

# Creating a Storage Loft in a Larger Room

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Reference Number: **KB-03012**

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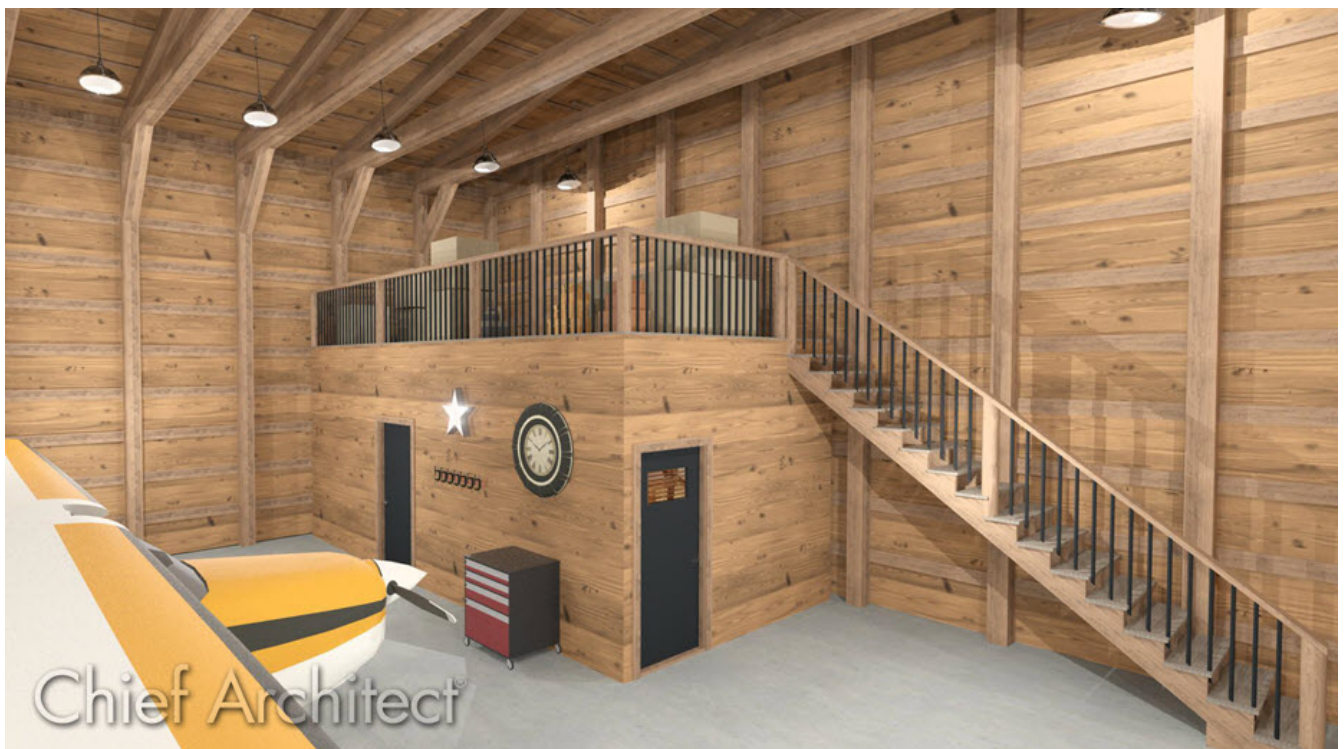
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The information in this article applies to:



## QUESTION

I have a large area that needs to have smaller office spaces within that have ceilings shorter than the main area. How do I create these shorter areas, while being able to create storage space above?

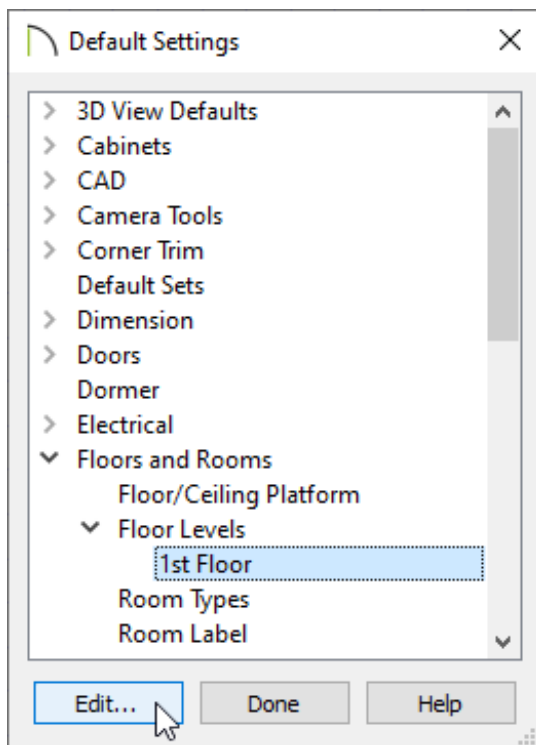


# ANSWER

Smaller, shorter rooms with storage above can be created within a larger room by using a second floor. For example, if the larger room is going to have 18' ceilings and the smaller rooms will have 9' ceilings, you would create the first floor with a 9' ceiling height and the second floor could be 9' minus the thickness of the ceiling structure of the smaller rooms.

## To create the first floor

1. Select **Edit> Default Settings**  from the menu.
2. Select **Floors and Rooms> Floor Levels> 1st Floor**, then click the **Edit** button.



3. In the **1st Floor Defaults** dialog, specify the desired **Ceiling** height on the **STRUCTURE** panel.


For this example, 109 1/8" is used.

1st Floor Defaults

Structure  
Moldings  
Fill Style  
Materials

**Absolute Elevations**

Floor Above:

Ceiling:  

Floor:

Floor Below:

**Relative Heights**

Rough Ceiling:

Finished Ceiling:

SWT To Ceiling:

Ceiling Below:

Stem Wall:

SWT = Stem Wall Top

**Ceiling**

Roof Over This Room

Flat Ceiling Over This Room

Shelf Ceiling

Use Soffit Surface for Ceiling

Ceiling Structure: 5 1/2"   Default

Ceiling Finish: 5/8"   Default

**Floor**

Floor Under This Room

Floor Supplied by the Foundation Room Below

Monolithic Slab Foundation

Floor Finish: 7/8"   Default

Floor Structure: 12 5/8"   Default

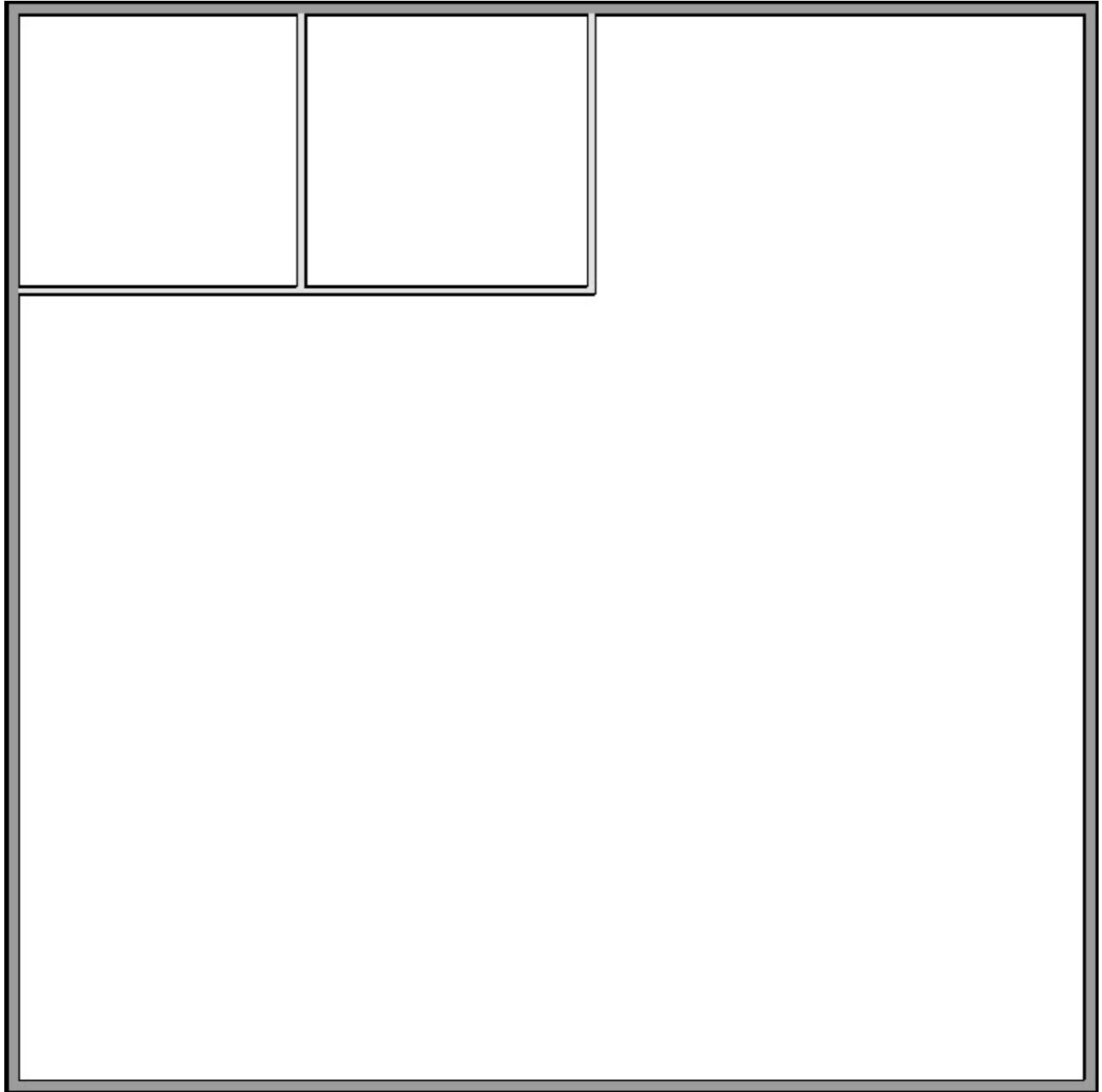
4. Click **OK** and **Done** to close the dialogs.

5. Select **Build> Wall> Straight Exterior Wall** , then click and drag to draw out the exterior walls.

For this example, a 45' x 45' structure is drawn.

6. Select **Build> Wall> Straight Interior Wall**  and then click and drag to draw the interior walls of the space.

For this example, two 12 'x 12' rooms are drawn.



## To create the second floor

1. Select **Build> Floor> Build New Floor**  from the menu.
2. In the **New Floor** dialog that appears, select the **Derive new 2nd floor plan from the 1st floor plan** option, then click **OK**.
3. In the **2nd Floor Defaults** dialog, specify the **Rough Ceiling** height as well as the **Floor Structure** for the storage space above the smaller rooms.

2nd Floor Defaults

Structure  
Moldings  
Fill Style  
Materials

**Absolute Elevations**

Floor Above:

Ceiling:

Floor:

Floor Below:

**Relative Heights**

Rough Ceiling:

Finished Ceiling:

SWT To Ceiling:

Ceiling Below:

Stem Wall:

SWT = Stem Wall Top

**Ceiling**

Roof Over This Room

Flat Ceiling Over This Room

Shelf Ceiling

Use Soffit Surface for Ceiling

Ceiling Structure: 5 1/2"   Default

Ceiling Finish: 5/8"   Default

**Floor**


Floor Under This Room

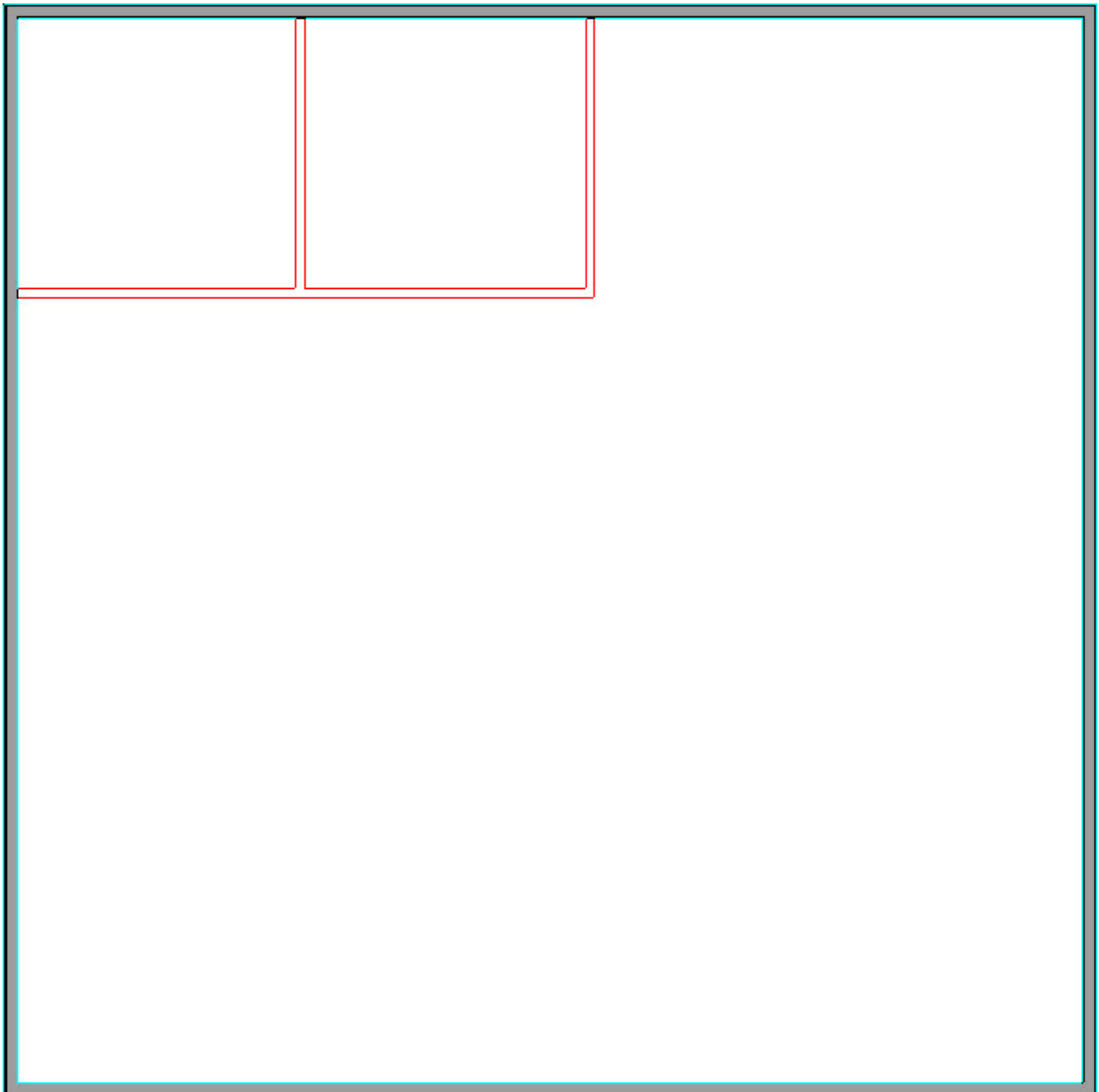
Floor Supplied by the Foundation Room Below



Monolithic Slab Foundation

Floor Finish: 7/8"   Default

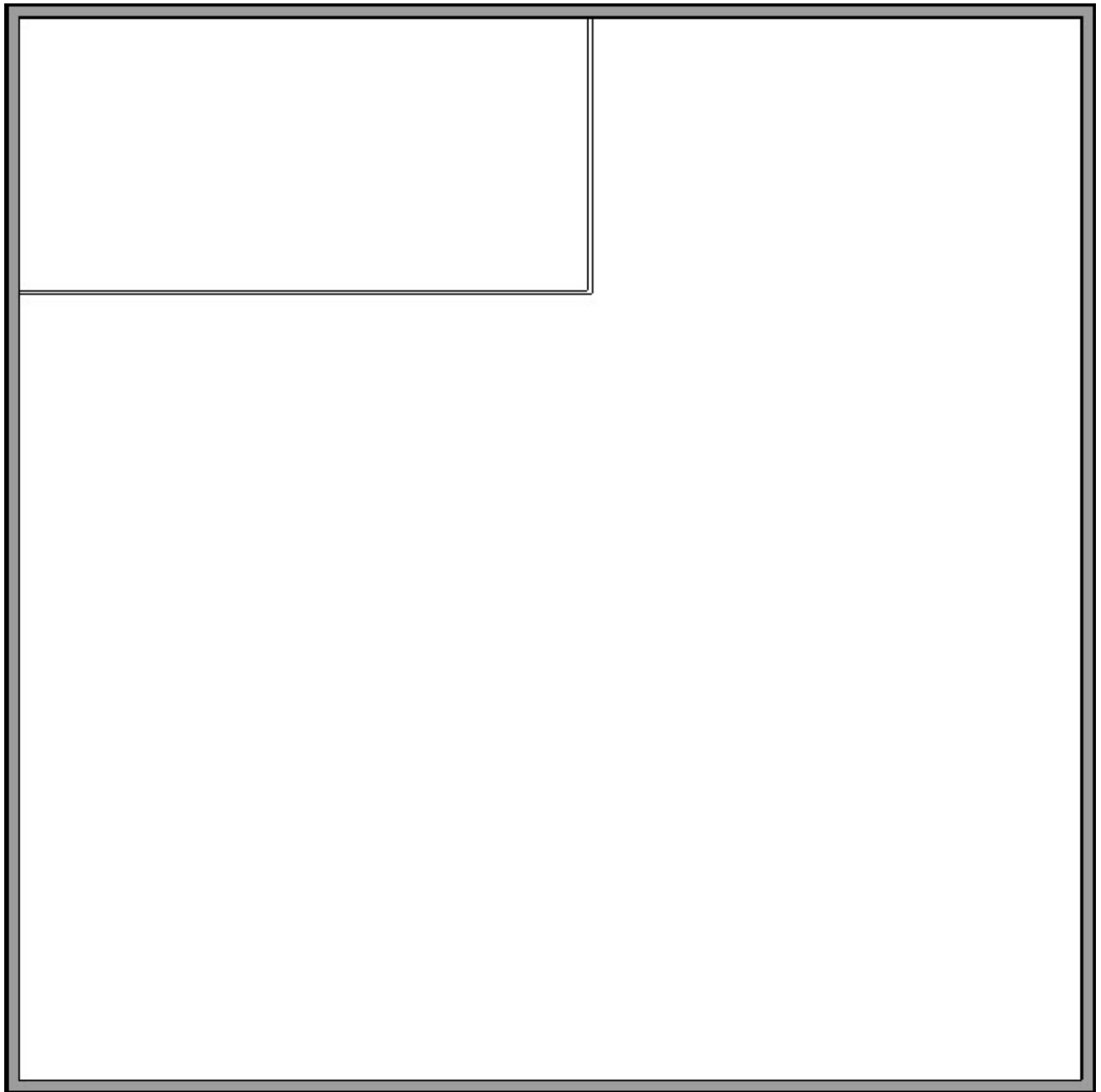
Floor Structure: 12 5/8"   Default



4. Click **OK** when done to apply the changes and close the dialog.
5. With the second floor now active, select **Tools> Floor/Reference Display> Reference Display**  to turn on the Reference Display feature so that you can see the placement of the walls on floor 1 while working on floor 2.

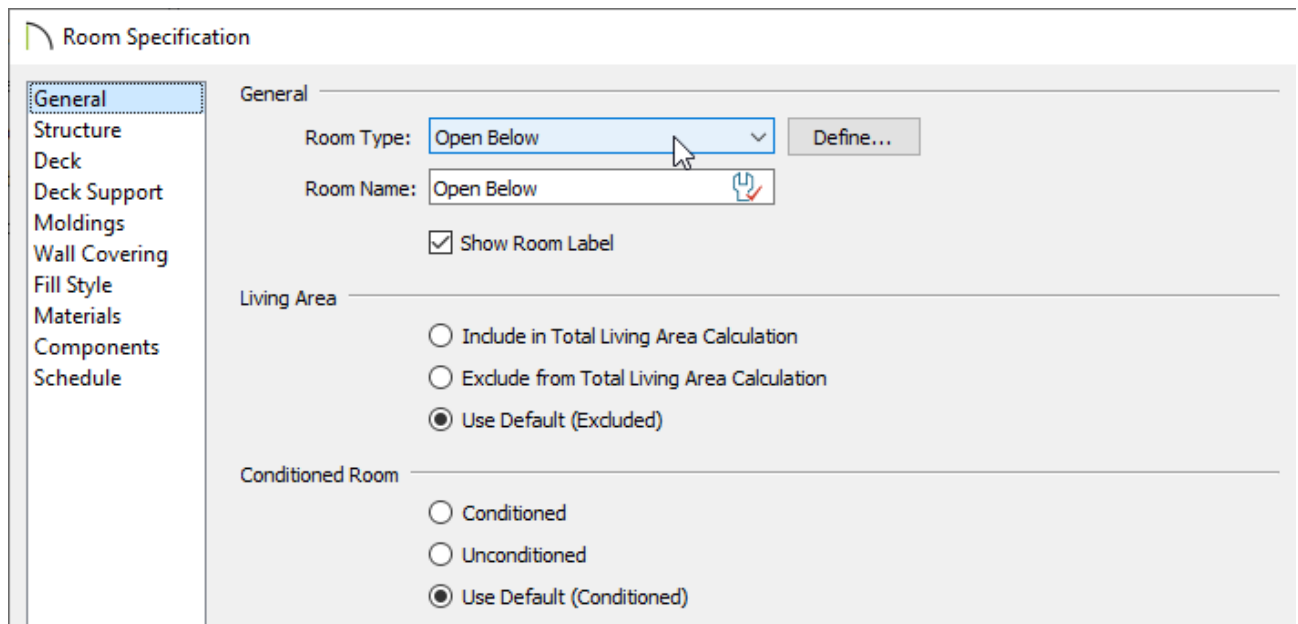


6. Select **Build> Railing and Deck> Straight Railing**  and click and drag to draw a railing on top of the 1st floor interior walls along the storage area perimeter.
7. Select **Tools> Floor/Reference Display> Reference Display**  to turn off the reference floor display.

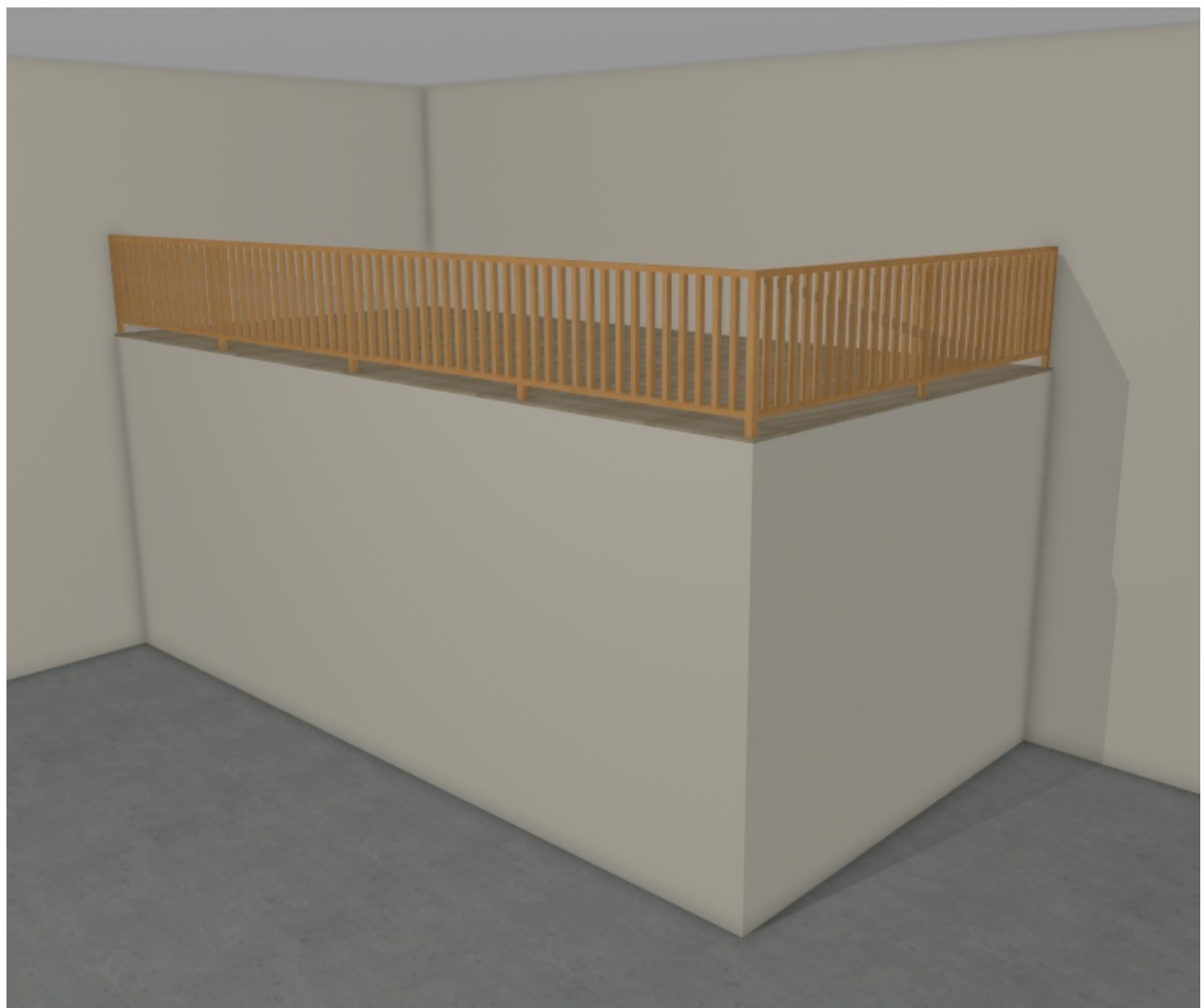
There should now be two rooms on the second floor: the smaller storage area above the interior rooms and the big room over the larger area.



8. Using the **Select Objects**  tool, select the larger room on floor 2, then click the **Open Object**  edit button.
  
9. On the **GENERAL** panel of the **Room Specification** dialog, use the drop-down menu beside Room Type to select **Open Below**, then click **OK**.



10. Take a **Camera**  view to see the results.






A staircase can now be added going up to the storage area, and doors and windows can be added to the interiors rooms located on the first floor.


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Related Articles

 [Creating a Room with a Short Ceiling or Plant Shelf Closet Effect \(/support/article/KB-03057/creating-a-room-with-a-short-ceiling-or-plant-shelf-closet-effect.html\)](/support/article/KB-03057/creating-a-room-with-a-short-ceiling-or-plant-shelf-closet-effect.html)



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