NBS CHORUS CONNECT ADD-ON GUIDE

V1.6

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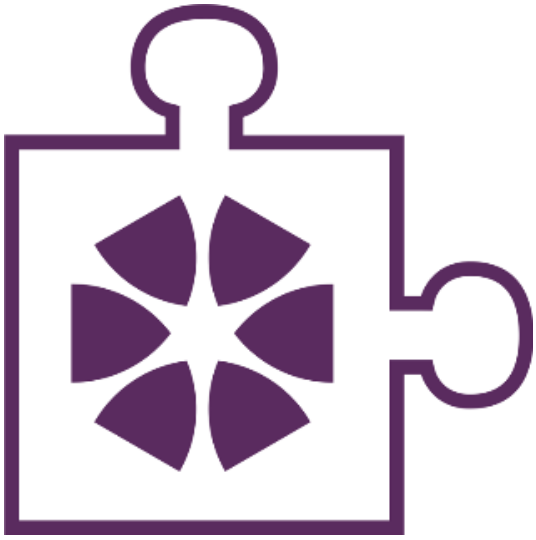

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Graphisoft

Visit the Graphisoft website at www.graphisoft.com for local distributor and product availability information.

Archicad Help

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Introduction

Graphisoft has developed the NBS Chorus Connect add-on to enable a live connection to the NBS Chorus platform.

NBS Chorus Connect focuses on delivering the 'I' in BIM (Building Information Modelling), in conformity with industry standards and well-established workflows. The add-on uses a data driven approach while preserving the user's design freedom. This strongly complements Graphisoft's focus on design freedom: giving architects the ability to create virtually anything.

NBS CHORUS CONNECT CONCEPT

The concept of the add-on is based on assigning the specification clauses that are referring to detailed data hosted and stored in NBS Chorus cloud-based platform. This workflow greatly expands flexibility of specification data editing (edited either from Archicad or NBS Chorus) without embedding redundant information in Archicad's BIM model directly. Our approach preserves specification data integrity, "lighter" BIM model, and at the same time allows for platform-independent delivery on both OSX and Windows.

NBS Chorus specifications are based on the clause-to-classification mapping concept. In order to facilitate NBS clause assignment to Archicad elements, the add-on will automatically classify the element based on an NBS clause. Any required classification system must be imported into Archicad prior to making a connection to any NBS specification.

Please refer to the Archicad help for further information on importing classification systems and using the Classification Manager.

SCOPE

The current release of NBS Chorus Connect provides tools for connecting several specifications based on NBS-supported classification systems at the same time. The add-on fully supports existing Archicad Teamwork workflows, and also off-line workflow scenarios should the Internet connectivity be unreliable or even temporarily disabled.

Only specification clause identification-relevant data are directly stored and accessible in ARCHICAD as properties. The properties, listed below, can be used in standard Archicad workflows, such as element identification, overrides, labelling or scheduling.

- NBS Chorus Code (Classification ID)
- NBS Chorus Title (Classification Name)
- NBS Chorus Prefix
- NBS Chorus Suffix
- NBS Chorus Category
- NBS Chorus Manufacturer URL
- NBS Chorus Product Reference
- NBS Chorus Manufacturer Name
- NBS Chorus Description
- NBS Chorus URL
- NBS Schema

Installation

Download the add-on from the Downloads page of the Graphisoft website.

To install the add-on:

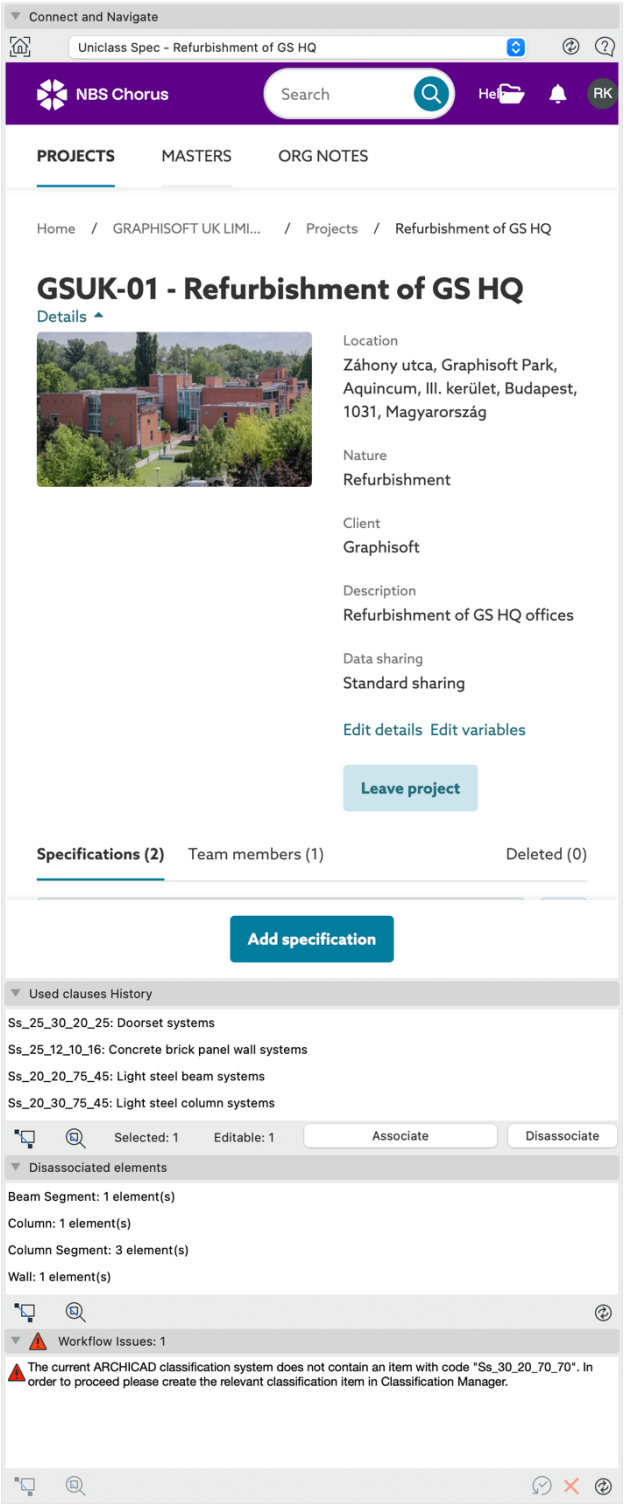
- Close all instances of Archicad.
- Copy the add-on into Archicad's Add-Ons folder:
    - Windows: Program Files\Graphisoft\Archicad… \Add-Ons\Extras
    - Mac: Applications/Graphisoft/Archicad… /Add-Ons/Extras
- Launch Archicad.

After installation, the NBS Chorus Connect palette will be available through Archicad's Window > Palettes menu.

Note that the add-on is only available for the AUS, INT, NZE, UKI and USA localisations of Archicad, with an active Archicad subscription or SSA/Forward agreement.

Workflow

All commands for NBS Chorus Connect operations are located in the palette, working from top to bottom to support the workflow. The palette is located in the Window > Palettes > NBS Chorus Connect menu.



Connect and Navigate

Help and navigation

Connect to NBS projects and specifications, associate clauses, and complete specification details.

(Subject to NBS Chorus technology and user licence.)

Used Clauses History

Re-use, monitor and manage associations with already used clauses.

Disassociated Elements

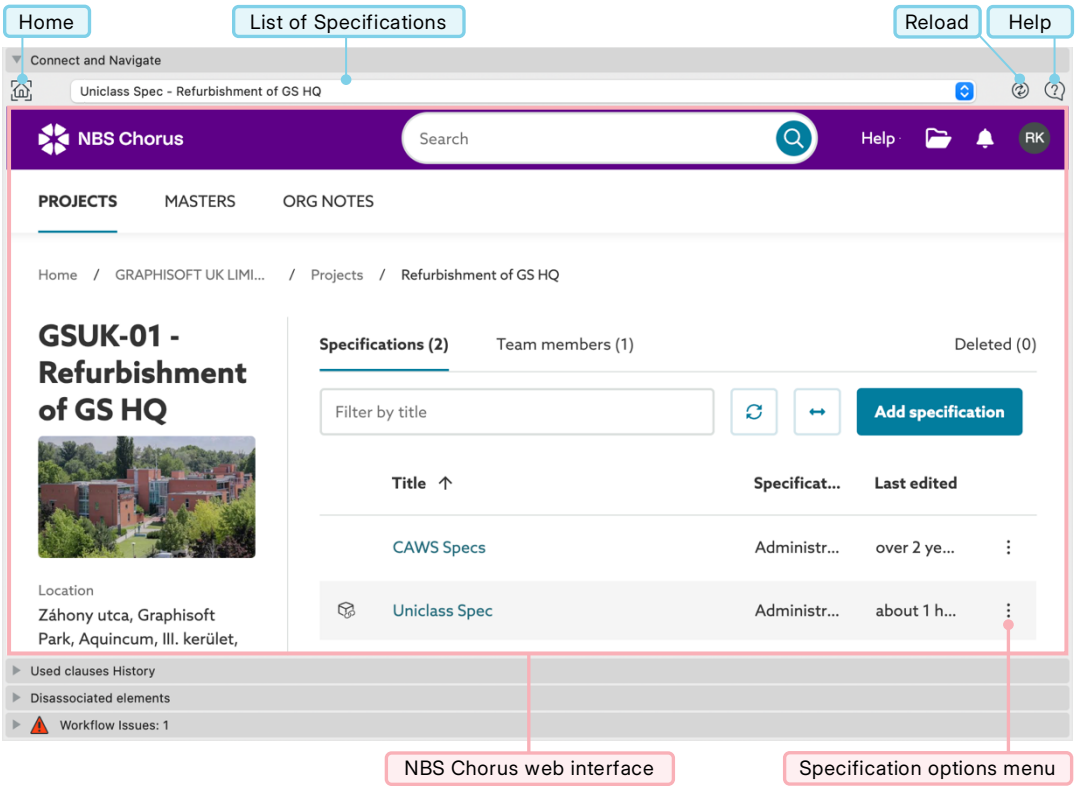
Identify disassociated elements in the Archicad BIM model.

Workflow Issues

Record and resolve workflow issues.

CONNECT AND NAVIGATE

This tab provides access to online help, connection to and navigation within NBS Chorus web-based interface.



When first opening the NBS Chorus Palette, you will be asked to sign in using your NBS ID, through the NBS Chorus web interface. Sign-in credentials are provided through your NBS contract and they are not part of Graphisoft's SSA/subscription programme.

HELP AND NAVIGATION

The top of the Connect and Navigate tab provides quick navigation to key elements of the NBS workflow:

Home – return to the home screen in the NBS Chorus web interface, displaying your list of NBS projects.

List of Specifications – displays a list of specifications currently associated with the open Archicad project.

Reload – refreshes the NBS Chorus web interface.

Help – A shortcut to NBS Chorus Connect information and help on the Graphisoft website.

CLASSIFICATIONS

Before connecting an Archicad project to an NBS Chorus specification, ensure that the project includes the relevant classification system (e.g. Uniclass 2025, CAWS etc.).

BIM content packages containing classification systems are available to download from the Graphisoft website, which can be imported into an Archicad project through the Classification Manager: https://www.graphisoft.com/en-gb/downloads/archicad/bim_data/

CONNECTING TO NBS SPECIFICATION

To connect an Archicad project to an online NBS Chorus specification:

- Select the NBS Project in the NBS Chorus web interface.
- Click the *specification options menu* next to the required specification, and choose *Associate with model.* Confirm by clicking *Associate now*.
- Select the required classification system from the drop-down list, and press *choose*.
- You are now connected to NBS specification(s) and can now associate clauses to elements.

If the selected classification system does not match the NBS specification's classifications, then you will be unable to associate specification clauses. In such cases you will need to disconnect from the NBS specification and reconnect with the matching classification.

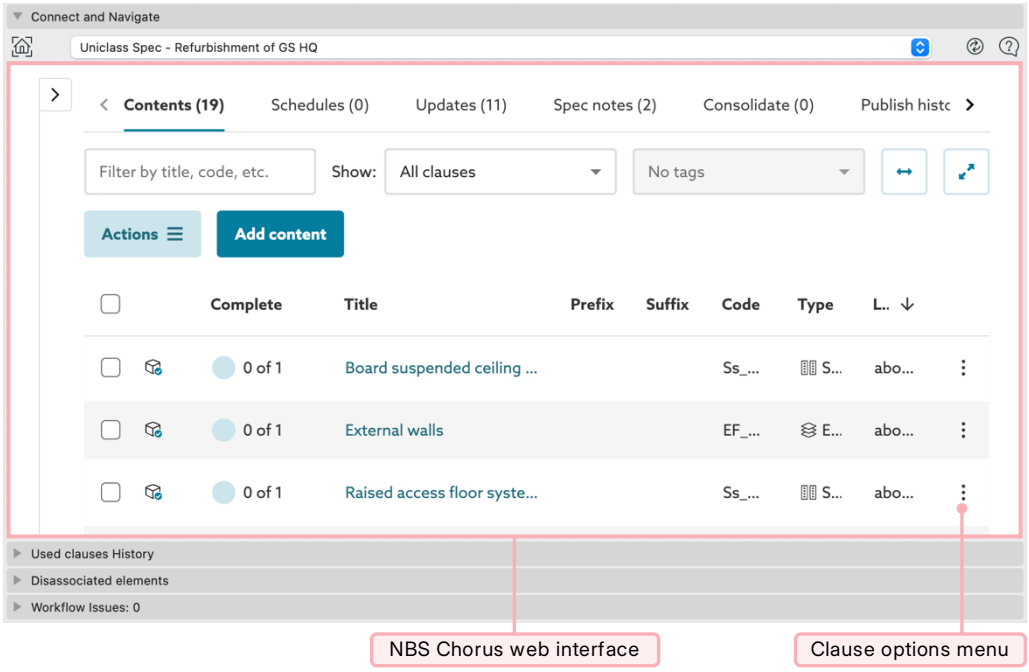
It is possible to connect to multiple NBS specifications and projects; however, each specification must be based on a different classification system in Archicad. If an Archicad project contains multiple classification systems (e.g. Uniclass 2015 - Jan 2021, Uniclass 2015 - Oct 2025, CAWS) then an NBS Chorus specification can be associated to each. In such cases, the *list of specifications* drop-down list in the NBS Chorus Connect palette will allow you to quickly switch between the specifications.

DISCONNECTING FROM NBS SPECIFICATION

- Select the NBS Project in the NBS Chorus web interface.
- Click the *specification options menu* next to the specification and choose *Manage Associations*.
- Select the Archicad project(s) and click *remove associations*.

ASSOCIATING NBS CLAUSES WITH ELEMENTS

NBS clauses can be associated with any property-enabled Archicad elements only. Elements without properties (e.g. lines, polylines, fills etc.) are not associable.



To associate elements:

- Select the element(s) in Archicad.
- Click the *clause options menu* next to the required clause, and choose Associate with model.
- Confirm by clicking Associate now.

SPECIFICATION DATA EDITING

NBS Chorus is a cloud-based specification system, and specification data can be edited through a web browser, or in Archicad using the NBS Chorus Connect add-on. For detailed information on creating and managing specifications, refer to the support articles on the NBS Chorus website.

To assist with managing specification data directly from within Archicad, the NBS Chorus Connect palette displays the relevant specification clause when selecting an associated element. You must already have the specification open in the web interface part of the palette to navigate associated clauses:

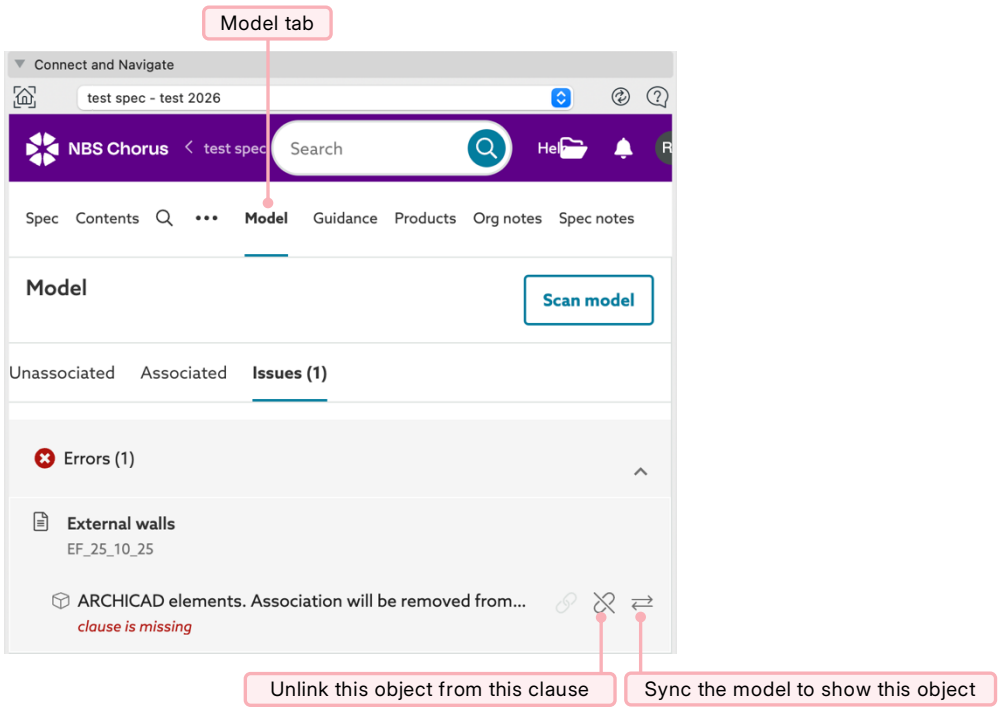
- In the NBS Chorus Connect palette, select the project.
- Choose the specification.
- Select an associated element in the Archicad model.
- The associated NBS clause is displayed in the palette for checking and editing.

CONCURRENT EDITING OF CLAUSES

It is possible to edit the clause list in a multiuser mode, which can sometimes result in an inconsistent state of linked clause database. For example, inconsistencies would result from an NBS Chorus web user deleting a clause that is already assigned to elements in Archicad.

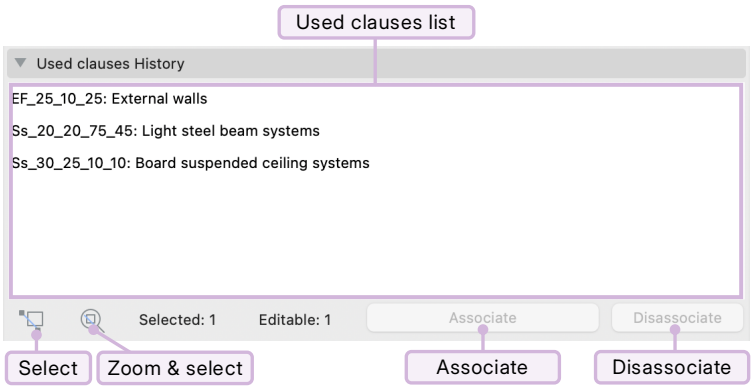
Any issues from inconsistencies in the specification clauses can be checked through the *Model* tab of the NBS web interface. NBS Chorus will display an "Issue" with the problematic clause.

- In the NBS Chorus Connect palette, select the project.
- Choose the specification.
- Click *add content* or click an existing specification clause.
- Browse for the *model* tab.
- Browse to *Issues*.
- Click the *sync the model to show this object* button to select the affected element(s) in Archicad.
- Click on *unlink this object from this clause* button to rectify the problem.



USED CLAUSES HISTORY

This tab provides access to all used NBS clauses, manages associations between Archicad elements and specification clauses, and helps to locate associated elements.



ASSOCIATING USED CLAUSES WITH ELEMENTS

For quick access to already used NBS clauses, refer to the list in the *used clauses history* tab. This workflow allows elements to be associated without a current internet connection.

To associate elements:

- Select the element(s) in Archicad.
- Select the clause in the *used clause history* tab.
- Click the *associate* button.

To identify element(s) associated with a particular NBS clause, select a clause from the list in the *used clause history* tab and use the *select* or *zoom & select* buttons. Note that only visible elements in the active view will be considered.

DISASSOCIATING NBS CLAUSES WITH ELEMENTS

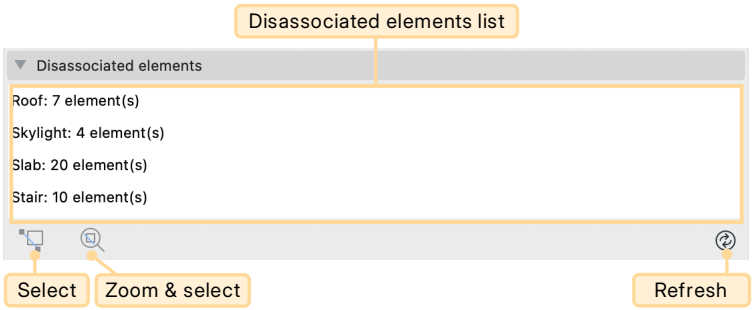
To disassociate a clause from elements:

- Select the element(s) in Archicad.
- Select the clause in the *used clause history* tab.
- Click the *disassociate* button.

You can also disassociate elements from the NBS web interface (online only).

DISASSOCIATED ELEMENTS

The *disassociated elements list* shows all visible (in the active view) elements that are not associated to any NBS clause. They are grouped based on Archicad tool they were created with (e.g. Slabs, Columns, Stairs, Doors etc.).

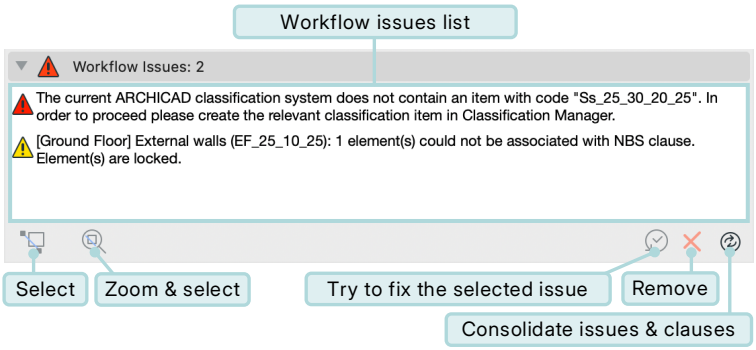


To identify disassociated elements, select an element type item from the *disassociated elements list* and use the *select* or zoom & select buttons. Note that only visible elements in the active view will be considered.

Use the *refresh* button to update the list after deleting elements or unlinking a hotlink. Changing the Archicad active view will update the list automatically.

WORKFLOW ISSUES TAB

This tab provides a history of workflow issue warnings and their solutions, with colour-coding depending on the severity of the issues.



YELLOW WARNINGS

Workflow issues marked with yellow warning symbols are fixable issues that are the result of a temporary model status when attempting to associate a NBS clause with elements. For example, attempting to associate NBS clauses with elements on locked layers, or unreserved elements in a teamwork project, will result in yellow warnings.

This type of issue allows you to continue with your work and can be re-addressed anytime later.

Yellow warning descriptions include:

- Location (i.e. the Archicad viewpoint).
- Number of elements affected.
- Referred NBS Clause Code and description.
- The error that caused the issue.

RED WARNINGS

Issues marked with red warning symbols represent serious issues that requires immediate attention, such as incorrect mapping of the classification system. In most cases continuing your work is not possible before addressing the issue itself.

Red warning descriptions include:

- The error that caused the issue.
- A suggestion fix.

WORKING WITH WORKFLOW ISSUES

To locate model-related issues, the affected elements can be located with the *select* or *zoom & select* buttons, which will find the elements visible in the current workspace. Alternatively, double-click an issue in the *workflow issues list* to activate the relevant view in addition to zooming to and selecting the elements.

To resolve an issue:

- Adjust the model/element settings referred in the error description (e.g. reserve elements, unlock layers etc.)
- Select the issue in the list.
- Press the *try to fix the selected issue* button.

If the model/element settings adjustments addressed the issue in full, the referred NBS clause will be assigned to elements, and the issue will be deleted from the list.

A selected workflow issue can also be manually removed from the list with *remove* button.

In order to maintain data integrity, use the *consolidate workflow issues and clauses* button to:

- Remove all workflow issues referring to deleted elements, and
- Reset any assigned NBS clauses with (accidentally) modified values back to the default values.

Note that the use of this command is not undoable.

CLASSIFICATIONS AND PROPERTIES

Associated specification clause data are directly stored and accessible in Archicad as element-level classifications and properties.

When associating a specification clause to an Archicad element, the element's classification is updated to correspond to the clause selected. For example, if the NBS specification includes Uniclass content, the Archicad element's Uniclass classification is updated.

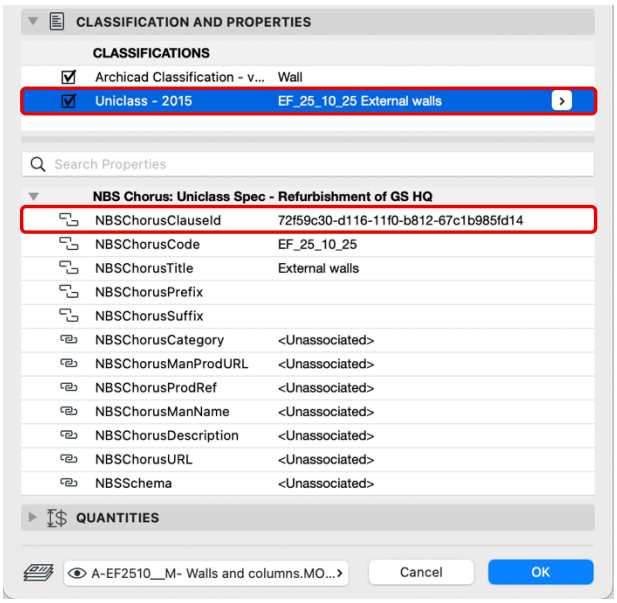
Multiple properties are mapped from the specification clause to the Archicad element(s):

- NBS Chorus Code (Classification ID)
- NBS Chorus Title (Classification Name)
- NBS Chorus Prefix
- NBS Chorus Suffix
- NBS Chorus Category
- NBS Chorus Manufacturer URL
- NBS Chorus Product Reference
- NBS Chorus Manufacturer Name
- NBS Chorus Description
- NBS Chorus URL
- NBS Schema

MANUALLY EDITING CLASSIFICATION AND PROPERTIES

If required, you can manually alter NBS property values of each individual associated element, in the element's selection settings.

However, the classification and the NBSChorusClauseID element property should not be manually edited, as any change in value will result in a loss of association with NBS clauses and integrity of BIM model data. If the NBS clause association is lost, then you will need to re-associate element to an NBS clause again.



All other NBS-related property values can be edited without losing the association to NBS clause.