

Questions and Answers

Working with Autodesk® Revit® Architecture and Autodesk® 3ds Max® Design Software

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1. General Information

1.1 What are the benefits of using Autodesk 3ds Max Design software with Autodesk Revit Architecture software?

The powerful combination of Autodesk® Revit® Architecture and Autodesk® 3ds Max® Design software extends the building information modeling (BIM) process to give architects the power to create more compelling, persuasive visualizations of their designs. 3ds Max Design makes it easier to aggregate scene elements and enables users to take greater advantage of advanced texturing and modeling tools to create quicker iterations of rendered images, animate objects, and add special effects. **Exposure™**, a lighting analysis tool exclusive to 3ds Max Design, enables the simulation and measurement of physically near accurate lighting results, crucial for LEED EQ Credit 8.1. Revit Architecture and 3ds Max Design have streamlined interoperability via Autodesk® FBX® technology, helping preserve model geometry, lights, materials, camera settings and other metadata between applications.

1.2 Revit Architecture has built-in rendering capabilities. What additional benefits can I gain by using 3ds Max Design?

Revit Architecture is tuned for generating high-quality, in-progress renderings that are suited for internal design reviews. Meanwhile, Autodesk 3ds Max Design offers higher-speed rendering, animation, effects, and character toolsets—as well as daylight analysis functionality—that help designers tell an emotionally engaging story of a design. Visualizations created in 3ds Max Design are ideal for external presentations to clients or other key stakeholders. Plus, the software's advanced viewport gives real-time feedback that enables users to iterate on creative ideas more freely, and the product is optimized for network rendering and to visualize larger datasets.

2. New in the 2011 Versions

2.1 What's new in Autodesk 3ds Max Design 2011?

Autodesk 3ds Max Design 2011 software offers compelling new techniques for helping bring designs to life by aggregating data, iterating ideas, and presenting the results. Streamlined, more intelligent data exchange workflows, compositing capabilities, and innovative new modeling and visualization tools will help significantly increase architects' creativity and productivity, enabling them to better explore, validate, and communicate the stories behind their designs.

Please see www.autodesk.com/3dsmaxdesign-features for a more detailed list of new features.

2.2 What's new in Autodesk Revit Architecture 2011?

Autodesk Revit Architecture 2011 enhances everyday workflows by helping architects achieve increased productivity while performing design and documentation tasks. New user interface enhancements enable smoother workflows and more consistent access to necessary tools. This new version also helps users to more quickly and easily analyze and present designs—extending BIM workflows by enabling the development of more compelling, data-rich designs. Working on larger projects with many team members will now be a more integrated and seamless process.

Please see www.autodesk.com/revitarchitecture-features for a more detailed list of new features.

2.3 How does 3ds Max Design 2011 enhance my workflow with Revit Architecture 2011?

3ds Max Design 2011 features a number of significant workflow enhancements with Revit Architecture 2011. The new FBX File Link enables 3ds Max Design to receive and manage upstream design changes from Revit Architecture. This intelligent handling of data helps reduce rework of visualizations when original designs are revised and refined, supporting nonlinear decision-making processes and facilitating collaborative, iterative workflows. Designers can also take advantage of new import options to group incoming materials, helping to simplify management of complex data sets. SAT file support provides the ability to nondestructively import and export surfaces and solids between 3ds Max Design and Revit Architecture. Finally, the 2011 versions introduce seamless exchange of material data between 3ds Max Design and Revit Architecture with the new Autodesk Material Library.

3. Version Compatibility

3.1 If I upgrade to Revit Architecture 2011 but remain on Autodesk 3ds Max/3ds Max Design 2010 (or earlier), will I experience any compatibility issues?

The new Material Library in Revit Architecture 2011 will only export materials, lights, or environments to Autodesk® 3ds Max® 2011/3ds Max Design 2011 software. Revit Architecture users moving to the 2011 release should also move to 3ds Max Design 2011 in order to maintain optimal interoperability between the products.

3.2 If I upgrade to 3ds Max Design 2011 but remain on Revit Architecture 2010 (or earlier), will I experience any compatibility issues?

No. If you move to 3ds Max Design 2011 and remain on Revit Architecture 2010, you should not experience any loss of interoperability.

3.3 Is Autodesk planning to address these compatibility issues with a hot fix or service pack release?

While Autodesk is constantly investigating ways to optimize workflows between Revit Architecture and 3ds Max Design, no plans have been announced to address this particular issue. Therefore, customers should consider upgrading to the 2011 versions of both products to take advantage of the powerful new workflow features.

4. Availability and Upgrades

4.1 When will 3ds Max/3ds Max Design 2011 and Revit Architecture 2011 be available?

First customer download and shipment of 3ds Max Design 2011 are scheduled for April 7, 2010. First customer download and shipment of Revit Architecture 2011 are scheduled for April 16, 2010.

4.2 How do I upgrade to 3ds Max Design 2011 and Revit Architecture 2011?

3ds Max Design and Revit Architecture customers with active Autodesk® Subscription contracts will receive automatic entitlement to the 2011 versions of their respective software. Subscription contract managers and software coordinators will be sent an email containing a link to a download page. Customers who are not on Subscription will be able to upgrade to 3ds Max Design 2011 or Revit Architecture 2011 for 50 percent of the MSRP* if they own any of the previous three versions. **Find out more.**

** Savings based on USD SRP. International pricing may vary.*

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