

ArchiCAD Computer Tips & Techniques

by The Drawing Studio

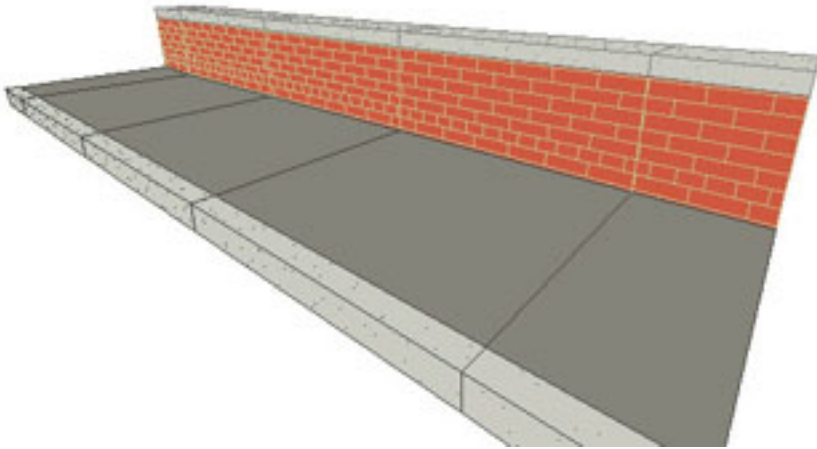
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The following pages are part of The Drawing Studio's Computer Tip files and are here to help beginners in the computer world.

THE DRAWING STUDIO

ARCHICAD 1a TIPS / TECHNIQUES , ©1994-2004



This file is titled: The Drawing Studio(TDS)-1aTips/Techniques and is grouped with the picture file titled: TDS-1bTips/Techni.JPG.

The following is The Drawing Studio's favorite shortcuts, reminders and techniques was compiled with the help of Doug Alligood of Philip Johnson, Ritchie & Fiore Architects. It is outlined in a step-by-step process so that even a beginner can manage these techniques.

SHORTCUT ONE: SPACE-BAR CLICK: To transform a series of lines(an outline) into a wall, slab or roof:

- 1 Draw something with lines and complete the form, i.e.: 3 sided or more and make sure all lines are connected at the ends (curved lines work also);
- 2 Select all lines;
- 3 Double click on the slab, wall or roof tool to open the dialogue box; set desired 3D, layer and material settings; click OK; Or, press the option key while clicking on a wall, slab or roof that already exists on your plan and that has the properties you desire;
- 4 With the lines selected and the desired tool selected:
- 5 Simultaneously, press your space bar and click the mouse with the cursor near center of one of the lines (cursor will be an up-side-down Y);
- 6 The selected lines are still existing and are still selected, so press delete if you don't need the lines anymore or press Command-D to drag them out of your way. You will be left with the 3D element in the shape you desired;
- 7 SPACE-BAR CLICK also works well using a slab instead of a series of lines, and then selecting a different tool(wall or roof) and SPACE-BAR CLICKing. END.

SHORT CUT TWO (see TDS-1bTips/Techni.JPG):

TO CUT A SLAB INTO EQUAL SEGMENTS: A time saver when you need to create a paving pattern in Hidden Line or Shaded mode;

- 1 Draw a 6" slab that is about 20'-0" by 5'-0" to represent a sidewalk; add a curb, brick retaining wall

and a cap too (using the slab tool only);

2 Near one end of your slab, draw a line perpendicular to your sidewalk and make sure it overhangs beyond all of the elements you've drawn and that you want to cut;

3 Select the line then Command-F("Menu: Edit: Multiply..."); set the prompts to Drag, 3, Distribute and click OK; drag the line to the other end and click, resulting in 4 lines equally distributed down the length of the sidewalk;

4 Select all elements;

5 Go to "Menu: Edit: Split" and click on the first line (make cursor up-side-down Y on line before clicking) and then again to the side (when cursor becomes eye shaped); then, go directly back to "Menu: Edit: Split" and repeat the process down the length of the sidewalk; when finished, go to perspective to review the results. This works great for curved sidewalks where repeating slabs or drawing them individually can be extremely tedious. END.

SHORT CUT THREE:

2D LIBRARY PARTS: To save 2D lines as library parts:

1 Select and copy lines you want to make into a library part;

2 Go to "Menu: File: Open Library Part";

3 Select "New" directly above the "Open" radio button; you will be presented with an untitled-1 window [note that the "object" or (chair) is highlighted at the bottom];

4 In the untitled-1 window, select "Activate Window > 2D Symbol", then an Untitled-1/2D window will appear; then "Menu: Edit: Paste"; click to place paste onto document;

5 Then go to "Menu: Edit: Select All Lines", find the coordinate box (not the toolbox or control box) (if you can't find the coordinate box, go the Untitled-1/2D window, Menu: Window: Floating Palattes > Coordinate Box) and click on little black equilateral triangle to 'gray-out'; Return to original window Untitled-1;

6 Note A=x Dimension and B=y Dimension notes are the wrong dimension, so click "Size to 2D symbol"

7 Go to "Menu: File: Save" and select destination folder (or create new folder in your library folder of "Special Symbols-2D". END.

TECHNIQUE ONE:

FILLS IN PERSPECTIVE: Showing fills on walls, slabs and roof in hidden line mode of perspective settings:

1 Go to "Menu: Options: Fill Types" and scroll up/down to Brick - Common Bond for this example;

2 Just below this box put an X in the "Available for: walls/slab/roof" radio box; Select OK to close dialogue box;

3 Double click wall tool, select Face brick+ material and make wall around 6'-0" tall, also select a pen fill color for the brick joints, click OK;

4 Go to "Menu: Options: Materials", select Face brick+ and click on the "Expert..." box;

5 Go to 3D Hatching and select Brick - Common Bond hatching; In other words, make sure 3D Hatching fill is set on the same fill that is in the "Options: Materials: Expert" dialogue box for all walls, slabs or roofs you want to illustrate;

6 Click OK and OK to close boxes;

7 Draw a wall anywhere on your plan;

8 Select wall, go to "Menu: Image: 3D Projection Settings..., Perspective Settings..." and set up view, click OK. Shading view has the best results. END.

REMINDER ONE:

Setting Camera Z and Target Z on the plan of the Perspective Settings... dialogue box:

- 1 Go to menu and "Image: 3D Projection Settings..., Perspective Settings..." to open Perspective dialogue window;
- 2 Hold the shift key down and click on the plan to set Camera Z;
- 3 Hold the option key down and click on the plan to set Target Z;
- 4 Move Camera Z and Target Z around the plan by click/holding/dragging these two points. END.

REMINDER TWO:

If ArchiCAD is running slow or if the selection box doesn't scroll smoothly then you probably need to run Norton Utilities. If you still have problems and need to finish a deadline without further delays, restart your computer while holding down the shift key to turn off all extensions. This will allow you to run ArchiCAD (without Quicktime) smoothly.

REMINDER THREE:

To reset ArchiCAD to the original default settings:

- 1 Press Option key and go to "Menu: File"....;
- 2 Scroll down to "New and Reset" (New changes to 'New and Reset' when the option key is depressed).
- 3 Also, you will probably want to reset "Menu: Options: Preferences" to your preferred settings and check your pens/colors. END.

REMINDER-4:

Migration away from $x=0, y=0$.

- 1 Make sure that when you open a new document, or when you copy an element from one document to a new document that you are not migrating too far from the default $x=0, y=0$. After a year or two of working with ArchiCAD, you may discover that you are miles away from the original starting point.

Questions, comments or suggestions should be addressed to info@drawingstudio.com

File: 2c-1aTip.htm-(14k)