



Q&A Document

Houseplan



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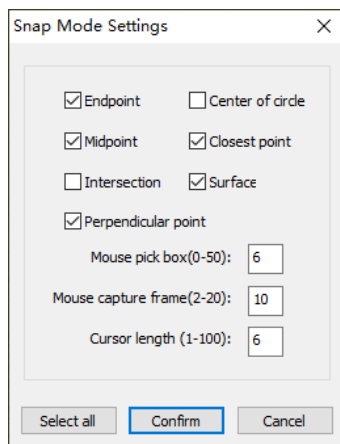
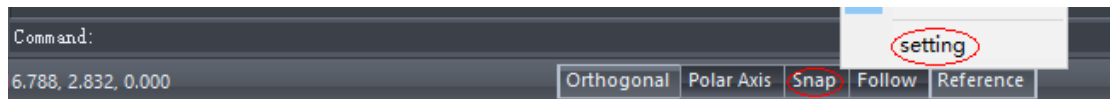
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1. Functionality questions and answers

1.1. How to modify SNAP settings

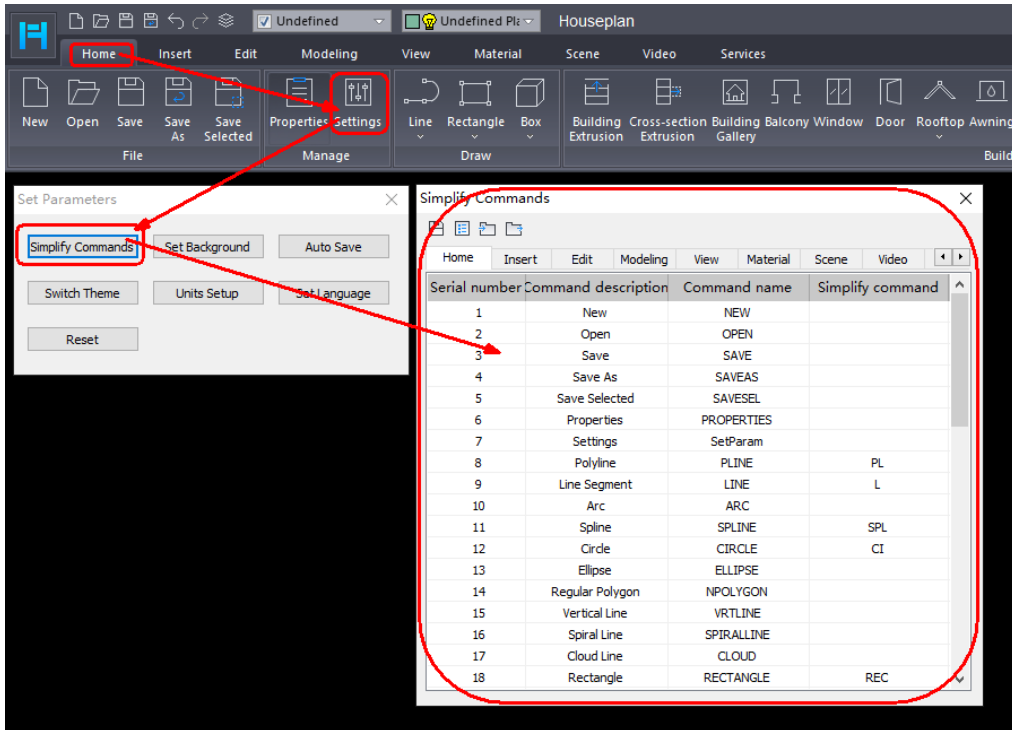
ANSWER: Click on the Snap button at the right bottom of the workspace to enable/disable snap, and right-click on the button and select the 'setting' option to modify settings of the Snap feature.



Here you can set the snap type, cursor size and the size of the snap frame.


1.2. How to set shortcut commands

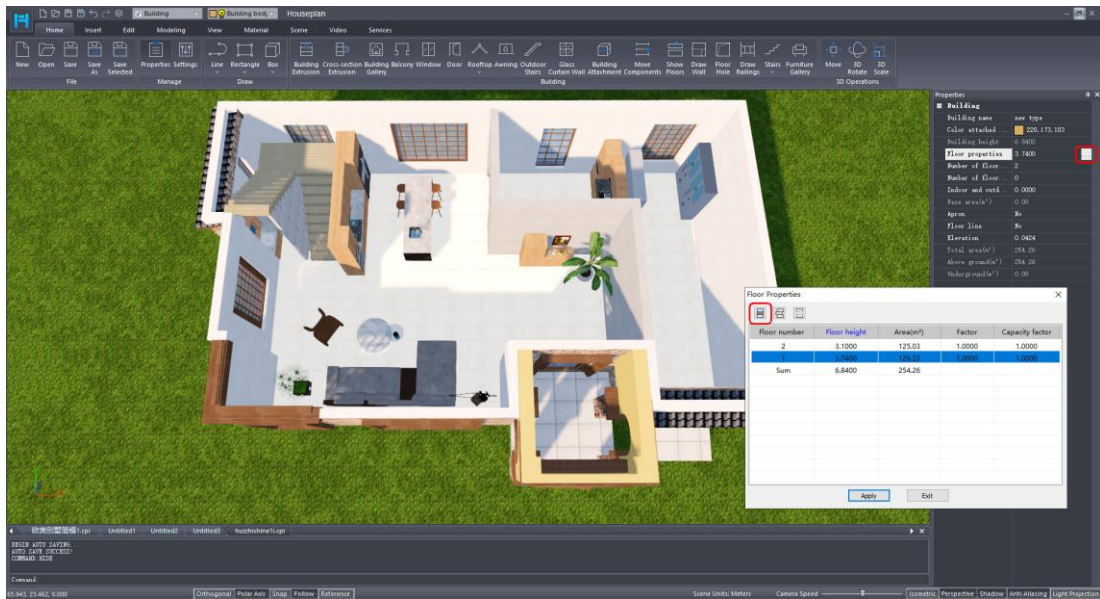
ANSWER: Go to Home – Manage – Settings, click the 'Simplify Command' button, and set command shortcut.



1.3. How to bound the designed interior entities to the building

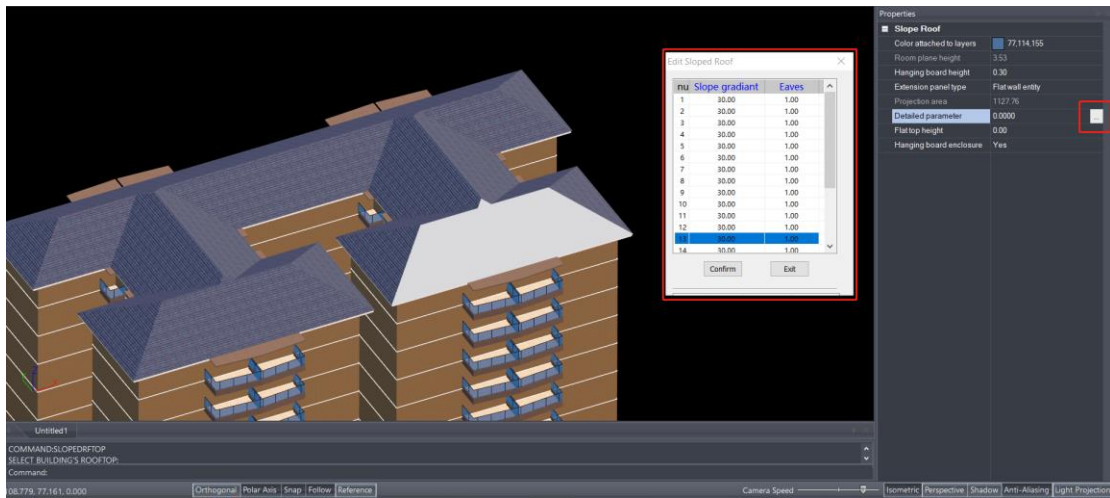
Note: if you don't bind the entities to the building floor, the entities can't be selected or hidden together with the building, and the entities may appear at the height you showed before if you use the Show Floor command to open another floor.

ANSWER: Click the  button next to the "Floor properties" option in the Properties window, select the floor to be bound in the pop-up "Floor Properties" dialog box, and click "Define floor" button to bind all the interior entities (don't need to select all of them) to the corresponding floor. If press the SHIFT key, you can bind the interior entities to the multiple floors you select.

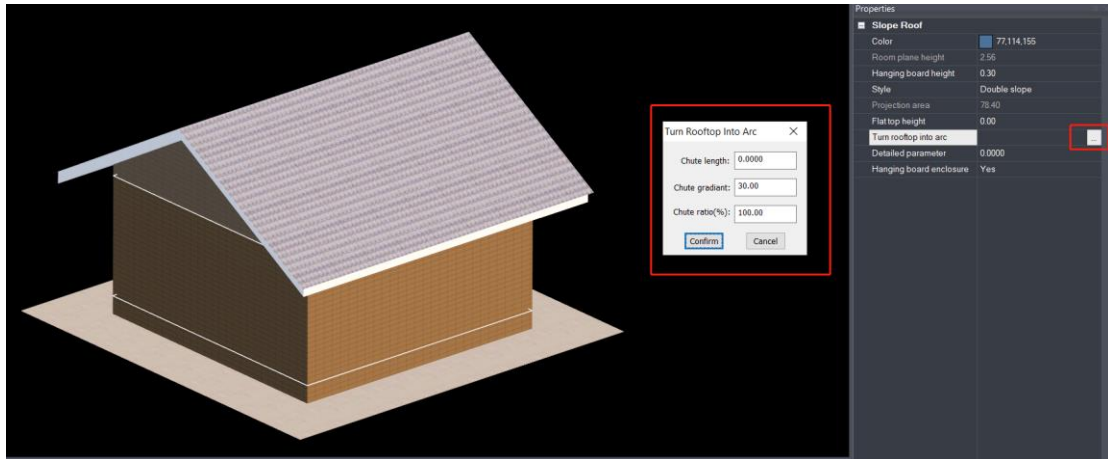


1.4. How to modify the Sloped Roof

ANSWER: Select the sloping roof that needs to be modified, double-click on the sloped roof, or click the button beside the "Detailed parameter" in the Properties window to modify the slope gradient and eaves.

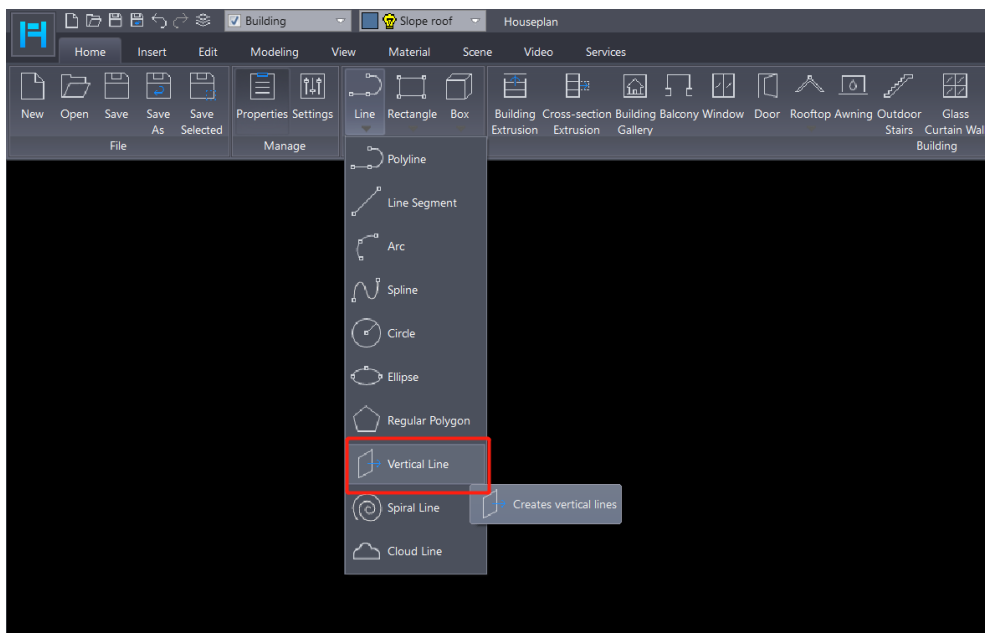


If you need to modify chute length, chute gradient, chute ratio of a double slope roof, click the button beside the "Turn rooftop into arc" in the Properties window.

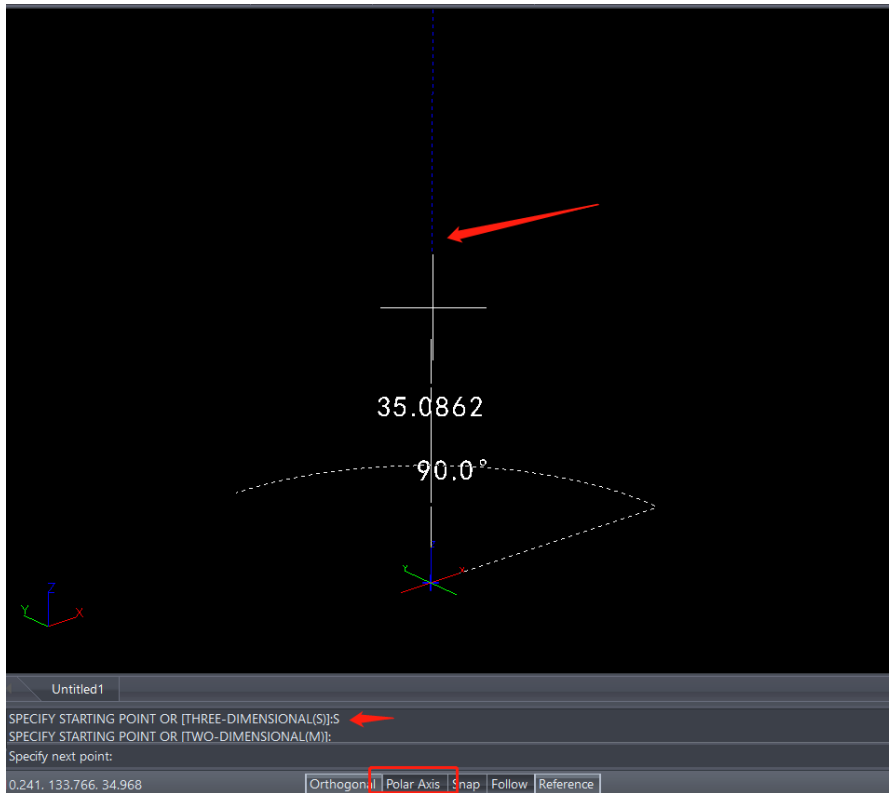


1.5. How to draw lines along Z axis

ANSWER: If you only need to draw lines in the direction of the Z axis, you can select the Vertical line command by click on Home – Draw – Line button and draw it directly.

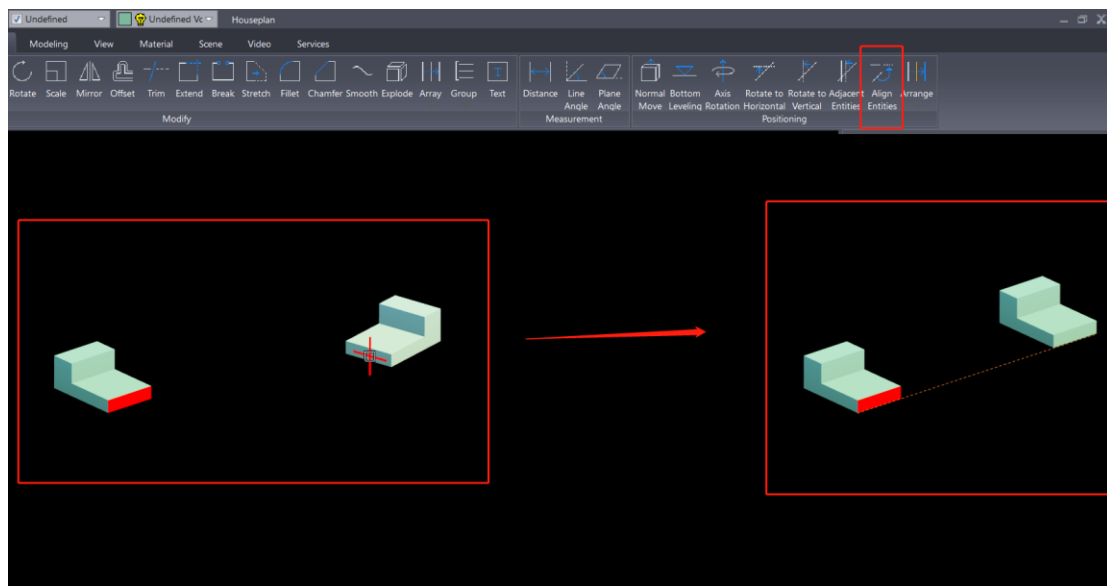


If you draw with the Polyline command, you can input S in the command line prompt and draw along the blue reference line.



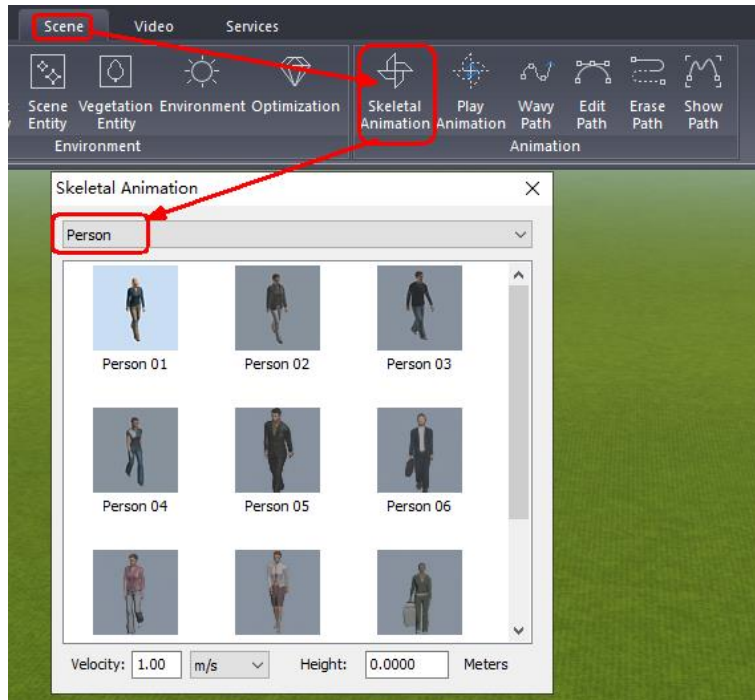
1.6. How to align 3D entities quickly

ANSWER: Use the Align Entities command in the Edit – Positioning panel, follow the command prompt instructions by first selecting a face or edge of entity 1 as a reference. Then, choose a face or edge of entity 2 to align it with entity 1.



1.7. How to add human entity that can walk along the specified animation path.

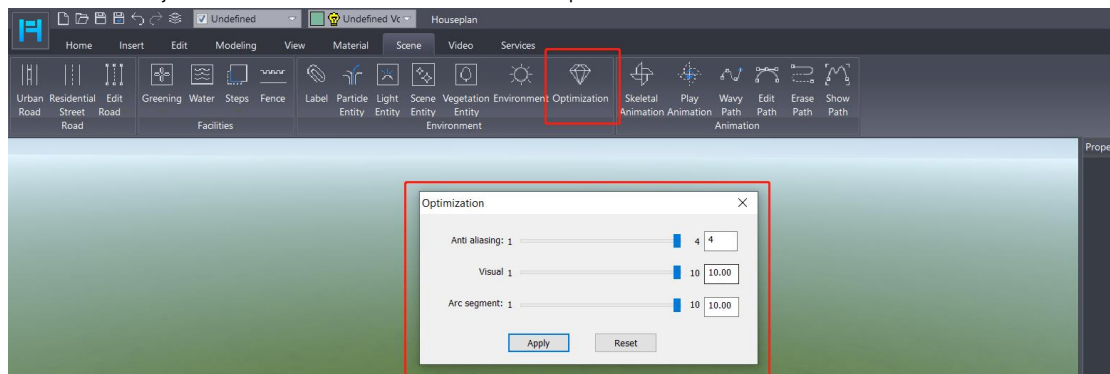
ANSWER: Click the Skeletal Animation tool in Scene – Animation panel, and select the person item in the drop down list, and select the human entity at the proper place in your scene.



To enable or disable the motion state of an entity, simply click on 'Play Animation'. The 'Wavy path' function allows you to define the movement path for the entity. Please note that only entities with a skeleton can undergo changes in body movement. Such skeletons are typically created using software like 3ds Max or Maya.

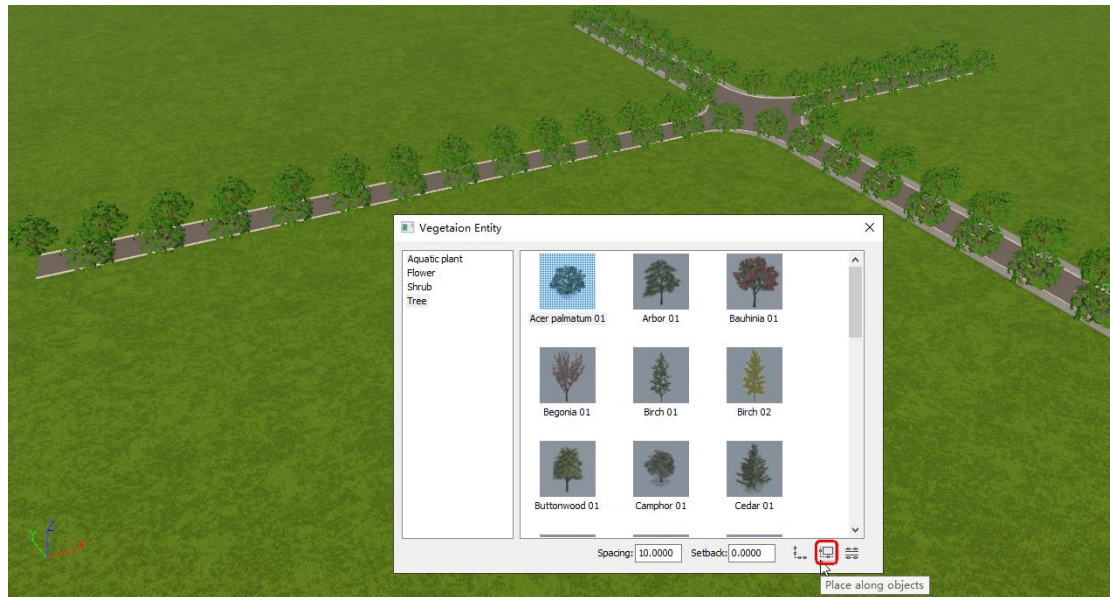
1.8. How to make all the added entities displayed, such as adding street lights but not be displayed after zooming out

ANSWER: Adjust the Visual balance value in "Scene/Optimization" to the maximum.

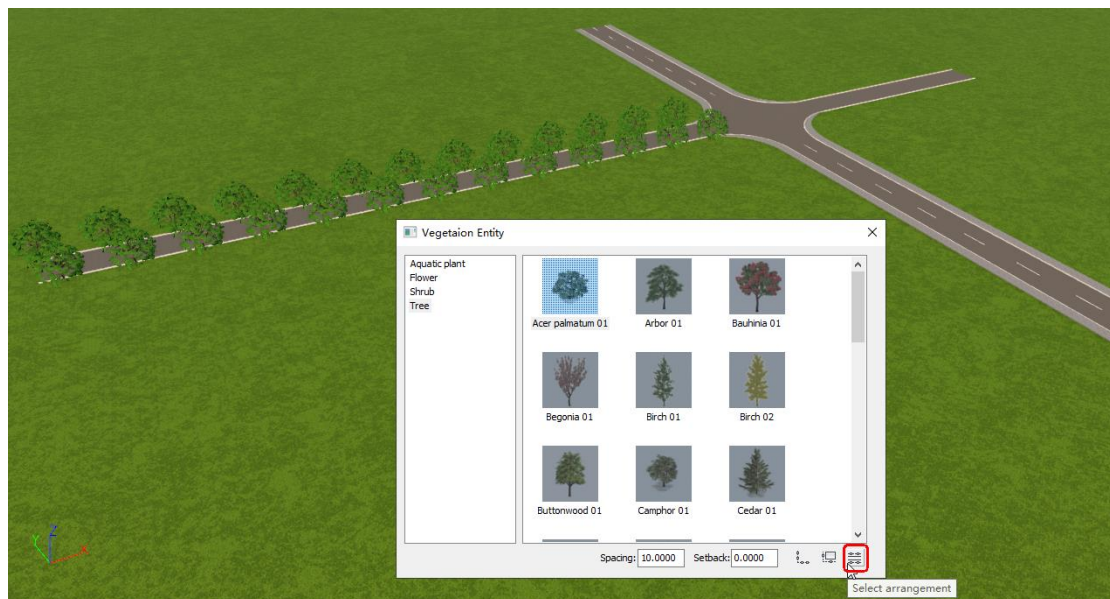


1.9. How to Plant Trees Along the Road by one click

ANSWER: Select the Vegetation Entity tool in the Scene - Environment panel, select the tree to be planted, and then click the "Place along objects" button, select the road, and quickly plant trees along both sides of the road.

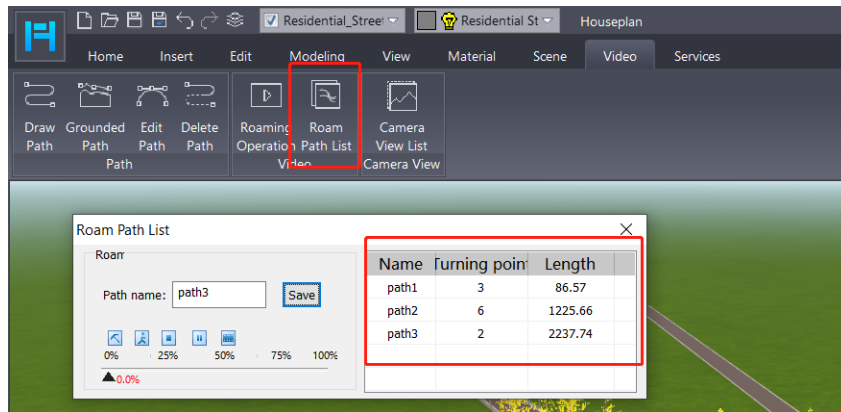


Or click the "Select arrangement" button and follow the command line prompts to select a road or enter Z and select a residential street to add trees.



1.10. How to add multiple video paths in a scene

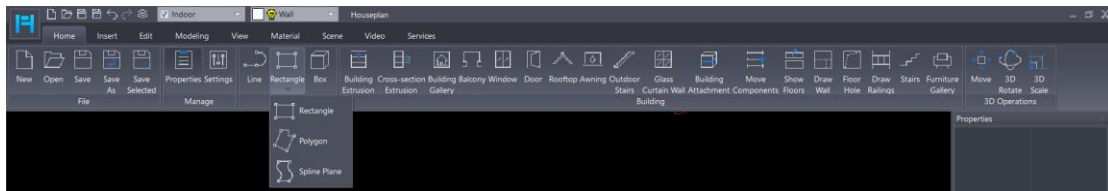
ANSWER: After setting the video path, save the path with the Roam Path List tool, execute the Delete Path tool to delete the path, then click the Draw Path tool to draw a new path, and then save it, and so on.



1.11. Does Houseplan has ability to draw an inclined wall or object

ANSWER: Yes, Houseplan supports drawing inclined wall or object.

It is convenient to draw an inclined plane with the Polygon command, rotate it and extrude it to a wall or box and edit its shape. Or you can draw with tools in the Advanced Modeling window.



1.12. Does Houseplan has ability to draw a flue/chimney

ANSWER: Usually we draw the flue/chimney with tools in the Advanced Modeling window, or we just insert a 3D flue model into the scene.

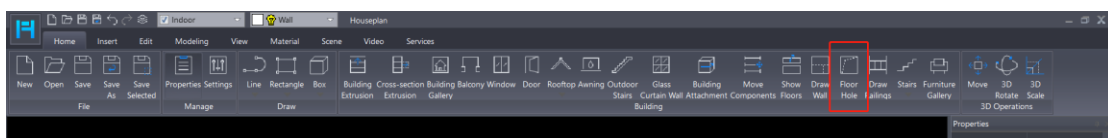
For more information about advanced modeling tools, please check the YouTube videos below:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R8mv_vlidik&t=54s

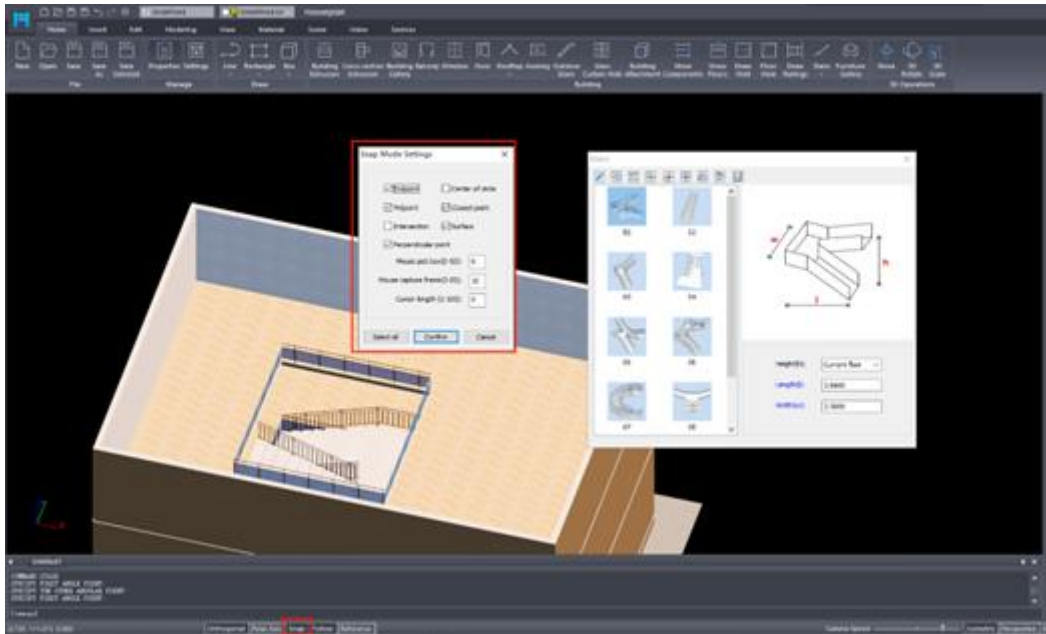
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DNs3fLGAfIM&t=13s>

1.13. Does Houseplan has ability to draw a stair to a pre-determined landing height with ceiling cut-out

ANSWER: Yes, Houseplan allows drawing stairs to a specific height. We use the Floor Hole command to draw holes in ceilings.

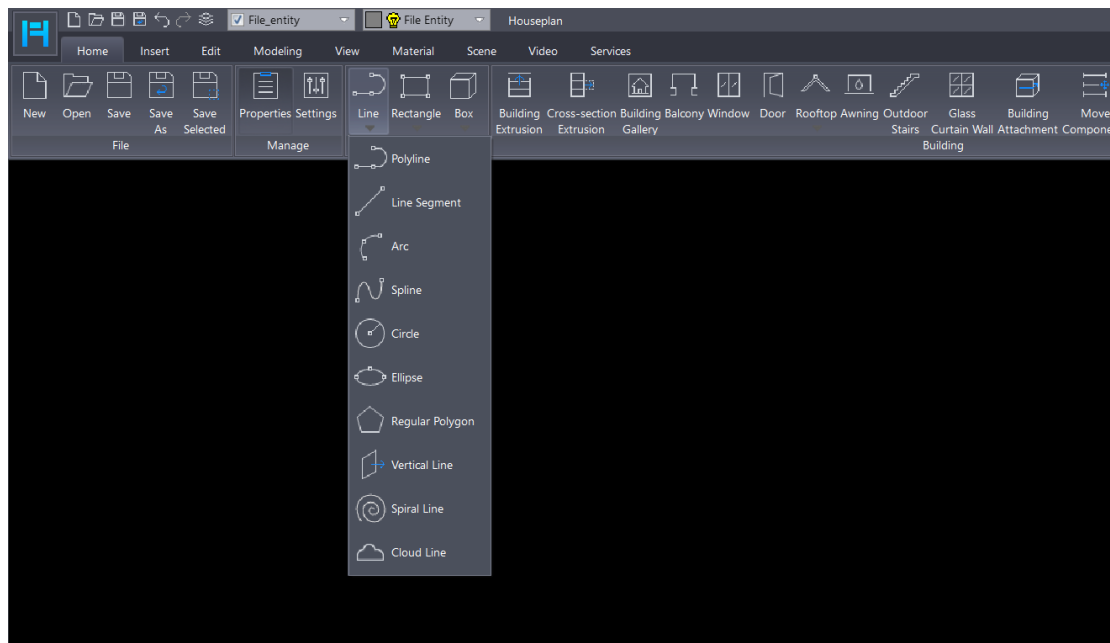


And use the Stairs tool to add stairs with specific heights.



1.14. Can Houseplan draw a boundary line(s) around a block of land

ANSWER: Yes, Houseplan supports drawing a boundary line around a block of land. You can use the 2D Polyline or SPLine tools to draw the boundary lines.

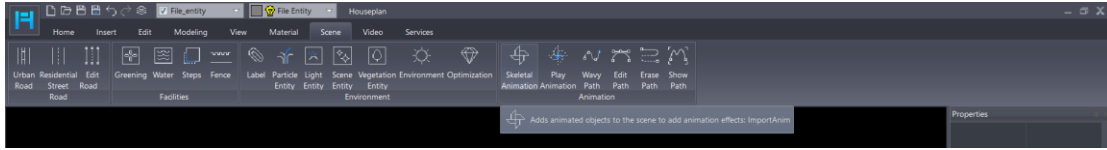


1.15. Can Houseplan draw (basic or minimal) contour lines on said block

ANSWER: Houseplan currently doesn't support drawing contour lines. However, Houseplan's technical capabilities are robust, and the development team is open to expanding the platform's functionality based on market feedback. After gathering sufficient user input, the team will assess the demand and make a decision on whether to incorporate this feature into Houseplan in the future.

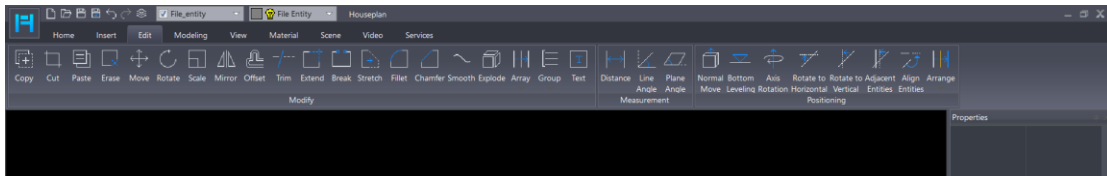
1.16. Does Houseplan includes some landscapes tools - paths, driveways, road, garden-beds & plants

ANSWER: Most landscape tools are in the Scene menu. You can also import your own 3D models from your equipment.



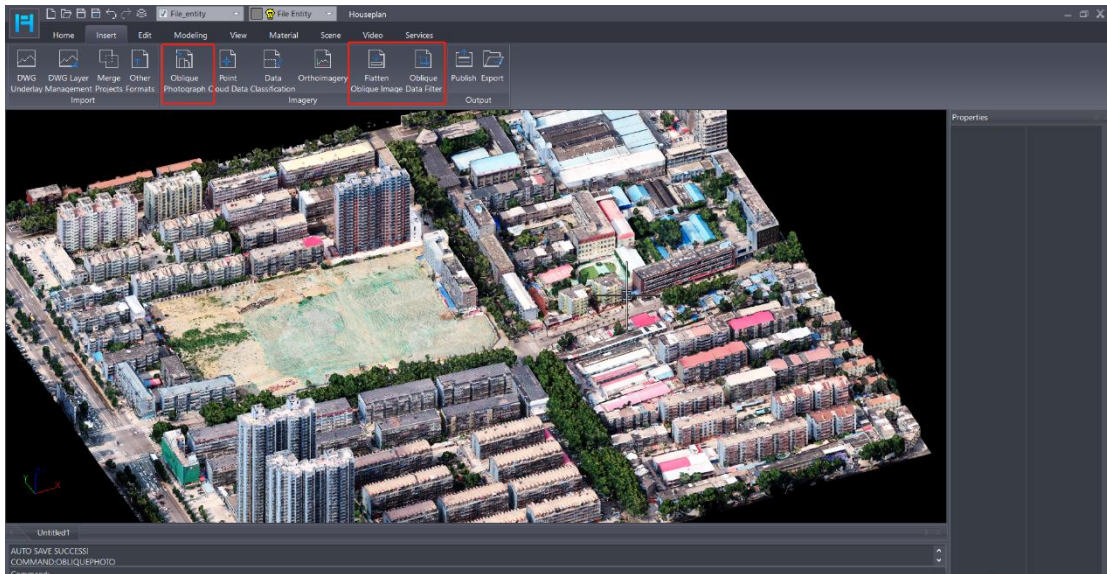
1.17. How to draw a 2D plan in Houseplan and 3D

ANSWER: You can use the line, polyline, Spline and other 2D tools, as well as the 2D Edit tools under the Edit menu to draw a basic 2D drawing.



1.18. 3D landscape tools in Architecture in 3D

ANSWER: You can insert oblique photography and flatten part of it with the Flatten oblique image tool. You can also import the .dem file, but currently, it cannot be edited.



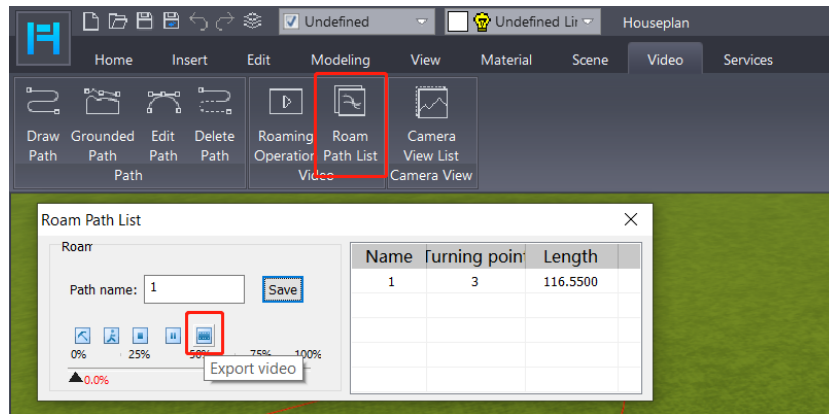
1.19. Can Houseplan allow setting sunshine location coordinates and desired time

ANSWER: No, Houseplan does not currently support setting the sunshine location coordinates and desired time. As a newly released product in the global market, this feature is not yet available. However, Houseplan's technical capabilities are robust, and the development team is open to expanding the platform's functionality based on

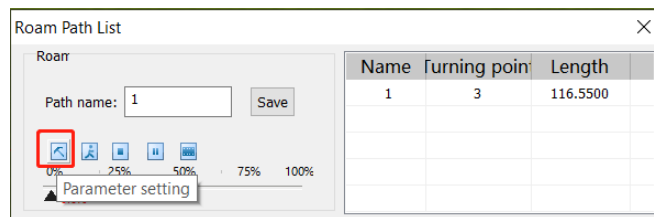
market feedback. After gathering sufficient user input, the team will assess the demand and make a decision on whether to incorporate this feature into Houseplan in the future.

1.20. How to export videos?

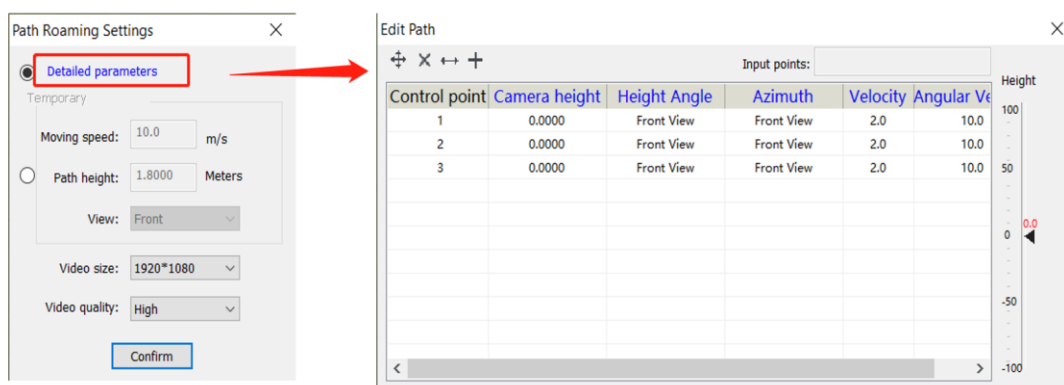
ANSWER: To export videos, click on the **Roam Path List** tool, click the Export Video button.



You can make settings to the video export by clicking on the Parameter Setting button.



Click the blue “Detailed parameters” option to make adjustments to the target point. In the resulting Edit Path dialog box, you can double-click on the blue title, which will automatically apply the changes you made to all the values within the column.



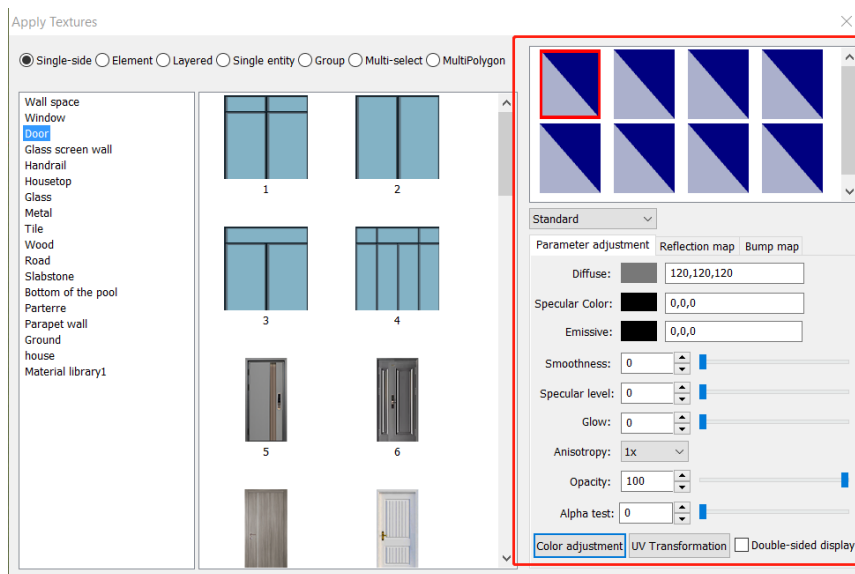
At the bottom of the Path Roaming Settings dialog box, you can modify temporary moving speed, view height, view direction of the video, and choose video size and quality.

1.21. Rendering process of Houseplan

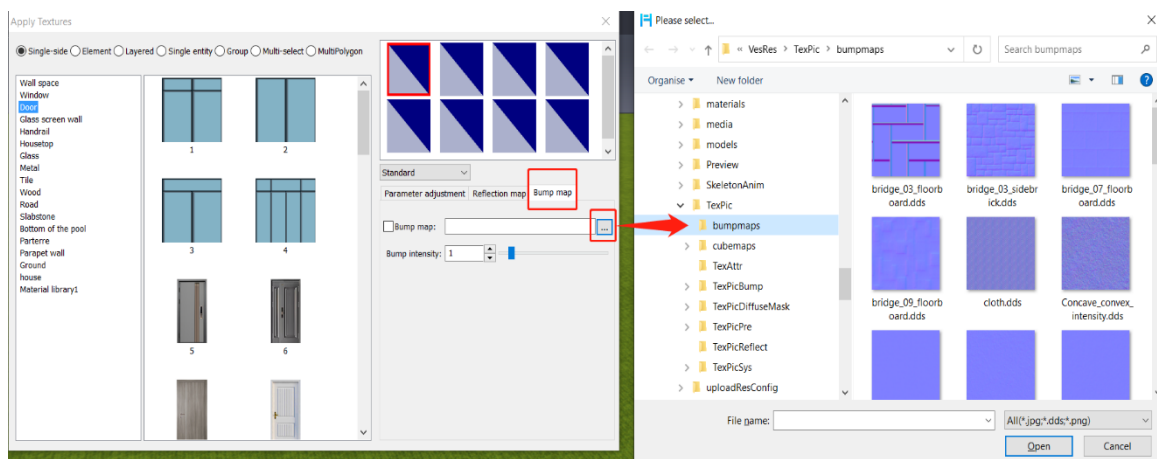
ANSWER: Houseplan does not involve a separate rendering process since it operates as a real-time rendering software. This means that the elements we add to the scene are immediately visible as outputs without the need for any additional rendering steps.

1.22. How to edit materials in Houseplan?

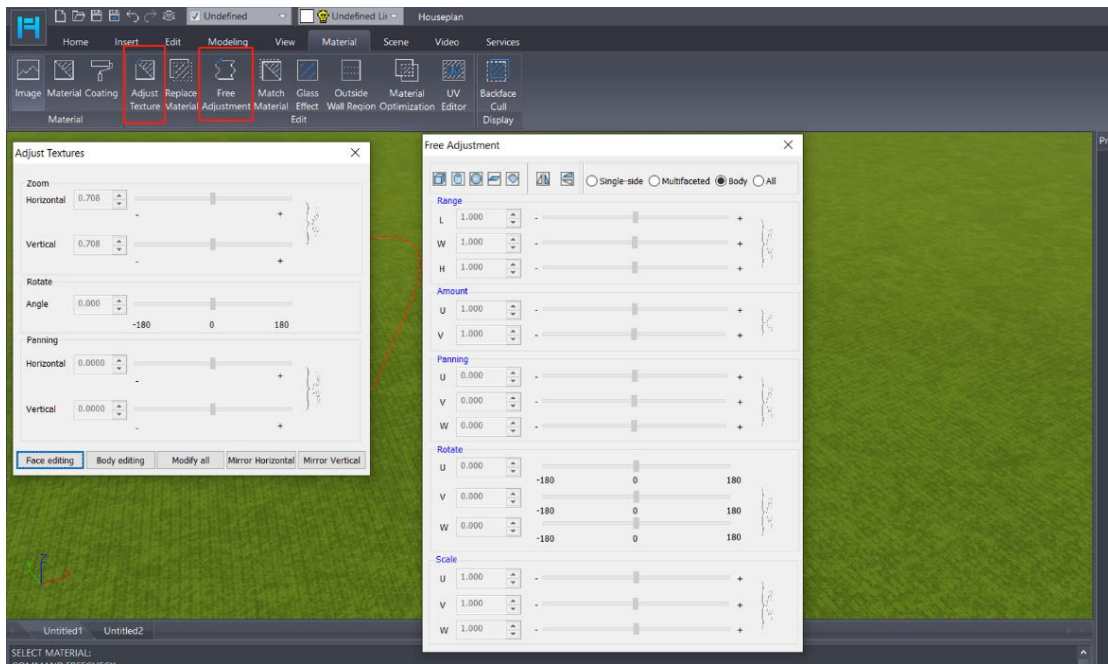
ANSWER: To modify the materials in the scene, we can access the material panel and make adjustments to the highlight color, glossiness, and highlight level using the parameter panel located on the right.



For textured materials, in addition to adjusting their properties, we can apply a bump effect through the bump map panel to enhance their realism.

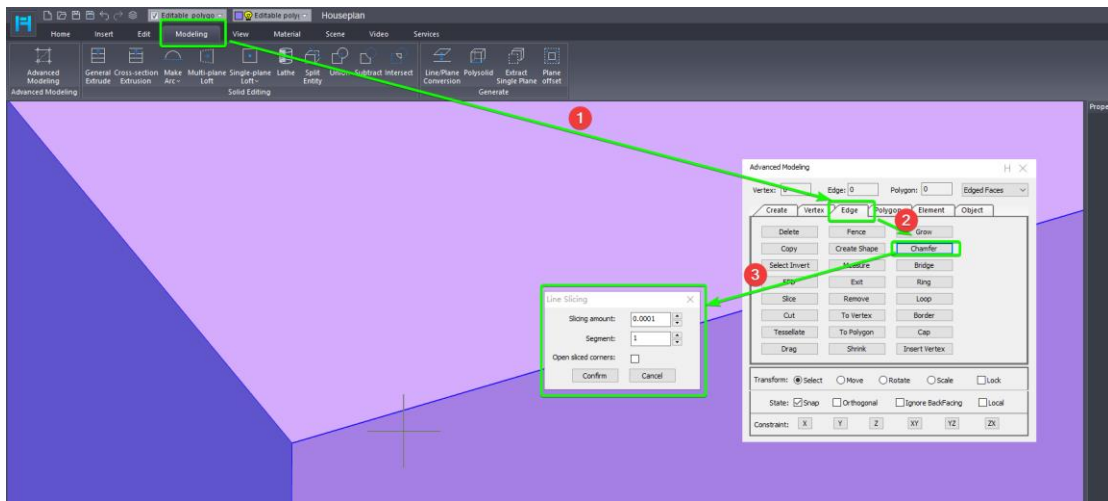


Furthermore, the size of the material texture can be adjusted using functions like texture adjustment or free adjustment to cater to different requirements and situations.



1.23. When the chamfer is small, will there be a straight chamfer instead of a circular chamfer

ANSWER: No, the smallest chamfer size can be supported is 0.1mm.



1.24. Does Houseplan allow outputting 2D layout with annotations

ANSWER: Houseplan allows outputting 2D images and DWG drawings but doesn't allow making annotations in the scene, nor outputting 2D layout with annotations.

1.25. Does Houseplan support section view

ANSWER: No, Houseplan does not currently support section view. However, Houseplan's technical capabilities are robust, and the development team is open to expanding the platform's functionality based on market feedback. After gathering sufficient user input, the team will assess the demand and make a decision on whether to

incorporate this feature into Houseplan in the future.

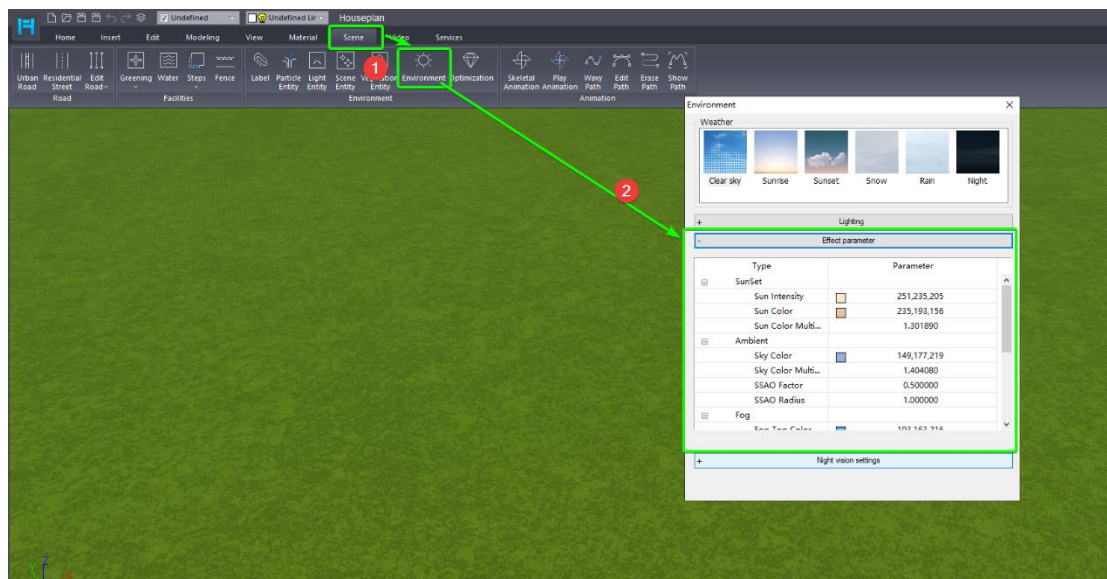
1.26. Is it possible to build on slopes (hillsides)

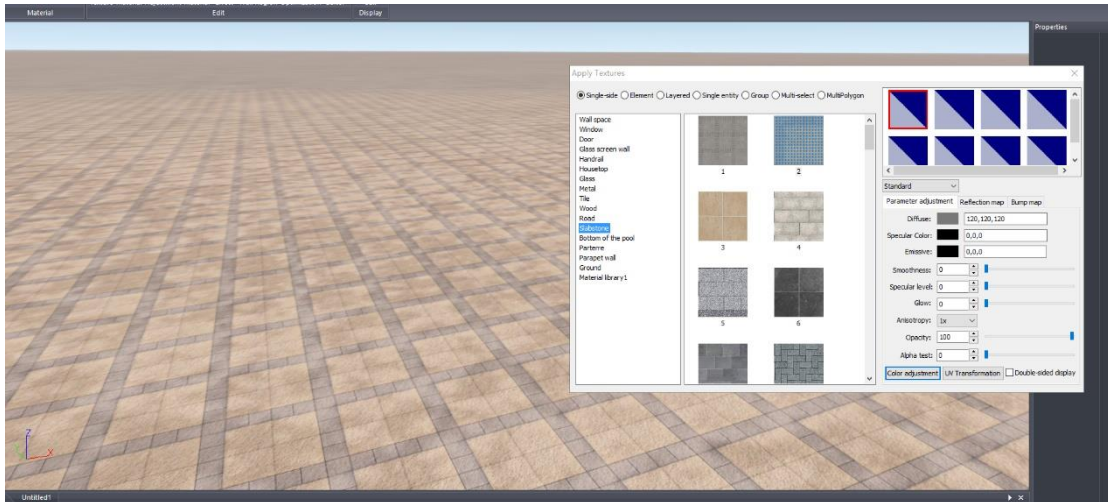
ANSWER: Yes. You can use the Advanced Modeling feature. The Houseplan Tutorials Video **Create a villa with Advanced Modeling tools** in our YouTube channel shows how to build a house on the hillside.



1.27. How to adjust rendering parameters

ANSWER: Houseplan refers to "Hyperrealist Rendering," a cutting-edge technology that enables real-time rendering in a highly realistic manner. With Houseplan, users no longer need to manually configure rendering parameters, as the system handles them automatically. However, for those seeking to customize rendering values, adjustments to environment parameters are possible. The "Effect parameter list" within the Environment feature allows users to modify aspects such as weather and lighting. Additionally, the Material tool presents an option to directly replace textures of the ground.



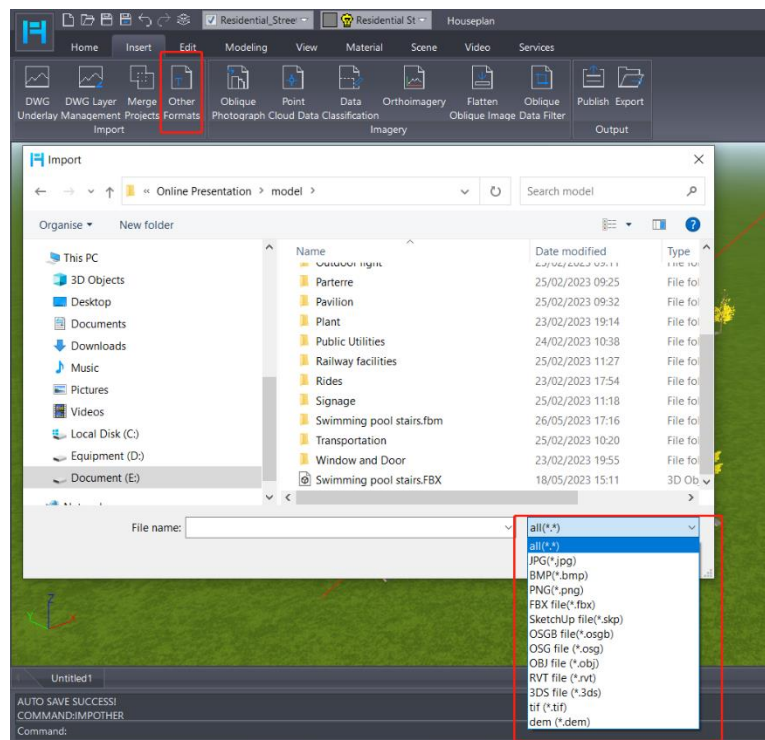


2. Compatibility questions and answers

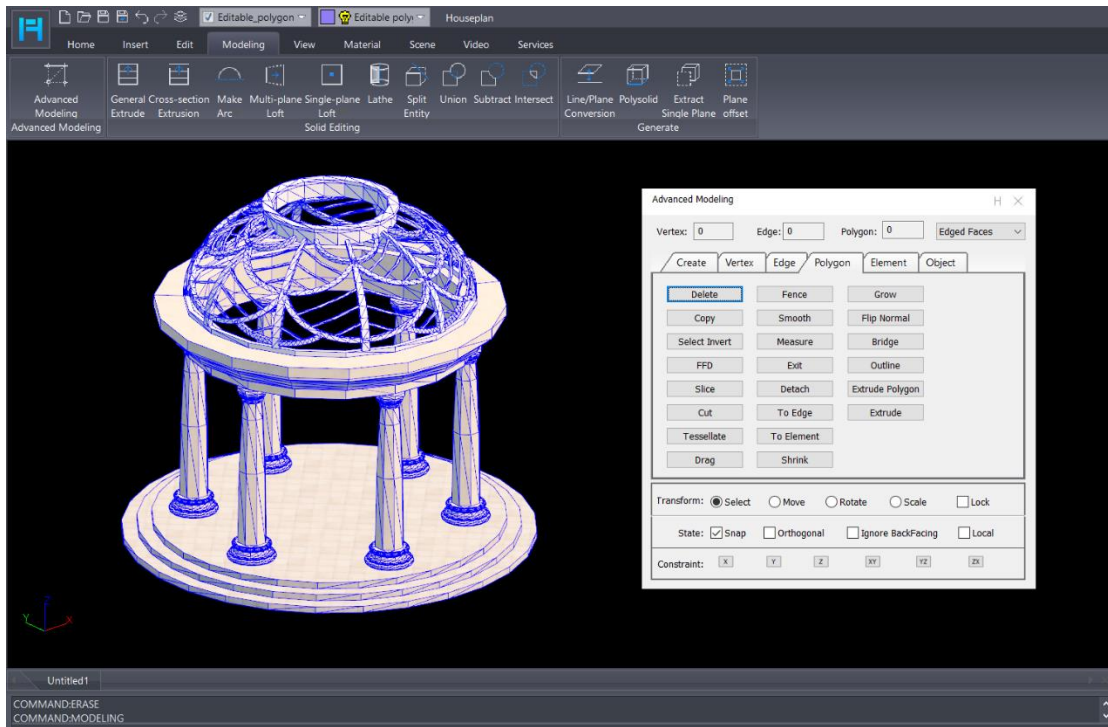
2.1. How to import models made by other formats to Houseplan

ANSWER: Houseplan supports importing oblique photography and point cloud data. As well as importing and exporting commonly used formats such as fbx, obj, tif, dem, osg, bmp, jpg, png. You can also import and edit dwg, skp, rvt, 3ds format designs.

To import other format models, just click the Other Formats command at Insert – Import panel, and select the model from the folder

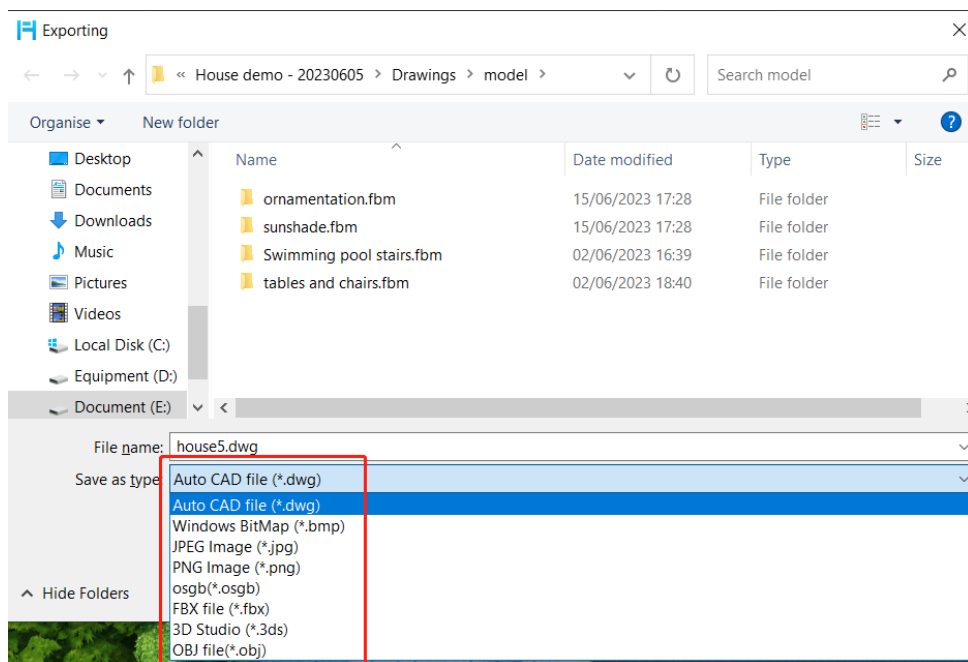


Then you can edit the model by converting them to editable objects by "Advanced Modeling" tool under the Modeling menu.



2.2. How to export the model made by Houseplan to Lumion and display the rendering results correctly in Lumion

ANSWER: You can use the Export function under the Insert menu to export the model to FBX format, and then import it into Lumion.



2.3. How to import DWG underlay

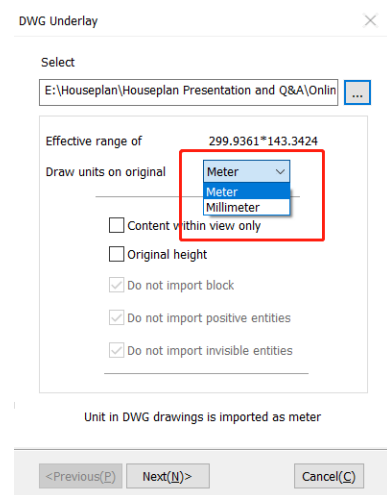
ANSWER: Houseplan supports AutoCAD versions 2007 to 2021 of DWG files.

2.3.1 What to do before importing DWG drawing

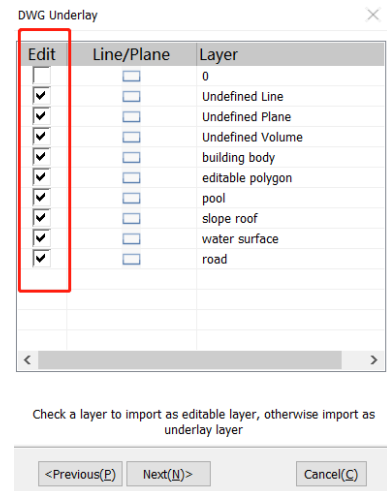
1. Remove or delete any irrelevant content such as lines, blocks, layers, and text that are not needed for future modeling.
 2. Explored or Delete the Block reference to ensure successful import.
 4. Note that imported lines may not display their original line width.
 5. In the absence of a corresponding text style, the text will be displayed using the default style.
 6. If the imported lines are intended to form a plane or 3D object in Houseplan, you should connect them into a closed polyline. And ensure there are no self-intersecting or overlapping lines. And remove approximately straight adjacent lines to avoid any misconceptions after generating the 3D solid.
 9. Place lines representing the same type of entities on the same layer.
 10. Verify that the height of all entities in the drawing is set to zero and remove any invisible debris.
 11. Conduct a thorough check to zoom in the drawing and delete any objects that fall outside the target range.
- Please note that these guidelines are crucial for a successful import and smooth usage of the drawings in Houseplan.

2.3.2 What to do when importing the DWG drawing

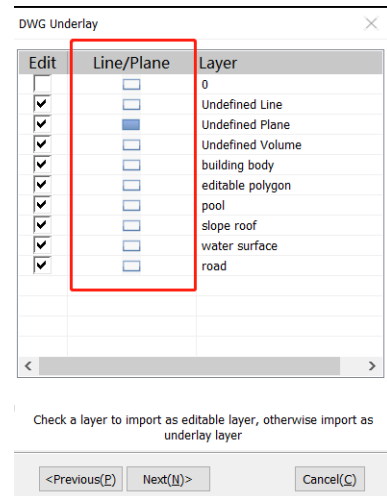
1. Select the correct unit that the DWG underlay was draw with.



2. Check the layer: the checked layer entity can be edited after importing (constituting a plane and 3D object), and the unchecked layer cannot be edited after being imported and can only be used as a reference background.



3. Select the surface type: the closed line in the selected layer will automatically be converted to a plane that can be extruded. If it is not clicked and turn blue, the closed line in the selected layer will keep the closed polyline.



2.3.3 After importing DWG underlay

The imported drawings can be divided into four types of entities: background, line, wireframe (closed polyline), and plane. In Houseplan, there are corresponding functions that follow the evolution rule of "wire-wireframe-plane-3D object."

1. **Line:** This entity represents straight lines or curves and is primarily used for defining or converting various linear entities. It can also be further edited and evolved into a wireframe.
2. **Wireframe:** Reserved as a closed polyline, the wireframe entity serves as the prepare of a plane. It is generally not directly converted into a plane to avoid confusion caused by overlapping multiple planes.
3. **Plane:** The plane entity is a two-dimensional surface that can be directly converted into various professional entities or undefined 3D objects using appropriate tools.
4. **Background management:** This function enables the conversion of imported background entities into editable entities within Houseplan.

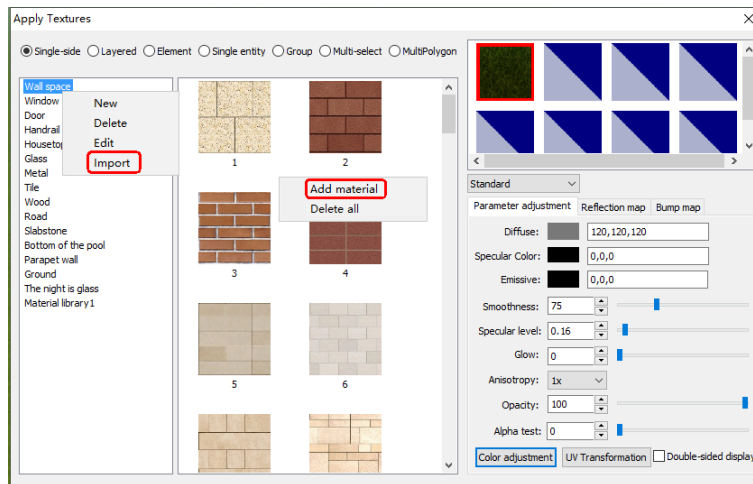
If errors are detected in the imported lines, wireframes, or planes that are difficult to resolve, or to prevent potential errors during the importing process, it is recommended to use tools provided in Houseplan to refine the imported underlay.

2.4. Can I export models to DWG format? And what is the result of exporting the 3D model to DWG drawing with Houseplan

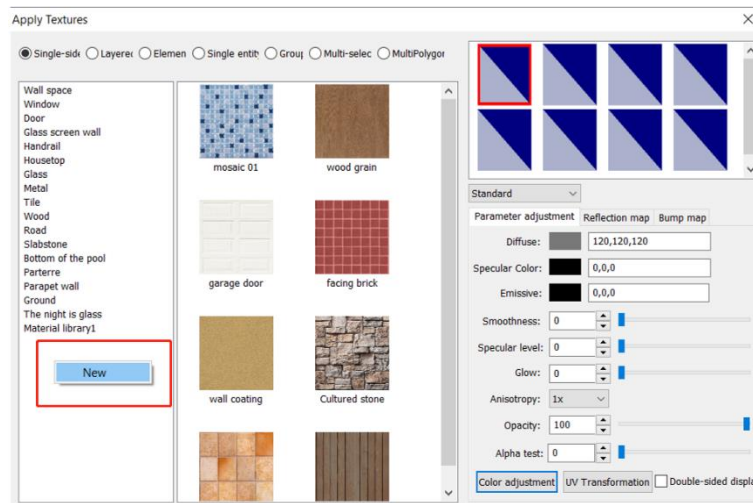
ANSWER: Yes. The models can be saved as DWG format file, but only 3D polyline objects.

2.5. How to import textures

ANSWER: Open the Apply Textures dialog box, select a category, right click on it and click the Import option, and select the material folder to import the material, or click the category and go to the right side of the dialog box, and right click to select "Add material" to add a specific texture.

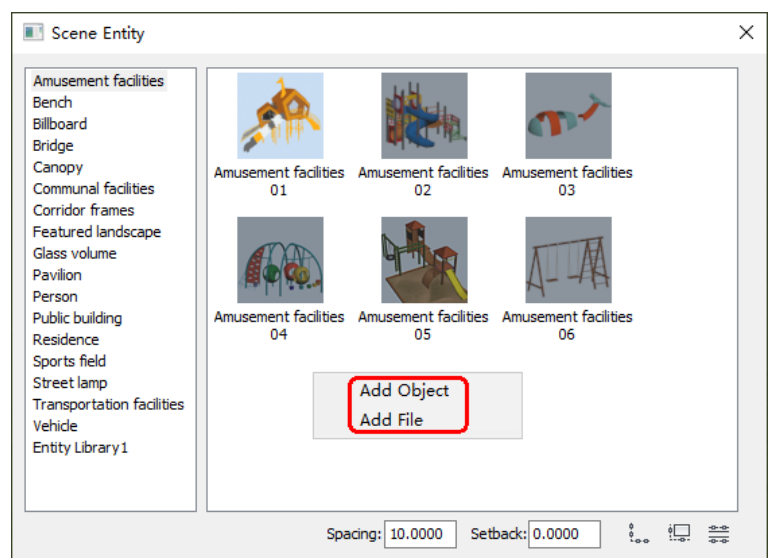


And you are able to create a new category by right click on the blank area of the left side in the dialog box.

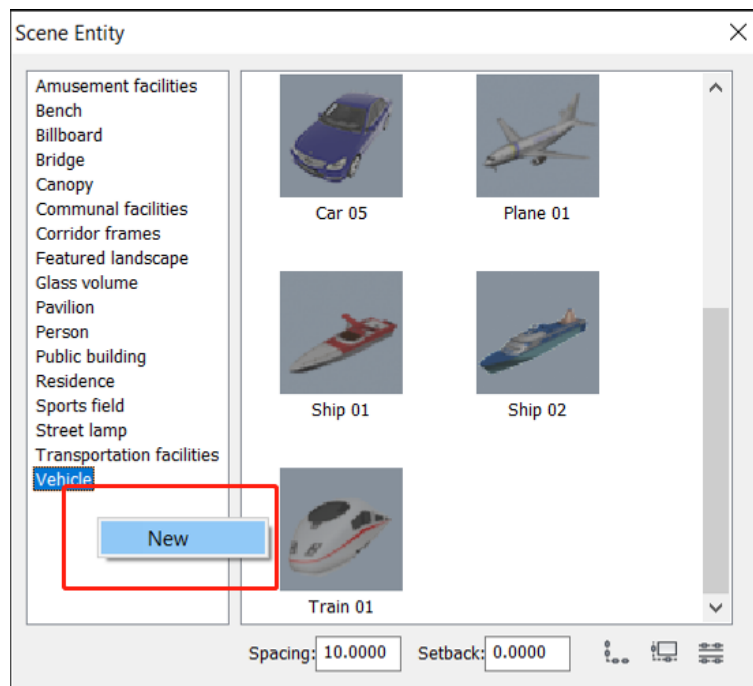


2.6. How to import models into the Entities Gallery

ANSWER: Open the Scene Entity dialog box, click a category and go to the right side of the dialog box, and right click to select the "Add file!" option to add a specific model from your PC, or select the "Add File" option to add a model from the current scene in the Houseplan.



And you are able to create a new category by right click on the blank area of the left side in the dialog box.



2.7. Why after importing data with the original coordinates, the model is displayed in mid-air, and the scene is gray.

ANSWER: Because the data coordinates are too large, you can use View - Centering feature to recalculate and match the scene display effect.

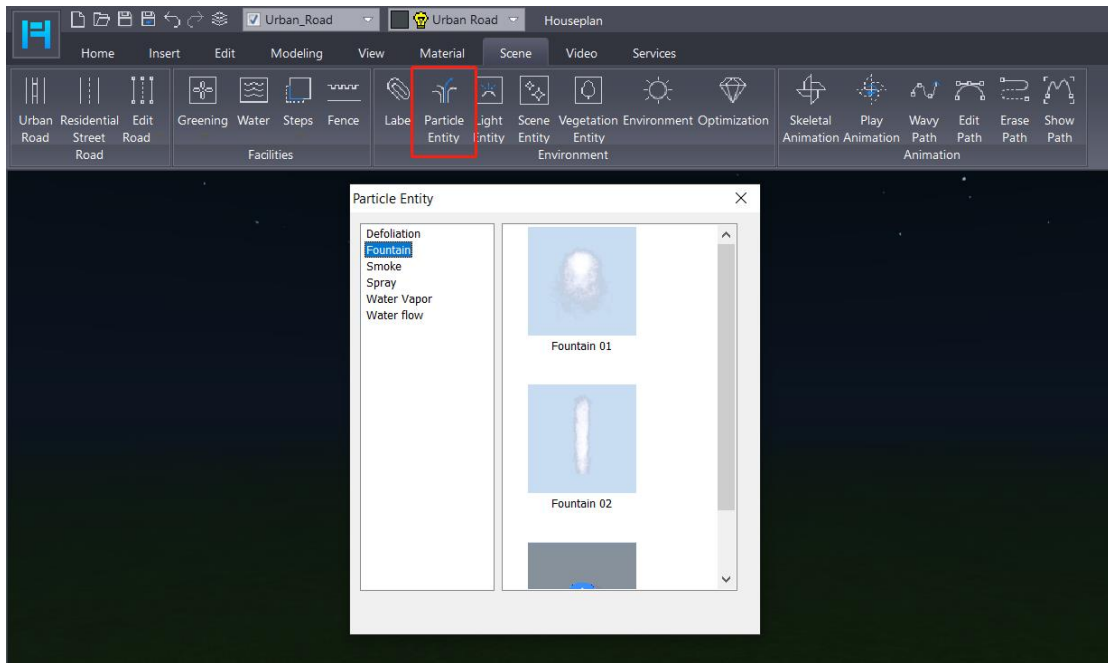
2.8. Does Houseplan support uploading personal work like models and textures, and be available to share them with users around the world

ANSWER: No, we are currently utilizing the network library mode, which allows users to download and use our latest materials and models that we uploaded to the server simply by opening the library in Houseplan. It is available to add personal work like models and textures in your library, but other users cannot see them. We will continue to update models and materials on the server.

As a newly released product in the global market, this feature is not yet available. However, Houseplan's technical capabilities are robust, and the development team is open to expanding the platform's functionality based on market feedback. After gathering sufficient user input, the team will assess the demand and make a decision on whether to incorporate this feature into Houseplan in the future.

2.9. Is their animation available as 3ds Max of water etc?

ANSWER: Houseplan offers particle entity functions, including the ability to add water flow to the scene.



By selecting the particle and adjusting the parameters in the properties window, we can also modify its position.

Particle amount	100
Particle lifetime	0.60
Initial speed	0.30
Acceleration	0.00, 0.00, -3

2.10. Does Houseplan support import animation objects

ANSWER: FBX models with bones (skeletal animation) can be imported. Then you can set paths in Houseplan to let them move. But it is not possible to modify the specific animation parameters (e.g. movement, frequency, etc.) of the model's skeleton.

2.11. Does Houseplan support BIM information

ANSWER: Houseplan is a 3D modeling and rendering software primarily utilized during the conceptual design phase of architectural projects. Its primary function within the workflow is to efficiently and visually communicate planning ideas to clients. However, it is important to note that Houseplan does not currently support Building Information Modeling (BIM). But users can conveniently access certain parameters such as floor height and area to provide basic information.

2.12. Does Houseplan support IFC format

ANSWER: No. At present, Houseplan does not offer support for the Industry Foundation Classes (IFC) format. However, since GstarCAD already includes IFC support, addressing this limitation is not inherently challenging. Nevertheless, in order to make an informed decision, further feedback collection is essential to ascertain the necessity of incorporating IFC support into Houseplan during the concept design stage. This will enable the developers to assess the demands and requirements of users, ensuring any potential addition aligns with their

needs.

2.13. Does Houseplan support Importing .rvt files

ANSWER: Yes. Houseplan offers the capability to import .rvt format models, allowing users to bring their Revit models into the software. However, it is important to note that Houseplan does not have the ability to import and read the Building Information Modeling (BIM) information associated with these models. While the 3D geometry of the .rvt files can be imported into Houseplan, any BIM-specific data, such as parametric relationships or construction details, will not be accessible within the software. Therefore, Houseplan primarily focuses on visualizing and manipulating the 3D models rather than incorporating the comprehensive BIM functionality found in dedicated BIM software like Revit.

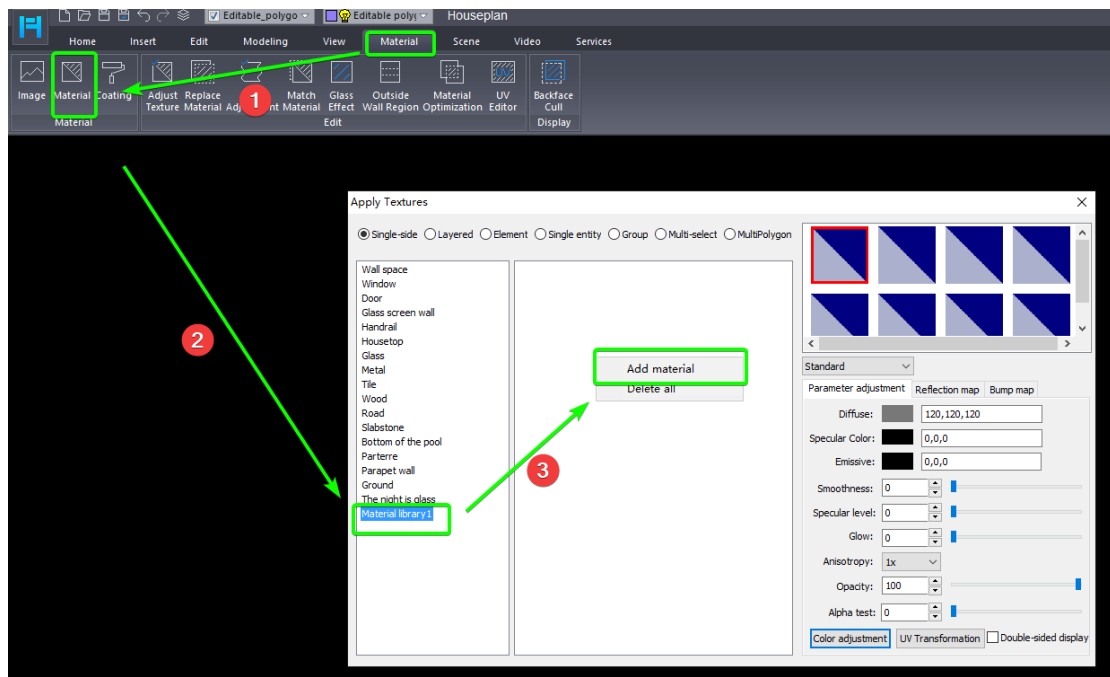
2.14. Does Houseplan support importing Point Cloud data

ANSWER: Yes. Houseplan offers the capability to import point cloud data.

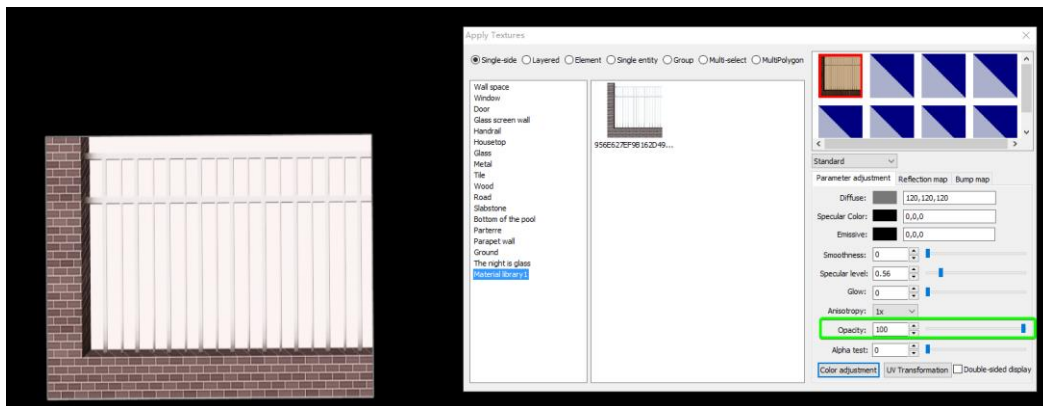
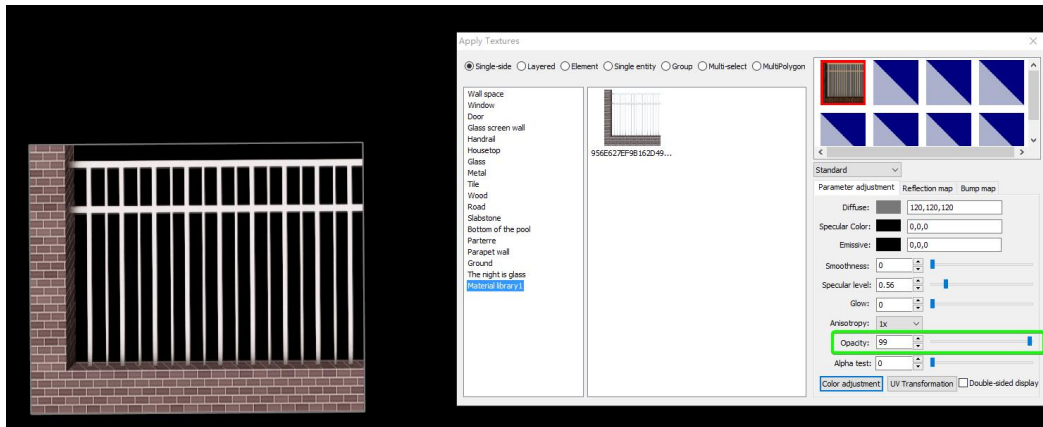
2.15. Can Houseplan import a PNG with a transparent background, and can adjust the background color, transparency, etc. after painting the PNG to the entity

ANSWER: Yes. You can import a PNG with a transparent background and adjust the background color, transparency, etc. after painting the PNG to the entity.

First click the Material command in the Material menu to open the “Add Textures” dialog box, and select a material category or create a new one by right clicking in the category window, then right click on the right to add materials.

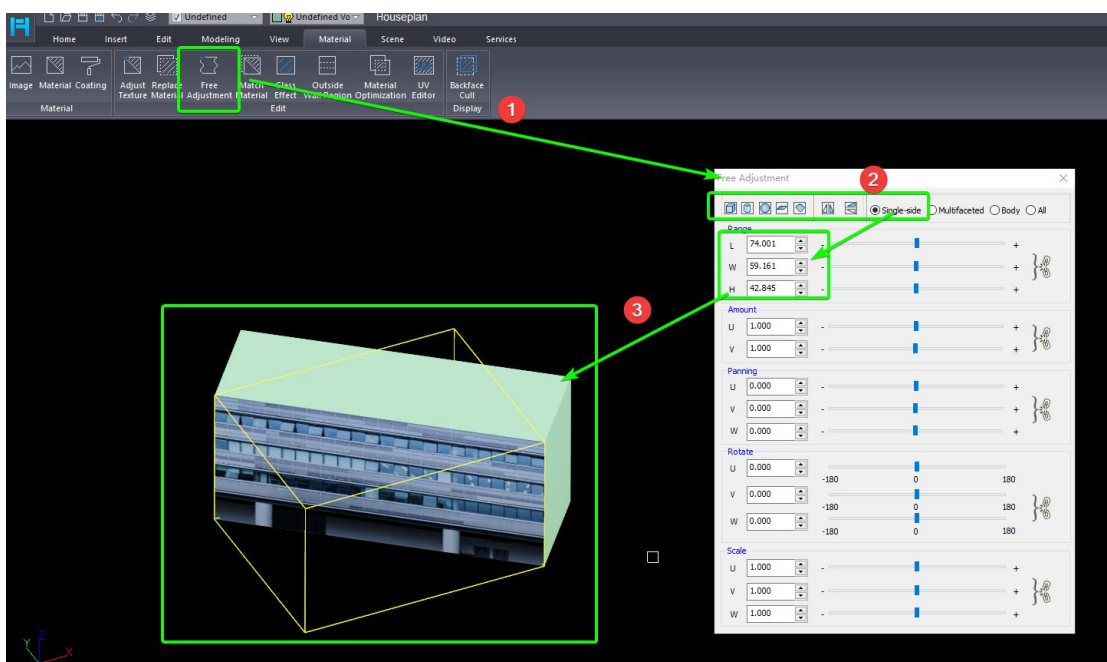


And if you want to adjust the opacity, you can go to the right bottom of the box.



2.16. Can Houseplan import high-resolution materials, the texture will not be repeated after importing

ANSWER: Yes. You can use the Free Adjustment tool to adjust the texture. Select the Cube button and the Single-side option, click the object to be painted, and use the default LWH parameters.

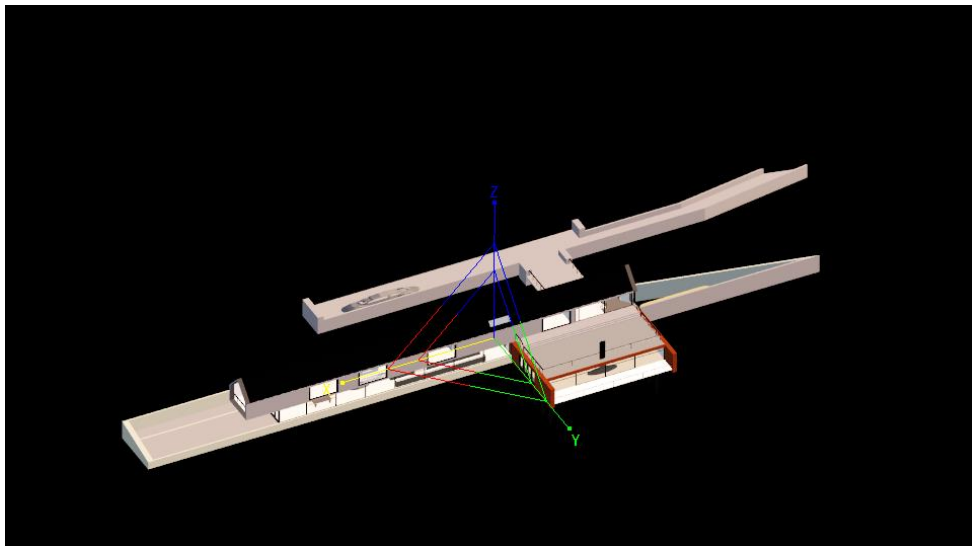


2.17. What is the maximum supported pixel texture image import

ANSWER: Maximum size of 3000*3000 pixels.

2.18. Whether the imported 3D model can be zoomed in or out, if zoomed in and out and exploded, the surface will return to the original size

ANSWER: You can utilize the Scale or 3D Scale feature to resize the model, and the scaled size will be retained even after the model is exploded.



2.19. Does Houseplan support import Google map or other map data

ANSWER: Yes. Maps can be imported through orthophotos, which are in 1:1 scale. And you can also import a map image in formats we support, such as ipg, png.

2.20. Is it available to import PDF files

ANSWER: At present, Houseplan does not offer support for PDF format. However, since GstarCAD already includes PDF support, addressing this limitation is not inherently challenging. Nevertheless, in order to make an informed decision, further feedback collection is essential to ascertain the necessity of incorporating PDF support into Houseplan during the concept design stage. This will enable the developers to assess the demands and requirements of users, ensuring any potential addition aligns with their needs.

3. Market questions and answers

3.1. What's the difference between Houseplan and other Architecture software

ANSWER: Generally speaking, Houseplan pays more attention to the external shape and overall positional relationship of the building. And architecture, in the case of GstarCAD Architectural software, pays more attention to high precision and takes into account the actual situation during construction, including internal structures and annotations.

The design stage can be divided into conceptual design and engineering construction design.

- In the conceptual design stage, modeling ability and rendering effect are more important, and software such as Houseplan, SketchUp, and 3Ds MAX are more commonly used.
- In the construction design stage, software such as AutoCAD, Revit, and GstarCAD are often preferred.

3.2. Does Houseplan always needs administrator to open? Is there a way around this

ANSWER: Yes. Houseplan has to get the Administrator privilege to run properly, as it needs to edit the registry value or call the external program to finish some commands. There is no way to adjust it in the software, so we can only suggest customers run it under Administrator privilege every time or adjust their Windows settings to give Administrator privilege by default.



Houseplan



■ www.gstarcad.net/houseplan/