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## What's New in This Release

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This topic describes the new and enhanced features for Revit Architecture 2008.

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## Project Views

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This topic describes the new and enhanced features for project views in Revit Architecture 2008.

### Duplicate Dependent Views

You can create multiple copies of a view. These copies are dependent on the primary view. All copies, known as dependent views, remain synchronous with the primary view and all other dependent views so that when view-specific changes (for example, view scale or annotations) are made in one view, they are reflected in all views.

Creating dependent views may be useful in the following scenarios:

- You are working on a large project with an extensive floorplate, and you want to crop the view into smaller segments so you can place them on sheets. When you make changes to dependent segments of the view, you can quickly see how they effect the view as a whole by looking at the primary view.
- You need to place a view on more than one sheet.

Dependent views display in the Project Browser under the primary view. You can insert matchlines (to

indicate where the view is split) and view references (to link views) in dependent views.

For more information, see [Duplicate Dependent Views](#) and [Adding Matchlines for Dependent Views](#).

### Annotation Crop Region

In addition to the model crop region, there is an annotation crop region for all graphical project views except perspective 3D views. Annotation elements are fully cropped when the annotation crop region touches any portion of the element. For more information, see [Crop Regions](#).

### Panning Views on a Sheet

You can pan views that have been added to a sheet. When you pan a view on a sheet, the crop region does not move. For more information, see [Panning Views on a Sheet](#).

### Section Box Enhancements

In Revit Architecture 2008, when you enable a section box in a 3D view, you can modify its extents from other views (for example, a plan or elevation view). In addition, section box extents are no longer cropped by the view's crop region.

For more information, see [Using a Section Box in a 3D View](#).

### Legend Views

You can now enter the legend name and view scale when you begin creation of a new legend view. For more information, see [Creating a Legend](#).

### Rotating Viewports on a Sheet

When you select a viewport on a sheet, the rotate options are now available on the Options Bar. For more information on rotating a viewport, see [Rotating a Viewport on a Sheet View](#).

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## Visibility and Graphics

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This topic describes the new and enhanced features for visibility and graphics in Revit Architecture 2008.

### Overriding Visibility and Graphic Display of Individual Elements

You can override visibility and graphic display of individual element instances in a project view. See [Overriding Visibility and Graphic Display of Individual Elements](#).

### Overriding Cut and Surface Lines and Patterns

In the Visibility/Graphics dialog, you can now override cut and surface lines and patterns for model categories. See [Visibility and Graphic Display in Project Views](#).

### Applying Transparency to Faces of Model Elements

You can apply transparency to faces of model element categories, or to individual model element faces. See [Applying Transparency to Faces of Model Element Categories](#).

### Hiding Elements in a View

You can hide individual elements or categories of elements in a view. When you hide an element that is used as a reference for a tag or dimension, the tag or dimension is also hidden. Hiding a revision cloud does not affect the revision table. See [Hiding Elements](#).

Hidden elements can be revealed and unhidden in a view. See [Revealing and Unhiding Hidden Elements](#).

### Temporary Hide/Isolate Enhancements

A blue border displays around the drawing area to indicate when you are in temporary hide/isolate mode. In addition, when you temporarily hide an element or element category, you can make it permanent. See [Temporarily Hiding or Isolating Elements or Element Categories](#).

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## Groups

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This topic describes the new and enhanced features for groups in Revit Architecture 2008.

### Group Editor

The workflow for creating and editing groups has been improved. When you create or edit a group, you use the group editor. In addition, while you are creating or editing a group, you can use the element creation tools on the Design Bar to place additional elements (such as a window or door). Elements that you place while in group edit mode are automatically added to the respective group.

When you edit a group using the group editor, the background color of the drawing area is pale yellow, and the group editor toolbar initially displays in the upper left corner. The pale yellow background color is ignored when you print from the group editor.

See [Creating Groups](#) and [Modifying Groups](#).

### Loading a Revit Project or Family File as a Group

You can load Revit project files (RVT) into a project as a group, and you can load Revit family files (RFA) into the Family Editor as a group. See [Loading Groups](#).

### Editing Groups Externally

You can now edit groups independently of a project or family and then load (or reload) the group into the project or family. See [Modifying Groups](#).

### Excluding Elements from Group Instances

Excluding elements from a group instance may be useful when, for example, you place a hotel unit group defined with 4 bounding walls adjacent to a similar unit, and the walls overlap. You can exclude the overlapping wall from the group instance. If that wall is hosting any elements (for example, a wall-hosted tub or door) Revit Architecture attempts to rehost those elements on the remaining wall.

You can exclude an element from a group instance in one of the following ways:

- Exclude an element from a group instance. The element remains in the group but is not visible in the project view for that group instance. If the excluded element is hosting any elements, Revit Architecture attempts to rehost those elements.
- Move an element from the group instance to the project view. The element is visible in the project view, and it can be edited from the project view. The element is also excluded from the group

instance.

When elements are excluded and are not visible in the project view for that group instance, they are not included in schedules.

Excluded elements can be restored to their group instances.

See [Excluding Elements from a Group Instance](#).

### Enhancements to Swapping Instances of Group Types

When you swap an instance of a group type for an instance of a different group type, Revit Architecture attempts to replace any attached detail groups from the old group instance with attached detail groups of the same name from the new group instance. For elements in attached detail groups that were not replaced, and for all other elements that depend on elements in the swapped group instance, Revit Architecture attempts to find references within the new group instance. If new references cannot be found for these dependent elements, Revit Architecture posts a warning to indicate the dependent elements for which it could not find references. In addition, the origin of the new group is placed at the position of the first group.

For more information, see [Swapping Out Group Types](#).

### Converting Groups to Linked Revit Models

You can convert groups to linked Revit models. You can also convert linked Revit models to groups. See [Converting Groups and Linked Revit Models](#).

### Saving Groups

You can save a group as a Revit project file (RVT) if you are working in a project, or as a Revit family file (RFA) if you are working in the Family Editor. Because groups are saved as RVT or RFA files, they can be edited independently of the project in which they are loaded. See [Saving Groups](#).

Groups are no longer saved as Revit group files (RVG). You can still load existing RVG files into projects for use as groups. See [Loading Groups](#).

### Viewing Groups in the Project Browser

In the Project Browser, attached detail groups and nested groups now appear under the group to which they belong. Nested groups also appear in the group list with other model or detail groups.

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## Building Components

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This topic describes new and enhanced features for building components in Revit Architecture 2008.

### Scheduling Wall Sweeps

You can now schedule wall sweeps. When you create a new schedule, there is a wall sweeps category in the New Schedule dialog. Integral wall sweeps, which are part of the wall type definition, are not independently schedulable.

For more information on creating schedules, see [Schedule Views](#).

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## Structural Components

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This topic describes the new and enhanced features for structural components in Revit Architecture 2008.

### Cutting Openings in a Structural Beam, Brace, or Structural Column

You can cut openings on planar faces of structural beams, braces, or structural columns using the Opening by Face command.

When you sketch an opening for a structural beam, brace, or structural column, you can now specify a radius for the rectangle option, which allows you to sketch rectangles with fillets. This helps to avoid sharp corners on the opening, which can concentrate stresses.

For more information, see [Cutting Openings in a Structural Beam, Brace, or Structural Column](#).

### Shape Editing for Slabs, Roofs and Floors

Modify horizontal structural slabs with straight edges to include multiple slopes for draining. For more information, see [Shape Editing for Slabs, Roofs and Floors](#).

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## Details and Annotations

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This topic describes the new and enhanced features for details and annotations in Revit Architecture 2008.

### Masking Regions

Masking regions provide a way for an element to obscure other elements in a view. Masking regions may be useful in scenarios like the following:

- You need to obscure elements in a project.
- You are creating a 2D detail component family or a 3D family and need the background of the element to mask the model and other detail elements when it is loaded into a project.
- You need to create a 3D family from imported 2D DWG files that will obscure model elements when placed in a view.

You can create 2D and 3D masking regions. 2D masking regions can be created in a project and in the Family Editor when you are creating a 2D family (annotation, detail, or titleblock). 3D masking regions can be created in the Family Editor when you are creating a 3D family.

For more information on masking regions, see [Masking Regions](#).

### Filled Regions

In a project, you can create a filled region that has a solid fill pattern and a transparent background. For more information on creating and editing filled regions, see [Filled Region](#).

### Upgrading Projects or Families that Contain Filled Regions

When you upgrade a project or family to Revit Architecture 2008, all filled regions that have the Background Type parameter set to opaque and the Pattern Type parameter set to no pattern, or all "solid white" filled regions that have the Pattern Type as solid, Background as Opaque, and Color as White, become masking regions.

In addition, the following options are no longer available for filled regions:

- The Filled Region : Solid White type is no longer available as an option in the Type Selector when you select a filled region in the drawing area.
- The No Pattern fill pattern.

To obscure an element with a region, use [Masking Regions](#).

### Dimension Line Tick Mark Display Behavior

When you set the tick mark for a dimension as an arrow type, dimension arrows recognize when a dimension segment is too small to accommodate the arrows on the interior of the dimension line. When this occurs, dimension arrows automatically flip to the exterior of the dimension line. This occurs for linear, angular, and radial dimensions. For radial dimensions, arrows flip when the dimension line (the radius) is shorter than the length of the arrow.

For more information, see [Controlling the Display Behavior of Dimension Arrows](#).

### Spot Dimension Enhancements

- You can place spot dimensions (spot elevations and spot coordinates) on non-horizontal surfaces and non-planar edges.
- When you place a spot dimension, the value of the spot elevation or spot coordinate appears in the drawing area before you place it.
- The leader parameter is now an instance parameter, rather than a type parameter. This means that you can have different values for the leader parameter for every instance of a spot dimension type. The leader parameter is available in the Element Properties dialog for the spot dimension.
- When you place or select a spot dimension, you can modify the leader parameter and the relative base parameter (for relative spot elevations) on the Options Bar.

For more information on spot elevations and spot coordinates, see [Spot Elevation Dimensions and Reporting North, South, East, and West Coordinates](#).

### Keynote Leader Option Persistence

When you place an element or user keynote, you can indicate whether you want a leader for the keynote. Leader options are Attached and Free End. Now when you select a leader option, the selection is retained for the Revit session. For example, you place an element keynote and select the Free End option for the leader. If you exit the Keynote command and make other changes to the model, when you activate the Keynote command again, Revit remembers your leader selection (Free End), so it is not necessary to specify it again.

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## Rooms and Areas

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This topic describes the new and enhanced features for rooms and areas in Revit Architecture 2008.

### Color Schemes

The Color Fill command has been renamed and enhanced. To apply color fill to a room or area, you now create color schemes and apply them to a plan view. Previously, color fill and color legends were combined in the Color Fill command. Now, color schemes are a view property, so you can apply different color schemes to different views. Color scheme legends are an annotation tag.

When you apply a color scheme to a plan view, you can include a color scheme legend. You can resize a color scheme legend, resize the swatches (the color boxes that appear in the legend), modify the order of items in the legend, and change the graphic appearance of legend swatches.

For more information, see [Color Schemes](#).

### Number Instance Parameter for Areas

The area element has a new instance parameter called Number. This parameter is accessible from the Element Properties dialog for areas. See [Area Properties](#).

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## Linked Models

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This topic describes the new and enhanced features for linked models in Revit Architecture 2008.

### Including Linked Revit Model Instance Names in a Schedule

When you have multiple copies of linked Revit models in a project (for example, multiple identical buildings on a site, or multiple identical floors in a building), you can specify a different name for each instance of the linked model and then include the name in a schedule. Names for linked model instances are automatically generated, and you can change them through the linked model properties. If you enter a name that is already in use in the project, a message appears to indicate this.

You can also, as in previous releases, include the file name of a linked model in a schedule. File names do not include the file path or file extension.

See [Including Elements from Linked Models in a Schedule](#).

### Applying a Color Scheme to Rooms and Areas in Linked Models

You can apply the host model color scheme to rooms and areas in a linked model. See [Applying the Host Model Color Scheme to Rooms and Areas in Linked Models](#).

### Showing Areas and Area Boundaries in Linked Models

You can show (or hide) areas and area boundaries in linked Revit models. See [Showing Areas and Area Boundaries in Linked Models](#).

### Showing Nested Linked Models

When you import a Revit model that contains a linked model, links become nested. You can show (or hide) nested linked models in the host model. See [Showing or Hiding Nested Linked Revit Models](#).

### Controlling Visibility and Graphic Override Settings for Nested Linked Models

Nested linked models can use the visibility and graphics override settings specified for the host model, the parent linked model, or the top-level nested linked model. See [Controlling Visibility and Graphic Override Settings for Nested Linked Revit Models](#).

### Viewing Linked Revit Models in the Project Browser

Linked Revit models (including visible nested linked models) are now listed in the Project Browser. You can add links and access basic link functionality from the shortcut menu in the Project Browser. You can also drag a linked Revit model from the Project Browser into a project view to create a new instance of the linked model.

See [Using the Project Browser](#).

### Converting Linked Revit Models to Groups

You can convert linked Revit models to groups. You can also convert groups to linked Revit models. See [Converting Groups and Linked Revit Models](#).

### Copying Linked Revit Models Between Projects

You can copy a linked Revit model to the clipboard and paste it in a different project file. The link path, shared positioning settings, visible nested links, and the link instance name are copied to the new project. If the link instance name already exists in the project, the link is automatically renamed. Partially loaded files are maintained as partially loaded. Visibility and graphic override settings are not preserved.

See [Copying Linked Revit Models](#).

### Copying Elements from Linked Revit Models

You can copy elements from linked Revit models to the clipboard and then paste them in the host model. See [Copying Elements from a Linked Revit Model](#).

### Creating Constraints Between the Host Model and Linked Models

You can now create constraints between elements in the host model and elements in a linked model. See [Dimensions and Constraints in Linked Revit Models](#).

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## Interoperability

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This topic describes the new and enhanced features for interoperability in Revit Architecture 2008.

### DWF

You can output 2D and 3D views of a Revit project to the Design Web Format™ (DWF™). Revit Architecture 2008 includes the following enhancements to DWF functionality:

- The File menu ► Export DWF menu option has been changed to File menu ► Publish DWF.
- When publishing 2D DWF, the default zoom setting (on the Print Setup dialog) is now Fit To Page. This setting avoids the (usually) undesired result of getting a cropped portion of the 2D view in the DWF file.

For more information about publishing DWF files, see [Publishing 2D or 3D DWF](#).

### Autodesk 3ds Max and Autodesk VIZ

You can export a 3D view from a Revit project for use in Autodesk 3ds Max or VIZ. Interoperability between Revit Architecture 2008 and 3ds Max or VIZ has been improved in the following ways:

- When you export a 3D view for use with 3ds Max or VIZ, you can use a section box to limit the content that is exported. This strategy reduces the amount of data being exported and improves the performance of the export and import processes. In this release, section boxes have been enhanced to better support this use. For example, when changing the size of the section box for the 3D view to export, you can switch to a 2D view to refine the size and location of the section box. See [Using a Section Box in a 3D View](#).
- An object that has different materials applied to interior and exterior surfaces (such as a wall) in a Revit project may be exported as a 3D view using ACIS solids. When the imported geometry is brought into 3ds Max or VIZ, those applications now show the different materials on each surface of an ACIS solid. (In previous releases, 3ds Max or VIZ only showed one material for the entire ACIS solid.)
- In the previous release, when files were exported from Revit Architecture and imported to 3ds Max or VIZ, 3ds Max and VIZ displayed the acdbMaterial names instead of the more readable RevitMaterial Names. Revit Architecture 2008 has been enhanced so that, when exported files are imported, 3ds Max and VIZ now display the RevitMaterial names.

For more information, see [Exporting to 3ds Max or VIZ](#).

### Google SketchUp

The Revit documentation now includes information about using Revit Architecture and Google™ SketchUp® during an iterative design process. You can export a 3D view from a Revit project and import it to SketchUp, or export a design from SketchUp and import or link it to a Revit project. For more information, see [Integrating SketchUp and Revit](#).

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## Communication Center

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Communication Center provides quick access to resources at Autodesk, including the following:

- Live Update Maintenance Patches. Receive automatic notifications whenever new maintenance patches are released from Autodesk.
- Subscription Information and Extension Announcements. Receive announcements and subscription program news if you are an Autodesk subscription member (available in countries/regions where Autodesk subscriptions are offered).
- Articles and Tips. Be notified when new articles and tips are available on Autodesk websites.
- Product Support Information. Get breaking news from the Product Support team at Autodesk.

Use the Welcome wizard to set Communication Center for your country/region, and for the frequency

you prefer for updates and the information channels you want displayed.

To start the Welcome wizard or to open Communication Center, click the Communication Center icon in the tray on the right side of the status bar.

For more information, see [Communication Center](#).

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## Performance

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For Revit Architecture 2008, performance improvements have been made for graphics display, hardware acceleration, and usability.

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## Documentation

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The documentation for Revit Architecture 2008 has been restructured and revised to improve usability. In addition, images have been added to illustrate and clarify important concepts. Look for further improvements to the documentation in future releases.