Designing Landscaping in Front of a Photograph

The information in this article applies to:

QUESTION

How can I place a picture of my home into a plan and then design landscaping in front of it?
The Home Designer programs provide you with the tools to model your entire home's interior and exterior.

However, when you want to focus on your landscaping and do not want to model your entire structure in 3D, you can instead import a digital photograph of your home into a plan and then design planting beds, borders, sidewalks, driveways and more with the image of your home in the background.

To place an image of your home

1. When you launch the program, a new, blank plan will be open. You can also open a new, blank plan at any time by selecting File > New Plan from the menu.

2. Select Terrain > Create Terrain Perimeter.

   If this option is greyed out, you have already created a Terrain Perimeter in your plan.
3. **Zoom Out** so you can see the entire rectangular Terrain Perimeter in your floor plan view area.

4. Next, select **View > Library Browser**.

   In the Home Designer 2014 and earlier versions, instead select **Library > Library Browser**.

5. Locate the folder that says User Catalog, right click on it, and select **New > Image**.

6. In the **Image Specification** dialog:

   - Click the **Browse** button to open the **Select Image File** dialog, then navigate to an image of your home saved on your computer and select it, and click **OK** to return to the **Image Specification** dialog.

   - Under 2D Plan Symbol, select **Line**.
Specify the physical size of the image.

When you specify either the **Height** or the **Width**, the other value will update automatically to maintain the original aspect ratio. Press the **Tab** key on your keyboard or place your cursor in a different text field to see the update.

Remember to take into account any space above, below or on either side of the home in the image as you resize the image object.

You don't need to be precise in specifying the image size - with an image of something as large as a home, as long as you are within a few feet of the true size, it will look fine in 3D.

In Home Designer 2015 and newer programs, remove the checkmark next to **Image Always Faces Camera** and click **OK** to close the dialog and return to floor plan view.

In Home Designer 2014 and earlier versions, check the box beside **Do Not Rotate In Camera Views**.

7. In floor plan view, your cursor will now display the Image icon. Click at a point near the rear / center of the terrain perimeter to place the image of your home at that location.

In floor plan view, you will see a 2D image symbol, rather than the image itself.

8. Select **3D> Create Camera View> Full Camera** from the menu, then click and drag a camera arrow from the center of the terrain towards the image to see how it appears in 3D views.

You may need to rotate the 2D image 180 degrees if your home appears reversed. To do this, select the image symbol in floor plan view and drag the triangular Rotate edit handle in a circular manner.
With the image of your home in place, you can now begin to design your terrain and landscaping.

To design landscaping in front of an image

1. With the 3D view still open, select **Window > Tile Vertically** from the menu to display the 3D view and 2D plan view side by side on your screen.

2. You can work in floor plan view to

   - Create Driveways, Sidewalks, Garden Beds, and other landscaping features using the tools under the **Terrain** tools or menu.
   - Find and place plants using the **Plant Chooser** or
   - Place exterior fixtures and furnishings from the **Library Browser**, and see that they are located correctly with regard to the image.

3. Once you have finished placing your objects, activate the camera view and select **3D > Camera View Options > Final View with Shadows**.