Chief Architect®

Architectural Home Design Software

Using Molding Polylines to Create a Custom Column

The information in this article applies to:

PREMIER   INTERIORS

QUESTION

I have searched through the Millwork items that include columns in the Library Browser and have determined that none of the options will suit my needs. How can I create a completely custom column?

ANSWER

Custom columns can easily be made by creating a molding profile and extruding the profile along a closed shape. Use the CAD tools to create a custom molding profile that is the actual height of the column you wish to create and half the width minus 1/2" (the molding will be extruded around a 1" square or circle). See the "Creating and Editing Molding Profiles" article in the Related Articles section for more information on creating a custom molding profile and adding it to your library.

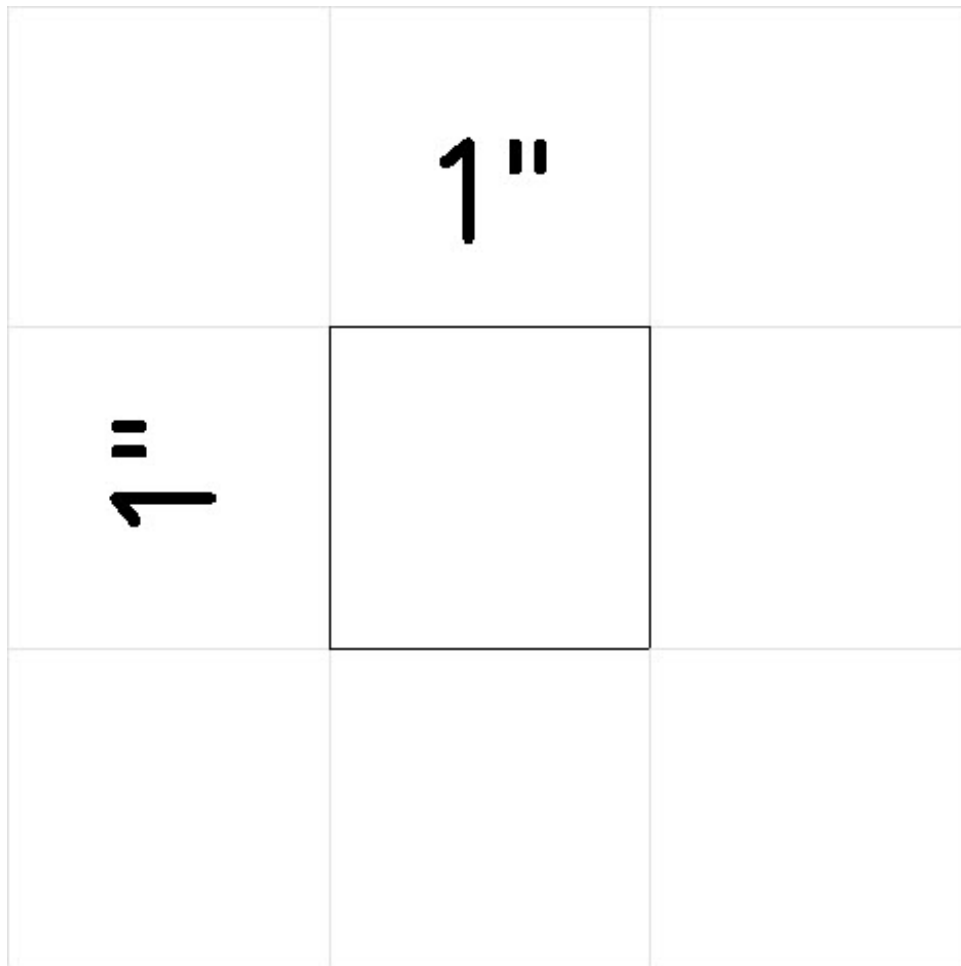For this example, the following molding profile shape is used:

## To extrude a molding profile to create a column

1. While in plan view, select **CAD> Boxes> Rectangular Polyline** ⬛ from the menu.

> Using a CAD circle instead of a square will result in a round column.

2. Click and drag to create a 1" square. Use dimensions to resize the square if necessary.

1" 1"

3. Using the **Select Objects** ⌖ tool, select the square and then click the **Convert Polyline** ⌂ edit tool.

4. In the **Convert Polyline** dialog that appears, choose the **Molding Polyline** option, specify the Layer Options to your liking, then click **OK**.
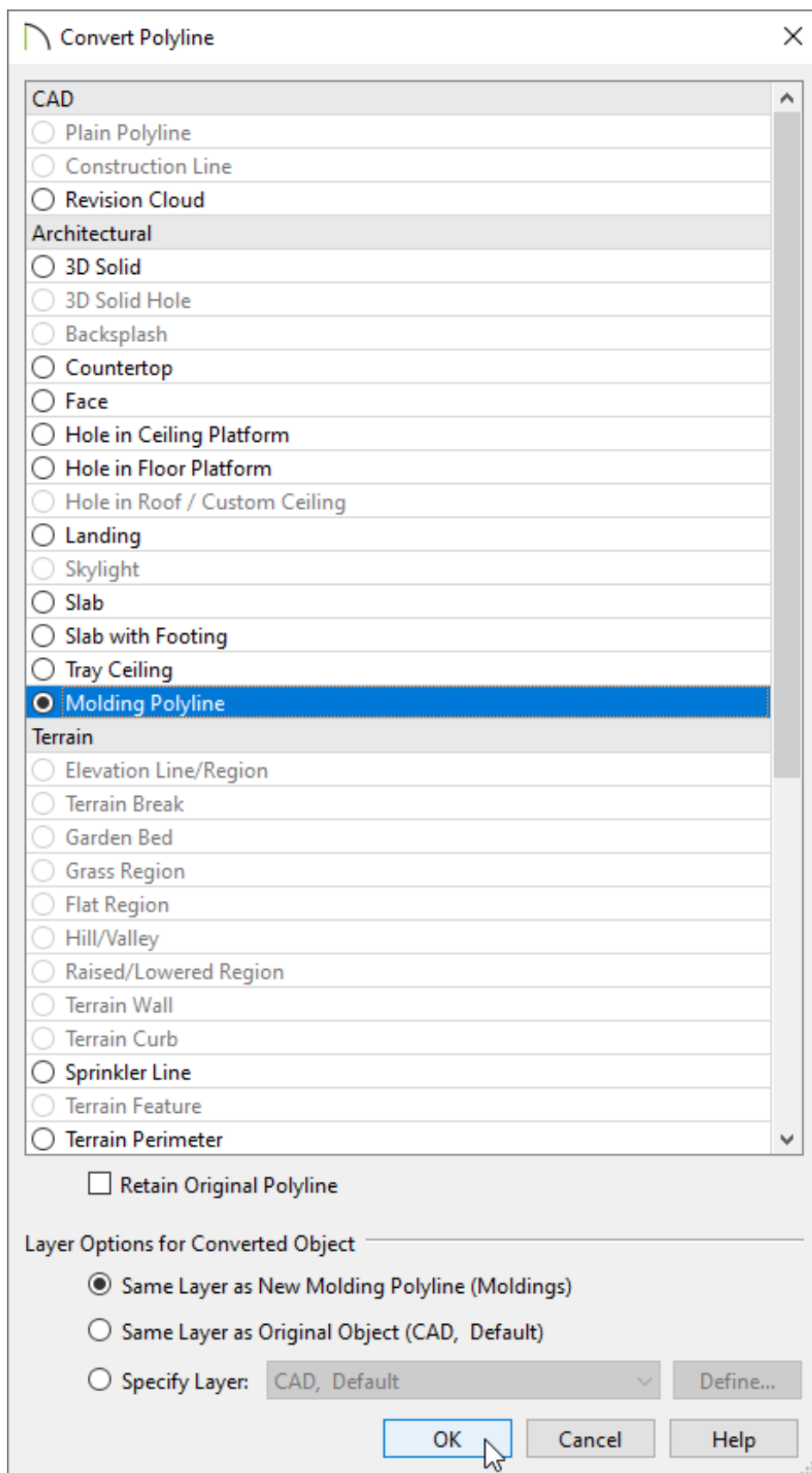
5. In the **Molding Polyline Specification** dialog which opens next, select the MOLDINGS panel.

6. Click the **Add New** or **Replace** button and browse to the custom molding profile

that you created, which should be located in the **User Catalog**.
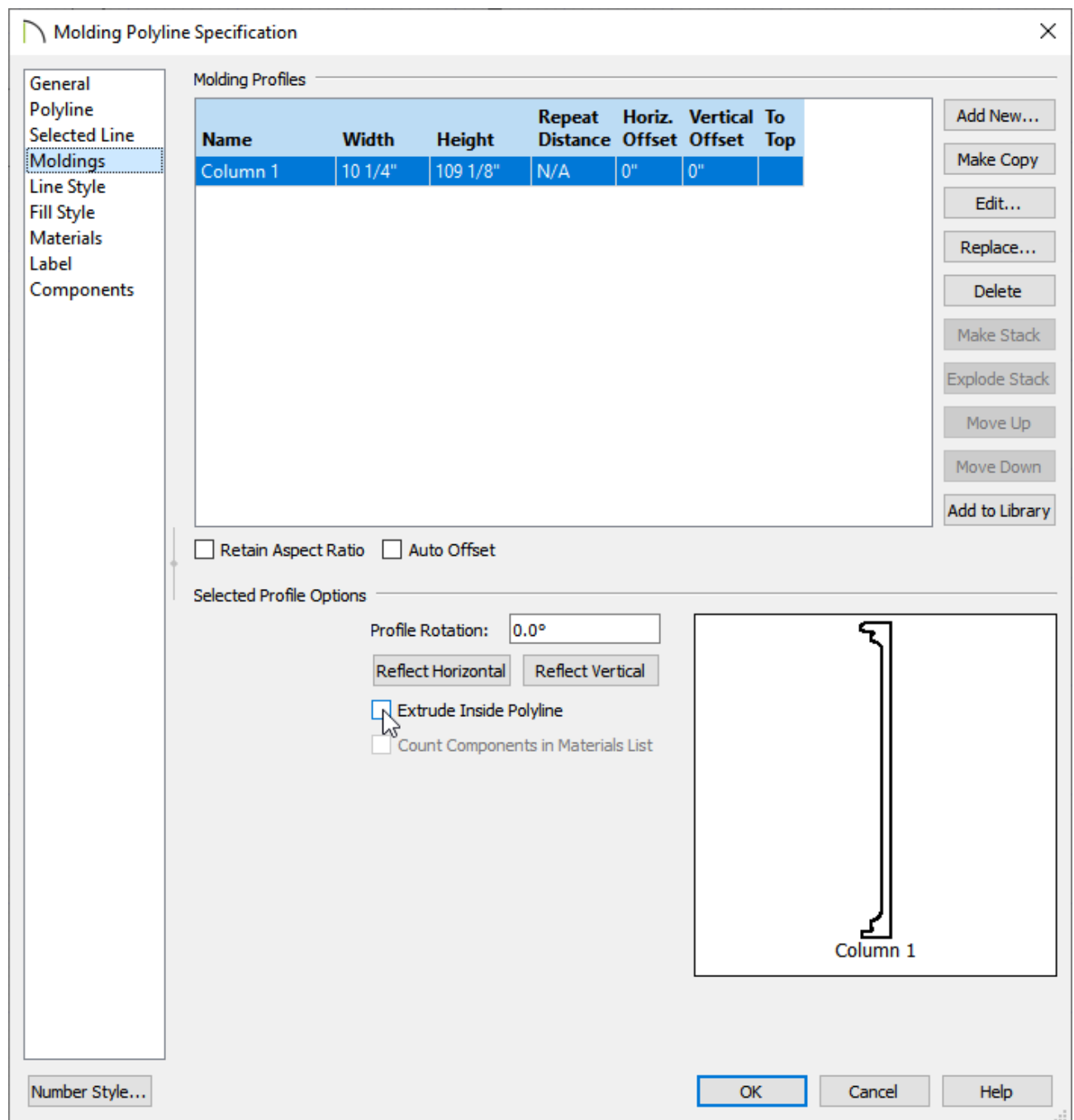
- Notice that the height and width match what was used when the profile was created. You can also change these values here if you'd like.
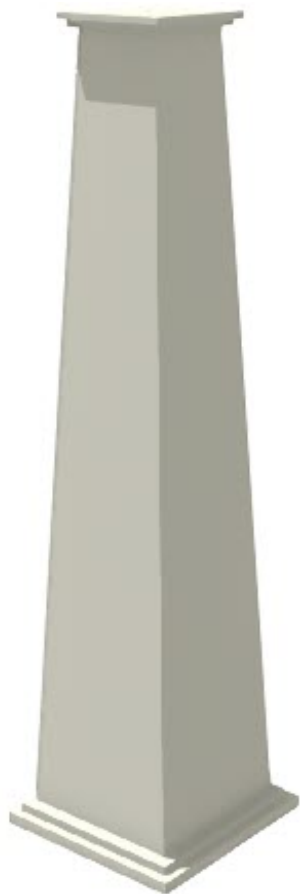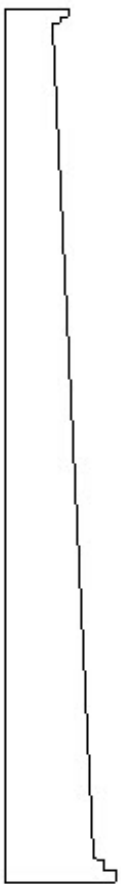
- Remove the check from the **Extrude Inside Polyline** box.

7. Select the MATERIALS panel and specify your desired material for the column.

8. Click **OK** to confirm the changes and take a **Camera** 📷 view to see the results.
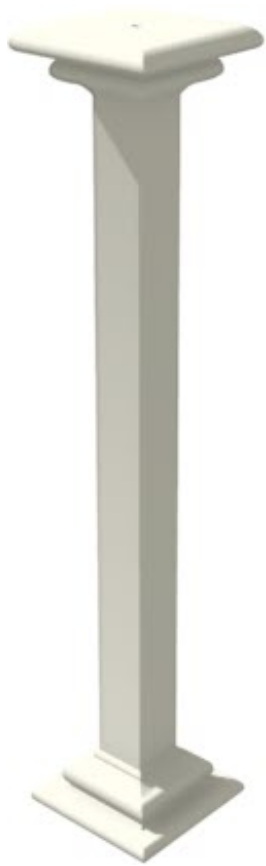
Tapered columns can also be made by using a custom molding profile such as the following:

Related Articles

- Creating and Applying a Custom Molding Profile to a Door's Casing (/support/article/KB-01144/creating-and-applying-a-custom-molding-profile-to-a-door-s-casing.html)
- Creating and Editing Molding Profiles (/support/article/KB-00166/creating-and-editing-molding-profiles.html)
- Drawing a Custom Gutter Molding Profile (/support/article/KB-00677/drawing-a-custom-gutter-molding-profile.html)

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