

6-1-The_Best_Practices_Course--Week_6--Part_1--Favorites_Video_Tip

Hello, this is Eric Bobrow with another ArchiCAD video tip. Today we're going to be talking about favorites as a way to speed up your work on a project, and particularly to speed up the work when you're starting a new project. [0:14]

Most ArchiCAD users are familiar with the eyedropper, which allows you to, for example, pick up the settings of a wall, and then draw another wall similar to it. I can go pick up the settings of this door, and then pop in a door very quickly. So once you have some elements drawn, the eyedropper can speed up the creation of new elements, because you can use it to pick up the settings of anything you've already drawn and draw another thing just like it, or several. [0:53]

However, when you're starting a new project, you don't have elements that are already drawn, so it takes awhile to select walls or doors, windows or objects from the library, to change their settings to the way you need them. And favorites are a great way to set up those preferences for use within any project, whether the one that you're working on or the one you're starting on. [1:21]

Here's how it works. I'll go to the Window menu, Palettes, and select Favorites. This brings up a text palette that I have already cleared out for this demonstration. If you have favorites in it that you don't want, you can always go to this little popup menu and say "Delete Them", and within a very short time, you can delete all of the favorites to clear them out. Now, I'm going to go to the wall tool, and select this wall here, and save it as my first favorite. I'll say, "Save Current Selection", that's the wall, as a favorite and give it a name. [1:58]

You can be as descriptive as you wish. Save this next one as - now I'll go and save an interior wall. And here's a thicker interior wall. Oops, I made a mistake here, this earlier one actually should be named, it's a two by four. So now I can select this one and save it. So if you make a mistake, you can always select and change them. [3:05]

So we've now we've got a list of several walls. Notice that they are alphabetized by the first letters. Now I'm going to go and switch to the door tool and select this door, and save this as "Entry Door". Save this one as "Interior Door". You can just make as many of these as you wish, as many as you find useful. Now I can do this in 3D as well. So I'll go and open up the 3D view of the project, and select one of our windows. And say that I would like to save that. We can put in information such as its size, because that information will become relevant when we do activate it. [4:00]

Notice that window did not show up in the list, because we're looking at only the doors. The door tool is active. When I switch to window tool, you'll see the one that I just saved. When I switched to the arrow tool, you'll see that all of them are shown. So when you're in an individual tool, you'll only see the ones that are relevant to that tool. In the Arrow tool, you'll see multiple types. [4:22]

And we'll pick one very different window with a grid, and I'll go and select the tree, and save that. We're not seeing it listed. Why? Because we need to switch to the object tool to see the object ones listed. If I go back to the floor plan, and let's zoom in on the kitchen here, and get some of the cabinets ready. And we'll get an upper cabinet as well. So you can see how quick the process can be to pick up all these settings. [5:32]

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Another variation is to use the eyedropper and switch to a different tool, like the Dimension Tool, and then you don't even have to select the dimension, you can simply say "Save The Current Default Settings", so this will save the settings of the element that I just eyedropped. So I can use the shortcut for the eyedropper, which is the "Option" key on the Mac, or the "ALT" key on Windows. And then save, in this case the grid bubble. And go and use the Option here to pick up the settings and then save them as a favorite for the section marker. So if I switch to the Arrow tool, you see that I've gotten quite a respectable list with in just three minutes. [6:23]

This list will stay with the project, so when I save the project and reopen it tomorrow or at any other time, it will still be available. But if I want to put in another project for use, I will need to save them using this popup command, "Save Favorites". I can put it into any folder that I wish, and I can name it anything I wish, I will just call it "My Favorites". And it ends in ".prf", sort of like preferences. And then in this case I'll just replace the earlier one that I had. [6:52]

Now, I'll go switch to this other project which has nothing drawn. Now this other project as a whole bunch of favorites, you can see quite a lot, but they're actually not relevant to what I want to do today, so I'm going to go and clear them out. I can go and highlight any one of them and just say "Delete", and you'll see the list start to get a little shorter and change. See how all of this is happening? But instead of going one by one through all of that, I can actually, in this case, go simply load the favorites from the file that I just had, and when I'm loading, I can say "Replace", and then all of the favorites instantly get updated with the ones that I had just worked with. [7:36]

So let me go ahead and create a basic wall, shell, for the building. and I'll go draw a box here of 40x20, and then switch to the stone base. So double click on a favorite will activate it. So then I can go and draw a series of walls. I use the Command key, or the CTRL key on Windows, to get the trim, as a keyboard shortcut. That's a really nice shortcut, and then Command+click or CTRL+click on an element that is trimmable, and you can actually trim it right away. [8:19]

Now I'll go to the interior wall, and I'll double click on the 2x6 and say "Put In A 2x6. Sorry, "2x4" wall. And another one across here. Now if I decide that I'd like to change something, the favorites tool can actually help with that. This 2x4, perhaps I need to make it thicker, so I can double click on a favorite to switch it, and you notice how the wall is now thicker than it was. [8:51]

You go to the door tool, like you put in an entry door, say centered here, now let's – I'll go to an interior door, and I can switch it from center to corner, right on – you can go to the favorites, its done with a different setting. I can go put in the sliding doors and go pop this in like that. Go to the window tool, and say that I'd like to pop in a window here, perhaps get a bigger window off to the side. There. So let me take a look in 3D, and we'll see that we've built up quite a bit of a model very quickly using these favorites. [9:47]

Other things that you can do involve switching things in 3D as well as in 2D. So for example, I can select these two walls and say, what if when I activate the wall favorites, what if they were a stone wall? So very quickly, I can experiment with that. Or, I can select this window and say, what if it were, using the Window Favorites, a narrower window? And say alright, what does that look like? Let's zoom in on that. [10:12]

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Or perhaps, take and change it to the one with the grid by double clicking here. Now, once I've put it in, I can look and say, "Oh, well, this isn't quite working because it's sticking just barely into that sill." And we go and change its height, and so I can make it any height I wish, perhaps 3 foot 6, and you can see now if fits a little bit better right above the stone sill, this window and that other window we'll put in with the same favorite, but this one was modified afterward. So favorites do not prevent you from making changes, they just make it very quick to get an element in and then allow you to modify it, just like anything in ArchiCAD. [10:53]

So, today we've taken a look at how favorites can speed up you work within a project or when you're starting a new project, in particular, how having a set of favorites from an existing project that you saved out using the "Save Favorites", and then loaded in, will save you an immense amount of time. This has been Eric Bobrow with My Favorite Tip for today. Thanks for watching.