

Vectorworks Keyboard Shortcuts

WINDOWS

MyArchitectAI

164 default shortcuts for Windows · grouped by workflow

AI rendering for architects

View & Navigation

15

Selection tool

X

The most-used Basic palette tool. Press X to drop any active tool and return to Selection.

Pan tool

H

Hold middle mouse to pan without invoking the tool.

Zoom tool

C

Then drag to zoom into a rectangle. Double-click the Zoom tool to zoom in 2x.

Flyover (orbit)

Shift + C

Vectorworks's 3D orbit tool. Press and hold Ctrl + middle-click for a temporary Flyover.

Move Page

Alt + Z

Reposition the page boundary on the drawing area.

Zoom - Normal Scale

Ctrl + 3

Return to 1:1.

Zoom - Fit to Page Area

Ctrl + 4

Frame the entire printable page.

Zoom - Fit to Objects

Ctrl + 6

Frame every visible object.

Increase zoom 2x

Ctrl + 1

Or double-click the Zoom tool icon.

Decrease zoom 2x

Ctrl + 2

Or Alt-double-click the Zoom tool.

Next View

Ctrl + Shift + .

Cycle forward in view history. (Period key.)

Previous View

Ctrl + Shift + ,

Cycle back in view history.

Set 3D View

Ctrl + 0

Open the Set 3D View dialog for a precise camera angle.

Enable Multiple View Panes

M

Split the drawing area into multiple panes. Toggle.

Create Multiple Viewports

Ctrl + Shift + M

Sheet layer command.

Selection

6

Select All

Ctrl + A

Selects every visible object on active layers.

Eyedropper

Shift + E

Pick attributes from one object and apply to another.

Visibility tool

V

Show or hide individual objects without touching their class/layer.

X-ray Select Mode

B

Click through to objects hidden behind others. Toggle.

Coincident Selection

J

Cycle through stacked objects under the cursor.

Deselect All (chord)

XX

Press X twice in quick succession.

Rendering

8

One-click photoreal rendering

MyArchitectAI

Turn any Vectorworks model into a finished render in seconds — without leaving the browser.

Wireframe

Ctrl + Shift + W

Fast working view with no surfaces.

Shaded

Ctrl + Shift + G

OpenGL preview with surfaces.

Final Quality Renderworks

Ctrl + Shift + F

The full Renderworks pass.

Hidden Line

Ctrl + Shift + E

Vector hidden-line view for drawings.

Dashed Hidden Line

Ctrl + Shift + D

Hidden lines shown as dashed.

Sketch Options

Ctrl + Shift + Alt + S

Open Sketch rendering settings.

Final Shaded Polygon

Ctrl + Shift + P

The fastest Renderworks-quality output.

Drawing Tools 30

Line 2

The most-used drawing tool.

Double Line Alt + 2

Two parallel lines with a configurable offset.

Rectangle 4

Click two corners or click and drag.

Rounded Rectangle Alt + 4

Configure radius in the Tool bar.

Circle 6

Three modes: center-radius

Oval Alt + 6

Click two corners of the bounding box.

Arc 3

Multiple modes — center/radius

Quarter Arc Alt + 3

Constrained 90° arc.

Polyline 5

Single-segment or smoothed curve.

Freehand Alt + 5

Draws a polyline by tracking the cursor.

2D Polygon 8

Closed multi-vertex shape with hatched fill.

Double-Line Polygon Alt + 8

Two parallel polygons.

Regular Polygon Alt + Shift + R

Equilateral shape — set number of sides in the Tool bar.

Spiral Alt + Shift + S

Adjustable rotations and pitch.

Text tool 1

Single or multi-line text.

Callout Alt + 1

Leader plus text balloon.

2D Locus 0

A reference point — invisible in printed output but visible while editing.

Symbol Insertion Alt + 0

Drop a symbol from the Resource Manager at the cursor.

Reshape - (hyphen)

Edit individual vertices of polylines and polygons.

Rotate tool Alt + =

Pivot around a clicked center point.

Mirror tool =

Mirror across a clicked axis.

Split tool L

Cut walls or lines at a clicked point.

Connect/Combine ; (semicolon)

One of the rare cases where Win and Mac shortcuts differ.

Trim Alt + Shift + L

Clip an object against another. See also the Trim command below.

Fillet 7

Round a corner with a configurable radius.

Chamfer Alt + 7

Bevel a corner.

Offset Shift + - (hyphen)

Create a parallel copy at a configurable distance.

Clip Shift + N

Another Win/Mac divergence — keep this one in mind.

Move by Points Shift + M

Move objects between two clicked reference points.

Attribute Mapping Shift + A

Map texture onto an object surface. Divergent shortcut.

3D Modeling Tools

26

Set Working Plane (tool)	Shift + 1
Pick a face or three points to define the active 3D plane.	
Align Plane	Alt + Shift + 1
Align the working plane to a clicked face.	
Push/Pull	Shift + R
Direct-edit 3D solids by pushing or pulling a face.	
3D Locus	Shift + 0
A reference point in 3D space.	
NURBS Curve	Shift + 7
Smooth 3D spline curve.	
Sphere	Shift + 3
Center-radius or two-point.	
Hemisphere	Alt + Shift + 3
Half-sphere primitive.	
Fillet Edge	Shift + F
Round the edge of a 3D solid.	
Chamfer Edge	Shift + J
Bevel a 3D edge.	
Shell Solid	Shift + G
Hollow out a closed solid into a thin-walled shell.	
Loft Surface	Shift + K
Build a surface across a series of NURBS curves.	
Extract	Shift + L
Pull a face	
Create Contours	Shift + H
Generate horizontal section curves through a model.	
Walkthrough	Shift + U
Move the camera in first-person.	
Translate View	Shift + V
Slide the camera position.	
Rotate View	Shift + W
Rotate the camera around a point.	
Light	Shift + Z
Place a Renderworks light source.	
Extrude	Ctrl + E
Push a 2D shape into 3D depth.	
Multiple Extrude	Ctrl + Alt + E
Extrude with varying section profiles along the path.	
Extrude Along Path	Ctrl + Alt + X
Sweep a profile along an arbitrary curve.	
Tapered Extrude	Ctrl + Alt + U
Extrude with a taper angle.	
Sweep	Ctrl + Alt + W
Rotate a 2D profile around an axis.	
Add Solids	Ctrl + Alt + A
Boolean union.	
Subtract Solids	Ctrl + Alt + S
Boolean difference.	
Intersect Solids	Ctrl + Alt + I
Boolean intersection (capital i).	
Section Solids	Ctrl + Alt + T
Cut a solid with a plane.	

Building Shell

5

Wall tool	9
Vectorworks's signature architecture tool.	
Wall Join	Alt + J
Tidy intersecting walls at a clicked corner.	
Component Join	Alt + Shift + J
Join wall components across a corner.	
Door	Alt + Shift + D
Insert a Door symbol into a wall.	
Window	Shift + D
Another Win/Mac divergence — Mac uses a longer chord.	
Modify Commands	22
Move	Ctrl + M
Move via dialog (precise distance and angle).	
Move 3D	Ctrl + Alt + M
Move along X/Y/Z with numerical input.	
Send to Front	Ctrl + F
Reorder stacking on the current layer.	
Send Forward	Ctrl + Alt + F
One step forward in the stack.	
Send to Back	Ctrl + B
Reorder to the bottom.	
Send Backward	Ctrl + Alt + B
One step backward.	
Align to Grid	Ctrl + - (hyphen)
Snap objects to the active grid.	
Align/Distribute	Ctrl + =
Align 2D objects via dialog.	
Align/Distribute 3D	Ctrl + Shift + =
3D version of the same dialog.	
Rotate Left 90°	Ctrl + L
Rotate the selection counter-clockwise.	
Rotate Right 90°	Ctrl + Shift + R
Rotate the selection clockwise.	
Flip Horizontal	Ctrl + Shift + H
Mirror across the vertical axis.	
Flip Vertical	Ctrl + Shift + V
Mirror across the horizontal axis.	
Trim command	Ctrl + T
Trim selected objects against a clicked boundary.	
Join	Ctrl + J
Merge two abutting linear objects.	
Convert to Group	Ctrl + K
Wrap selection into a group object.	
Group	Ctrl + G
Standard group command.	
Ungroup	Ctrl + U
Break up an existing group.	
Edit (editing mode)	Ctrl + [
Step into a group/symbol for in-place editing.	
Exit (editing mode)	Ctrl +]
Step back out to the parent context.	
Convert to NURBS	Ctrl + Alt + N
Promote a 2D or 3D object to NURBS for advanced editing.	
Convert to Mesh	Ctrl + Alt + R
For polygonal modeling workflows.	

Dimensions & Annotation

8

Constrained Linear Dimension

N

Default dimension tool. Snaps to ortho axes.

Angular Dimension

. (period)

Three-click angle annotation.

Radial Dimension

, (comma)

Radius or diameter annotation.

Format Text

Ctrl + Shift + T

Edit type

Object Info palette

Ctrl + I

Quick toggle for the Object Info panel (capital i).

Attributes palette

Ctrl + Shift + A

Open the Attributes palette.

Resource Manager

Ctrl + R

Open the Resource Manager.

Navigation palette

Ctrl + Shift + N

Show the Navigation palette (layers/classes/views).

Class & Layer Visibility

16

Switch Active Layer (up/down)

Ctrl + Up/Down

Step through design layers without leaving the drawing.

Switch Active Class (left/right)

Ctrl + Left/Right

Step through classes.

Class Options - Active Only

Ctrl + Shift + Alt + 3

Hide every class except the active one.

Class Options - Gray Others

Ctrl + Shift + Alt + 4

Show inactive classes in gray.

Class Options - Gray/Snap

Ctrl + Shift + Alt + 5

Others

Gray inactive classes but allow snapping.

Class Options - Show Others

Ctrl + Shift + Alt + 6

Show inactive classes normally.

Class Options - Show/Snap

Ctrl + Shift + Alt + 7

Others

Show and allow snapping to inactive classes.

Class Options -

Ctrl + Shift + Alt + 8

Show/Snap/Modify Others

Full access to inactive classes.

Layer Options - Active Only

Ctrl + Alt + 3

Hide every layer except the active one.

Layer Options - Gray Others

Ctrl + Alt + 4

Gray out inactive layers.

Layer Options - Gray/Snap

Ctrl + Alt + 5

Others

Gray inactive layers but allow snapping.

Layer Options - Show Others

Ctrl + Alt + 6

Show inactive layers normally.

Layer Options - Show/Snap

Ctrl + Alt + 7

Others

Show and snap inactive layers.

Layer Options -

Ctrl + Alt + 8

Show/Snap/Modify Others

Full access to inactive layers. Note the Mac shortcut differs.

Show Guides

Ctrl + Alt + G

Re-display guide objects.

Hide Guides

Ctrl + Shift + Alt + G

Suppress guides without deleting them.

Standard Views

12

Top/Plan or Rotated Top/Plan

Ctrl + 5

The default plan view.

Top (3D)

5 (Num)

Numeric keypad only. Vectorworks distinguishes keypad numbers from the number row.

Front

2 (Num)

Numeric keypad. Useful for elevation work.

Back

8 (Num)

Numeric keypad.

Left

4 (Num)

Numeric keypad.

Right

6 (Num)

Numeric keypad.

Left Isometric

1 (Num)

Numeric keypad.

Right Isometric

3 (Num)

Numeric keypad.

Left Rear Isometric

7 (Num)

Numeric keypad.

Right Rear Isometric

9 (Num)

Numeric keypad.

Top/Plan (numpad)

0 (Num)

Equivalent to Ctrl+5.

Unrotate 3D Objects

Ctrl + Shift + 0

Reset rotation of selected 3D objects.

File & Edit

16

New

Ctrl + N

New blank document.

Open

Ctrl + O

Open an existing .vwx file.

Save

Ctrl + S

Standard save.

Save As

Ctrl + Shift + S

Save a copy.

Print

Ctrl + P

Open the print dialog.

Quit Vectorworks

Alt + F4 or Ctrl + Q

Close the application.

Undo

Ctrl + Z

Step backward through history.

Redo

Ctrl + Y

Step forward.

Repeat last command

R

Re-run the most recent command.

Cut

Ctrl + X

Standard cut.

Copy

Ctrl + C

Standard copy.

Paste

Ctrl + V

Standard paste.

Paste in Place

Ctrl + Alt + V

Paste at the source coordinates.

Duplicate

Ctrl + D

Quick duplicate offset by a small amount.

Duplicate Array

Ctrl + Shift + Alt + D

Linear/polar/grid array dialog.

Edit Current Workspace

Ctrl + Shift + Alt + W

Opens the Workspace Editor where shortcuts live.