Drawing an Octagonal Structure with Railings

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The information in this article applies to:



QUESTION

I am trying to draw a deck structure in the shape of an octagon and I want all eight sides to be of equal length. I am having a difficult time accomplishing this as every time I adjust the length of one wall, another wall changes.

How do I draw an octagon shaped structure with equal sides?

ANSWER

Creating an octagonal structure with railings is easy to accomplish using the Polygon Shaped Deck tool.

The <u>Chief Architect Premier (https://www.chiefarchitect.com/products/premier/)</u> version of the software also has a Polygon Shaped Room tool, which automatically creates walls, instead of railings.

To create an octagonal structure with railings

1. Select **Build> Railing and Deck> Polygon Shaped Deck** to display the **New Polygon Shaped Deck** dialog.

New Polygon Shaped Deck		
Polygon Shape		
Define by:	Side Length	
	O Radius to Corner	
	O Radius to Side	
Number of Sides:	8	
Number of Sides: Side Length:	8	
Side Length:	72"	

• Choose your desired **Define by** setting.

In this example, we have selected Side Length.

• Set the Number of Sides and either the Side Length or Radius.

In this example, 8 sides are specified, with each side having a length of 6' (72").

- Leave the check next to **Include Railing** if you would like physical deck railings to be generated. If you uncheck this box, invisible railings will generate to form the octagonal structure.
- 2. Once these values are set to your liking, click**OK**, then simply click in plan view at the location you want to place the polygon shaped deck.

To customize the railings

- 1. Once you have placed the deck, use the **Select Objects** \searrow tool to click on one of the deck railings, then select the **Open Object (** edit button.
- 2. In the **Deck Railing Specification** dialog that displays:

C Deck Railing Spec	ification	×
Deck Railing Spec	Railing Type Balusters Solid Open Open with Middle Rail Panels Newels/Posts Post to Rail Post to Ceiling Rail to Post Top/Bottom Rail Include Top Rail Raise Bottom:	K
		K Cancel Help

• Select the RAIL STYLE panel, choose your desired **Railing Type**, how you would like the Newels/Posts to generate, as well as other properties for the rails.

In this example, we have selected the Panels option and have selected the Post to Beam option.

• On the NEWELS/BALUSTERS panel, you can specify the **Height** of the railing, properties for Newels/Posts and Balusters, as well as Panels, if chosen.

In this example, we selected the Library button next to the Panel Type and selected the Acapulco panel option located in the library by navigating to Home Designer Core Catalogs> Architectural> Fences & Railings> Decorator.

- On the RAILS panel, specify the **Width** and **Height** for each rail, as well as the Beam, if necessary.
- On the MATERIALS panel, choose the appropriate materials for each component of your railing.
- 3. Click **OK** to apply the changes. Repeat this procedure for each of the subsequent railings.

Note: You can also group select railings and change their properties all at once. To learn more, please see the "Group Selecting Objects" resource in the <u>Related Articles</u> section below.

By default, a roof does not generate over a deck room. However, you can tell the program that you do want a roof over this area by following the instructions below.

To generate a roof over the structure

- 1. Using the **Select Objects** tool, click inside of the octagonal room enclosed by railings, then click on the **Open Object** edit button.
- 2. On the STRUCTURE panel of the **Room Specification** dialog that displays, place a check in the **Roof Over This Room** box, then click **OK**.

Room Specification				
General	Absolute Elevations			
Structure	Floor Above:			
Moldings Fill Style	Ceiling:	109 1/8"		
Materials	Floor:	0" (1)		
	Floor Below:			
	Relative Heights			
	Rough Ceiling:	109 1/8"		
	Finished Ceiling:	108 1/2"		
	SWT To Ceiling:	109 1/8" (L)		
	Ceiling Below:			
	• Stem Wall:	37 1/2"		
	SWT = Stem Wal	Птор		
	Ceiling			
		Roof Over This Room		
		☐ Flat Ceiling Over This Room		
		Shelf Ceiling		
		Use Soffit Surface for Ceiling		
	Ceiling Structure:	: 5 1/2"		
	Ceiling Finish:	5/8" Default		

3. If **Auto Rebuild Roofs** is enabled, your structure will update to have a roof over it, based on the pitch and material settings in the **Build Roof** dialog.

If the roof doesn't generate or update, navigate to **Build> Roof> Build Roof** from the menu, check the **Auto Rebuild Roofs** box located on the ROOF panel, then click **OK**.

Build Roof			Х
Roof Materials Roof Styles	Build	Auto Rebuild Roofs	
	Specifications Pitch (in 12): Minimum Alcove Size: Eave Overhang: Gable Overhang:	8" 36" 18" 18"	

4. Take a **Camera (io**) view to see the results.



Related Articles

Creating a Covered Patio (/support/article/KB-01010/creating-a-covered-patio.html)
Creating a Custom Pergola (/support/article/KB-00889/creating-a-custom-pergola.html)
Group Selecting Objects (/support/article/KB-00624/group-selecting-objects.html)

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