

Vectorworks Architect FAQ

1. Who uses Vectorworks Architect?

Architects, engineers, architectural designers, drafters and interior designers take advantage of the many special features and functions in Vectorworks® Architect. The software allows you to handle all phases of a building's design: blocking out and analyzing the building's space program, easily developing the design, creating compelling presentations, and documenting construction plans, all while visualizing the design in 2D and 3D. Multidisciplinary firms can also benefit from Vectorworks Designer, which contains the entire Architect package plus a full suite of tools for landscape and entertainment design. Click here to learn more about [Vectorworks Designer](#).

2. How does Vectorworks Architect do BIM (Building information Modeling)?

Vectorworks Architect was a Building Information Modeling application before the acronym "BIM" existed. Vectorworks Architect integrates the data-rich 3D model with live, dynamic viewport presentations of the plans, elevations, sections, and details of the building. You design and make your changes on a single model of the building, and the results automatically show up on all views. Constrained walls and slabs and auto-joining wall networks simplify your design process. Automatic Drawing Coordination means your drawings are always numbered and coordinated correctly. And, if your client needs a BIM model, you can export an industry-standard IFC model for use with any number of "downstream" management and simulation applications. For more information check out our [BIM in Practice page](#).

3. Is Vectorworks Architect suitable for large projects?

Many world-renowned, award-winning architects and firms—like Rios Clementi Hale Studios, Studio Daniel Libeskind, tecArchitecture, and Leers Weinzapfel Associates—as well as thousands of successful designers around the world, all depend on Vectorworks Architect for the design and execution of large-scale projects. The program deftly handles the needs and functions of a large project with the ease of a smaller project.

4. Can I draw accurate floor plans directly in Vectorworks Architect?

Yes. In Vectorworks Architect, you can start with a 2D plan or with a 3D model and change your view at any time. Vectorworks Architect provides a structure of design layers, sheet layers, and classes for drawing organization. Drawing sets can be easily organized so you can quickly accomplish floor plans, sketches, elevations, details, sections, and schedules.

5. Can I design a 3D model in Vectorworks Architect?

Yes. Our 3D modeling is based on the leading Parasolid technology to provide best-in-class modeling. You'll see many 3D objects such as walls, windows, doors, and stairs. Additionally, Vectorworks Architect features a set of sophisticated tools that facilitate true, free-form modeling.

6. Do Vectorworks Architect drawings look like other CAD drawings?

Vectorworks drawings look better than other CAD drawings. Vectorworks supports (and encourages) your individuality and does not dictate how your plans must look. We give you the freedom to create your own look. This is one of the many reasons why so many great designers choose Vectorworks Architect. To view some completed drawings, check out our [Residential plan set](#) and our [Commercial plan set](#).

7. What graphics options does Vectorworks Architect offer?

Vectorworks Architect offers you the freedom to design your way, and we're known for our graphics capabilities—we have tons of options: colored fills, gradients, 2D tiles, hatches, unlimited colors, variable line weights, and many other tools to help you realize your exact vision.

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8. Can I create renderings, videos, and path animations with Vectorworks Architect?

Yes. Vectorworks Architect with Renderworks provides the ability to create videos of orbital, path and solar animations. With the Renderworks add-on, you can also create high-quality photorealistic and non-photorealistic and stylized rendered models that you can use to produce stunning images and animations.

9. How quickly can I learn Vectorworks Architect?

Vectorworks Architect is known for its intuitive user interface and workflow. Getting you up and running quickly is our goal. Typically, after a two-day training course you'll understand the basics of Vectorworks Architect and you'll be able to start designing. We also have a number of self-training options available, so that you can learn at your own pace. We offer tutorials with illustrated, step-by-step instructions and sample designs. See our [Training page](#) for a list of tutorials.

10. Is there a free student version of Vectorworks?

Yes. Students around the world use Vectorworks Designer with Renderworks, which combines all the functionality of Vectorworks Landmark, Architect, and Spotlight into a single application. For more information, visit our [Student Portal](#).

11. Which schools are using Vectorworks Architect?

Many institutions of higher education and other schools throughout the world have already discovered Vectorworks Architect. To effectively prepare your students for a successful career in architecture, please visit our [academic website](#) to contact our educational team.

12. After the original purchase of Vectorworks Architect, are there further costs?

You are not obligated to upgrade at any time. If you choose to upgrade, you may do so for only a fraction of the original cost of a new license. Nemetschek Vectorworks offers a variety of services (many of them free) to help users succeed with Vectorworks products. Take advantage of free options like service pack updates, Getting Started Guides, technical support, the knowledgebase, the eDispatch online newsletter, the Community Board and tech tips. Or, for more personalized training, you can purchase workbooks, training CDs, online training options, Vectorworks Service Select, and group or individual training courses. Check out the many resources on our [Training page](#).

13. What types of files can I import or export from within Vectorworks Architect?

Vectorworks Architect handles a large variety of import and export formats. You can import or export your plan in DXF/DWG format, which will allow you to seamlessly and accurately send files back and forth between Vectorworks and the application being used by your colleague. You can export BIM models successfully to other downstream BIM applications using our IFC 2x3 export. You can create PDFs, JPGs, TIFs, and MOVs of your designs for your clients to see. Many other formats (Parasolid X_T, SAT, 3DS, EPS, PICT, STL, SKP, C4D, and IGS, among others) allow you to exchange data freely with almost every application.

14. Can I install my licensed software on either a Macintosh or a PC?

Yes. Your license is cross platform so you can choose to install your software on either a Macintosh or PC. Please refer to the [end user license agreement](#) (EULA) for further details regarding additional restrictions or limitations of different licenses and protection methods.

15. Can co-workers simultaneously work on the same project?

You bet! Vectorworks Architect uses reference technology to allow several co-workers to work on the same project simultaneously. You can reference symbols, parts of a plan, or even entire floors together. And, with the help of workgroup referencing, the office standards can be set up so that everyone can access the standard office libraries, colors, documents, organizational structures, and much more. With Vectorworks Architect, you can all move ahead together.

16. Are object libraries included in the purchase price?

Yes. At no extra charge with the purchase, you'll have access to thousands of items like symbols for manufacturer specific windows, doors, HVAC equipment, details, equipment, human figures, fixtures, furnishings, designer furniture, vehicles, trees, and plants. We update all libraries constantly, and this content is completely customizable—you can even add your own.



17. Who can get the free Vectorworks Viewer?

You, your colleagues, your clients—anyone who wants to open, view, or print Vectorworks documents can get the free Viewer. The Viewer helps the plot service or printer who needs to work with Vectorworks files. Owners and clients can use the Viewer to see the documents without the need for a full version of Vectorworks. The files cannot be changed; all tools except those for revision control are blocked. With the Viewer, you can open drawings from all Vectorworks products. Download it from [our website](#), free of charge.

18. What are the system recommendations for Vectorworks Architect?

Windows: 4GB RAM, Pentium 2 GHz or better processor, Windows XP SP3, Vista SP2, Windows 7
Macintosh: 4GB RAM, Intel Core 2 GHz or better processor, Mac OS X 10.5.7 or higher
For the most current and update information, please visit our [Knowledge base](#).