

The quick and easy solution for all your building design requirements

Software dedicated to small and large scale projects including new builds, self-builds, house extensions, renovations, loft and garage conversions, outdoor and indoor living spaces.

With ARCON Visual Architecture, detailed plans can be rapidly drawn and cross-sections and elevations can be generated automatically on screen. By utilising a simple-to-use interface with dedicated tools for each part of a design, users can plan out and see their ideas in full 3D simply by drawing a 2D plan. This is what makes ARCON software the perfect choice if you are new to CAD or want something to compliment your existing CAD software.

Developed for use by professionals, but quickly adopted by the self-build market, ARCON software has since been discovered by many other users over the years. The simplicity and speed with which plans can be created makes it the ideal tool for planning and visualising projects including self-builds, extensions, loft conversions, renovations and all aspects of a building project.



Avoid problems right from the beginning of your project

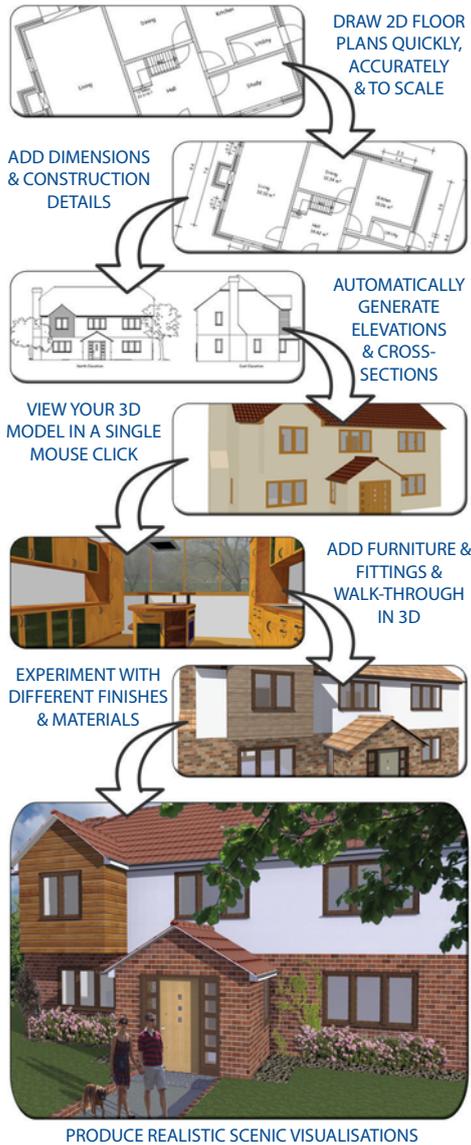
ARCON Visual Architecture stems from a long line of building design software. By focusing on house design and not general CAD, we have been able to develop an easy-to-use and quick-to-learn package at an affordable price. The simplified interface allows for everyday computer users to very quickly create 2D plans and experience the power of 3D with the click of a button.

Software used by architects, building professionals, developers, self-builders, home improvers and many more!

Whilst ARCON software is primarily aimed at architects, building professionals and self-builders looking to design houses and homes, over the years ARCON has been extensively used by many others to help with different scenarios and requirements. Below is a small sample of other uses to which ARCON software has been applied:

Interior designers, kitchen planners, bathroom designers, office space planning, estate agents, landlords, property developers, health and fitness centres, planning departments, health and safety, occupational health, social housing, property marketing, window design, conservatory design, solar panel visualisation, safety planning.

Plan & communicate your design ideas quickly & easily



How does it work?

By keeping things simple ARCON enables you to quickly create floorplans, elevations and cross-sections in accurate 2D. These 2D drawings can be enhanced with the detail that you need to display and can include scale information, measurement details, dimensions, areas, volumes and construction details right down to the individual layers creating your chosen wall structures. These drawings are automatically converted into a fully interactive 3D model where you can further explore your design. The left diagram shows how ARCON can work for you to produce accurate scaled 2D plans and realistic 3D visualisations.

Easy-to-use interface for planning and design

The modular toolset provides tools and icons for specific elements of the design in a logical manner. Easily identifiable, each tool will guide you through a particular part of the design process and will be familiar to anyone having used Windows based software. Each tool can be customised and adapted to your preferred drawing style with fully flexible options, easily accessed at any time.

No CAD knowledge required

One of the main advantages of the ARCON system over a traditional CAD system is the use of a modular toolset. Designed specifically for building design we have been able to create an intuitive set of modules to guide you logically through the design process. This means it's simple for anyone to learn, both experienced professionals and novice amateurs embarking on their first self-build project

Enhanced wall editing tools

All walls are fully customisable, enabling you to edit wall structures right down to each individual layer, create custom wall types and of course set dimensions and joints. Our enhanced wall editing tools provide greater flexibility than ever before to enable walls which have already been placed in a project to be manipulated quickly to achieve your design requirements.

Create split level buildings

Not all building plots are level and often a design will need to include split levels within the building. This could range from a simple step-down kitchen through to a hillside home staggered with the slope of the site. By using the 'multiple building' concept within ARCON it is simple to overcome these design issues enabling you to create a design perfectly suited to your plot requirements.

Ground contours

Create realistic ground contours which allows you to show the effect of your building on a slope or into a hill.

Stairs editor

Generate complex stair forms. You can adjust the parameters and see the changes instantly in 3D. Supports many stair types. When placed, stairs will automatically create a ceiling cutout for the stairwell.



Create professional drawings suitable for planning applications

With fast and accurate drawing tools, creating scaled floor plans, elevations and cross-sections is one of the key strengths of the ARCON system. All plans and elevations are produced to scale with flexible control over scale, paper size and measurement units. All of our ARCON home design software packages also come complete with our built-in CreativeLines package. This provides even greater control of your layouts, enabling you to produce single pages containing multiple views and floor plans. Ideal for planning applications, floor plan presentations to clients or service information for each trade.



Used by architects and building professionals worldwide

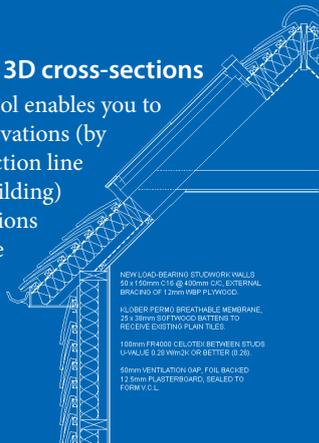
ARCON has been the choice house design software system for thousands of building professionals, architects and self-builders. Working closely with our users we continue to develop and support our ARCON system to ensure it can be adapted to even the most demanding design project.

Powerful measuring and ruler tools

ARCON software contains many tools to ensure that your drawing elements are spaced and aligned correctly. With powerful guidelines, rulers, origins, grids and measures you can be certain that your plans will be correct every time.

Create 2D & 3D cross-sections

Our section tool enables you to create both elevations (by placing the section line outside the building) and cross-sections (by placing the section line through the building).



NEW LOAD BEARING STUDWORK WALLS
25 x 150mm G18 @ 400mm C/C EXTERNAL BRACED OR 120mm WBPB PLW/WOOD
KLOBER PERMO BREATHABLE MEMBRANE
25 x 38mm SOFTWOOD BATTENS TO RESERVE EXISTING PLAN FLEES
100mm FRAGRO CELESTEX BETWEEN STUDS U-VALUE 0.25 W/WRK OR BETTER (0.26)
50mm VENTILATION GAP, FOIL BACKED
12.5mm PLASTERBOARD, SEALED TO FORM V.C.L.

Generate elevation views automatically

By using the section tool to designate the start and end viewpoints, an elevation can be generated automatically for everything visible within the boundaries of the section. The section tool enables you to define the scale of your elevation (which can be different for the floor plans) and specify whether to include one or more buildings or just an individual floor. Multiple sections can be added within a project to easily provide the standard front/rear/side elevation views.

Over 8,000 textures, materials, furniture items and objects

Apply textures to surfaces, objects, fixtures and fittings to change their appearance and style. Add materials to provide reflective surfaces, glass properties and mirrored finishes. Furnish your project with objects for bathrooms, kitchens, living/dining areas, offices and gardens.



Create professional drawings suitable for planning applications

2D plans to 3D models in a single click

Creating realistic 3D models for visualisation couldn't be simpler. Draw your floor plans in a traditional 2D plan view and your 3D model is created automatically at the same time. With a single mouse click or key press you can then enter the 3D mode to view your design, modify finishes and fittings and take a virtual tour of your building.



Drag & drop or numeric input methods

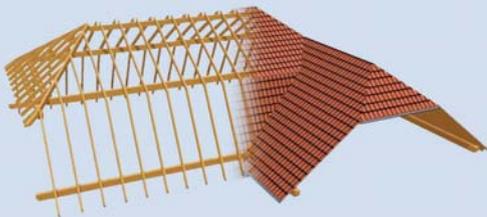
Everyone has their preferred working methods and styles and so in ARCON we reflect this by providing multiple methods for achieving construction tasks. Use simple drag & drop to insert objects, point and click to place walls or use numeric input methods to enter dimensions such as wall lengths.

Automatic and manual dimensioning

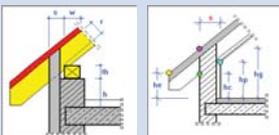
2D plans and elevations in ARCON are always drawn to scale, which you have full control over, and there are many ways of displaying important dimensions and measurements. Set automatic dimensions to display as you draw, choose from many styles of dimension lines to add manually, use height point dimensions on elevations and cross-sections, easily add room areas and volumes and even angle dimensions.

Produce simple or complex roof designs

For simple roof constructions you can select from any of the standard roof types in the library and simply drag and drop into position and amend pitch etc as required.



Alternatively use the free form roof editor to create complex roof designs for more unusual shaped buildings. Easily edit the roof settings from pitch and eaves height, right through to wood construction details. Then modify the roof easily with dedicated tools for dormer windows and skylights.

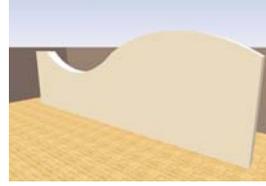
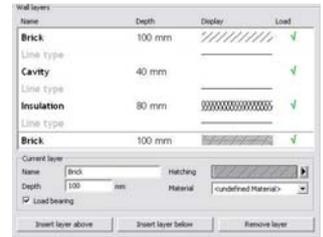


Advanced roof editing tools

Create even more unique or complex roof designs with these advanced tools. Easily edit roof overhanging profiles, insert polygon points for greater flexibility of design and automatically add guidelines in attic rooms for any specified head height.

Customisable wall construction types, including cavity wall detail

Walls come complete with a number of standard settings in the library. These wall settings can be completely customised to change the library or create your own for future projects. Walls can be completely customised right down to specifying each individual layer of a wall. This makes the wall tool able to cater for cavity walls, sips, solid stone or even straw bales.



Advanced wall outline editing

Take full control of the profile of your walls for maximum design flexibility. Decide how and where walls interact with features such as stairs and roofs. Manually edit individual wall profiles to recreate unusual shapes, architectural features or even garden walls.

Create estates and multi-building developments

With the ability to create multiple buildings per project file, ARCON is flexible enough to enable you to design entire developments and plan estates. Easily save a design and load multiple copies into your project to create a complete development.



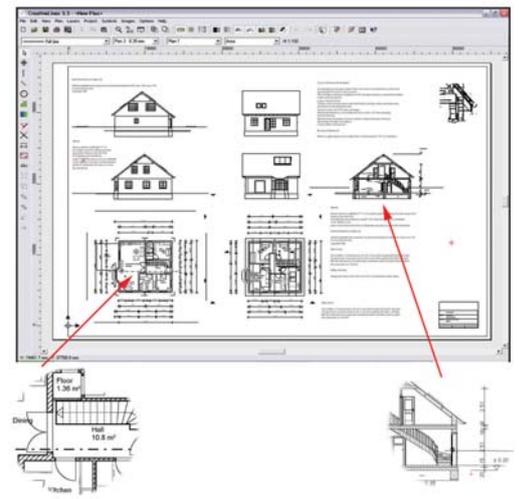
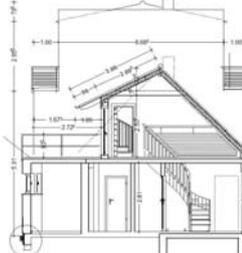
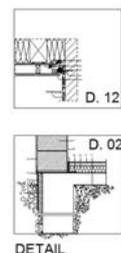
Enhance your 3D scene with picture backgrounds

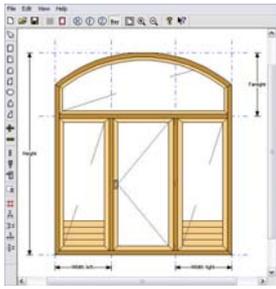
Select from one of the photographic backgrounds included or use your own to provide a greater insight into how your design will look in situ.

Includes CreativeLines 3.5

Included as standard in all our new ARCON range is the latest version of CreativeLines. CreativeLines is our stand-alone 2D drafting tool that is an ideal companion to ARCON. Simply export your completed drawings to CreativeLines with the in-built automatic transfer button and you can add enhanced detailing, experiment with different layouts or breakdown all elements into individual line items for complete control.

CreativeLines





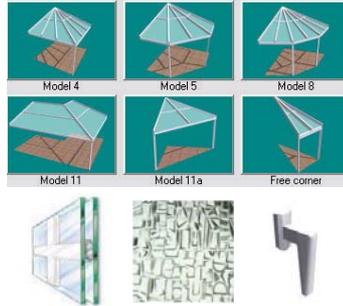
Design custom doors and windows, complete with parts lists

The standard door and window libraries within ARCON contain substantial numbers of different styles and types of door and window fixtures. Each can be amended, re-sized and re-textured. The macro feature enables you to design your own doors and windows from scratch and to your own specification. Each element can be designed pane by pane, enabling full control over size, style, opening methods, handles, hinges and locks. Your designs are then

added to your library for use on any future project. Once your building has been completed and your created doors and windows added, easily produce a parts list to display the information for each fixture and the total number of each type within the build.

Fast and flexible conservatory design

With a dedicated module exclusively for the design of conservatories you can quickly experiment with different styles and designs to integrate into your project. Create a library of your conservatory designs to integrate into future projects or experiment with the designer to create lantern roofs and orangeries.



ARCON Real-Time Renderer

Export your 3D models to create high-quality renderings with ambient shade, real-time shadows/reflections and Photoshop® plugins. With the Real-Time Renderer your ARCON projects can quickly and effectively be turned into a full visualisation scene. Its compact format enables fast scene building combined with close-to-reality quality and simple handling. Suitable for use by experienced visualisation professionals or first time users. Some features include:



- Bump mapping capabilities
- Apply reflection to a surface e.g. water, polished surface and mirrors
- Combine texture effects onto single multi-layer texture
- 1,000s of new textures & materials included in database, unique to the Real-Time Renderer
- Automatically integrate light sources from within ARCON, add new ones or combine both
- Create realistic scenes using combinations of background, mid-ground and foreground images. The scenery manager lets you add fine detail to your scene e.g. people and plants

Which software package should I choose?

Following many years of experience in bringing CAD software to the professional and self-build market, we have been able to identify our main user groups and their particular needs. In the latest range of ARCON software we have therefore been able to tailor the toolset to the specific requirements of each user group. These user groups are reflected clearly by the new naming convention we have chosen for this latest range, which should help you to easily identify the edition which suits your needs.

Self-builder edition	Developer edition	Architect edition	Renderer edition
The ideal tool for 2D plans & 3D models for home renovations or a self-build project	The recommended solution for builders, property developers & building professionals	Our most advanced toolset for all your needs including complex domestic & commercial designs	The full Architect edition plus enhanced rendering for professional quality 3D visualisations

ARCON Features	Self-builder	Developer	Architect	Renderer
Drag and drop or numerically input construction elements	✓	✓	✓	✓
Supports metric and imperial measurements	✓	✓	✓	✓
Powerful measuring and ruler tools	✓	✓	✓	✓
Automatic and manual dimensions including height and angles	✓	✓	✓	✓
Add cavity wall details to your drawing	✓	✓	✓	✓
Produce complex roof structures	✓	✓	✓	✓
Create split level buildings and loft conversions	✓	✓	✓	✓
Load other buildings into a project to create an estate	✓	✓	✓	✓
Produce balconies and railings	✓	✓	✓	✓
Edit wall outline with advanced tools	✓	✓	✓	✓
Placed walls can be modified easily using wall editor	✓	✓	✓	✓
2D and 3D views can be viewed simultaneously	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mark out and model a building area cutting through 2D and 3D section views	✓	✓	✓	✓
Generate elevations automatically from 2D plan	✓	✓	✓	✓
Create or import additional shaped objects to increase your catalogue	✓	✓	✓	✓
Control building and floor views from a single window	✓	✓	✓	✓
Over 8,000 textures and objects to help furnish your project	✓	✓	✓	✓
Import a digital image into the background of your 3D view	✓	✓	✓	✓
Create tiled areas on walls and floors	✓	✓	✓	✓
Any 3D view can be rendered to see the effect of lighting and shadows	✓	✓	✓	✓
3D Walkthrough function to move through your completed project	✓	✓	✓	✓
Quick start guide to get you started on basic functions	✓	✓	✓	✓
Access to product FAQs and written tutorials	✓	✓	✓	✓
Number of floors in single project	50	100	100	100
Number of buildings in single project	15	40	50	50
Define worksheet display (normal/architectural) when creating a new project	✓	✓	✓	✓
Rotate placed objects in construction mode	✓	✓	✓	✓
Select and delete multiple construction elements/objects over multiple floors	✓	✓	✓	✓
Wall editing tools include entering/editing wall joins	✓	✓	✓	✓
Modify 2D view of ceiling cut-out - line type, fill/pattern	✓	✓	✓	✓
Additional tool for defining vertical/horizontal sections over multiple points	✓	✓	✓	✓
Modify construction elements in 3D mode	✓	✓	✓	✓
New height point 2D symbol	✓	✓	✓	✓
Place windows in round/curved walls	✓	✓	✓	✓
Includes CreativeLines 3.5. Create detailed drawings	✓	✓	✓	✓
Generate detailed reports of each room	✓	✓	✓	✓
Advanced window and door designer. Generate parts list	✓	✓	✓	✓
Import 2D pictures for overlaying construction elements. Exact positioning and scaling	✓	✓	✓	✓
Room viewer allows quick selection of rooms for viewing in design mode	✓	✓	✓	✓
Insert various types of bays to an existing wall	✓	✓	✓	✓
Guideline manager enables you to delete guidelines with specific properties	✓	✓	✓	✓
Adjust the shape of an existing ceiling slab or recess by inserting additional polygon points	✓	✓	✓	✓
Advanced roofing tools	✓	✓	✓	✓
Chimney tool enables you to adapt the height of your chimney to the roof	✓	✓	✓	✓
Design framework and support structures	✓	✓	✓	✓
Generate downpipes according to the distance of the roof overhang and height of ground	✓	✓	✓	✓
Real-Time Renderer. Advanced rendering application for taking 3D models to the next level	✓	✓	✓	✓
Compatible with Photoshop® plugins. Experiment with different effects and produce creative visualisations	✓	✓	✓	✓
1,000's of new high quality textures and materials to improve your 3D designs	✓	✓	✓	✓
Reposition, rotate and walkthrough your project with continual shadow and reflection detailing in place	✓	✓	✓	✓
Includes fast and easy visualisation tool for designing conservatories	✓	✓	✓	✓
360 degrees panorama maker for viewing projects in real 3D environment	✓	✓	✓	✓
Make your own custom design cabinets, drawers and wardrobes with this easy-to-use configurator	✓	✓	✓	✓
Extend your object catalogue with a selection of swimming pool objects	✓	✓	✓	✓
Modify the 2D representation of 3D objects or apply your own DXF layers	✓	✓	✓	✓
Import HPG files (HP graphics language plotter file)	✓	✓	✓	✓
Import PLT file (standard plotter file)	✓	✓	✓	✓
Import DXF/DWG	✓	✓	✓	✓
Import 3DS	✓	✓	✓	✓
Export DXF	✓	✓	✓	✓
Export 3D DXF	✓	✓	✓	✓
Export 3DS	✓	✓	✓	✓
Export BMP/JPG	✓	✓	✓	✓
Save project as HTML	✓	✓	✓	✓
Export Adobe® PDF	✓	✓	✓	✓
Export to VRML (virtual reality modeling language)	✓	✓	✓	✓
Export o2c with lights (required for working with Real-Time Renderer)	✓	✓	✓	✓



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