

Steps to draw a house in AutoCAD

**Open AutoCAD Go to Format->Units and set to architectural 0-1/16". This will allow you to enter dimensions in feet (') and inches ("). If you do not specify a unit it will assume inches.

Start at a corner of the house and begin drawing lines using the line command. Remember to account for the 4 ½" wall thickness, when figuring out the wall lengths.

**Use the offset command to put another line 4 ½" from the first line. Click the offset button type 4.5 hit enter, click the line to copy and then click the side to place the offset.

The quickest way to work is using your left hand on the mouse and the right hand to enter numbers and hit the enter button. It is good to pay attention to the command prompt to see what it is asking for, also notice the cursor will change to a small box when you are in a function or supposed to select something. Also the escape key will be handy to reverse out of a function if you do something wrong.

Continue drawing walls around the outside of the house. At the corners use the trim function to remove extra lines, also use the extend function to connect corners that don't meet. To trim you first select the cutting edges, then hit enter and then click the sections to trim. The process is similar for extend, select the line to extend to, hit enter and then click the line you want to extend

**When drawing interior walls, it is easy to use the polar function from the bottom menu bar. Place the cursor over a corner then drag in the direction of the wall. You can do an extension to define the first point of the wall.

Continue going through the house entering dimensions and placing interior walls to divide rooms. You may want to pencil out what certain dimensions are. Most drawings are minimally dimensioned. The class example has extra dimensions to make it easier to model.

**Once most of the wall have been drawn you can insert doors and furniture from the tool pallet and the design center. The tool pallet can be opened by going to Tools->Tool Palettes Window. Click on the architectural tab. From here you can insert doors and toilets. Some features (doors and toilets) you can click on to bring up different blue arrows. By selecting these you can change the type of toilet, select the elongated plan. For a door, you can change the door size to fit different openings.

**More pre-designed features can be found in the design center. Press "Ctrl +2" together to access the menu. From here you can click on either, Home Space Planner, House Designer or Kitchens to select different furniture. All furniture in the sample drawing is available from the design center. Click on "Blocks" for accessing the available objects. You can drag the object into the model window to place it within the drawing. You may need to rotate the drawing to get the correct orientation.

**Once all of the drawings and furniture are complete you can select the layout tab at the bottom of the screen. This will bring up a white background and will be what is printed on paper. There should be a box around your drawing, click on the corners of the box and enlarge it to match the dotted lines around the edge of the paper. This box is called your view port, you want to use the whole paper. Double click inside this box, the edges will turn a to a thicker line, this means your are in model space(mspace on command prompt), move your drawing around a zoom in or out to get the view you want. Once you are done with this double click outside the paper, this will put you back into paper space (pspace on command prompt)

**Go to Dimension->Dimension Style. When the box comes up click modify, then select the primary units tab. Make sure this is set to Architectural with a 0-1/16" precision. You can also change text style and size from here. When you are finished click OK and then close.

**To create dimensions go the dimension menu and select linear. The click on the feature you wish to dimension. If your dimension is really small, you are probably still in model space, double click outside the paper and try again.