Creating a Covered Patio

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The information in this article applies to:

PRO   ARCH   SUITE

QUESTION

I would like to create a covered patio area held up by columns instead of walls or railings. How can I create a roof over this type of area in Home Designer?
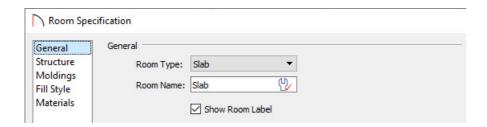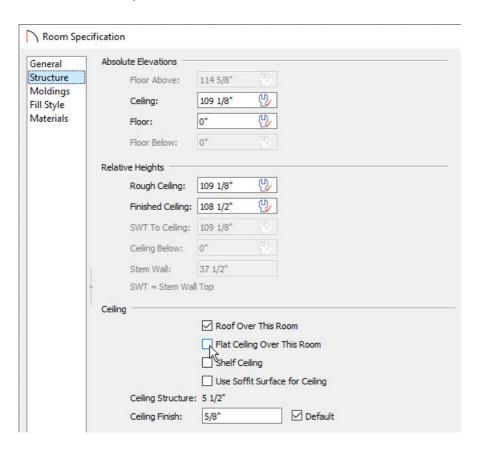

ANSWER

Creating a covered patio, or other outside structure which has a roof held up by columns instead of walls, is easy to create using the Room Divider tool and columns placed from the library.

To create a room without walls

1. Launch your Home Designer software and **Open** ⬜ the plan in which you would like to create the covered patio.

2. In order to specify a roof over an area, we need to create a completely enclosed room area. Select **Build> Wall> Room Divider** ⬚ and click and drag out walls to completely enclose the area.

   - We could also use **Railings** ▦ and then specify each one that you place as **Invisible** on the GENERAL panel of their specification dialogs.

3. Once we have created a room, use the **Select Objects** ▷ tool to select it, and click on the **Open Object** ⬜ edit tool.

4. Since our covered patio has a floor made up of brick, stone, or concrete, we will change the Room Type to **Slab** on the GENERAL panel of the **Room Specification** dialog,
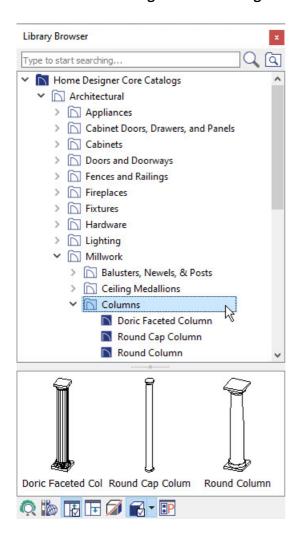

5. On the STRUCTURE panel:

   - If you only want a roof, and do not wish to see the ceiling displayed in your patio, uncheck the **Flat Ceiling**

Over This Room box.

6. Go to the MATERIALS panel and set the appropriate brick, stone, concrete or other material for the Slab room's **Floor Structure**.

7. Once you have finished making changes in this dialog, click the **OK** button to apply and close the dialog.

To place columns

1. Select **View> Library Browser** 📚 to display the Library Browser window.

2. Browse to **Home Designer Core Catalogs> Architectural> Millwork**, then expand the **Columns** folder.

- Depending on the type of column that you want, you may also want to look at the **Geometric Shapes** category.

- Browse until you locate the type of column that you want to use, select it, then click in floor plan view to place the column.

3. Using the **Select Objects** ▷ tool, click the column that you placed and click on the **Open Object** 🚪 edit tool

to display the **Millwork Specification** dialog. Here, the **Width**, **Height**, **Depth**, and **Floor to Bottom** values for the column as well as the materials that it has applied to it can be altered.

- You may also find it helpful to resize the column in a **Camera** view.

4. You can adjust position of the column once placed by using the **Select Objects** tool to select the column, and use its center square **Move** edit handle to move it in to place.

> If you have difficulty placing the column precisely where you want, hold down the Ctrl/Command key while moving the object to allow for unrestricted movement.

5. Once you have completed editing the first column, you can create identical copies by selecting the column and clicking the **Copy** edit tool.

- Click on the **Sticky** edit tool to be able to **Paste** multiple copies of the column without having to select Copy/Paste each time.

6. Click in plan to **Paste** copies of the column until you have the appropriate number of copies.

7. Select and move the remaining columns into place.

8. Take a **Camera** view to see the results.

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