Chief Architect®

Architectural Home Design
Software

Using Marriage Walls

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The information in this article applies to:

PREMIER   INTERIORS

QUESTION

I would like to design a structure in which I need to have two walls side-by-side for bearing, sometimes known as marriage walls. How can I model this in Chief Architect?

ANSWER

Creating marriage walls in Chief Architect is easily done by creating a custom Wall Type and using the Double Wall directives located on the Structure panel of the Wall Specification dialog. The Double Wall options specify how a selected straight wall frames when it is parallel to, and touching a second wall.

For the purposes of this example, a basic shell of the plan below is used.

Both the left and right exterior walls are set to be full gable walls and the roof has been built creating a basic gable roof style. The default Interior-6 wall type is used for the two interior walls.

To use marriage walls

1. Navigate to **Build> Wall> Define Wall Types** and in the **Wall Type Definitions** dialog that displays:

- Select a Wall Type from the drop down that you would like to start with.

  In this example Interior-6 is used.

- With your Wall Type selected click **Copy** to create a copy of your Wall Type and then rename it.

  In this example, the name "Interior-6, Marriage Wall" is specified.

- Select the **Drywall** layer underneath of the **Interior Layers** and **Delete** it.

- Click **Insert Below** to insert an **Insulation Air Gap** layer.

- Set the **Thickness** of your air gap layer to your desired thickness.

In this example, 2" is used.

- Click **OK** when you're done making changes.

> **Note:** If you receive a message that states "The wall layers just defined have drywall on the exterior of what appears to be an exterior wall. Are these layers defined correctly?" click OK.

2. Select **Build> Wall> Straight Interior Wall** , then click and drag to draw the two walls near each other in the same Start to End direction.

3. After they are drawn, use the **Select Objects** tool to select the first wall, hold down the **Shift** key on your keyboard, then click on the second wall so that both walls are selected.

4. With both wall selected use the **Open Object** edit tool to display the **Wall Specification** dialog for both of these walls.

5. On the STRUCTURE panel of the **Wall Specification** dialog that appears, select the **Split Framing** radio button under the Double Wall category.

Wall Specification

General
Structure
Roof
Foundation
Wall Types
Wall Cap
Wall Covering
Rail Style
Newels/Balusters
Rails
Layer
Materials
Label
Components
Object Information
Schedule

Default Wall Heights

☑ Default Wall Top Height

☑ Default Wall Bottom Height

Platform Intersections

Invisible Walls and Railings: ☑ Generate Between Platforms

Ceiling Platform:

● Automatic

○ Stop at Ceiling Above

○ Balloon Through Ceiling Above

○ Hang Floor Platform Above on Wall

☐ Subflooring to Wall Interior

☐ Include Ledger

Floor Platform:

● Automatic

○ Stop at Floor Below

○ Balloon Through Floor Below

Wall Intersections

☐ Through Wall At End   ☐ Through Wall At Start

Rim Joist

● Automatic ○ Double ○ Single

Double Wall

○ Furred Wall ● Split Framing ○ Frame Through

Stud Layout

☑ Use Framing Reference

☐ Reverse Stud Rollout Direction

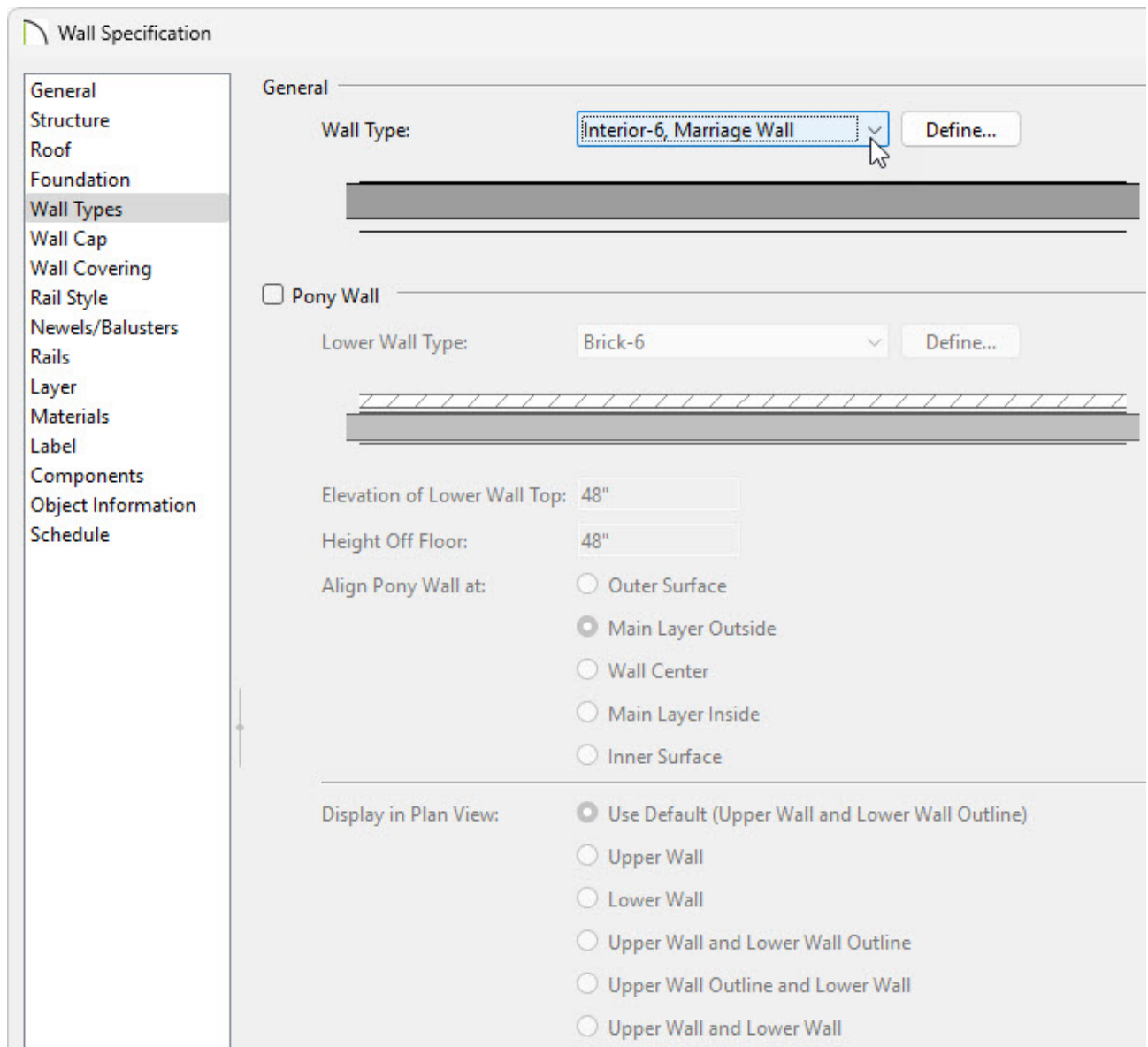Stud Rollout Offset: 0"

Framing

☐ Retain Wall Framing   ☐ Bearing Wall

☑ Stagger Multiple Framing Layers ☐ Create Wall/Footing Below

☑ Insert Floor Framing Below   ☑ View Wall Detail from Exterior

6. On the WALL TYPES panel use the drop down to select the "Interior-6, Marriage Wall" and click **OK**.

Wall Specification

General
Structure
Roof
Foundation
Wall Types
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Rails
Layer
Materials
Label
Components
Object Information
Schedule

General

Wall Type: Interior-6, Marriage Wall ⌄ Define...

☐ Pony Wall

Lower Wall Type: Brick-6 ⌄ Define...

Elevation of Lower Wall Top: 48"

Height Off Floor: 48"

Align Pony Wall at:
○ Outer Surface
◉ Main Layer Outside
○ Wall Center
○ Main Layer Inside
○ Inner Surface

Display in Plan View:
◉ Use Default (Upper Wall and Lower Wall Outline)
○ Upper Wall
○ Lower Wall
○ Upper Wall and Lower Wall Outline
○ Upper Wall Outline and Lower Wall
○ Upper Wall and Lower Wall

7. Using the **Select Objects** ⮢ tool select the wall who's air gap layer is facing the wrong direction and use the **Reverse Layers** edit tool to flip the wall.

8. Use their **Move** ✛ edit handles to move them into contact with one another.
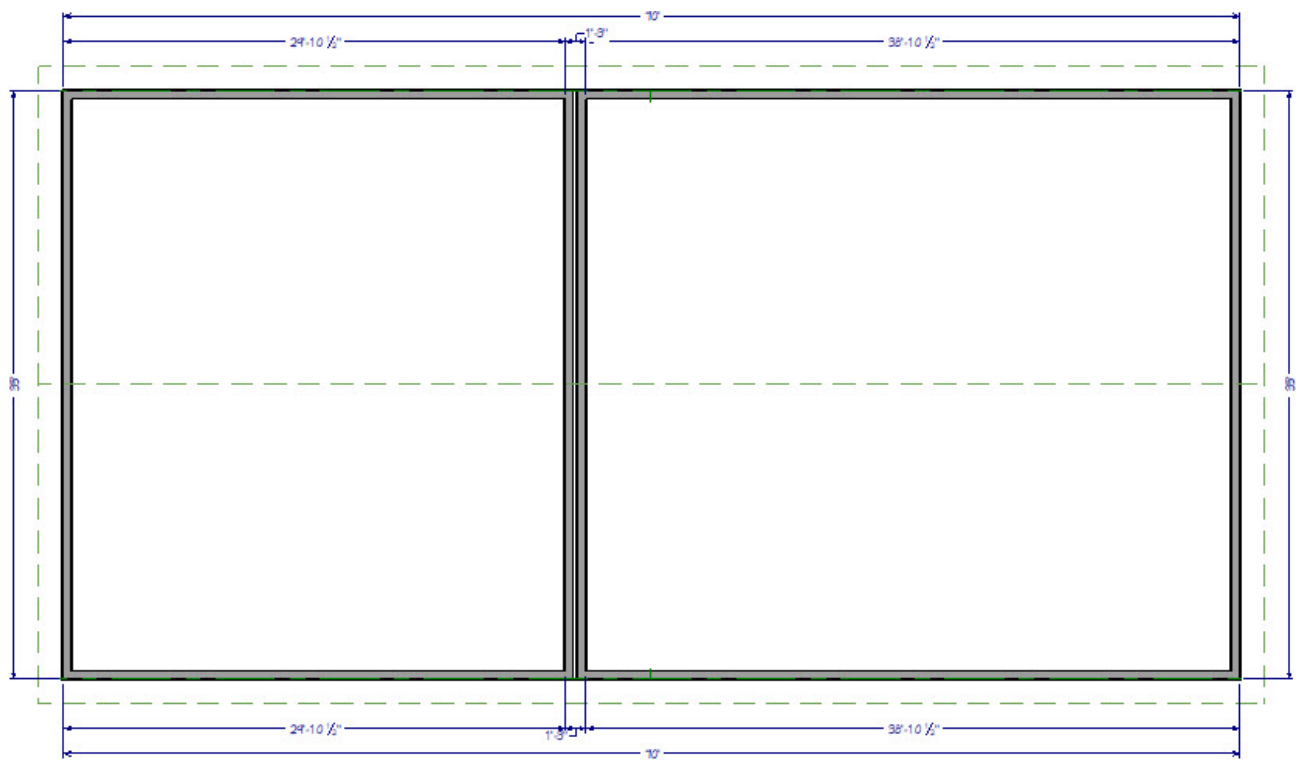
9. Select **Build> Floor> Build Foundation** 🔲 to display the **Build Foundation** dialog:

   ○ On the FOUNDATION panel make any necessary changes to how your foundation
     will be built and click **OK**.

   ○ In this example we keep all of the standard defaults.

10. In the **New Floor** dialog, choose to **Derive new Foundation plan from the 1st
    Floor plan**, then click **OK**.

11. Chief Architect will now display the foundation level, also known as Floor 0, and a
    single Foundation Wall will have been built beneath the double wall above.
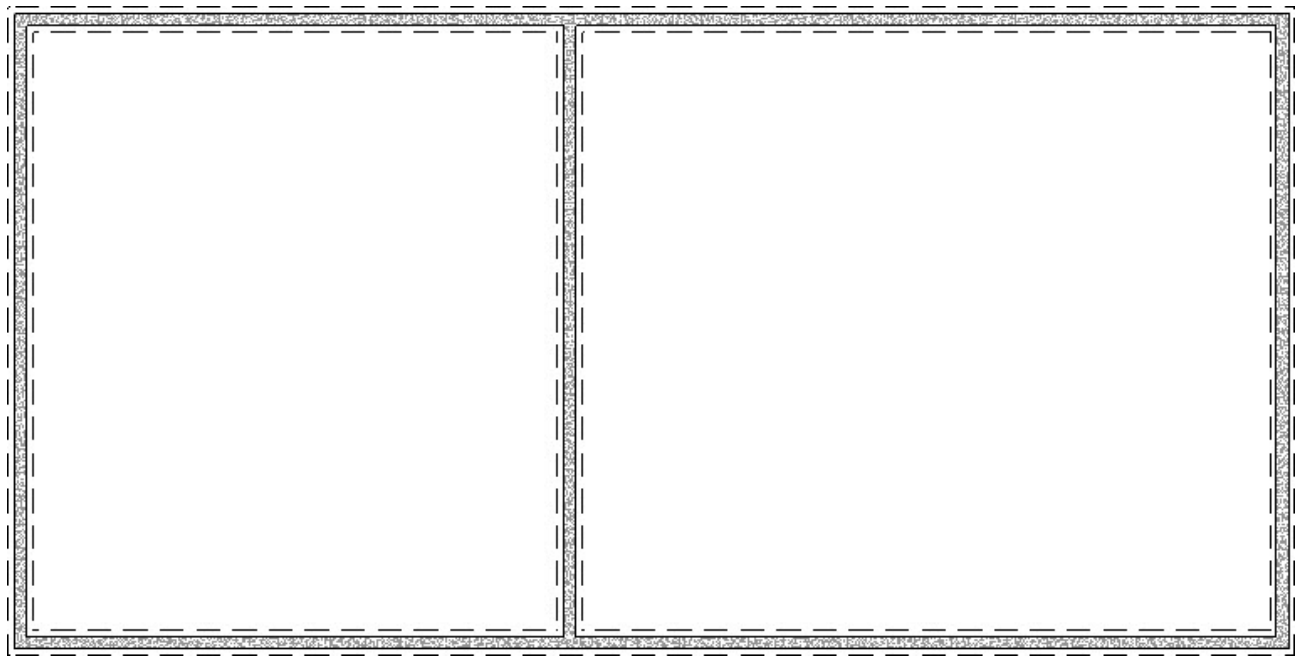
12. While still on the Floor 0 level, select **Build> Framing> Build Framing** from the menu.

13. In the **Build Framing** dialog check the box for **Floors** underneath either **Automatically Rebuild Framing** or **Build Framing Once** and click **OK** to automatically build your floor framing.

> **Note:** If you do not have the "Framing, Floor" layer set to display, a dialog box may display asking if you want to turn on this layer. Select "Yes" to display the layer.
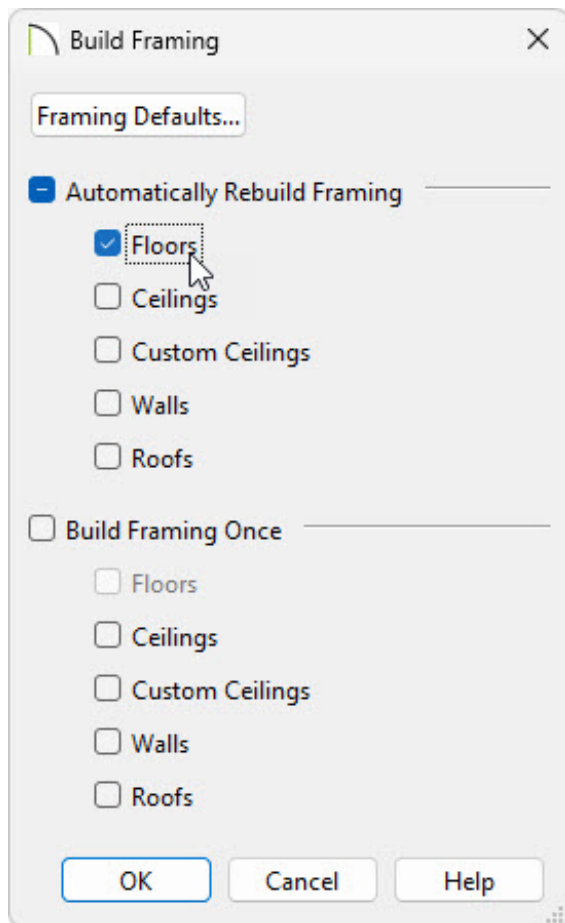
14. On the foundation level, you should now be able to see that the floor framing for each side of the double wall on the structure has framed independently.

> If the floor framing does not generate to your liking, consider using the Joist Direction tool to define the direction that joists are laid out. For more information on this tool, please see the Related Articles section below.
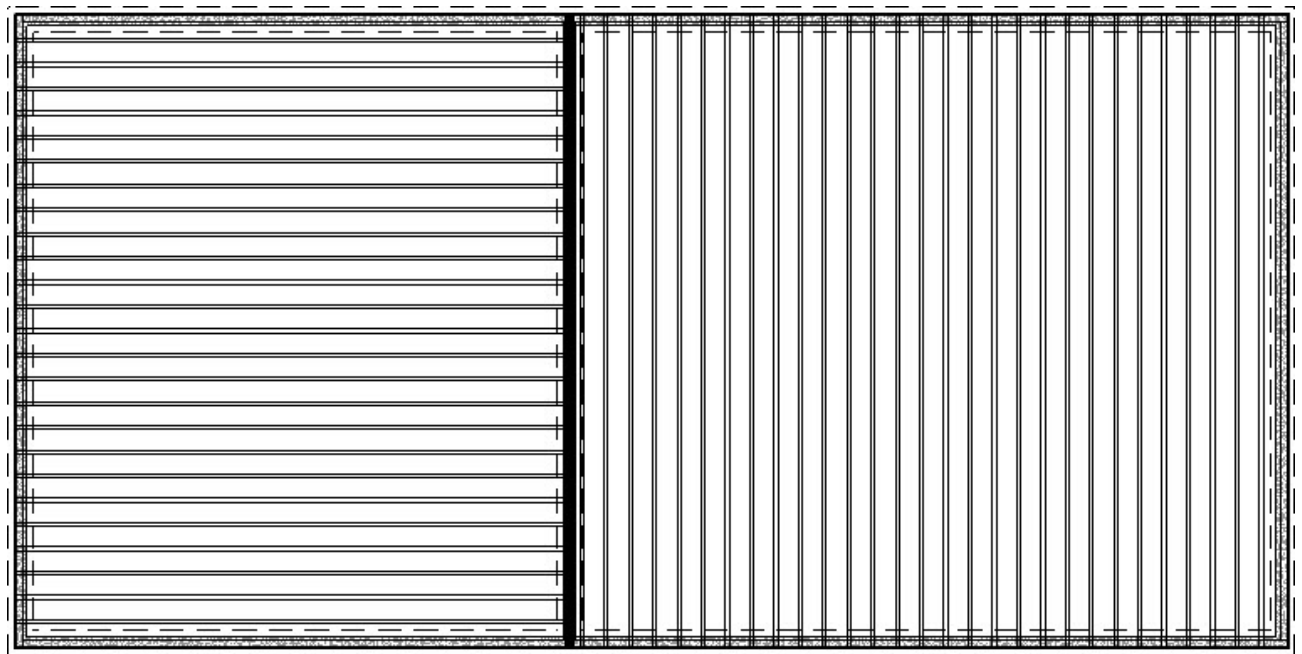
15. You are now ready to continue with your design, including building the wall framing or manually editing any framing members if necessary.
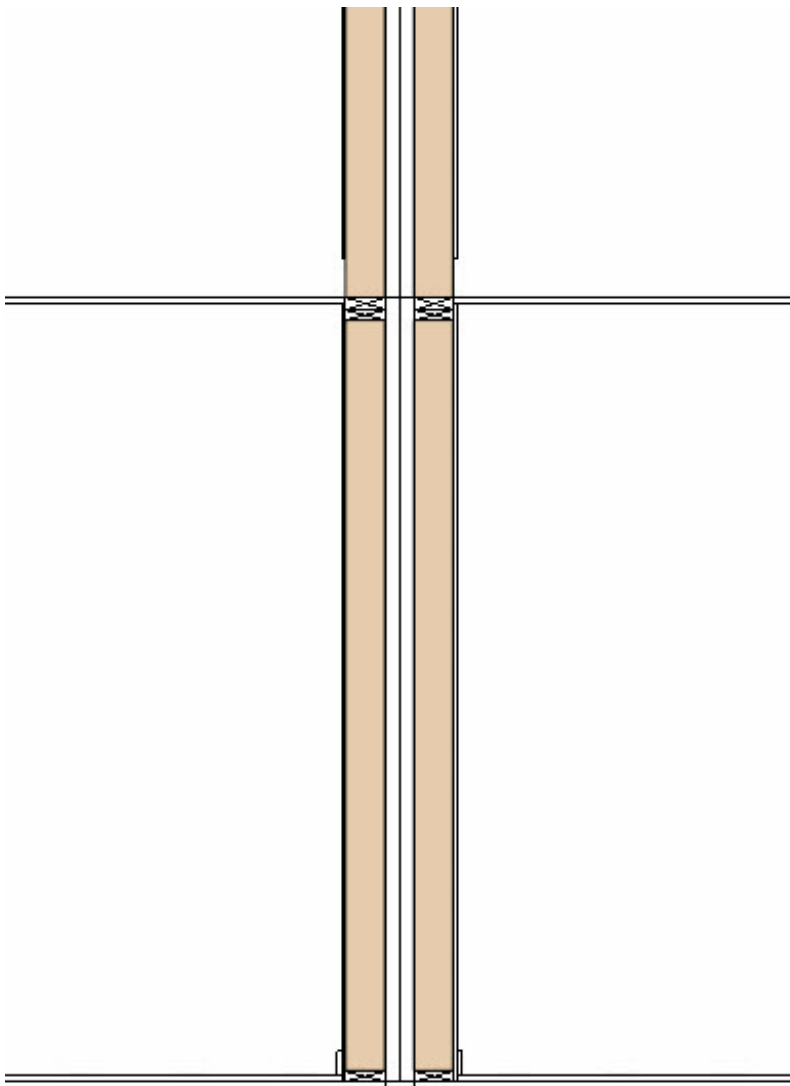
The cross section view above is an example based on the basic plan used in this article. Recall that building your framing is one of the last steps when designing a plan in Chief Architect, after adding interior walls, doors, doorways, windows, etc.

Related Articles

Changing an Existing Wall's Type (/support/article/KB-00443/changing-an-existing-wall-s-type.html)
Changing Joist Directions (/support/article/KB-02932/changing-joist-directions.html)
Defining a New Wall Type (/support/article/KB-02944/defining-a-new-wall-type.html)
Displaying Framing in a Cross Section/Elevation View (/support/article/KB-00017/displaying-framing-in-a-cross-section-elevation-view.html)
Manually Editing Wall Framing (/support/article/KB-00571/manually-editing-wall-framing.html)

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