Chief Architect® Software

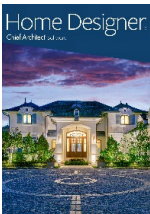# Home Designer®

Feature Comparison 2025 vs 2026

Feature Description	Suite 2025	Architectural 2025	Professional 2025	Home Designer 2026
License	Perpetual	Perpetual	Perpetual / Rental	Annual or Monthly Subscription
Chief Architect Project Management and Traditional File Management Modes	Traditional File Management Only	Traditional File Management Only	Traditional File Management Only	+
Catalog Downloads	Purchase	Purchase	Purchase	Free
Ray Trace Rendering	–	–	–	+
Area Lighting and Rope Lights	–	–	–	+
2D and 3D Design	■	■	■	■
Automated Building Tools: Roofs, Stairs, Floors, Foundations, Framing and Cost Estimating	■	■	■	■
Smart Cabinet Tools	■	■	■	■
Landscaping, Terrain, and Decking Tools	■	■	■	■
CAD Tools	■	■	■	■
3D Viewer - Export Models to Mobile Devices	■	■	■	■
Free Technical Support provided by Chief Architect Headquarters staff	■	■	■	■
80+ Training Videos, 500+ How-To Articles	■	■	■	■
Import / Export DXF and DWG File Formats	Export Only	■	■	■
Create Custom Wall Types	–	■	■	■
Custom Backsplash and Countertops	–	■	■	■
Add Dimensions to Elevation Views	–	■	■	■
Advanced Deck Tools: Curved Decks, Roofs and Ceilings, Deck Planking Controls	–	■	■	■
Rendering Techniques: PBR, Watercolor, Technical Illustration, and Vector View	–	■	■	■
Customize Toolbars	–	Limited	■	■
Printable Construction Document Layout Sheets	–	–	■	■
Manual Roof, Ceiling, and Framing Tools	–	–	■	■
Advanced Cabinet Tools	–	–	■	■
Advanced Stair Tools	–	–	■	■
Fully Editable Dimensions	–	–	■	■
Bearing Line Tool Replaced with Bearing Wall Option	–	–	Bearing Line	Bearing Wall
North Pointer for Sun Angles	–	–	■	■
Sun Angle Shadows in Plan View	–	–	■	–
Terrain Modifiers	■	■	■	–
Style Templates	■	■	■	–
Material Properties Panel	Limited	Limited	Limited	–
Master List Material Pricing Management	–	–	■	–
Custom Watermarks	–	–	■	–
Depth Cue	–	–	■	–
Store Custom Fill Style, Text, Callouts, and Markers in the Library Browser	–	–	■	–

Feature