2022

	Feature Description	Suite	Architectural	Professional
Design Tools	Fill Screen to Selected Objects. Use this zoom tool to quickly set the screen view's extent to only those objects that are currently selected.	+	+	+
	Delete Objects for Layouts. Use the delete objects tool to clear unnecessary elements like CAD, Images, Text, and Layout Boxes from your layout documents. These controls make it easier to transition between projects when copying layout files and in developing templates.	-	-	+
3D Tools	Navigation ALT Mode. While navigating 3D Views, use the right mouse button to swap to the Mouse-Tilt modes, making it quick and dynamic to traverse your scenes.	+	+	+
	Adjust Material Scoping. When editing a material in a 3D view using the Adjust Materials tool, choose the scope of impact to adjust the material throughout your project, or create a copy on-the-fly for a subset of objects using the material. After editing a material's properties, quickly save the change with the Add to Library tool.	+	+	+
	Edit Parametric Patterns. Modify the sizing and offset for the Herringbone and Grid pattern types to accurately match your final installation pattern.	-	+	+
	Search Plan Materials. A search bar in the Plan Materials dialog makes finding entries faster than scrolling through the list.	-	-	+
	Walkthrough Editing. Use key frame editing controls to quickly adjust and modify individual keyframes directly from the preview dialog and the edit toolbar. Join multiple walkthrough segments as one path and retain the keyframe details from the original pieces. Use the Complete Break tool to break an existing walkthrough into individual parts or use existing, longer walkthroughs to record sub-sections as smaller animations without generating a new path.	+	+	+
	Walkthrough Preview Panel. While laying out your walkthrough path, see your changes and editing live before spending time recording the sequence.	+	+	+
	360 Exterior Walkthrough. Create an automatic walkthrough path that orbits the exterior of your design.	+	+	+
Dimensioning	Dimension Unit Display Threshold. Set a threshold where dimensions display in inches when the value is less than the specified amount; for example, show dimension as 18" instead of 1' 6".	+	+	+
	Snap to Dimension Lines. Use object snapping to snap text, CAD, labels, and other dimension lines to existing dimensions on the screen.	+	+	+
	Locate Defaults per Dimension Tool. For each dimension tool, set up location snapping; for example, set the Center Line dimension tool to pick up only walls and fixture centers for kitchen and bath dimension defaults or only pier and post centers for deck or framing defaults.	-	-	+
	Wall Width Dimension Controls. Choose to show or hide wall widths per dimension string, or set up your defaults to your preferred display for each dimension default.	-	-	+

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	Angled Dimensions. Set up behaviors for Angled Dimensions within Dimension Default.	-	-	+
	Dimension to Foundation Wall Steps. Snap dimensions to elevation height transitions on stepped foundation walls in plan and elevation views.	-	-	+
CAD / Elevations	Convert Wall Elevations to Section Views. Regardless of the camera tool used to create a Section View, Elevation, or Wall Elevation, it can be edited to behave as the other view types. Expand Wall Elevations to included parts of the scenes beyond a room (like vaulted ceilings or multi-room suites), or crop larger Sections to show smaller spaces.	-	-	+
	Show Vaulted Ceilings in Wall Elevation Views. Wall Elevations for rooms with vaulted and sloped ceilings include the full wall height; the elevation can be set to crop at the top of the wall plate using the “Ignore Walls Above” setting.	-	-	+
	Center CAD in Elevation Views. Use the Center Objects tool in Elevation Views to control the location of CAD objects.	-	+	+
Windows / Doors / Cabinets	Cabinet Door Size. Discover the overall size of cabinet doors and drawers while selected in the cabinet specification dialog.	+	+	+
	Clipped Cabinet Overhang. Automatically clip cabinet counter overhang when it butts against appliances and partitions.	+	+	+
	Opening Indicators. Display opening indicators for hinged and sliding windows and doors in camera views. Set up default behaviors to configure the indicators to your drawing standards.	-	-	+
Libraries / Catalogs	Refined Search in Library Browser. Use terms “AND”, “OR”, and “NOT”, and create search groups using parentheses ‘()’ in library searches to refine results.	+	+	+
	Store and Edit Text in Library Browser. Add individual, unblocked pieces of text to the Library Browser for easy preservation and reuse in future projects.	+	+	+
Building Tools	Convert Planes to Polylines. Edit Roof and Ceiling Planes using the Convert to Plain Polyline tool to easily create a CAD line that is duplicate to the plane’s shape.	-	-	+
	Wall Hatching. Set up attributes for the Wall Hatching tool in your template plan so that it defaults to look the way you’d like it to for every project. Copy and Paste wall hatching throughout your design to easily indicate wall areas of note.	-	-	+
	Horizontal Wall Framing. Use the automatic framing tools along with wall definitions to create wall types suited for some Pole Buildings and Timber Framing scenarios. Set up girt spacing within the wall’s properties, including distance from the ground.	-	+	+
	Balloon Framing. Set automatic framing tools to generate true balloon framing and offer flexible settings for specifying where to include or exclude this framing technique.	-	-	+
	Wall Corner and Intersection Framing. Specify Standard, Reduced Stud (two-stud Advanced Framing Technique), or Laddered options for building wall framing at corners and intersections.	-	-	+
Landscaping / Decking / Terrain	Calculate Materials for Roads. Include the volume of Roads, Driveways, Sidewalks, and Terrain Walls and Curbs in materials lists.	+	+	+
General / Support	Auto-Save Untitled Projects. Projects that have not been named or manually saved for the first time are archived through the Auto-Save rules set up in user Preferences.	+	+	+
	Dynamically-Updating Help. The Help viewer automatically updates to show the Help topic for the highlighted object, tool, or dialog. Dynamic help updates can be toggled on or off.	+	+	+