

Autodesk® Revit® Structure 2013 Fundamentals



Chapter 7

Adding Foundations

In this chapter you learn how to create wall footings (bearing and retaining), modify step footings, add piers, pilasters, isolated footings, and create slab foundations.

This chapter contains the following topics:

- ✓ **Creating Wall Footings**
- ✓ **Step and Isolated Footings**
- ✓ **Piers and Pilasters**
- ✓ **Slab Foundations**

Learning Objectives

This chapter provides instruction to enable you to do the following:

7.1 Creating Wall Footings



Create bearing or wall footings hosted by walls.



Create new foundation wall types.

7.2 Step and Isolated Footings



Modify the profile of a wall to create step footings.



Place isolated footings that are not necessarily connected to any other elements.



Load and insert custom footings.

7.3 Piers and Pilasters



Create custom column sizes.

7.4 Slab Foundations



Create slab foundations.

7.1 Creating Wall Footings



Create bearing or wall footings hosted by walls.



Create new foundation wall types.

Wall footings for bearing and retaining are placed under walls and in Autodesk® Revit® Structure software are actually hosted by the walls. Once a footing is in place, you can change the size of the section and add reinforcement, as shown in Figure 7–1, to make it a foundation bearing system. With the advantages of having a true foundation in place, you can accurately tag and schedule the footings. When a footing size or footing type changes, the software reads and updates the information where ever it is needed.

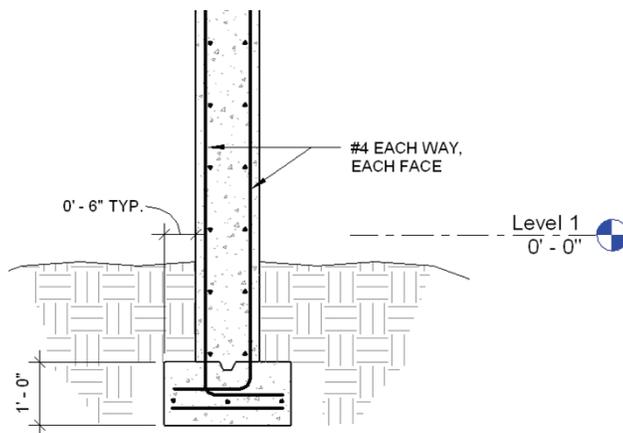


Figure 7–1

- You can apply two types of continuous footing systems, as shown in Figure 7–2; *Bearing footings* with an equal distance on either side of the bearing wall and *Retaining footings* with one side offset to accommodate additional lateral loads and reinforcement.



Retaining Footing



Bearing Footing

Figure 7–2

How to:

Wall foundations can also be placed in 3D, section, and elevation views.

Place a Bearing or Retaining Footing

1. Create walls or use existing ones. A wall must be in place for this command to work.
2. Open a foundation plan and set it up so that the walls are displayed and you can select them.
3. In the *Structure* tab>Foundation panel, click  (Wall) to start the **Structural Foundations: Wall** command, or type **FT**.
4. In the Type Selector, select a type as shown in Figure 7–3.

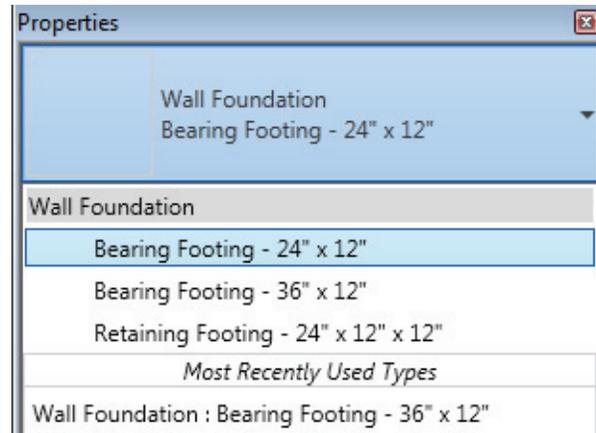


Figure 7–3

5. Select a wall, the footing is placed beneath the wall as shown in Figure 7–4.

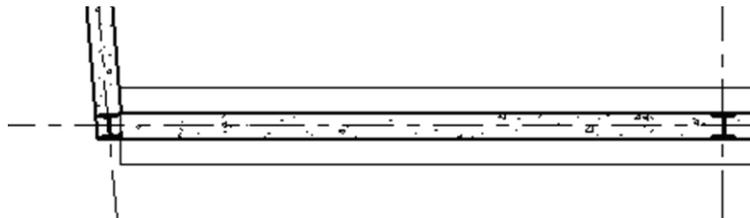


Figure 7–4

- You can flip retaining footings as shown in Figure 7–5

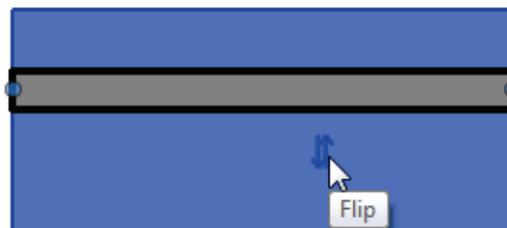
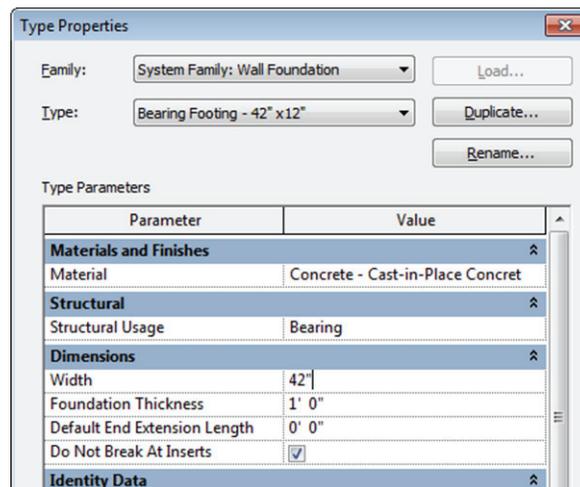


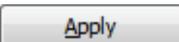
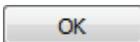
Figure 7–5

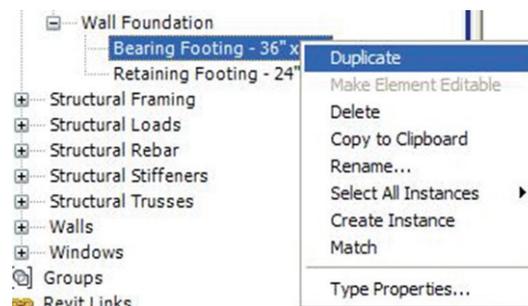
To select multiple walls, move your cursor over existing walls, but do not select them. When the wall is highlighted, press <Tab> to highlight all of the walls. Click to place the footings.

How to:**Create a Bearing Footing Type**

1. Select an existing foundation wall element or start the **Structural Foundation: Wall** command.
2. In the Type Selector, select a type that is similar to the type that you want to create and in Properties, click  (Edit Type).
3. In the Type Properties dialog box, click .
4. In the Name dialog box, type a new name for the element.
5. Make any changes to the type properties, as needed as shown in Figure 7–6.

**Figure 7–6**

6. Click  if you want to create another type or click  to close the dialog box.
- You can also create a new type through the Project Browser. Find an existing type in the *Families* area, right-click on the type and select **Duplicate**, as shown in Figure 7–7. The new footing is added to the list. Rename it and then double-click to open the Type Properties dialog box.

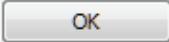
**Figure 7–7**

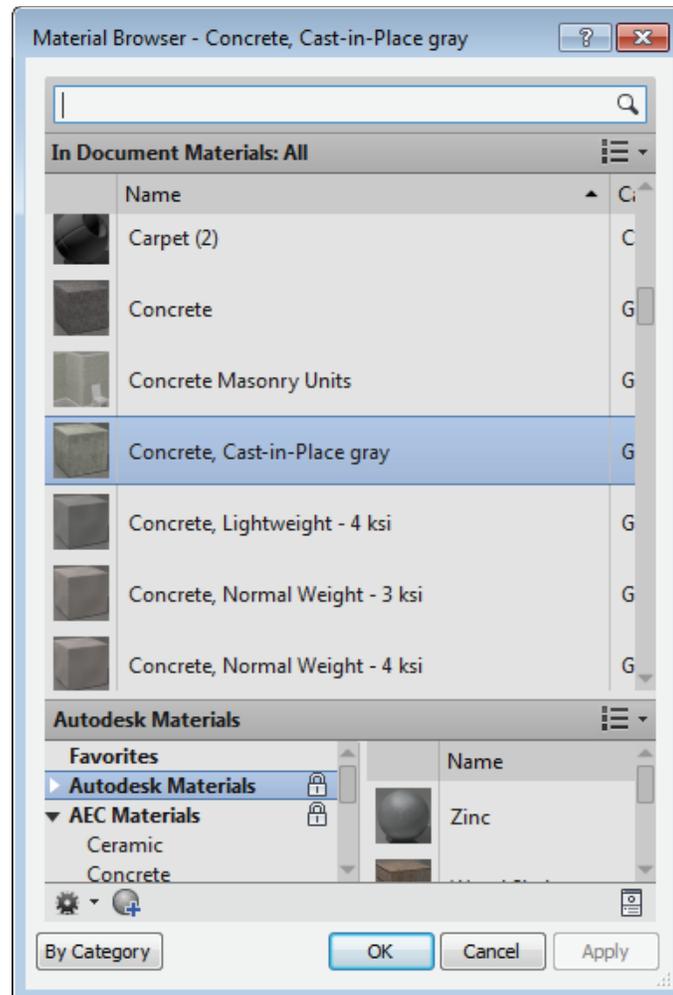
Hint: Setting the Material of an Element

When you are creating types, one typical option is to set the *Material*. In the Type Properties dialog box, in the *Materials and Finishes* area, click  (Browse) in the right corner of the *Value* column as shown in Figure 7–8. You might have to click in the field first.

Parameter	Value
Materials and Finishes	
Material	Concrete - Cast-in-Place Concrete 
Structural	

Figure 7–8

The Material Browser opens as shown in Figure 7–9, enabling you to specify the material to use. Click  when you are done.

**Figure 7–9**

7.2 Step and Isolated Footings



Modify the profile of a wall to create step footings.



Place isolated footings that are not necessarily connected to any other elements.



Load and insert custom footings.

Footings are appended to the bottom of a wall, which means that any change to the base of the host wall influences the footing. This occurs for lateral movement and horizontal movement. For example, if the wall profile changes to be based on a hilly site, as shown on the left in Figure 7–10, the footing breaks and follows the modified profile as shown on the right in Figure 7–10. This is accomplished by editing the profile of the foundation wall.

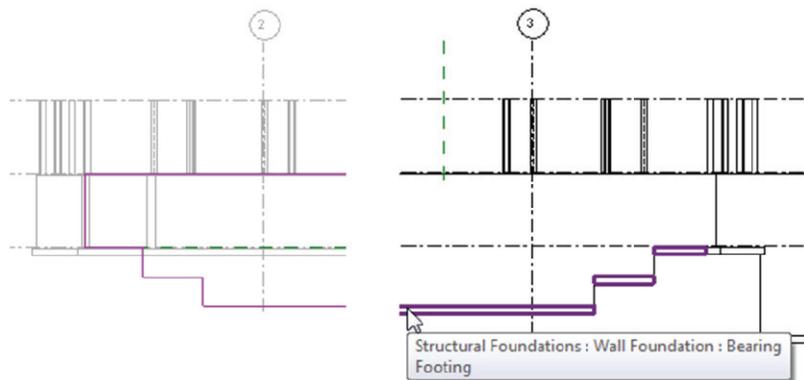


Figure 7–10

If you prefer to have an angled step footing, as shown on the left in Figure 7–11, you can load a separate isolated foundation family that joins with the other foundations as long as the materials are the same. This is also true for isolated footings as shown on the right in Figure 7–11.

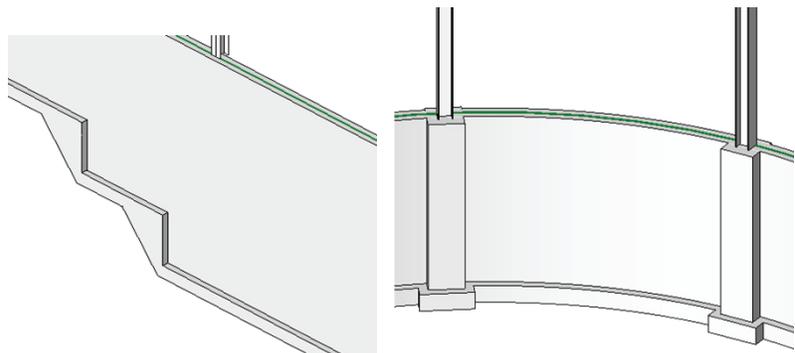


Figure 7–11

How to:**Edit the Profile of a Wall**

1. Open an elevation or section view in which you can see the wall that you want to edit.
2. Select the wall.
3. In the *Modify | Walls* tab>Mode panel, click  (Edit Profile). The wall is outlined in magenta indicating the profile of the wall.
4. In the *Modify | Walls>Edit Profile* tab>Draw panel, use the tools to modify the profile sketch of the wall, as shown on the left in Figure 7–12.

The sketch must form a continuous loop. Verify that the lines are clean without any gaps or overlaps. Use any of the tools in the Modify panel to clean up the sketch.

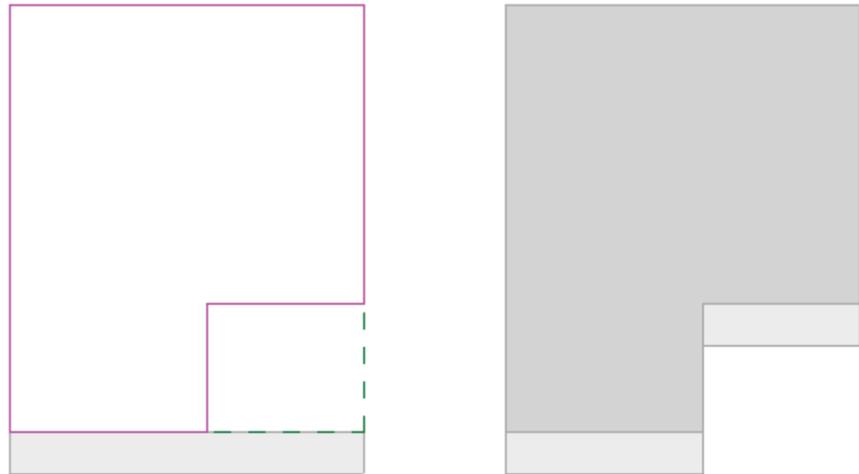


Figure 7–12

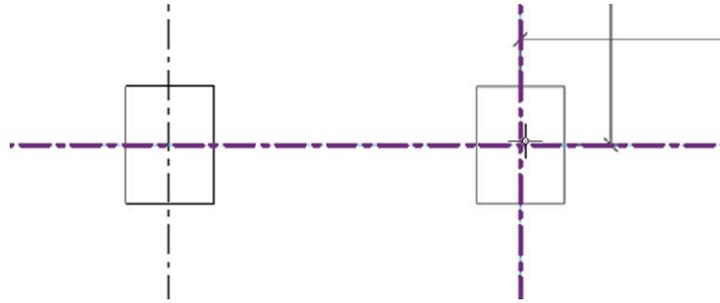
5. Once the profile is complete, click  (Finish Edit Mode) in the Mode panel. The footing now follows the new profile as shown on the right in Figure 7–12.
6. Press <Esc> or click  (Modify) to clear the selection.

How to:

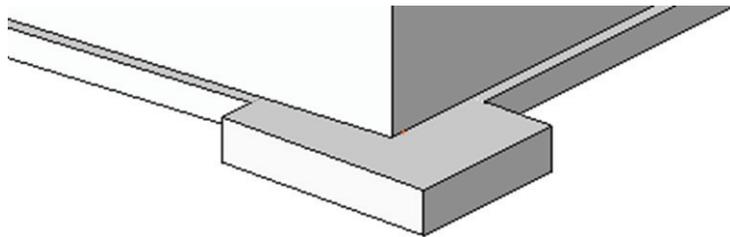
If you click on a column to place an individual footing, the footing automatically attaches to the bottom of the column. This is true even when the bottom of the column is on a lower level than the plan view you are working in.

Place an Isolated Footing

1. Open a plan view at the height at which you want to place the footing, such as a **T.O. Footing** structural floor plan.
2. In the *Structure* tab>Foundation panel, click  (Isolated) to start the **Structural Foundation: Isolated** command.
3. In the Type Selector, select a footing type.
4. In the drawing, click to place the individual footing as shown in Figure 7–13.

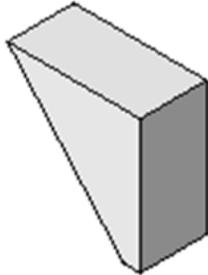
**Figure 7–13**

5. To add more than one footing at a time, in the *Modify | Place Isolated Foundation* tab>Multiple panel, select  (At Grids) or  (At Columns) and select the grids or columns.
6. Press <Esc> or  (Modify) to end the command.
 - If the material of the wall footing and the material of the isolated footing are the same they automatically join, as shown in Figure 7–14.

**Figure 7–14**

- An isolated footing attaches itself to the bottom of the component.
- Instead of adding extra levels for foundations, you can place foundation elements at the lowest floor level and then change the *Base Offset* parameter for the columns and walls to lower the footing below the floor. The foundation elements move with the base of the walls and columns.

Working with Custom Families



Sometimes you need to work with a custom family created from within your company that has parameters that you can manipulate to fit a specific situation. For example, to add the step footings shown in Figure 7–15 you need to insert an angled isolated footing and modify it to fit the exact size.

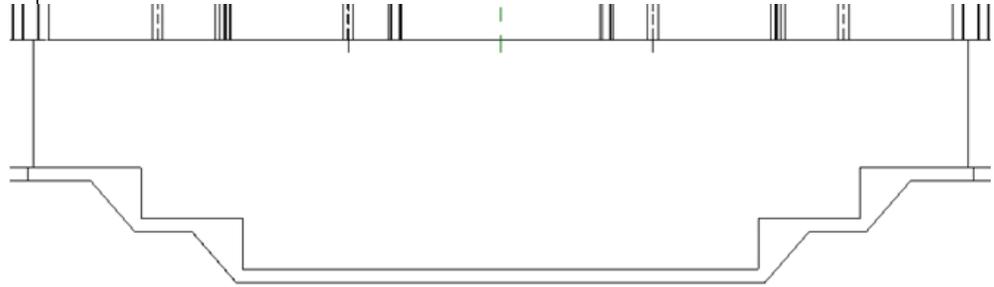


Figure 7–15

How to:

Load, Insert, and Modify a Custom Footing

1. Open a plan view.
2. In the *Structure* tab>Foundation panel, click  (Isolated) and in the *Modify | Place Isolated Foundation* tab>Mode panel, click  (Load Family).
3. In the Load Family dialog box, find the footing family that you want to use and click .
4. Place the footing in the plan. It might not be in exactly the right place but you can modify it in other views.
5. Open an elevation or section view.
6. Move the footing to the correct location. As long as it is in line with another footing it automatically cleans up as shown in Figure 7–16.

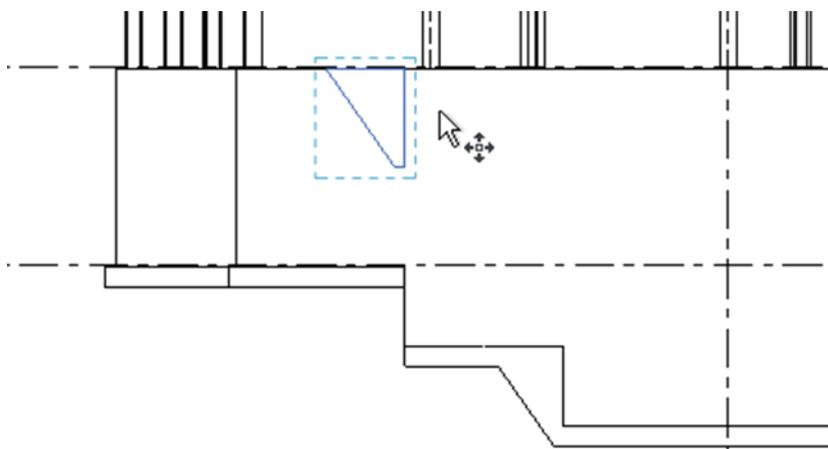


Figure 7–16

- You can use  (Align) to align footing with the footing already placed. When it is aligned, select the lock as shown in Figure 7–17 to ensure that if the elevation of the wall footing changes, the step footing also adjusts appropriately.

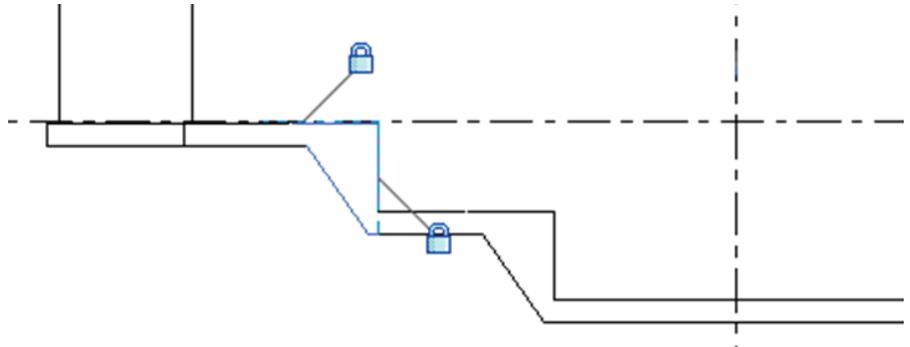


Figure 7–17

- Some custom families have sizing options in either Properties (per instance) or in the Type Properties as shown in Figure 7–18 so that you can create additional types in various sizes as needed in the project.

Type Parameters	
Parameter	
Dimensions	
Width	2' 0"
Height	5' 0"
Length	4' 0"
Bottom Extension	0' 6"
Identity Data	
Assembly Code	A1010100

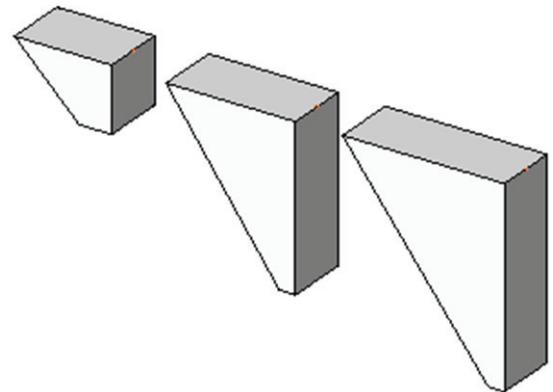


Figure 7–18

7.3 Piers and Pilasters



Create custom column sizes.

The Autodesk Revit Structure software does not have specific categories for piers and pilasters. If you need to create these elements, the best method is to use concrete columns as shown in Figure 7–19. You can then analyze them as part of the foundation system and independently schedule them from the main steel column schedule. A concrete column also automatically embeds itself into a concrete wall.

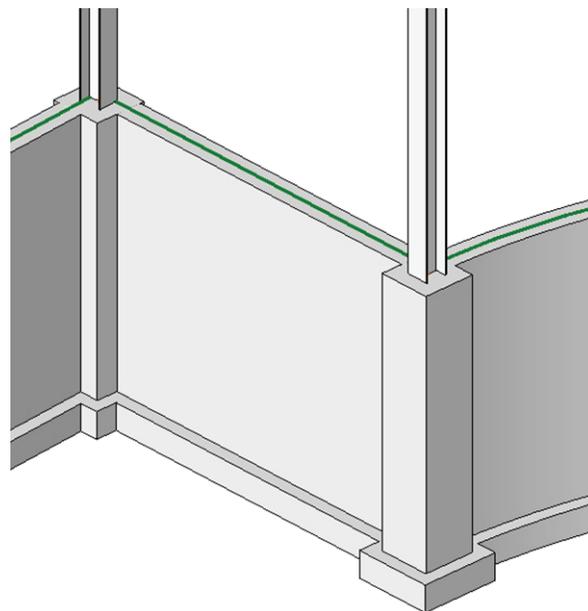


Figure 7–19

How to:

Create a Custom Column Size

1. Open a plan view.
2. In the *Structure* tab>Structure panel, click  (Column).
3. In the Type Selector, select an existing column family type similar to the one you want to create, such as **Concrete-Rectangular-Column**.
4. Click  (Edit Type).
5. In the Type Properties dialog box, click .

- In the Name dialog box, type a name as shown in Figure 7–20.

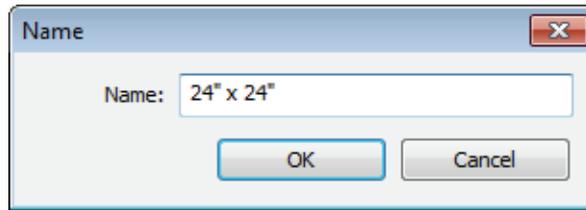


Figure 7–20

- Modify the dimensions as needed. Enter the required values for b (base) and h (height), as shown in Figure 7–21.

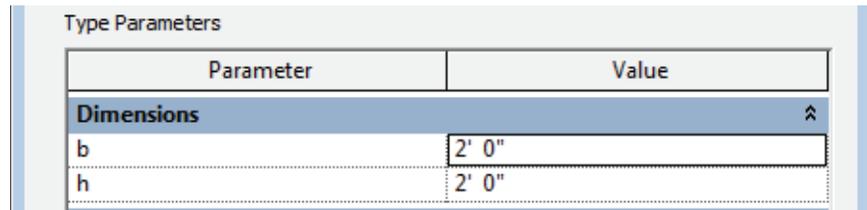
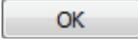


Figure 7–21

- Click .
- The new column is now ready to use. The new pier columns are placed at the base of the existing columns as shown in Figure 7–22.

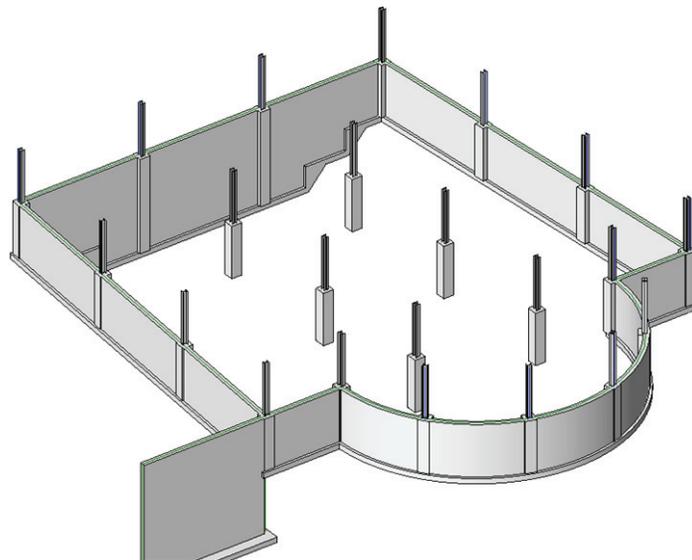


Figure 7–22

7.4 Slab Foundations



Create slab foundations.

Part of a foundation system can be a structural slab (slab on grade), as shown in Figure 7–23. Slabs are system families. This type of family resides within the model and cannot be saved to a separate RFA file like most other families in the software. As a result, slabs have additional properties within the model itself. After you create a structural slab you can add and modify the slab edges.

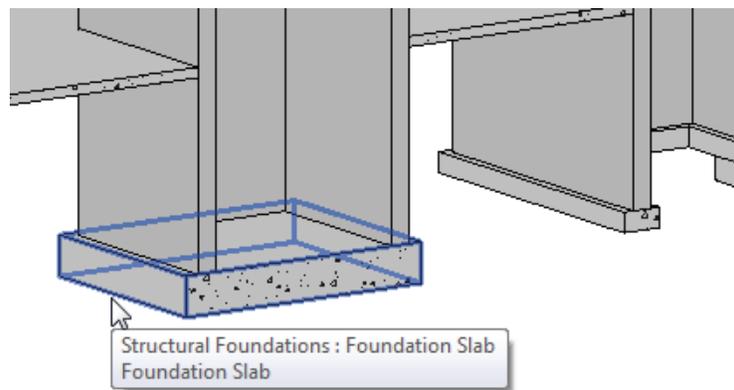


Figure 7–23

How to: Place a Structural Slab

1. In the *Structure* tab>Foundation panel, click  (Slab) to start the **Structural Foundation: Slab** command.
2. In the Type Selector, select the slab type you want to use.
3. In the *Modify | Create Floor Boundary* tab>Draw panel, use the following options to create a closed boundary:
 - Use the Draw tools, such as  (Line) or  (Pick Lines) when the slab is not defined by walls or a structure and is free-floating
 - Use  (Pick Walls) when walls define the perimeter
 - Use  (Pick Supports) and select structural walls or beams when the slab is supported by beams.
4. In the *Modify | Create Floor Boundary* tab>Mode panel, click  (Finish Edit Mode).
5. Deselect the slab if you are finished with it.

*Boundaries created by **Pick Walls** and **Pick Supports** ensure that the slab adjusts if the footprint of the building changes.*

- If there are any walls below the slab, an alert box opens as shown in Figure 7–24, and the elements are highlighted in the project. Click to constrain the walls to the slab so that the height of walls will change when the slab moves in elevation. Otherwise, click .

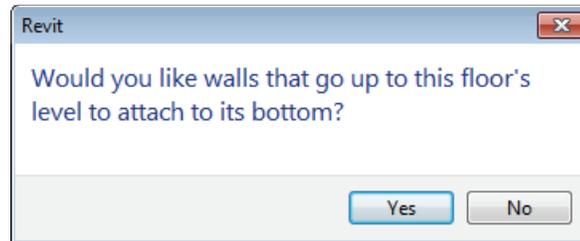


Figure 7–24

- If the slab overlaps the walls, you can join the slab to the walls as shown in Figure 7–25. This can also be done at a later time.

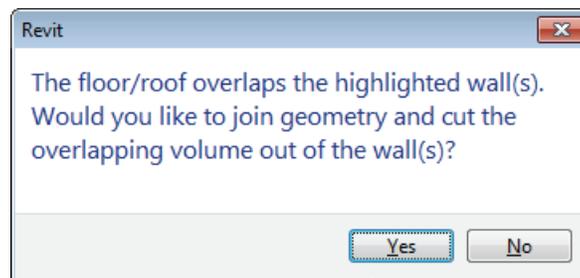


Figure 7–25

- When creating a boundary using Pick Walls, the magenta line displays a blue flip arrow, as shown in Figure 7–26. Select this arrow to control the face of the wall where the slab boundary extends.

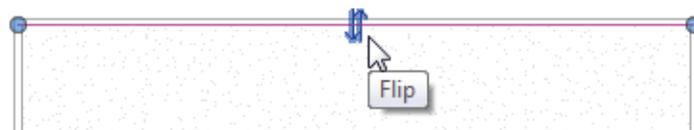


Figure 7–26

- If the *Visual Style* is set to  (Hidden Line), the slab hides any lines that are underneath it, as shown in Figure 7–27.

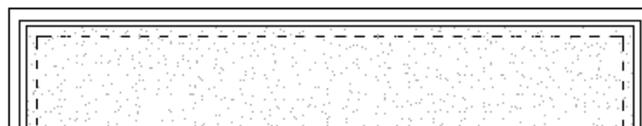


Figure 7–27

Editing the Structure of a Slab

Several slab types are available in the template files that come with the Autodesk Revit Structure software, as shown in Figure 7–28. You can also create additional slab types based on one of these as needed for your projects.

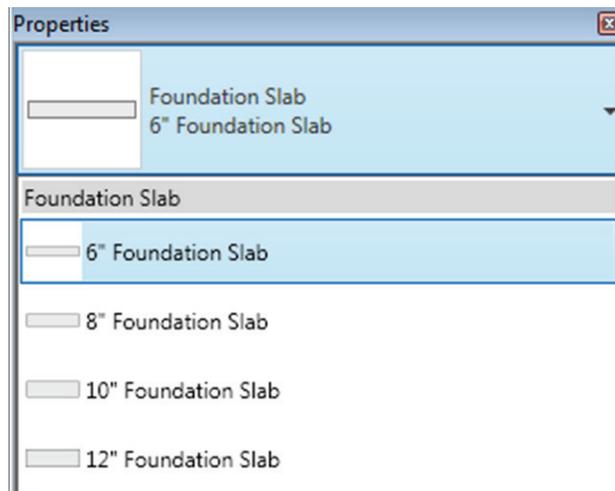


Figure 7–28

- Reinforcement is placed in a slab in a separate function. Therefore, you do not need to add it to the slab type.

How to:

Create a Slab Type

1. Start the **Structural Foundation: Slab** command or select an existing slab.
2. In the Type Selector, select a type similar to the one you want to create and in Properties, click  (Edit Type).
3. In the Type Properties dialog box, click  and enter a name for the new type.
4. Next to the Structure parameter, click  as shown in Figure 7–29.

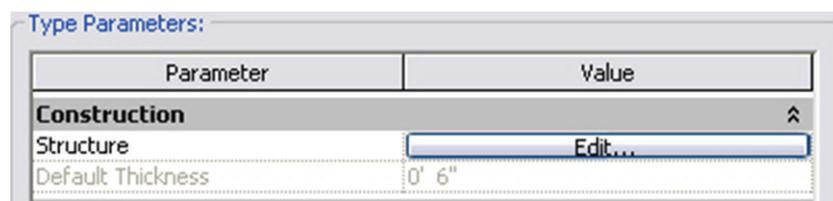
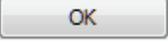


Figure 7–29

- You can also set up Graphics, Identity Data, and some Analytical Properties in the Type Properties dialog box.

5. In the Edit Assembly dialog box, as shown in Figure 7–30, you can change the composition of the slab. When you are finished, click  to close the Edit Assembly dialog box and to close Type Properties.

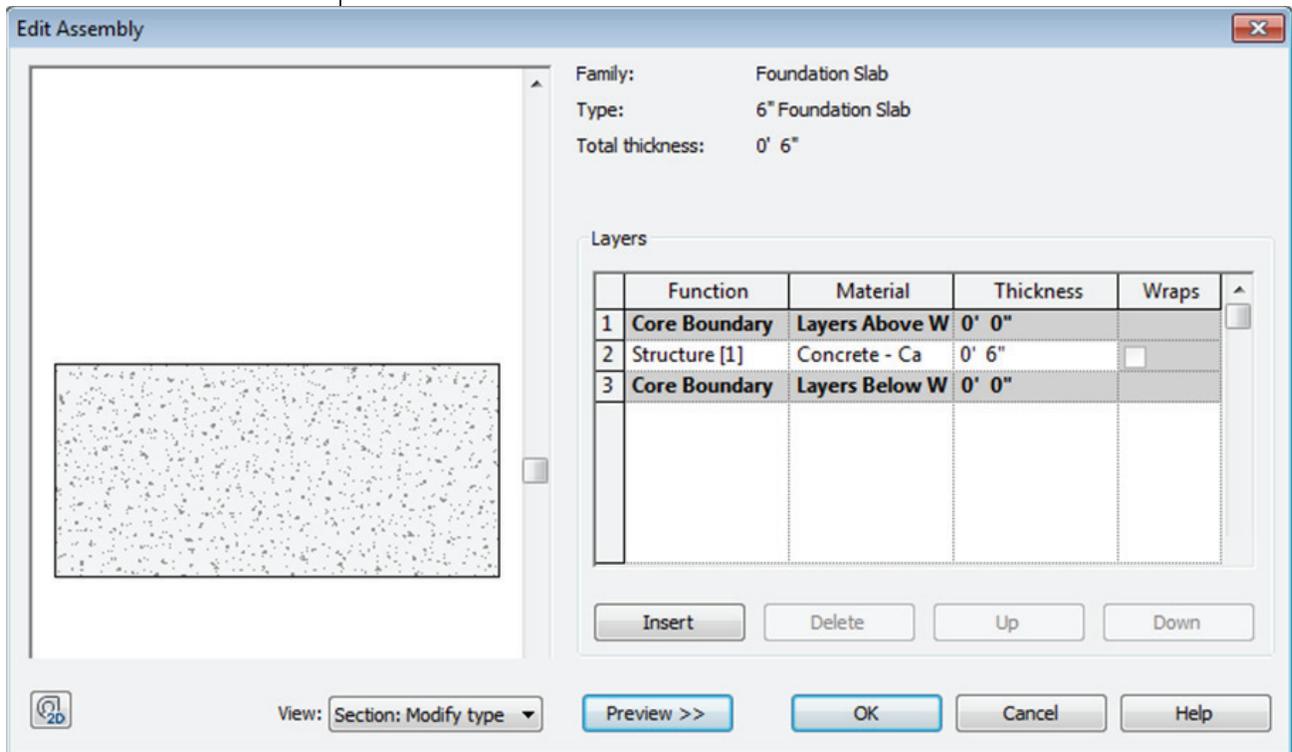


Figure 7–30

- When you specify the layers for the compound element, you assign them a *Function*, *Material*, and *Thickness*.
- Use the buttons to insert additional layers and to rearrange them in the layer list. You can also delete layers from the list.
- Core boundaries separate the structural core of the slab assembly from non-structural layers above and below.
- Click  to display the layers of the slab in section. This tool is most useful when the slab is more complex.

Slab Edges

You can add elements to a slab for a haunched or thickened slab edge, as shown in Figure 7–31. Once the slab edge is in place it needs to be joined to the slab.

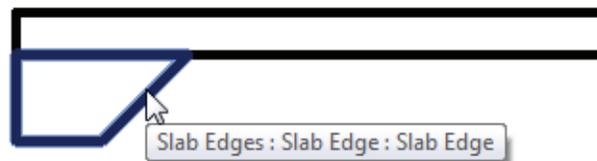


Figure 7–31

How to:

Place a Slab Edge

1. Open a 3D view showing the slab.
2. In the *Structure* tab>Foundation panel, expand  (Slab) and click  (Floor: Slab Edge).
3. In the Type Selector, select the slab edge type.
4. Select the edges of the slab where you want to apply the slab edge as shown in Figure 7–32. You can use <Tab> to highlight and select all sides of the slab.

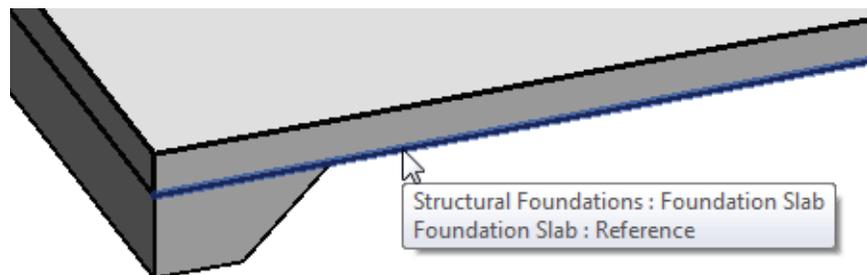


Figure 7–32

5. Press <Esc> twice or click  (Modify).
6. In the *Modify* tab>Geometry panel, click  (Join).
7. Select the elements that you want to join together. (Move your cursor over the outside edge of the slab to select it.) The slab edge connects with the slab as shown in the section views in Figure 7–33.

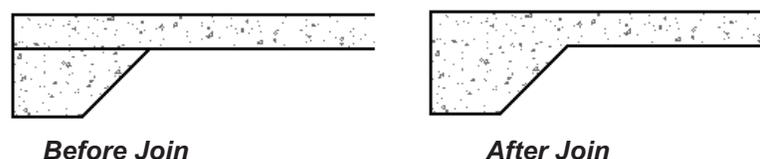


Figure 7–33

If the material is not exactly the same, a thin line still separates the elements.

Hint: Temporary Hide/Isolate

You might want to temporarily hide elements from a view, modify the project, and then restore the elements. Instead of completely turning the elements off, you can use



(Temporary Hide/Isolate) in the View Control Bar. The Temporary Hide/Isolate status is not saved with the project.

Select the elements you want to hide (make invisible) or isolate (keep visible while all other elements are hidden) and click



(Temporary Hide/Isolate). Select the method you want to use, as shown in Figure 7–34.

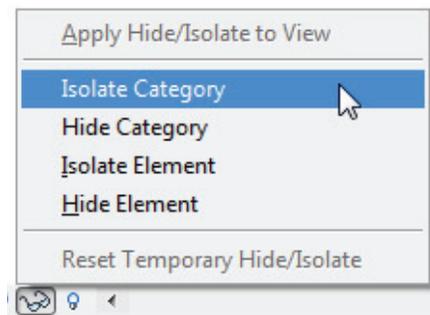


Figure 7–34

The elements or category are hidden or isolated. A cyan border displays around the view with a note in the upper left corner, as shown in Figure 7–35. It indicates that the view contains temporarily hidden or isolated elements.



Figure 7–35

- Click  (Temporary Hide/Isolate) again and select **Reset Temporary Hide/Isolate** to restore the elements to the view.
- If you want to permanently hide the elements in the view, select **Apply Hide/Isolate to View**.
- The temporary hide/isolate settings do not affect printing.

Practice 7a

Adding Foundations

-  Create a foundation plan view.
-  Create and apply wall footings
-  Create a new column type so that you can add concrete piers.
-  Place isolated footings at the base of each pier.
-  Add slab foundations with an edge for elevator shafts.

Estimated time for completion: 20 minutes

The steel columns have been hidden in this view for clarity.

In this practice you will create and add wall footings, piers (a type of column), isolated footings, and slab foundations, as shown in Figure 7–36.

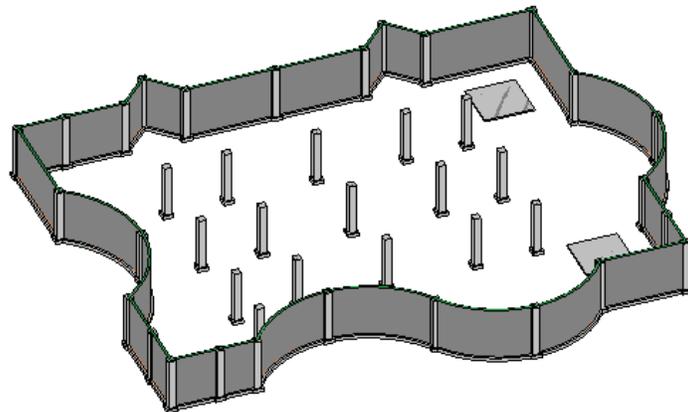
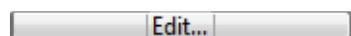


Figure 7–36

Task 1 - Create a foundation plan view.

1. Open the file **Syracuse-Suites-Foundations.rvt** in your class files folder.
2. In the Project Browser, right click on the Structural Plans: 00 GROUND FLOOR view and select **Duplicate View> Duplicate with Detailing**.
3. Right-click on the new view and *Rename* it **FOUNDATION PLAN**.
4. In Properties, in the *Extents* area next to View Range, click



5. In the View Range dialog box, change the *Bottom:* to **Level Below (T.O. FOOTING)** and the *View Depth* to **Level Below (T.O. FOOTING)** as shown in Figure 7–37.

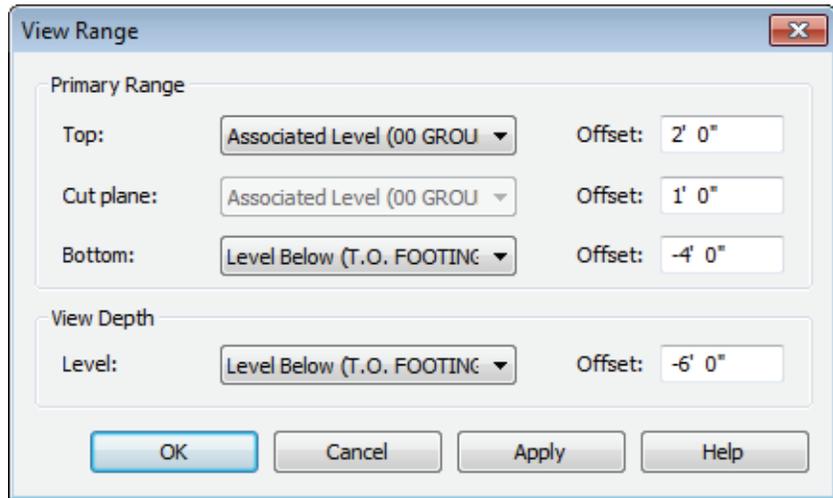
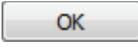


Figure 7–37

6. Click .

Task 2 - Create and apply wall footings.

1. In the Project Browser, navigate to *Families>Structural Foundations>Wall Foundation* node. Right-click on Bearing Footing – 36” x 12” and select **Duplicate**, as shown in Figure 7–38.

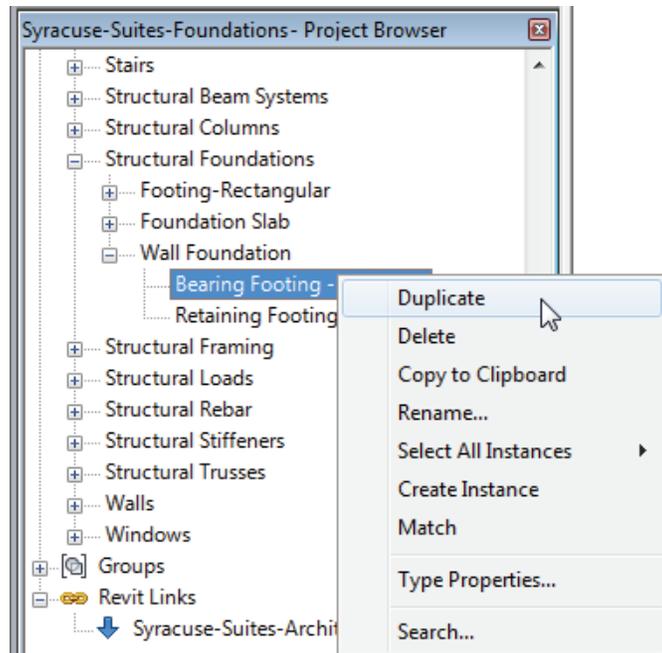


Figure 7–38

2. Right-click on the copy and select **Rename**.
3. Name the new footing **Bearing Footing – 24” x 12”**.
4. Click on the new bearing footing type.
5. In the Type Properties dialog box, in the *Dimensions* category, set the *Width* to **2’-0”** as shown in Figure 7–39.

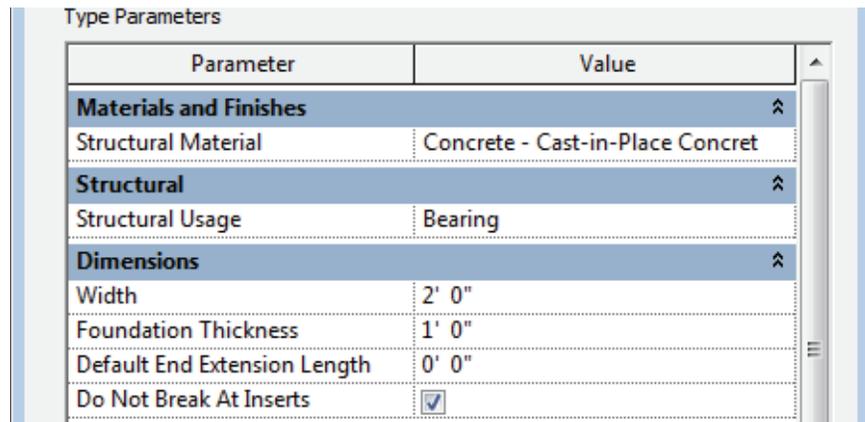


Figure 7–39

6. Click .
7. In the *Structure* tab>Foundation panel, click  (Wall) or type **FT**.
8. In the Type Selector, select the new **Wall Foundation: Bearing Footing - 24” x 12”** as shown in Figure 7–40.

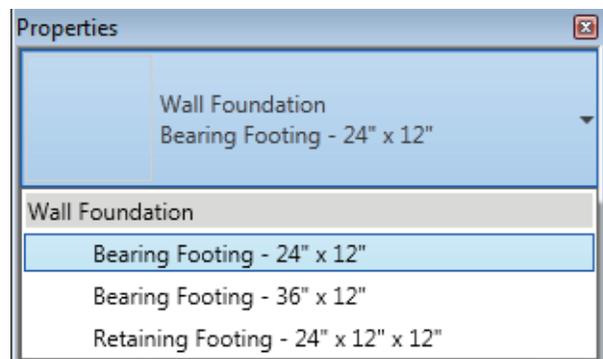


Figure 7–40

9. Hover your cursor over one of the foundation walls and press <Tab> to highlight the entire wall system. Click to select the walls. The footing is placed under the entire structure.
10. Press <Esc> or click  (Modify) to end the command.

11. In the Quick Access Toolbar, click  to go to a 3D view and verify that the footing is placed correctly as shown in Figure 7–41.

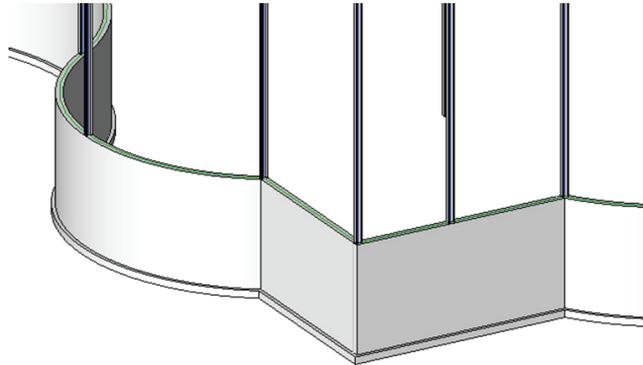


Figure 7–41

12. Save the project.

Task 3 - Create a new column type and place piers.

1. Open the **Structural Plans: FOUNDATION PLAN** view.
2. In the *Structure* tab>Structure panel, click  (Column).
3. In the Type Selector, select one of the **Concrete-Rectangular-Column** types.
4. In Properties, click  (Edit Type).
5. In the Type Properties dialog box, click .
6. Rename the column as **24 x 24** (the family name, **Concrete-Rectangular-Column** is automatically applied to the name) and click .
7. In the Type Properties dialog box, change the dimensions for both *b* (base) and *h* (height) to **2'-0"** as shown in Figure 7–42.

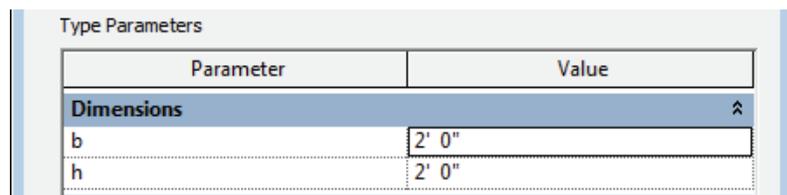
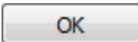


Figure 7–42

8. Click .
9. In the Options Bar, set the *Depth* to **T.O. Footing**.
10. In the *Modify | Place Structural Column* tab> Placement panel, click  (Vertical Column).
11. Place a pier at each existing column. Use  (At Grids) to select only the column grids you need.
12. View the model in a 3D view as shown in Figure 7–43.

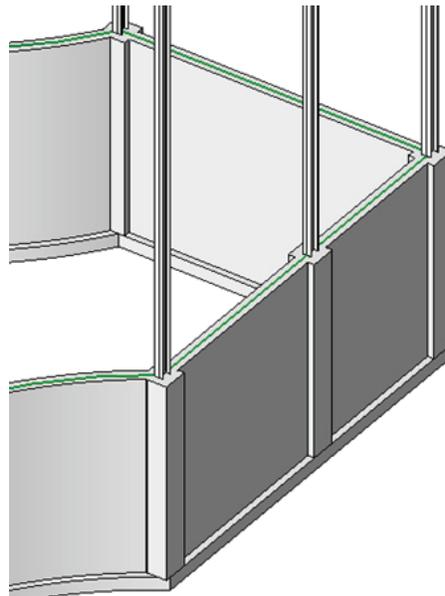


Figure 7–43

13. Save the project.

Task 4 - Place isolated footings.

1. Open the **Structural Plans: T.O. FOOTING** view.
2. In the *Structure* tab>Foundation panel, click  (Isolated).
3. In Properties, click  (Edit Type).
4. In the Type Properties dialog box, click .
5. Name the new type **36"x36"x12"**.
6. Click .

7. In the Type Properties dialog box, set the *Width* to **3'-0"**, *Length* to **3'-0"**, and *Thickness* to **1'-0"** as shown in Figure 7-44.

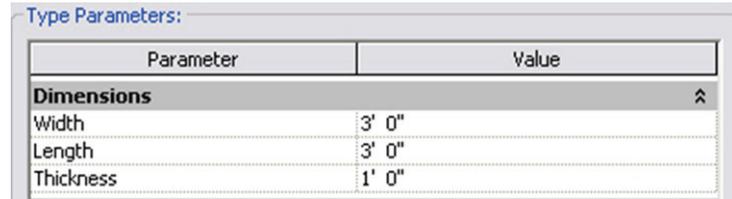
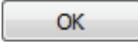


Figure 7-44

8. Click .
9. Zoom in and place the isolated footing underneath a pilaster. The isolated footing and wall footing automatically join together as shown in Figure 7-45.

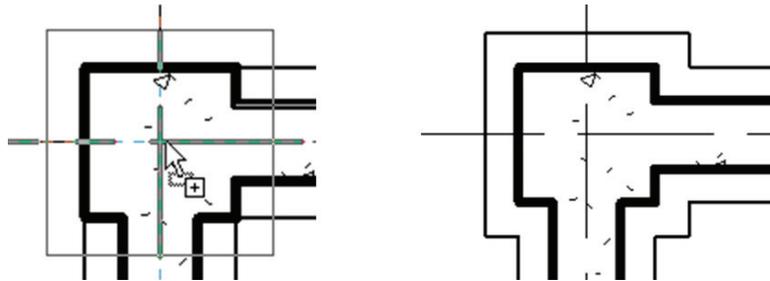


Figure 7-45

10. In the *Modify | Place Isolated Foundation* tab>Multiple panel, click  (At Columns). Select all of the columns and click  (Finish).
11. Press <Esc> or click  (Modify) to end the command.
12. Open a 3D view.
13. Use a window to select all of the steel columns.
14. In the View Control Bar, click  (Temporary Hide/Isolate) and select **Hide Element**.

15. Each column should have a isolated footing under the pier as shown in Figure 7–46.

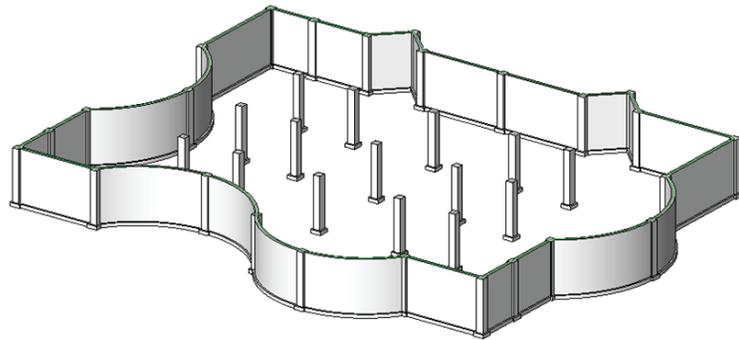


Figure 7–46

Task 5 - Add slab foundations for elevator shafts.

1. Open the **Structural Plans: T.O. FOOTING** view.
2. Zoom into the lower right corner of the building.
3. In the *Structure* tab>Foundation panel click  (Slab).
4. Use the draw and modify tools to create a boundary line as shown in Figure 7–47.

The dimensions are for reference only.

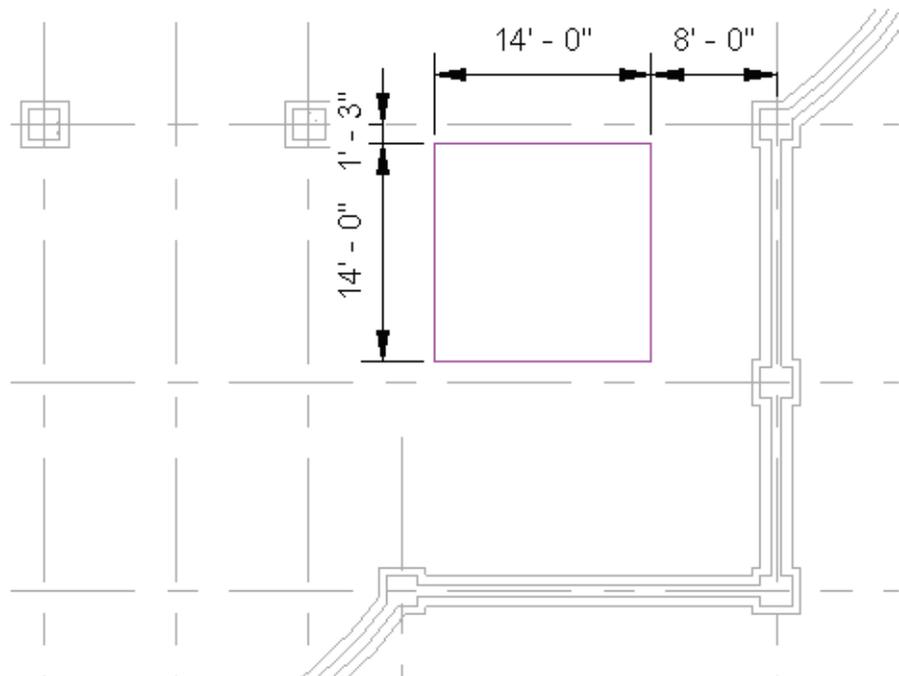


Figure 7–47

5. Click  (Finish Edit Mode.)

Task 6 - Add a slab edge to the slab.

1. Open a 3D view and orient it so that the slab is visible. Zoom in to the top and bottom of the slab.
2. In the *Structure* tab>Foundation panel, expand  (Slab) and click  (Floor: Slab Edge).
3. Select the bottom edges of the slab, as shown in Figure 7–48. Rotate the view as needed to see the edges.

If you add a slab edge in a plan view, the software selects the top edge of the slab rather than the bottom.

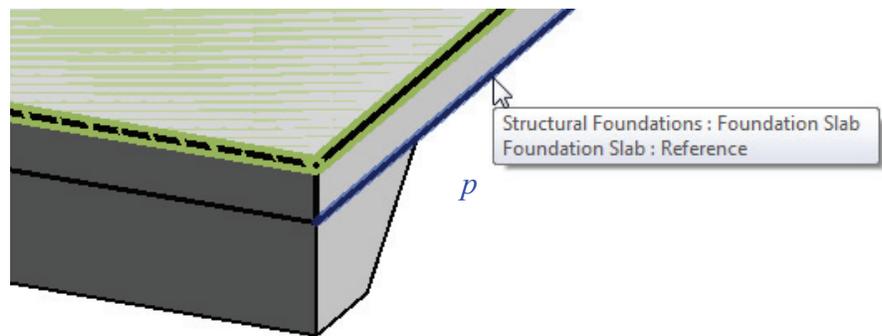


Figure 7–48

4. Switch back to the **Structural Plans: T.O. FOOTING** view.
5. In the *View* tab>Create panel, click  (Section).
6. In the Type Selector, select **Section: Wall Section**.
7. Place a section across the new slab. Modify the extents of the section so it is close to the slab, as shown in Figure 7–49.

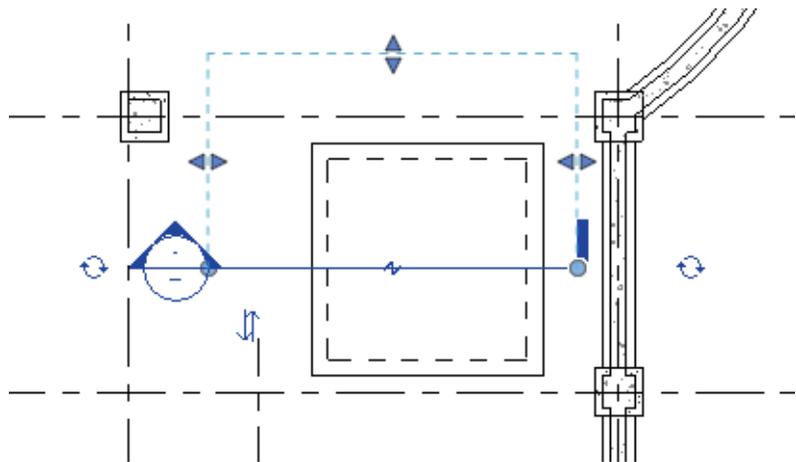


Figure 7–49

8. Open the section and zoom in on the slab.

9. To join the slab and slab edge together, in the *Modify* tab>Geometry panel, click  (Join). Join the foundation slab to the thickened slab edge, as shown in Figure 7–50.

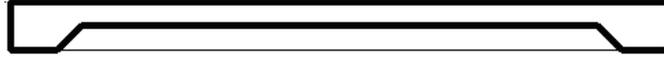


Figure 7–50

10. Press <Esc> or click  (Modify) to end the command.
11. In the View Control Bar, change the *Scale* to **1/4"=1'-0"**, set the *Detail Level* to  (Medium), and zoom in. The slab edge does not display the concrete hatch because the material has not been assigned to the slab edge.
12. Select the slab edge. In Properties, click  (Edit Type).
13. In the Type Properties dialog box, in the *Materials and Finishes* category, next to the Material parameter, select **<By Category>** and then click  (Browse).
14. In the Material Browser, select **Concrete – Cast-in-Place Concrete**.
15. Close the dialog boxes to return to the view. The materials now match and the slab and slab edge display joined, as shown in Figure 7–51.

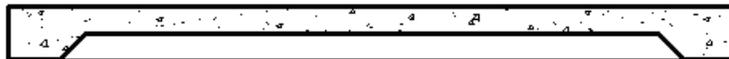


Figure 7–51

16. Return to the **Structural Plans: T.O. Footing** view.
17. Select the slab and slab edges.

18. Copy them to the upper right corner, as shown in Figure 7–52. The exact location is not required at this time.

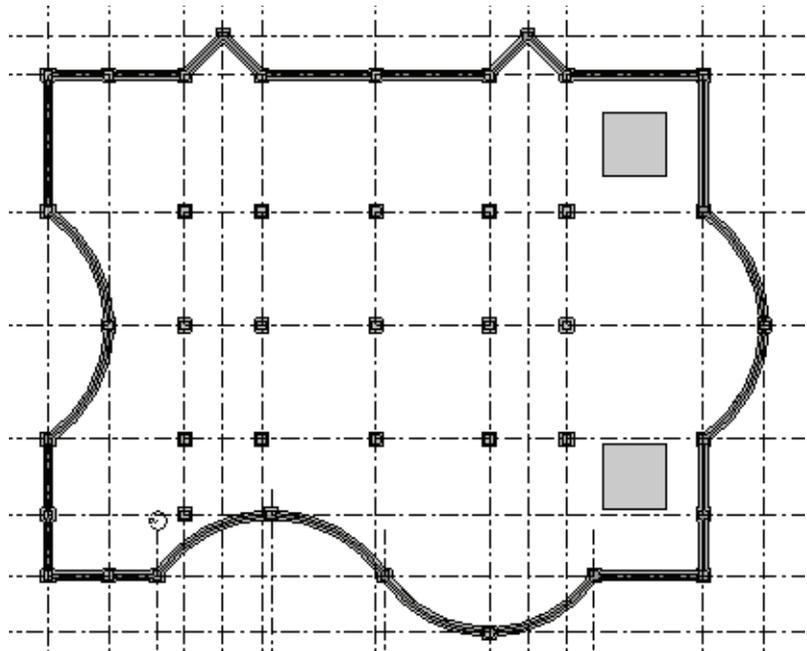


Figure 7–52

19. Save the project.

Chapter Review Questions

1. Which command do you use to insert a pier or a pilaster?
 - a. Structural Pier
 - b. Isolated Foundation
 - c. Structural Column
 - d. Isolated Column
2. Which of the following methods are ways you can define slab boundaries? Select all that apply.
 - a. Sketch floors
 - b. Draw lines
 - c. Pick walls
 - d. Pick lines
3. Which element is the host for an isolated footing?
 - a. Column
 - b. Wall
 - c. Slab
 - d. Floor
4. How do you create additional column sizes?
 - a. In Properties, duplicate an existing type and change the sizes.
 - b. Start a new Autodesk Revit project and draw it there.
 - c. Import additional sizes from another project.
 - d. In the Library, load additional sizes from other families.
5. Which element is the host for an isolated footing?
 - a. Column
 - b. Wall
 - c. Slab
 - d. Floor

Command Summary

Button	Command	Location
	Edit Profile	■ Ribbon: <i>Modify</i> <i>Walls</i> tab> Mode panel
	Structural Foundation: Slab	■ Ribbon: <i>Structure</i> tab>Foundation panel, expand Slab
	Structural Foundation: Wall	■ Ribbon: <i>Structure</i> tab>Foundation panel
	Structural Foundation: Isolated	■ Ribbon: <i>Structure</i> tab>Foundation panel
	Floor: Slab Edge	■ Ribbon: <i>Structure</i> tab>Foundation panel, expand Slab