

# Questions and Answers

AutoCAD® Architecture software is better for architects, with easy to use features that make construction document production easier, faster, and more accurate; all while working in the familiar AutoCAD environment.

Information exchange is simple using the industry-leading DWG™ format, and design data can be efficiently coordinated with engineers using AutoCAD® MEP and Revit® Structure.

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**1. What are the main benefits of AutoCAD Architecture software?**

**A Better AutoCAD for Architects**

The familiar AutoCAD workflow and interface enable you to get to work immediately. You have all of the AutoCAD functionality, plus tools for architectural drawing and design with software that is purpose-built for architects.

**Immediate Productivity**

Create documentation, drawings, and schedules faster, while automating tedious tasks and improving coordination. With AutoCAD Architecture you can also convert schedules to AutoCAD tables for better data manipulation and turn AutoCAD blocks into building objects for quicker and more accurate scheduling.

**Flexibility**

Because AutoCAD Architecture is built on the AutoCAD platform you can work the way you do today, integrating more powerful features at your own pace. For example, you can begin by using wall, door and window objects and move on to other features such as details when you're ready.

**Smooth Collaboration**

Information exchange is easy using the industry-leading DWG file format and the rich design information can be used to coordinate with engineers. Integrated rendering allows lifelike design visualizations that enhance communications with your customers. AutoCAD Architecture also has improved features for dispersed design teams including mapped drive support for the project browser, navigator, and sheet sets.

**2. Is AutoCAD Architecture the product formerly known as Architectural Desktop?**

Yes. For the 2008 version product release, the name of the product was changed from *Autodesk® Architectural Desktop* to *AutoCAD® Architecture*. This was done to more clearly communicate that the product is a better, faster version of AutoCAD software for those performing architectural drafting and design work.

Throughout this document and in other materials from Autodesk, "AutoCAD Architecture" refers to the 2008 version of the product formerly known as Autodesk Architectural Desktop.

**3. Is the user interface similar to that of AutoCAD software?**

The user interface for AutoCAD Architecture 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.

**4. Can I rely on my AutoCAD 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 will 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, and customized training

available through resellers. For more information, contact your Autodesk Authorized Reseller or visit [www.autodesk.com/subscription](http://www.autodesk.com/subscription).

### **5. What's a good way to get started with AutoCAD Architecture?**

There are many ways to begin. For example, you could start by using wall, door, and window objects from the design pallet. You could also begin by using the vast detail library to automate this common, time-consuming task. You'll be amazed at how fast you can complete your drafting and design work! As you feel ready, you can incorporate additional features to further improve your productivity.

### **6. What's the significance of 'architectural objects'?**

Objects improve design productivity and efficiency because they behave according to the specific properties that these elements have in the real world. 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.

### **7. Does AutoCAD Architecture use 3D?**

Because the objects in AutoCAD Architecture describe real-world building components, both 2D and 3D representations can be created automatically and either one can be used for viewing or editing. This conveniently integrates 2D and 3D functionality and allows 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; you can incorporate 3D into your design process at your own pace.

### **8. Can I use AutoCAD Architecture with Autodesk VIZ or Autodesk 3ds Max?**

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

### **9. Is AutoCAD Architecture compatible with earlier releases?**

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

### **10. Are AutoCAD Architecture and Revit Architecture files interoperable?**

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

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

### **11. Will my third-party applications work with the current release of AutoCAD Architecture?**

Your existing third-party applications may or may not be compatible with the current release of AutoCAD Architecture. 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, visit [www.autodesk.com/partnerproducts](http://www.autodesk.com/partnerproducts).

### **12. 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](http://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.

### **13. What are my options for training?**

Check with your local Authorized Autodesk Reseller for a schedule of AutoCAD Architecture training classes. To locate a reseller, visit [www.autodesk.com/reseller](http://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](http://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 users. To learn more, visit [www.autodesk.com/atc](http://www.autodesk.com/atc).

### **14. What are the hardware and system requirements?**

Following are the recommended hardware and operating system requirements for running AutoCAD Architecture.

Description	Requirement
Operating system	Microsoft® Windows® XP (SP2) or Windows Vista™
CPU	Intel® Pentium® 4, or AMD Athlon® 3.0 GHz or greater
Memory	3 GB RAM or greater
Display resolution	1280 x 1024 32-bit color video display adapter
Hard Disk	3.1 GB
Video Card	128 MB or greater, OpenGL®-capable workstation class graphics card.

**15. Is subscription available for AutoCAD Architecture?**

Yes, subscription is available in most countries for many of Autodesk's products including AutoCAD Architecture.

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, and a broad range of other technology and business benefits.

Autodesk Subscription 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 <http://www.autodesk.com/subscription>.

**16. What is the Subscription Module for AutoCAD Architecture?**

The *Subscription Module: Drawing Compare* is available exclusively for AutoCAD Architecture customers participating in the Autodesk Subscription program.

The new Drawing Compare feature 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 non-graphical 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.

Download this module now to get the new Drawing Compare feature at [www.autodesk.com/subscription](http://www.autodesk.com/subscription).

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