

# Creating Solid Precast Concrete Stairs

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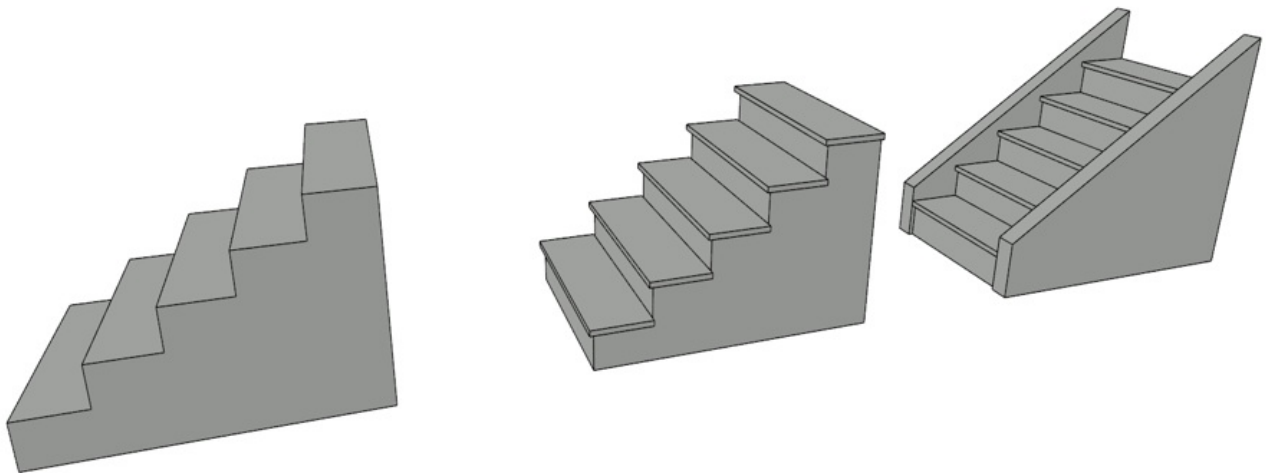
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## QUESTION




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

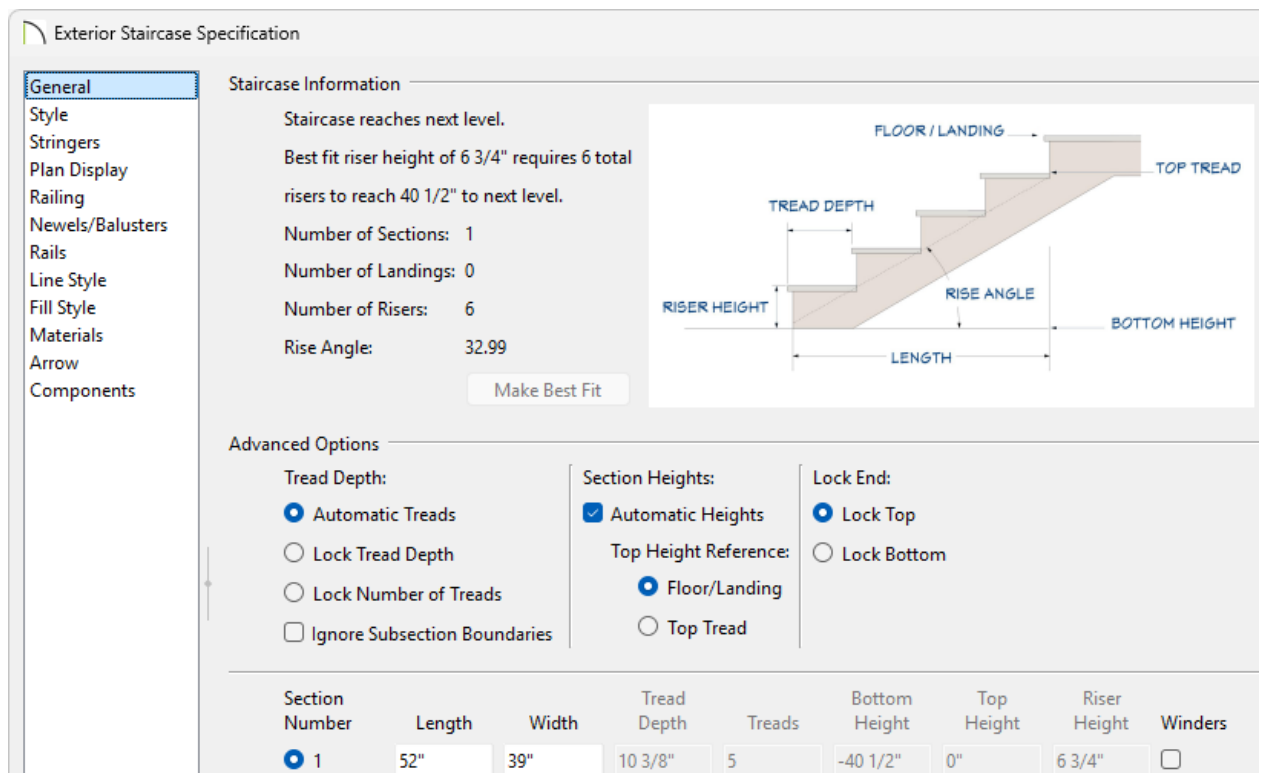


# ANSWER

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:



The screenshot shows the 'Exterior Staircase Specification' dialog box with the 'General' panel selected. The 'Staircase Information' section displays the following details:

- Staircase reaches next level.
- Best fit riser height of 6 3/4" requires 6 total risers to reach 40 1/2" to next level.
- Number of Sections: 1
- Number of Landings: 0
- Number of Risers: 6
- Rise Angle: 32.99

A diagram illustrates the staircase geometry with labels: FLOOR/LANDING, TOP TREAD, TREAD DEPTH, RISE ANGLE, RISER HEIGHT, and BOTTOM HEIGHT. A 'Make Best Fit' button is located below the diagram.

The 'Advanced Options' section includes:

- Tread Depth:  Automatic Treads,  Lock Tread Depth,  Lock Number of Treads,  Ignore Subsection Boundaries
- Section Heights:  Automatic Heights, Top Height Reference:  Floor/Landing,  Top Tread
- Lock End:  Lock Top,  Lock Bottom

The bottom table shows the configuration for Section 1:

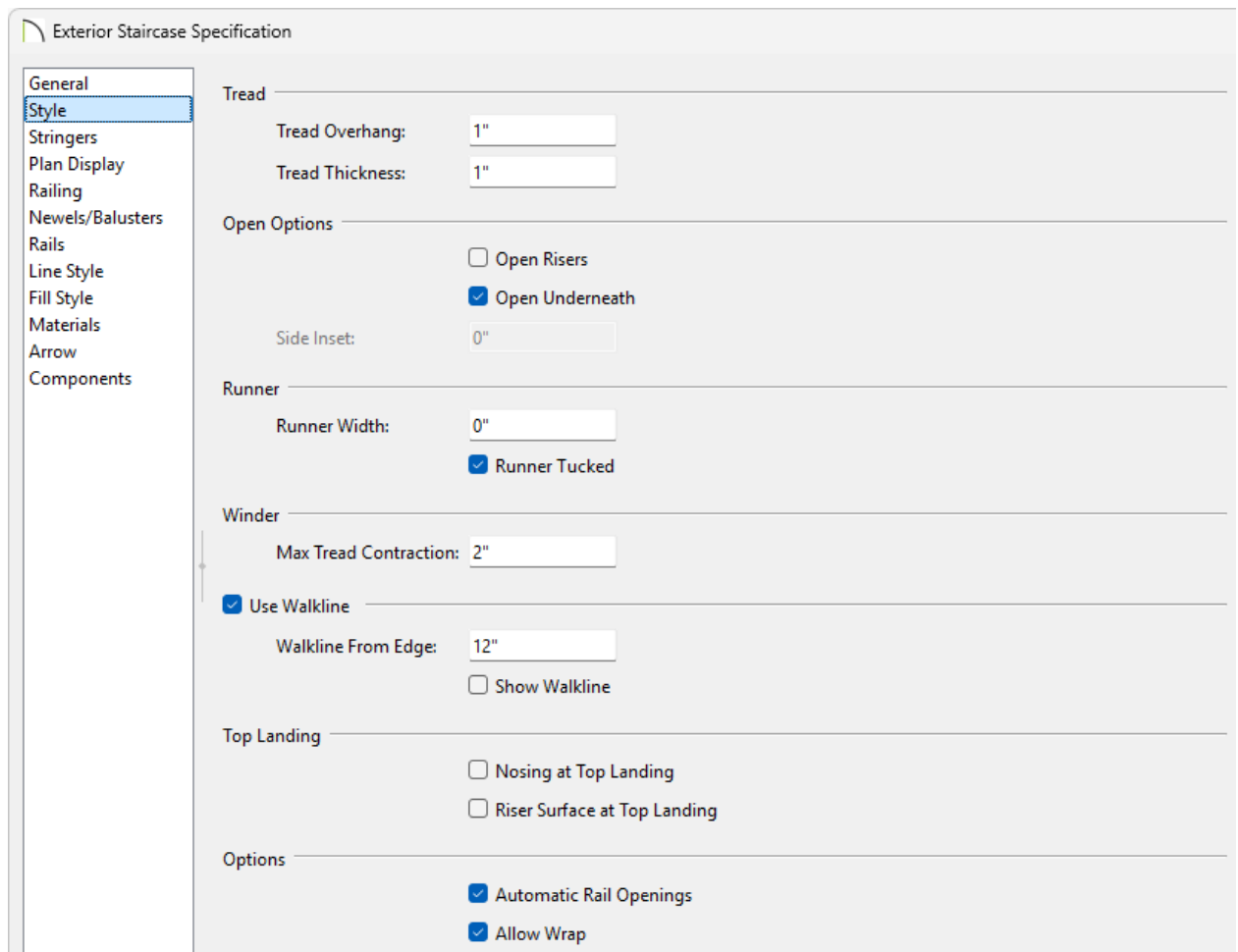
| Section Number | Length | Width | Tread Depth | Treads | Bottom Height | Top Height | Riser Height | Winders                  |
|----------------|--------|-------|-------------|--------|---------------|------------|--------------|--------------------------|
| 1              | 52"    | 39"   | 10 3/8"     | 5      | -40 1/2"      | 0"         | 6 3/4"       | <input type="checkbox"/> |

- 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:

Exterior Staircase Specification

General  
 Style  
**Stringers**  
 Plan Display  
 Railing  
 Newels/Balusters  
 Rails  
 Line Style  
 Fill Style  
 Materials  
 Arrow  
 Components

Stringer Style

No Stringers  
 1 Center Stringer  
 2 Closed Side Stringers  
 3 Standard Stringers  
 Custom Stringers

Height Above Tread: 3"  
 Height Below Tread: 40 1/2"

|   | Count | Thickness | Offset | Height Below | Ext                      | Height Above | Depth   |
|---|-------|-----------|--------|--------------|--------------------------|--------------|---------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Left  | 1     | 1 1/2"    | 0"     | 40 1/2"      | <input type="checkbox"/> | 3"           | 39 5/8" |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Middle           | 1     | 1 1/2"    | 0"     | 5 3/4"       | <input type="checkbox"/> | 3"           | 10 1/2" |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Right | 1     | 1 1/2"    | 0"     | 40 1/2"      | <input type="checkbox"/> | 3"           | 39 5/8" |

Trim Against Wall

Height Above Tread: 3"  
 Height Below Tread: 5 3/4"  
 Thickness: 11/16"  
 Clip Top:  Left  Right

Options

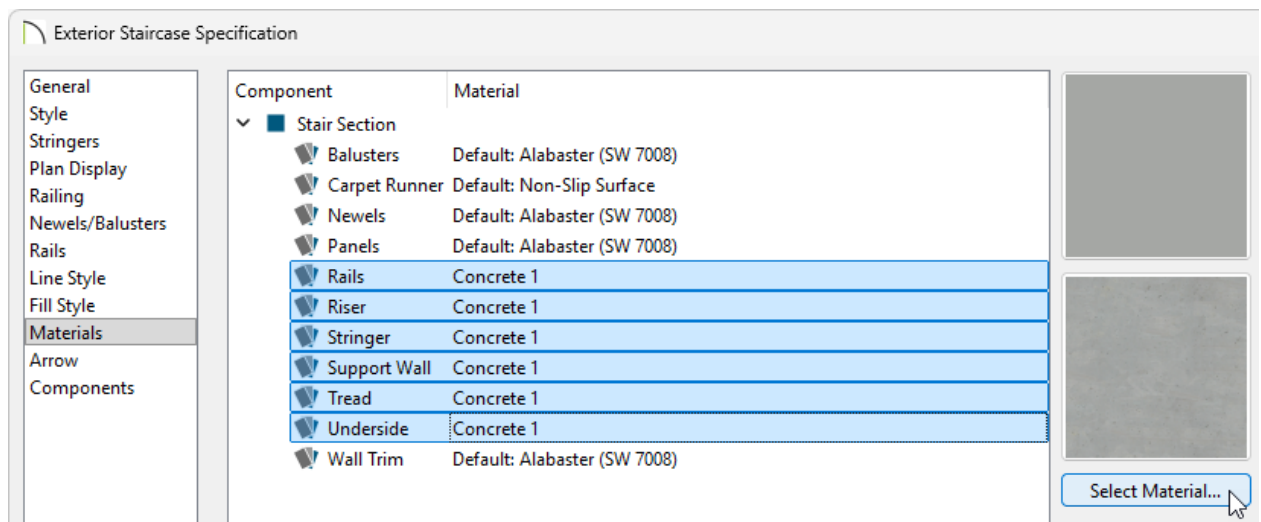
Extend Stringer Top  
 Large Stringer Base

- Set your **Stringer Style** to **Custom Stringers** and enable both the **Left** and **Right** stringers.

If using a 0" Tread Thickness, set the Stringer Style to No Stringers, and set the Height Below Tread to the Top/Bottom Height value that is reported on the General panel.

- 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:



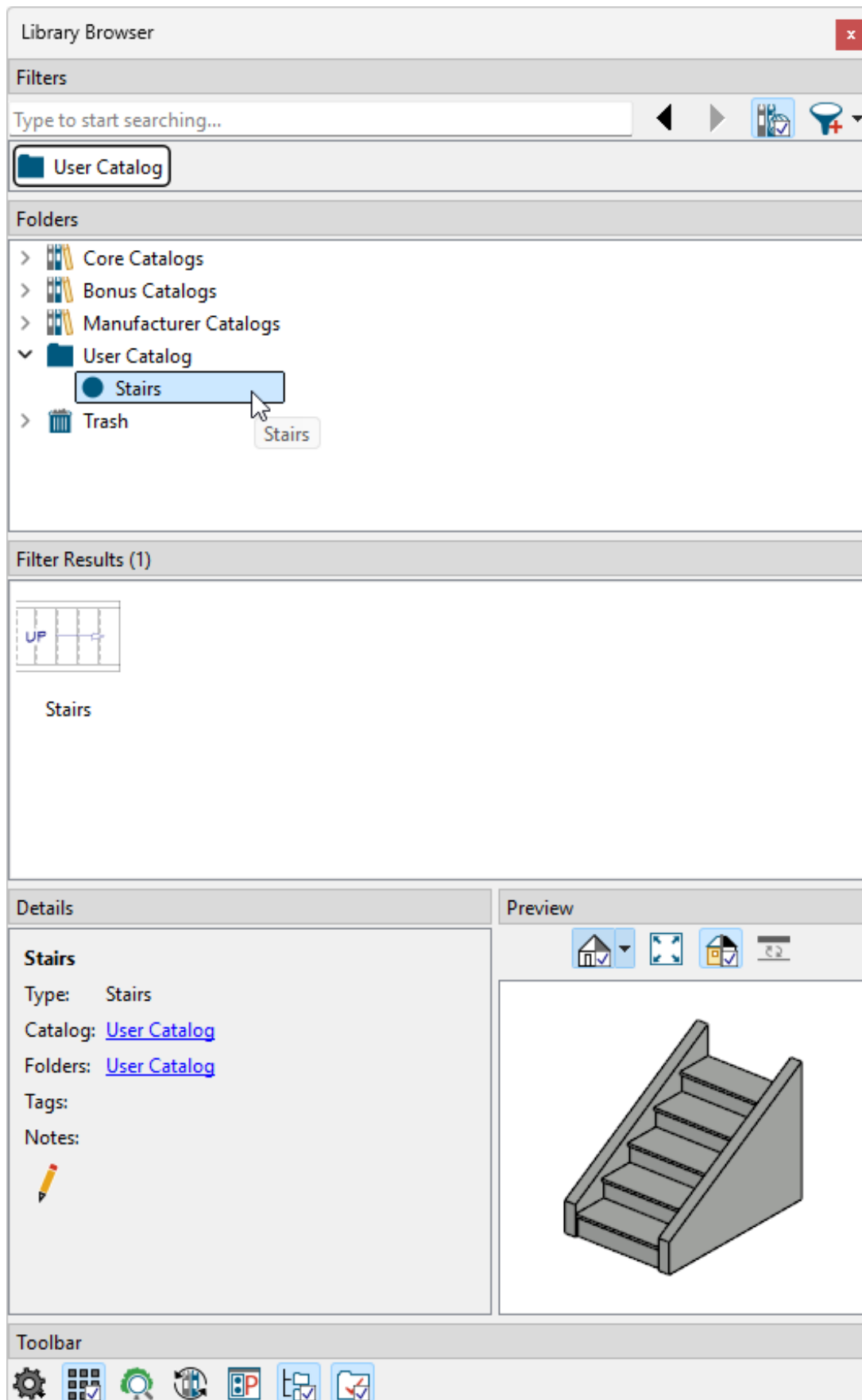
- While holding the Shift key on your keyboard, select the Riser list item and then select the Underside list item to group select multiple components.
- Click **Select Material** to open the **Select Material** dialog.
- Select an appropriate concrete material and click **OK**.

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

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

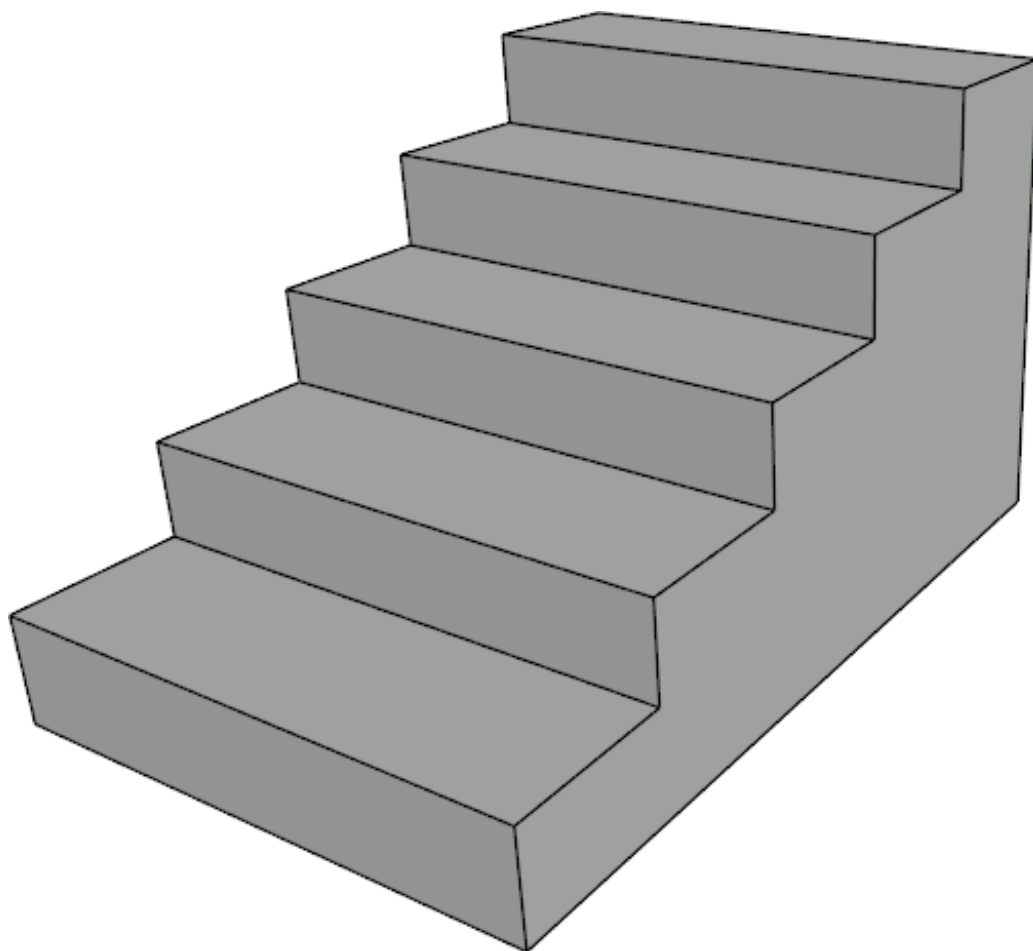
10. Using the **Select Objects**  tool, click on your staircase to select it and use the **Add to Library** \* edit tool to add the staircase to your **User Catalog** for future use.

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

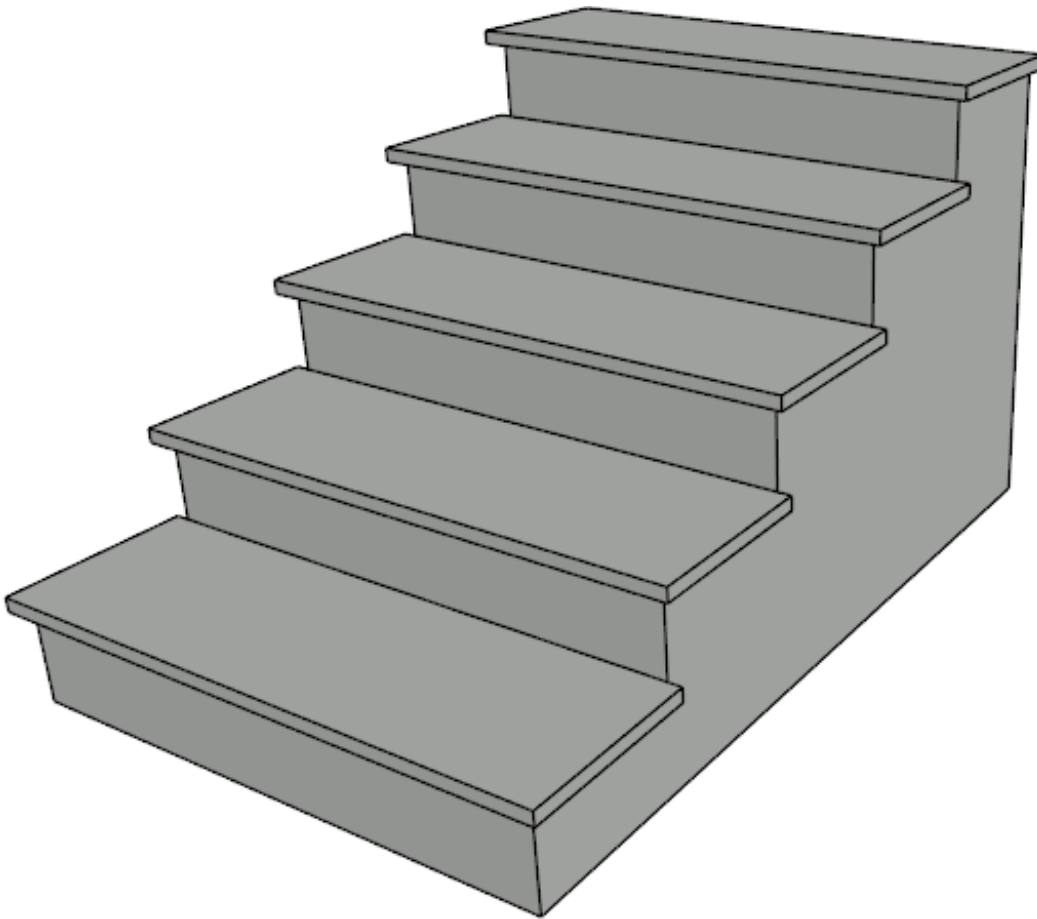


By changing the settings on these panels, you can create various different styles of stairs.

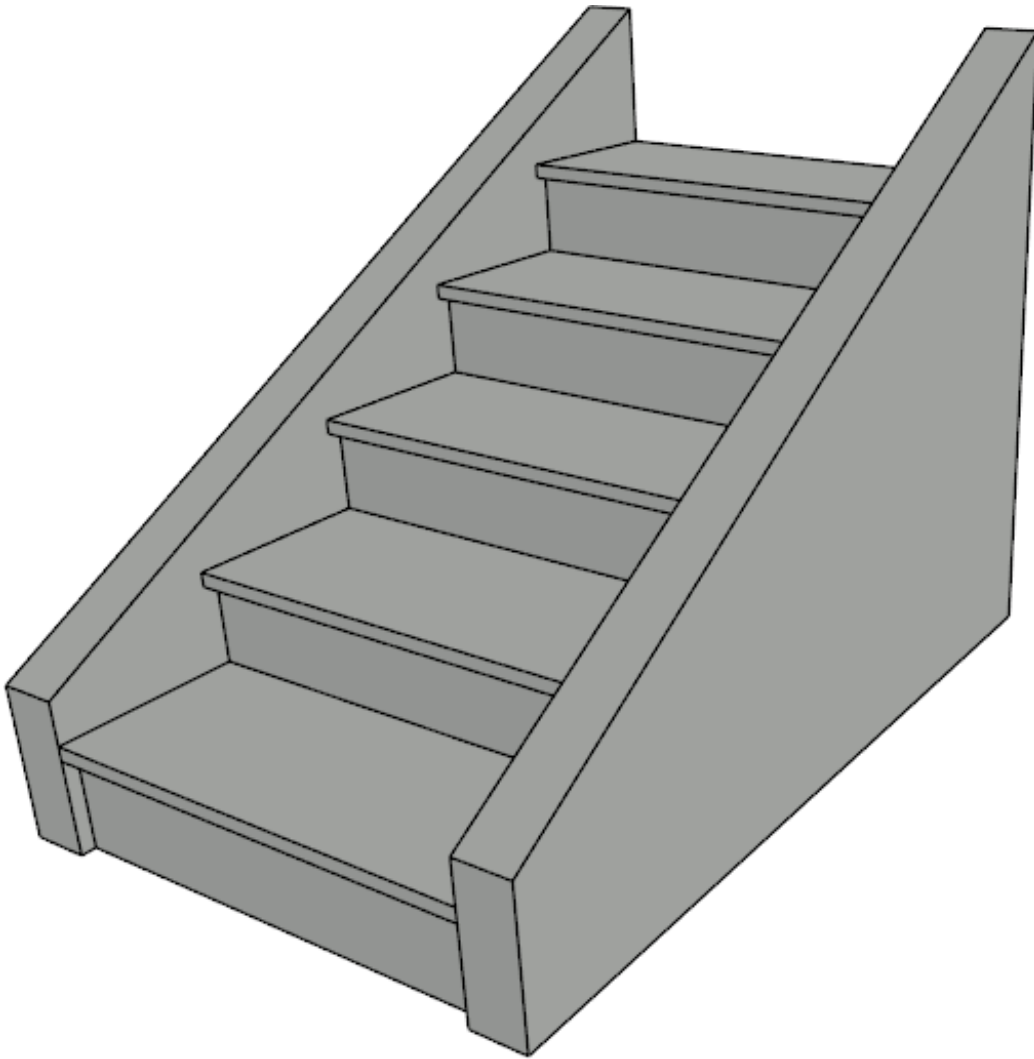
For example, this style of staircase was created by setting the Tread Overhang to 0" and setting the Stringers to No Stringers.



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.




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#### Related Articles

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



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