

TAMSIN SLATTER

RESIDENTIAL GARDEN DESIGN

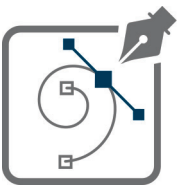
WITH VECTORWORKS LANDMARK

7TH EDITION TUTORIAL MANUAL | WRITTEN WITH VECTORWORKS LANDMARK 2015



VECTORWORKS LANDMARK
TUTORIAL MANUAL

Tamsin Slatter | seventh edition
written with version 2015



Design Software Solutions

Tamsin Slatter is a director of Design Software Solutions Ltd, which sells Vectorworks software and provides training and consultancy on Vectorworks.

Design Software Solutions Ltd

Second Floor, St. Anthony's House, Oxford Square, Oxford Street, Newbury, Berkshire, RG14 1JQ, United Kingdom

Phone: +44 845 003 7066

website: www.training-for-design.co.uk

e-mail: info@training-for-design.co.uk

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Setting Up the Drawing Board

By the end of this chapter, you will have an understanding of how to set up your Vectorworks Landmark drawing area so that it's ready for you to work in the way that's best for you each time you start a new project. If you're making the transition from hand-drawing to working on a computer, you can liken this process to that of setting up your drawing board. If you were drawing by hand, you would start by choosing the size of paper you wish to work on and then select an appropriate scale for your drawing and so on. We will do the same here. Once you've set up your most common ways of working, you'll be able to save them so that you don't need to repeat the setup each time you work.

There are many options for setting up the system, and some of them may appear meaningless to you at this stage. Remember that Vectorworks is an extremely powerful tool that covers many different design disciplines. If those settings aren't appropriate to garden design, we won't cover them. You can be assured that we'll be focusing only on the things you need.

Some of the things I'm going to take you through in this chapter may not make complete sense to you yet. For example, you may find that you feel a little unsure about the concept of classes and design layers. Don't worry; it will all become clearer as you work through the book. At this stage, we are ensuring that we have the system set up in a way that will work well for you.

About the Different File Types Vectorworks Creates

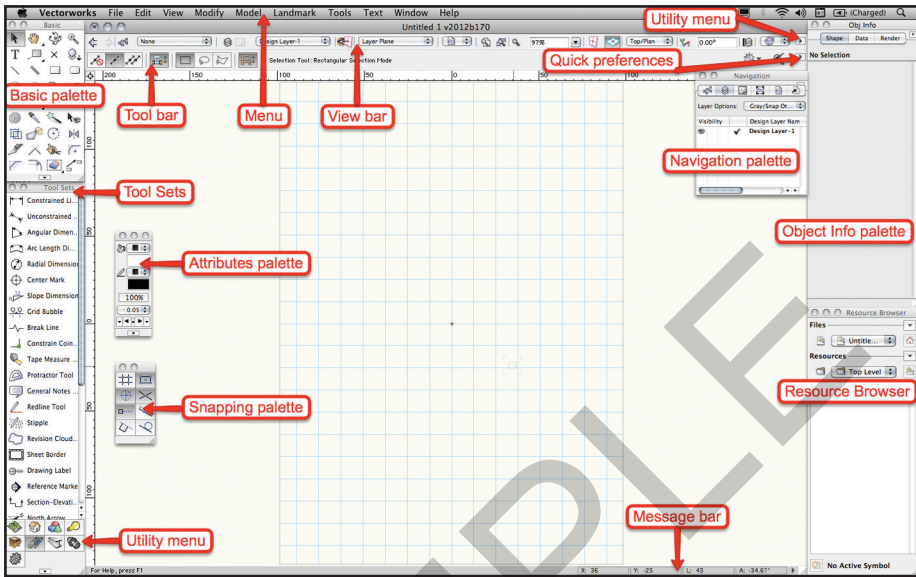
Vectorworks files have a .vwx file extension and are saved in the folder you designate on your computer's hard drive—
for example: C:\Documents\ClientA\ClientA.vwx.

Vectorworks backup files, created by the automatic backup facility we'll set up later in this chapter, have a .vwx extension, too.

Vectorworks template files have a .sta file extension. A template is a file that contains all the things you want to include in every file. We will create a template at the end of this chapter. You can create as many templates as you like in order to cater to different working scenarios.

The Landmark Workspace—Your “Drawing Board”

Throughout this workbook, we're going to use the Landmark Workspace. The workspace contains the “drawing board” together with all the drawing tools and menus you need arranged around it. You can't drop the tools off the edge of your board, and the ink doesn't dry up either! Some of these tools are arranged on palettes, and some are arranged on menus. The diagram below shows the Landmark workspace layout and the main items you will use to create your drawings. The term “workspace” means a named definition of the way the tools and menus are laid out for you. As you become more proficient with the system, you can, if you wish, edit the workspace or even create your own—if you've been used to using another



system, you may wish to customize the workspace to make it more familiar. At this stage, though, I suggest you learn the Landmark Workspace as it is. You can make modifications later.

If you're using Microsoft Windows, the palettes containing tools and utilities can be "docked." This means that they are "stuck" to the side of the screen and do not overlap the drawing area. If you're new to drawing on a computer, it's easy to unwittingly remove palettes from the dock or to close them completely. If you have "undocked" them and want to move them back to their home, you can click and drag their heading onto the heading of another palette that will lock them back into position. Alternatively, you can have all your palettes "floating" so that they move independently. They can also be set to roll up completely so that they only open when you place the mouse pointer on them. On the top right of the palette, you'll see a little icon that looks like a map-pin. Click on this to "unpin" the palette. It will close when you move the mouse away from it.

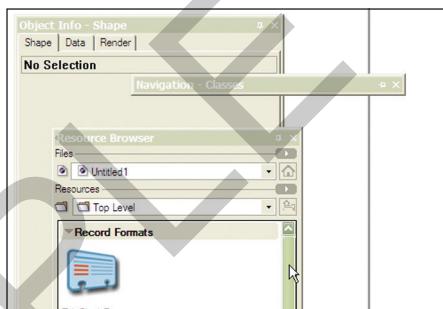
On a Macintosh (as shown above), the palettes can't be docked and always move as independent windows.

Palettes can also be closed by clicking on the small x on the top right (Windows) or the red button at the top left (Macintosh). If you close a palette by accident, it can be opened with the **Windows > Palettes** menu. On a Macintosh, the palettes can be minimized by clicking the orange button. Clicking the yellow button again will open the palette.

Along the top of the screen, just below the menu, is an area known as the View bar. You can change which buttons are displayed on this. If you are using a mouse, I recommend that you remove the zoom options, as you can zoom with your mouse.

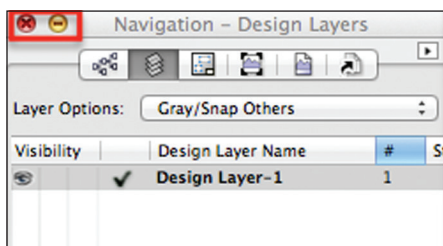
Exercise One: Ensure You Are Working in the Landmark Workspace

1. Select **Tools > Workspaces > Landmark**.
2. The windows and palettes on your screen will disappear temporarily as the workspace starts, but don't panic—they will soon display again.
3. If you're using the Windows operating system, click on the heading of the palette named "Navigation" and drag it. Notice that it has become a floating palette.

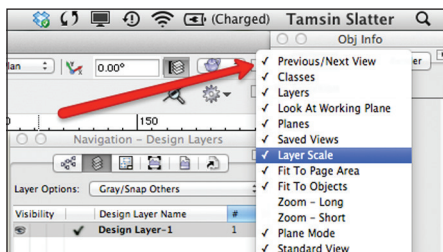


4. Click on the icon that looks like a map-pin on the top right of the palette, and then click on a blank space on the drawing. Notice that the palette closes, leaving just its heading visible.
5. Move your mouse point over the palette again. The palette will open. Click on the map-pin again to pin the palette open.
6. Place the mouse pointer on the heading of the palette. Click and drag the palette over the heading of the Resource Browser palette (still docked). The Resource Browser heading will highlight. Release the mouse button. Notice that the Navigation palette is now docked again.

7. If you're using a Macintosh, palettes cannot be docked. Instead, they float on the screen and can be positioned wherever you choose. For example, on my MacBook, I move the Navigation palette to the top right of the drawing area, just to the left of the Object Info palette. Click the yellow dot at the top left of the palette to minimize it and click again to open it.



8. Now we'll change the View bar to display the **Layer Scale** button instead of the Zoom buttons—if you are using a mouse, you won't need the zoom. Click on the arrow at the top right of the screen. This will open a menu. Click to the left of **Zoom - Long** to remove it. Click to the left of **Layer Scale** to add it. This makes better use of the space and gives you a shortcut to changing your working scale.



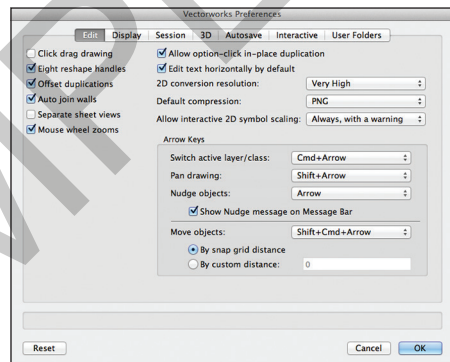
Exercise Two: Set Up Vectorworks Preferences

Changes made to Vectorworks Preferences will affect the way Vectorworks runs each time it is started on your computer. The changes are not limited to the current drawing but apply each time you open the program. I'm going to take you through my recommended settings, but I'm not going to go into huge detail here about what each means—the Help system is excellent for that. My aim is to give you a setup that will get you up and running in a sensible way as quickly as possible. Note that you can also hover your mouse over each of the options to get a description of what they do.

1. Select **Tools > Options > Vectorworks Preferences**.
2. Click on each of the tabs in turn, making selections as I recommend below.

Edit Tab

1. Click the Edit tab.
2. Make the following changes to the settings; leave all other settings on their default values:
 - Eight reshape handles: **Check**
 - Offset duplications: **Check**
 - Auto join walls: **Check**
 - Mouse wheel zooms: **Check**
 - Allow option-click in-place duplication: **Check**
 - Edit text horizontally by default: **Check**
 - 2D conversion resolution: **Very High**
 - Default compression: **PNG**
 - Allow interactive 2D symbol scaling: **Always, with a warning.**
 - Nudge objects: **Arrow**, so that when you select objects, you can use the arrow keys to move them very precisely, one pixel at a time.

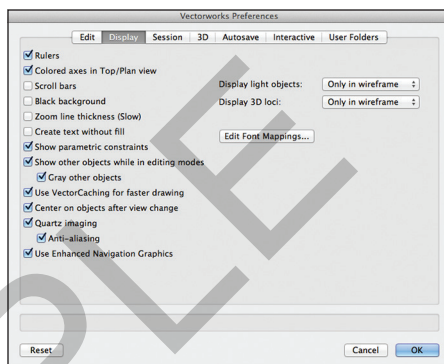


*Note: If you've used other drawing packages, you may find that **Click drag** drawing is more familiar to you than the default **Click click** style of drawing. This setting is also best if you are working with a tablet instead of a mouse. However, I recommend you stick to **Click click** while using this workbook and finding your way around the system.*

Display Tab

1. Click the Display tab. These preferences affect the way things are displayed and are mostly self-explanatory.
2. Ensure the following preferences are set, leaving all other settings on their default values:

- Rulers: **Check**
- Colored axes in Top/Plan view: **Check**
- Show parametric constraints: **Check**
- Show other objects while in editing modes along with Gray other objects: **Check**
- Use VectorCaching for faster drawing: **Check**
- Center on objects after view change: **Check**
- GDI+ imaging (Quartz imaging on Macintosh): **Check**
- Anti-aliasing: **Check**
- Use Enhanced Navigation Graphics: **Check**
- Display light objects: **Only in wireframe**
- Display 3D loci: **Only in wireframe**



3. Click **Edit Font Mapping** to decide what happens to fonts included in files that you import from other sources. If you do not have the same fonts installed, you may want Vectorworks to automatically convert the fonts to your own “house” font. If you have not yet had occasion to map fonts, a helpful message will be displayed. Click **OK**.

Session Tab

1. Click the Session tab. I would certainly recommend that you don't switch on Use sound—otherwise you hear an irritating click every time you move the cursor across your screen. If you're working in an office with other people, it can put a huge strain on friendships!
2. Change the preferences as follows, leaving all other settings on their defaults:
 - Log time in program: **Check**
 - Display minor alerts on message bar: **Check**
 - Maximum number of undos: **20**
 - Issue undo warnings: **Check**

- Undo view changes: **Never** (unless you want each view change to be considered an “action” by Vectorworks)

- Automatically append file extensions: **Check**

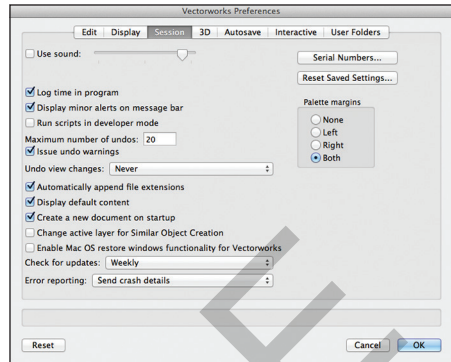
- Enable palette docking (Windows only): **Check**

- Display default content: **Check**

- Create a new document on startup: **Uncheck**

- Automatically check for updates: **Weekly**

- Create a new document on startup: **Uncheck** to prevent Vectorworks from creating blank documents that you don’t need.

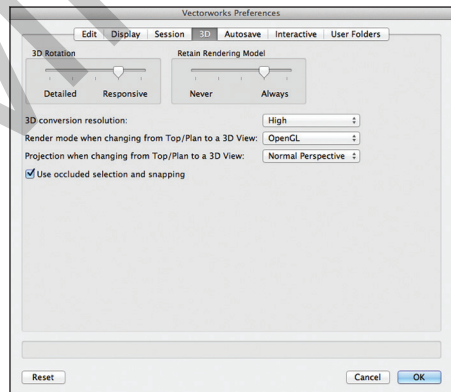


3D Tab

1. Click the 3D tab. These preferences describe how Vectorworks will handle the display of 3D objects.

2. If memory and processing power are not a problem, set the following:

- 3D Rotation: Move toward **Responsive**
- Retain Rendering Model: Move toward **Always**.
- 3D conversion resolution: **High**



Ultimately, your selections for the following settings will be down to your personal preference, but at this stage, I would like you to choose the following, so that your experience with the software will match the results of the book:

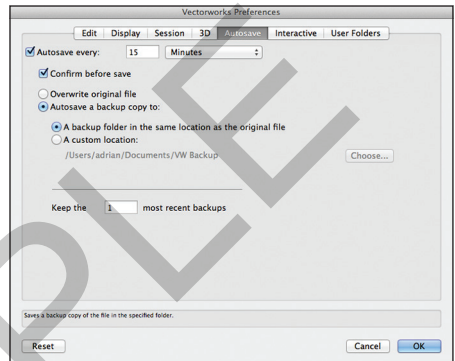
- Render mode when changing from Top/Plan to a 3D View: **OpenGL**
- Projection when changing from Top/Plan to a 3D View: **Normal Perspective**
- Use occluded selection and snapping: **Check**

These settings will ensure that your 3D views look the same as mine. You’ll learn more about this as you progress through the book.

Autosave Tab

This tab is *incredibly important!* If you're moving from hand-drawing, your common fears were probably spilling coffee on your drawing or the cat walking across it with muddy paws. Now, you are going to be relying on your computer for the delivery of projects, and computers *can fail* sometimes. You need to be sure that your project files are backed up. Vectorworks can handle this automatically for you. Ensure the following are set:

1. Click the Autosave tab.
2. Autosave every **15 minutes** (or less): **Check**
3. Confirm before save: **Uncheck** so that you don't have to keep responding to prompts on the screen.
4. Autosave a backup copy to: **A backup folder in the same location as the original file.** This means you will be responsible for manually saving the main file, but you will have a backup automatically saved. You will use twice the disk space, but disk space is *cheap* compared to the cost of a lost project.



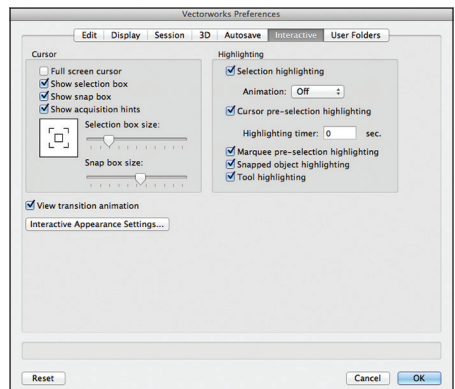
Your alternative is to backup to a custom location, such as a separate backup folder where you keep all your backed-up files. It's more effort to find them but could make it easier to keep an offline backup (onto an external storage device). Remember, you should also back up to an external storage device that can be kept offsite for more security.

Note: The Vectorworks backup should be only a part of your backup strategy. I recommend you backup to an external drive and, if possible, to an offsite/cloud backup service. Having a copy on your machine is no use if the machine develops problems. Having an external backup disk on your desk is no use if your office burns down or is flooded!

Interactive Tab

This tab enables you to control what the cursor on the screen shows you. The cursor offers many helpful hints on the screen, making it easy to select drawn objects, line objects up with others, and much more. There are further settings that work in conjunction with these.

1. Set your preferences as shown:
 - Show acquisition hints: **Check**

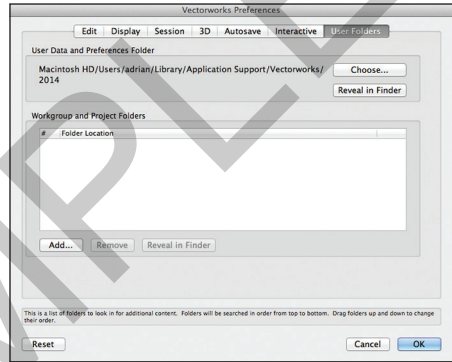


- Highlighting options: **Check** all
- View transition animation: **Check**
- Click on the **Interactive Appearance Settings** button to view the colors of the information on the screen. Pay particular attention to the colors of General-Background-3D Views and General-Background-Top/Plan view. For now, I suggest you leave the colors as they are, but bear in mind that you can change them later if you wish.
- Click **Cancel** to return to the Vectorworks Preferences dialog.

User Folders

1. Click the User Folders tab.

This tab sets the default location on the hard drive where Vectorworks will store the preferences you are setting, along with any templates you create. Generally, there is no need to change this. This folder location also stores files such as the Vectorworks log that shows which files you opened and when—very useful for billing your clients! You can browse this folder by clicking on the **Browse** (Windows) or **Reveal in Finder** (Macintosh) button.



If you work in a multiuser environment and share resources, you can enter a folder name in this box to define where shared resources are kept. You can have different user folders for different projects.

2. Click **OK** to close the Vectorworks Preferences dialog. At this point, you will likely see a dialog prompting you to save the current document. If you do see this dialog, click **No**. You don't need to save anything just yet.

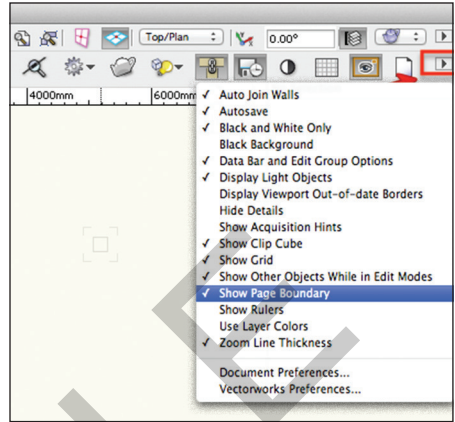
Set Up Quick Preferences

Now that you have seen the different Vectorworks preferences available, you will sometimes find it useful to be able to access some of them very quickly to make changes.

1. Move your cursor to the top right of the screen onto the lower of the two utility menu arrows and click to open it.

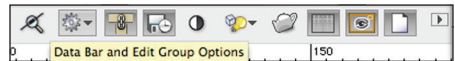
2. Choose which preferences you would like to add to the workspace. I recommend the following:

- Auto Join Walls
- Autosave
- Black and White only
- Data Bar and Edit Group Options
- Display Light Objects
- Show Clip Cube
- Show Grid
- Show Other Objects While in Edit Modes
- Show Page Boundary
- Zoom Line Thickness



3. Notice that you can also select Document Preferences (preferences specific to the current file) and Vectorworks Preferences from the Quick Preferences menu.

4. If you have a numeric keypad on your keyboard, click **Data Bar and Edit Group Options** on the Quick Preferences bar.



- Choose **Allow numeric keypad entry for instant data bar activation**. This will enable you to use the numeric keypad to enter values when drawing. More on this later.

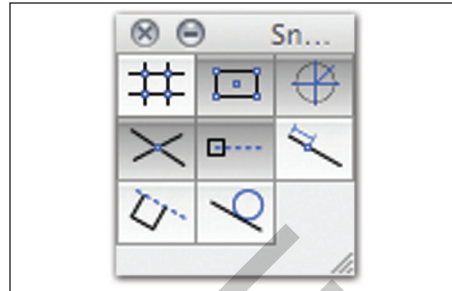
Note that by adding these as Quick Preferences, you are not necessarily turning that preference on. You are adding a button to the quick preferences bar that offers you a quick way to control the preference, without having to dive into the menus.

Exercise Three: Managing Other Vectorworks Settings

The Snapping Palette

The Snapping palette enables you to draw more accurately and “constrain” drawn objects to certain parameters—such as forcing lines to be horizontal, at 45°, etc. It also ensures that helpful hints are displayed on the screen to ensure you have selected the correct point.

1. Double-click on any one of the buttons on the Snapping palette, and then review the menu items. We will be changing various items as we move through the book, so for now, just get familiar with accessing the menu. Click **Cancel**. Leave the palette looking as it does in the diagram to the right.



2. To switch buttons on, click on them. A border will appear around the button when it is switched on. On a Macintosh, the button will display darker when it is turned on. Click on it again to switch it off. As shown on the right, the four buttons starting from second left will be beneficial when you are drawing. The others will be switched on only when you specifically need them.

Note: By default, the Snapping palette is floating. If you are working on Windows, you can dock the Snapping palette, if you wish, by dragging its heading to the top or the left of your main application window.

Color Palette Libraries

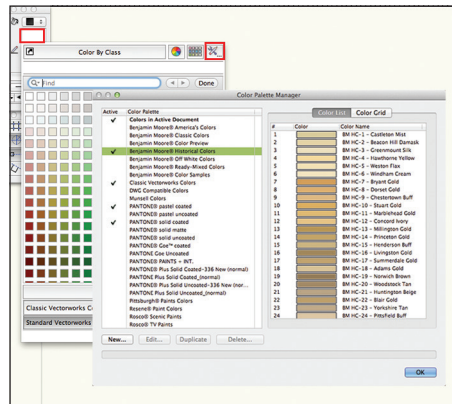
I think one of the strongest fears of changing to a CAD system is that the colors may appear flat and limited. If you spend some time getting to know the color palette options and, later, the Gradient, Hatch, Tile, and Stipple options, you will be able to create very artistic effects. For now, we'll look at the color palette and make some of the additional color palettes available. The color palette enables you to select any color you like—but you can also select from specific published color libraries such as PANTONE®.

1. On the Attributes palette, click on the white bar that displays the current Solid Fill Color.

2. Click on the **Color Palette Manager** (a wrench and pencil button) on the top right.

3. Select other color libraries you would like to make available in all your drawings by clicking in the Active column so that a check mark appears. Note that there are PANTONE® libraries and other well-known libraries. Click **OK**.

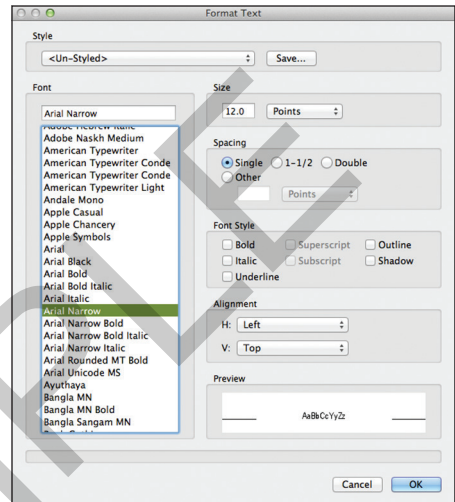
4. Click on the color bar again and note that the new libraries are now available for selection. These will now be available each time you use Vectorworks.



5. Click on the drawing area to dismiss the color choices.

Exercise Four: Set the Default Font

There is a range of text tools available within Vectorworks Landmark for adding annotations to your drawings. These will be covered in detail in a later chapter. However, for now we're going to choose your favorite font to set it as the default font, so it will be used each time you add some text to the drawing. Of course, you can override the font settings for individual pieces of text. Later you'll see that you can create differently named text styles. Some tools will generate text labels automatically—such as the Hardscape tool and the Plant tool, so it's important to set a default text style before creating these objects.



1. Choose **Text > Format Text**.

2. Choose your favorite font and the size at which you would like it to print. Vectorworks will remember this from one session to the next, so once set, it should stay set.

3. Click OK.

Later, you'll learn how to create named text styles so you can easily vary text within a drawing.

Document Settings

Document settings, unlike Vectorworks Preferences, are settings that are relevant to the current file only. These include the layer scale; the units of measure for length, area, volume and angle; and the paper size. In order to make these settings available at the start of each new drawing, you will need to amend them and save the blank file as a template. In the following exercise, you'll set up an example template.

Exercise Five: Set Up Your “Drawing Board” and Save Your Template

Open the Document Setup Dialog

This dialog enables you to set up the units of measurement for the file, the scale of the file, the size of the grid, and whether the grid is visible. You can specify the default Sheet Border style and Title Block here, but you can also make changes to this later. (We'll look at this in the chapter on printing.)

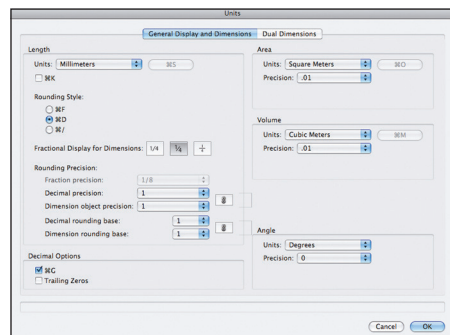
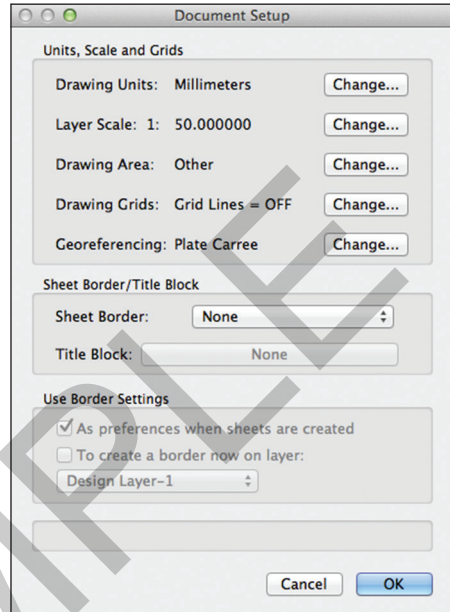
1. Select **File > Documents Settings > Document Setup**. A dialog is displayed from where you can change the different document settings.

Set Your Unit of Measure

The unit measurement is important because it determines the “real world” size of the objects you draw. For small sites, you may choose to work in millimeters, or for larger sites, you may choose meters. It's also critical when importing drawings from other CAD systems. Choosing the correct unit of measure for the incoming file ensures that objects are sized correctly when they arrive in Vectorworks. When you set your units of measure, you also determine the number of decimal places that will be displayed (if any).

1. To the right of the Drawing Units setting, click **Change**.
2. Choose the unit of measure you prefer to use to describe lengths, area, volume, and angle:

- If working in metric, I prefer mm for lengths, m² for areas, m³ for volume, and degrees for angles. Choose also the number of decimal places (precision) that you would like displayed for each of these values. For example, if you only want lengths displayed in whole mm, select 1 in the **Decimal Precision** box.
- If you are working in imperial, you'll probably want to choose feet and inches for length, square feet for area, and cubic yards for volume.



3. Choose the Rounding Style you would like to use (Fractional or Decimal). Choose Fractional precision for rounding of imperial units. Choose the style you would like to use for the display of fractions.
4. Choose the Rounding Precision for measurements, and choose the size of the fractions for rounding (e.g., $\frac{1}{8}$ ") if using imperial measurements. For metric units, choose the appropriate number of decimal places. When setting your rounding precision, note that by default, the settings you choose now will also apply to dimensions you may place on your plans later. If you wish to set different rounding precision for dimensions, enter them in the Dimension Object precision box, or click the Link button to set dimensions to use the same precision as your general unit settings.
5. If using Decimal rounding (i.e., working in metric), you have the option to choose Leading and Trailing zeros for values (e.g., if an area measured 2 m², this could be displayed as either 2 or 2.00 for consistency with other values on the drawing. I recommend you do this to avoid confusion. Similarly, a value of .25 m² would be displayed as 0.25 m² to ensure that the decimal point is not missed when reading your plan).
6. Click OK, to return to the Document Setup dialog box, but do not click OK again just yet.

Set the Default Design Layer Scale

1. To the right of the words Layer Scale, click **Change**, and set your default scale. You aren't stuck with this scale, but it's a good idea to choose the scale that you most commonly work in. You can always change it, and you can view different elements of the garden at different scales anyway.

2. If you want to use a scale that is not listed in the boxes, you can enter your own custom scale in the Paper Scale box.
 - Metric users will probably use a scale of 1:100 or 1:50, or something much smaller for larger sites.
 - Imperial users will probably be working at something like one-quarter inch to a foot ($\frac{1}{4}$ " = 1' 0") (1:48) or one-eighth inch to the foot ($\frac{1}{8}$ " = 1' 0") (1:96).
3. The All Layers box is not ticked by default. Any new layers created in the drawing will use the scale you have set above. However, if you wish to change the scale of a drawing and it has many layers, you will need to tick this box so that your changes will affect *all* layers. Having said that, it's possible to have many layers at different scales in the same drawing.
4. The Scale Text box is ticked by default. This means that if you later change the scale of the drawing because you realize the site won't fit on the page, any text you have added will be

scaled with the drawing. I recommend that you uncheck this box. Since you have chosen a default font *and* size for this font, you probably don't want it to be rescaled and want the text to remain the size you chose in the text setup.

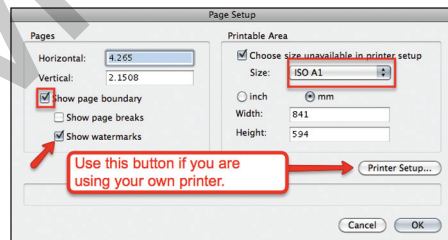
5. Click **OK** to return to the Document Setup window.

Set Your Drawing Area/Paper Size

Now we're going to set the default paper size for the drawing. Much later in this book, you'll discover that it really doesn't matter what size you set your page to at this stage. You'll be able to print your designs at any scale you like on any page size you like at the end of the project. However, until you reach that point, it will reassure you to know how to set the page size. You may have a printer in your office that can cope with the size of drawing you want to produce, in which case your computer will have software installed (a printer driver), telling it all about the capabilities of your printer. However, many of us don't have access to a large format printer and will be emailing our drawings to a print bureau. If this is your case, you need to choose the correct paper size before sending it. Vectorworks has options to cater to both these scenarios.

Also, you'll use different paper size standards depending on where you are in the world, so this exercise will cater to both imperial and metric standards.

1. On the Document Setup dialog, next to Drawing Area, click **Change**.
2. If you have a large format printer available in your office, and its driver is installed on your computer, change Size to **One Printer Page**. Click **Printer Setup** to get to the printer's own dialog.



3. Choose the appropriate printer from the list of available printers. Choose the desired page size and click OK. The Width and Height fields will reflect the printable area as defined by your printer driver.
4. If you are sending your files to a printing bureau, you will need to choose a paper size that your computer may not understand. For example, I have a printer that can print A4. Therefore, it can't print and doesn't understand A1. Click **Choose Size Unavailable in Printer Setup**, and then select your desired paper size.
5. On the left of the dialog, check **Show page boundary** so that you will be able to see the edge of the page on your screen. Remember, you have set a Quick Preference for Show Page Boundary, so you will also be able to control this setting on the Quick Preferences bar at the top right of the Vectorworks workspace.
6. Ensure that **Show page breaks** is unchecked. If you are using your own large format printer and have set the paper size accordingly, page breaks won't cause you a problem. However, if you have, for example, an A4 or Letter size printer on your system but want to

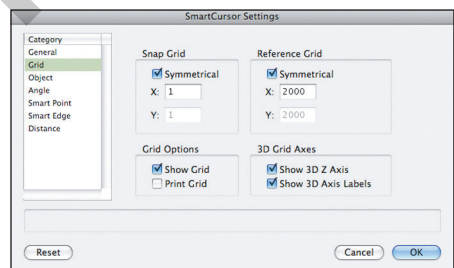
print at ISO A1 (US Arch D) size, Vectorworks will helpfully show you where the page breaks would be for printing on the smaller printer. One of my most frequently asked questions is, "Where did this strange grid come from?"

7. Check **Show watermarks**. Drawings created with Student Licenses may have a watermark included on any of their drawings when they are printed. When you check this option, you will be able to see the watermark on the screen also.
8. Click **OK** to return to the Document Setup dialog.

Set Up a Grid

Many designers choose to work with a visual grid to help them break up the space and ensure they are designing things that are a reasonable size. On a traditional drawing board, this might be a hand-drawn grid or sheet of graph paper stuck to the board under a piece of tracing paper. Vectorworks caters to this option, calling it a Reference Grid. Vectorworks also enables you to set a different type of grid, called a Snap Grid, that forces you to draw things to sensible dimensions. For example, I set mine to 1 mm, meaning that if I draw something, its dimensions will only be in whole mm. An imperial equivalent might be 1/16 ".

1. On the Document Setup dialog, click **Change** to the right of Drawing Grids. This will open the SmartCursor settings dialog box.
2. Click **Grid** from the list on the left and then make the following changes:
 - Snap Grid: **1 mm (1/16")**.
 - Reference Grid: **2000 mm (6')**.
 - If you regularly use a grid, check **Show Grid**.
 - If you don't, ensure **Show Grid** isn't checked. You will have a grid available should you wish to view it later. You have set Show Grid as a Quick Preference so you will also be able to control the grid's visibility using this preference button.
 - Check **Show 3D Z Axis** and **Show 3D Axis Labels** to help you when working in 3D.



3. Click OK to return to the Document Setup dialog.

You will notice the Georeferencing button. As our template will be a generic starting point for all new projects, we will look at georeferencing when we tackle site surveys. Georeferencing will be specific to the project but is only used when you are coordinating files with other consultants and wish to locate your drawing to a specific location on Earth.

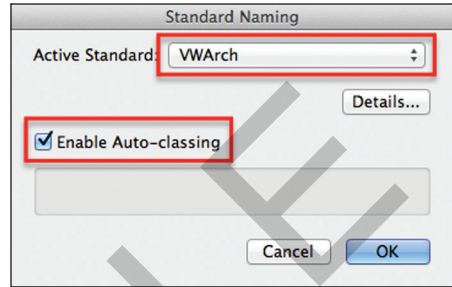
4. Click OK again to return to the drawing area.

5. On the Quick Preferences bar, click **Show/Hide Grid** to display the grid and the colored axes on the Top/Plan view. Click **Show/Hide Grid** again to hide the grid and axes.

Set Up Auto-Classing

I mentioned earlier in this chapter that you might not yet feel confident about classes. However, for now, take my word for it that they are going to make your life easier and Auto-classing is a really useful feature of the document setup. It instructs Vectorworks to automatically create certain classes (from a predefined list) when you create certain objects. This means you can be really organized without having to make the effort!

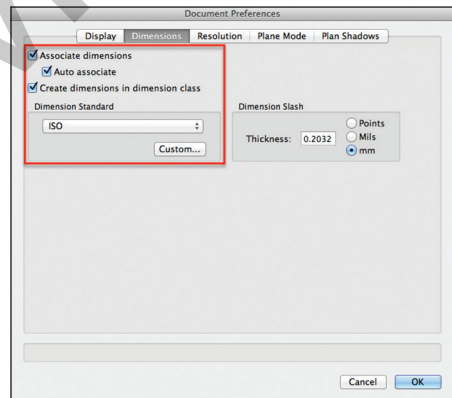
1. Choose **File > Document Settings > Standard Naming**. Check **Enable Auto-classing**. You will see a message asking if you want to Auto-class existing objects in the file. Click **Yes**.



Set Up Dimension Preferences

You can also set a specific standard for the way dimensions display—or you can create your own and edit it to your precise requirements.

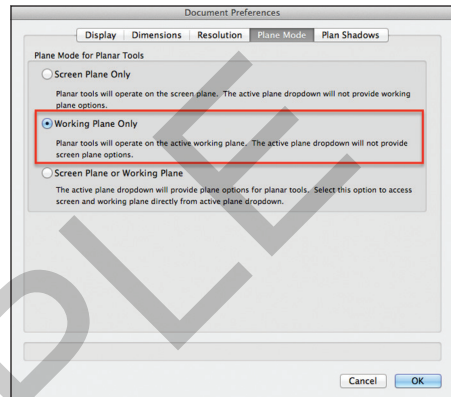
1. Select **File > Document Settings > Document Preferences**. Click the **Dimensions** tab.
2. Set the following:
 - Associate dimensions: **Check** to ensure dimensions remain associated with the objects they measure. Then, if you resize objects, the dimensions will be updated with them.
 - Auto-associate: **Check**
 - Create dimensions in dimension class: **Check** to ensure dimensions are easily identifiable and that you can control their visibility.
 - Dimension Standard: Choose **Arch** or **ISO**—you'll learn more about this later in the book, when adding dimensions and annotations to the drawings.



Set the Default Working Plane

In my experience, when I start talking about working planes, inexperienced users of Vectorworks can start to look a little lost, or even worried. However, planes are simple things. Think of a piece of paper. You might stick it to the drawing board and angle the board. You might lay the paper on the floor, or stick it to the wall. Each of these different surfaces can be described as a plane on which you draw. In Vectorworks, the 2D tools can draw on different planes in a model. You'll learn more about planes later, but here in this chapter on setup, you'll ensure that your template is set to the most appropriate option for flexible drawing and modeling.

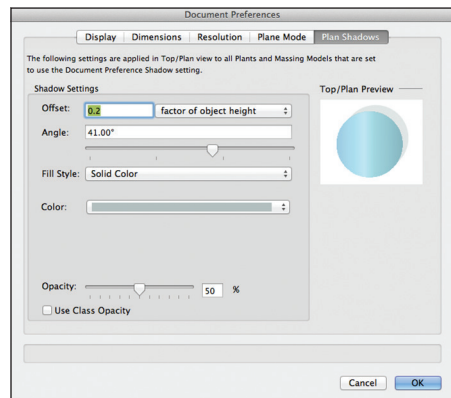
1. Click the Plane Mode tab.
2. Choose **Working Plane Only**, to ensure that you have the best flexibility when drawing in 2D and 3D.



Plan Shadow Settings

As you'll see later in the book, plants created with the Plant tool and buildings created with the Massing Model tool can display shadows on a 2D plan. This tab enables you to set the default size, angle, and fill style for any plants or buildings created with these tools.

1. Click the Plant Shadows tab.
2. Change Offset to 0.2 as a factor of plant height.
3. Change the angle for the shadows, but note that as this changes from site to site, you will need to update it for each project.
4. Change the Fill Style to **Solid Color** and then choose a color for the shadows.
5. Change Opacity to **50%** so that any plan shadows will be semitransparent.
6. Click OK to close the Document Preferences dialog.



Save Your File as a Template

Now that you've set up the file as you prefer, you can make the file available as a template so that you don't need to go through the setup each time you start a new project. Clearly there is a lot more to learn about customizing Vectorworks than we've covered yet, but as we go through the course, I'll advise you to update your template when we learn something new that would be appropriate to save.

1. Select **File > Save as Template**. Vectorworks will automatically place your file in the directory where it keeps all the default templates (your "User Folder"). Give your template a sensible name, such as "**A1 1to100**" ("**ARCHD 1 eighth=1 foot**"), and then click OK. You can't use a colon, comma, quotation marks, or single quote characters in your filename.
2. Choose **File > Close** to close the active file.

Use Your Template When Starting a New Project

Make use of the template when starting a new project:

1. Select **File > New** (or Ctrl+N (Windows) or Command+N (Macintosh)) and check **Use document template**.
2. Choose your template by name from the pop-up menu and click OK. A new file will be created using the settings you've created while working through this chapter, but the original template will remain unchanged.



Tamsin Slatter | seventh edition

RESIDENTIAL GARDEN DESIGN with Vectorworks Landmark

written with version 2015

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

After a twenty year career in the IT industry and working for large corporate software firms, Tamsin Slatter realized that life was passing rather too quickly and decided to make some changes. She retrained as a garden/landscape designer and loved it. However, once starting her own practice, she realized that she needed to work more quickly in order to make work commercially viable—and returned to her laptop. Stumbling upon Vectorworks, she was rapidly hooked. Since then, she's become a huge advocate of the product and has written training courses that are much in demand across the UK and worldwide—with designers travelling from the United States, Canada, and various European countries to attend her training. Billed as the UK's leading Vectorworks expert, we've asked Tamsin to author this tutorial and share her unique style with all. Tamsin works and lives in the UK with her long-suffering husband and two handsome sons.

Vectorworks Landmark is the powerful CAD landscape design solution from Nemetschek Vectorworks, Inc. The tutorial and accompanying CD-ROM will provide you with the knowledge you need to take a landscape project from planning to final product. The exercise-based training covers:

- Setting up your “Drawing Board” to make starting new projects easy and efficient
- Setting up and storing your own graphical style for reuse
- Drawing up your own or importing a survey
- Creating a layout plan using simple drafting techniques
- Drawing and specifying quantities of hard landscaping with steps and simple level changes
- Placing and customizing plants and then producing a planting schedule
- Adding further 3D elements to the garden
- Adding lighting to the garden
- Basic “rendering” techniques
- Creating 3D views, sections, and construction drawings
- Using text and dimension tools to annotate construction drawings
- Preparing drawings for print / sharing

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