Tip Sheet

ArchiCAD 12
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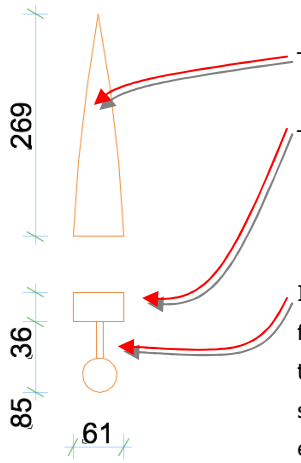
Creating a Custom Curtain Wall Frame

With the introduction of the Curtain Wall tool we can now design and create complex curtain wall systems. Using the default frame options we can create the majority of the standard systems available. If you require something more sophisticated you can create **Custom Components**.

The intent of this TIP Sheet is to highlight the simplest way to create your 'custom' **Curtain Wall**.

Getting Started

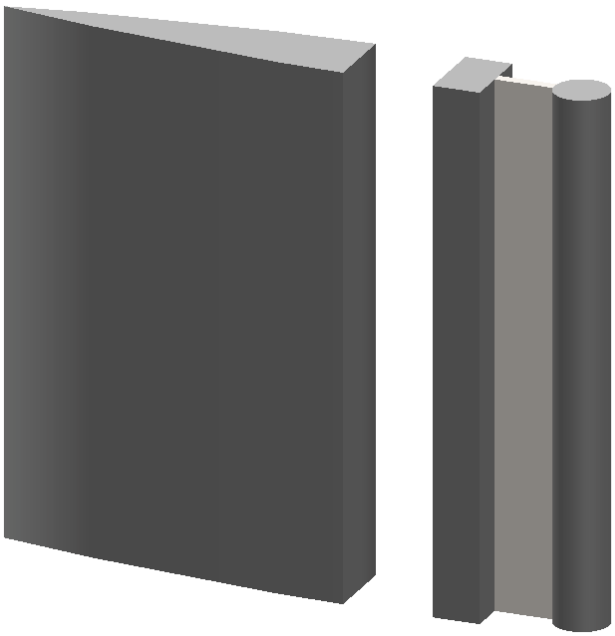
Creating a custom frame component for the **Curtain Wall** should be done in two parts, firstly the 'structure' or the internal **frame** profile and secondly the 'outer profile' or the **cap** of the wall. Using the slab tool simply create the shapes you want to use, in this example we will use the two parts as below.

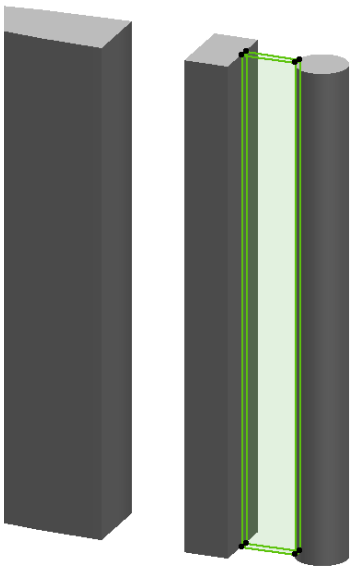


This part will be saved as the **cap**.

This part is the **frame** itself.

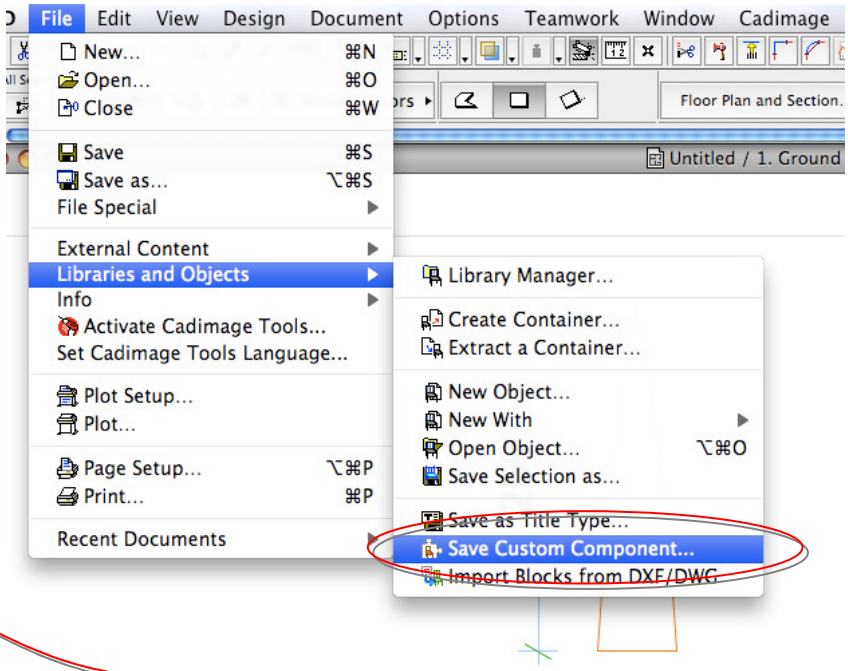
It is worthy of noting that this flange does not need to exist to ensure the second rail stays in position; this example has the flange material set to Glass to achieve a similar visual effect.



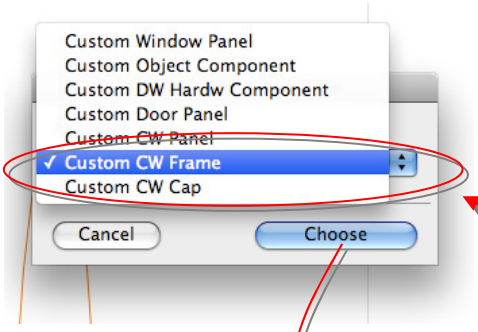


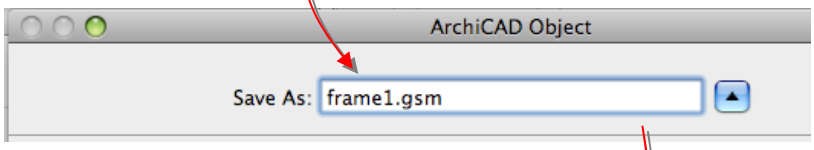
There are no other settings to worry when setting this up, however it may be wise not to have a composite applied in case the fixed depth settings cause issues down the line.

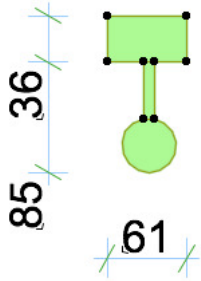
The next step is to save the two individual parts of this object; Firstly select the frame (all relevant pieces), then go to **File > Libraries and Objects > Save Custom Component...**

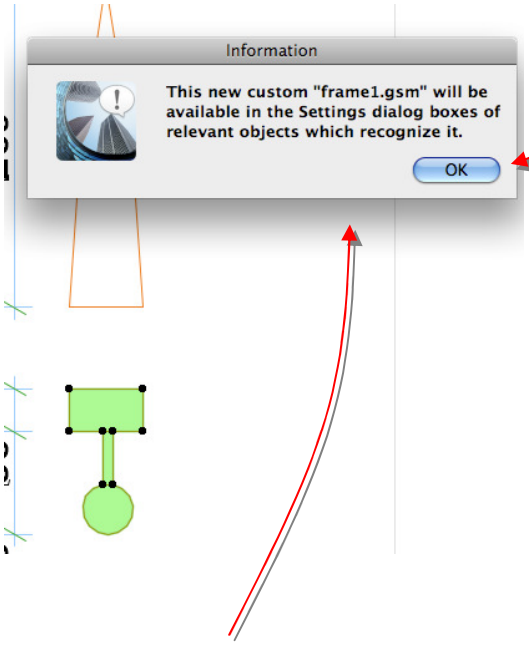


In the dialog box that appears, select **Custom CW** (Curtain Wall) **Frame**.



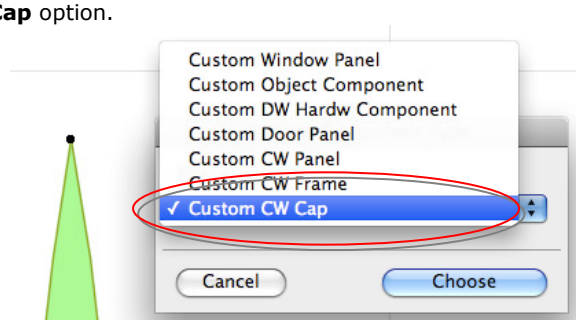




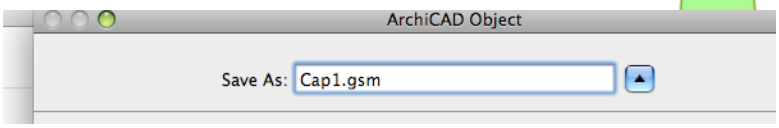


Make sure you save the part to a location that everyone can access (for multi-user situation) possibly in your office library;

Now repeat the process as above with the remaining portion, except this time select **Custom CW Cap** option.



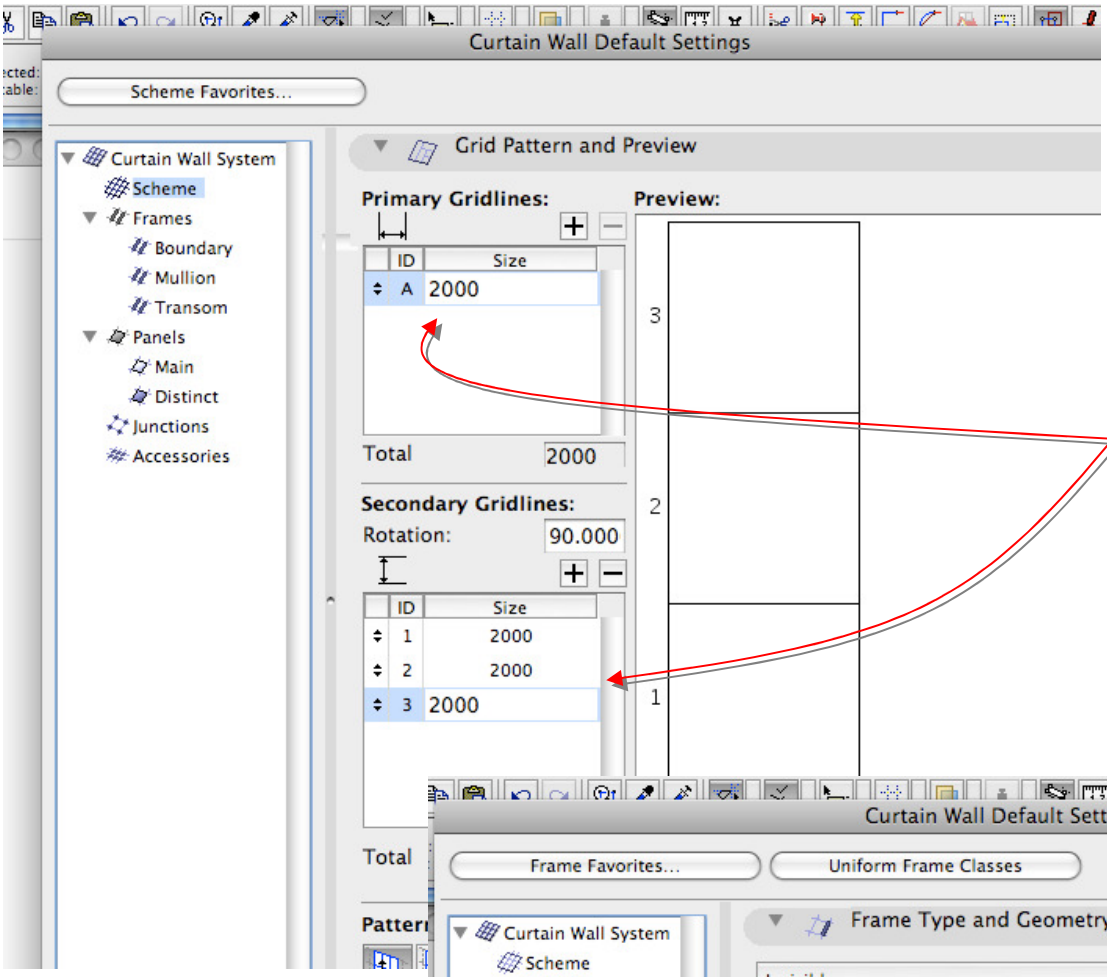
The above **Information** dialog should appear both times you save, if you overwrite an existing file it does not. If you need to update the profile the dialog will not appear but your save *should* still be successful.



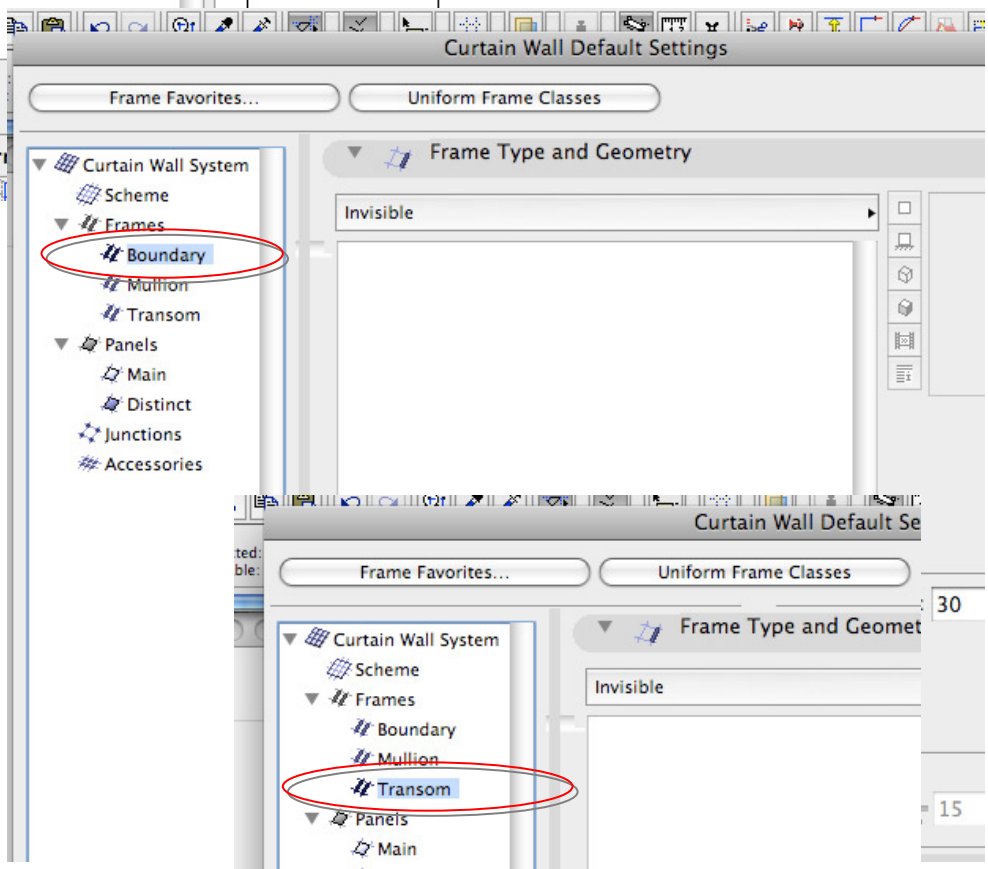
Getting the Curtain Wall started

With the custom components now ready to be used it is time to create a **Curtain Wall** and use them.

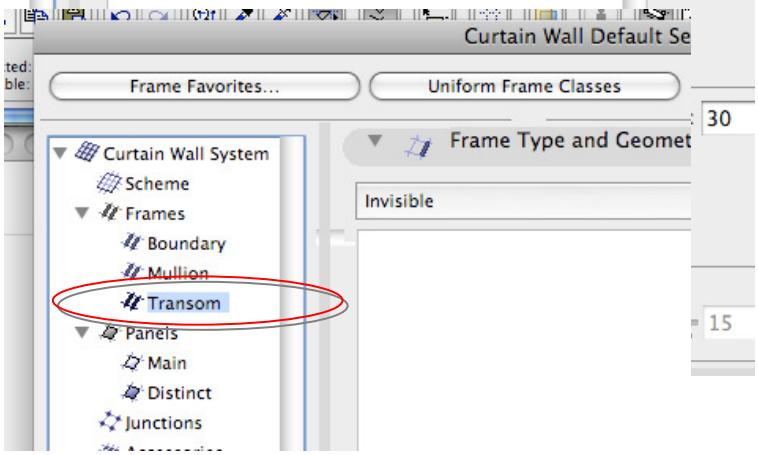
Double click the **Curtain Wall** tool to open the **Curtain Wall Default Settings**, the following values will be used for this example but are guidelines only.

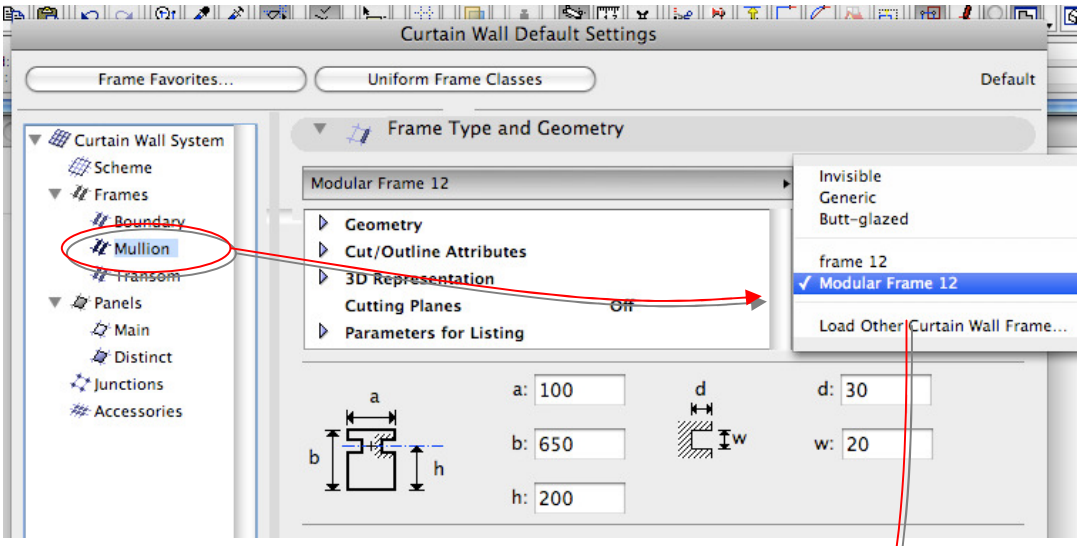


Simple scheme settings using Main Panels set to Glass



Set both the Frames/Boundary and Frames/Transom to Invisible.

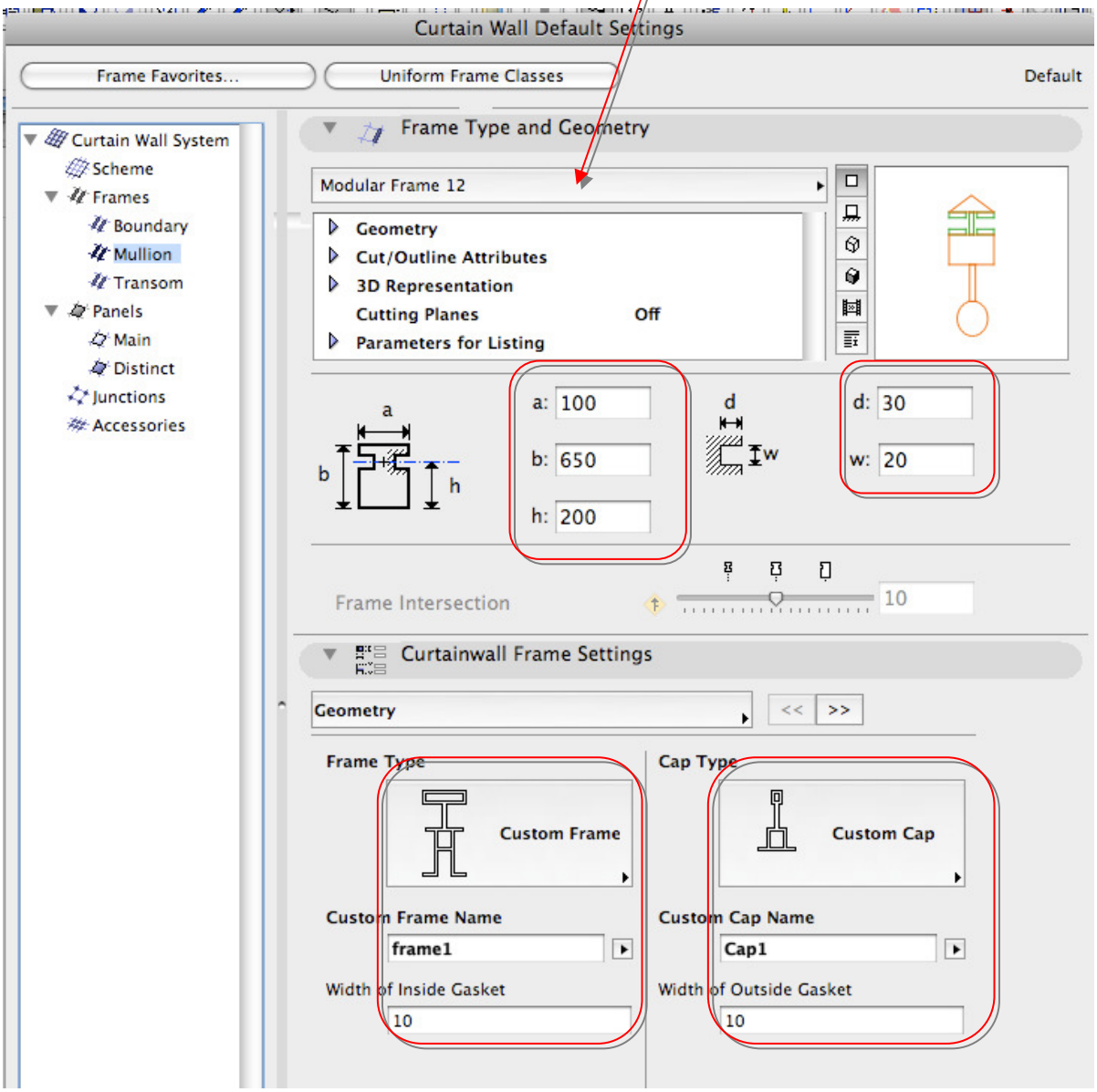


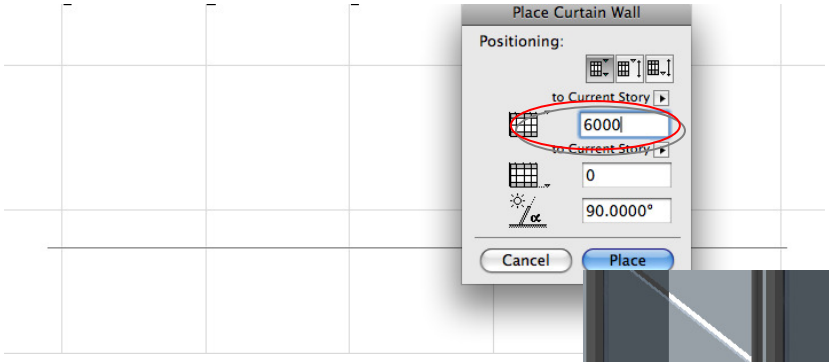


The Mullion frame needs to be set to **Modular Frame 12**

This is the most **crucial step** for using custom profiles, without this option selected you are unable to access the library parts through other dialogs.

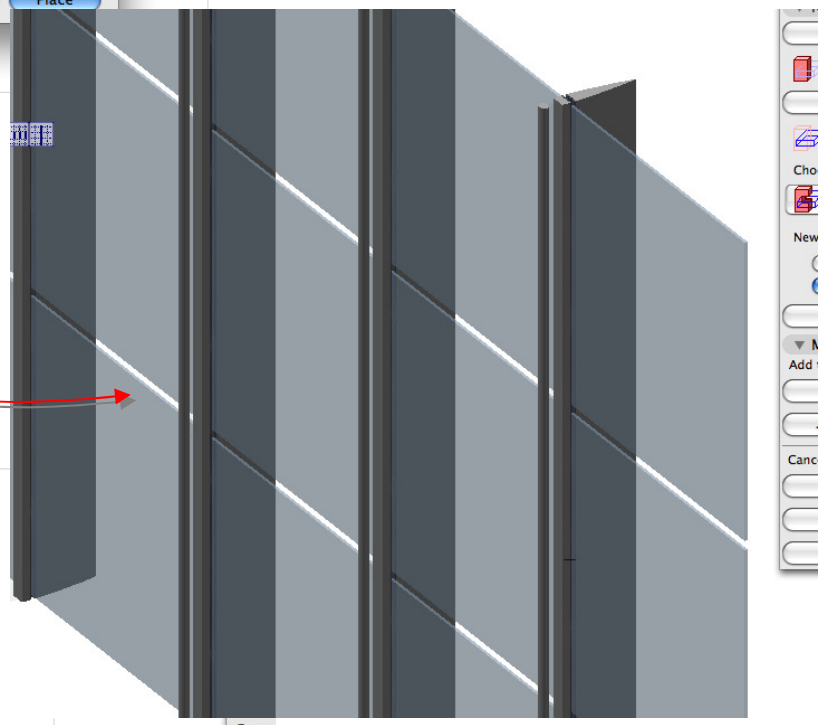
Set your window to these settings if you are following this particular example, otherwise set your dimensions to your own requirements

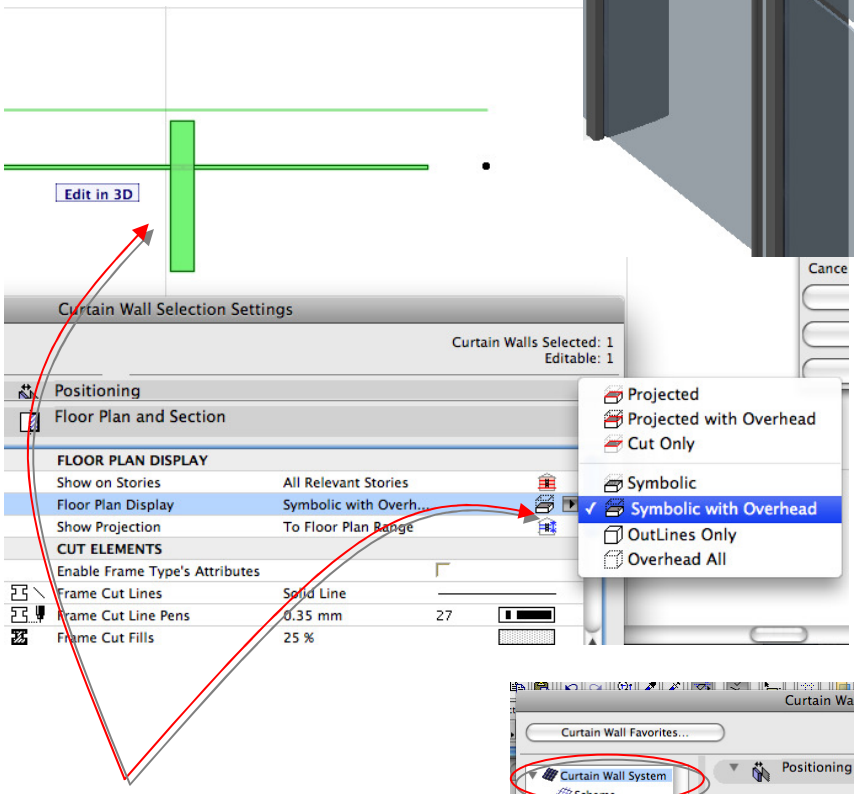




Once the frame settings are entered you can press **OK** and start modeling your **Curtain Wall**.

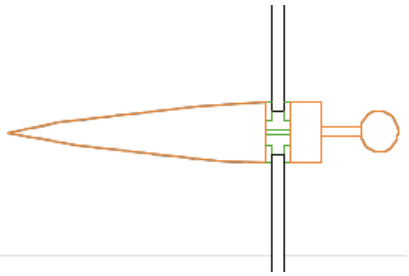
If you have followed this example you should now something that looks like this.

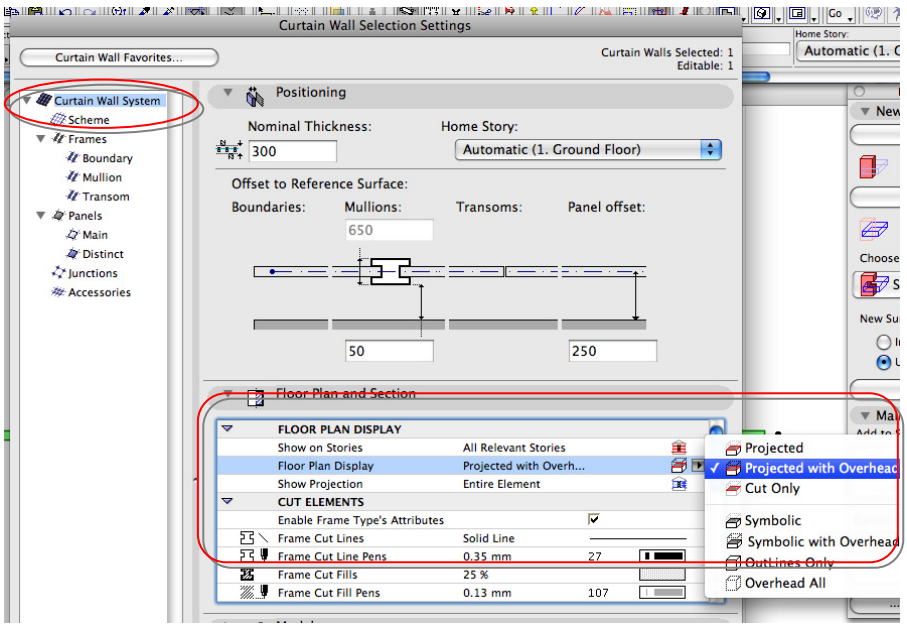


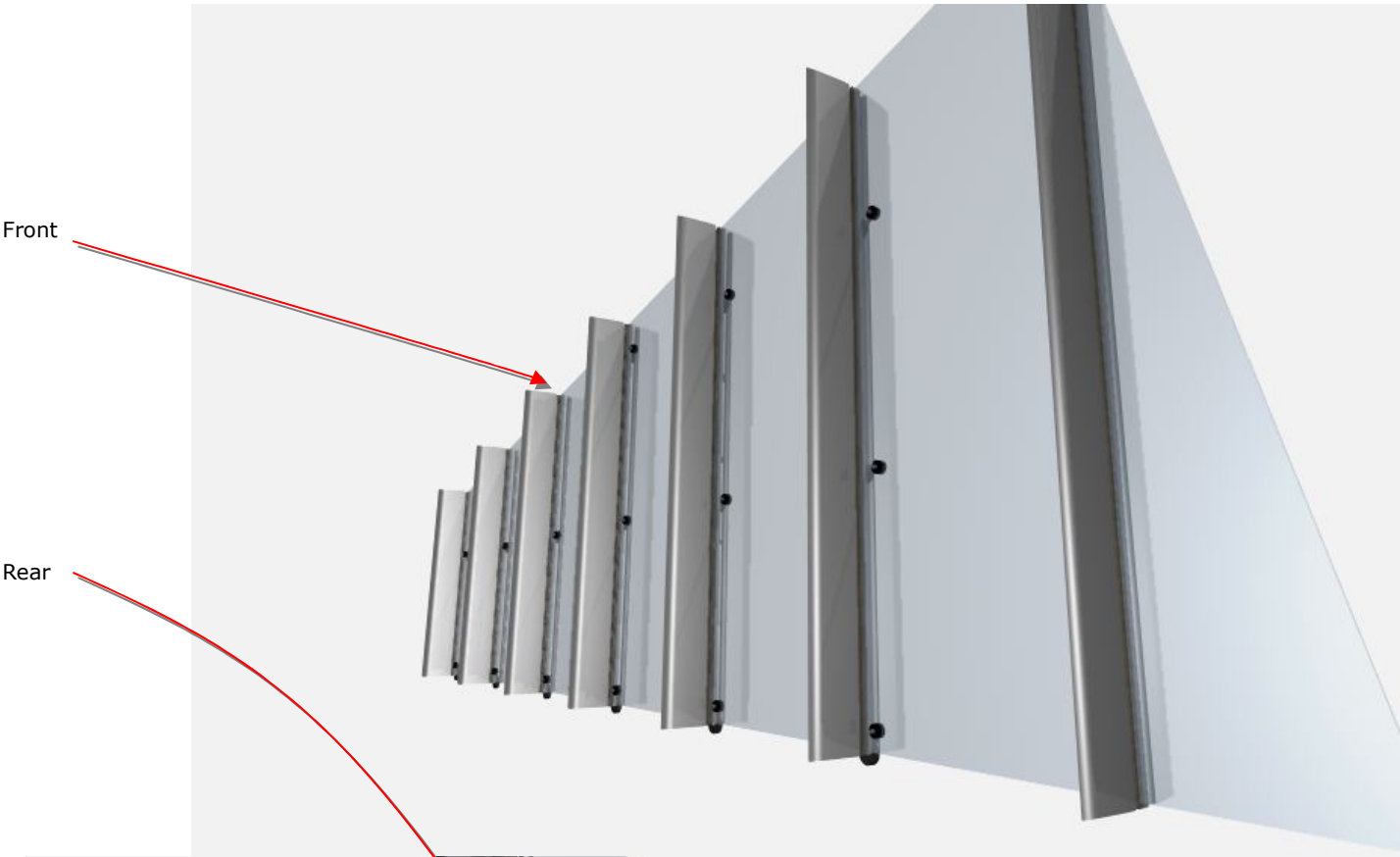


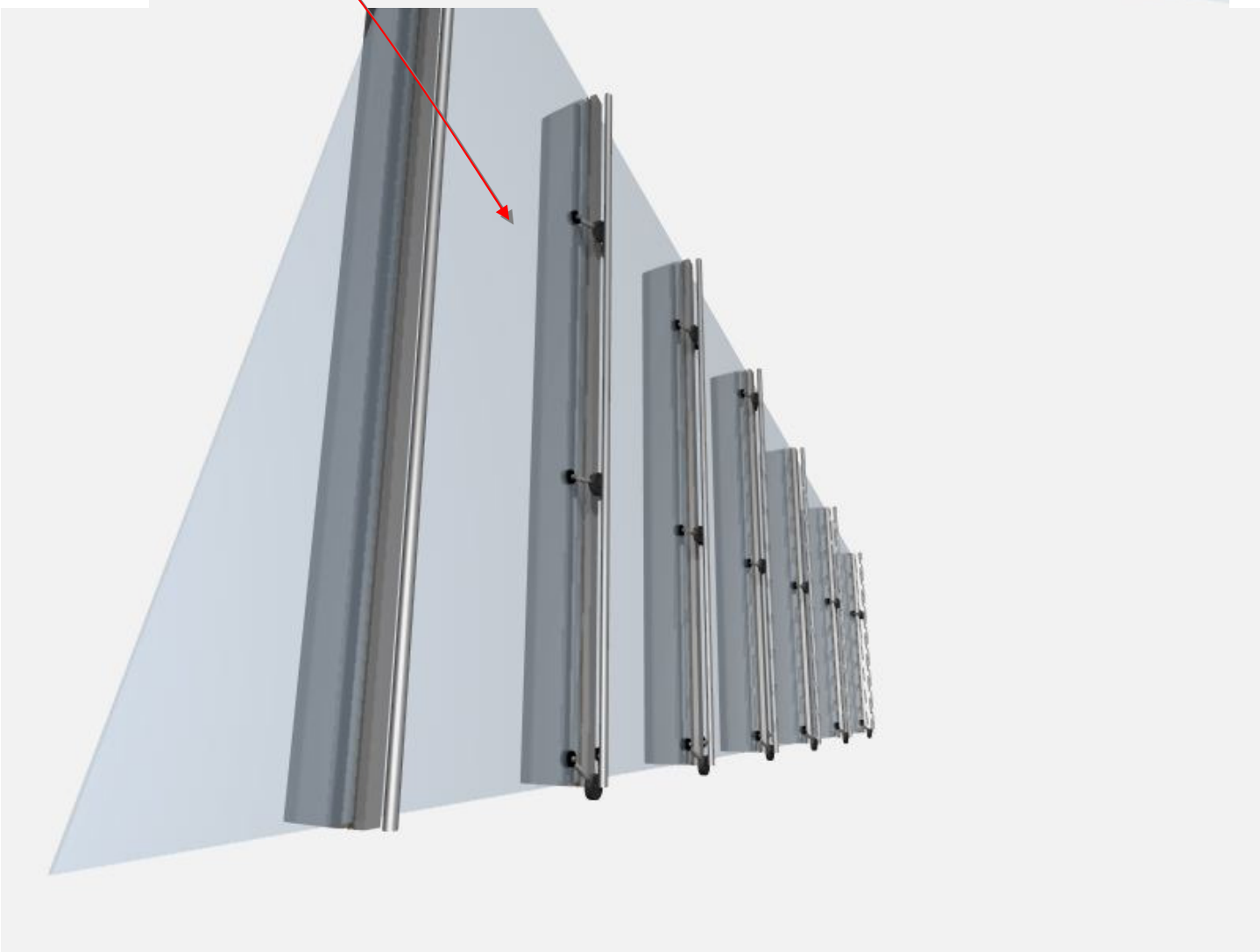
One final thing to address is the floor plan display.

By default the Curtain wall is set to display as symbolic, however simply changing the **Floor Plan Display** Options you can ensure the wall is accurately represented in 2D.






Front


Rear