

Creating a Custom Pergola

Reference Number: **KB-00889**

Last Modified: **July 20, 2021**

The information in this article applies to:



QUESTION



I want to add a pergola, arbor, or trellis to my plan. How can I build my own custom pergola?

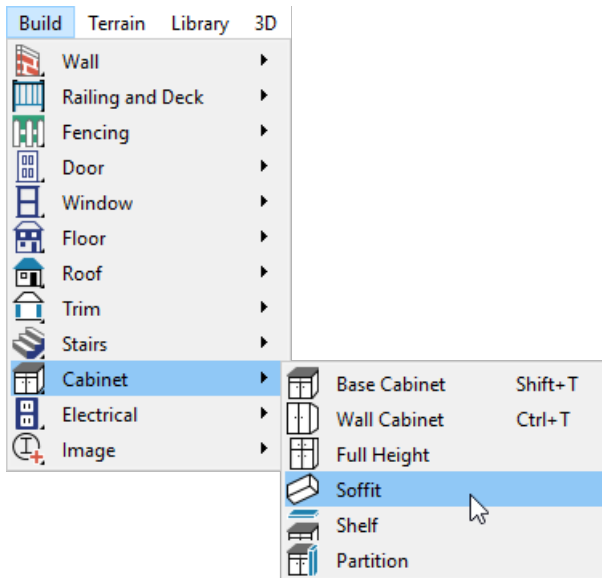




ANSWER

Creating a pergola similar to the one shown above is easy using the [soffit](#) tool and [corbel](#) symbols from the [millwork](#) section of the Library Browser.




To create custom beams

1. First, launch your Home Designer software program and **Open**  the plan in which you want to create your pergola.
2. Select **Build> Cabinet> Soffit**  and click in floor plan view to place this rectangular object.



3. Using the **Select Objects**  tool, click on the soffit to select it, and select the **Open Object**  edit tool to open the **Soffit Specification** dialog:
 - On the **GENERAL** panel, set the dimensions of the soffit, including its **Height, Width,** and **Depth**
 - Next, set the distance from the floor that you want the soffit to be.





If you are unsure as to the dimensions that you want, or the distance from the floor that you need these first horizontal soffits to be, you may find it helpful to take a Cross Section/Elevation or Camera view and adjust the soffit's dimensions and distance from the ground.

- Select the **MATERIALS** panel and change the material of the soffit to your choice.
 - Click **OK** to apply the changes and close the dialog.
4. To quickly create copies of the first initial soffit, use the **Select Objects**  tool to select the soffit, then click on the **Copy/Paste**  edit tool.
 5. Click on the **Sticky Mode**  edit tool to create multiple copies by simply clicking in your plan to place copies of the original soffit until you have the number of copies that you want for this section of your pergola.
 6. Once you have placed your copies, select each one and move it in to place.




You may find it helpful to create a **Manual Dimension**  line across them to help position them equally apart.

Now you are ready to place a new, vertical soffit.

To create custom posts


1. Use the same procedure mentioned above to create custom posts out of soffits.
2. You can take a **Cross Section/Elevation**  view or a **Camera**  view to double check the appearance of the soffits.
3. Use the same **Copy/Paste**  and **Sticky Mode**  procedure outlined above to create the necessary copies of these posts and then maneuver them in to place.

To add details to the structure

1. If you are creating a stand-alone pergola, or one attached to the house that will be held up by columns, these can be located in the **Library Browser**  by navigating to **Home Designer Core Catalogs> Architectural> Millwork> Columns**.
2. Also in the **Millwork** category are **Corbels**, which can be resized and placed at the ends of your soffits.
3. Lattice materials can also be located in the Library Browser.
4. To create the deck beneath this pergola, we used a combination of **Deck Railings**  where we wanted the railing to display, and **Straight Deck Edges**  where we did not require a railing.

Related Articles

 [Creating a Deck \(/support/article/KB-00790/creating-a-deck.html\)](/support/article/KB-00790/creating-a-deck.html)

 [Creating a Screen Porch \(/support/article/KB-00748/creating-a-screen-porch.html\)](/support/article/KB-00748/creating-a-screen-porch.html)