Creating Greenhouse or Solarium Walls

Reference Number: KB-02960
Last Modified: July 16, 2015

The information in this article applies to:

Premier  Interiors

QUESTION

I would like to create a clear plastic or glass wall for a solarium or greenhouse, how can this be done?
ANSWER

A new wall type can be easily defined using the Define Wall Types dialog, and a new Material can be created if needed. In this example, a greenhouse wall will be made using steel framing and a translucent white corrugated exterior material will be made.

To create the new wall type

1. With the desired plan open, go to Edit> Default Settings.

2. In the Default Settings dialog, expand the Walls category, select Exterior Wall and click Edit.

3. On the Exterior Wall Defaults dialog, go to the WALL TYPES panel and click Define next to the Wall Type.

4. At the top of the Wall Type Definition dialog, click New to create a new wall type.

5. To the left, type a name for this new wall, such as "Corrugated Plastic."

6. In the Wall Layers section, modify the framing layer:

   - Click on the Material for Layer 1 (Fir Framing), and on the Select Material dialog, select Steel Stud 16" OC and press OK.
• Click on the **Fill** color box, on the **Layer Fill Style** dialog set the Type to **Solid**, and set the Color to a gray color then click **OK**.

• Click on the **Thickness** for Layer 1 and enter the desired thickness. For this example we used 3 1/2" steel.

• Create a new exterior layer:
  
  - Click the **Insert Above** button on the right, to create a new Layer 1.
  
  - Click **Move Up** to move it out of the Main Layers group.
  
  - Click the **Material** for the new Layer 1, on the **Select Material** dialog select the desired material.

  In this example, a white corrugated metal material was chosen. To easily locate this material, type "white corrugated" into the search bar at the top, select the first **White Corrugated Metal** material and press **OK**.
- Click the **Fill** color box, and set the Color to white.

- Click to set the **Thickness** of the new Layer 1 and set it to the desired thickness. For this example, 1/2" was chosen.

![Wall Type Definition dialog](image)

- Press **OK** to close the **Wall Type Definition** dialog.

Now that the new wall type has been defined, the exterior material needs to be adjusted to be partially transparent.

To modify the exterior material
1. Go to 3D> **Materials**> **Plan Materials** 🛠.

2. Locate and select the 'White Corrugated Metal' material and select **Edit**.
3. On the **PROPERTIES** panel, set the Transparency to 50% and press **OK**.

4. Press **OK** to close the **Plan Materials** dialog.

With the wall type and the exterior material properly defined, you can draw the desired walls using the Straight Exterior Wall tool. However, for these walls to appear correctly, you will need to generate wall framing and have the wall framing layer visible in 3D views, otherwise the framing layer will render as a solid layer.
To generate and show the framing

1. Go to **Build > Framing > Build Framing** on the **WALL** panel, check either **Automatically Build Wall Framing** or **Build Wall Framing** and press **OK**.

![Build Framing dialog]

2. Still in plan view, go to **Tools > Layer Settings > Display Options**، scroll down to locate the 'Framing, Wall' layer and click to place a check mark in the **Disp** column.

![Layer Display Options]

3. At the top of the **Layer Display Options** dialog, change the Layer Set to the **Camera View Set** and place a check next to 'Framing, Wall' again.

4. Press **OK** to close the **Layer Display Options** dialog.
5. Go to **3D> Create Perspective View> Perspective Full Overview** to create a view of this drawing.

**Note:** If you generate a camera view, then enable the display of the Framing, Wall layer, the framing will not render until the 3D view is rebuilt. This can be done manually by clicking **3D> Rebuild 3D**.