How to create templates using Library Packages?

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How to create templates using Library Packages?

1. Introduction

Starting with Archicad 28, Graphisoft introduced the Global Library, a collection of modular library packages - also known as libpacks. You can continue using the monolithic library if you prefer. However, if you'd like to switch to the new Library Packages, you will need package-based templates. Archicad 28 includes package-based templates by default, but if you use a custom template, you will need to re-create it as a package-based template. This document explains how to do that.

2. Key Changes in the Global Library

- Users need package based templates to be able to use the new Library Packages
- Localised INT-based Templates -so called OFFLINE Templates- are used as default templates in every Archicad language version (INT, USA, GER etc.)
- All library content from all language versions are available to all users
    - For example the German Doors and Windows are now available everywhere
    - To avoid the appearance of irrelevant packages from other language versions, only packages that were included in AC27 are in the Graphisoft templates by default. However, you can add or remove foreign packages in your custom template as needed.

3. How to create templates using Library Packages?

There are two ways to update your own templates for AC28:

- Building a Package Template starting with Own Monolith Template
- Building a Package Template starting with the INT Based (OFFLINE) template

If there is a significant difference between your custom template and the INT-based template, then it is easier to use your own as the starting point. If the difference is minor, it is easier to start with the INT-based template.

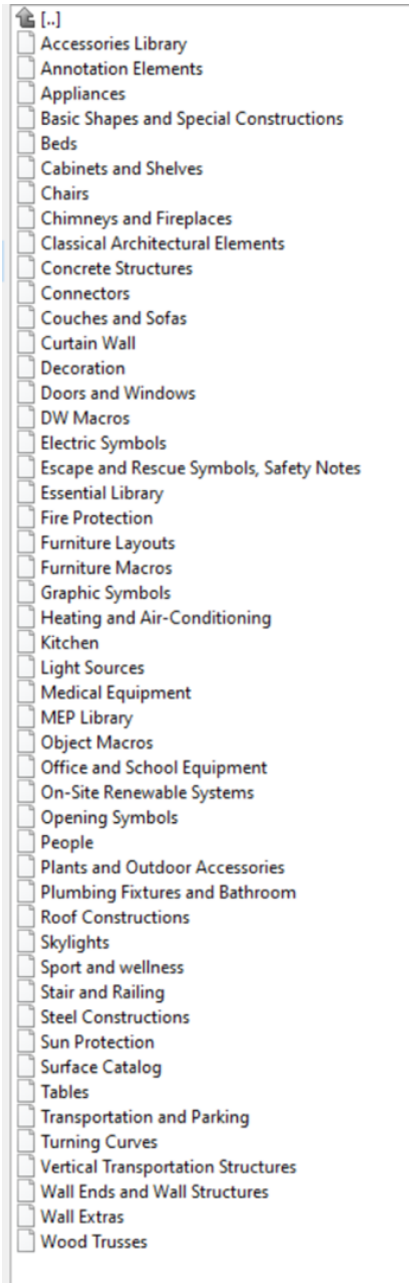
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3.1. Building a Package Template starting with Own Monolith Template

By starting with your own template from AC27 the following changes need to be made:

3.1.1. Deleting Monolith Libraries and Loading Library Packages in Library Manager

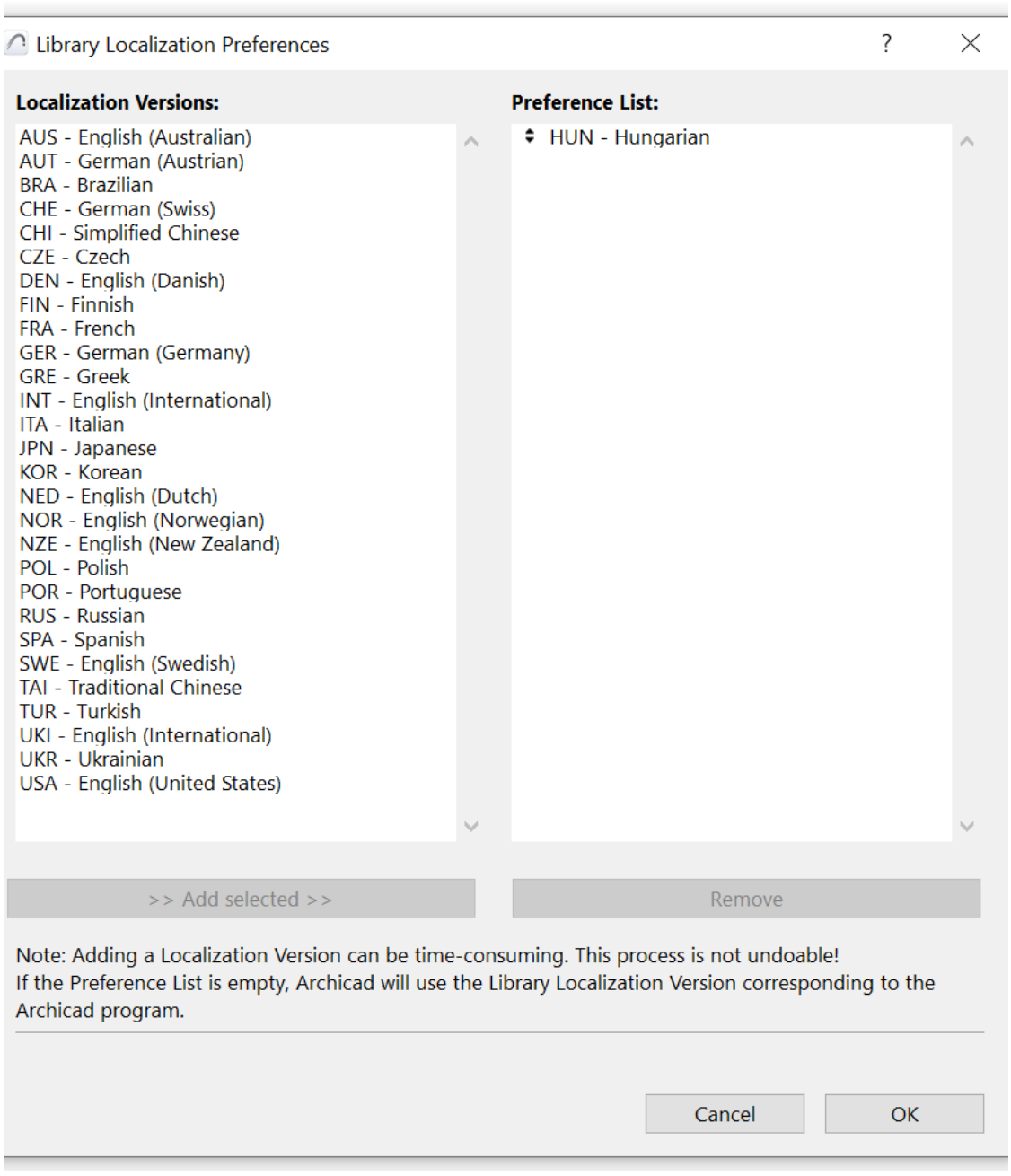
- Selecting and loading default Libpackages
- There is no need but it is possible to load all Libpackages by default
- The final list depends on your choice



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3.1.2. Setting default language or language order in Library Localization Preferences

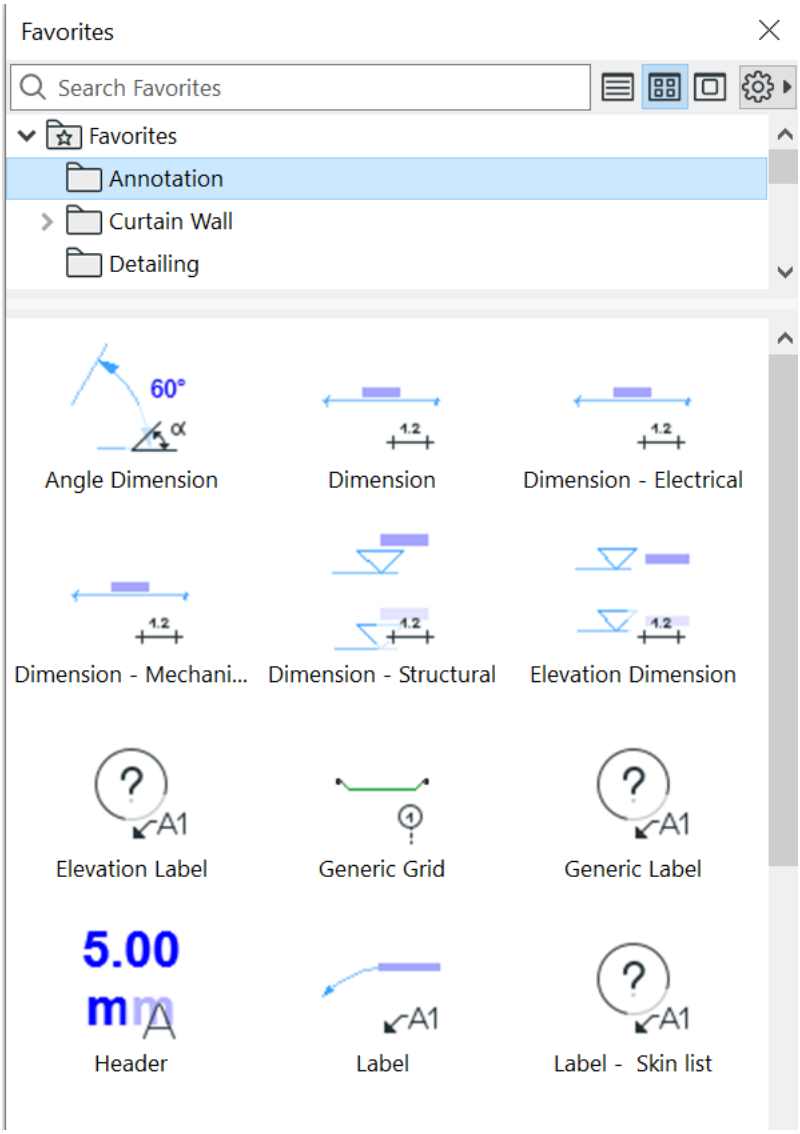
- This function defines the display language of library parts



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3.1.3. Setting Favourites

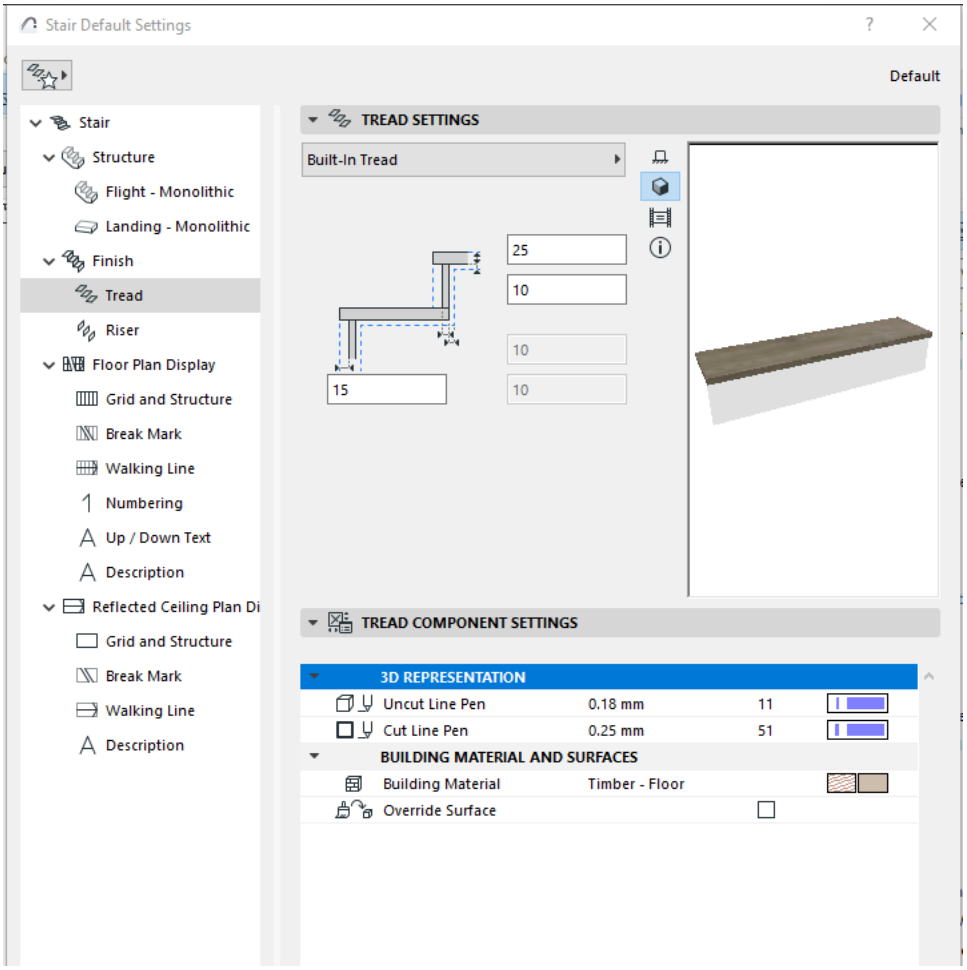
- After the Library Packages are loaded you can recognise your Libpart related Favourites by question marked preview pictures
- Recreating Libpart Favourites e.g.: Annotation, Furniture, Door, Railing Components etc. favourites
- Deleting unused missing favourites



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3.1.4. Selecting and Updating Tool Defaults

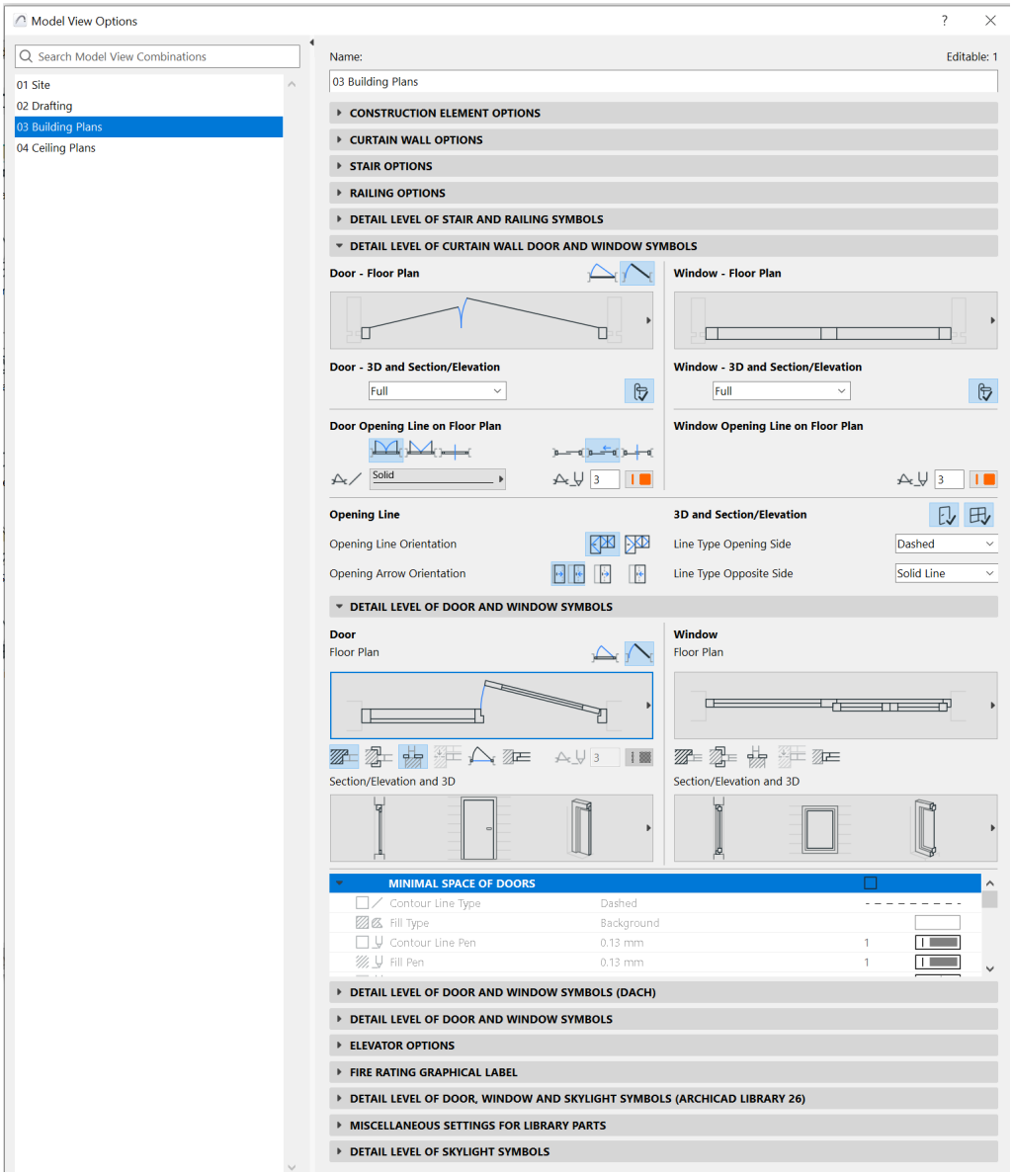
- Applying Favourites in Tool Settings Dialogs (if there are Favourites with Tool Defaults)
- Pay special attention to Tools with Components e.g.: Stair Components, Railing Components, Curtain Wall Components



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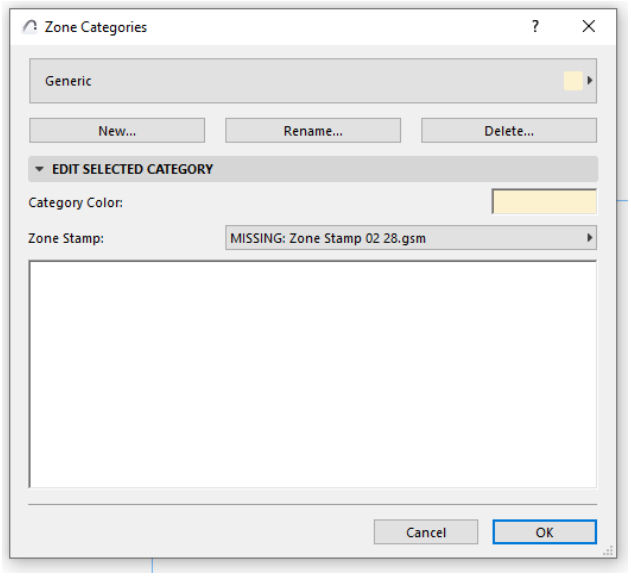
3.1.5. Model View Option Settings with New Functions

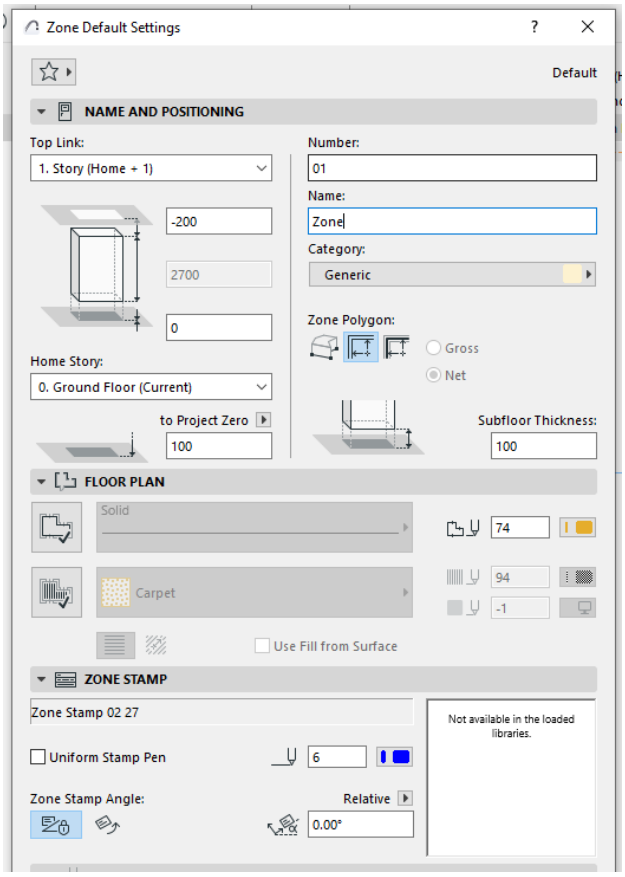
- Updating or recreating library related MVO settings



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3.1.6. Replacing Zone Stamps in Zone Category Settings

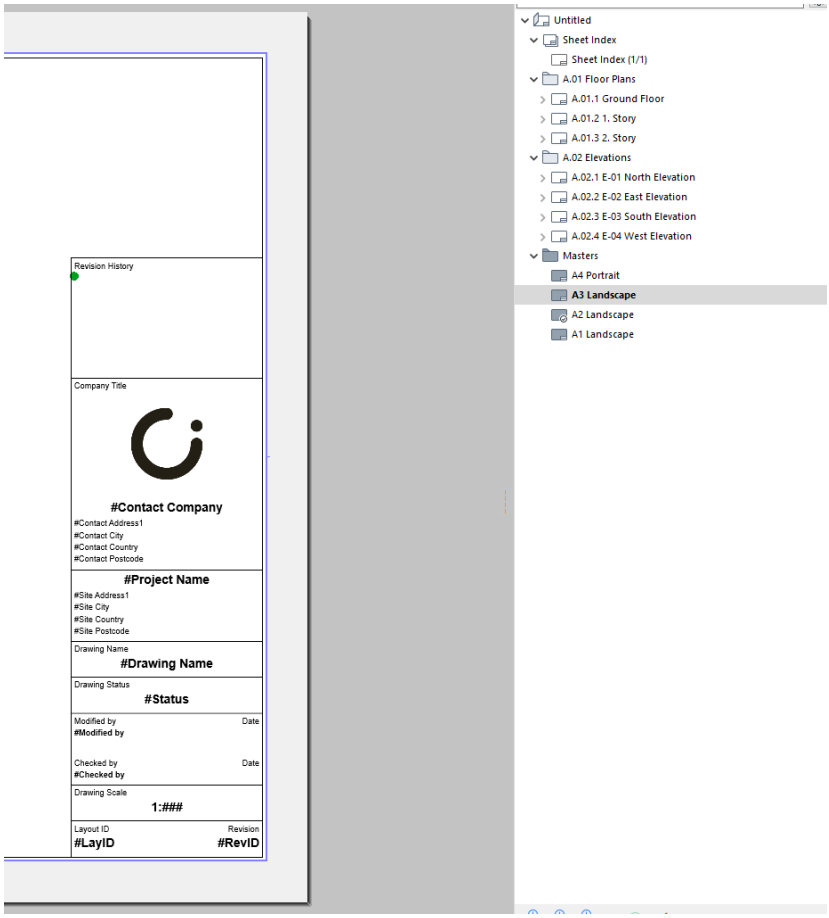




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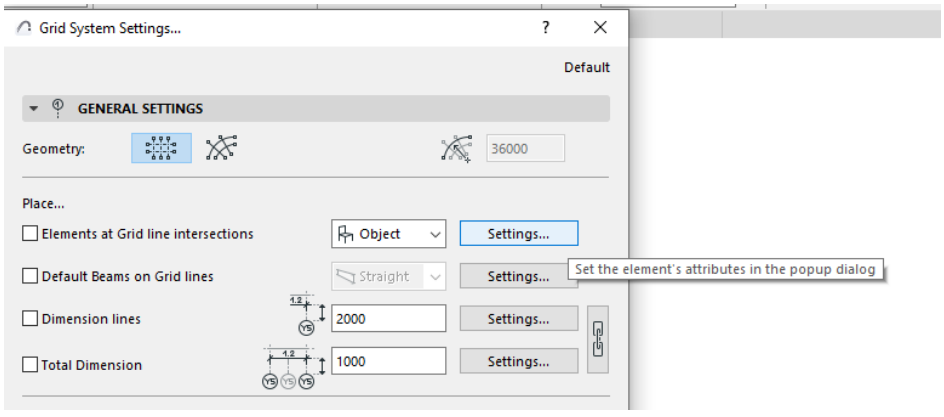
3.1.7. Replacing Placed Elements

- Elevations, Sections on Floor Plans
- Revision History in Master Layouts
- Any other pre-placed library parts



3.1.8. Grid System Settings - Optional

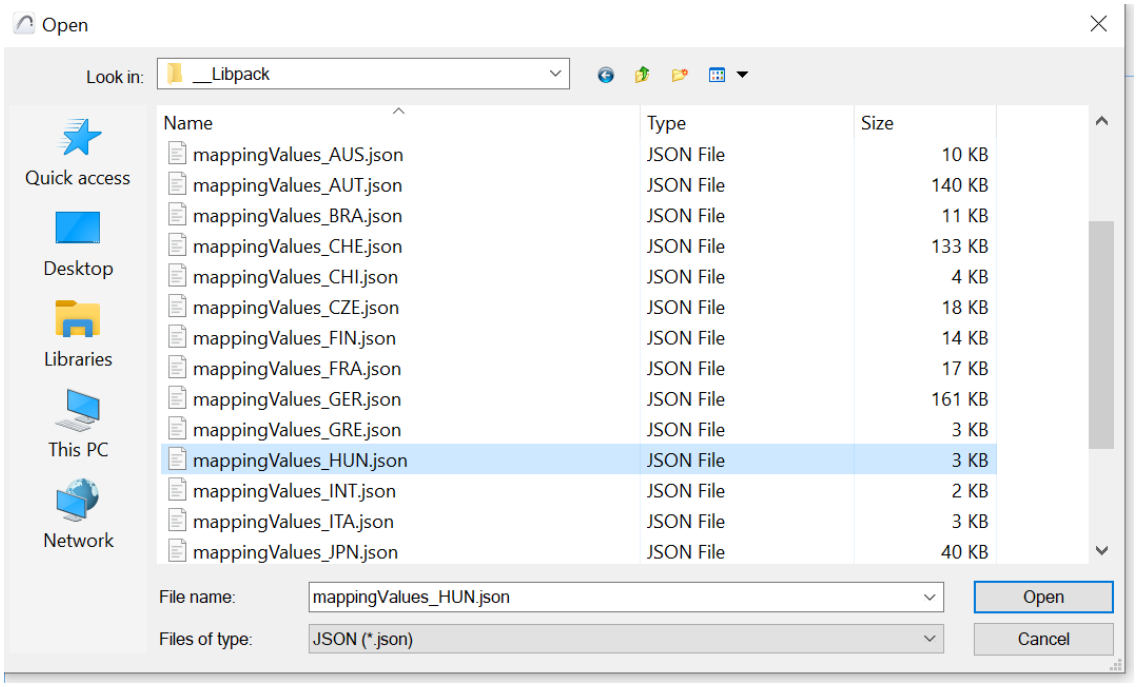
- Default object at Place Elements at Grid line intersections settings



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3.1.9. Loading MappingValues file

- Import Mapping Value Table
- This file contains LOC attribute meanings



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3.2. Building a Package Template Starting with the INT Based Template

The other option is to use an INT Clone Template as a starting point. The amount of work depends on how much difference there is between the INT Clone and your own template. Fortunately there are several functions in Archicad where settings can be exported and imported. These import-export workflows can be used at every non-library related field.

The rebuild might affect the following areas:

- Element Attributes (all etc: Surfaces, Pen Sets, Buildin Materials)
- Document related display setting (MVO, GO, Renovation, Layer Combinations, Pen Set)
- Rendering Scenes
- Properties, Classifications
- IFC Translators, with Property Mapping, Type Mapping, Layer Mapping
- Placed elements
    - View points (placed Elevations, Sections, detailed settings of these tools)
    - Preprepared Details, Worksheets
- Navigator related settings
    - Saved Views in View Map
    - Layouts, Master Layout
    - Publisher Sets
    - Schedules
    - Project Indexes
- Add-on data and settings
    - e.g.: List Areas listing settings in GER and POL versions
    - e.g.: CI Tools related favorites in NZE version
    - RoofMaker, Trussmaker defaults
- MEP related settings
    - MEP Systems
    - MEP tool defaults
    - MEP Preferences
- SAM related settings
    - Analytical Model generation rules
    - SAF translator preferences
    - Load Categories

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    - Load Mapping
- Favorites
    - If any attribute, property, classification is different from INT then INT favorites are not useful as is, so that they should be updated with local settings. All of them should be checked and updated not only library related ones but Wall, Slab, Beam, Column etc. Construction elements, 2D elements
- Tool defaults
    - Wall, Door, Window Tool etc.
    - Line, Fill, Grid Tool etc.
- Project Preferences
    - Dimension Standards
    - Calculation Rules
    - Stair Rules
    - Project Location
    - Working Unit settings
- Grid Snap settings and Editing Plane
- On-screen View Options