

Basic Manual Timber Constructions



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SEMA assumes no liability for errors and omissions in this document, the software or in the Instant Help. However, as every effort is made to provide accurate information, we would appreciate users calling our attention to any errors.

This manual is subject to changes without notice and specification of reasons. As every version of our software is reviewed and updated for your benefit, we would appreciate any ideas and suggestions from users. With constructive criticism you can help us to further improve and develop our programs and documentation.

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Dear SEMA customer!

Welcome to your new SEMA program. You have chosen a state-of-the-art, innovative and comprehensive program system that will make your work a lot easier.

What's special about the new version, are its many functions and features in combination with a user-friendly and modern user interface and a clear program structure. Thanks to the complete integration into the Windows operating system, you will quickly get familiar with the way it works and appreciate its excellent performance.

Nevertheless, only "practice makes perfect" so you need some training to get familiar with all the tricks and knacks and to be able to fully use this comprehensive system.

How to start

Insert the dongle into a free USB port on your computer. Connect to the internet and go to the following download page in your browser: www.sema-soft.com/version-en

After downloading, run the EXE-file. The SEMA installation program will start. The EXE-file is automatically saved in the Windows download folder.

You also find a detailed description of the installation of the SEMA programs in the SEMA basic manual, section 1-3.

SEMA Basic Manual

To make things easier for you, we created a simple basic manual. With this manual you can start immediately and create your first simple building project. In this introduction to the SEMA program, the first steps are described in a simple but detailed way.

We recommend to place the list of contents of this basic manual right next to you when you go through the first steps with our program. It is a kind of guideline that shows one step after the other. If you follow the instructions closely for your first project, (almost) nothing can go wrong.

SEMA Homepage

Always up-to-date and well maintained our website is the place to go for everything around SEMA.

At www.sema-soft.com you can

- read the latest news
- update your SEMA software
- talk to other SEMA customers in our forum
- information on SEMA
 (including photos and a short
 description of almost all our staff so
 you know who you are dealing with)
- ... and, and, and.



Homepage of the SEMA website

There is a lot to discover.

Take the time and take a look at our website - you will be surprised how much else there is.

Introduction to the Manual

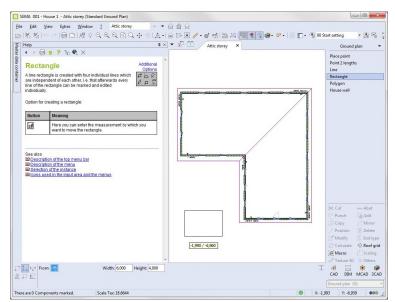
The Program's Help Function

To make sure that after the introduction to our program with the manual you can quickly move on, we integrated an extensive F1 Help function for our program.

The context-sensitive Help follows your movements, so to speak, and you will always find the necessary help and information for the currently active command or part of the program.

In addition to that, you can also go through the guided help topics function by function and read the information there.

That means you no longer have to study thick volumes of user manuals. Right after the Installation Guide of this basic manual, you find a detailed description of the integrated program Help.



context-sensitive Help in the program (you can also click the links in the graphics/illustrations)

Seminars and Trade Fairs

But even the best descriptions for self-instruction cannot replace professional training courses.

With our qualified, professional instructors you will quickly learn to operate the program without losing endless time by try and error.

We have put together a comprehensive, varied training program for our customers, so that everybody will find the right course for her/his specific needs. It goes without saying that all our courses are held in small groups.

But what is most important: our instructors have practical experience and train you for your practical work!

And please: Do not hesitate to contact us if you have any problems. Let us know if there are any problems with your system's environment and also if you have specific suggestions and wishes. We need your feedback to perfect our programs. Thus we can show you that we are not a slow machinery but a spirited enterprise.

We wish you every success with your SEMA Software!

Alexander Neuss Managing Director

/ Muss

P.S.:

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our customer service:

E-Mail: support@sema-soft.com Phone: +49 8304 - 939 140 Fax: +49 8304 - 939 245

If for once you cannot reach anybody in our office, please leave a message on our answering machine – we will call you back as soon as possible.

Installation Guide

General Information on Setting up



Before setting up, please close all other applications.

When you install SEMA, it does not affect old versions of our timber construction programs – these versions will neither be deleted nor altered in any way! The settings can be taken over from older versions.

The installation program sets up the SEMA programs on the hard disk of your computer. Please note that the installation forms the basis of your future work with the program. Please proceed very carefully!

Therefore, take your time and carry out the installation step by step as described in the installation guide. We can only guarantee the proper functioning of our programs if you install them using this installation program.

SEMA Installation

The installation of the SEMA program system under Windows is done via a separate installation program.

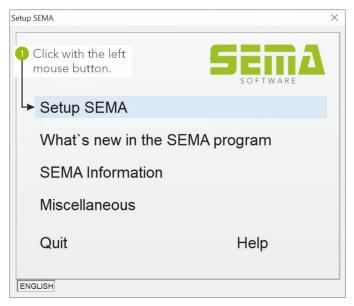


Starting the EXE-file under Windows:

After downloading, run the EXE-file. The SEMA installation program will start. The EXE-file is automatically saved in the Windows download folder.

*.EXE

Next Steps after the start:



The entry page of SEMA appears. Please select the desired language and type of installation:

Click with the left mouse button on the **"Setup SEMA"** box.

Installing the SEMA Programs



Please read the instructions on the screen very carefully before you take the next step or before you continue with the installation!

Please close all other programs under Windows before starting the installation. After having installed the SEMA program, we recommend to close Windows and to restart your computer!

In the following, we deal with the installation type most commonly used: the *complete local* installation of the SEMA on your computer.

Depending on whether and which type of program version is already set up on your computer, the installation program distinguishes three cases:

1. First Installation

If no SEMA program version has yet been installed on your computer, the installation program will automatically start under this option.

2. First Installation with SEMA already installed

If an older SEMA version has already been installed on your computer, a dialog box will appear after starting the installation. There you can decide whether or not to adopt the settings of this older version.

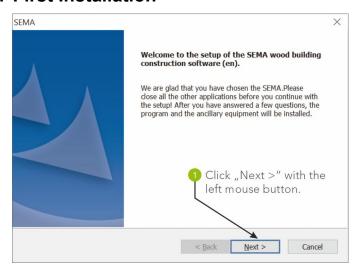
3. Change, Repair (Update Installation) or Remove (De-install Program) Program

If a SEMA program version has already been installed on your computer, you will be shown which BUILD No. has been installed.



The installation of SEMA can here be changed, automatically updated or completely removed from your system!

1. First Installation





License Agreement

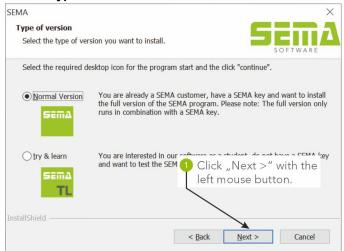
Please confirm the license agreement to continue with the setup.



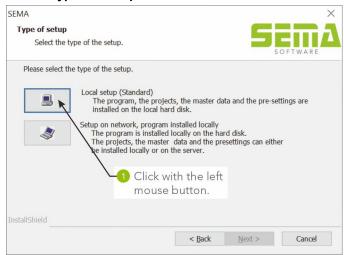
Select Target Path

As a standard, the program is filed under drive "C:" in the folder "SEMA".

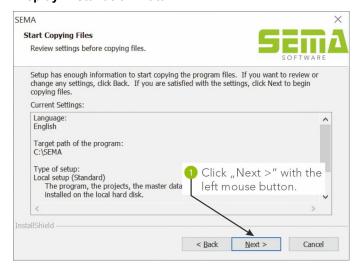
Select Type of Installation



Select Type of Setup



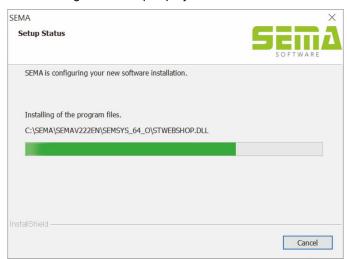
Display Installation Data



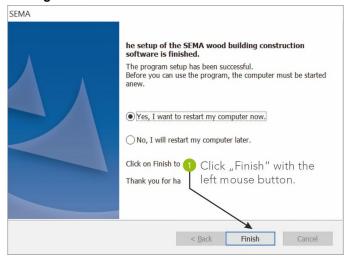
Copying the Programs

Here you can keep track of the the progress of the program installation. A diagram shows you how much of the program has already been installed.

In the background sample projects of the current version are introduced.



Ending the Installation Process



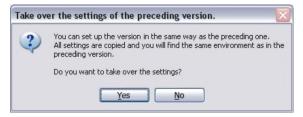


Please restart your computer after the installation of the SEMA programs. Leave **YES**, **I** want to restart my computer now selected and click **Finish**!

2. First Installation with SEMA already Installed



Adoption of Data of an Older Version.



Here you can adopt the data from the older version, which has already been installed. Later on in the installtion process you have to specify which data exactly you want to adopt.

If you confirm this query here with Yes, the selected installation path, type of installation and type of setup (e.g. standard) will be adopted.

If you do not want to adopt the data, please click No. The installation process will be continued as described under FIRST INSTALLATION.

Still, if you want to adopt the data later on after having already installed the SEMA program, you can do this via the "Extras" menu \rightarrow "Options" \rightarrow "Data transfer from ..."

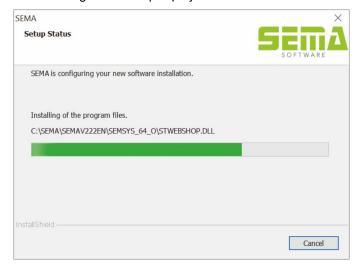
Display Installation Data



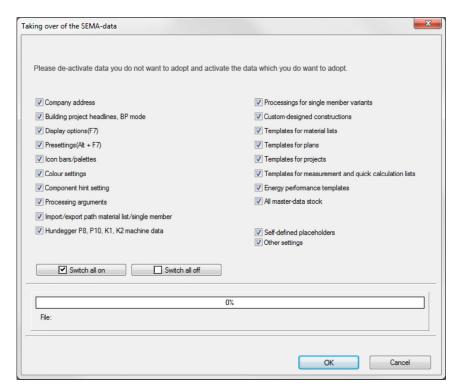
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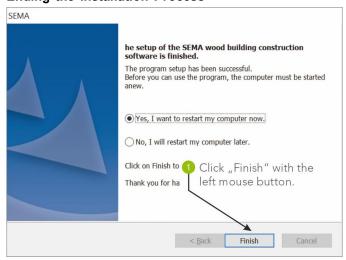


Query for Data Transfer from older version to new version



Please de-activate data you do not want to adopt and activate the data which you do want to adopt. Click on **OK** and the copying process is started.

Ending the Installation Process





Please restart your computer after the installation of the SEMA programs. Leave **YES**, **I** want to restart my computer now selected and click **Finish**!

SEMA programm-icon und SEMA Presenter

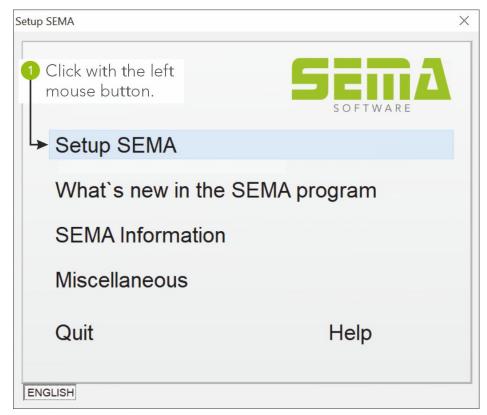


When installing the SEMA software you will find a SEMA program icon and a SEMA Presenter icon on your desktop. The SEMA Presenter is a module for the visualization of projects created with a full SEMA version. However, it's not possible to modify these projects by means of the SEMA Presenter.

3. Modify, Repair (Update Installation) or Remove (De-Install Program) Program

Here a installation can be changed, automatically updated or completely removed from your system.

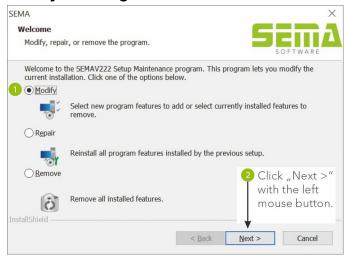
If a SEMA program version has already been installed on your computer, you will be shown which BUILD No. has been installed. A submenu with two further options will appear after clicking the button.



After clicking the installation button opens a drop-down menu with following options:

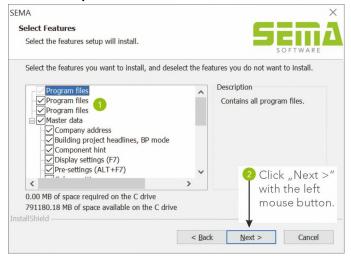
- 3.1 Modify Program
- 3.2 Repair Program
- 3.3 Remove Program

3.1 Modify the Program



Click the option $\underline{\textit{Modify}}$ to

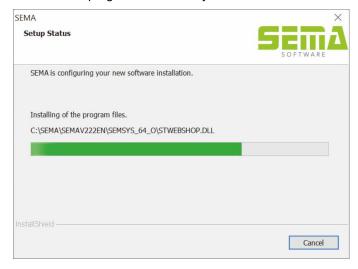
Select Components



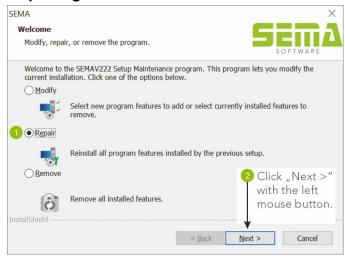
Select the components you want to install, and clear the components you do not want to install (e. g. company adress or display settings).

Copying the Programs

Here you can keep track of the progress of the program installation. A diagram shows you how much of the program has already been installed.



3.2 Repairing

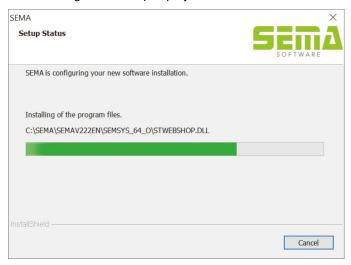


The setup option *Repair* installs all program data anew. In addition, all master data, the plan administration etc. are installed anew. Data which has been newly created or edited will not be affected.

Copying the Programs

Here you can keep track of the progress of the program installation. A diagram shows you how much of the program has already been installed.

In the background sample projects of the current version are introduced.



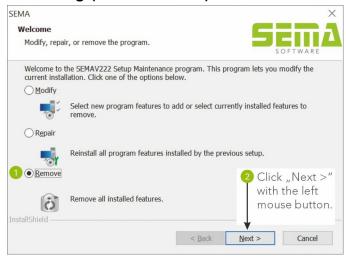
Ending the Update Installation



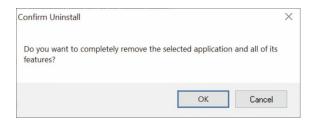
We recommend to restart your computer after the update installation.

Close all open programs under Windows and click -> Shut Down... to end Windows and to restart your computer!

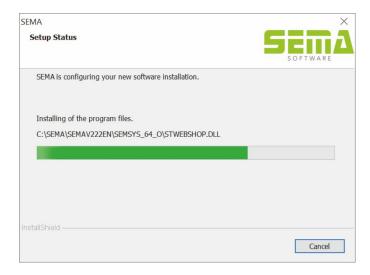
3.3 Removing (De-installation)



Click the option **Remove** to de-install the already installed program version.



Safety check to make sure you really want to de-install. This is your last chance to cancel the process. Once you confirmed with OK, the de-installation process starts.



Online Licensing of Software Modules

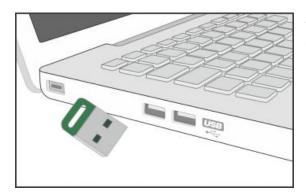
Activation of Software Modules

We provide your individual module combination of the SEMA program with all modules you have acquired online for activation. This means, you can either enable an already installed Try&Learn version to become a full SEMA version or activate later acquired modules for your SEMA program.

Automatic Online Licensing via Internet



The <u>automatic</u> online activation only works if your computer is connected to the internet and the SEMA program or the SEMA Try&Learn version has been correctly installed on your computer.

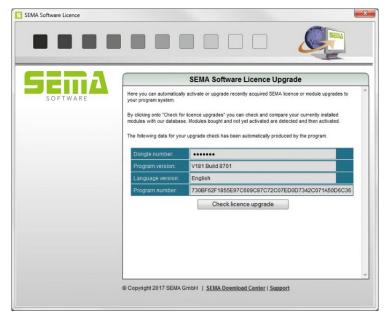


To start the online licensing process, insert the supplied key in a free USB port of your computer!

Now start the already installed SEMA program or SEMA Try&Learn version.



After starting the program, the "New license" window will open if you are connected to internet. Please confirm by the button "Start online licensing now"!



Click the "Check license update" button.

This triggers a check of your locally installed modules with your data filed at SEMA.



If your license has been successfully enabled or your modules updated, the corresponding message will appear.

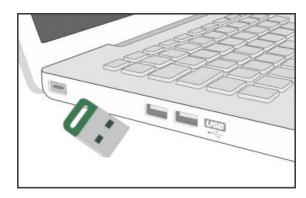
When you then close the window, the program is closed as well.

After restarting the program, you can use the SEMA program with all acquired modules.

Manual Offline Licensing without Internet Connection



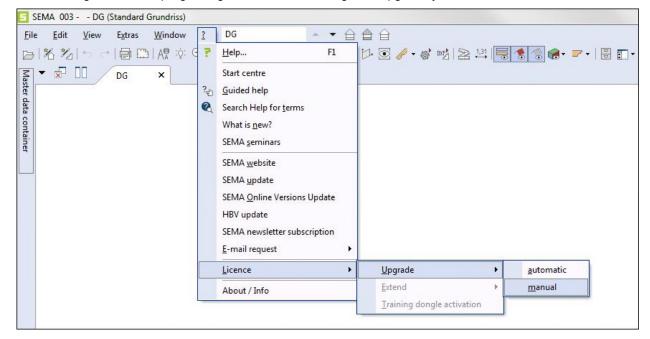
For manual licensing, the SEMA program or the SEMA Try&Learn version needs to be correctly installed on your computer.



To start the manual offline licensing process, insert the supplied key in a free USB port of your computer.

Now start the already installed SEMA program or SEMA Try&Learn version.

After starting the SEMA program, go to "?" -> "Licensing" -> "Upgrade your current license" -> "manual".



Online Licensing



Please insert manually the license code number which you can find on the delivery note and confirm by \mathbf{OK} .



If your license has been successfully enabled or your modules updated, the corresponding message will appear.

When you then close the window, the program is closed as well.

After restarting the program, you can use the SEMA program with all acquired modules.

 \triangle

If you encounter any technical problems or get error messages during the activation process, please contact SEMA customer support at +49 8304 - 939 140.

Online Licensing

Short Description of the Program Help

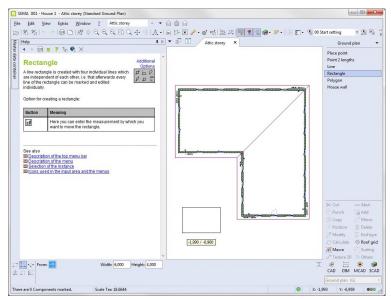
Introduction

To make things easier for you and to make sure you don't have to go through substantial manuals, we created a comprehensive Help function for our program.

It is completely integrated into the SEMA system and thus working with our programs becomes even easier and more efficient.

When we created this help feature, we focused on the most important points and illustrated them with practical examples – so that you can find everything you need at a glance.

This summary is to give you an overview of how the Instant Help works as well as to introduce you to the manifold possibilities this help tools offers.



Context-sensitive Help in the SEMA system - via F1

System Requirements

To be able to use the integrated Instant Help, you need to have an Internet Explorer for Windows, Version 4.x or higher.

Accessing Instant Help

So, if you don't know how to continue or have some kind of problem, simply press the **function key F1** and the relevant Help topic will appear.

Interesting Facts about Help

The Help function feature has been fully integrated into the SEMA program system, so you can work parallel on the project at any time.

Context-sensitive help means that always the relevant help topic for the active command is available, e.g. for the creation function "Place rafter" you automatically find the relevant information on placing rafters when you click the "?".

When you move on to another command, the Help function automatically "follows" and the help topic for this specific command is immediately displayed.

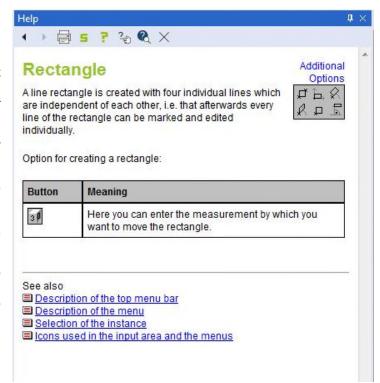
Program Help

About Using Help

After you have clicked the "?", the drawing area will be divided into two sections and the help topic will be displayed on the left side of the screen in a separate window. And here you find further explanations for the command you are currently using.

In some cases (display options, presettings etc.) the Help topic is presented in a separate window to explain it better. Here you can switch between the Help topic and the SEMA program with the alt+tab key combination (= task change). Otherwise, everything works the same way as in the context-sensitive Help.

<u>Text underlined in blue</u> shows a link to further relevant topics. If you click on such a link, the program automatically goes to that help topic.



To keep the Instant Help fairly short and also to give it a clear layout, graphics (mainly buttons) have been linked as well. If you move with the mouse to such a linked graphic you will see that the mouse pointer changes into a hand. You find this feature for example for the graphical display of the additional options for the creation commands.



If there is no function or command active or if there is no help topic for it, some general information about the program is displayed.

Icon Bar of the Integrated Help

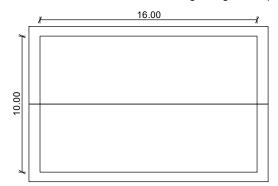
Button	Meaning
4	To navigate through the context-sensitive Help. Goes back to the previous Help topic.
•	To navigate through the context-sensitive Help. Goes to the next Help topic.
	To print out the active Help topic.
S	To go to the Features + Release History of the current version.
?	To open the general Help for the program. Here you can get a general overview of how to use the program.
25	To open the context-sensitive Help for the program. Here you can get a general overview of the Help topics for all parts of the program.
Q	Search function of the context-sensitive Help.
×	To close Help.

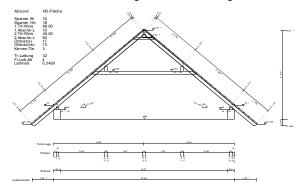
Brief Introduction with the Help of an Example

Creation of a Rafter System for a Saddle Roof with Joining Drawing and Material List (Timber List)

Task:

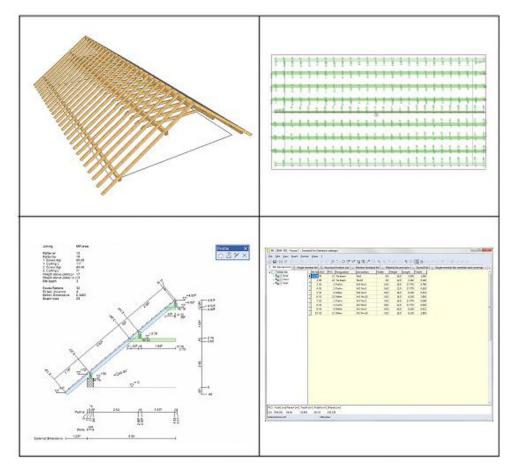
Please enter a roof for a rectangular ground plan of 10 x 16 m according to the following details:





Result:

In the end, you will have created a 3D image, a purlin system, a profile drawing and the material list!



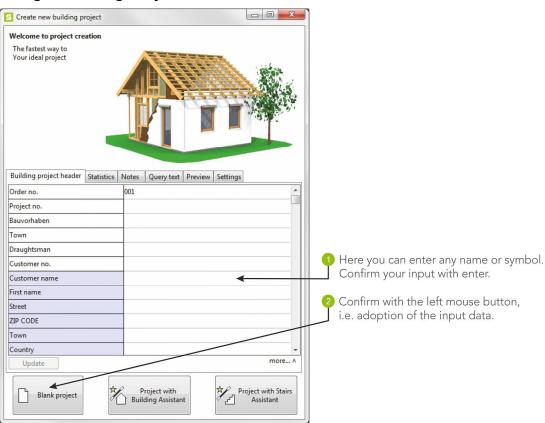
Task

1. Creating a New Building Project

After the start of the SEMA program, the following Start Center will appear:



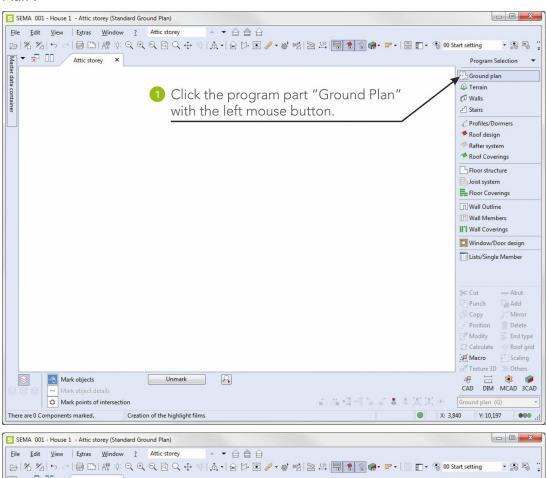
1.1 Filing a Building Project

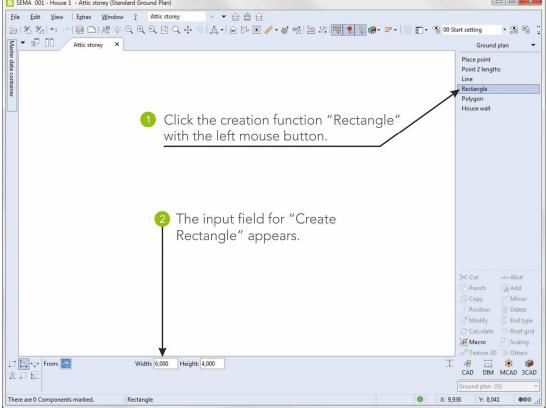


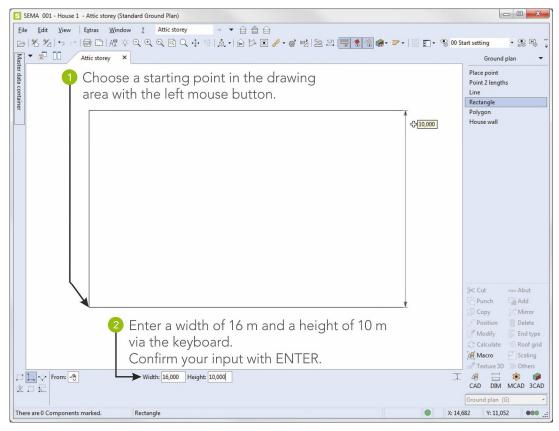
The menu window is closed and the building project which you have created is opened in the drawing area.

2. Creating a Ground Plan

Create the ground plan of a house with $10 \times 16 \text{ m}$, but first select the part of the program "Ground Plan".

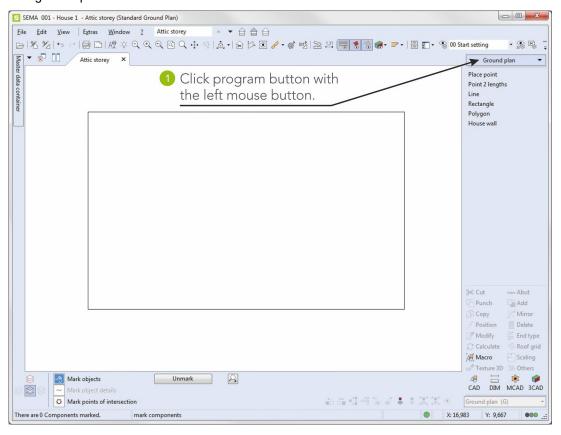






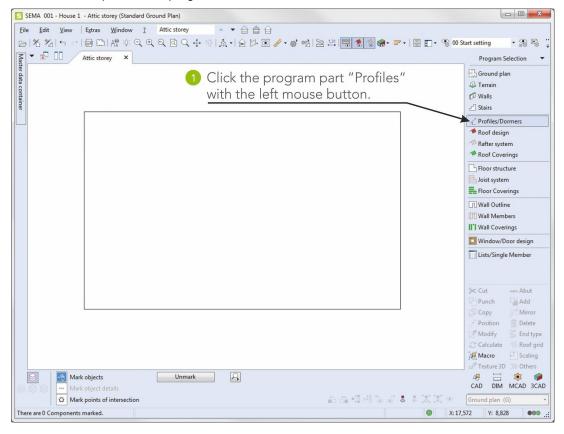
Close the function with Esc (ESC).

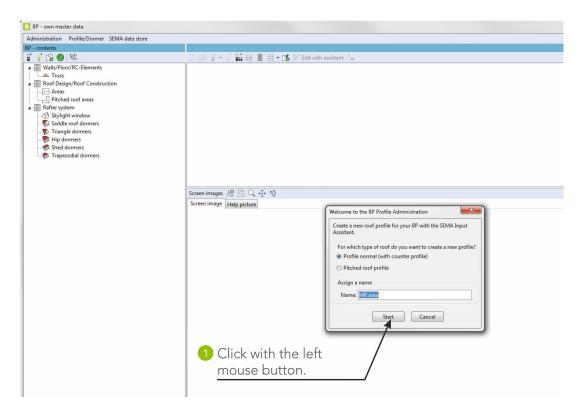
The ground plan is finished:



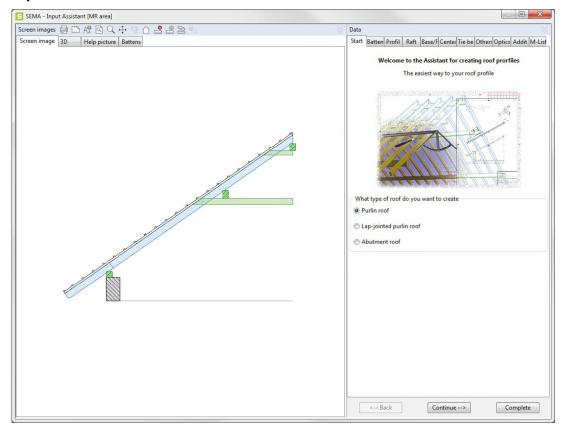
3. Creating a Purlin Roof Profile

First select the part of the programm "Profiles".

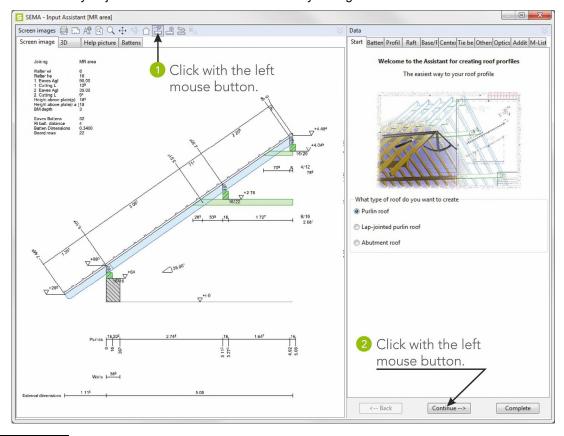




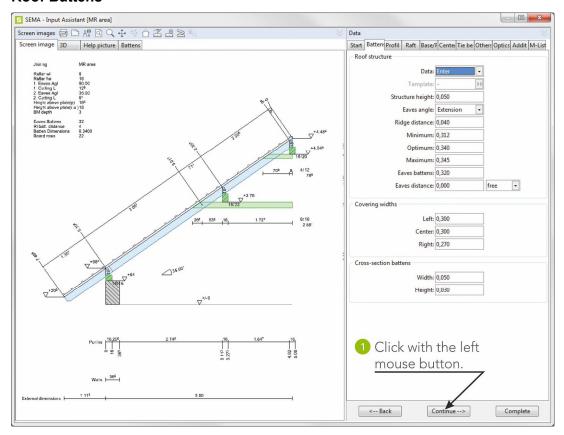
3.1 Input Assistant for Roof Profiles



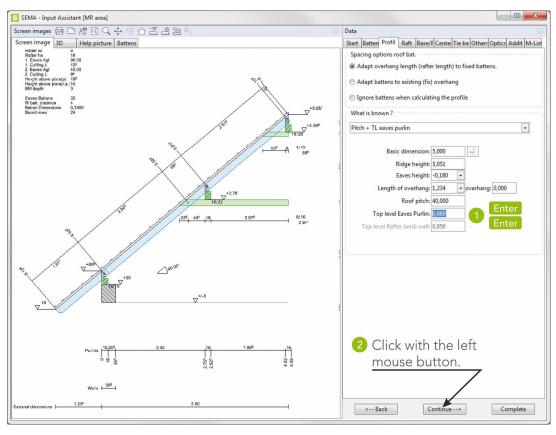
The letters and numbers are entered via the keyboard. For all fields, behind which you find the symbol Enter, the entries have to be carried out as displayed and confirmed with "Enter". For all other fields you just have to check and if necessary change the content.



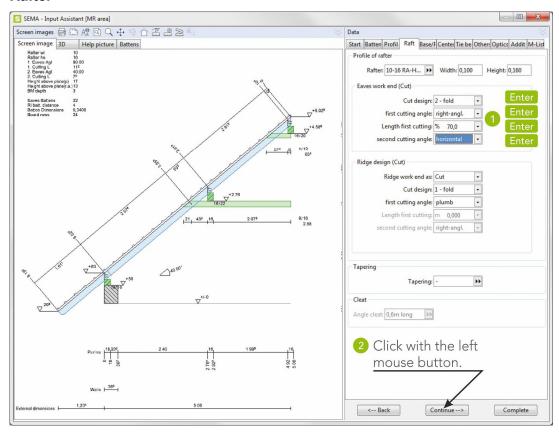
Roof Battens



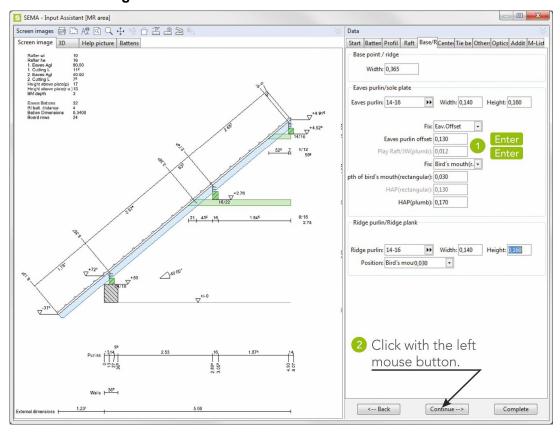
Profile



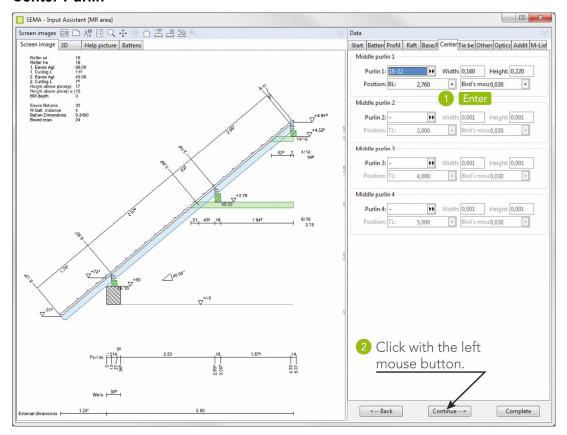
Rafter



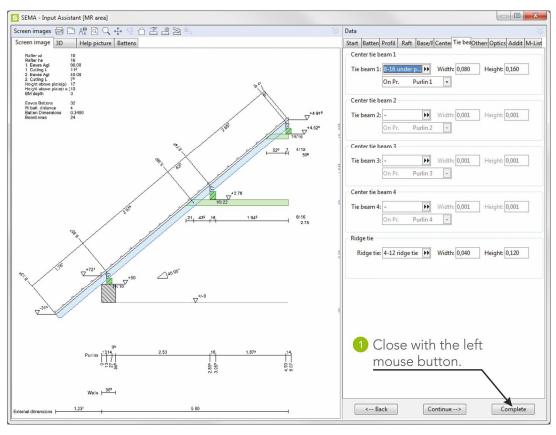
Base Point / Ridge Purlin



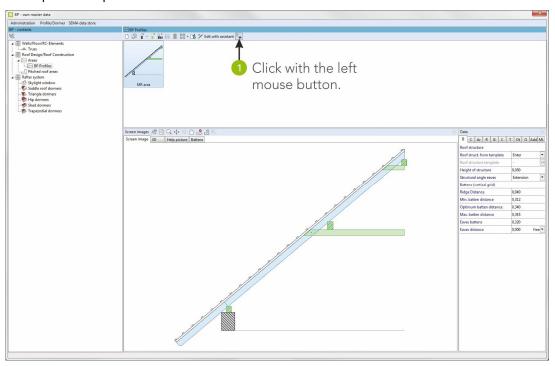
Center Purlin

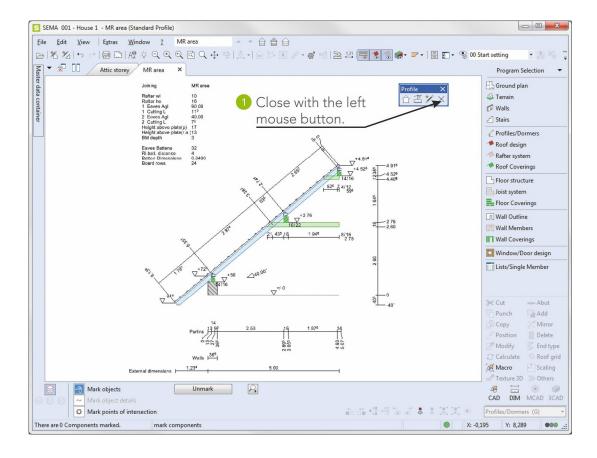


Tie-beams



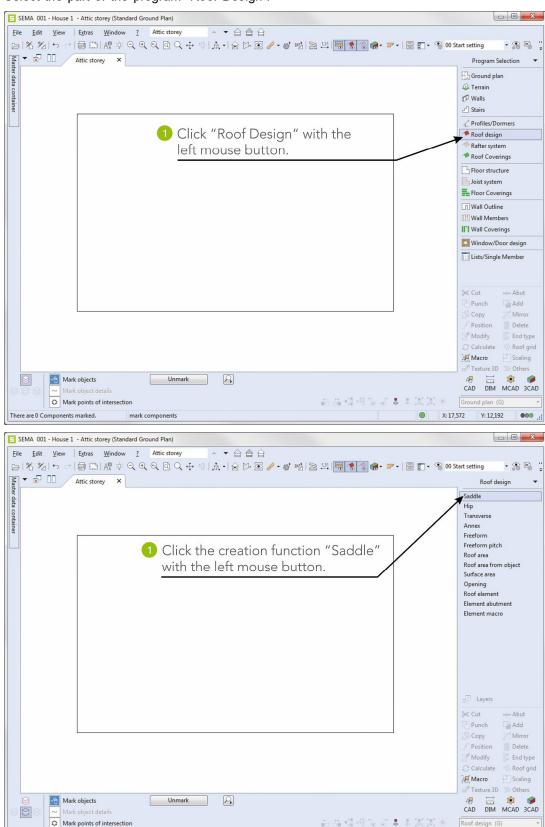
The input of the profile is finished.



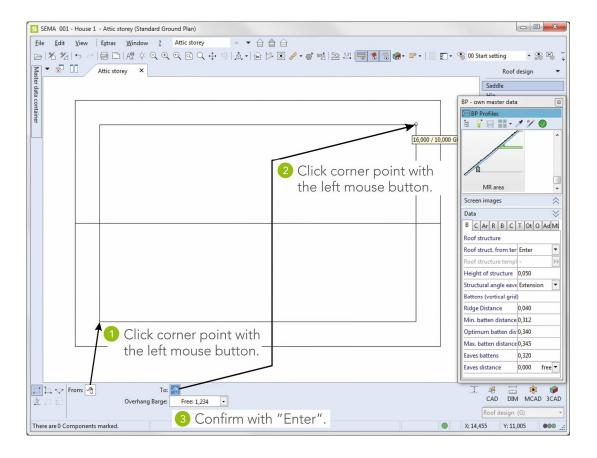


4. Creating a Roof Design

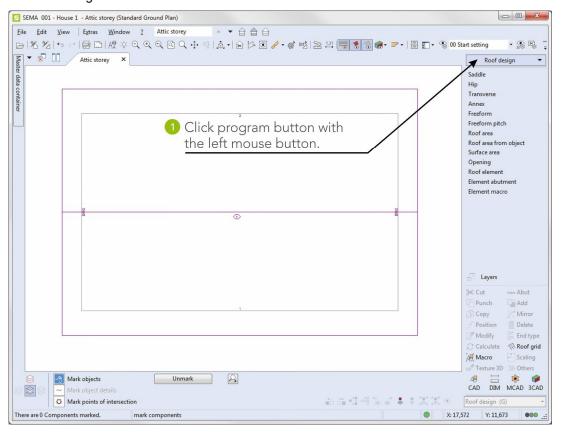
Here you can create the roof design with the existing ground plan and the profile created before. Select the part of the program "Roof Design".



X: 17,473 Y: 13,479

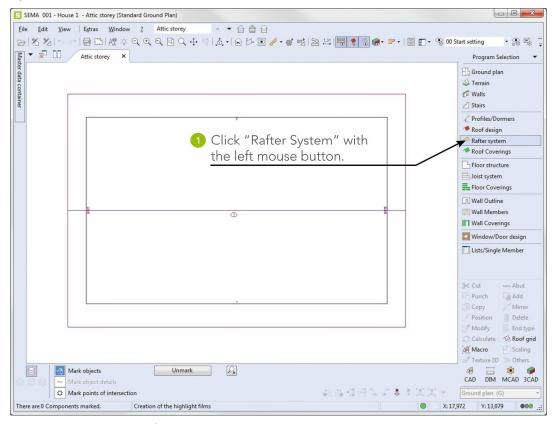


The roof design is finished.

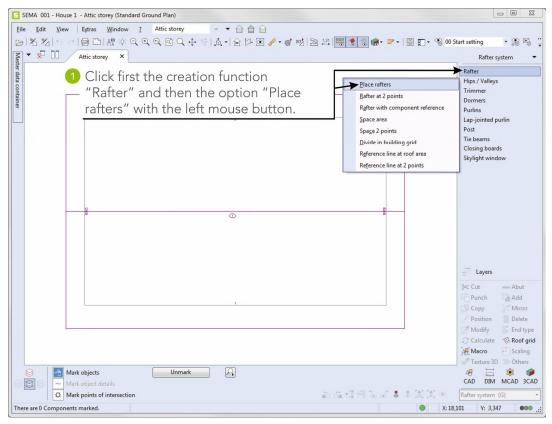


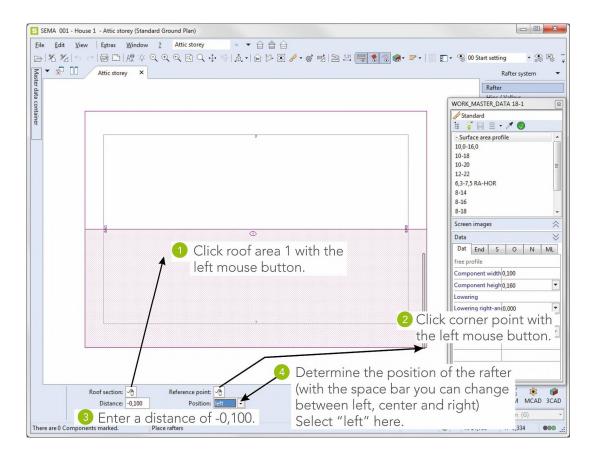
5. Creating a Rafter System

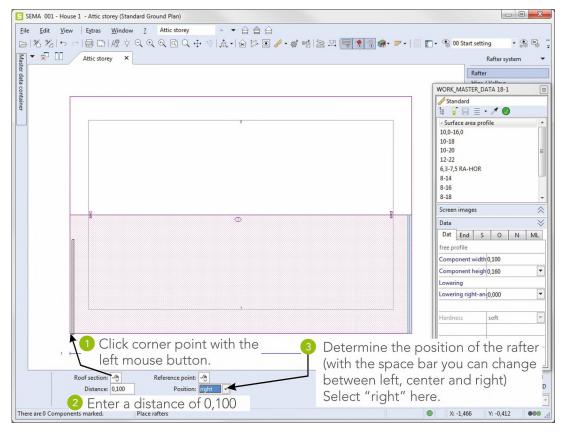
Here the components are drawn into the existing roof design. Click the program part "Rafter System".



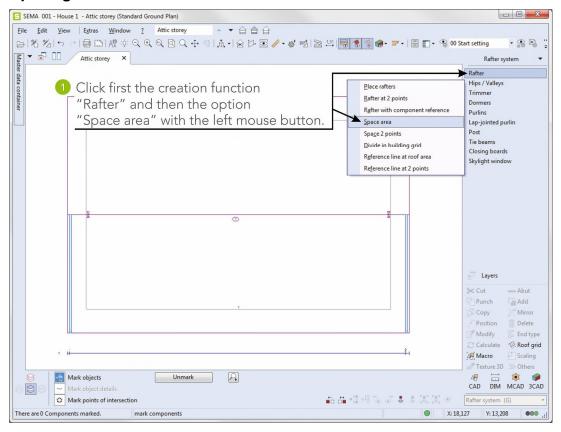
5.1 Placing a Fixed Rafter

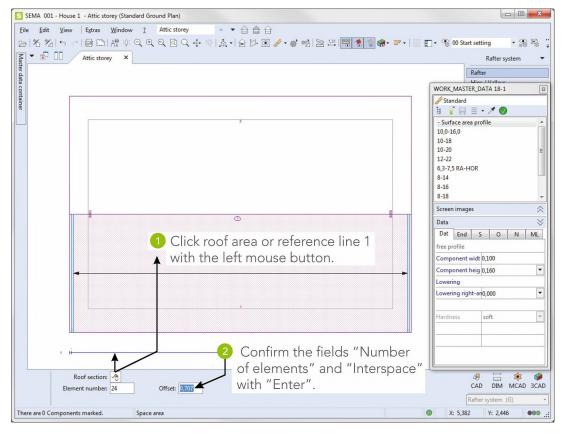






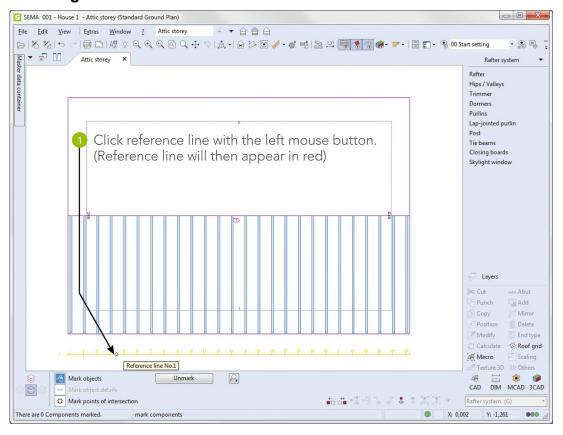
5.2 Spacing an Area

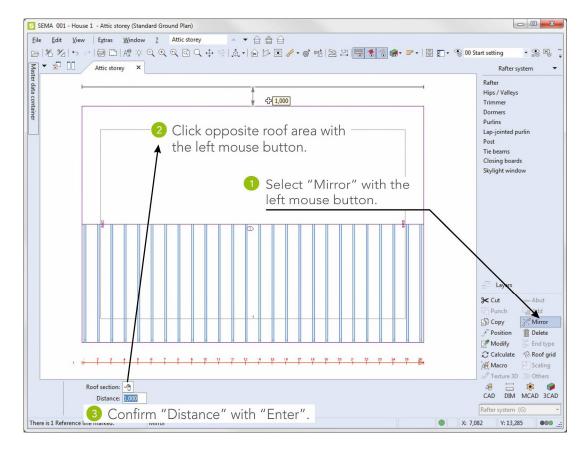




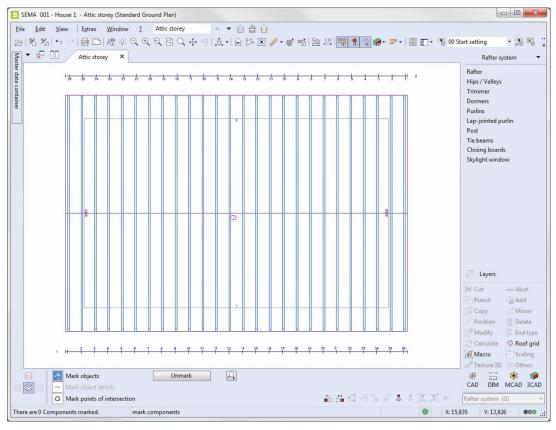
Close the function with Esc ((ESC)).

5.3 Mirroring a Reference Line



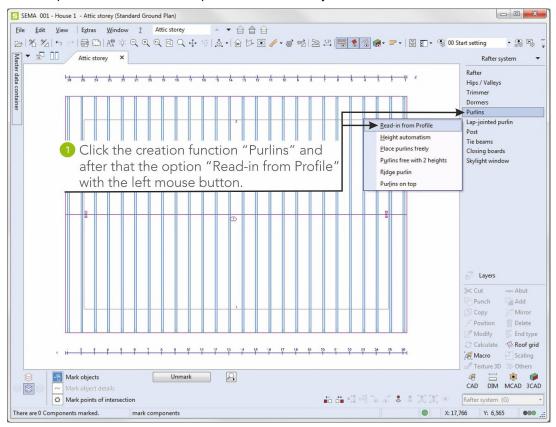


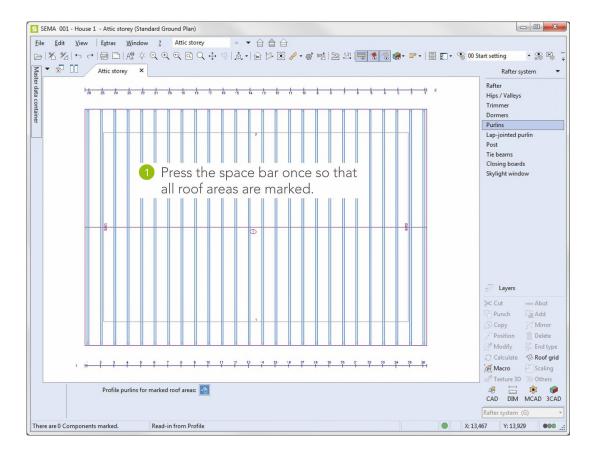
The spacing of the entire roof is finished.



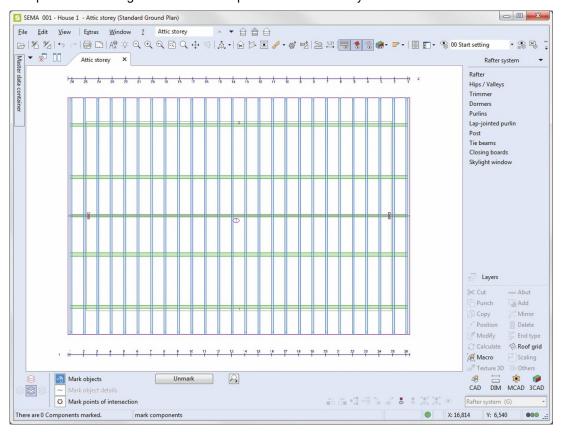
5.4 Creating Purlins

Read-in purlins from the created profile to the rafter system.



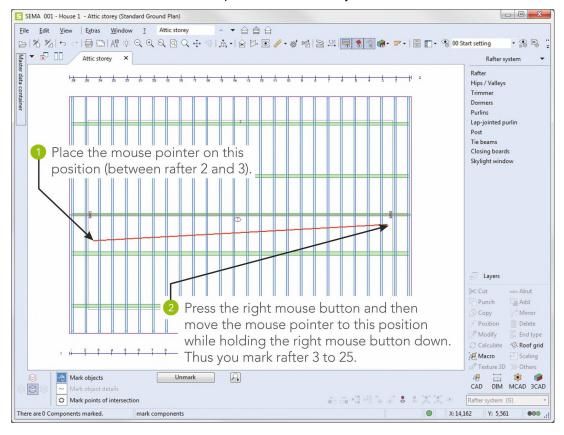


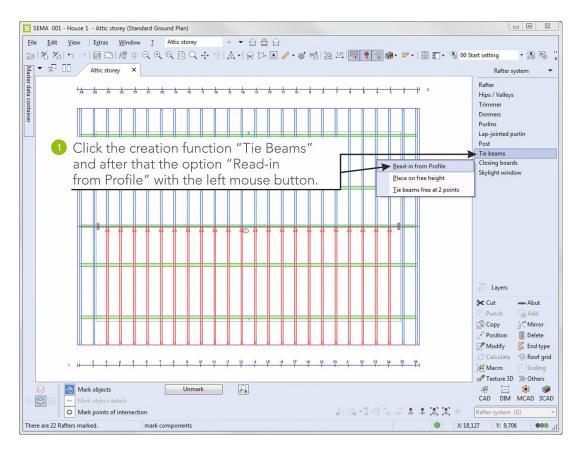
The purlins are being read-in from the profile to the rafter system.

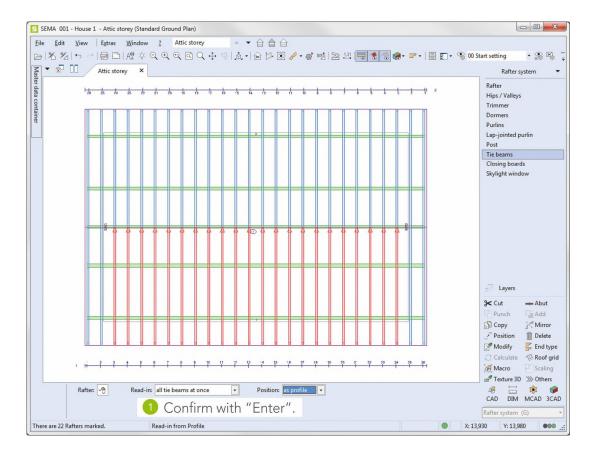


5.5 Creating Tie Beams

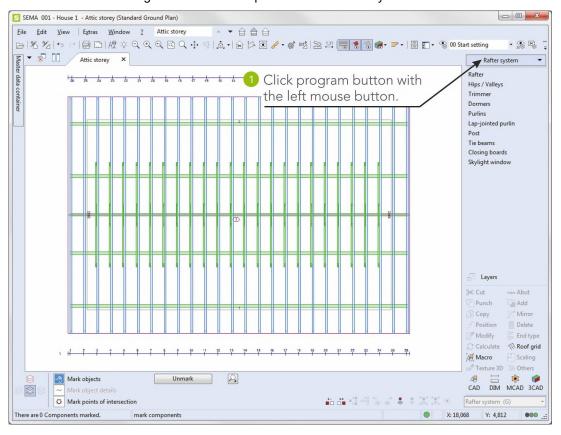
Read-in tie beams from the created profile to the rafter system.





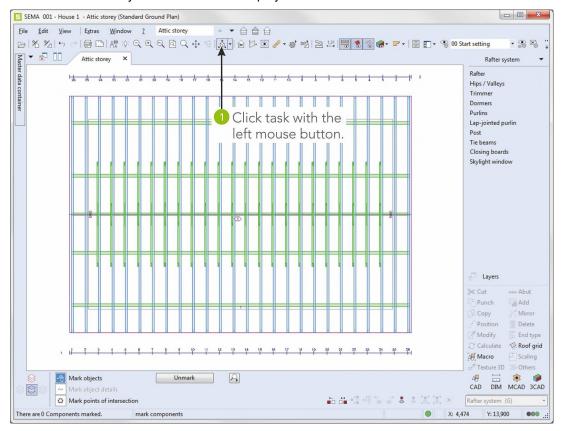


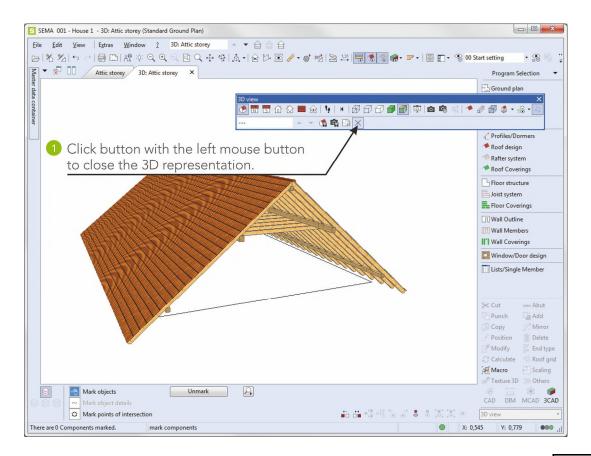
The tie-beams are being read-in from the profil and the rafter system is finished.



6. 3D View

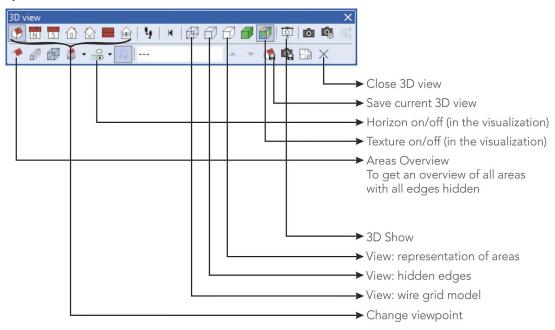
The finished rafter system can now be displayed in a three-dimensional view.





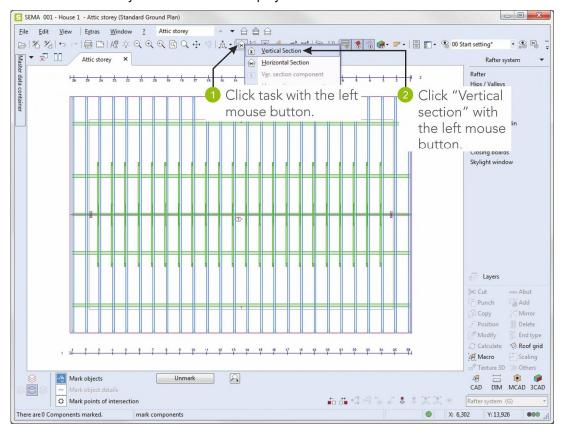
Note:

You can call up the following functions in the tool bar of the 3D view by clicking the respective symbols with the left mouse button:

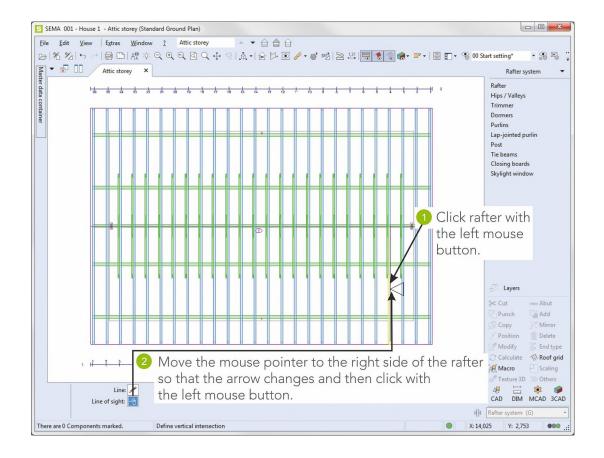


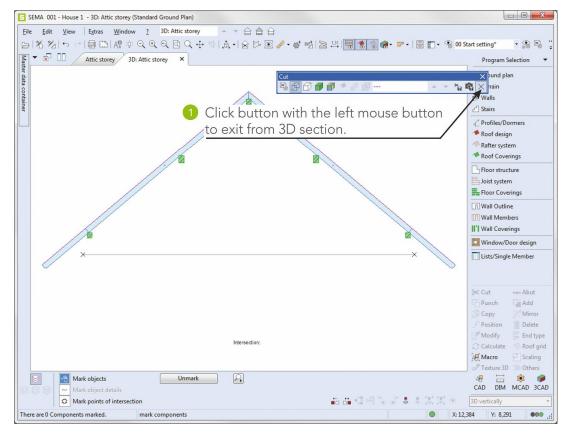
6.1 3D Section - vertical

The finished rafter system can also be displayed as a vertical section.



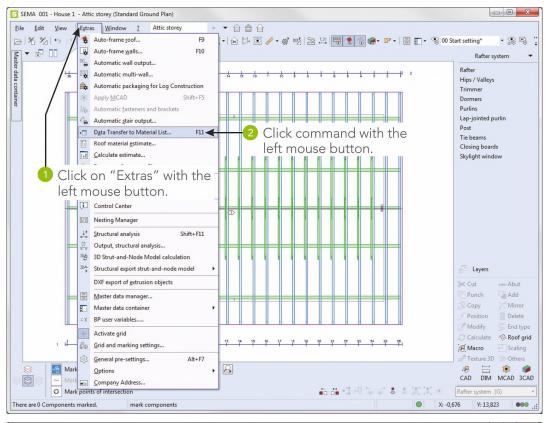


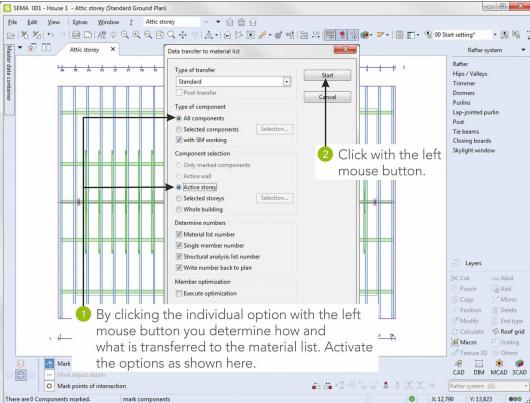




7. Transfer to the Material List

The construction program transfers all created components to the material list (timber list) with the help of which the required material can be ordered.

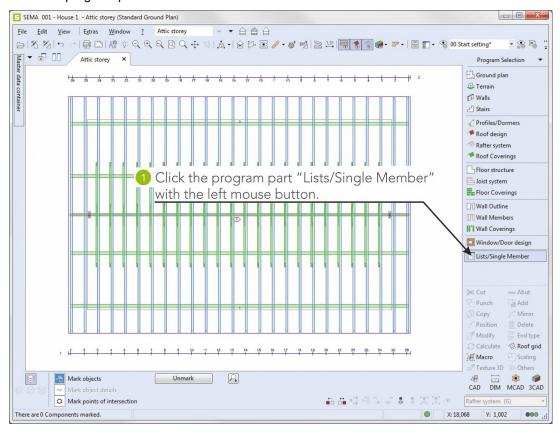


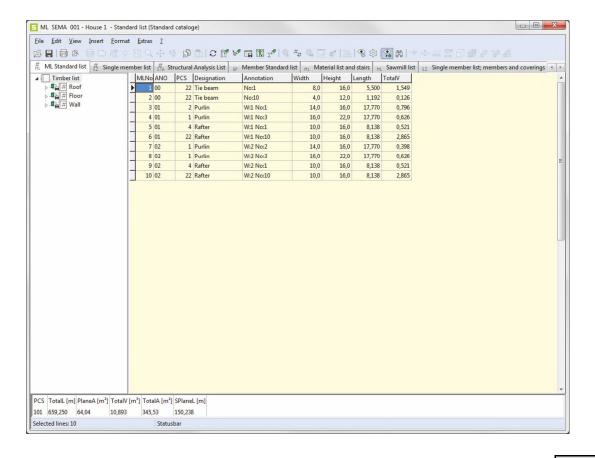


The transfer from the construction program to the material list is carried out.

7.1 Viewing and Printing of the Material List

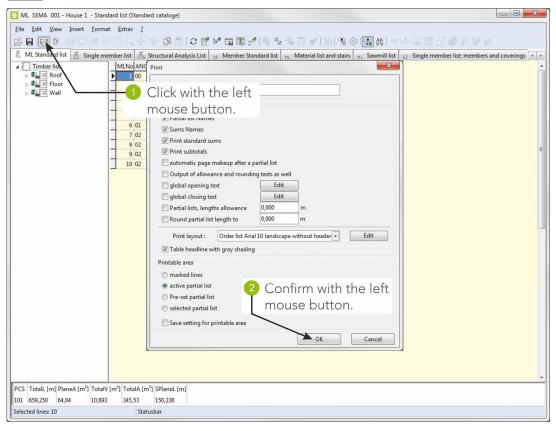
Click the program part "Material List".



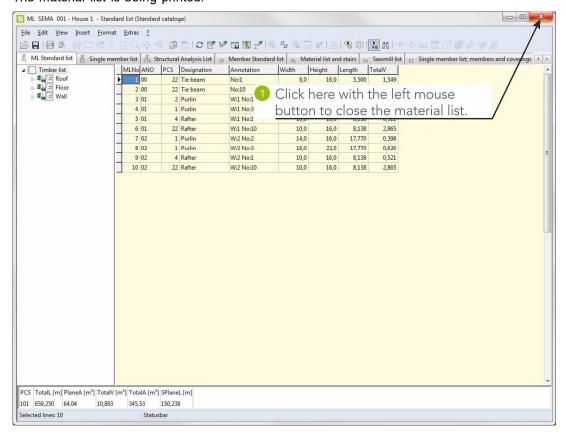




To be able to print material lists, a printer must be installed on your Windows system!



The material list is being printed.

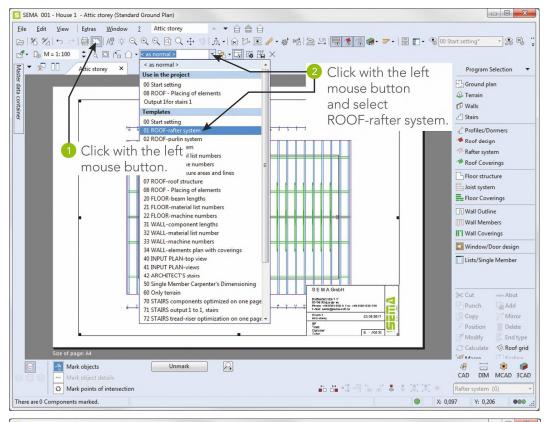


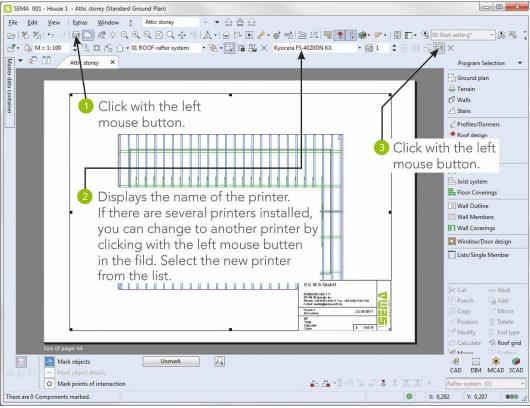
8. Joining Plans



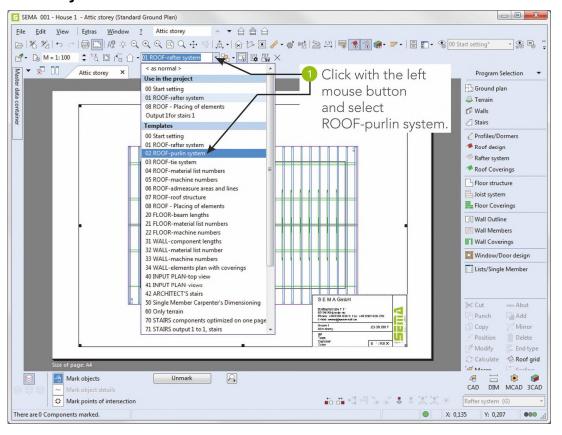
If you want to create and print joining plans, a printer/ plotter must be installed on your Windows system. If this is not the case, please skip this chapter!

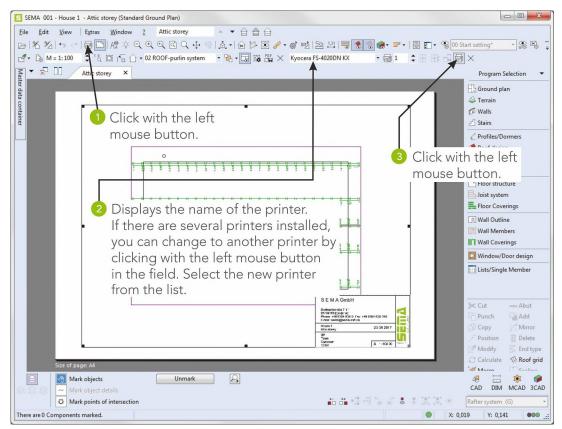
8.1 Rafter Length





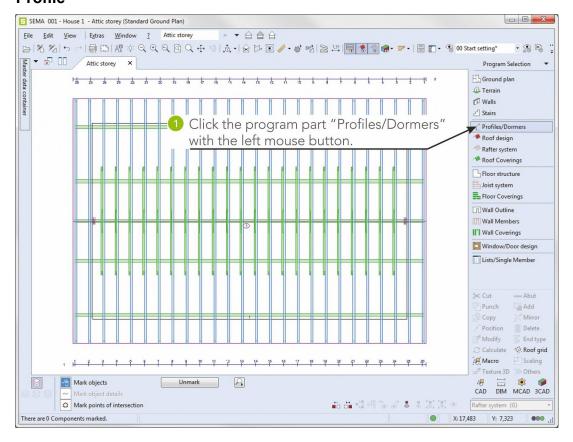
8.2 Purlin System

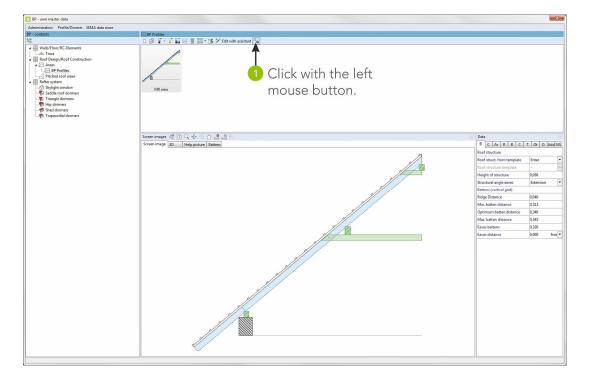


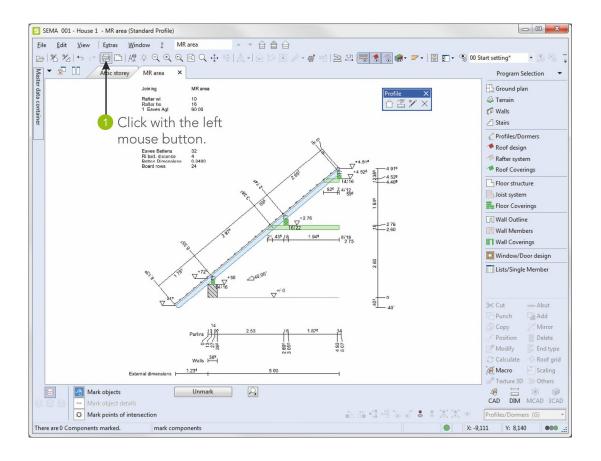


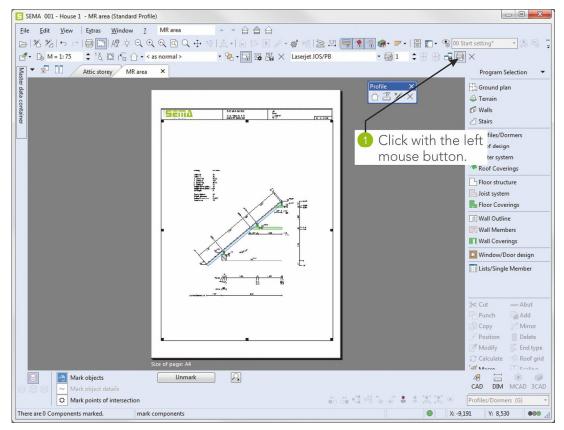
After you have printed the purlin system, close the layout view via the button x in the tool bar.

8.3 Profile









After you have printed the profile, close the layout view and then the profile drawing with \mathbf{x} in the tool bar.

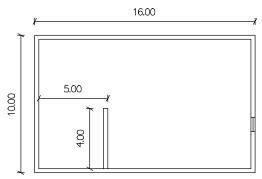
Creation of Walls in Top View with T-Wall and Intersection with the Roof

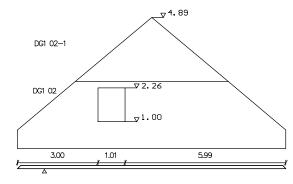


This example for the creation of walls is based on the saddle roof created before! In case the saddle roof does not yet exist, please return to the beginning to enter the saddle roof.

Task:

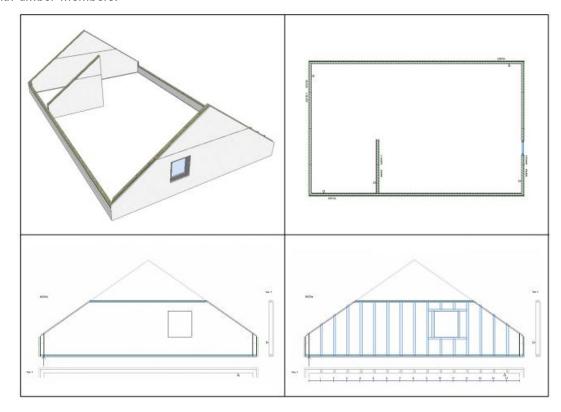
To enter walls on the rectangular ground plan of 10x16 m according to the following details:





Result:

In the end, you will have created a 3D image, a wall shape in top view, a wall view and a wall view with timber members!



1. Opening an Existing Building Project



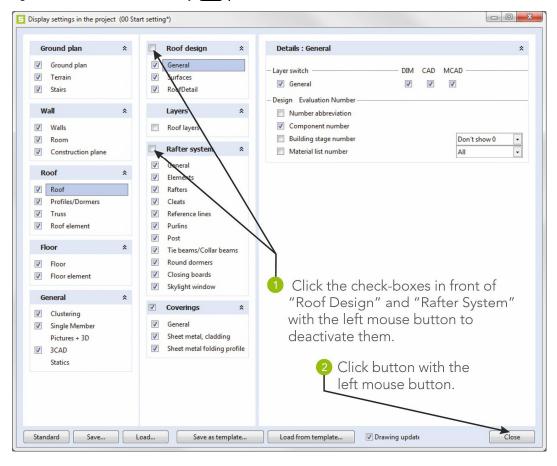
In case you have **not** closed the SEMA program after the saddle roof, you can immediately continue with point 2!

If you have closed the SEMA program, the building project created under saddle roof must be opened again!



2. Hiding the Rafter System and the Roof Design

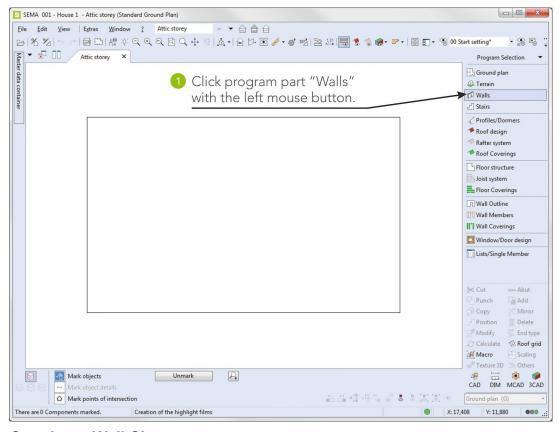
The roof design and the rafter system are hidden to obtain a letter overview. Open the "Display Settings" menu via the function key (F7)



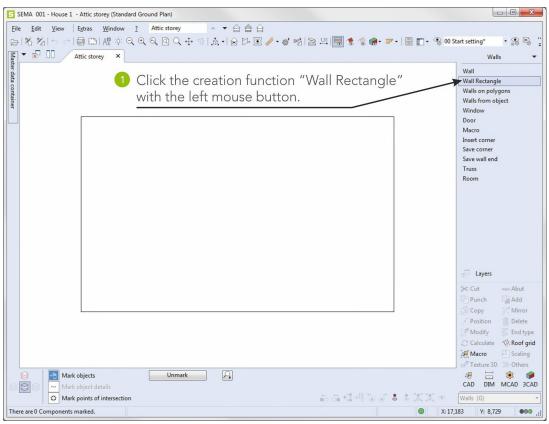
Opening Building Projekt

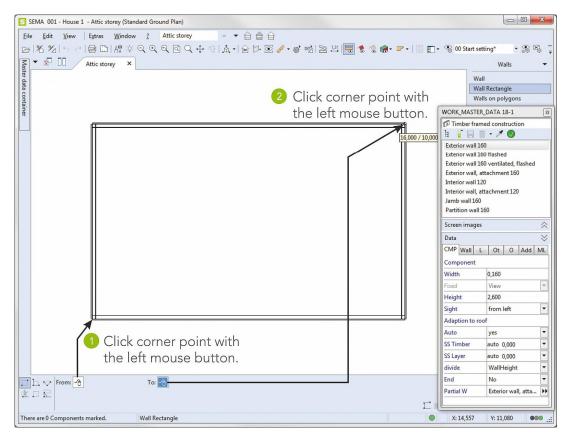
3. Creating Walls in Top View

Creation of walls on the ground plan created before. Click the program part "Walls".



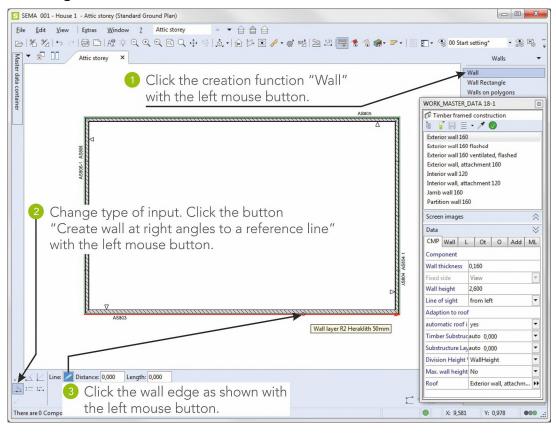
3.1 Creating a Wall Shape



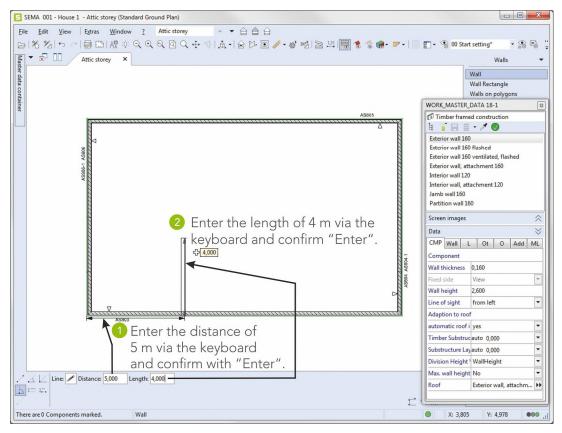


The walls are finished.

3.2 Creating a T-Wall

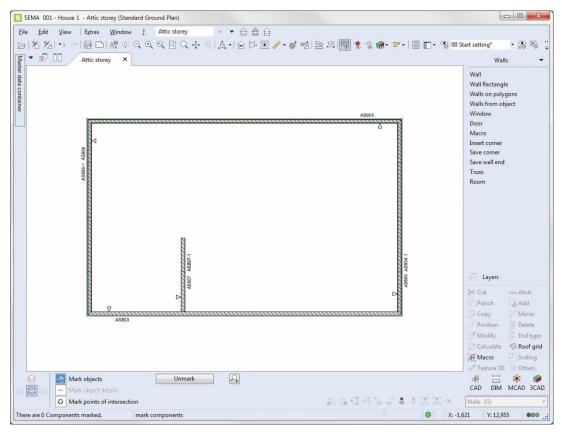


Opening Building Projekt



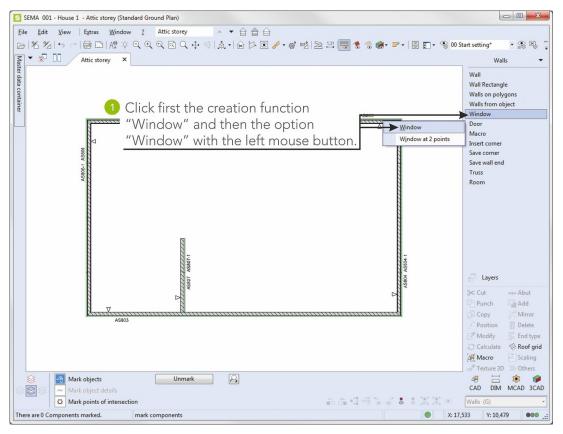
Press Esc (ESC) to end the input.

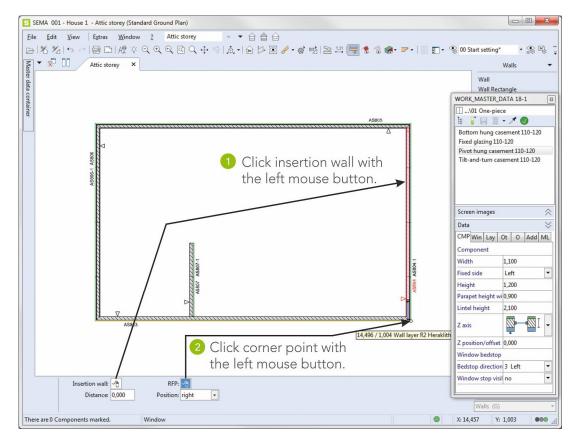
The T-wall is finished.



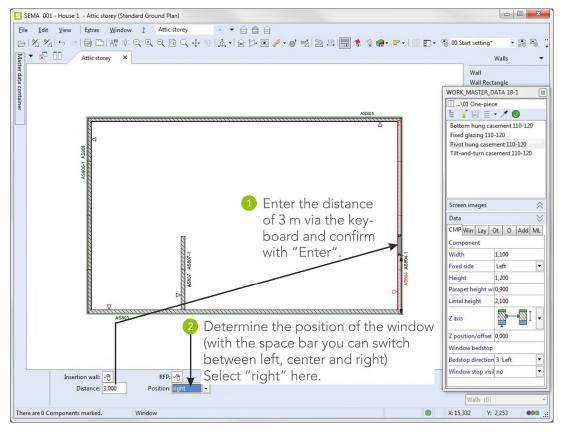
4. Inserting a Window

How to insert a window in the walls created before.



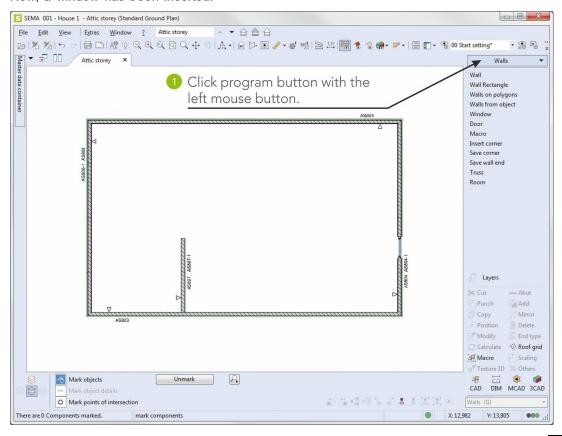


Opening Building Projekt



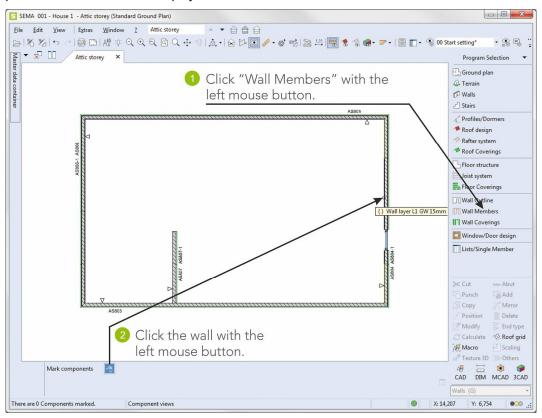
End the function with Esc (ESC).

Now, a window has been inserted.

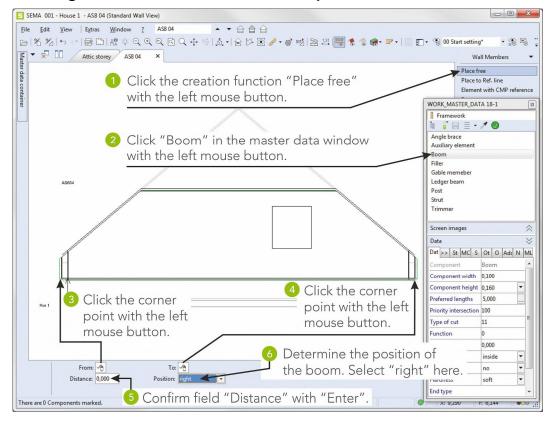


5. Creating Timber Members

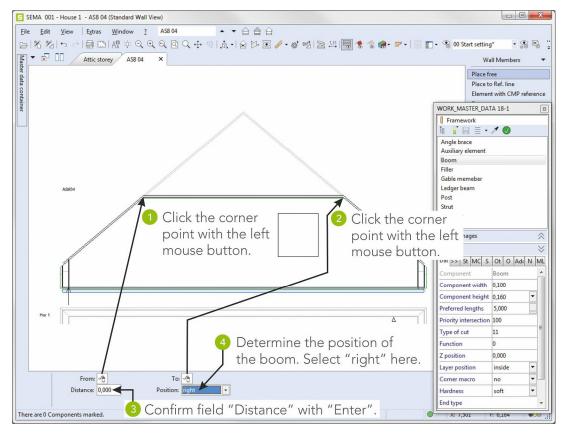
Here timber members and trimmers (windows) are inserted in an existing wall. Select the program part "Wall Members" and display the wall in front view.



5.1 Creating a Bottom Boom Timber and Top Boom Timber

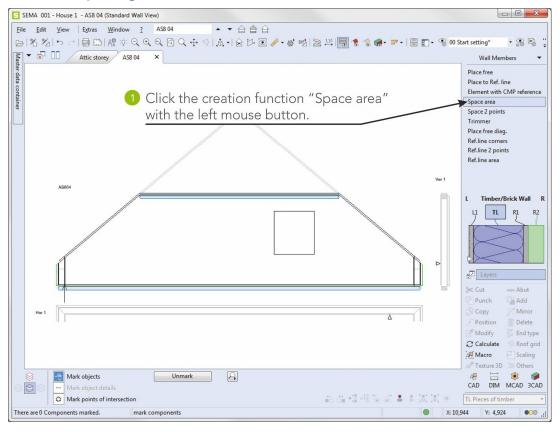


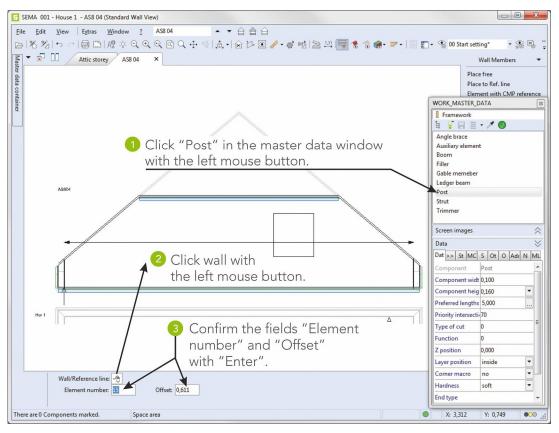
Opening Building Projekt



Once you are finished, end task with Esc ((ESC)).

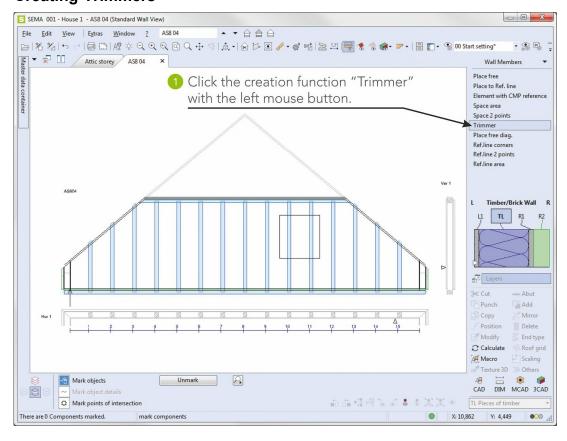
5.2 Variable Spacing of Posts



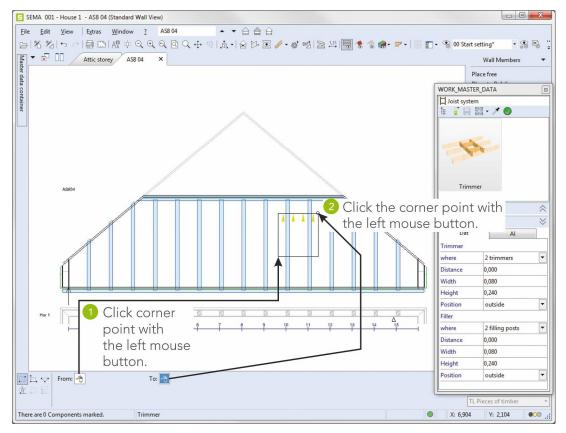


End the function with Esc ((ESC)).

5.3 Creating Trimmers

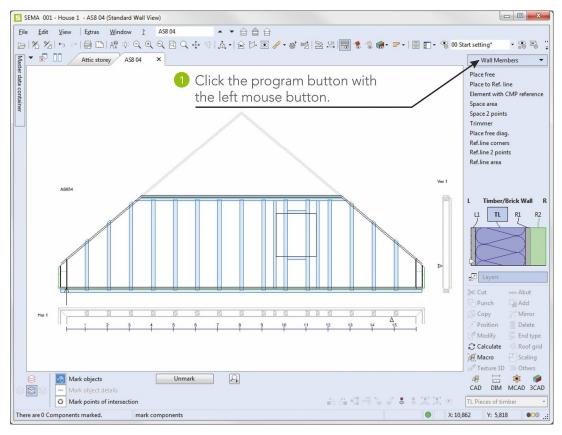


Opening Building Projekt



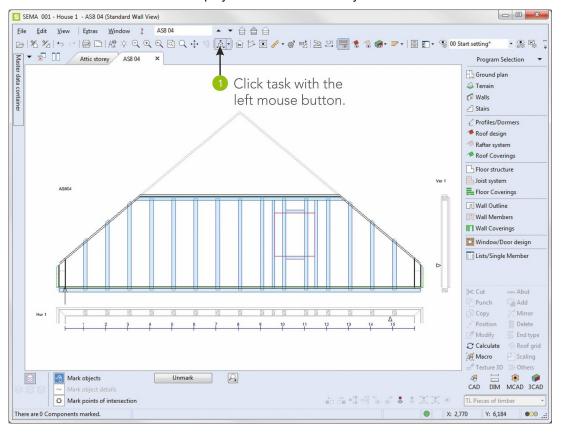
End the function with Esc ((ESC)).

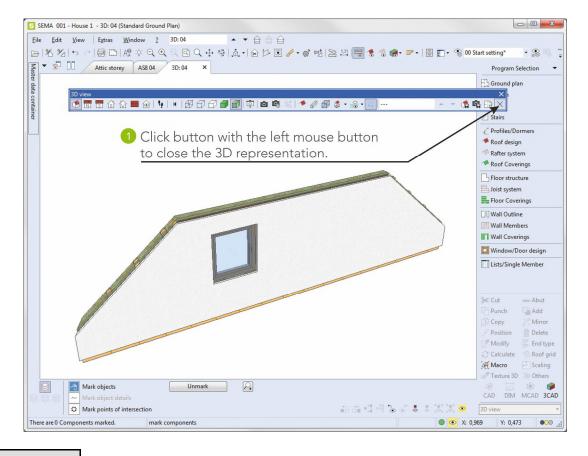
Here is the finished wall with all members.



6. 3D View

The finished wall can now be displayed three-dimensionally.





Opening Building Projekt

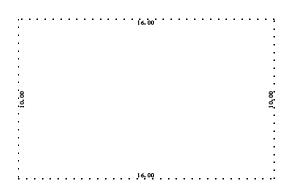
Creation of a Joist System

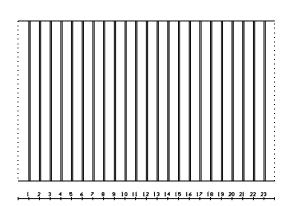


The example explained here is based on the ground plan created before! If this ground plan does not yet exist, please return to the start and enter the ground plan.

Task:

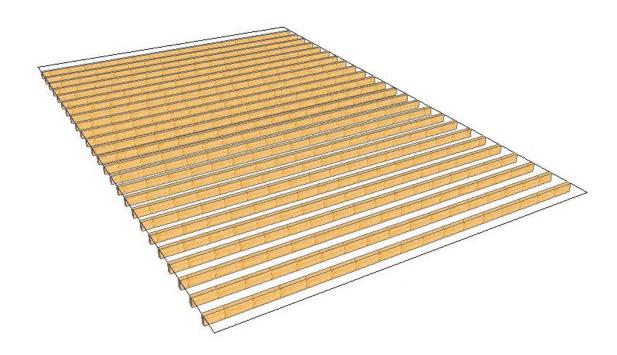
To create a joist system on the rectangular ground plan of 10×16 m created before, according to the following details!





Result:

In the end, you will see a 3D image of the joist system.



1. Opening an Existing Building Project



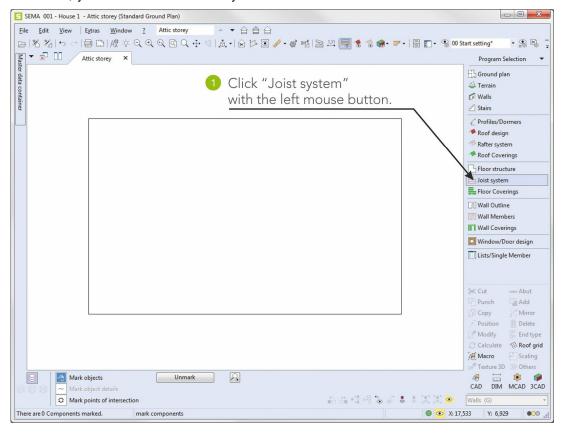
If you have **not** closed the SEMA program after the you have created the walls, you can immediately continue with point 2!

If you have closed the SEMA program, the building project created under saddle roof must be opened again!

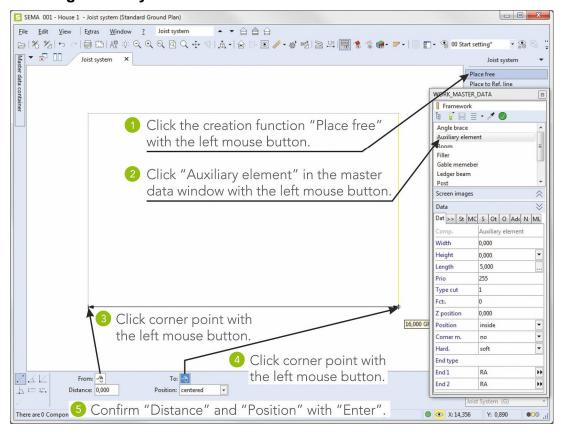


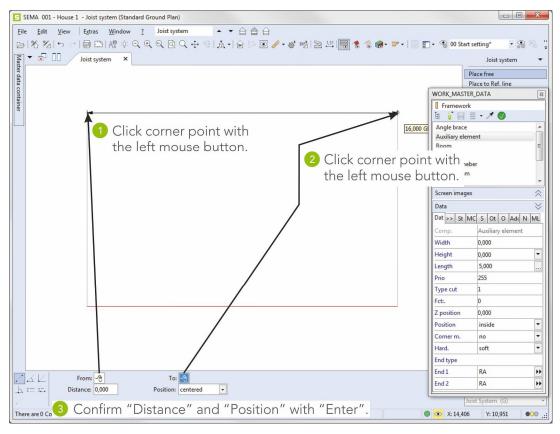
2. Creating a Joist system

First of all, you have to select "Joist system".



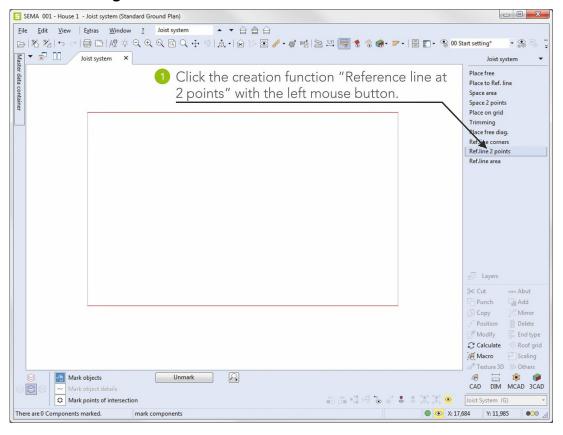
2.1 Creating Auxiliary Elements

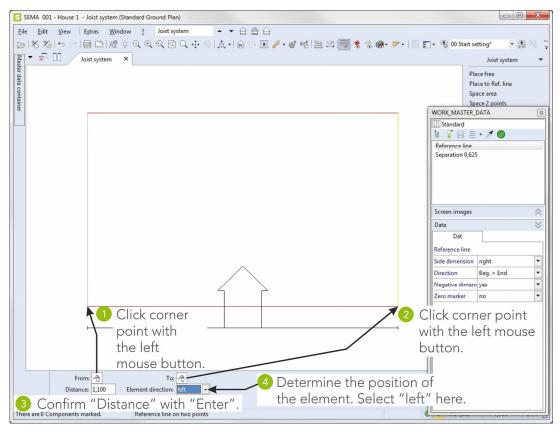




Close the function with Esc ((ESC)).

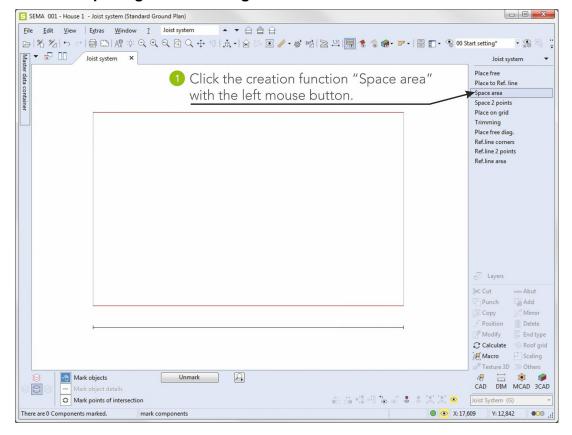
2.2 Creating a Reference Line

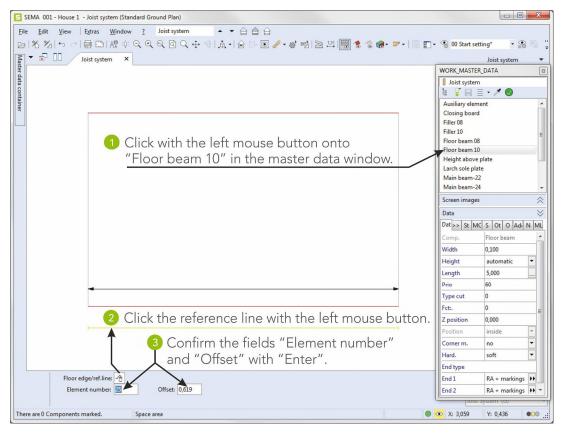




Please close the function with Esc ((ESC)).

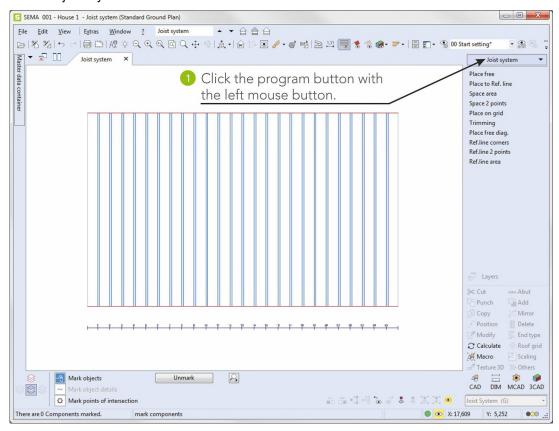
2.3 Variable Spacing of the Ceiling Beams





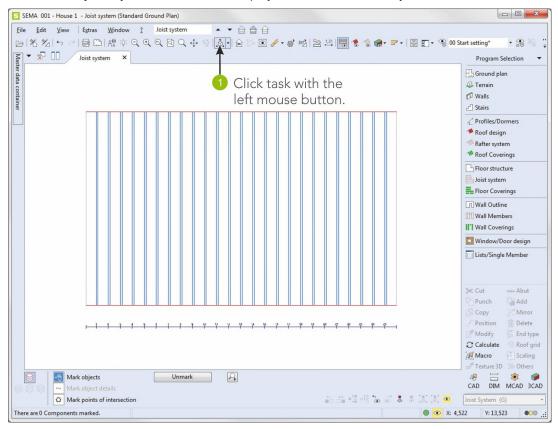
Close the function with Esc ((ESC)).

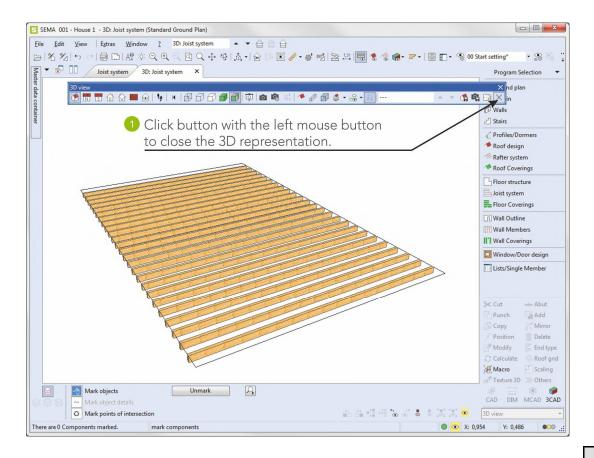
Now the joist system is finished.



3. 3D View

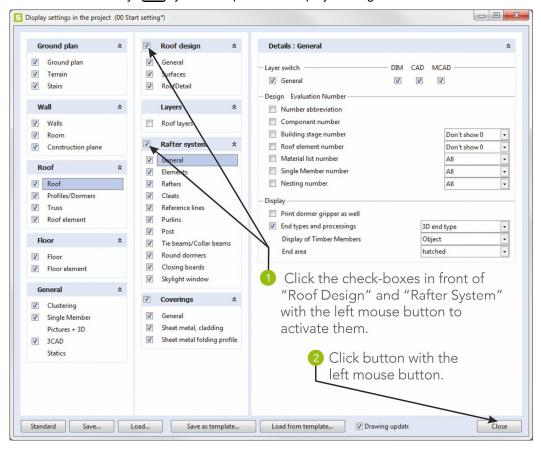
The finished joist system can now be displayed three-dimensionally.



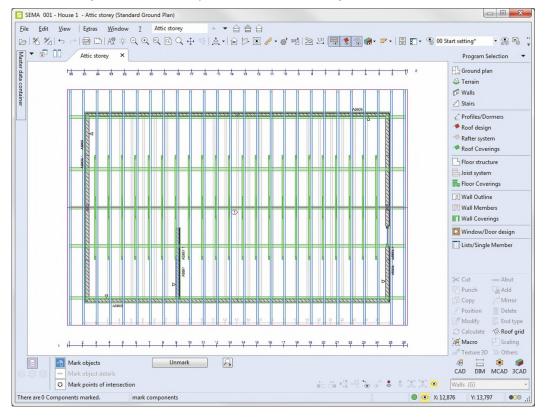


4. Switching on of the Rafter System and the Roof Design

With the function key (F7) you can open the "Display Settings" menu.



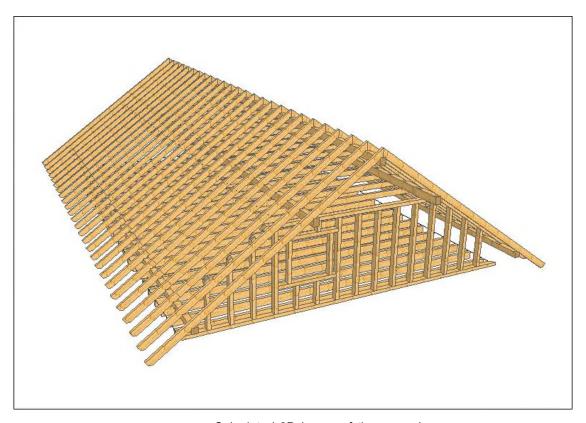
The roof design and the rafter system are now visible again.



We have arrived at the end of our brief introduction. As you could see for yourself, working with the SEMA program is simple and efficient. Nevertheless, it takes some training and exercise to get to know all the many different functions and all the ins and outs of the program.

The developed Instant Help is a powerful tool that will make your work a lot easier and enjoyable. And whenever you are stuck in the program, simply push the function key F1 (F1) and you will find the appropriate help topic.

We wish you every success with your first own projects.



Calculated 3D image of the example

P.S.: Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our customer service:

E-Mail: support@sema-soft.com Phone: +49 8304 - 939 140

If you call outside our normal office hours, please use our answering machine – we will call you back as soon as possible.



