Tip Sheet

ArchiCAD 11
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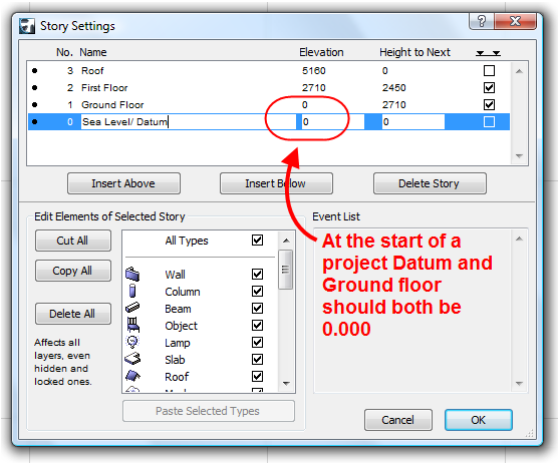
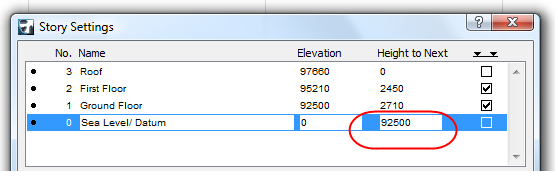
Setting up Stories

When starting a new project it is important to set up your Stories correctly. In previous versions of ArchiCAD users may have used negative stories to model their site mesh, basement levels or any levels below the ground floor, or used false stories where additional 2D information was added. We do not suggest this. We recommend setting story 0 as Sea Level (Datum) and model in **real** values i.e. only model on positive stories (unless of course your building is below sea level). ArchiCAD 11 has given us the Worksheet Tool where we can add any additional 2D data, so we have no need for those false stories.

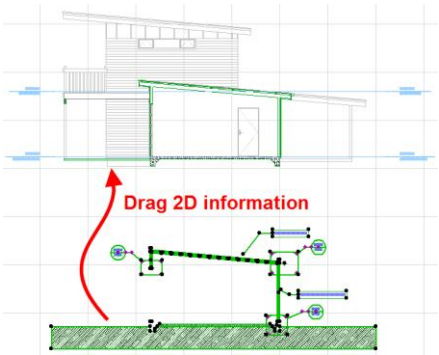
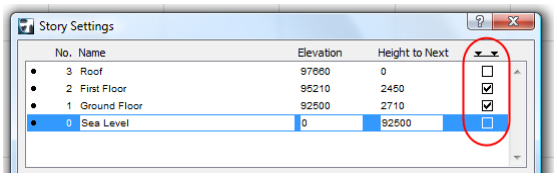
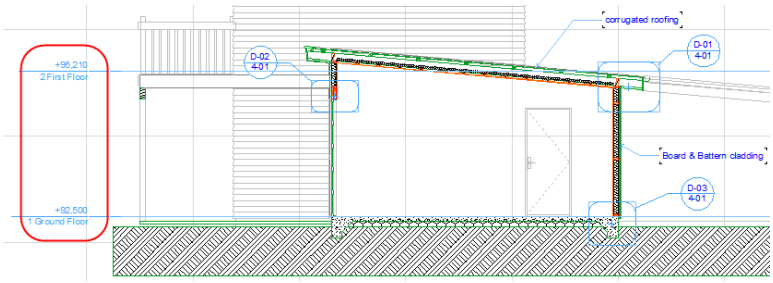


Generally when we start designing and modelling a project we don't have the Surveyor's site information, and therefore we don't know the projects finished floor levels (F.F.L.s). To this end we have set our first modelled floor (Story 1) and our Sea Level/Datum (Story 0) both to 0 (zero). Start modelling your lowest level on Story 1 (ground floor, basement, lower level B4 etc); later when we get the Surveyor's information into our project (refer Tip Sheet **Site Modelling**) we can set the true level of Story 1 i.e. its F.F.L. Do this in the Story Settings dialog, **Design > Story Settings...** When we are editing story levels, input information into the **Height to Next** field; the **Elevation** field should only be used as a reference of the **result** of the Height to Next field. In our example we have decided that our F.F.L. for our Ground Floor, based on our site contours, is 92500 (92.5m above sea level). By setting our finished floor level relative to sea level we are giving an accurate height corresponding to our surveyor's data. This gives us the ability to place level markers within our model views and get accurate level information.



When setting your building stories in the Height to Next field set the actual height to the next level. In our example, from Ground Floor to First Floor is 2710 (our walls are 2450, floor joists are 240x45 and sheet flooring is 20mm, so the total is 2710mm). The First Floor to the Roof is 2450 which is the height of our first floor walls. When adding a roof always place it on the story above; this means the roof outline will show as dashed on the story below. The Roof story Height to Next needs to be a positive number (a negative number will cause problems). Generally we set this to 0.

During the design phase these story heights can be changed and all model information will adjust accordingly. NOTE: as the project progresses and you add 2D information (Cadimage Tools Rapid Details, fills, text, dimensions etc.) to your sections and elevations, changing the height of a story will only move the modelled items and will leave the 2D information behind. Of course, you can Drag this information within the view to align with the moved model.



The tick boxes to the right of the stories toggles whether the story level information is displayed in section and elevation. In our example we only want the Ground Floor and First Floor information to show.