

Questions and Answers

AutoCAD® Architecture is the version of AutoCAD® software for architects.

Creating and sharing construction documents is much more efficient with the software's easy-to-use architectural drawing and design tools. The familiar environment offers users immediate productivity gains with the flexibility to learn additional features at their own pace. The industry-leading DWG™ file format makes it easy to share and communicate design information with engineers and design professionals, while powerful integrated rendering brings client presentations to life. AutoCAD® Architecture provides immediate productivity for architects familiar with AutoCAD® software.

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1. General Product Information

1.1 What are the main benefits of AutoCAD Architecture software?

AutoCAD Architecture software offers all of the AutoCAD software functionality, plus purpose-built tools for architectural design and documentation. The familiar AutoCAD workflow and interface enable you to start working—and realize productivity gains—immediately.

AutoCAD Architecture software's industry-leading DWG file format makes it easy to change information and share designs with engineers using AutoCAD and Revit®-based software applications. Integrated rendering produces lifelike design visualizations that enhance communication with your customers.

1.2 Is the user interface similar to that of AutoCAD software?

The user interface for AutoCAD Architecture software will be quite familiar to AutoCAD users, but with the addition of improvements and features designed specifically for architects. Highly visual and more intuitive, the interface helps you increase productivity using process-focused tools that make the software easier to use. With less focus on dialog boxes and more emphasis on designing directly in the workspace, the design tools in the software are easily accessible.

1.3 Can I rely on my AutoCAD software knowledge to use AutoCAD Architecture?

AutoCAD Architecture builds on the speed, performance, and familiarity of AutoCAD software, so AutoCAD users have a strong foundation from which to learn.

As always, training can improve your productivity and speed of learning. A variety of excellent training aids are available, including self-paced e-Learning options available to subscription customers, Autodesk® Official Training Courseware (AOTC), and customized training available through resellers. For more information, contact your Autodesk Authorized Reseller or visit www.autodesk.com/training.

2. Technology

2.1 What is the significance of architectural objects?

Objects improve design productivity and efficiency because they behave according to the specific properties of their real-world counterparts. Architectural objects have a relationship to one another and interact with each other intelligently. For example, a window has a relationship to the wall that contains it. If you move or delete the wall, the window reacts accordingly.

In addition, intelligent architectural objects maintain dynamic links with construction documents and specifications, resulting in more accurate project deliverables. When someone deletes or modifies a door, for example, the door schedule can be automatically updated.

2.2 Does AutoCAD Architecture software use 3D?

Because the objects in AutoCAD Architecture software describe real-world building components, both 2D and 3D representations can be created automatically and either can be used for viewing or editing. This capability conveniently integrates 2D and 3D functionality

and enables exploration of design ideas within CAD in a fashion similar to the way architects and designers envision their designs.

Using 3D is not required in AutoCAD Architecture software; you can incorporate 3D into your design process at your own pace.

3. Installation, Configuration, and Licensing

3.1 What are the hardware and system requirements?

The recommended hardware and operating system requirements for running AutoCAD Architecture 2009 software can be found at www.autodesk.com/autocadarchitecture. Please ensure that you have read these requirements before making your purchasing decision.

4. Compatibility and Interoperability

4.1 Can I use AutoCAD Architecture software with Autodesk® 3ds Max® Design or Autodesk® Impression software?

Yes, AutoCAD Architecture software is compatible with both Autodesk® 3ds Max® Design and Autodesk® Impression design visualization software products. These products provide natural extensions to AutoCAD Architecture software for advanced visualization, animation, and rendering. Bring designs to life with photoreal and nonphotoreal still and animated visualizations, flybys, and walk-throughs for design reviews, client presentations, competitions, and marketing communications.

4.2 Is AutoCAD Architecture 2009 software compatible with earlier releases?

Yes. You can open files created in earlier releases of AutoCAD Architecture software or Autodesk® Architectural Desktop software and can save files to a format compatible with earlier releases as well.

4.3 Are AutoCAD Architecture software and Revit Architecture software files interoperable?

You can exchange drawing information (2D DWG files) between AutoCAD Architecture and Revit® Architecture software through their respective export to AutoCAD features. You can also export files from AutoCAD Architecture and import them into Revit Architecture software using the International Alliance for Interoperability's Industry Foundation Class (IFC) standards.

In addition, Revit Architecture software has the ability to read and write ACIS® solids. This capability gives users a way to export their models from AutoCAD Architecture or AutoCAD® MEP software and import or link 3D information to Revit Architecture software.

4.4 Will my third-party applications work with the current release of AutoCAD Architecture software?

Your existing third-party applications may or may not be compatible with the current release of AutoCAD Architecture software. Contact your independent software supplier for details.

For more information about the availability of third-party applications compatible with the current releases of AutoCAD and AutoCAD Architecture software, visit www.autodesk.com/partnerproducts.

5. Consulting, Training, and Support

5.1 What is a good way to get started with AutoCAD Architecture software?

There are many ways to begin. For example, you could start by using wall, door, and window objects from the design palette. You could also begin by using the vast detail library to automate the creation and annotation of construction details. When you feel ready, you can incorporate additional features to further improve your productivity.

5.2 Where can I find technical support information?

You can learn about support options from your local Autodesk Authorized Reseller or distributor. Visit www.autodesk.com/support to find a knowledge base of commonly asked support questions. Also, Autodesk software manuals and documentation are a great source of answers to your support questions.

In addition, Autodesk Subscription customers can get access to direct web support. One-to-one online communication with Autodesk support technicians provides fast, complete answers to your installation, configuration, and troubleshooting questions. For more information about Autodesk Subscription, contact your Autodesk Authorized Reseller or visit www.autodesk.com/subscription.

5.3 What are my options for training?

Check with your local Autodesk Authorized Reseller for a schedule of AutoCAD Architecture software training classes. To locate a reseller, visit www.autodesk.com/reseller.

Training courses are also offered through Autodesk Consulting and include Autodesk Virtual Classroom Training (online, instructor-led), custom training to match your organization's specific needs, and Autodesk Classroom Training. To obtain more information about Autodesk's training services, visit www.autodesk.com/training.

You can also enroll in instructor-led training at Autodesk Authorized Training Center (ATC[®]) sites around the world. These training centers use Autodesk Official Training Courseware (AOTC) to deliver comprehensive courses for new and intermediate AutoCAD Architecture software users. To learn more, visit www.autodesk.com/atc.

6. Subscription

6.1 What benefits does an AutoCAD Architecture software subscription offer?

Autodesk Subscription is the best way to keep your design tools and learning up to date. For an annual fee you get the latest versions of your licensed Autodesk software, self-paced training options, access to subscription-only modules, and a broad range of other technology and business benefits.

With Autodesk Subscription, you can take advantage of Autodesk e-Learning. Its concise, self-paced online lessons are designed to address crucial application functions and industry practices. Experts in their respective industries developed the lessons to

challenge and enhance your existing knowledge. By the end of each 15- to 30-minute lesson, you will have worked with the content, demonstrated your knowledge, and have access to the files used in each exercise.

Autodesk Subscription also includes direct web support. You get one-to-one online communication with Autodesk support technicians for fast, complete answers to your installation, configuration, and troubleshooting questions. Web and email communications deliver support straight to your desktop. Plus you have web access to your account, so you can track and manage questions and responses.

For more information about Autodesk Subscription, contact your Autodesk Authorized Reseller or visit www.autodesk.com/subscription.

6.2 What is the Subscription Module for AutoCAD Architecture software?

The Subscription Module: Drawing Compare is available exclusively for AutoCAD Architecture software subscription customers.

The Drawing Compare module enhances collaboration by using color-coded displays to show items on a drawing that have been changed, added, or deleted by other members of the design team. Changes to items such as styles, fire ratings, or other nongraphical properties are also tracked. Combined with redlining features, such as revision clouds, the spaces and drawing compare features help make communication across the design team clearer than ever.

Autodesk Subscription customers can access the Drawing Compare module at www.autodesk.com/subscription.

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