

Chief Architect X14

Professional 3D Home Design Software



Migration Guide

Steps and considerations for migrating to the new program version.

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What's New in Chief Architect X14

Chapter 1

Welcome to Chief Architect X14. This topic has been written to help our upgrading customers make a smooth transition from earlier versions of Chief Architect to Chief Architect X14.

TOPICS

Getting Started Checklist	3
Migrating Legacy Content	4
Migrating Legacy Settings	4
Migrating Legacy Templates	5
Considerations for Legacy Files	5
New and Improved Features by Chapter	13

Getting Started Checklist

There are many new features in Chief Architect X14, and many existing features have changed. The following list suggests steps you should take before migrating your files to Chief Architect X14. More information about each of these steps can be found after the list.

☐ 1. Review the List of New and Improved Features by Chapter

There are a number of important reasons why you should familiarize yourself with the new and improved features in Chief Architect X14:

- New and improved features allow you to produce drawings more efficiently, so it is to your advantage to use them.
- Some changes to existing functionality may affect your accustomed drawing style and thus your productivity if you are not aware of them.
- New features may affect your choice of settings in your template files, as well as your preferred Preferences settings.

See [New and Improved Features by Chapter on page 13](#).

☐ 2. Review Migrating Legacy Content

Legacy users of Chief Architect often have library catalogs and other custom content that they want to continue using. See [Migrating Legacy Content on page 4](#).

☐ 3. Review Migrating Legacy Settings

Before migrating Preferences, Toolbars, or Hotkeys, bear in mind that legacy settings may not be best suited for using the new program version. See [Migrating Legacy Settings on page 4](#).

☐ 4. Review Migrating Legacy Templates

Before migrating Templates, bear in mind that they may not be set up to take advantage of new tools in the new program version. See [Migrating Legacy Templates on page 5](#).

☐ 5. Review the Considerations for Legacy Files

Before opening a plan or layout file created in a previous version of Chief Architect, be aware of potential changes to the file that could occur in the new program version. See [Considerations for Legacy Files on page 5](#).

☐ 6. Launch Chief Architect X14

Once you have learned about the new features in Version X14 and decided whether to migrate any custom settings from a legacy program version, launch Chief Architect X14. The first time you launch, the Migrate Settings dialog will give you the opportunity to bring legacy settings and content forward into Version X14.

Migrating Legacy Content

Legacy users of Chief Architect Premier often have a wealth of library catalogs and other custom content that they have built over time and want to continue using.

LEGACY LIBRARY CONTENT

There are several ways that legacy library catalogs can be brought into Chief Architect X14.

If you have Chief Architect version X5 through X13 installed on your computer, the Migrate Settings dialog will display after you activate the license, allowing you to migrate library content as well as a selection of other settings for use in Chief Architect X14. If multiple legacy versions are present on the system, only the data associated with the most recent will be migrated.

You can import library files from Versions X1 through X5 at any time by selecting **Library> Import Library (.calib, .calibz)** from the program menu.

In addition, library files from Versions 10 and prior can be imported by selecting **Library> Convert Legacy (.alb) Library Files** from the program menu. Bear in mind, though, that older content may not be of the same quality as currently offered catalogs and that legacy Manufacturer catalogs may be out of date.

CUSTOM GRAPHICS FILES

Chief Architect can use graphics files regardless of where they are stored on your system; however, it is a good idea to keep your data organized in one location. If you have custom graphics files, including textures, images or backdrops that you used in a previous program version, you can copy them manually using your operating system for use in Chief Architect X14.

- Copy custom texture files to the Chief Architect X14 Textures folder located in the Chief Architect X14 Data folder.
- Copy custom image files to your Chief Architect X14 Images folder located in the Chief Architect X14 Data folder.
- Copy custom backdrop files to your Chief Architect X14 Backdrops folder located in the Chief Architect X14 Data folder.

In Chief Architect X1 through X13, custom graphics were saved in the Chief Architect Data folder, as they are in version X14. In version 10, they were located in the program's installation directory, in folders that began with "My". Custom backdrops, for example, were saved in "My Backdrops".

Texture and image files are not listed in the Library Browser. These files can be assigned to material and image objects, however, which are stored in the library so it is important to retain them. There are several tools available for adding materials and images to the library.

Migrating Legacy Settings

The Migrate Settings dialog lets you migrate settings from the most recent legacy installation of your Chief Architect title into Version X14. If you have extensively customized your Preferences, Toolbars, or Hotkeys, you may want to continue using those settings. Before doing so, though, it is important to consider that you may make it harder to take advantage of new tools and functionality in Version X14.

PREFERENCES SETTINGS

Although you can migrate your Preferences settings from Versions X5 through X13 into Version X14, the settings that are available in Version X14 may differ from previous program versions. You should review all the settings in the Preferences dialog to make sure that they are set to suit your drawing needs.

CUSTOM TOOLBAR CONFIGURATIONS

It is possible to migrate toolbar configuration files from previous program versions into Version X14; however, it is also possible that your migrated toolbars will be missing new tools available in Version X14.

Additionally, obsolete toolbar buttons are occasionally removed from the program and will also be removed from migrated legacy toolbars. See [New and Improved Features by Chapter on page 13](#) for information about new features as well as removed or deprecated tools.

CUSTOM HOTKEYS

Like toolbar configurations, legacy hotkeys can be migrated into Chief Architect Premier X14. Bear in mind, though, that occasionally the default hotkeys are modified to accommodate new features or changes in default system hotkeys.

Migrating Legacy Templates

Chief Architect X14 installs a selection of template plan and layout files that have been set up to take advantage of the program's updated tools and features. Although you can migrate your template files for use in Version X14, for best results it is recommended that you either:

- Use the installed templates when creating new plans and layout files in Chief Architect X14
- Use the installed templates as the basis for creating new custom templates.

If you choose to continue using template files that you used in a previous program version, it is very important that you take the time to review all the default settings in the file, making sure that they will continue to suit your needs in Version X14. See [New and Improved Features by Chapter on page 13](#).

Next, make sure that you are aware of changes in Version X14 that may affect legacy files: including templates. See [Considerations for Legacy Files on page 5](#).

When you are ready to proceed, make copies of your custom templates in the Chief Architect X14 Templates directory. The Templates directory is located in the Chief Architect X14 Data folder. Next, open each template as you would a regular plan or layout file, by selecting **File> Open**, and then save any changes you make by selecting **File> Save**.

If you do choose to continue using a legacy template plan, it is best to also use a legacy layout template from the same program version, as well. As with a template plan, take the time to go through the layout template's defaults and make sure they are suited for use in Version X14 and that their line weight scales do not conflict with those in your template plans.

Considerations for Legacy Files

As in all software, every new program version introduces changes to its functionality as well as to the user interface. If you choose to bring a project forward, be sure to take a few moments to look it over in the new version and confirm that the new functionality does not require you to make any modifications. Particularly if you have an approaching deadline, you may find it best to finish the current project in the version of the software in which you began it.



Be sure to read this section before opening any plans created in earlier versions of Chief Architect.

Chief Architect X14 can open the **.plan** and **.layout** files from prior versions. Files with the older .pl and .la file extensions are no longer supported, however, and cannot be opened by Chief Architect X14. Before opening any files created in earlier versions of Chief Architect, it is important to be aware of changes made in the newest version and the effect they may have on your legacy plan and layout files.

Please note that files saved in the latest program version cannot be read by older versions of the software. When a legacy file is saved in the version X14, an unaltered copy of the original file is created in the Chief Architect X14 Data folder, under Archives, which can still be opened in the original version.

FOR FILES CREATED IN VERSION X13 AND PRIOR

In addition to the above recommendations, if you wish to open files created in Chief Architect Version X14 or prior, bear in mind the following:

1. Stair Walk Lines

In Chief Architect X13 and prior, Walk Lines were drawn on the "Dimensions" layer. In Version X14, they are drawn on the same layer as the staircase. When a legacy file is opened in Version X14, any Walk Lines displaying in the file may have different line color, weight, and style attributes.

2. Door Rough Openings

In Chief Architect X13 and prior, if a door's Floor to Bottom height was not sufficient to accommodate its Bottom Rough Opening, the door's Top Rough Opening space would be increased in the model but not in the Door Specification dialog. In Version X14, this no longer occurs: if the Floor to Bottom height is less than the Bottom Rough Opening, the full Bottom Rough Opening is simply not modeled when framing is generated. When a legacy file is opened in Version X14, its rough opening is modeled exactly as it was in the previous program version but its Top and Bottom Rough Opening values now reflect how the rough opening is modeled.

3. NKBA Auto Dimensions

In Chief Architect X13 and prior, the NKBA Auto Dimension and NKBA Auto Elevation Dimension tools had restricted default settings that met drawing standards set by the National Kitchen and Bath Association. In order to allow greater flexibility in Version X14, these tools have been merged into the other Auto Dimension tools. In plan files created using a template installed with Version X14, NKBA compliant dimensions can be created using the "Kitchen and Bath Dimension Defaults". In legacy plans opened in Version X14, use the "Legacy NKBA Dimension Defaults".

FOR FILES CREATED IN VERSION X12 AND PRIOR

In addition to the above recommendations, if you wish to open files created in Chief Architect Version X12 or prior, bear in mind the following:

1. Default 110V Ceiling Outlet

In Chief Architect X12 and prior, the 110V Outlet tool did not have the ability to place outlets in ceilings. In Version X13, this ability was added, as was the new GFCI Outlet tool. When a legacy file is opened in Version X14, the new Electrical Defaults settings for these items will automatically refer to objects in the Version X14 Core Catalogs. You should confirm that these defaults meet your needs. If these default objects are not present in your library, a warning message will inform you of the issue.

2. Sliding Door Hinge Side

In Chief Architect X12 and prior, the fixed or 'hinge' side of sliding doors was described as viewed from the exterior side of the door. In Version X13, the hinge side is described using the more common method: as viewed from the interior side. When a legacy file is opened in Version X14, all instances of the %hinge_side% Name-Value Pair in labels, schedules, and the Materials List will use the new method. You should confirm that the Hinge Side information in labels, schedules, and Materials Lists meets your needs.

3. Automatic and Manual Dimension Layers

In Chief Architect X12 and prior, the system default layer for automatically generated dimension lines was "Dimensions, Automatic", and the system default for manually drawn dimensions was "Dimensions, Manual". In Version X14, the system default layer for all dimensions is simply "Dimensions". When a legacy file is opened in Version X14, automatic dimensions that were on the "Dimensions, Automatic" layer in the earlier version will be placed on the "Dimensions, Legacy" layer while any dimensions that were on the "Dimensions, Manual" layer in the previous version will be placed on the "Dimensions" layer.

4. Gable Lines

In Chief Architect X12 and prior, Gable Lines with a Pitch value of 90° were allowed but did not affect automatic roof generation. In Version X14, they are not supported. When a legacy file is opened in Version X14, any Gable Lines with a Pitch of 90° will be removed automatically. This will not affect the current roof or automatic roof generation.

FOR FILES CREATED IN VERSION X11 AND PRIOR

In addition to the above recommendations, if you wish to open files created in Chief Architect Version X11 or prior, bear in mind the following:

1. Perspective Crop Mode

In Chief Architect X8 through X11, Perspective Crop Mode allowed older functionality governing zooming in cameras from Version X7 and prior to be preserved in saved cameras in legacy plans migrated forward. This deprecated tool has been removed from the program's menu and toolbars in Version X12, although it can be migrated with legacy toolbars and hotkeys. Saved cameras in legacy plans with this behavior enabled may become distorted if you pan or zoom in the view. To permanently disable this behavior in a camera view and resolve the resulting distortion, select **Window> Fill Window** or press the F6 key.

2. Layout Layer Sets

In Chief Architect X11 and prior, the Send to Layout dialog had a sticky Make Copy of Active Layer Set option that created a new layer set for the layout view to help preserve layer settings in that view. This option was removed in Version X12 to encourage use of the multiple saved plan views. Saved plan views did not exist in Version X9 and prior, however, so if you open a plan originally created in Version X9 or prior, extra care must be taken to make sure layout views do not use the same layer set.

3. Materials List Formulas and Ruby Macros

Name-Value Pairs returned length, area, and volume measurements as Floats. In Version X12, these values are reported using the Measurement class that includes both a numeric value and a unit. Older Ruby code may change behavior when migrated into Version X12. When a legacy Ruby macro or materials list formula is evaluated, the program will automatically check its version and prompt you to migrate it to the newest version.

4. Units of Measurement

In Chief Architect X11 and prior, units of measurement used by the program, including user-defined units, were stored in a file called Units.dat located in the Chief Architect Data folder. Beginning in version X12, this information is saved with other Preferences settings.

FOR FILES CREATED IN VERSION X10 AND PRIOR

In addition to the above recommendations, if you wish to open files created in Chief Architect Version X10 or prior, bear in mind the following:

1. Marker and Elevation Point Heights

In Chief Architect X10 and prior, the # sign could be added to the label of a Marker or Elevation Point and the label would report the height of the Marker or the Elevation Point's elevation. In Version X14, text macros are used to report this information instead. In legacy plans, any # signs in Marker or Elevation Point labels will be replaced by the %heightf% or %elevationf% macro.

2. Glass Shower Walls

In Chief Architect X10 and prior, the "Glass Shower" wall type was included in installed template files and like other wall types, built to the structural layer of floors and ceilings and to the Main Layer of adjacent walls. In Version X14, this wall type has the new Partition Wall attribute and instead builds to floor, ceiling, and wall surfaces. When a legacy file is opened in Version X14, this wall type will be modified to have Partition Wall checked automatically and existing walls will be affected by this change.

3. Fixture Schedules

In Chief Architect X10 and prior, 3D Elevations and Perspectives in Fixture Schedules showed cabinet fixtures inserted into a cabinet. In Version X14, fixtures are shown on their own, even when they are inserted into an object in the plan. When a legacy file is opened in Version X14, any fixture schedules showing 3D views of objects may be affected by this change.

FOR FILES CREATED IN VERSION X9 AND PRIOR

In addition to the above recommendations, if you wish to open files created in Chief Architect Version X9 or prior, bear in mind the following:

1. Parallel Lights

In Chief Architect X9 and prior, Parallel Light sources could be specified for electrical light fixtures and Added Lights. In Version X14, Parallel Lights are no longer supported. In legacy plans opened in Version X14, any Parallel Light sources will be converted to Spot Lights.

2. Brick Ledges

In Chief Architect X9 and prior, brick ledges were not represented in plan view. In Version X14, brick ledges are drawn in plan view on the "Slabs" layer in stem wall and grade beam foundations, and on the "Walls, Foundation" layer in monolithic slab foundations. When a legacy file is opened in Version X14, brick ledges, if present, will be drawn.

3. Window Types

In Chief Architect X9 and prior, the %type% text macro for windows reported some Window Types using abbreviations. In Version X14, the abbreviations were replaced with full words. When a legacy file is opened in Version X14, the width of Window Schedules may be affected, as may the width of columns in saved Materials Lists.

4. Joist Direction Lines

In Chief Architect X9 and prior, Joist Direction Lines described all platform framing as "joists" and used nominal lumber sizes in whole inches in US Unit plans. In Version X14, the platform's framing Structure Type is reported and in US Unit plans, the size is described in fractional inches. When a legacy file is opened in Version X14, Joist Direction Lines will use the new, more accurate labeling.

5. Custom Schedule Columns

In Chief Architect X9 and prior, custom schedule columns could be created by adding a Sub Category to a type of object on the Categories panel of the Preferences dialog. In Version X14, Sub Categories can no longer be created in this manner. When a legacy file is opened in Version X14, any Sub Categories shown as custom schedule columns will be converted to Custom Fields.

6. Registered User Text Macros

In Chief Architect X9 and prior, a selection of Registered User Text Macros could be inserted into Texts, Callouts, and Markers. These macros no longer displayed any data and in Version X14, they are no longer recognized. When a legacy file is opened in Version X14, any Registered User macros inserted into text objects are treated as regular text.

FOR FILES CREATED IN VERSION X8 AND PRIOR

In addition to the above recommendations, if you wish to open files created in Chief Architect Version X8 or prior, bear in mind the following:

1. Layer Names

In Chief Architect X8 and prior, turning off the Modify Name in all Layer Sets option made it possible to assign different names to the same layer in different layer sets. In Version X9, this option was no longer supported. When a legacy file is opened in X14, the layer names used in the currently active layer set will be retained and any other layer names in other layer sets will be discarded.

FOR FILES CREATED IN VERSION X7 AND PRIOR

In addition to the above recommendations, if you wish to open files created in Chief Architect Version X7 or prior, bear in mind the following:

1. Boxed Eaves

In Chief Architect X8, improvements to the generation of Boxed Eaves ensure that they extend into exterior rooms with “Use Soffit Surface for Ceiling” specified when located between the roof baseline and an interior room. In some legacy plans opened in Version X14, the **Length** value for Boxed Eaves may need to be modified in the Roof Plane Specification dialog.

2. Uppercase Text

The Uppercase option was added to Text Styles in Version X8, whereas in Version X7 and prior, it was an option for Room Labels and Schedules only. In legacy plans opened in Version X8, any Schedules present in the drawing will be assigned a Custom Text Style, as will their associated Schedule Defaults. If any Schedule Default is set to Use Layer for Text Style and no objects are present on that layer, a new Schedule Text Style will be created and assigned to that layer. Room Labels are treated similarly: if any are present, they and their defaults will use a Custom Text Style. If a given Room Label or Schedule has been sent to layout more than once and was set to use different Text Styles in each layout view, it is possible that its appearance may be affected in some views.

FOR FILES CREATED IN VERSION X6 AND PRIOR

In addition to the above recommendations, if you wish to open files created in Chief Architect Version X6 or prior, bear in mind the following:

1. Built-in Appliances

In Chief Architect X6 and prior, some appliance symbols designed to be inserted into base cabinets had incorrect sizing data. In legacy plans opened in Version X14, these appliances will not fit into the cabinet correctly and will need to be replaced. Built-in dishwashers are particularly affected.

2. Formatting of Bulleted and Numbered Lists

In Version X7, various improvements were made to the way lines of Rich Text are spaced. In legacy plans opened in Version X7, Rich Text objects with bulleted and numbered lists may require adjustments.

3. Chief Blueprint Font

The Chief Blueprint font was improved for Version X6, with decreased top and bottom spacing. The change in spacing may increase the overall height of text objects using this font in X6 files opened in Version X14. X5 and prior legacy files will not be affected by this change.

FOR FILES CREATED IN VERSION X5 AND PRIOR

In addition to the above recommendations, if you wish to open files created in Chief Architect Version X5 or prior, bear in mind the following:

1. Name-Value Pairs for Doors and Windows

In Version X6, the NVPs `door_style_name`, `door_type_name`, and `window_type_name` were shortened to `style_name` and `type_name`. Any object labels or text macros using these NVPs in legacy plans opened in Version X14 will need to be replaced.

FOR FILES CREATED IN VERSION X4 AND PRIOR

In addition to the above recommendations, if you wish to open files created in Chief Architect Version X4 or prior, bear in mind the following:

1. Roof Overhangs and Framing

In Chief Architect X4 and prior, roof overhangs were measured to the outside of the subfascia, whereas in Version X5 and later, they are measured to the outside of the fascia or shadow boards, if present. In legacy plans opened in Version X14, this will not affect the appearance of roof planes in floor plan view because in X4 and prior, roof plane polylines represented the projected framing area whereas in Version X14 they represent the total projected area. But, the position of the fascia and subfascia will shift, as will the length of the rafters.

2. Door Swing Direction and Materials

In Chief Architect X4 and prior, exterior doors that swing outward displayed the interior material on the exterior side of the door. This was corrected in Version X14. Doors modified to work around the old behavior could be affected in legacy plans opened in Version X14.

3. Door Swing Direction and Louvers

Improvements to door louver direction may affect louvers in all doors with the exception of bifold doors.

4. Wrapped Door/Window Lintels and Window Sills

In Chief Architect X4 and prior, wrapped lintels and sills extended out further than those that were not wrapped. In legacy plans opened in Version X14, the extents of wrapped lintels and sills will be adjusted so that they equal their **Extend** setting.

5. Cabinet Feet

The offsets for cabinet foot millwork symbols in Version X4 and prior were set per millwork symbol to insert into cabinets effectively. In Version X14, the offset is set in the Cabinet Specification dialogs. When legacy plans are opened in Version X14, cabinet foot offsets are set to 0 and transferred to their containing cabinet, if one exists. Any customized or independently placed cabinet feet will be affected.

6. Object Labels in Cross Section/Elevation Views

If a “Label” layer is turned on in a cross section/elevation view and objects of that type are visible in the view, then those objects’ labels will display in that view when the plan is opened in Version X14.

7. Transparent Materials

In Chief Architect X4, materials assigned to the Transparent Material Class for ray tracing were visible in rendered views even when their Index of Refraction was set to 1.0. When legacy plans are opened in Version X14, Transparent materials with an Index of Refraction of 1.0 are transferred to the General Material class and assigned a Transparency value of 100%. This will not affect these materials’ appearance in ray trace views, but will make them completely invisible in rendered views.

8. Registered User Text Macros

In Chief Architect X4 and prior, a selection of Registered User Text Macros could be inserted into Texts, Callouts, and Markers. These macros reported information that was provided when the program was installed and registered on the computer. In Version X5 and later, the program no longer collects registered user information. When a legacy file is opened in Version X14, any Registered User macros inserted into text objects are treated as regular text.

9. Invisible Beams

The legacy **Invisible Beam** check box was removed from the Wall Specification dialog. When legacy plans are opened in Version X14, any **Invisible Beam** walls will be converted to Invisible Walls.

FOR FILES CREATED IN VERSION X3 AND PRIOR

In addition to the above recommendations, if you wish to open files created in Chief Architect Version X3 or prior, bear in mind the following:

1. Text Styles

The appearance of a number of objects that include text - including object labels, the North Pointer, Sun Angles, Joist Direction Lines, the Up/Down arrows for stairs and ramps - can now be controlled using Text Style. Their appearance may be altered somewhat in legacy plans opened in Chief Architect X14.

2. Light Sources

The illumination created by light fixtures and Added Lights was improved in Chief Architect X14. Lighting in legacy plans may appear noticeably brighter when viewed in version X14.

FOR FILES CREATED IN VERSION X2 AND PRIOR

If you wish to open files created in Chief Architect Version X2 or prior, bear in mind the following file management changes and structural enhancements:

1. Legacy file formats

Chief Architect 9.5 and prior files were saved in .pl and .la the file formats. These file formats files are no longer supported and cannot be opened in version X14.

2. Material textures, images, and backdrops

Chief Architect X2 and prior installed with a catalog of library content, including a selection of material textures, images, and backdrops. This library catalog is no longer installed with the program because it is now available for download on-demand, so it will be possible to open a legacy plan in version X14 and encounter numerous missing file warnings. To avoid this, we recommend using the **Export Entire Plan** feature in the original program version to create a folder that includes the plan and all associated textures, images, and backdrops before opening this file in X14. This tool is renamed Backup Entire Plan in version X14.

3. Floor and ceiling finish thicknesses

In Chief Architect X2 and prior, floor and ceiling finish layers were not modeled in 3D, and objects such as railings, stairs, landings, cabinets, fixtures, and furnishings measured their Floor to Bottom height from the subfloor. These objects now measure their Floor to Bottom height from the floor finish surface by default, so it is possible that you may notice height changes for these objects - particularly in saved, annotated cross section/elevation views.

4. Riser heights and landing thicknesses

The default Best Fit Riser Height for stairs that do not reach the next level has been updated from 9" (225 mm) in version X2 and prior to 6 3/4" (169 mm) in Chief Architect X14. This may affect the riser heights of stairs, as well as the thicknesses of landings attached to those stairs.

5. Auto Adjust Height

The Follow Terrain option in some specification dialogs was replaced by the Auto Adjust Height check box. If a cabinet, fireplace, fixture, furniture, or other library symbol had Follow Terrain unchecked in version X2 or prior and was located in a room with a floor height other than the default for the current floor, then the object's Floor to Bottom Height will change to equal that room's floor height. The object's position in the model will not change, however.

6. Adjustable Thickness Walls

In Chief Architect X2 and prior, generic, single-layer wall types were available for use. When a legacy plan file is opened in version X14 and these wall types are detected, they are replaced by an updated, non-generic wall type. Framed walls and Railings will also acquire 1/2" (13 mm) thick layers of sheetrock on each side. Railings that define a Deck room with Advanced Deck Framing Built will not acquire sheetrock layers.

7. Stairwells defined by railings

Interior railings that used a generic, single-layer wall type drawn in older program versions will acquire layers of sheetrock when the plan is opened in version X14. This can affect the appearance of staircases where they join to a floor platform. To address this issue, select the railing and move it 1/2" (13 mm) away from the top edge of the staircase.

8. Deck rooms

In legacy plans opened in Chief Architect X14, Deck rooms with Advanced Deck Framing built retain the framing but have Automatic Deck Framing turned off by default. Decks with no Advanced Deck Framing built are converted to Balcony rooms.

9. Material definitions and light sources

Settings in the Define Material dialog that affect materials' appearance of brightness have been modified. The **Ambient** setting was removed, and the **Diffuse** setting for materials in legacy plans will be set to 100% when opened in version X14.

The Quality setting for light sources set to use Soft Shadows in ray tracing was also modified. Lights using Soft Shadows in legacy plans will be set to use Medium quality. The Light Diameter of light sources in legacy plans is capped at 4" (100 mm).

10. Structural Member Reporting

When a plan created in Chief Architect X2 or prior is opened in Chief Architect X14, Materials Lists are set to calculate **Total Linear Length**. For a combination of linear length and piece count, select **Mixed Reporting** in the Structural Member Reporting dialog.

11. Fill New Framing Members

In Chief Architect X2 and prior, Fill New Framing Members was view-specific; in Chief Architect X14 it applies to the entire plan. As a result, it is turned off by default in legacy plans opened in version X14.

New and Improved Features by Chapter

The following is a list of new and improved features in Premier Version X14. Where possible, cross-references to additional information has been provided.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

- The Startup Options dialog has been replaced by the new **Dashboard** window.

FILE MANAGEMENT

- The new Linked View dialog allows you to link the Reference Display and linked callouts to views in currently open files.

PROJECT PLANNING

- The Set as Default edit tool is now available for Construction Lines.
- Referenced plans in camera views can now use the Technical Illustration and Vector View Rendering Techniques.
- The Reference Floor can now be set to display the Current Floor.

PREFERENCES AND DEFAULT SETTINGS

- New **Dashboard** options in the Preferences dialog.
- New **Enable Retina Render Targets** option can be unchecked on systems that do not have Retina displays to avoid performance issues.
- New **Reset Templates** option in the Preferences dialog restores the installed template plan and layout files.
- The **Size of Start and End Indicators** can now be specified.

TOOLBARS AND HOTKEYS

- Redesigned Gamepad Settings dialog to be more compact.

WINDOW AND VIEW TOOLS

- The **Save Active View As** tool is now available for cross section/elevation views.

CREATING OBJECTS

- The Orthogonal Move and Concentric Resize edit handles are now available for a variety of CAD-based objects when the Copy/Paste edit tool is used

DISPLAYING OBJECTS

- CAD Block windows, including those associated with CAD blocks saved in the Library, now use the current file's CAD Block Detail Layer Set.

EDITING OBJECTS

- The **Trim Object(s)** and **Extend Object(s)** edit tools are now available for 3D Solid objects.
- New **Relative** and **Absolute Angle** options for moving objects using the **Transform/Replicate Object** edit tool.
- The Retain Original Objects message box now contains a Cancel button.

CAD OBJECTS

- CAD polylines can now be included in schedules.
- The CAD Block Management dialog can now be accessed when a 3D camera view or overview is active.
- The buttons in the CAD Block Management dialog now have tool tips.
- New **Fraction Text Size** setting and a **Format Preview** in the Displayed Line Length Format dialog.
- New lateral arrowhead styles for use with Lines with Arrow and Dimension Lines.
- New **Circumference** setting in the Circle Specification dialog.

WALLS, RAILINGS, AND FENCING

- New **Use Framing Reference** option for individual walls.
- New **Reverse Stud Rollout Direction** and **Offset** settings for individual walls.
- The **Top** and **Bottom Plate Count** and vertical **Plate Thickness** can now be specified for each wall type.
- The redundant **Show Wall Length When Editing** option was removed from the General Wall Defaults dialog.
- New **Treat as Part of Bay/Box/Bow Window** Roof options for walls.
- New **Include Frieze** option for walls allows you to suppress frieze moldings.
- A custom **Fill Style** for wall footings can now be specified.
- Wall footings can now be placed on a custom layer.
- New **Maximum Sill Plate Length** setting.
- Brick ledge lines in plan view are now drawn on the "Brick Ledge Lines" layer.

ROOMS

- New **Maximum Plank Length** setting for Deck rooms.


DIMENSIONS

- Dimension line specification and defaults dialogs now have a preview pane.
- New **Fraction Style** and **Fraction Text Size** options for dimension lines.
- Improved interface of **Wall Options** on the LOCATE panels of the Dimension Defaults dialog.
- Redesigned EXTENSIONS and SEGMENTS panels in the Dimension Line Specification dialog.
- New **Same Angle as Dimension** and **Offset** settings for Centerline marks.
- The **Dimension Text Position and Orientation** settings moved to the DIMENSION panel of the Dimension Line Specification dialog, and the GENERAL panel of the Dimension Defaults dialog.
- New **Same Angle as Dimension** and **Offset from Extension** default settings for Centerline symbols.

TEXT, CALLOUTS, AND MARKERS

- Callouts can now be linked to and report information about views and layout pages.
- New **Shape Angle** and **Text Angle** settings in the Callout Specification dialog.
- New **Generate Angle from Schedule**, **Shape Angle** and **Text Angle** settings in the Note Specification dialog.
- Callout Cross Section Lines can now have arrows.
- New **Add Text Line with Arrow** edit handle for text and callout objects.
- Notes that are not associated with a schedule now have a Caution symbol and contextual menu.
- The **Add an Arrow** setting in the Rich Text and Text Specification dialogs now matches the text's Align setting.
- The **Replace from Library** edit tool is now available for Text objects.

DOORS AND WINDOWS

- The new **Explode Bay/Bow Window**  edit tool explodes Bay, Box, and Bow Windows into their component parts.
- Bay, Box, and Bow Windows can now be copied and pasted.
- The Reflect About Object edit tool is now available for Bow Windows.
- New ROUGH OPENING panel in the specification dialogs for doors and windows.
- **King Stud Count** can now be specified for doors and windows.
- Setting the default **Window Level** to 1 or higher no longer results in the Window tool placing transom windows.
- Shutters can now be specified for Bay/Box/Bow component windows.
- Shutters are now drawn in plan view, and the new "Shutters" layer controls the display of window and door shutters in plan and 3D views.
- Shutters can now be set to Draw Closed and have a setting for Louver Size.
- When wall framing is generated, a door's Bottom Rough Opening is no longer added to the Top Rough Opening when the Floor to Bottom value cannot accommodate it.
- The rough opening for a pocket door's "pocket" side is now reduced by the Jamb Side Width value when framing is generated.

CABINETS

- The Backsplash to Base Below check box has been deprecated and is only available in legacy plan files if it was checked in a wall cabinet's specification dialog in the original program version.
- Cabinet door **Swing Angle** can now be opened from 0° to 180°.
- The names of cabinet doors, drawers, and appliances are now stated on the FRONT/SIDES/BACK panel of the Cabinet Specification dialog.
- Automatic and Custom Countertops, Custom Backsplashes, and holes in both object types can now be included in schedules.

SCHEDULES AND OBJECT LABELS

- Schedules now support different Text Styles for their title, column headers, and body.
- New **Swap Rows/Columns** option in the Schedule Specification dialog.
- Objects listed in a schedule can now display their regular object label instead of or in addition to their schedule callout label.
- Schedule callout labels can now be placed on custom layers.

- New **Shape Angle** and **Text Angle** settings in the Schedule Specification dialog allow both callout labels and their text to be rotated together or independently.
- New **Top** and **Bottom Margin** settings for the text in schedule cells.

FOUNDATIONS

- The Pier/Pad Specification dialog now has the OBJECT INFORMATION and LABEL panels.
- Round Piers and Square Pads can now be added to schedules.
- Slabs can now be added to schedules.



STAIRS, RAMPS, AND LANDINGS

- The **Handrail Options** for staircases are now located on the RAILING panel of the Staircase Specification dialog.
- The Walk Line for a staircase is now drawn on the same layer as the staircase.






ROOFS

- The **Pitch in Degrees** setting has been added to the Build Roof dialog.
- The Dormer Specification dialog now has a **Define** button for wall types.

FRAMING AND TRUSSES

- New **Export to EasyFrame**  tools export wall framing to the .ezf format for marking and cutting using the EasyFrame saw.
- New **Include Structural Purlins** option produces pocket purlins between rafters.
- New **Build All Framing**  tool.
- Framing can now be located by dimension lines as they are drawn in elevation views.
- The **Maximum Length** can now be specified for rim joists, wall plates, and girts.
- Each floor level can now have its own Framing Reference Marker.
- The **Energy Heel** option for roof trusses is now available in the Framing Defaults dialog.
- New **Roof Overframing** options and **Shoe Plate** size settings for roof framing.

OTHER OBJECTS

- Polyline Solids and 3D Boxes have been replaced with a single **3D Solid**  tool.
- Shape objects are now referred to as 3D Solids.
- The 3D Solid Specification dialog now has the POLYLINE, SELECTED LINE/ARC, and LABEL panels.
- 3D Solids can now be drawn against walls in camera views.
- Angular Dimensions can now be used to reshape 3D Solid objects.
- The **Retain Aspect Ratio** setting is now retained in the 3D Solid Specification dialog, but not other dialogs.
- The LABEL panel was added to the specification dialogs for Primitive objects.
- Primitive objects now have **CAD Stops Move** and **Wall Stops Move** settings in their specification dialogs.
- New **Fillet Edges** , **Fillet all Edges** , **Chamfer Edges** , and **Chamfer All Edges**  edit tools for 3D Solids.

MATERIALS

- The Pattern From Texture dialog now lets you choose a material map or other image file as the source for a custom material pattern.
- The obsolete "Framing" Material Type has been removed.

3D VIEWS

- Improved rendering on Retina displays in the Mac version of the software.
- Sunlight can now be toggled off in the Camera and Cross Section/Elevation Specification dialogs.
- Technical Illustration renderings can now display Surface Edge Line colors using layer or object settings.

3D RENDERING AND RAY TRACING

- Sun Angles can now be copied and pasted.
- The Opaque Window Glass setting now affects windows and interior doors only.

PICTURES, IMAGES, AND WALKTHROUGHS

- The Record Walkthrough Options dialog for Walkthrough Paths now has a **Save to Chief Architect Cloud** option.
- The Walkthrough Path Specification dialog now has **Use Sunlight** and **Adjust Sunlight** options.
- Enhanced **Spherical Panoramic Backdrop** settings for camera views.
- Images, Backdrops, and Materials created using the Screen Capture tool now reference image files with date and time stamps.

IMPORTING AND EXPORTING

- Chief Architect Account Login is now retained between program sessions.




TERRAIN

- Terrain objects can now be included in schedules.

MATERIALS LIST

- The full program menu is now accessible in Materials List windows, with a variety of additional tools available for use.

LAYOUT

- Layout box labels can now use callouts or markers that link to other pages or views.
- New LINKED VIEW, BOX SCALE and LAYER SET panels in the Layout Box Specification dialog.
- New Layout Box Defaults dialog lets you set up the default line, fill, and label style for layout boxes..
- Camera views and cross section/elevation views sent to layout can now be rotated on the layout page.
- New **Scale Layout Box Contents Only** setting controls whether the layout box resizes when its view is rescaled.
- New **Pan/Scale Layout Box** , **Recenter Layout Box Contents** , and **Scale Layout Box Contents to Fit**  edit tools for selected layout boxes.

- The deprecated Dimension Number Height setting for plan views sent to layout has been removed from the program except in some legacy layout files.
- There is no longer a prompt to update the view on the layout page when a camera view is closed.

RUBY IN CHIEF ARCHITECT

- New Name-Value Pairs for CAD Circles, walls, cabinets, Callouts, and layout box labels.