Using the Space Planning Assistant

The information in this article applies to:

[Images of Premier and Interiors badges]

QUESTION

How do I use the Space Planning Assistant to lay out a new floor plan?

ANSWER

The Space Planning Assistant, formerly known as the House Wizard in earlier versions of the software, is a feature that allows you to start a new floor plan by creating and arranging 2D room boxes and then converting these boxes into the walls of a floor plan.

To start the Space Planning Assistant

1. From the menu, click **Tools > Space Planning > Space Planning**
In Chief Architect X5 and prior, the Space Planning Assistant was called the House Wizard.

2. The assistant will prompt you for the style and size of the desired house, and will allow you to create rooms and arrange them as you like. The assistant will prompt you to enter the number of floors you want, the type of rooms you want, (including a garage) and it will specify these by floor.

3. After using the assistant to create your initial structure, you can add individual rooms and modify your existing house. These rooms can also be arranged to form a complete house if you are dissatisfied with the one generated by the assistant.

4. Adding individual rooms is simple: From the menu select **Tools> Space Planning** and click on the type of room that you want to add to the plan. Click in the plan to place the selected type of room at the clicked location.
5. Specification Dialogs for Space Planning Room Boxes now allow the modification of several attributes, such as the fill and label, for these room boxes.

6. Once all of the rooms you need for your home are on the plan, they can be moved and resized as needed. To move a room, click once on the room and select it. A square move edit handle will appear in the center of the room. Click this move edit handle and drag the room to the desired position. To resize the room, click on one of the side handles and drag it to enlarge or reduce the size of the room.
Try and place the rooms so their sides just touch. Small gaps or overlaps are OK. Placing a smaller room completely inside of a larger room is also acceptable. If two rooms overlap, the smaller will take its space from the larger.

7. If you want to delete a room, click on the room to select it and press the **Delete** button on the keyboard.

8. After the rooms are positioned and correctly sized, select **Tools > Space Planning > Build House** on each floor that you have completed. This will convert the room boxes into walls and rooms.
9. Select **3D> Create Perspective View> Perspective Floor Overview** to see the results.

10. By using **Build> Wall> Exterior Wall** or **Interior Wall** you can create new walls. You can also select and modify existing walls and manually define your plan.

   - This option allows you to directly modify the floor plan by drawing walls and defining features manually, even though the plan was originally created using the Space Planning Assistant. This type of manual modification should only be used
after the room boxes have been converted to rooms and walls, as per step five.

Related Articles

- Creating a Home Office Space (/support/article/KB-01035/creating-a-home-office-space.html)
- Determining the Area and Volume of Conditioned Space (/support/article/KB-00898/determining-the-area-and-volume-of-conditioned-space.html)