TIP Sheet

ArchiCAD 11
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Migrating ArchiCAD 9 Projects to ArchiCAD 11

This TIP Sheet explains how to migrate your ArchiCAD 9 plan files and PlotMaker 9 Layout Books into ArchiCAD 11.

The information contained also applies to ArchiCAD 8/PlotMaker 3 and ArchiCAD 8.1/PlotMaker 3.1 files. Earlier file versions are not supported. To convert earlier version Projects, first save them in one of the ArchiCAD/PlotMaker versions listed above and then perform the conversion outlined here.

In version 9, the Project Model is always located in a PLN file, and the layouts in an LBK (Layout Book) file. ArchiCAD 11 contains both Model Views and Layouts in an integrated environment in a single file.

Since ArchiCAD 11 Projects can be divided among multiple ArchiCAD PLN files, there are two basic ways to migrate your ArchiCAD 9 Projects and PlotMaker 9 Layout Books to ArchiCAD 11:

1. **Create Two Separate Files in ArchiCAD 11:**

   The ArchiCAD 9 Project file should be placed into its own Project File in ArchiCAD 11 (this file would contain only Model Views, plus the default Layout Book), and the PlotMaker 9 Layout Book should be placed into a second, separate Project File in ArchiCAD 11 (this file would contain all Layouts with no Model information).

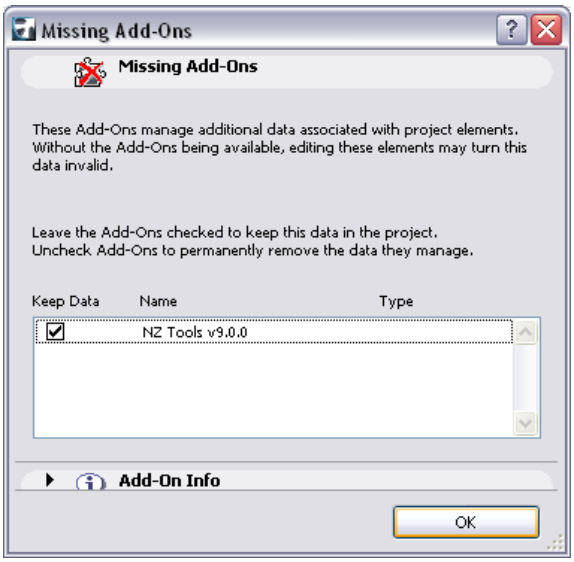
2. **Create a Single File in ArchiCAD 11:**

   If the Project is small enough, both the ArchiCAD 9 Project File (PLN) and the PlotMaker 9 Layout Book (LBK) can be merged into a single file in ArchiCAD 11. The following sections outline how to carry out both options.

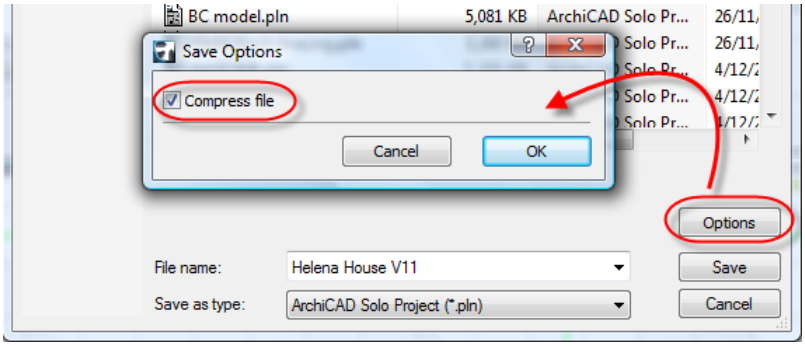
Option 1: Create Two Separate Files in ArchiCAD 11

1. To migrate the ArchiCAD 9 Project File, simply open the PLN file in ArchiCAD 11 and save it. Although there are several settings which can affect how elements are displayed on the Floor Plan, these are all automatically set during the conversion so that the same look is preserved in ArchiCAD 11, it is possible that some elements will look slightly different than they did in ArchiCAD 9.

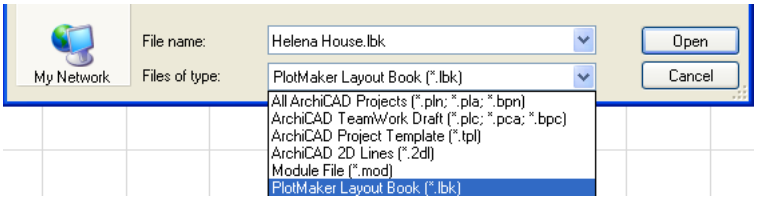
   NOTE: A Missing Add-Ons warning may appear. This alert is due to the NZ Tools being re-branded as CADIMAGE TOOLS. This is just a warning and will have no effect, Click **OK** to continue.



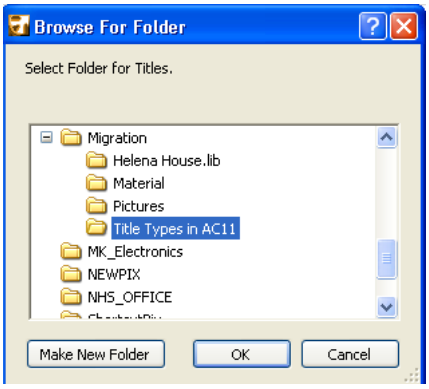
2. Save your new file from **File > Save as**, when saving the new file, hit the **Options** button and tick **Compress file**, this will reduce the file size considerably (by 60-70%).



3. To migrate the PlotMaker 9 Layout Book, use the **File > Open** command. In the Dialog, select PlotMaker Layout Book (*.lbk) as **File Type** and select the desired LBK file. Click the **Open** button to start opening it.

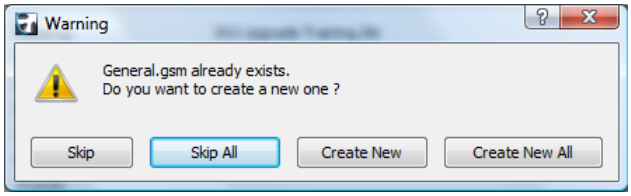


4. Since Title Types of PlotMaker 9 have become GDL Objects in ArchiCAD 11, the program will convert all Title Types defined in the Layout Book File into Library Objects (GSM Files). ArchiCAD will prompt you to select a Folder into which these created Library Parts should be placed. Click **OK**.

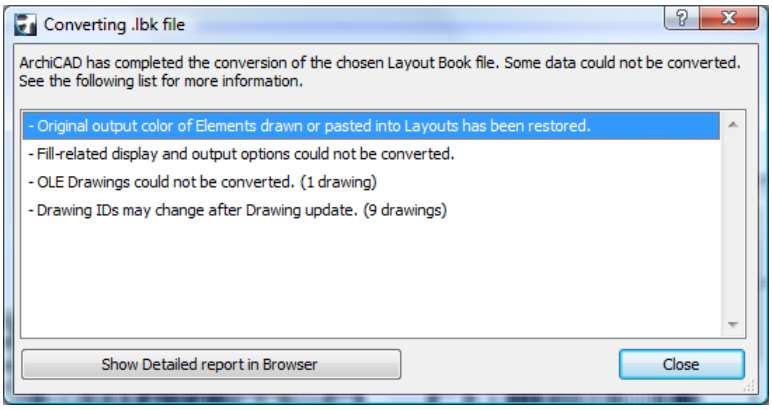


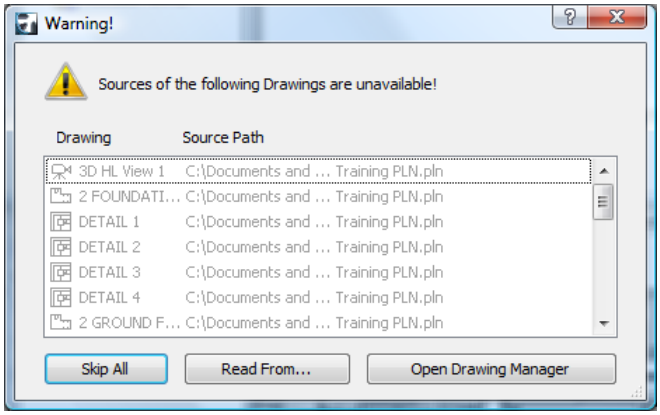
Please note that these generated Title Types will become nonparametric GDL Objects in ArchiCAD 11, displaying the same information as the source Title Type in PlotMaker 9. However, if you used default Title Types in PlotMaker 9, you will find the counterparts of these in the ArchiCAD 11 Library and you may change the generated Title Types into parametric ones shipped with ArchiCAD 11.

5. While these GSM files are being generated, the program will alert you if a GSM file with the same name already exists in the specified folder. At this point, you can choose to **Skip** the file and not save it (retaining the one already in the folder); you can **Skip All**, so all files with a name that already exists in the folder will be skipped; you can choose **Create New**, in which case the existing file will be kept and another one with a similar name will be generated (e.g. if you had an existing file named 'Simple Title.gsm', the name of the newly created Title will become 'Simple Title~001.gsm'); or you can instruct the program to **Create New All**, which will automatically do the same for every such Title Type file.



6. When ArchiCAD is finished converting the Layout Book data, an Information Dialog will alert you to data that could not be converted because of essential differences between the features of ArchiCAD 11 and PlotMaker 9. For more detailed information, press **Show Detailed Report in Browser** to launch your default web browser containing a fuller explanation of what could not be converted and why, plus what you can do about it.





A Warning will appear "Sources of the following Drawings are unavailable" this is because the file is looking externally for the original views. If you are wanting to keep two files i.e. one AC11 model file and one AC11 layout file, open the **Drawing Manager** and re-link the views to the AC11 model file. If you intend to make a single AC11 file containing both the Model data and the Layout data click **Skip All** to continue.

7. Now your new ArchiCAD 11 Documentation Project File (a file containing only Layout Book information) is ready for use. One Story will be created as default, but no model data will exist in any Model Views. All Layouts will be displayed in the Navigator's Layout Book. Save the using **File > Save as** and compress your file.

Option 2: Create Single File in ArchiCAD 11

Use this option for relatively small projects, to merge both the Layout Book from PlotMaker 9 and Project File from ArchiCAD 9 into a single project file in ArchiCAD 11.

When creating a single PLN file in ArchiCAD 11, you will merge Layout Data into a Project File. In ArchiCAD 11, every Project File must contain both Model Views and a Layout Book as default. This means that the PLN file into which Layout Book data is merged will already contain one or more Layouts, with their own attributes and settings. For this reason, the procedure follows the usual rules of merging, which means that in case certain settings exist in the receiving file, existing data is used, and are not overwritten by merged data. Therefore, when merging Layout Book data into a PLN file, the following settings of the Layout Book are ***not*** carried through:

- Book settings
- Project Info
- Grid settings
- Default Master Layout setting

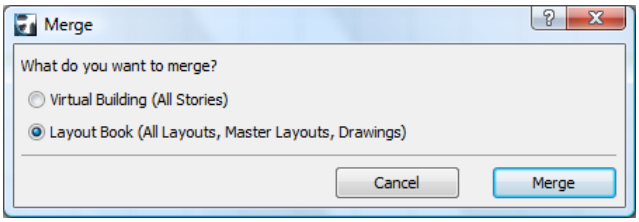
Also, settings in the Layouts page of Project Preferences in ArchiCAD 11 will ***not*** be modified by data of the imported Layout Book. The program will compare the names of the Attributes and Master Layouts of the merged file and the host ArchiCAD 11 file. Please note that the program compares only the names (but not content or definition) when checking for matching Attributes/Master Layouts. If the attribute or Master Layout names in both files are identical, they will be considered identical by the program, and the existing files in ArchiCAD 11, along with their settings, will be kept. The structure of the merged Layout Book (its Layouts, Subsets, Master Layouts and placed Drawings) is inserted into the existing Layout Book structure of the ArchiCAD 11 PLN file.

The steps are the following:

1. Open the PlotMaker 9 LBK file in ArchiCAD 11 and save it as an AC 11 PLN file. (Using the process outlined above)

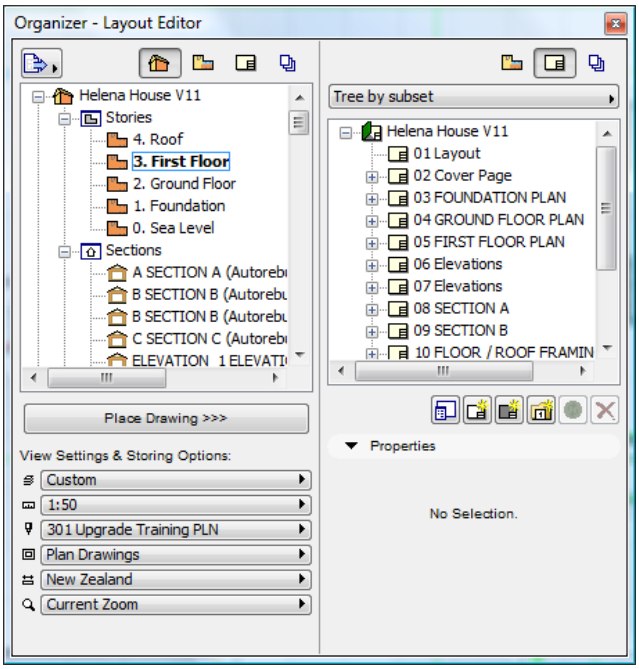
2. Open the ArchiCAD 9 PLN file in ArchiCAD 11 and save it as another AC 11 PLN file. (Using the process outlined above)

You now have two new ArchiCAD 11 files; these two must now be merged.



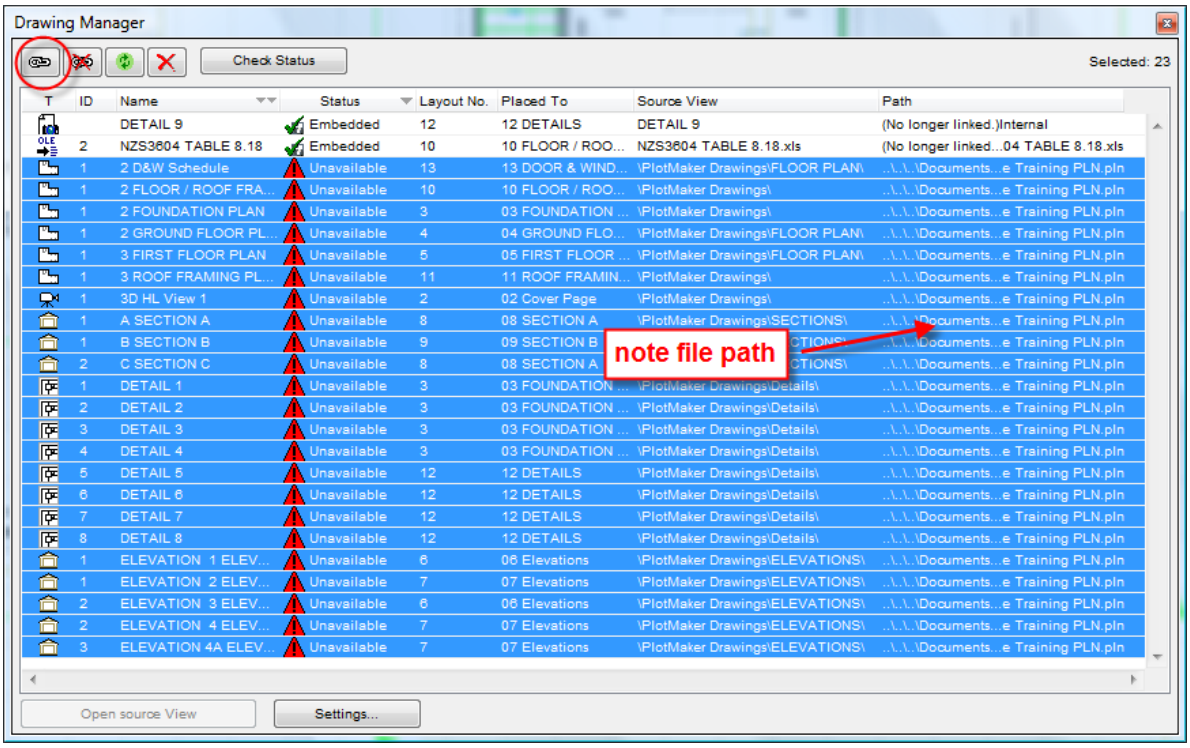
3. In the latter active Project File (the one containing model data), use the **File > File Special > Merge** command to merge data from the other saved ArchiCAD 11 file (the one containing Layout Book data). In the appearing dialog box, choose **Layout Book** to merge Layout Book data of the file into your active Project File. Click the **Merge** button.

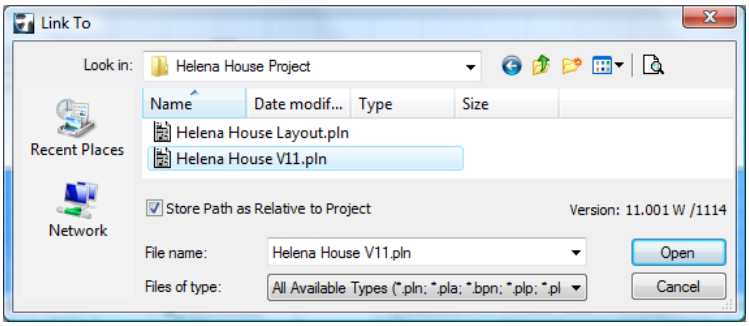
If you open the **Organizer** from the **Navigator**, you will see that all Layout Book data has now been merged into the Project File.



Note: You should follow the route specified in this guide, that is, merge the PLN File containing Layout Book data into the PLN File containing Model data, and not the other way around. This is because of the rules of merging, and because Views and certain other data would not come through if you merged the Model data into the file containing Layout Book data.

4. The two project files are now one. The Views on the Layout sheets now need to be re-linked to the Internal Views. Open the **Drawing Manager**, select the **Unavailable** views and click on the **Link** button. If you have a large amount of views, you can select groups, i.e. Sections, then Plans, then Elevations etc.

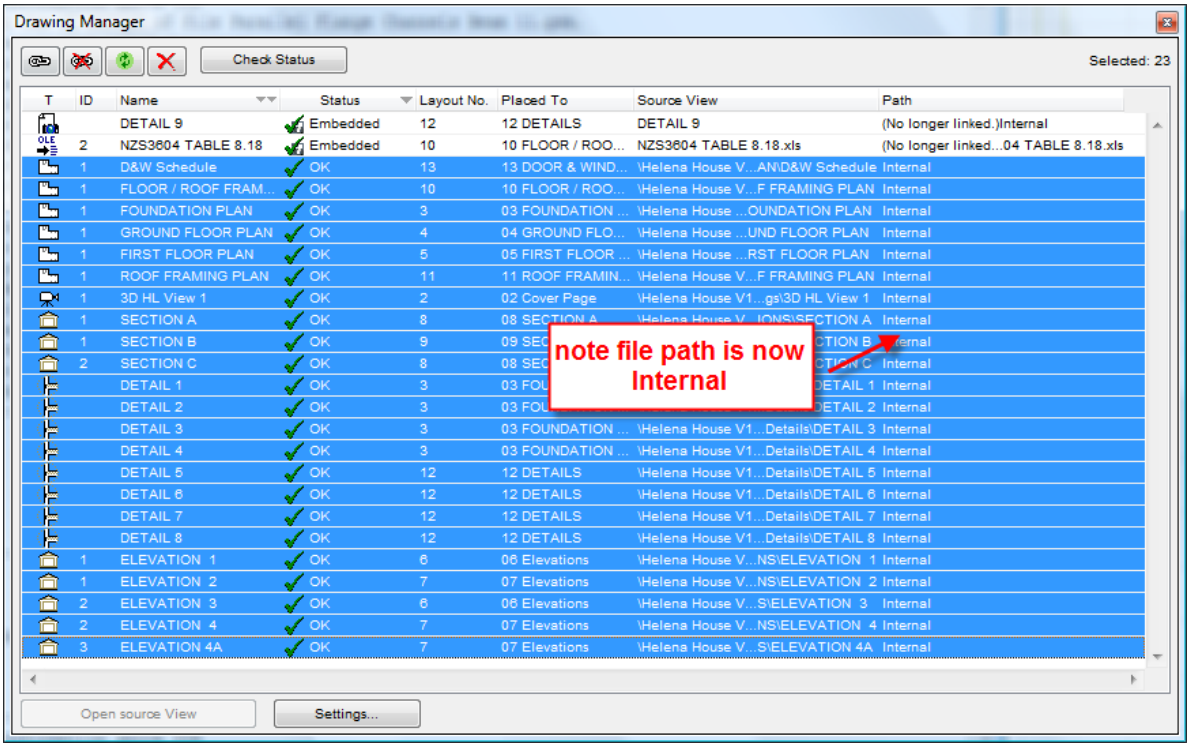




Within the **Link To** dialog, search for the file you are currently in (the Model data file), and click **Open**.

Each view will be updated and the path will now read Internal.

The Layout Book file (Plotmaker file) that we merged is now not required and can be archived.



Warnings when migrating a Plotmaker 9 .lbk file

Note:

There are a number of warnings that may appear when migrating a PlotMaker 9 .LBK file to an ArchiCAD 11 .PLN file. Here are few of the more common. The full list of Conversion Warnings can be read on page 28 of the Getting Started with ArchiCAD 11 guide

1 OLE (Object Linking and Embedding)

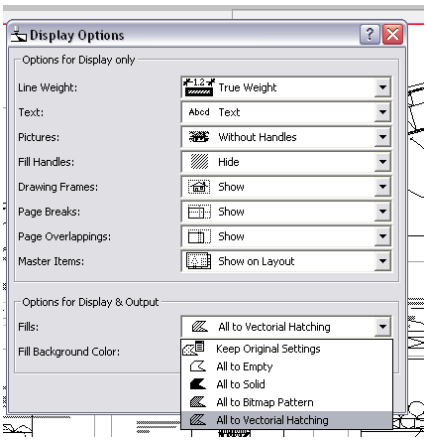
OLE Drawings could not be converted.

- ArchiCAD 11 does not support OLE technology, so OLE drawings (i.e. excel, Word doc's or charts.) that were previously within a PlotMaker 9 .LBK need to converted to PDF files. So by opening up any OLE file and saving that document as a PDF file and saving to the same location as the original OLE file. Using Drawing manager in ArchiCAD 11 you can now re-link the OLE file with you newly created PDF of the same document.

2 Fills

Fill-related display and output options could not be converted.

- In PlotMaker 9 you were able to apply global fills to your PlotMaker .LBK using Fill-Display Options. This setting has no equivalent when migrating the project through to ArchiCAD 11 and cannot be converted. Therefore all fills will be defined as they were set in originally.



3 Pens & Colours

Original output colour of Elements drawn or pasted into Layouts has been restored

- In PlotMaker 9, in the Book Settings Dialog box, output colour of elements on Layouts may be set to greyscale or black. This option has no equivalent in ArchiCAD, so elements will appear in their original colour.

4 Edited drawing layers in lbk

Edited drawing Layers are restored.

- In PlotMaker 9 you could modify the show/hide status of Drawing Layers. This option does not exist in ArchiCAD 11, so these drawing Layers will be displayed according to their original show/hide status.

5 Custom line weight is restored to pen line weight

Custom line weight is restored to pen line weight.

- In PlotMaker you could assign a custom line weight to lines, circles and spines. In this case the colour of the line came from the assigned pen, but the weight was custom set in the elements settings dialog box. This option does not exist in ArchiCAD, so the line weights of lines, circles or splines will be set to values specified in the Pens & Colours Dialog.

6 Layers, Pens Fills

- The ArchiCAD 11 PLN file will inherit the Layers of the migrating LBK Layout Book. The PlotMaker Layer will be renamed to ArchiCAD Layer. Pens and Fills will come through to ArchiCAD 11 unaltered.

7 Auto text

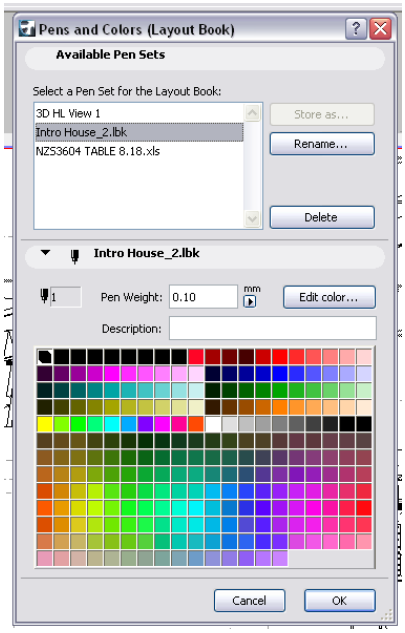
- All Auto Text items will be converted when migrating you PlotMaker 9 .LBK to ArchiCAD 11. The name of some of these items have changed. The full list of Conversion Warnings can be read on page 36 of the Getting Started with ArchiCAD 11 guide.

8 Project Hotlinks vs. file Hotlinks

- In PlotMaker 9, there were two ways a View could be placed onto a Layout: Project Hotlink and File Hotlink. (In a Project Hotlink, the source of the Drawing is an ArchiCAD View. In a File Hotlink, the source of the Drawing is a PMK file (an ArchiCAD View saved as a PMK file).
- In ArchiCAD 11, File Hotlinks are no longer used if the source file is an ArchiCAD View, because of the close integration of the design and documentation interfaces. Therefore, when migrating a PlotMaker 9 Layout Book to ArchiCAD 11, you need to convert all File Hotlinks of the Layout Book into Project Hotlinks. There are two ways to do this:
- In the Drawing Manager of ArchiCAD 11, select each PMK file one by one and use the Link Drawing to command to select the View within the Project File or an external Project File to which to link it. This is the slower method as each file has to be done individually.
- By converting the PMK Files in PlotMaker 9 prior to migrating the PlotMaker .LBK Layout Book to ArchiCAD 11.

9 Pen Sets

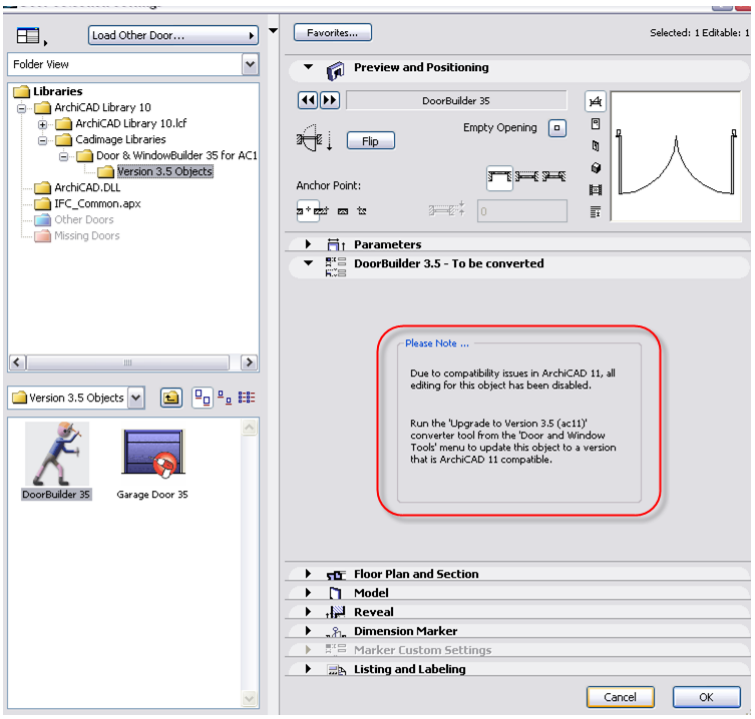
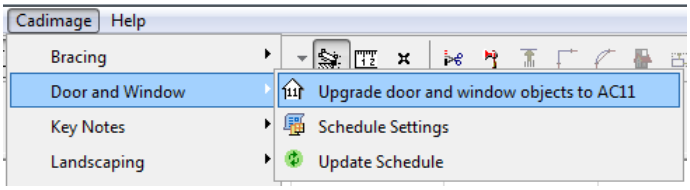
- When migrating ArchiCAD 9 .PLN & PlotMaker 9 .LBK files to ArchiCAD 11 .PLN files a Pen set is created. These are named using the existing file name. This allows the previously used pen colours & pen weights to be included in ArchiCAD 11 as a PEN SET. These are able to be created, modified & deleted as covered in previous section.



Note: Please refer to the **Conversion Warnings** section of the *Getting Started with ArchiCAD 11 Guide* for a full list of Conversion Warnings

Cadimage Tools Door & Window Builder

- Once you have migrated your ArchiCAD 9 .PLN files into ArchiCAD 11 you will need to run the 'Upgrade door and window objects to AC11' converter tool.



- The 'Upgrade door and window objects to AC11' converter tool can be found at the pull downs at the top of the screen **Cadimage>Door and Window> Upgrade door and window objects to AC11**. This tool only needs to be run once in a project to convert all the Window and Door Builder objects within the project.