Chief Architect® Software

Home Designer® 2019

Feature Comparison

Feature Description	Interiors $79	Essentials $59	Suite $99	Architectural $199	Professional $495
MSRP					
Design Tools — Easy 2D and 3D Design. Objects you place in 2D plan view are automatically created in 3D, real-time. Generate 3D views and select, modify, move, and delete objects directly in the view.	■	■	■	■	■
Rotate Symbols in 3D. In 3D views easily rotate symbol objects in the X, Y, or Z planes using rotate edit handles for the selected side. Choose to automatically refresh CAD Block for symbol objects as they are rotated or modified. *	■	■	■	■	■
Editing Feedback. Preview the placement and orientation of objects while moving your cursor makes adding and moving items easy and fast.	■	■	■	■	■
Selected Edge Highlight Indicator. See visual cues, like highlight colors and filled edit handles, to identify the active edge of a selected object. *	■	■	■	■	■
Set Heights by Absolute or Relative Position. When editing objects, specify heights or offsets based on Absolute location in plan, or the object's relative position to other plan locations.	■	■	■	■	■
Create Billboard Image. Import a photo of your home as a background scene then design landscaping like plants and pathways.	--	■	■	■	■
Reference Display Tool. Turn on a Reference of adjacent floors to aid in designing multi-tiered decks or room layout between floors.	■	■	■	■	■
New Plan View. Open multiple tabbed windows of the same plan view, show different floors separately or adjust displayed layers in different tabs. *	--	--	--	--	■
Custom Room Label Controls. Name individual rooms from a defined list of types or create new custom room labels. Display the Dimensional Size and the Square Footage labels for a room in its label.	■	■	■	■	■
Customize Room Names. Customize the available rooms list to suit your most common needs and regional naming conventions.	■	■	■	■	■
Multi-Line Labels. Include line returns in customized labels to create wrapping effects and multi-line label text.	--	--	■	■	■
Multiple-Select Editing. For example, select all your cabinets and change them all with one command.	--	--	--	--	■

Feature Description	Interiors	Essentials	Suite	Architectural	Professional
Architectural Blocks. Multi-Select and group items together to create architectural blocks that can be moved as one, stored in the library, and unblocked for editing.	––	––	––	▪	▪
Object Painter™ / Eyedropper. Use eyedropper functionality to match properties from one object and apply them to another object. Use Scoping controls to apply changes to groups of objects at once.	▪	▪	▪	▪	▪
Lock Aspect Ratio for Resizing Symbols and Moldings. Choose to retain the scale of symbol based items and moldings when modifying one dimension.	▪	––	▪	▪	▪
Center Objects Tool. Center cabinets under windows, windows in walls, dormers on a roof, and several other items 3D and 2D.	▪	▪	▪	▪	▪
Make Parallel Tool. Use the Make Parallel tool to align objects parallel or perpendicular to other objects.	––	––	––	▪	▪
Edit Area Tool. Use Edit Area to select, move, edit, and copy entire regions of your design.	▪	▪	▪	▪	▪
Rotate and Reverse Plan. Quickly change the orientation of your design for alternate versions or to better fit the lot.	––	Excludes Rotate	Excludes Rotate	Excludes Rotate	▪
Draw Order Controls. Use the Draw Order Edit Tools to fully control the display of items in plan view in relation to each other. Move object forward and backward in a group, or move to different drawing groups altogether.	––	––	––	––	▪
Custom Watermarks. Create watermarks and display them on your work. Control location, size, angle, transparency, and include images in your watermark design. *	––	––	––	––	▪
Printable Layout Sheets. Create blueprint layouts with 3D, CAD, Cross-Section / Elevation, and Plan Views. Define any scale for the drawing.	––	––	––	––	▪
Live Layout Views. Specify views that have been sent to layout to update in real time or use edit tools and menu commands to update the view directly from the layout page. Select multiple layout views and modify their display modes and updating properties at once.	––	––	––	––	▪
Send Colorized Elevations to Layout. Generate fully detailed Section and Elevation views and send them to layout in color mode; views will retain scale, can reflect Render Techniques, and can be automatically updated in real-time.	––	––	––	––	▪
Perspective Layout Views. Create perspective views and send them to a layout and retain the view's link to the plan; easily transition to camera view and update it to the layout. Unlike an image sent to layout, these views can be printed at high resolution.	––	––	––	––	▪
Plot Line Layout Views with Shadows. Send views to layout as Plot Line views with controls over line weights; choose to include shadows and color fill in the view.	––	––	––	––	▪
Reshape Views Sent to Layout. Like other Polyline based items, add breaks and curved edges to Layout viewports to control cropping of their display on a layout page. *	––	––	––	––	▪

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Labeled Callouts. Use callouts to reference between details, plans, and cross-sections in a blueprint layout. See callout previews in specification dialog.	––	––	––	––	■
Backup Entire Plan. Export a bundle of all the files referenced in your plan, good for sharing with other users who do not have your custom materials and images.	■	■	■	■	■
Create Archival .ZIP files. Export an archive of a project that combines all files into a single .ZIP for easy storage.	■	■	■	■	■
Missing Graphic File Handling. Interface to aid in updating, replacing, deleting, and ignoring missing graphics files.	■	■	■	■	■
Space Planning Assistant. Layout out room boxes in a bubble diagram to quickly create a floor plan. Convert diagram into walls, windows, and doors to finalized and furnish the design.	■	■	■	■	■
Model Maker™ Tool. Using the Print Model feature allows you to print paper models that are tabbed for assembly.	––	■	■	■	■
Virtual Graph Paper™ displays a reference grid.	■	––	■	■	■
Plan Check™ reviews your design against basic building principles.	––	■	■	■	■
Room Planner Import. Create designs on your mobile device using Chief Architect Room Planner, and then import the rooms for detailed modification.	■	■	■	■	■
Import PDF Files. Retain print resolution and quality when printing final documents by using embedded PDF files.	––	––	■	■	■
3D Viewer Export. Save designs to the Cloud and share them for using on mobile devices and websites using the Chief Architect 3D Viewer App. *	■	––	■	■	■
Import 3D Library objects in .3DS, .OBJ, .SKP, & .DAE formats.	■	––	■	■	■
STL Import and Export. Use the .STL format to use with 3D Printers.	––	––	––	■	■
Rendering Controls. Set up camera angles and locations to create realistic 3D renderings with shadows in interior and exterior scenes.	■	■	■	■	■
Reflections and Shadows in Render Views. Quickly generate views where mirrors show reflections, sunlight streams through windows, and objects cast shadows. Navigate these scenes in real-time.	■	Excludes Reflections	■	■	■
Enhanced Render Features. Ambient Occlusion, Bloom, Normal Maps and Bump Maps are all elements that can add realism in Rendered Views.	■	■	■	■	■
Rendering Technique Tools. Create artistic views of your designs like Watercolor, Technical Illustration, and Vector Views.	Excludes Vector Views	––	––	■	■
Export image files of your designs to share. (.JPG, .PNG, .BMP).	■	■	■	■	■
Export 360° Spherical Views. Rendered cameras can be shared and embedded in websites for interactive navigation. Export these Render Views at a resolution of up to 8192 x 4096.	■	––	■	■	■

3D Tools

Feature Description	Interiors	Essentials	Suite	Architectural	Professional
Save 360° Renderings to the Cloud. Easily save your 360° renderings to the Chief Architect Cloud, and share them or embed them into web pages. *	––	––	■	■	■
HD Picture Export. Create and export high-quality, larger than screen resolution renders.	––	––	––	––	■
Crop Picture Images Added to Plan. Crop handles allow picture boundaries to be reduced or enlarged.	■	■	■	■	■
Export Images with Transparent Background. Export .PNG and .TIF images that treat the backdrop as transparent, making it easy to overlay the graphics on other artwork without the need for additional photo manipulation.	––	––	––	––	■
Create accurate day or night-time views of your lighting plan.	No Night Views	■	■	■	■
Custom Lighting. Define shadows, intensity, and more. Locate lights by label name or room location with the Adjust Lighting Dialog.	No Adjust Lighting Dialog	––	––	■	■
Specify Number of Lights Used per Scene. Choose to display more than 8 light sources in your 3D views. Set the maximum number of lights used in the Camera Specification dialog. *	■	■	■	■	■
Control whether shadows are generated through defaults for perspective and orthographic cameras, or toggle them ON or OFF and save the state with a particular view.	■	■	■	■	■
Multiple Camera Defaults. Specify default values for each camera type; control, layer assignment, active Rendering Technique, and more. *	––	––	––	––	■
Sun and Shadow Controls per Camera. Specify that the sun follows the same angle as the camera or choose to save the location of the sunlight for each camera in your design.	■	Excludes Saved Cameras	■	■	■
Easily Control Lighting. Edit controls for lighting allow you to turn lights on or off with a single click.	■	■	■	■	■
Lighting Units. Choose from common wattage/lumens values for lights or specify custom values.	■	––	––	■	■
Saved Cameras. Save and load 3D and Render Views to quickly view your favorite camera images.	■	––	■	■	■
Copy Saved Cameras. Duplicate perspective and overview cameras in the same plan, or between existing plans, to easily replicate angle, direction, and other camera attributes.	■	––	■	■	■
Opaque Glass in Camera Views. Set glass to appear as solid fill (non-transparent) in camera views. Choose to show glass as opaque or transparent by default per Render Technique, or adjust individual views.	––	––	––	––	■
Group Select and Edit Cameras. Select multiple cameras at one time and edit their properties, like height off floor or the Rendering Technique used. *	––	––	––	––	■
Cross-Section Slider with Multiple Cutting Planes. Choose up to six cutting planes in the Cross-Section Slider view and adjust the cutting distance for each plane to create unique and detailed views.	■	■	■	■	■

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Save Cross-Section Slider with Camera. Adjustments to views using the Cross-Section Slider are saved with the view when the camera is saved.	▪	--	▪	▪	▪
Display Lower Levels with the Floor Overview Camera. A 3D display option allows lower floors to be viewed under a current floor, such as open below rooms used for stairways or lofts.	▪	--	▪	▪	▪
Full control of render settings allows you to customize your realistic rendering for speed or visual quality.	--	--	--	--	▪
Delete Surface Tool. Explore your structure in 3D by temporarily removing surfaces without changing your design.	▪	▪	▪	▪	▪
Leverage the North Pointer for Sun Angles. Create Sun Angles with accurate longitude, latitude, date, and time; use North Pointer as bearing for sun angle. Easily identify Sun Angles to be used for saved cameras or to be adjusted by their date and time naming.	--	--	--	--	▪
Convert Polyline Tool. Create 3D objects (countertops, slabs, terrain features, and more) from CAD objects.	--	--	--	--	▪
Aerial View. Secondary view window gives overview for fast navigation of plan while editing close up.	--	--	--	--	▪
Material Eye-Dropper and Color Chooser™. Quick "click-and-drop" application of materials and colors.	▪	▪	▪	▪	▪
Apply Plan Materials using Material Painter. Choose from a list of materials from the Library Browser or Plan Materials to quickly select new materials or reuse those that are used in your design.	--	--	--	--	▪
Blend Color Tool. Change the Color of any material while retaining its texture, similar to applying stain to wood.	▪	▪	▪	▪	▪
3D Mouse Support. Use a 3Dconnexion Mouse as your input device to efficiently navigate camera views.	▪	▪	▪	▪	▪
3D Navigation. Easily navigate 3D views in and intuitive way. Use the 3D Focus on Object tool and select an object to make it the camera's target, or select an object then use the Focus on Selected edit tool to make the selected object the target; use [ALT + Middle Mouse] button controls to enter Orbit mode; system returns to previous edit state when buttons are released.	▪	▪	▪	▪	▪
Record Walkthrough Videos Along a Specified Path. Add key frames at any point on the spline to control view direction and speed; walk up or down stairs and to span walkthrough between floors.	--	--	▪	▪	▪
iOS Compatible Movies. Record Walkthrough Videos and animations that you can share to watch on your iOS devices. Available in the Mac version only.	▪	--	▪	▪	▪
Record Walkthrough Videos using the stylized views of Rendering Techniques.	--	--	--	▪	▪
Cost Estimating / Materials List — Standard Project Cost Estimation. Automatically generate a materials list for budgeting and planning an entire project.	Interior Materials	House Materials	▪	▪	▪

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Advanced Project Cost Estimator. Automatically generate a materials list for budget planning, by room, by floor, or by entire project.	--	--	■	■	■
Specify when a room is calculated in the Living Area. For example, specify the garage or attic to be included or excluded in the living area calculation.	■	■	■	■	■
Deck and Framing Cut & Buy Lists. A Structural Lumber Table can be used to calculate lumber materials for a Cut & Buy List. This calculation is in addition to square feet and lineal feet calculations and can be especially helpful for your framing and decking board calculations.	--	--	■	■	■
Export Materials Lists to spreadsheet programs including Microsoft® Excel.	Text File Only	Text File Only	Text File Only	Text File Only	■
Save snapshot Materials Lists for different stages of the project. Allows you to evaluate different ideas, compare cost differences, and plan stages of construction.	--	--	--	--	■
Add detail to each individual component in the materials list for a comprehensive cost estimate breakdown. For example, assign components to your cabinets, such as doors, pulls, and hinges and assign costs for each item.	--	--	--	--	■
Find in Plan from the Materials List. Select items from the materials list and choose to Show in Plan to identify and locate them in your design. *	■	■	■	■	■
Master List allows you to store and manage commonly-used material prices.	--	--	--	--	■
Dimensioning Manual and Automatic dimensioning. Includes One-Click™ Automatic dimensions.	■	■	■	■	■
Auto Refresh Exterior Dimensions. Keep Auto Exterior Dimensions up-to-date as you move walls and openings in your design.	■	■	■	■	■
Exclude Interior Walls from Auto Exterior Dimension. Set up Auto Exterior Dimension Default to exclude interior walls.	--	--	--	--	■
Automatic Interior Dimensions. Automatically dimension interior rooms. Set defaults for locating objects.	■	--	■	■	■
Delete Automatic Dimensions. Use the Delete Objects tool to delete Automatic Dimensions from a Floor or the Entire Plan. Manually edited or modified dimensions will remain.	■	■	■	■	■
Temporary Dynamic Wall Dimension. Display temporary dimensions as walls are drawn.	■	■	■	■	■
Advanced Dimensioning Tools. Includes angular, point-to-point, and interior dimensions.	Interior Dimensions	--	Interior Dimensions	Interior Dimensions	■
Fully Editable Dimensions. Define where dimensions locate walls, windows, doors, and other objects, when generating dimensions automatically or manually.	--	--	--	--	■
Input Accurate Dimensions using a DISTO™ or other Laser Distance Meter. Use a Bluetooth or Wireless compatible device to automatically measure a space then input the distances directly into dimension strings. *Requires Leica plugin and is compatible with PC only.	■	■	■	■	■

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Adjust Position using Dimensions. Use dimensions to quickly position objects with precision. Use simple arithmetic formulas while editing dimensions to easily move objects in a design.	▪	▪	▪	▪	▪
Wall Editing with Dimensions. Adjust wall lengths by selecting dimensions or temporary dimensions that run parallel to the wall.	▪	▪	▪	▪	▪
Dimension Location Snaps for Furniture Items. Set dimensions to snap to the centers and/or sides of furniture objects.	––	––	––	––	▪
Tape Measure Tool. Use the Tape Measure Tool to find the measurements of any item.	▪	▪	▪	▪	▪
End-to-End Dimension Tool. Drag dimension from start to finish creating a single dimension string.	▪	▪	▪	▪	▪
Dimension Number Height Control. Adjust the number height for dimensions on a per-dimension basis.	▪	▪	▪	▪	▪
Default Dimension Format & Arrows. Control the unit formatting, arrows for the default dimensions. Quickly change the look of the dimensions in your design through a single dialog.	▪	▪	▪	▪	▪
Create Elevation, Wall Elevation, and Cross Section Views for the interior and exterior of your design.	––	No Cross Section	No Cross Section	No Cross Section	▪
Create back-clipped Cross Section/Elevation Views to limit your view to relevant details for precise plan editing.	––	––	––	––	▪
Clip Cross-Section Views at Sides. Turn on clipping for sides of cross-sections views.	––	––	––	––	▪
Create Rendered Elevation and Cross-Section Views with photo-realistic textures.	––	No Cross Section	No Cross Section	No Cross Section	▪
Import / Export files in DXF file format.	––	––	Export Only	Export Only	▪
Standard CAD tools to detail your designs.	▪	▪	▪	▪	▪
Advanced CAD tools to detail cross-section views with insulation, cross-boxes, blocking box, and more.	––	––	––	––	▪
Polyline Editing. Select any polyline and choose Close Polyline to automatically connect the start and end points. Editing of filleted polylines retains fillet radius.	––	––	––	––	▪
Advanced CAD editing tools such as replicate, line weights, point-to-point move, custom patterns, and more.	––	––	––	––	▪
Edit CAD using Same Line Type Control. Quickly create new line, spline, or arc segments at the end of existing objects using the Same Line Type handle.	––	––	––	––	▪
Stretch CAD Tool. Similar to Edit Area; create a marquee that contains * or excludes CAD end points and move selection to stretch and scale the components within the selection area.	––	––	––	––	▪
Visual CAD Snaps™ feature with setup dialog and snap options to control.	––	––	––	––	▪
Box and Bumpout Extension Snaps. Snap to projected 90° intersections.	Not Visual	Not Visual	Not Visual	Not Visual	▪
Toggle control for Angle Snaps & Object Snaps.	▪	▪	▪	▪	▪

CAD / Elevations

Feature Description	Interiors	Essentials	Suite	Architectural	Professional
Layers can be used to separate key building components such as electrical or framing. Display or hide features of your design, set colors, lock layers, and use reference layers for precise editing.	Limited	Limited	Limited	Limited	■
Automatic Roof Labels. Display labels for roofs, skylights and holes. Label includes pitch direction arrow and the roof angle in pitch or degrees. Modify the arrow style and text style of the roof labels.	––	––	––	■	■
Specify labels for Light Source or "added light" objects. Uniquely name light sources in your scenes for easy recognition.	––	––	––	––	■
Primary and Secondary Terrain contour labels. Control the highlight for negative value contour labels.	––	––	Primary Only	Primary Only	■
Control Over Arrowhead Style. Specify the arrowhead type used for Joist Directions, Sun Angles, Roof Labels, and Stairs and Ramps.	––	––	––	––	■
Text Tools and Customization. Add custom text as notes and modify text in plan with attributes and treatments like font, bold, underline, caps, size, and color.	■	■	■	■	■
Text Style Tools. Create Text Styles and assign them per layer, per default, or per object to control the appearance of labels, dimensions and other text in your design.	Limited	Limited	Limited	Limited	■
Show or Hide Electrical Connections, Architectural Blocks, Hardware, along with other elements using layer controls.	■	■	■	■	■
Plant Schedules. Manage multiple schedules of the same type and independently control their display of labels. Schedules update when items in the plan are added to or removed from the schedule display.	––	––	––	■	■
Automatic GFCI Outlets in Kitchens. Use the Auto Place Outlet tool to add GFCI outlets to your kitchen rooms.	■	■	■	■	■
Cabinet Tools. Place base, wall and full height cabinets, partitions and shelves, and soffits and edit them to suit your design.	■	■	■	■	■
Advanced Cabinets. Attach moldings & hardware, angled front cabinets, and more.	Moldings Only	––	––	■	■
Place Multiple Appliances in a Cabinet. Add an oven and a warming drawer to the same cabinet; adjust or replace the appliance type by editing it in the Cabinet Specification dialog.	––	––	––	––	■
Insert Items inside Cabinets. Attach custom shelves, storage, and hardware items into cabinet boxes and specify their behavior per face item. *	––	––	––	––	■
Cabinet Mounted Electrical. Attach outlets and switches to the sides of cabinet boxes, soffits, and panels. Outlets will automatically snap to, and move with, cabinets with which they are associated.	■	■	■	■	■
Multiple Door and Drawer Styles per Cabinet. Assign different door or drawer styles to a single cabinet; wall cabinets with glass doors on top; drawer bases with slab and panel drawers.	––	––	––	––	■

Windows / Doors / Cabinets

Feature Description	Interiors	Essentials	Suite	Architectural	Professional
Evenly Space Doors and Drawers on Cabinet Fronts. Use the Equalize Layout button on Horizontal and Vertical Layouts to space their components equally.	--	--	--	--	■
Multiple Faced Cabinets. Use the Split Items button to add horizontal and vertical layout of doors and drawers on any cabinet. Create Entertainment Centers and Vanity cabinets with doors on one side and drawers on the other.	--	--	--	--	■
Cabinet Face Item Locking. Lock editing on cabinet face items. Size of appliances inserted into cabinet fronts are given higher priority when resizing face items.	■	■	■	■	■
Edit Multiple Cabinets' Configuration at Once. Group select cabinets and modify their face items at one time to create similar cabinets easily.	--	--	--	--	■
Dynamic Cabinet Face Defaults. Configure the default cabinet front to automatically update cabinets in the design that are set as "Use Default".	■	■	■	■	■
Top and Bottom Hinged Cabinet Doors. Design cabinets with awning and hopper style doors.	■	■	■	■	■
Specify Cabinet Top Height. Quickly adjust wall cabinet heights to the same level using the floor to top control in the Cabinet Specification Dialog.	■	■	■	■	■
Control Cabinet Hardware. Use the Center option to adjust cabinet drawer hardware location, also specify cases where two knobs will be used.	■	■	■	■	■
Cabinet Hardware per Drawer. Control the hardware attached to any door or drawer on a single cabinet separately.	--	--	--	--	■
Control Soffit Molding. Specify whether soffits interact with room molding from within the Soffit Specification dialog.	■	■	■	■	■
Control Counter Overhang. Control the overhang distance of automatic countertops for each side of a cabinet.	■	--	■	■	■
Rounded Countertop Corners for Automatic Countertops.	--	--	--	--	■
Custom Backsplash Tool. Click to generate a Custom Backsplash that automatically fits around cabinets, openings, and appliances.	--	--	--	■	■
Dimension to Cabinet Toe Kicks, Moldings, Backsplashes and Countertops. Set up locate configuration for dimensions; use the automatic dimension tools in elevation views to automatically include these dimensions.	--	--	--	--	■
Cabinet Closed Toe Always Present. Set cabinet toekick to closed on a per-cabinet basis, regardless of the cabinet being connected or adjacent to other cabinets.	--	--	--	--	■
Frameless Cabinet Settings. Change the cabinet style in one click with the Frameless and Full Overlay options for cabinets.	--	--	--	--	■
Specify a Separate Material for Cabinet Toe Kicks. Assign different materials to cabinet boxes and toe kicks.	■	■	■	■	■
Design and edit Custom Countertop shapes and styles.	--	--	--	■	■

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Pass-Through Tool. Create an opening between two rooms.	■	––	■	■	■
Atrium Door Options. Create Center Swing Double Doors, also known as atrium patio doors.	––	––	––	––	■
Visualize door placement prior to actually placing the door with intuitive control of the hinge and swing.	■	■	■	■	■
Window and Door Casings Display in Plan View. Display or hide interior and exterior casings using the "Casings, Interior" and "Casings, Exterior" layers.	––	––	––	––	■
Lintel and Sill Control. Separately display Lintels or Sills for windows.	––	––	––	––	■
Automatic Frame Depth. Set window frame depth to automatically fit into wall.	––	––	––	––	■
Door Defaults by Door Type. Set unique door defaults for different types of doors: hinged, pocket, bifold, sliding, and garage.	■	■	■	■	■
Control Trim for Interior Doors and Windows. Separately specify the materials and trim assigned to each side of an opening.	■	■	■	■	■
Objects Bump at Casings. Move cabinets, furniture, or other objects and bump to stop their movement when encountering door and window casings.	■	■	■	■	■
3D Door Display Options. Edit tools "Show Door Open in 3D" and "Show Door Closed in 3D" make it fast and easy to control the state of doors in 3D views.	■	■	■	■	■
Place Windows and Doors at Wall Joints. Span windows and doors at the intersection of multiple walls or at wall breaks to accurately represent the placement of openings in a variety of construction situations .	■	■	■	■	■
Adjust the Hinge/Swing Amount for Bi-fold doors.	––	––	––	––	■
Parametric Window Tools. Create Double-Hung, Fixed, Casement, Hopper, and other windows styles and change a window's style on the fly using parametric tools.	■	■	■	■	■
Bay, Box, Bow Window Tools. Click and drop bay, box, and bow windows in a wall. Resize and customize the unit as a whole.	■	■	■	■	■
Floor and Ceiling Material and Thickness Control for Bay/Box/Bow Windows. Specify floor and ceiling finish and platform thickness in the windows' specification dialog.	■	■	■	■	■
Adjustable Louver Sizes. Louver attribute allows you to control their size in windows and doors.	––	––	––	––	■
Arched Top Windows & Doors. Specify Round Top, Gothic Arch, or Broken Arch shapes to windows and doors. Adjust the amount of curvature.	■	––	■	■	■
Angled Top Window Controls. Adjust the angle of window tops. Apply changes to the left, right, or center of the window.	■	––	■	■	■
Corner Windows. Bump windows together at wall corners and choose to include or remove the corner post at the sash joint to create a glass corner.	––	––	––	––	■

Feature Description	Interiors	Essentials	Suite	Architectural	Professional
		Libraries / Catalogs			
Window Treatments & Interior Shutters. Adjust curtains by the height off floor and height above casing. Specify shutters on the interior of a window. Blinds fit inside casing when attached to windows.	■	––	––	■	■
Comments and Notes per Object. Use the Object Information panel to easily add and manipulate Code, Comment, Description, and Manufacturer fields through items' specification dialog.	––	––	––	––	■
Included Library Items for customize and create designs. Fixtures, furniture, accessories, and materials to create your scenes. Add more variety by downloading Bonus and Branded catalogs from Chief Architect's 3D Library.	4,800+	5,000+	6,500+	8,800+	8,800+
Brand Specific Library Items. Downloadable catalogs can be added to your library browser to expand the selection of Brand Name objects for enhancing your designs and scenes. New catalogs offered regularly.	45,000+	––	45,000+	46,000+	46,000+
Bonus Catalog Add-Ons. Generic furniture, materials, fixtures, hardware, and accessories, some free and others for purchase, can be downloaded and added to your library browser for more design choices. New catalogs made available monthly.	4,300+	4,300+	4,600+	4,700+	4,700+
Catalog Migration. Core, Bonus, Manufacturer and User Catalogs from previous installs automatically migrate and update to latest version at install time. Use the catalog migration dialog to specify which catalogs to bring forward.	■	■	■	■	■
Automatic Catalog Updates. Check for updates for catalogs distributed by Chief Architect and automatically update to the latest version.	■	■	■	■	■
Advanced library items - Cabinet/Door Hardware, and molding profiles.	Moldings Only	Moldings Only	Moldings Only	■	■
Ability to Add items to the Library Browser.	■	––	■	■	■
Ability to Export Custom Libraries. Share your libraries with other Home Designer Users.	■	––	■	■	■
Export Entire User Library. Easily backup and transfer User Library at the top level of the User Library Tree.	■	■	■	■	■
Library Search Bar and Context Menus. Quickly search for Library items * by keyword, object type, or style. Choose to search for items in entire catalog or in specific folders only. Customize search attributes for User Catalog content.	■	■	■	■	■
Library Browser filtered views. Choose to show or hide entire library catalogs in the Library Browser tree.	––	––	––	––	■
Library Tree Categories. Manufacturer, User, Home Designer Core, and Bonus catalogs are grouped into separate categories for easier navigation.	■	Excludes Manufacturer and Bonus categories.	■	■	■
Import New 3D Objects from Library Browser. Use the Right-Click contextual menu in the Library Browser to import new 3D Objects directly into their Library folder.	■	––	■	■	■

Feature Description	Interiors	Essentials	Suite	Architectural	Professional
Library Object Shortcuts. Create shortcut items to any object in the Library Browser to customize your organization.	■	■	■	■	■
Library Catalog Downloads Status. Options to Continue or Cancel downloads when Home Designer closes. Catalog Downloads automatically restart if Home Designer is closed then re-launched.	■	■	■	■	■
Multiple Select Library Items. Use the Shift or Ctrl keys to copy, move, and edit groups of objects.	■	■	■	■	■
Symbol Object Specification Editable from Library. Edit specifications like Height Off Floor and Label for unlocked library items and save with the object in the Library Browser.	■	■	■	■	■
3D Preview of Lights in Library Browser. Library objects defined as Lights display 3D preview in Library Browser instead of 2D, allowing for easier identification of individual objects.	■	■	■	■	■
View number of Objects in Library Catalog. Select any folder to view on the Status Bar the number of items.	■	■	■	■	■
Stairs / Ramps / Railings Stairs and Ramps. Draw stairs or ramps in designs and modify length, raisers, treads, and style of stairs. See stair preview in dialog to preview your modifications.	Excludes Ramps	Excludes Ramps	Excludes Ramps	■	■
Auto L-Shaped and U-Shaped Stairs. Use the L and U stair tools to automatically drop stairs with landings into plans; stairs will orient and snap to adjacent walls.	■	■	■	■	■
Advanced stair tools allow control of shape, starter treads, flaring, tread width, and more. Full control over curved staircases.	––	––	––	Limited	■
Stair Railings. Railings specified for stairs can be customized with different rail styles (balusters, open, middle rail, panels)and multiple rails.	■	––	■	■	■
One-Click™ Stairs & Ramps. Auto place stairs from platform to platform. Place full length stairs with a single click. Stairs and Ramps automatically connect to the terrain when drawn from the ground to the structure.	Excludes Ramps	Excludes Ramps	Excludes Ramps	■	■
Define Stair Starting Elevation. Specify whether stairs and ramps are located at the sub-floor or the finished floor elevation.	––	––	––	––	■
Wrap Around Stairs. Join stairs on outside or inside corners.	■	■	■	■	■
Landing Tool. Create Custom Landings to auto-connect Stair sections or Ramp sections together. Choose auto adjust features for the height and thickness based on stair or ramp connection. Turn railings on or off per Landing edge.	Excludes Editing and Auto Adjust	Excludes Editing and Auto Adjust	Excludes Editing and Auto Adjust	Excludes Editing and Auto Adjust	■
Landing Controls. Modify railings on landings independently from stairs. Dialog preview allows you to visualize your landing as you manipulate its properties.	■	––	■	■	■
Shoe Control for Railings. Control the height off of floor for the bottom rail (shoe) for Railings and Ramp Railings.	Railings Only	Railings Only	Railings Only	■	■
Control Railing Beam Materials. Set the material assigned to beams above railings separately from other railing components.	■	■	■	■	■

Feature Description		Interiors	Essentials	Suite	Architectural	Professional
Assign symbol Railing Balusters, Newels, and Panels. Specify railings, balusters, and newels from the Library Browser for railing walls.		▪	▪	▪	▪	▪
Railing Top and Bottom Rail. Specify railings and fences with symbol panels, then define whether a hand railing and shoe rail will be included.		▪	▪	▪	▪	▪
Turn off Posts for Railings. Easily specify whether railings or fences include posts with the "No Posts" control.	*	––	––	––	––	▪
Ramp Tool. Default Ramp is ADA compliant. Specify length, slope rise and run for non-traditional ramps such as skateboard ramps.		––	––	––	No Rise and Run Controls	▪
Automatic building tools for roof generation, stairs, dimensioning, foundations, and more.		▪	▪	▪	▪	▪
Automatic building tools for framing and electrical.		––	▪	▪	▪	▪
Ceiling Plane tool - create custom ceilings of any slope and shape; vaulted, cathedral, and more.		––	––	––	––	▪
Ceiling Planes Relative to Floor. Custom ceiling planes can be set as "Relative to Floor" to easily locate them in reference to floor levels other than level 1.		––	––	––	––	▪
Building tools to customize floors and ceilings. Control over ceiling height and vault.		▪	▪	▪	▪	▪
Automatic Roofs. Gable, hip, shed, gambrel, and more. Access roof defaults for each project.		▪	▪	▪	▪	▪
Automatic Dutch Gable Roof. Specify wall attribute to automatically generate a gable-on-hip roof over the wall.	*	▪	▪	▪	▪	▪
Gable & Hip Roof Toggle tool. Toggle the roof between these two styles using the Gable / Hip tool in 3D and 2D.		▪	▪	▪	▪	▪
One-Click Auto Dormer™. Build dormer on roof automatically while cutting a hole for the ceiling.		––	––	▪	▪	▪
Automatic Structural Dormers. Build dormers automatically with walls that reach the floor.		––	––	––	––	▪
Dormer Overhang Controls. Separately control the eave and gable overhang distance for automatic dormers.		––	––	▪	▪	▪
Unblock and manually edit Automatic Dormers.		––	––	––	––	▪
Auto Place and Delete Corner Boards and Quoins. Automatically add or remove trim details to wall corners.		––	––	––	▪	▪
Auto Roof Returns™.		––	––	▪	▪	▪
Ridge Caps automatically generate on roofs.		▪	▪	▪	▪	▪
Flush End Boxed Eaves. Auto-generate boxed roof soffits that are flush at gable walls and control their materials.		––	––	––	––	▪
Manual Roof Tools. Create and edit any custom roof planes. Start with an automatic roof and then add custom details, or create the entire roof manually.		––	––	––	––	▪

Building Tools

Feature Description	Interiors	Essentials	Suite	Architectural	Professional
Control Rafter Spacing per Roof Plane. Specify rafter spacing values for individual roof planes in a design.	--	--	--	--	▪
Customize construction methods for walls, floors, ceilings, and foundations. Specify wall layers, floor structure, platform height, mudsills, framing methods, and more.	--	--	--	--	▪
Multiple Framing Types. Choose from a wide selection of framing types * when designing your structure; from lumber, to steel, to engineered materials like LVL, PSL, and VSL. Framing labels reflect the type of material specified.	--	--	--	--	▪
Specify Mudsill per Wall. Adjust the thickness of mudsill framing on a wall by wall basis.	--	--	--	--	▪
Design Multiple-Story Buildings. Create structures with up to 5 floor levels in addition to an attic and basement foundation.	3 Levels	3 Levels	3 Levels	▪	▪
Wall Defaults. Default controls for interior and exterior walls.	--	--	--	--	▪
Custom Wall Types. Create, copy, and delete wall types with layers to match your projects.	--	--	--	▪	▪
Easily Modify Wall Types. Use controls in the Wall Type Definition dialog to easily move wall layers toward the interior or exterior of the wall, set materials, and define individual properties of each wall layer.	--	--	--	▪	▪
Multiple Framing Layers in Wall. Create wall types with multiple framing layers and automatically generate framing for both layers; ideal for furred basement walls.	--	--	--	▪	▪
Paint One Wall. Quickly change the material on the surface of a single wall in a room.	▪	▪	▪	▪	▪
Wall Labels. Specify wall labels to identify individual walls.	--	--	--	--	▪
Half-Wall Tool. Draw half walls and specify their default values (also known as solid railings).	▪	--	▪	▪	▪
Create pony walls and edit wall shape in cross-section view. Add beadboard to a kitchen, add stone to the outside of your design, or create a stepped foundation for a hillside lot.	--	--	--	Limited	▪
Pony Wall Height Controls. Adjust the height of individual Pony Walls by typing the lower wall's height into the dialog.	--	--	--	▪	▪
Railing Over Solid Wall. Generate Pony Walls with a railing as the upper * wall type.	--	--	--	--	▪
Pony Wall Framing. Automatically generate framing of different sizes for upper and lower pony walls by specifying different wall types.	--	--	--	--	▪
Short Ceilings for Rooms within Larger Rooms. Create plant shelves, shorter closets, or other rooms that have a lower ceiling than the greater space and control the ceiling platform and materials automatically.	▪	▪	▪	▪	▪
Specify Foundation types by room.	--	--	--	--	▪
Treated Bottom Plates. Any wall over concrete foundation or flooring automatically generates a treated bottom plate.	--	--	--	--	▪

Feature Description	Interiors	Essentials	Suite	Architectural	Professional
Elevation and Cross-Section cameras show the foundation in the view - see your basement, slab, or crawlspace in a section view.	––	No Cross Section	No Cross Section	No Cross Section	■
Vertical Footing Control. Define stepped foundations with vertical footing control. Choose to show or hide vertical footings for stepped foundations.	––	––	––	––	■
Specify Foundation Piers as Round or Square. Toggle between square and round with a single click.	––	––	––	––	■
Garage Slabs with Monolithic Foundations. Select components of the slab and adjust garage specific settings to suit your design.	––	––	––	––	■
Foundations with Slab at top of Stem Wall.	––	––	––	––	■
Display cutout indicators for Garage Doors in foundation stem walls and curbing. Choose to show or hide foundation cutouts in Plan view through the window or door's dialog.	■	■	■	■	Show or Hide through Dialog
Foundation Defaults. Detailed control over the foundation automatically generated for Garage rooms.	■	––	■	■	■
Monolithic Slab technology. Designing slab foundations is fast, easy, and accurate.	■	■	■	■	■
Slab Volume listed in the slab specification dialog for easy reference.	––	––	––	––	■
Control Roof Lookout Framing. Turn on or off the automatic generation of lookout framing in the Framing dialog.	––	––	––	––	■
Manual framing tools for fully editable framing, including joists, rafters, trusses, beams, posts, and more. Create any framing system for your design.	––	––	––	––	■
Automatic Framing Control. Set the program to update your framing as the design changes.	––	––	––	––	■
Post & Beam Framing Tools. Specify Round or Square posts. Set the Default Material for Posts in the framing defaults.	––	––	––	––	■
Specify the size and style (In Line, Stagger, or Cross) of Roof Blocking and Bridging.	––	––	––	––	■
Advanced architectural object editing including replication, rotation, and reflection.	––	––	––	––	■
Landscaping / Decking / Terrain — Landscaping Plants.	Interior Plants Only	500+	3,600+	3,600+	3,600+
Home Designer Suite has access to full selection of plant images. *	––	––	■	––	––
Plant Encyclopedia & Plant Chooser™. Looks for special characteristic specific to available plants in the catalog, including common name, zone, water and light needs, and 2D or 3D available objects.	––	––	■	■	■
Plant Hardiness Zone Maps.	––	––	■	■	■
Plant Schedules. Generate a list of all the plants used in your design; use different schedule callout shapes as reference labels to plants in designs.	––	––	––	■	■

Feature Description	Interiors	Essentials	Suite	Architectural	Professional
Grow Plants Slider Tool - 0 - 20 years.	––	––	––	▪	▪
Distribute Objects in Garden Beds. Auto-populate your garden beds automatically.	––	▪	▪	▪	▪
Show plants with filled colors in your 2D landscape design.	––	▪	▪	▪	▪
2D plant symbol types allow you to customize the look and feel of your landscape and plants.	––	▪	▪	▪	▪
Lock and Reset the aspect ratio for plants and images - choose to stretch or resize plants and images based on your design needs.	▪	▪	▪	▪	▪
Landscaping Style Templates.	––	––	Limited	▪	▪
Complete Deck & Fence Tools.	––	––	––	▪	▪
Deck Designer™ Tool. Design Straight and Curved Decks. Define roof and ceiling attributes for a covered deck. Control the orientation and size of deck planking, gap, width, overhang, direction, border planks.	––	––	––	▪	▪
Auto Re-Build Deck Framing. Deck Framing updates as the deck design changes.	––	▪	▪	▪	▪
Treated Deck Framing. Specify Deck Framing Members as "treated" to reflect the lumber type in your materials list.	––	––	––	––	▪
Advanced Railing Tools. Custom Railing Panels, Control of Height & Railing Styles, great for custom decks.	––	––	▪	▪	▪
Polygon Deck tool creates deck shapes automatically.	––	––	▪	▪	▪
Deck Planking Control. Change angles, borders, and create patterns with deck planking.	––	––	––	▪	▪
Deck Support Controls. Specify size and type of deck posts and height, width, shape of deck footings for individual deck rooms or as project defaults.	––	––	––	––	▪
Deck Framing Layers. Deck framing, posts, beams, and footings are each added to their own separate layers.	▪	▪	▪	▪	▪
Deck Post and Beam Defaults. Control defaults for fill, size, line style, and other attributes for deck structures.	––	––	––	––	▪
Pre-Arranged Garden Beds.	––	▪	▪	▪	▪
Standard Landscaping Terrain Tools.	––	▪	▪	▪	▪
Advanced Landscaping Terrain Tools. Hill and Valley tools for terrain features.	––	––	▪	▪	▪
Terrain Hole Tool. Cut holes in terrain for pools, spas, and advanced terrain features.	––	––	▪	▪	▪
Define custom Terrain, including sloped lots and input elevation points.	––	––	▪	▪	▪
Import Terrain Assistant.	––	––	▪	▪	▪
Create split-entry homes with daylight basements.	––	––	▪	▪	▪

Feature Description	Interiors	Essentials	Suite	Architectural	Professional
Straight & Curved Terrain Walls, Curbs, & Retaining Wall tools.	––	––	■	■	■
Straight & Curved Roads & Sidewalks, & Driveway & Parking Lot tools.	––	Straight Sidewalks Only	■	■	■
Stepping Stone Tools. Click and drop stepping stone shapes onto terrain to quickly create paths and hardscaping interest.	––	––	■	■	■
Water Feature Tools. Create various shaped ponds and water features or design a lake front home.	––	Round Only	■	■	■
Stream Tools. Add streams, creeks, and water features to your design.	––	––	■	■	■
Image/Plant Object Specification. Set the X and Y coordinates for image and plant objects for specific planting definition.	––	––	■	■	■
Define Terrain Elevation Splines, Elevation Regions, and Terrain Breaks.	––	––	Elevation Regions	Elevation Regions	■
Import GPS Assistant. Quickly model your terrain with GPS data.	––	––	■	■	■
Display angles as Azimuth Bearings.	––	––	––	––	■
Dimension to Plants & Images.	■	––	■	■	■
Mac and PC compatible. Home Designer can be installed and run natively either on Mac or Windows operating systems with a single license.	■	■	■	■	■
64-bit Software. The 64-bit version is more efficient in managing memory and you will see better performance on larger plan files.	■	■	■	■	■
Support for Multiple Monitors. Tabbed view windows can be torn or undocked from main user interface and moved between monitors independently.	■	■	■	■	■
Touch Screen Optimization. Smooth and accurate touch controls for pinch zoom, pan, rotate and other controls for Windows computers (not supported by Mac OS).	■	■	■	■	■
Unicode Special Character Support. User accounts and files using accented Western letters can be leveraged for most interactions in the software.	■	■	■	■	■
HD Interface Graphics and Icons. Toolbar buttons and high definition icons scale to fit screen resolutions and increased DPI (128px vs 20px).	■	■	■	■	■
Rendered Previews in Dialogs. View, rotate, and spin previews of 3D objects in specification dialogs to get a better sense of their attributes while making modifications.	■	■	■	■	■
Migration Tools. Easily bring forward settings from previous versions.	■	■	■	■	■
Maximum Print Size.	12" x 18"	8.5" x 14"	12" x 18"	12" x 18"	18" x 24"
Save Prints in PDF Format. Save to a PDF file for outsourcing a print job.	■	■	■	■	■
Loan/Mortgage Calculator.	––	––	■	■	■

General / Support (row group label)

Feature Description	Interiors	Essentials	Suite	Architectural	Professional
Fully editable working environment including customizable toolbars.	--	--	--	--	▪
Compatible with Chief Architect® Version 10.0.	Viewing Mode Only	Viewing Mode Only	Viewing Mode Only	Viewing Mode Only	Viewing Mode Only
Compatible with Chief Architect® (Version X1-X10). Edit plans created using Chief Architect.	Basic Editing, Change Materials & Colors, Move Furniture	Basic Editing, Change Materials & Colors, Move Furniture	Basic Editing, Change Materials & Colors, Move Furniture	Basic Editing, Change Materials & Colors, Move Furniture	▪
Online Training Tutorials with "How-To" videos.	50+ videos	60+ videos	80+ videos	100+ videos	120+ videos
Searchable Training Videos. Use keywords to find exactly the help you need.	▪	▪	▪	▪	▪
Searchable Knowledge Base Articles. Detailed, illustrated, instructional articles will guide you step-by-step through specific tasks; search on a subject or task to find help on that topic.	▪	▪	▪	▪	▪
Windows® 10 / 8 / 7. Mac Sierra / High Sierra / Mojave.	▪	▪	▪	▪	▪
Free Online and Live Technical Support. Contact Support Technicians at Chief Architect Headquarters to receive personalized help.	▪	▪	▪	▪	▪