

Top 11 Tips & Tricks for Revit 2013

Okay, you *might* already know some of these helpful things, but then again... you might *not*!

THE LOUNGE
AT AU 2012

Tuesday (pages 1 & 2 of 4)

1. Where's My Chair?

This Tip is dedicated to the classic diabolical Revit Puzzler of the same name. Here is a list of all of the typical ways we can think of why your chair (or whatever element you happen to be looking for) might not be visible in your Revit view. If you can think of more good ones, please let us know!

a. Visibility Graphics Overrides

- 1 Element's category or subcategory is unchecked in the VGO dialog
- 2 Element is an import and *Show Imported Categories* in this View has been unchecked
- 3 Element was imported with *Current View Only* checked, and you're not in that view
- 4 Element's visibility is turned off by a View Filter
- 5 Element is an import in a family, and visibility for Imports In Families has been unchecked
- 6 Element is in a Workset that has been hidden in the view
- 7 Element is in a Revit Link that has been hidden in the view
- 8 Element is in a Link that has different By Linked View or Custom visibility settings
- 9 Element or element's category has its Projection Lines overridden to be white

b. View Ranges and Crops

- 1 Element is outside of the view's View Range
- 2 Element is above the Cut Plane in a plan view
- 3 Element doesn't fall within the view's Far Clip Depth
- 4 Element is partially outside the view's Crop Region
- 5 Element is constrained to a Scope Box that is not visible in the view
- 6 Element is an annotation not residing completely within the Annotation Crop Region
- 7 Element is a grid or section not perfectly parallel to the current view
- 8 Element falls within the un-displayed portion of a View Region or Crop Region which has been split

c. Families, Groups, Parts, and Assemblies

- 1 Element is a family, with no geometry set to be visible in the view type
- 2 Element is a family, with no geometry set to be visible in the detail level of the view
- 3 Element is in a family and set to be not visible by a visibility parameter
- 4 Element is in a group and has been excluded from the group
- 5 Element is a Part, but view is set to Show Original
- 6 Element is an Original, from which Parts have been made, but view is set to Show Parts
- 7 Element is an Original, from which (orphan) Parts have been made, that has been deleted in a Link
- 8 Element is an Original, from which (zombie) Parts have been made, in an Unloaded or Removed Link
- 9 Element is a Part made from a floor at the level of the plan view
- 10 Element is a Part which has been Excluded
- 11 Element was not specifically added to the Assembly View you're in

---CONTINUED ON OTHER SIDE---

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d. Hidden Elements

- 1 Element or category has *Temporary Hide/Isolate* applied
- 2 Element or category is hidden via right-click > Hide in View
- 3 Element or category has *Is Visible* unchecked in right-click > Override Graphics in View
- 4 Element is a Mass and Show Mass Form and Floors has been turned off
- 5 Element (such as a Section) is set to Hide At Scales Courser than
- 6 Element has <Invisible Lines> linework placed on its edges
- 7 Element's Transparency has been set to 100%
- 8 Element is being obscured by another element (model, annotation, etc)
- 9 Element was visible in an Underlay that has been turned off
- 10 Element or category has been overridden to match background color
- 11 Element's Object Style has been set to match the background color
- 12 Element has been modified in view with the Edit Cut Profile tool
- 13 Element is very far away from middle of view, on Zoom to Fit everything disappears

e. Worksets, Phases, Design Options, Disciplines

- 1 Element is in a workset that is not loaded in the project
- 2 Element is in a workset that is not visible in the view
- 3 Element's phase (in project or link) not visible in the phase of view
- 4 Element is part of a Design Option that is not visible in the view
- 5 Element not visible because of the view's Discipline setting

f. Links

- 1 Element is in a workset that is not loaded in a linked file
- 2 Element is in a workset that is not visible in a linked file
- 3 Element is in Project X, which is an overlay link in Project Y, which is linked into your project

g. Other

- 1 Um, maybe you forgot to actually *create* the element? :-)
- 2 While meaning to *hide* an element in a view, perhaps someone instead *deleted* the element (or used Select All Instances in Project and deleted *every instance* of the element)

BONUS LIST: Revit Visibility Hierarchy!

In the following list, *smaller* numbers will override larger numbers:

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 Line Work Tool | 6 View Depth > "Beyond" Line Style |
| 2 Override Graphics in View > By Element > Halftone | 7 Phasing Graphic Overrides |
| 3 Graphic Display Options > Silhouette Edges | 8 Visibility Graphic Overrides > Override Host Layers > Cut Line Styles |
| 4 Override Graphics in View > By Element | 9 Visibility Graphic Overrides > Projection or Cut Lines |
| 5 View Filters (VFs also have hierarchy within their VF list) | 10 Object Styles |

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2. White text on black background?

A bizarre graphics anomaly causes pure white text to display as black on a black background, but you can easily solve the problem with this trick:

- a. Change the RGB color-setting for the text from 255-255-255 (white) to 255-255-254 (yes, it's technically *not* 100% white, but you'll never detect the difference).

3. Need a slope annotation on your ramp in a plan view? It can't be done without this trick!

Why won't it work? Okay, I'll check with the Revit developers... but in the meantime, do this:

- a. Open a 3D top-down view (click on the Top of the view cube) showing the ramp.
- b. Use the Spot Slope tool to place a slope arrow on the ramp in the 3D view.
- c. Select the spot slope annotation. Click Ctr-x (cut to clipboard).
- d. Open the plan view. In Modify tab, click Paste drop-down and choose > *Aligned to Current View*.
- e. The parametric slope arrow now exists on the ramp in the plan view!

4. Want to save your awesome in-place family in your library for use in other projects?

Okay, you really *should've* built it with a template in the Family Editor—families made this way are more robust, stable, and sometimes have more superpowers. But if you promise to only do it just this once...

- a. Select the in-place family and click Edit In-Place. Select the family again and click Create Group. OK. Don't click Finish Edit for the family.
- b. Click App-menu drop-down. Click Save As > Library > Group. Name your family and choose a location. Save. Back in the project, ungroup your family and cancel the edit.
- c. The named-and-saved family can now be loaded and placed as a component via the type selector... and used in other projects!

5. Need to insert a component aligned to an angled reference in your model?

Well, you could place it then use the rotate tool—but that's kind of a pain. Do this instead:

- a. Click Place a Component and choose a family (or select-drag from the Project Browser).
- b. Hover your cursor over the angle (or arc), highlighting the reference (line, wall, etc).
- c. Click on the spacebar—the preview placements will flip between perpendicular or parallel to the reference!

6. Need to save a Revit view as an image? Your solar study, perhaps?

- a. To save the image of a view in your Revit project, right-click on the active view in the project browser and choose Save to Project as Image. Confirm the settings and click Save. It's stored in the project browser under the Renderings node.
- b. To export the image outside the Revit project, click the AppMenu button > *Export > Images and Animations > Image*, select the image and save in a variety of formats (JPG, TIFF, PNG ...).

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7. Two words: Super Nudge.

- a. You all know about using the keyboard's arrow keys to move a selected element around a bit. The tool is handy for fine-tuning placement of annotations and such, but the move distance is zoom-dependent and sometimes the rate of change is maddeningly slow.
- b. Enter Super Nudge: Hold down the Shift key while pressing one of the arrows keys... the selected element moves 17.57* times faster than regular Nudge! (*Estimated speed increase. Your results may vary.)

8. No license? But need to open Revit to view a file or do a demo? Use Viewer Mode.

It's handy to fire up Revit for a demo or to view a file when you don't have a valid license:

- a. On your Revit desktop icon, right-click > Create Shortcut. Name the new Shortcut (something like **Revit Viewer 2013** might be appropriate) and right-click > Properties. To the text in the Target line, add **/viewer** (include a space in front of the slash, and put it outside any quotation marks).

BONUS: Set Revit to always start up filling your computer screen! In the Revit shortcut Properties, set the Run drop-down to "Maximized."

9. Breaking up is easy to do (at least for Stacked Walls)

- a. Right-click on the stacked wall and choose Break Up. Your stacked wall is now separate walls.

BONUS: You can change a wall's interior/exterior orientation in the same menu (includes multi-select)!

10. Mask and UberMask™

- a. Mask: A Masking Region (Annotation tab > Detail panel > Region > Masking Region) will cover up model elements... but they won't hide annotation elements such as text, dimensions, etc.
- b. UberMask: To hide everything, including annotations, have one of these in your Revit arsenal!
 - 1 Open a Generic Annotation template (AppMenu > New Family > Family Templates > Annotations > Generic Annotation.rft).
 - 2 Put a Masking Region inside the family. If desired, add instance parameters to the height and width of the region so that you can resize it in the project later. Save As ("UberMask.rfa" might be a good name), then load it into your project.
 - 3 Find UberMask conveniently located with the Symbols in the Annotation tab!

BONUS: Make an *Non-Scaling-UberMask* by *nesting* a shared (check Shared in its Family Parameters) UberMask.rfa into a Detail Component family (AppMenu > New Family > Family Templates > Detail Item.rft). Save As (call it UberMaskNS, perhaps?), load, etc... this UberMaskNS.rfa will hide everything and stay the same size in the view at *any* view scale!

11. Having trouble finding that missing dialog box *somewhere* on your multiple monitors?

- a. Press Alt+Spacebar, then M, then *any arrow key*. The window is now stuck to your cursor.
- b. Move your mouse around to find it!