Creating an Opening in the Stem Wall for a Garage Door

Reference Number: **KB-00343**
Last Modified: **November 30, 2022**

The information in this article appliesto:

PRO ARCH SUITE

QUESTION

I have created a first floor room with a garage door. When I add my foundation the stem wall will not create an opening for the garage door. Instead, the garage door seems to rest on top of the stem wall, just like the rest of the walls of my garage.

ANSWER

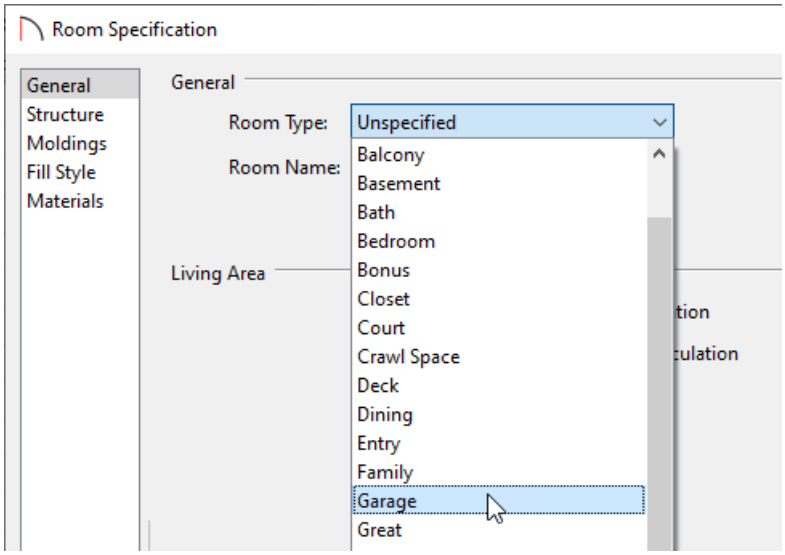
If certain conditions are not met, a stem wall will not recognize a garage door above it, and will treat it like other doors, which rest on top of the stem wall. To create a foundation in which the stem wall breaks and allows the garage door to reach the slab floor of a garage, follow the procedure below.

To create the garage room

1. Select the **Straight Exterior Wall** tool, and in a clockwise fashion draw four connected walls.

2. To define this room as a garage, use the **Select Objects** tool to click in the room to select it, then click on the **Open Object** edit tool to display the Room Specification dialog.

3. On the GENERAL panel of the **Room Specification** dialog, define the room type as a **Garage**.



> If you skip this step, and do not define the room as a Garage, then Home Designer will treat the garage door as it does all other doors, and have it rest on top of the stem wall.

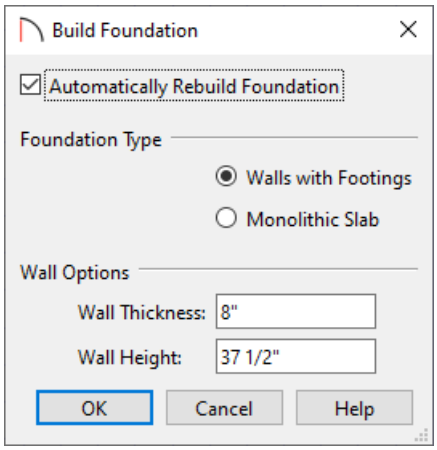
4. Once this is complete, select the **OK** button to apply this change.

To build the foundation

1. From the menu select **Build> Floor> Build Foundation**.

2. In the **Build Foundation** dialog, set parameters for your foundation, then click **OK**.

   In this example, the default values are used.



To return to the first floor to add the garage door

1. Using the **Up One Floor** tool, return to Floor 1.

2. Once you are back on the first floor, from the menu select **Build> Door> Garage Door** and click on the wall in which you want to add a garage door.

3. To create a 3D view and ensure the garage door is correctly protruding into the foundation, select **3D> Create Camera View> Perspective Full Overview**.

   In Home Designer Pro, select **3D> Create Perspective View> Perspective Full Overview** instead.

4. In the camera view, you will see that the garage door now penetrates through the stem wall, and it rests on the garage floor.

As you have probably noted, this process must be followed exactly in order for the foundation to recognize the garage door and form an opening for it.

In brief, you must first build the first floor and define the room as a garage. Then, you must build a foundation. The first floor room must be defined as a garage in order for Home Designer to build the foundation correctly. Once the first floor is built and the foundation is complete, the last step is to add the garage door.

Related Articles

- How the Height of Floors Relate to the Height of the Terrain (/support/article/KB-00861/how-the-height-of-floors-relate-to-the-height-of-the-terrain.html)
- Modeling a Crawl Space (/support/article/KB-00905/modeling-a-crawl-space.html)
- Modifying Garage Floor and Stem Wall Heights (/support/article/KB-01845/modifying-garage-floor-and-stem-wall-heights.html)

© 2003–2024 Chief Architect, Inc. All rights reserved // Terms of Use (https://www.chiefarchitect.com/company/terms.html) // Privacy Policy (https://www.chiefarchitect.com/company/privacy.html)