Chief Architect
Architectural Home Design Software

Creating Solid Precast Concrete Stairs

Reference Number: **KB-03232**
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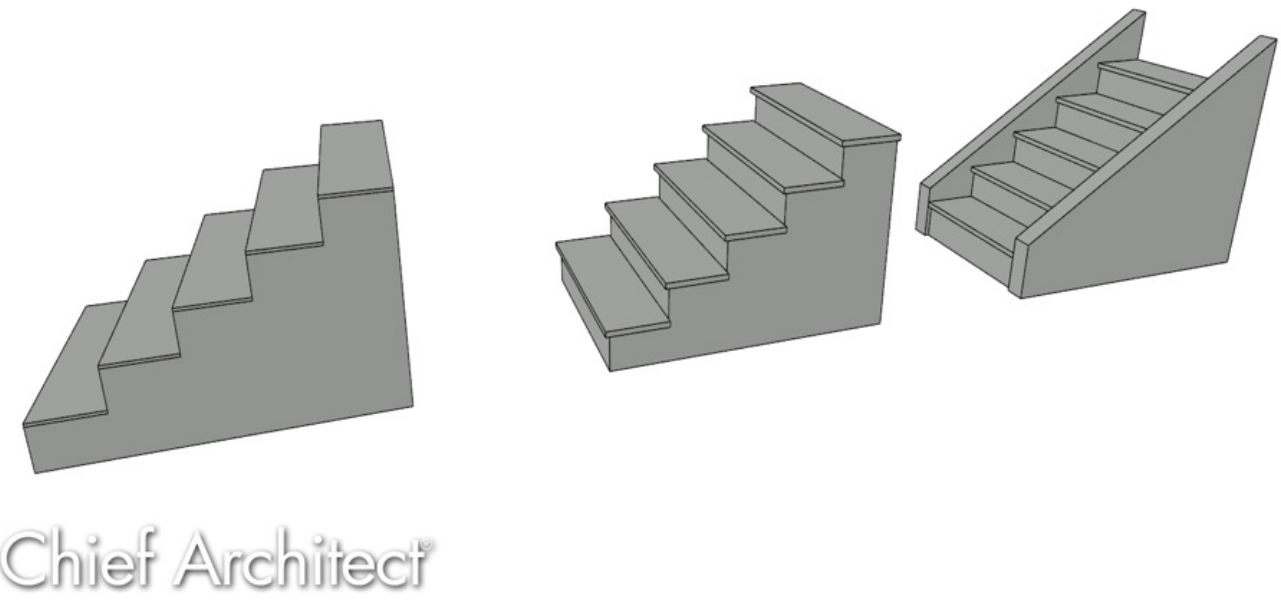
QUESTION

I need to create and use some solid precast concrete stairs for my design. How do I create these in Chief Architect?



ANSWER

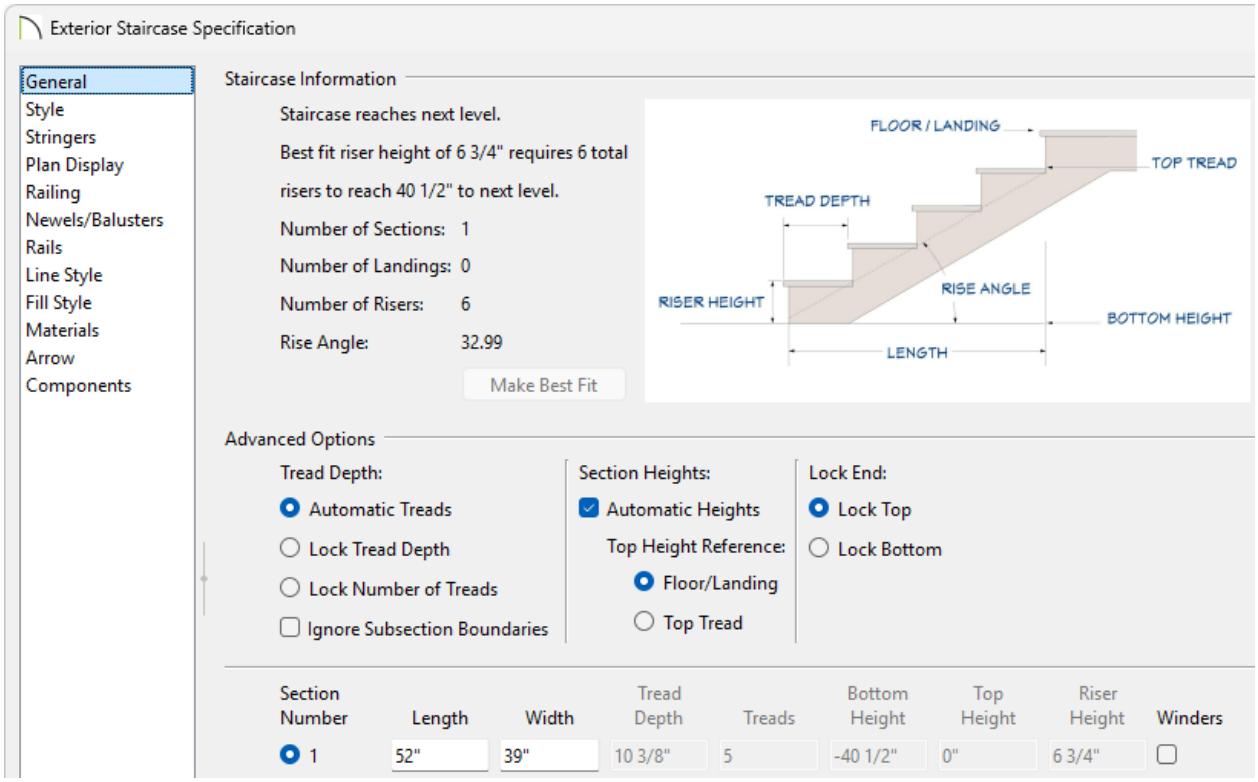
Solid precast concrete stairs can be modeled using the Stair tool, which can then be added to your library browser for feature use.

To create solid precast concrete stairs

1. Navigate to **Build> Stairs> Draw Stairs** and click and drag to create a staircase.

2. Select your staircase using **Select Objects** tool, then click on the **Open Object** edit tool.

3. In the **Exterior Staircase Specification**, on the GENERAL panel:



- Adjust the **Length** and **Width** of the staircase.

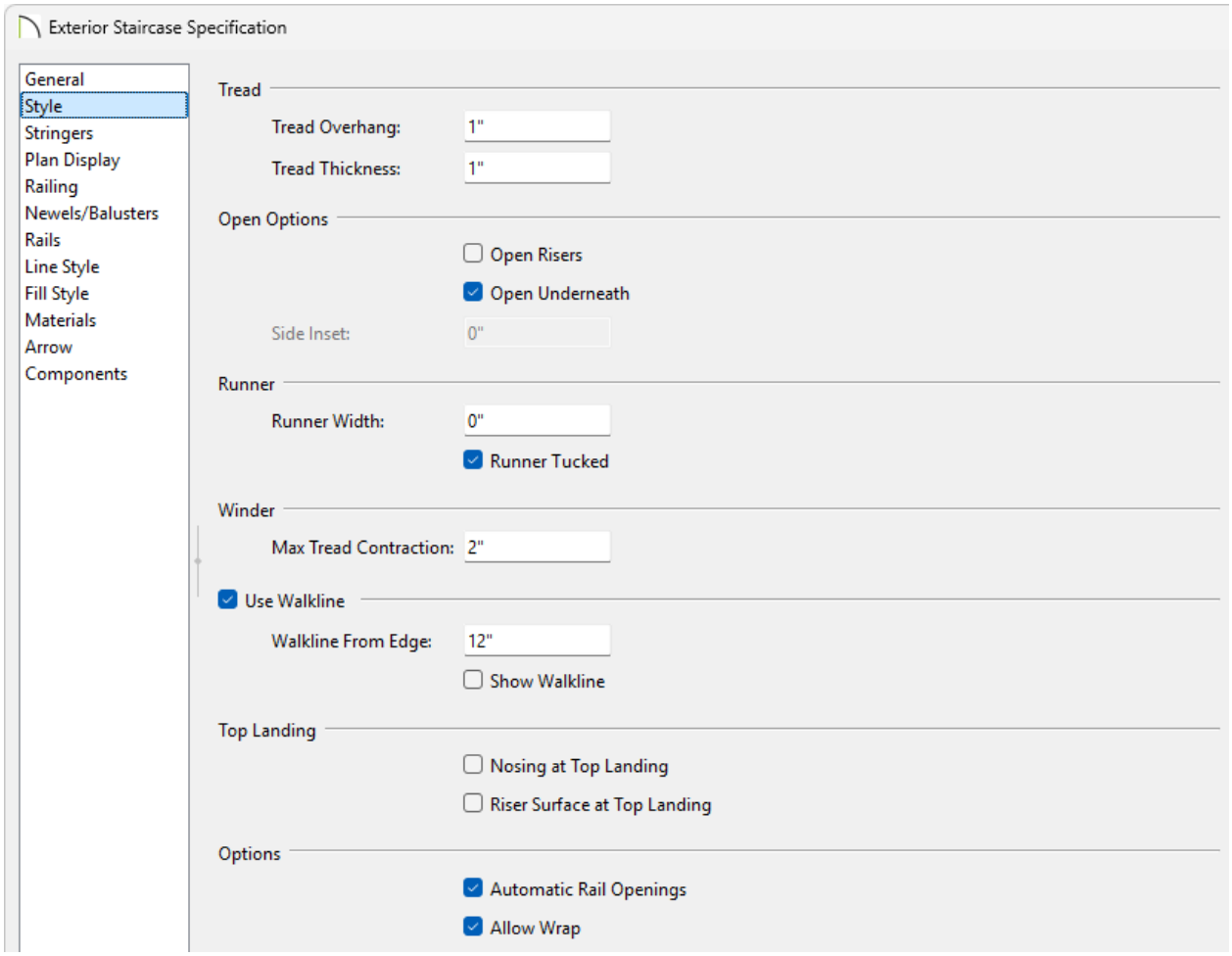
- You can switch from **Automatic Treads** to either **Lock Tread Depth** or **Lock Number of Treads** to manually control your tread information.

- You can uncheck **Automatic Heights** to manually control your staircase **Bottom Height**, **Top Height**, and the **Riser Height**.

  Take note of the Top/Bottom Height, as we will use this information on the STRINGERS panel.

  > It is recommended to keep Automatic Treads and Automatic Heights enabled until you have your stairs correctly positioned.

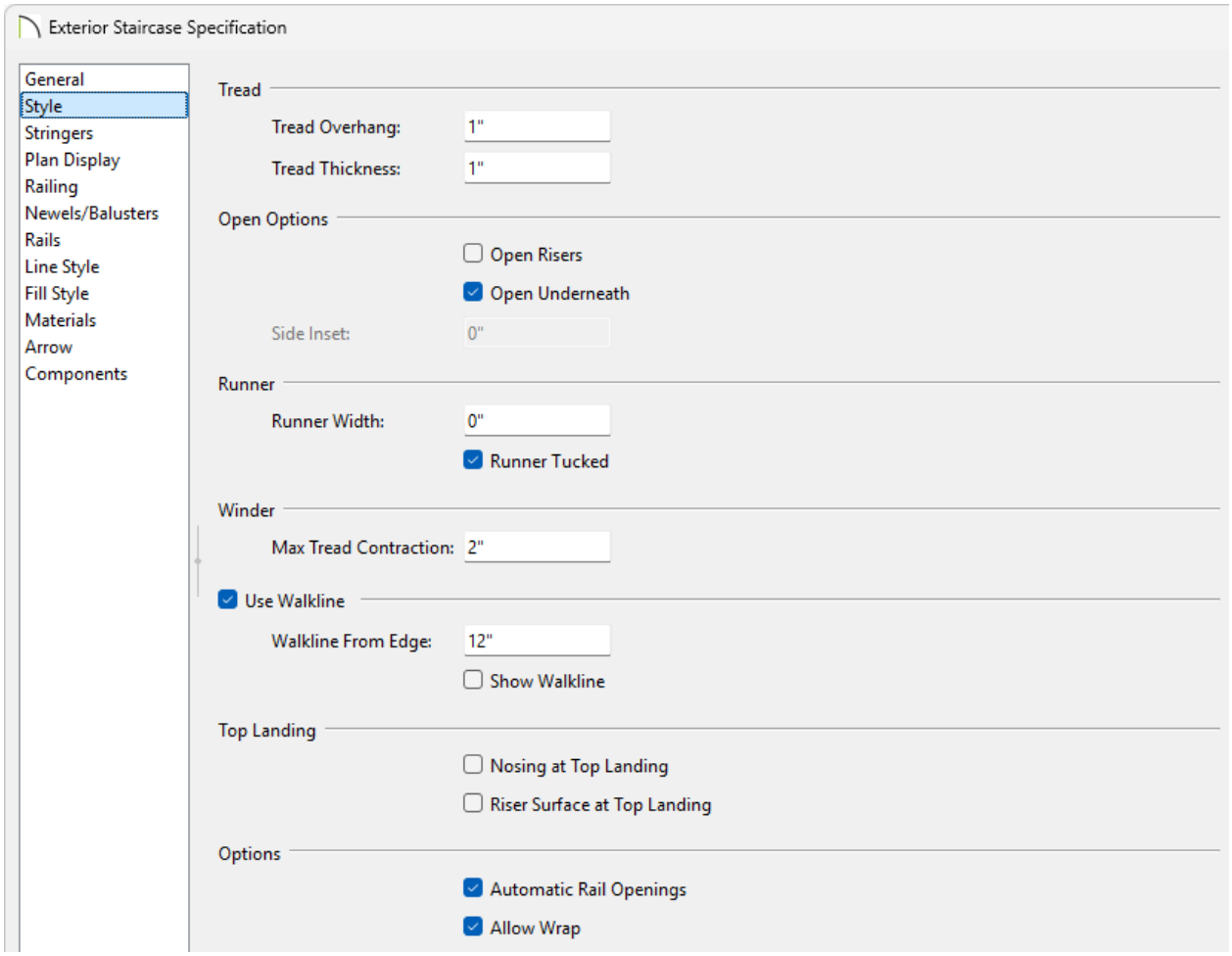
4. On the STYLE panel:



- Adjust the **Tread Overhang** and **Tread Thickness** to your liking.

- Uncheck the **Open Risers** and keep the **Open Underneath** checkbox checked.

5. On the STRINGERS panel:



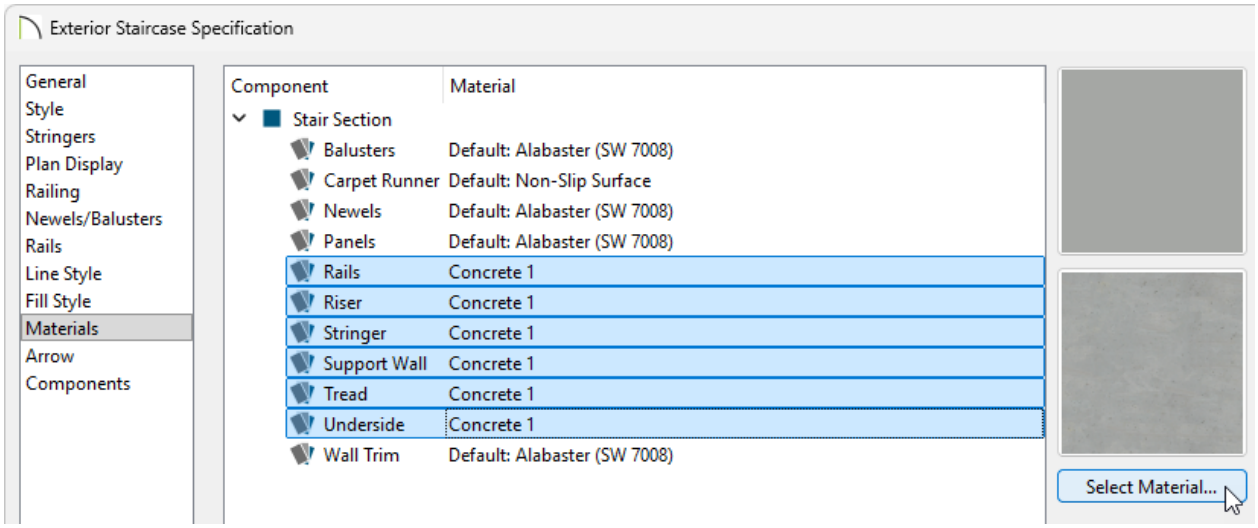
- Set your **Stringer Style** to **Custom Stringers** and enable both the **Left** and **Right** stringers.
- Set your **Height Below** to the Top/Bottom Height value that is reported on the GENERAL panel.
- To have stringers that rise above the stairs, check the **Ext** checkbox and specify the extension value.
- Uncheck the **Trim Against Wall** checkbox.

6. On the RAILING panel, you can control the railing style or turn the railing off entirely.

7. On the NEWELS/BALUSTERS panel, you can customize your railing

and adjust its offset to align it on your stringers.

8. On the MATERIALS panel:



   - While holding the Shift key on your keyboard, select the Riser list item and then select the Underside list item to group select multiple components.

   - Click **Select Material** to open the **Select Material** dialog.

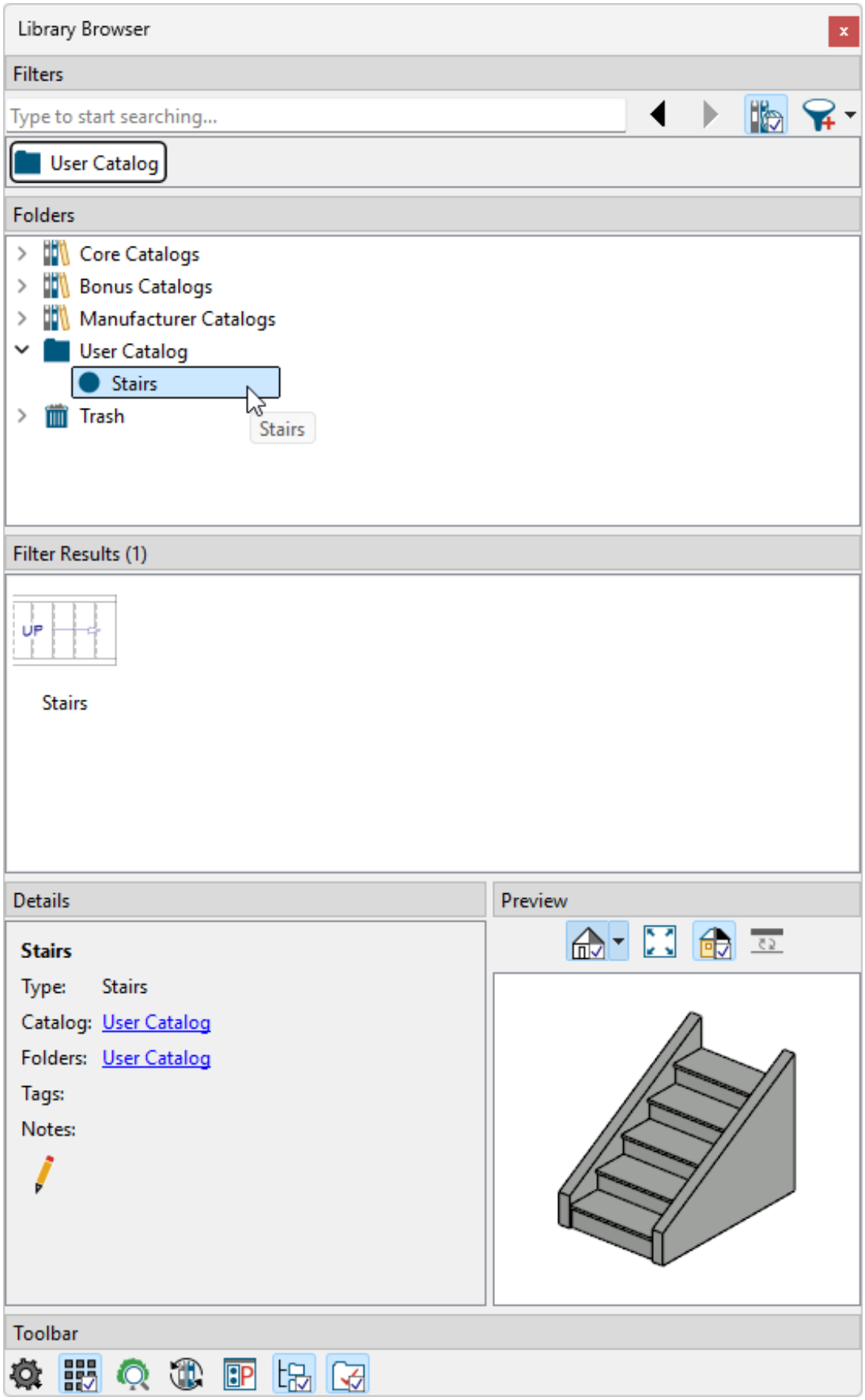
   - Select an appropriate concrete material and click **OK**.

     Concrete materials can be found by navigating to **Core Catalogs> Materials> Concrete**.

9. Click **OK** to close the dialog and save your changes.

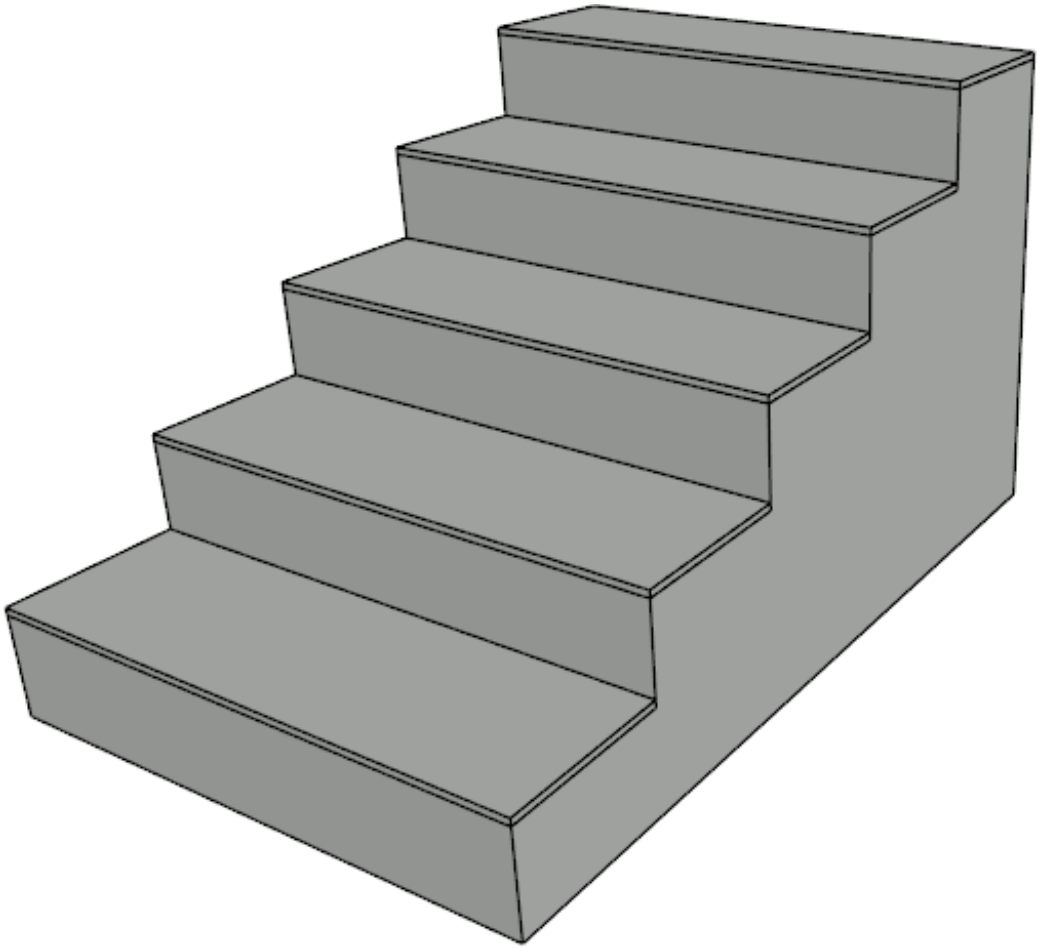
10. Using the **Select Objects** tool, click on your staircase to select it and use the **Add to Library** * edit tool to add the staircase to your **User Catalog** for future use.

**Applies to Chief Architect Premier X16 and newer. Not Available in Home Designer.*

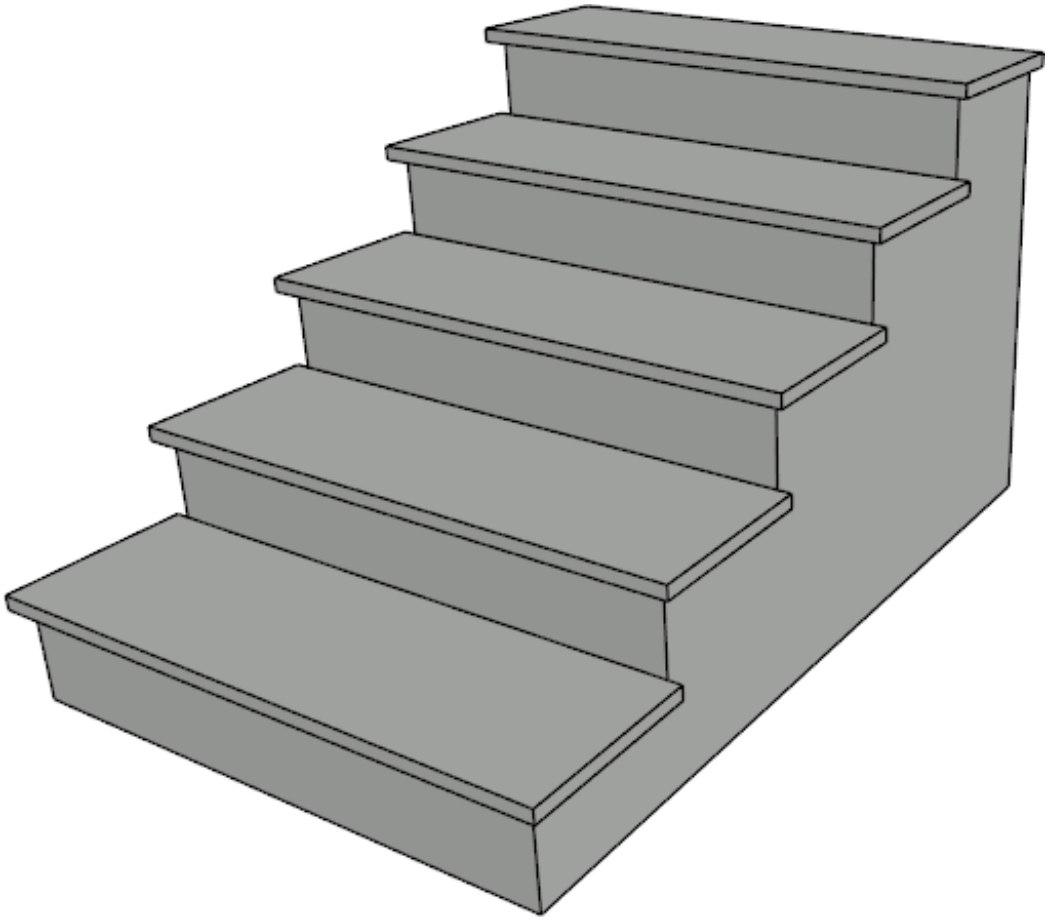


By changing the settings on these panels, you can create various different styles of stairs.

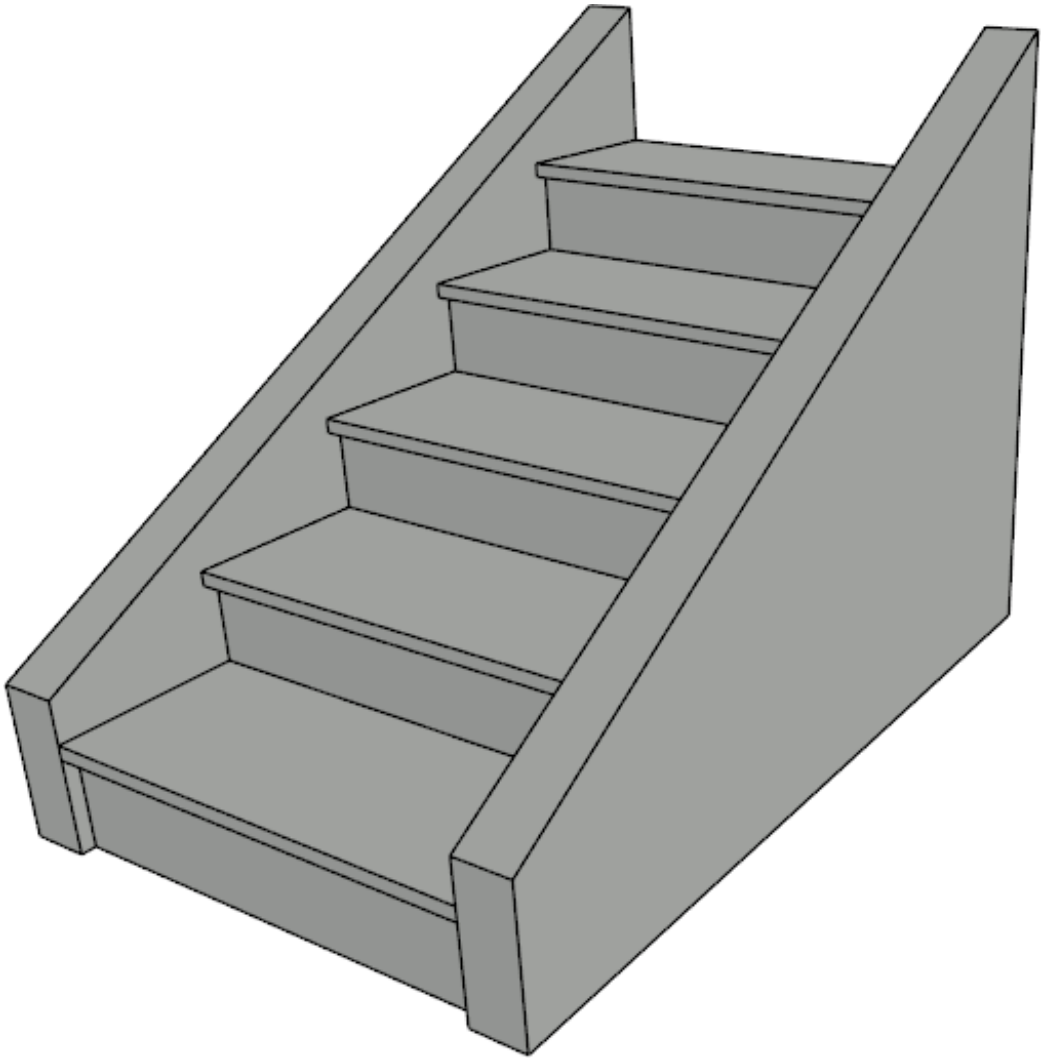
For example, this style of staircase was created by setting the Tread Overhang to 0".



The staircase shown below is using a 1" Tread Overhang and a 1" Tread Thickness.



The staircase shown below was created by using Custom Stringers and setting both the Left and Right Stringer to have a 3" Extension above the tread.



Related Articles

- Creating a Landing Between Two Sets of Stairs (/support/article/KB-00756/creating-a-landing-between-two-sets-of-stairs.html)
- Creating Mitered or Wrap Around Stairs (/support/article/KB-00788/creating-mitered-or-wrap-around-stairs.html)
- Creating Stairs in Sloping Terrain (/support/article/KB-00547/creating-stairs-in-sloping-terrain.html)
- Customizing Stair Stringers (/support/article/KB-03121/customizing-stair-stringers.html)
- Drawing Stairs Down From a Deck or Porch (/support/article/KB-00755/drawing-stairs-down-from-a-deck-or-porch.html)
- Using the Flare and Curve Stairs Edit Tools (/support/article/KB-

00505/using-the-flare-and-curve-stairs-edit-tools.html)

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