Construction Modeling in Autodesk ® Revit® Structure: *Tips and Tricks for Construction Utilization*

Jeremiah Bowles - Black & Veatch Engineering

CR1506-L-P Construction and engineering professionals get hands-on training on how to transition from a LOD 300 to LOD 350 model for enhanced construction utilization. This lab and panel discussion demonstrates how to take full advantage of Autodesk Revit Structure software models using parts and assembly tools, rebar, parameter strategies, and advanced families to extend BIM into construction using Autodesk® Navisworks® Manage software to schedule, estimate, and use the Revit Structure model for shop drawings. We discuss the value of the engineering model and potential for contractors to use it in planning, sequencing, animation, location, detailed shop drawings, fabrication, and estimation. This lab features a Tilt-Up construction project example.

Learning Objectives

At the end of this class, you will be able to:

- Use vital engineering modeling tools that assist in estimation, fabrication, and construction assembly
- Explain how construction firms can take advantage of the engineer's model beyond traditional 4D animation and 5D estimating tools
- Take advantage of advanced techniques and strategies to easily control the engineer's model effectively
- Explain how engineering and construction firms can work together for mutual benefit-finding synergy

About the Speaker

Jeremiah works out of the CIO Group at Black & Veatch Engineering as a Corporate BIM Design & Construction Technology Manager & leader in innovation and productivity solutions for our experienced BIM & VDC group. He is also working to complete a MS in Project Management with an Emphasis in Construction Management at KU Graduate School of Engineering and is an Adjunct Instructor with JCCC. He is BIM a Autodesk & Technology Implementation specialists, with a diverse portfolio of experience in Architecture, Engineering & Construction since 1992. As an early BIM adopter and innovator he is always looking beyond the technology utilization norms and has focused on value delivery to his clients. His experience in team development, change management and business acumen allow him drive meaningful change at Black & Veatch. jeremiah.bowles@therevitcoach.com @therevitcoach

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Construction Modeling in Revit ® Structure

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Can contractors Benefit from Modeling in Revit

The success in using Revit in the BIM process is not the tool alone, but in the strategies and tactics in how we use the tool. The right tool with the appropriate strategy can go a long way to increasing productivity, ensure accuracy, & improve safety.

Some important QUESTIONS we must ask?

- When Should BIM be used?
- LOD's What Should Be modeled?
- Where is the balance of Effort / Reward?
- Where is productivity lost?
- Do any synergies exist?
- What are the clients end deliverables?
- Should we re-invent the wheel 3 different times?
- Does the designer / A|E team have all the information?
- Does the Fabricator have all the information?
- What obstacles face our collaborative world of information exchange? <adversarial effect>

Immediate Benefits (a.k.a. Low hanging fruit)

Too much focus in Design & Construction is placed complaining what the technology can't do. Technology Implementation takes a crawl, walk, run, sprint approach. You must usually crawl well before you can walk, walk before you can run, etc.. One should not begin looking into the benefits of BIM in construction without grabbing the low hanging fruit, at least if they are concerned with profits and the key stakeholders.

Visualization

Contractors / Construction Engineers, take a walk around your "Virtual Project". Although you probably think you understand the project after pouring through a set of Construction / Contract documents you haven't seen it until you've seen it in BIM. Sometimes in creating a model from 2D documents you will find excellent insights into your project that were not captured in reading the plans but building the model.

Conflict Avoidance(a.k.a. "Clash Detection")

Although this is an obvious piece, it is important to run a clash in earlier design than at the construction bid. This class was intended to address joint venture opportunities and strategies in working together to leverage the A|E model for construction use, still don't forget to do a 3D clash detection. Once mastered you may also look at a 4D and 5D clash?

A|E & Contractor synergy: The not so low hanging fruit

The low hanging fruit may provide some immediate BIM success but getting a ladder to attain the "Not so low hanging fruit" can be a key differentiator between firms that do BIM and leaders in client value creation. Doing this requires planning and strategy between Engineering and Construction to provide mutual benefit. These next strategies are not easily attainable and require advanced BIM software knowledge and a lot of mutual trust, but with the correct understanding of the BIM Constructability workflow CM / Construction professionals can partner with A|E Firms to create synergy for downstream construction utilization of the model.

A/E Design Model

Design Intent
Building state completed
Structural Requirements
Engineering Specifics
Loads, connections
Detail Concepts
Min. Component Req'd.
Proof of Concept

Constructability Model

Means & Methods

Materials

Component Assembly

Fabrication / Shop Dwgs

Coordination

Scheduling

Logistical Planning

Firefighting?

There are distinct model differences: The Tale of Two Models

The A|E Model is not traditionally sufficient to construct from. There are also other items that may need to be constructed just to build the construction items that will stay in place. Suffice it to say, you will need to create your own model in addition to the A|E. Their model is called the **Design Intent** model; your model is called the **Constructability** model. This can be a hybrid of architecture and structure elements but will most certainly will be different than the Architects model. This model can utilize Revit Phasing to illustrate the construction phasing / break-out of work or you can embed parameters into the model components to do phasing inside Navisworks. I usually find that both are useful, especially when creating documents illustrating different phases.

Contractors must know and use Revit

Many construction professionals want to do BIM but find themselves doing "almost BIM" or even venturing into Hollywood BIM. Most of it is because they think learning the software is difficult and believe that they can't benefit from this model. Although some of this may be true, there

can be much gained for using these tools. Upon evaluation of their current process they are already doing these steps, just in different silos. Many of these tasks are done by different people and even different trade partners. Partnering with them to create the constructability model can have great success and avoid the model re-work and design.

5D Clash Detection

Should we be doing this? 5D Clash detection would be detecting elements that may cause the owner issues. This should have been done by the A|E but you will show the value of your services if you address this question.

Considerations:

- If you picked a different manufacture for equipment specified, did you check for required clearances?
- If there are filters or any other elements that require lift equipment, can you get access to these?
- Any other evaluation of commissioned elements?
- Construction equipment accessibility / safety!

3D Sections

If you received a Revit model you most likely received a model with 2D Details and Sections. You may want to create some 3D sections to illustrate key elements like:

Elevation Changes

Identify Assembly order, elements to be constructed first (Create 3D, static isometric to convey assembly order) Validate in 4D with Navisworks.

New Tools for use of Displaced elements exploded views.

I€ Cope ▼ 📴 🗑

🖯 Cut 🕶 🟪 🖁

Geometry

Join ▼

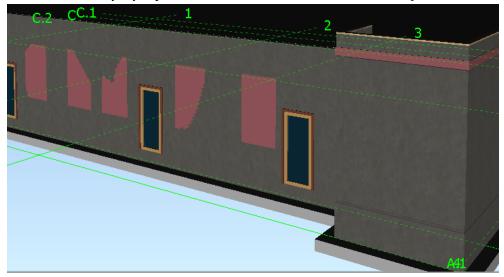
Lab 1 - General Model Cleanup

Wall Cleanups & Joins:

- 1. Wall Clean-ups
- Before you begin breaking up your model with parts you will want to make sure your wall clean-ups are done before hand. If you are using the model for analysis, ensure that the walls are all "joining" Occasionally Architects or engineers will select disallow join, this will also make the analytical lines not join.
- 2. *Horizontal Wall Reveals* do not break with parts unless imbed into walls where they will divide.
- 3. *Embed Brick Walls* must be joined to void out existing walls.



4. Parts don't show properly in Revit & Navisworks when embeds not joined.

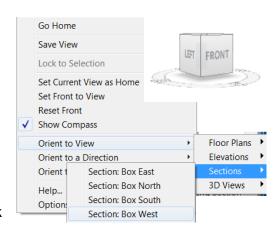


Manageable View

Break up project into smaller view or sections that are easier to manage.

 Use section boxes of specific regions (Focus areas) or potential zones of work. Use your Default {3D} view and use the View cube to navigate to specific Section Boxes. Right click on section box and select Orient to view and find pre-defined views to orient to. (e.g. Box East, Box North...)

2. Dependent Views with "Match Lines" are good to break up project.



Show Original

Show Original

Show Parts

Show Both

Create Different Part Views

Views have 3 view options:

1. Show Parts (Only parts will only show after you have enabled them and wall/floor/roof will disappear after you have removed them)

Parts Visibility

Visibility/Graphics Overrides

Graphic Display Options

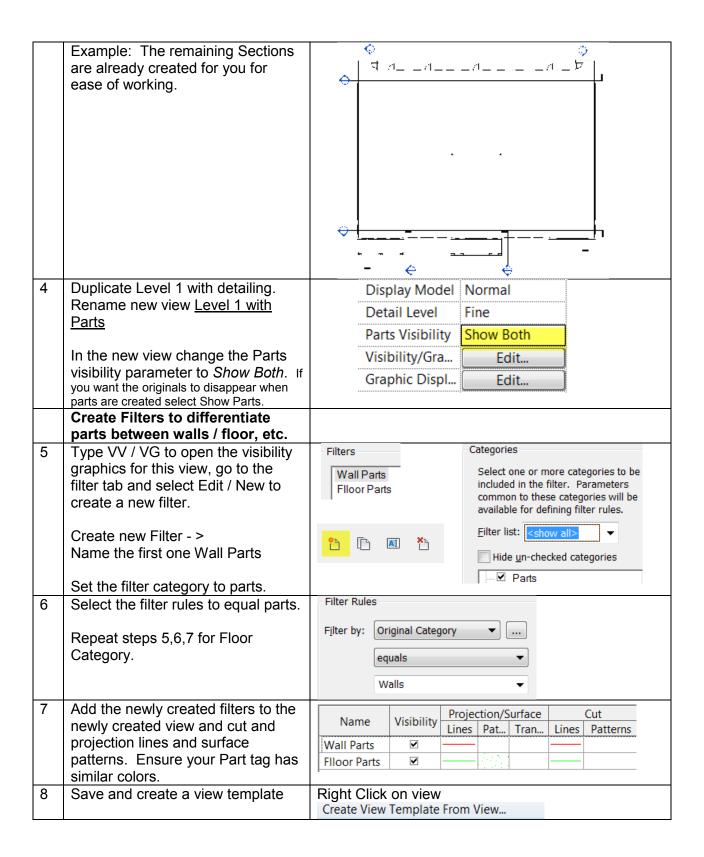
- 2. Show Original only shows walls.
- 3. Show Both (Recommend Differing Colors)

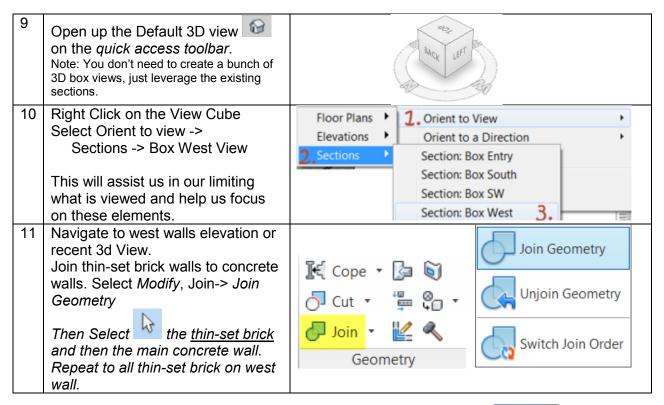
Set up a generic parts view template enabling your graphical overrides for parts to include:

- 4. Color filters for walls, floor & roofs.
- 5. Line overrides, etc. to differentiate what is a part and what is not.

Lab 1 Steps

1	Open	Folder for lab files located here:
	Lab1_GeneralModelCleanup.rvt	C:\Datasets\Tuesday\CR1506-L-P
2	Open up Level 1 floor plan and clean up the corners. Do this by selecting <i>Modify Wall Joins</i> . On the options bar you have the option Butt, Miter or Square off. Select Next to toggle through each selection. Make sure Butt is selected. Note: these walls are very simple, you may have walls that have multiple layers.	Cope Cut Geometry
	Create Manageable views.	
3	Create a section on the southwest entry and rename section view <u>Box SW</u>	
	Note: Create Sections around the major areas of the model to break up the model in a more functional chunks of work.	





Lab 2 - Construction Modeling Parts

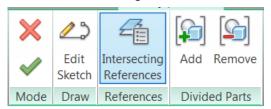
Creating Parts

Select Designers wall and Select Create parts.

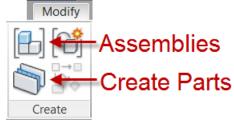
- Select wall / floor / roof > Create part
- Or Select Create parts > Select Multiple
- Parts with like materials join.

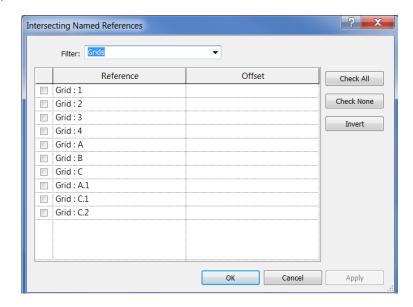
Divide Parts

Use intersecting References

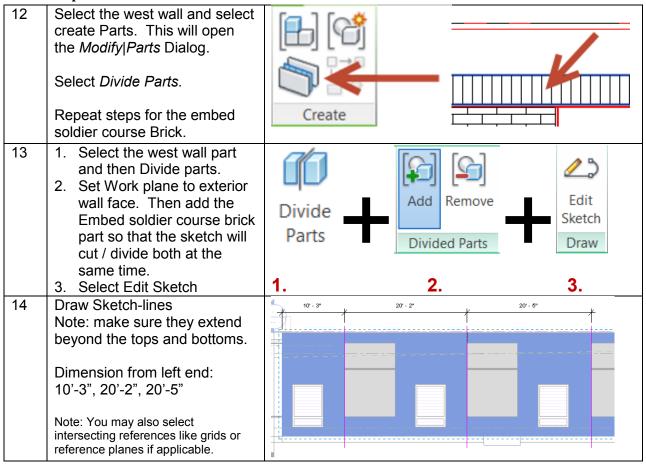


 Sketch Divisions (Extend Beyond Reference offset lines to break embedded profiles)



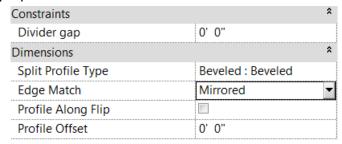


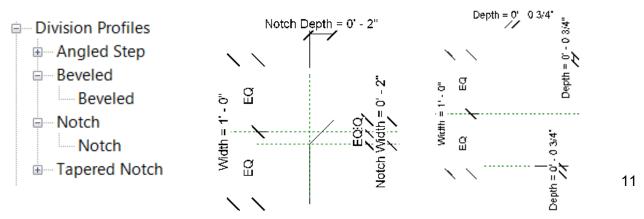
Lab 2 Steps



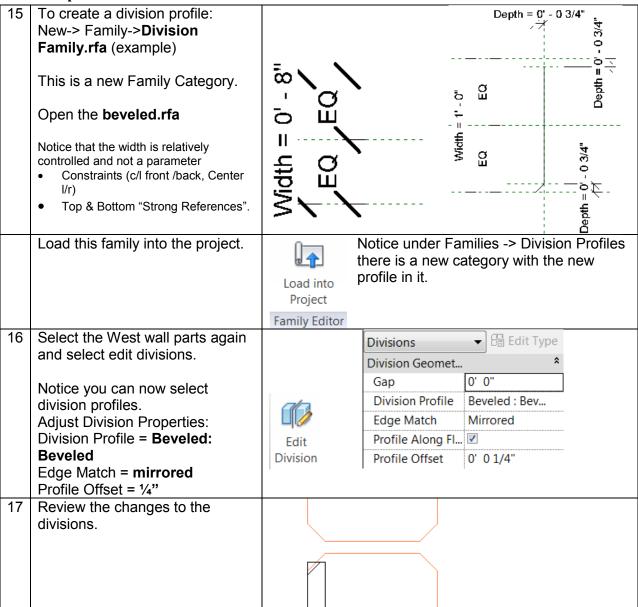
Lab 3 - Define Division Profiles

- Modify/Create Division -> Properties -> Set division properties
- Set Divider Gap
- Set Split Profile Types
- Define Edge Match (Complimentary, Mirrored, & Rotated.
- Check Profile Along Flip
- Profile Offsets (+ or -)
- New Profile Type (Division Profiles)





Lab 3 Steps



Construction Modeling in Revit ® Structure

2'-0 163/256"

Lab 4 Modify Parts

- Enable Shape Handles
 - o Per material Layers

Identity Data	*
Comments	
Mark	
Show Shape Handles	✓
Original Category	Walls
Original Family	Basic Wall
Original Type	Exterior - Brick on CMU

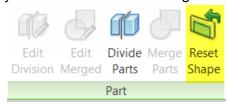
Override Part Materials

Material By Original	✓
Material	Brick, Common
Construction	Finish

• Override Phases Created / Demolished

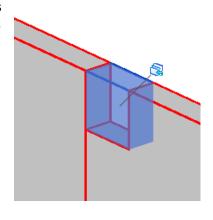
Phasing	*
Phase Created	New Construction
Phase Demolished	None
Phase Created By Original	✓
Phase Demolished By Ori	✓
	······

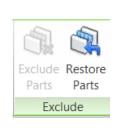
- Use Drag Handles to adjust to conditions fitting appropriate means and methods.
- Reset Shape if you want to revert to the original material.

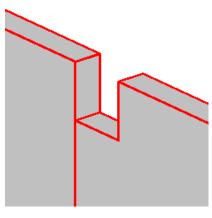




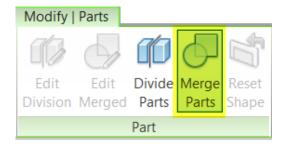
- Exclude Parts
- Restore Parts







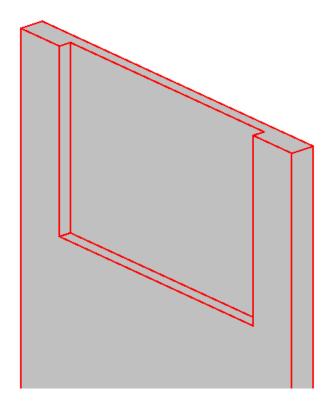
- Merge Parts Like type materials can be Merged,
 - Merged parts will be included in one material Estimate. (like materials)
 - o Join walls included in one pour together.



Notes:

o Wall Reveals Will divide with Parts

Wall Sweeps (not hosted) will not divide or be turned into parts. They can however be included in wall assemblies. Suggest hosting horizontal profiles in wall or redraw.



Lab 4 Steps (Modify / Override Parts)

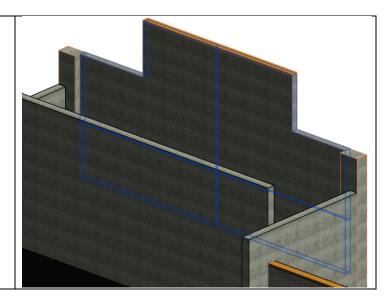
18	Navigate to the Modify Parts Callout on the floor Plan. Select the walls and then Create parts.		BACK LEFT STATE OF THE PARTY OF
	Open the 3D Parts view and orient to the Modify Parts Callout	Create	W W
19	Many times the design model doesn't detail properly the correct material take-off that a construction estimator would use. Select edit divisions and draw a line around the door frame as shown in the adjacent picture. You will need to set the work plane to front as before. Ensure that you extend the lines to the bottom dashed reference lines to make the appropriate cut.	io in the second	
	Finish the division's edits.	4" 3' - 3" 3"4" 	✓

20	Select the Top and side pieces and override their parts properties.	Show Shape H Original Categ	✓ Wal	ls	
	Enable the Select Show Shape	Original Family	Basi	c Wall	
	Handles properties and select	Original Type	Exte	erior - Brick	
	Material By Original.	Material By Ori			
	, i j	Material	Bric	k, Common	
21	Select the Lintel piece and	Material By Origi	nal		
	override the material to be <i>Brick</i> ,	Material		Brick, Soldier	Course
	Soldier Course			1	<u>F</u> I
	Select the other two side pieces			.,	;
	and override material to be <i>Brick</i> -	Material By Origi	inal		
	Running Cut	Material		Brick - Runnin	ig Cut
32	Use the Shape handles to pull the	Dimensions			*
	brick out a few inches. Notice the	Volume		1.16 CF	
	properties will report the new volume and area but will not	Area		3.83 SF	
	change the thickness.				
33	Select the door and hide it in view.		20		
	Then select the brick that is around the door frame and select exclude parts. This is how you remove parts that are different in the construction model than what the design model reflects. Notice: Do not delete the part, you can Restore parts that were excluded before				Exclude Parts Parts Exclude

Navigate to the back side of the front entry. Select the different thickness walls and select *merge* parts.

Note: These will include the material take-off's together to include a proper volume in any given assembly.



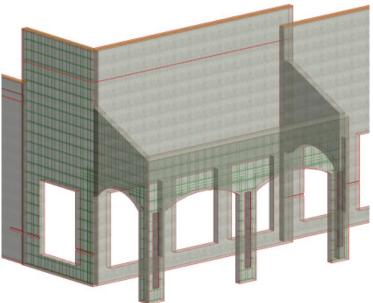


Lab 5 - Modeling Rebar (See other AU Labs on Rebar)

Wall / Rebar Settings

- 1. Rebar isn't associated to the part, but the wall.
- 2. Define Cover settings for whole wall.
- 3. Draw specialty rebar first then add whole rebar next.
- 4. Cover settings will only apply to parts, when defining boundary, use offset and lock it to the edge of the part.
- Rebar will accommodate openings for doors etc. but does not consider the profile edits unless you incorporate these into your wall. These are associative but not identical giving the designer better coverage.
- Rebar is not dynamically tied to your wall, if you edit the profile or top / bottom, it will not follow these edits. Use pick lines with lock for better success.
- If your wall has an exterior finish (brick, airspace, etc. You may want use the Additional (Exterior / Interior) Cover offsets <instance based>
- 8. Thin set brick walls must join geometry to concrete walls to void out material. Walls will be separate parts.
- 9. Create a View with Parts & Rebar only to facilitate Adding to Assembly views.

Description	Setting
1 - Tilt-1 1/2" Exterior	0' 1 1/2"
1 - Tilt-3/4" Interior	0' 0 3/4"
2 - Parts offset	0' 2 3/8"



AUGI Wish list: Option for when parts are divided in walls / slabs, etc. that the rebar is divided accordingly.

Lab 6 - Create Assemblies

Multiple elements combined that maintain independent views, schedules, tags and can & filters.

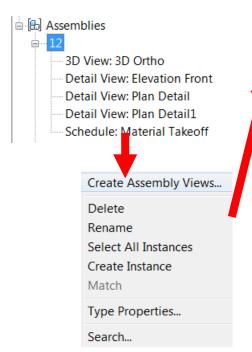
- Combine several objects into assemblies
- Manipulate elements as a single unit
- Each assembly is a separate assembly type
- Place instances of assemblies
- Changes are tracked as the model changes
- Assemblies consume parts, parameters, and associate to parts.
- Collect and pass data into Navisworks for simulation.

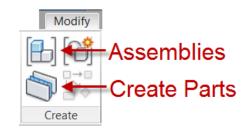
Using Assemblies

- Separate editable, tagged, schedules, and filtered
- Generate sheet and assembly views
- Shop Drawings, clarity drawings, slab plans, form layouts.
- Grouping like type objects

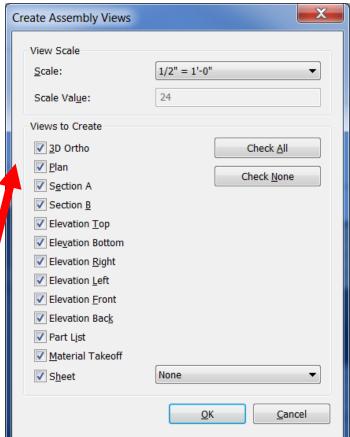
Creating Assembly Views

- Select Assembly in Browser and
- Views area automatically created
- Automatic Materials Take-off

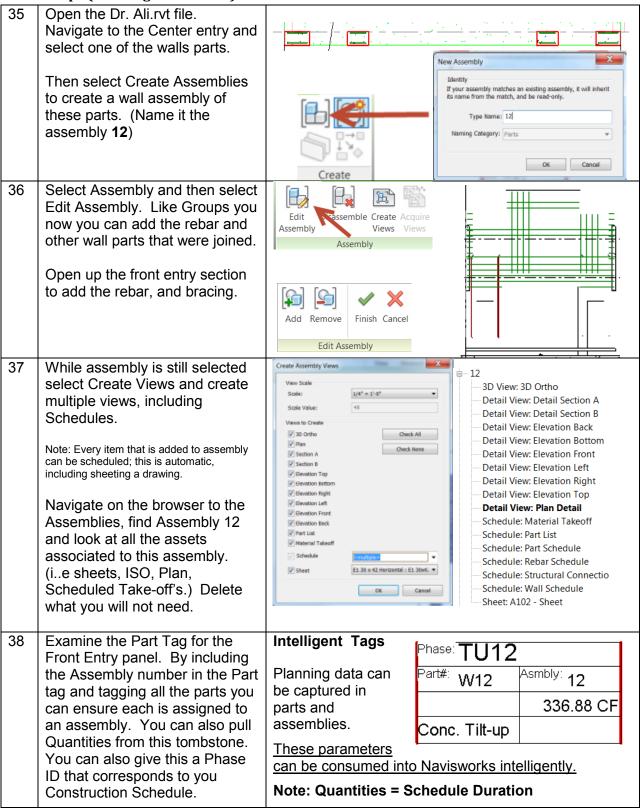






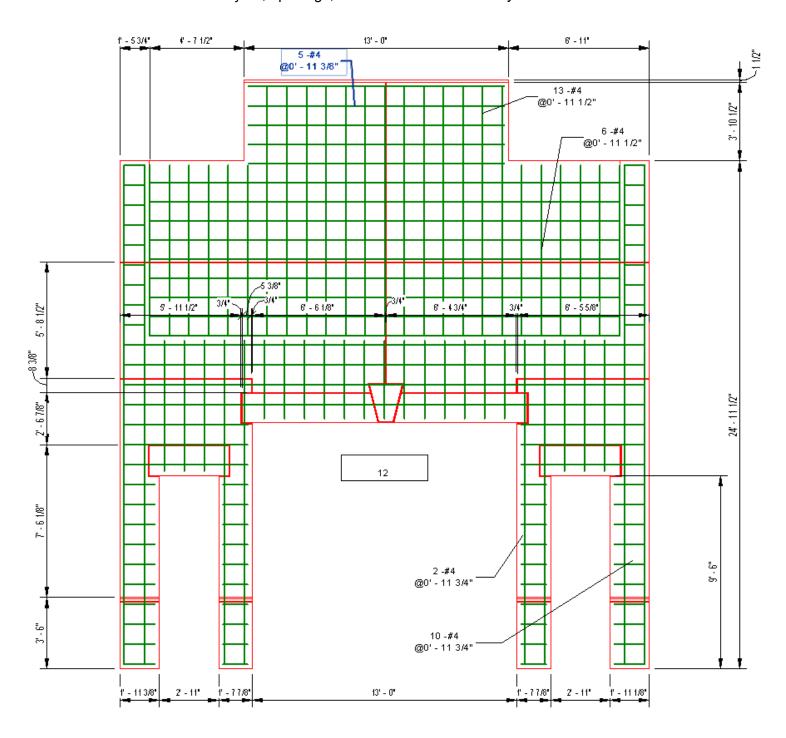


Lab 6 Steps (Creating Assemblies)



Lab 7 - Documenting / Tagging Assemblies (No Lab Exercise - Information Only)

- Tag Rebar Segments / Spacing.
- Document Rebar layout, openings, and reveals from Assembly Views.



Lab 8 - Schedules; Rebar, Parts by Assemblies

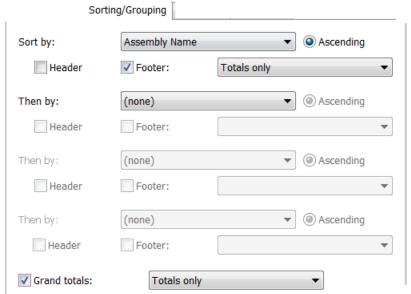
(No Lab Exercise - Information Only)

Rebar Schedules

- 1. Not Included in Assembly Views (Separate)
- 2. Rebar schedules itemize every instance.
- 3. For QTO itemize by assembly name to estimate bar size length per assembly.
- 4. Sort by Assembly Name, provide totals by footer and give grand totals per Settings below.
- 5. All fields requiring tot als select calculate totals during formatting.

Re	ebar Schedule	
Assembly Name	Bar Diameter	Bar Length
12	0' - 0 1/2"	416' - 4 1/4"
		416' - 4 1/4"
19	0' - 0 1/2"	464' - 3 1/8"
		464' - 3 1/8"
20	0' - 0 1/2"	516' - 0 1/4"
		516' - 0 1/4"
21	0' - 0 1/2"	74' - 6 1/4"
		74' - 6 1/4"
		1471' - 1 3/4"

Formatting



Scheduling Parts

- Create Schedules for Parts
- Associate with Assembly Name
- Sort by Material to break up into different materials.

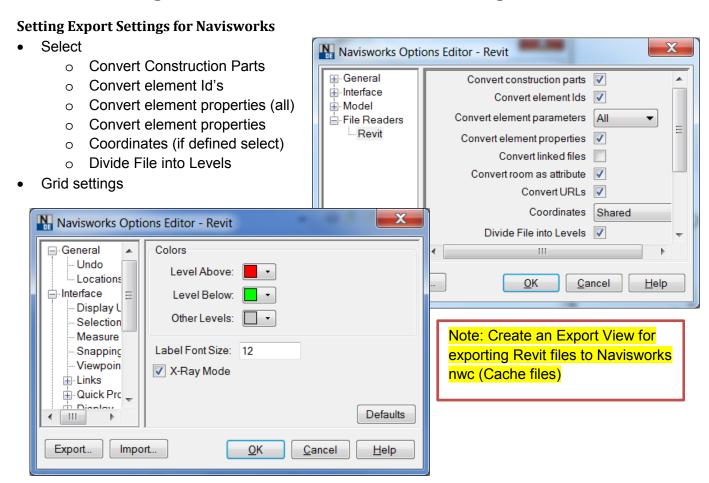
Additional Assembly Workflow Ideas

- Place & locate structural embeds plates from beams, joists, and braces into assemblies.
- Place & locate beam pockets into assemblies.
- Place and locate lift plates / devices for tilt-up and pre-cast walls into assemblies
- Locate & Place Bracing into assembles.
- Take all assembly components and add custom simulation parameter to consume in Navisworks.

Assembly Name Bar Diameter	Heading:
Bar Length	Bar Length
	Heading orientation:
	Horizontal
	Alignment:
	Left
	Field formatting:
	Hidden field
	Calculate totals

	Wall Pa	arts	
Assembly Name	Mark	Panel#	Area
Air			
			132 SF
Brick, Common			
19			5 SF
19			5 SF
19			5 SF
			81 SF
Concrete Masonry U	nits		
			132 SF
Concrete, Cast-in-Pla	ace gray		
	22		327 SF
023	23		471 SF
21	21		332 SF
20			237 SF
17	17		403 SF
19	19		159 SF
18			56 SF
			173 SF
			332 SF
			470 OF ZU

Lab 9 - Consuming Revit Data to Automate Navisworks Manage



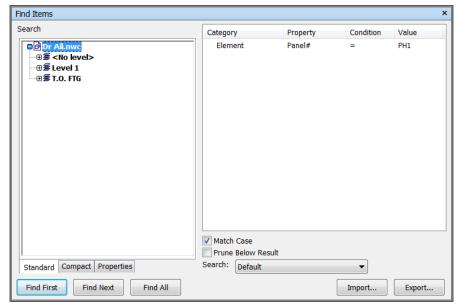
Establish Default Search Sets

Use parameter based search sets to filter and consume Revit data to avoid manual set-up.

- Material Search
- Phase Code Search
- Misc. Filters

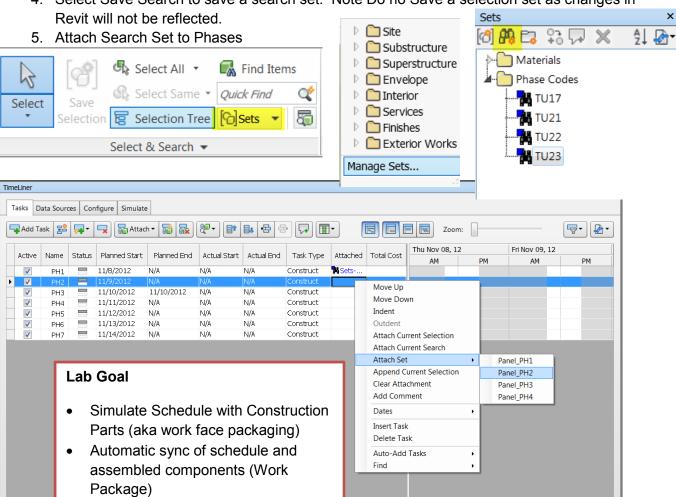
Workflow (Parametric Search)

- Use find items tool to search for Revit Parameters for category select <Element>, Property <Parameter name>, condition <=>, Value (select desired value)
- 2. Select find all (to verify selection.

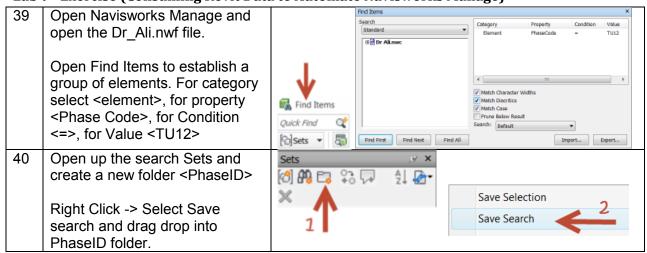


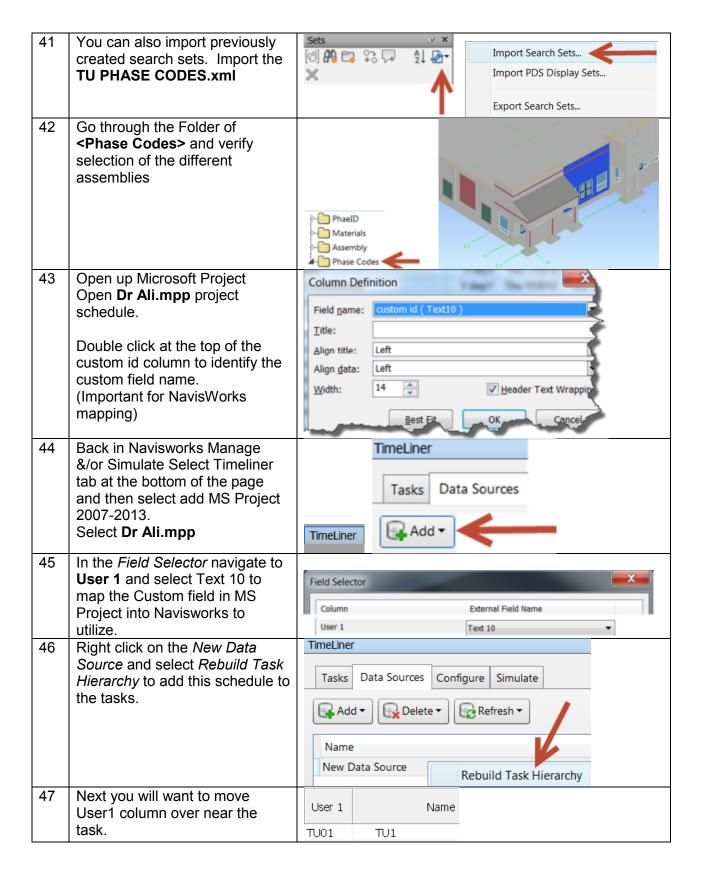
3. Open Sets - > Manage Sets

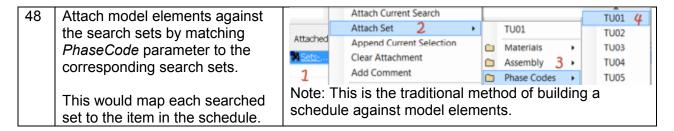
4. Select Save Search to save a search set. Note Do no Save a selection set as changes in



Lab 9 - Exercise (Consuming Revit Data to Automate Navisworks Manage)

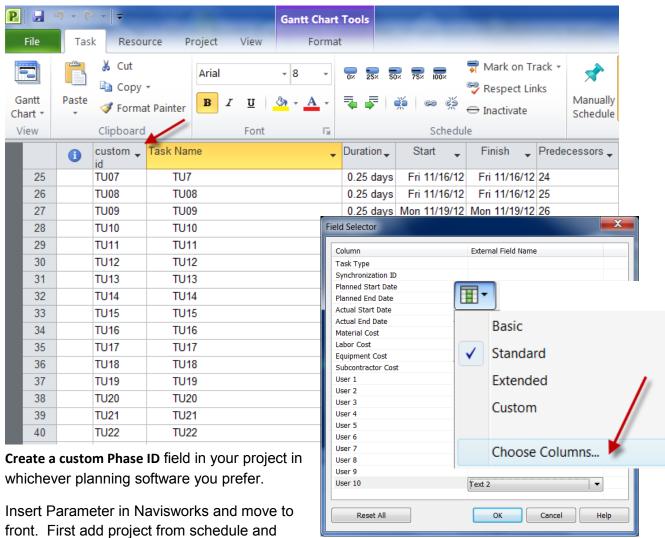






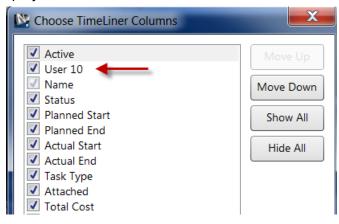
Lab 10 - Automating Simulation Selections

With the proper planning there can be synergy between Project Schedule and Shop Drawings / Revit Drawings. Depending on the planning software you can create a unique custom variable that can be also identified in Revit to map to the project schedule then automated through the Rules editor in Navisworks.



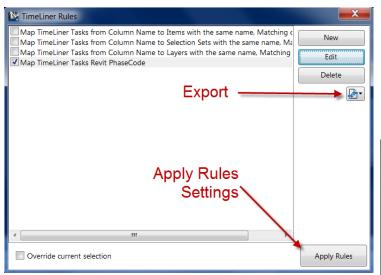
select the preferred User Column for the Phase ID and map it to the External Field Name.(note: this may have been renamed in the planning software), you may need to find this through trial and error if you can't open the project planning software.

Choose Column for which you want to map the specific parameter. This tool is found on the timeliner task bar. This may automatically be added or may need to be added to existing projects.

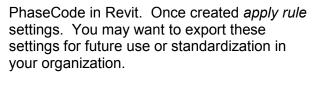




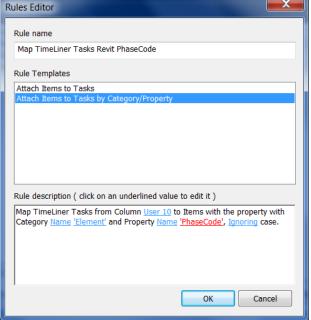
Auto-Attach Using Rules will enable you to map the elements via parameter vs. creating individual search / selection sets. You will want to give it a name different than the other Auto-Attach rules.



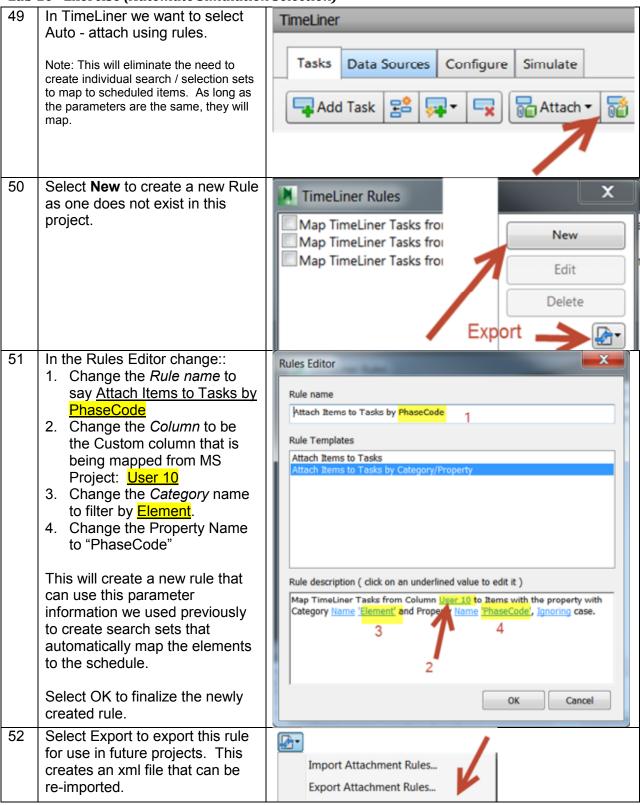
Use the Attach Items to task by Category / Property. You can select the Navisworks *Column* to map with specific properties (similar to find items with search name) This will automate the selection of items that have the previously identified parameters for

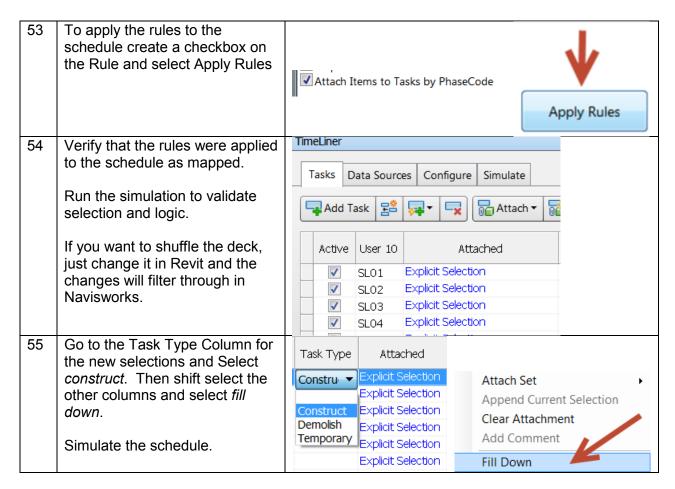


Verify your Project Schedule to ensure that there are explicit selections and don't forget to make sure your task types are selected (i.e. Construct, Demolish, etc.)



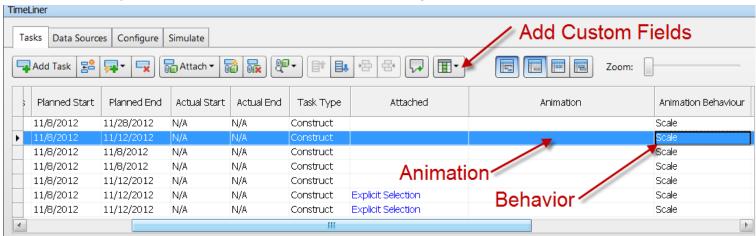
Lab 10 -Exercise (Automate Simulation Selection)





Lab 11 Animate areas of greatest concern (No Lab Exercise - Information Only)

Many times animations can be a very trick and complicated avenue for simulation. Even though clients enjoy a good dog and pony show, it is important to demonstrate / animate areas of the greatest concern. This may be simulation of egress, 4D clashing, complicated areas, stacking / demolishing sequences, temporary construction etc. Logistical issues are not always shown in plans but should be not only demonstrated but somehow documented. Navisworks can communicate these weekly elements without the need of plans. Animations can be added to the construction schedule and are not always found on the schedule task bar, remember to add these to your schedule in these complicated areas or egress studies.



AU2013 Resources:

SE1588-L - The Prolific Potential of Parts

FB1846 - Precast Concrete Industry Extensions for Autodesk® Revit® Structure 2014

<u>FB2971</u> - Modeling Precast Concrete to a Shop Drawing Level Using Autodesk® Revit® Structure

<u>FB2457</u> - Autodesk® Inventor® and Autodesk® Revit® Structure for Precast Structures

<u>SE1669</u> – Generation of Rebar Objects Using Results from Analysis and Design

<u>SE3142-L</u> - Modeling Reinforcement and Creating Shop Drawings in Autodesk® Revit® Structure