GENERAL

revit 2014 user guide

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When Autodesk released Revit 2014, it brought a host of improvements that made building information modeling (BIM) more powerful, intuitive, and collaborative. Whether you are a seasoned architect, a structural engineer, or a new user stepping into the world of Revit, this guide will walk you through the key features, shortcuts, and best practices that will help you maximize your workflow in Revit 2014.

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Why Revit 2014 Matters

Revit 2014 was a pivotal release that introduced several features that improved modeling speed, visual fidelity, and collaboration capabilities. The platform's core focus remains on BIM—creating a single, coordinated model that serves architects, engineers, and construction professionals. In this guide, we'll cover:

- How to set up a Revit 2014 environment for optimal performance.
- Key interface elements that streamline your design process.
- Step by step instructions for creating walls, roofs, and structural elements.
- Tips for managing views, sheets, and documentation.
- Collaboration workflows using Revit Server and Autodesk BIM 360.
- Shortcuts and productivity hacks that save time.

By the end of this article, you'll be equipped with the knowledge to confidently navigate Revit 2014 and produce high quality BIM models.

Getting Started: Installation & Setup

System Requirements

Before installing Revit 2014, ensure your workstation meets the minimum specifications:

- OS: Windows 7/8/10 (64 bit)
- CPU: Intel i5 or AMD equivalent (multicore recommended)
- RAM: 8 /GB (16 /GB or more for large models)

- Graphics: DirectX 10 compatible GPU with 512 /MB VRAM (or more for 3D rendering)
- Hard Drive: 3 /GB free space (SSD recommended for faster load times)
- Internet: Required for product activation and license management

Installation Steps

1. Download the installer from the Autodesk Education or commercial portal.
2. Run the setup file and follow the on screen prompts.
3. Choose a custom installation to skip unnecessary components like the Autodesk Desktop App.
4. Once installed, launch Revit and activate your license using your Autodesk ID.
5. Configure the default project location to a dedicated folder on an SSD for best performance.

Initial Settings & Preferences

Open the **Options** dialog (File /!' /Options) and adjust the following settings:

- Graphics Settings: Enable Hardware Acceleration and set Display Mode to DirectX. Turn off Use 2D View Cache for smoother viewport updates.
- File Settings: Set the default Project Location and Template to a Revit 2014 template that suits your discipline.
- Units: Choose your preferred measurement system (Imperial or Metric) and set the decimal places for precision.
- Display Options: Enable Show Hidden Lines and Show Hidden Edges for better visibility during modeling.

The Revit 2014 Interface Explained

The Revit interface is designed to keep essential tools within easy reach while maintaining a clean workspace. Below is a breakdown of the primary components:

Ribbon

The **Ribbon** is the central hub of commands. It is organized into tabs such as *Architecture*, *Structure*, *Annotate*, *View*, and *Manage*. Each tab contains panels and tools relevant to that discipline. Hover over a button to see its tooltip and keyboard shortcut.

Properties Palette

The **Properties**palette displays the settings of the selected element. In Revit 2014, the palette is docked by default and can be resized or hidden to free up space.

Project Browser

The **Project Browser**lists all the views, sheets, schedules, and families in your project. Use it to quickly switch between views or to organize your workflow.

Viewport

The **Viewport**is where you see and interact with the model. Revit 2014 offers multiple view types—Plan, 3D, Section, Detail, and more. You can open multiple viewports simultaneously to monitor different perspectives.

Command Bar & Status Bar

At the bottom of the window, the **Status Bar** displays the current tool, coordinates, and other contextual information. The **Command Bar**shows the last used tool and provides quick access to undo/redo and other commands.

Creating Your First Project

Choosing a Template

Revit 2014 includes several built in templates tailored to architecture, structural, and mechanical disciplines. For a general BIM project, select the *Architectural Template (English)*. This template contains default levels, grids, and view templates that accelerate your workflow.

Setting Up Levels and Grids

1. Open a Floor Plan view.
2. Use the Level tool to create base and floor levels.
3. Insert Grids to define the building's structural framework. Grids help align walls, columns, and other elements.
4. Apply View Templates to standardize line weights, visibility settings, and annotation styles across views.

Adding Walls and Floors

Walls and floors are the backbone of any architectural model. Revit 2014 offers a robust set of wall types and floor finishes.

1. Select the Wall tool from the Architecture tab.
2. Choose a wall type (e.g., Concrete 6") and click in the viewport to draw the wall.
3. Use the Modify tools to trim, extend, or adjust wall lengths.
4. Insert a Floor by selecting the Floor tool, drawing the perimeter, and picking a floor type (e.g., Concrete 8").

Creating Roofs and Roof Slabs

Revit 2014 introduces improved roof tools that allow for complex geometry.

1. Select the Roof tool from the Architecture tab.
2. Choose a roof type (e.g., Flat Roof) and trace the roof perimeter.
3. Adjust the pitch and slope using the Roof properties.
4. For curved or pitched roofs, use the Roof by Footprint or Roof by Extrusion options.

Working with Families & Components

Understanding Families

Families are Revit's parametric components—doors, windows, furniture, and custom objects. Each family contains parameters that control its geometry and behavior.

Creating a Simple Door Family

1. Open the Family Editor (File /!' /New /!' /Family).
2. Select the Door template.
3. Define parameters like Width, Height, and Thickness.
4. Use the Reference Plane tool to set the door's placement.
5. Save the family and load it into your project.

Placing and Modifying Components

Once a family is loaded, you can place it by dragging from the *Project Browser* into the viewport. Use the *Modify* tools to rotate, move, or scale components.

Managing Family Parameters

Parametric families allow you to control aspects of the model through shared parameters. In Revit 2014, you can link families to shared parameters in the *Shared Parameter File* for consistent data across projects.

View Management & Navigation

View Types and Filters

Revit 2014 supports multiple view types—Plan, 3D, Section, Detail, and Annotation. Each view can be customized with filters that highlight or hide specific elements.

1. Open a view and click Filters in the Properties palette.
2. Create a new filter (e.g., Doors Only) and set the criteria.
3. Apply the filter to the view to isolate the desired elements.

View Templates

View templates are powerful tools for standardizing view settings across multiple sheets. Apply a view template by selecting a view, clicking *Apply View Template* in the Properties palette, and choosing the appropriate template.

Section and Detail Views

Section and detail views provide a closer look at specific parts of the model. Create a section by selecting the *Section* tool, drawing the cut line, and adjusting the cut depth. Detail views can be created from the *Detail View*tool and are useful for annotating intricate components.

3D Views and Rendering

Revit 2014's 3D view offers a realistic representation of the model. Use the *Render*tool to generate high quality images. Adjust lighting, materials, and camera settings to achieve the desired visual effect.

Annotating & Dimensioning

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