



pCon
PLANNER

New features in pCon.planner 7.4 PRO

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New Features in pCon.planner 7.4

With the newest version, pCon.planner is better than ever. Numerous new functions make creating renderings and print layouts even easier.

But that's not all: The new version also allows for the use of panorama images within the background of your plan. This document will give you all of the information you need to know about the new features of pCon.planner 7.4.

1 New Presentation Features

1.1 Background image in the design area

What will my building look like once it's standing where it should? No need to wait, you can figure that out during the planning process: It's all thanks to a customized background image – also known as Skybox – that can be placed directly in the design area. This realistic background can be rotated and the opening angle is adjustable. This ensures that the view out the virtual window always shows the right landscape for your plan.

The highlight: You can use the Skybox as a background for your OSPRay renderings. To add an image background, go to the *View* tab, open the *Render Settings* dialog (see arrow marked in green in image below) and upload an image into pCon.planner under the *Background* tab.

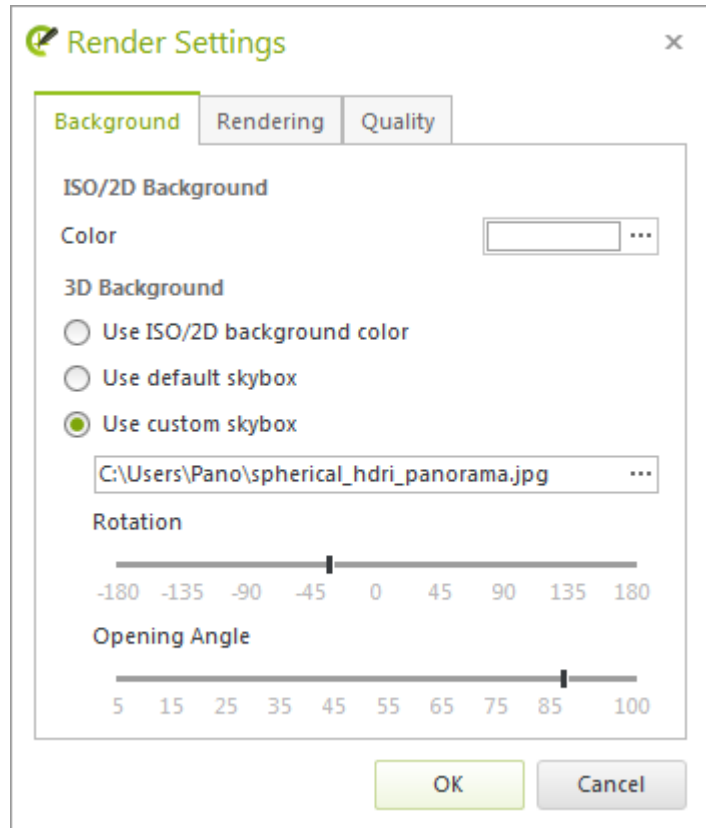


Image Source: [iStock.com/Michael Bischof](https://www.istock.com/Michael-Bischof)

Use a spherical panorama as the background image. It must have a height-to-length ratio of 1:2 and should be as high quality as possible.

The background image will remain visible in every planning until it is changed again.

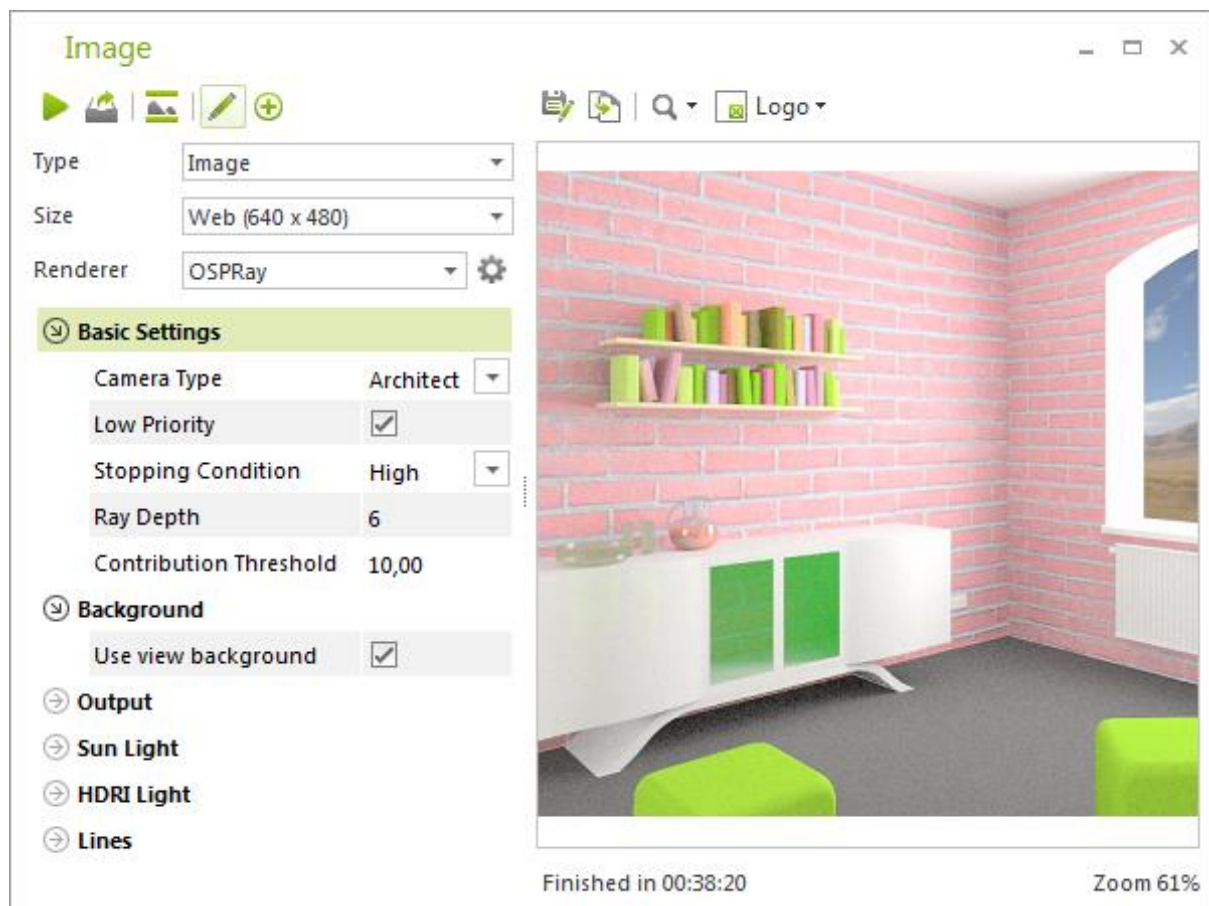
[pCon.planner Help: Render](#)

1.2 Render settings and image output always side by side

The image output dialog is now connected to the *Image* or *Video* dialog. During the rendering process, there will be no new window in the way: You will be able to see the progress of your rendering as well as your settings at all times.

Why is this so important? You'll see in the next section!

[pCon.planner Help: Creating Media](#)



1.3 OSPRay more flexible

The rendering has begun, but you can already tell it's going to be too dark? Simply change the *Tone Mapping* setting. Now you can do so while the image is being rendered –without starting over!

All in all, rendering with OSPRay is much more user friendly now. Unlike in pCon.planner 7.3, you can change many of the settings while your image is being created. A manual restart of the rendering process is no longer required.

In addition, OSPRay gets more efficient: Your image will be rendered in less time while keeping magnificent quality.

1.4 Restart or keep it going?

It is now possible to change several OSPRay settings while an image is being rendered. These changes will then be directly inherited for the final image. It is also possible to make changes to further parameters during the image calculation; however, some will lead to a restart of the rendering process.

Note: You can even change the *Tone Mapping* and *Background* after the rendering is complete!

1.5 OSPRay repertoire continues to expand

So, you can use a background image from your plan when rendering now, but that's not your only option: In addition, you can set your own panorama using the *Image* dialog. You can then adjust the *Rotation and Opening Angle* directly within the OSPRay settings. The previous need to align or move the entire plan is no longer necessary.

The *Rotation* option is also available when using HDRI images as a light source. That way, your light is always coming from the desired direction.

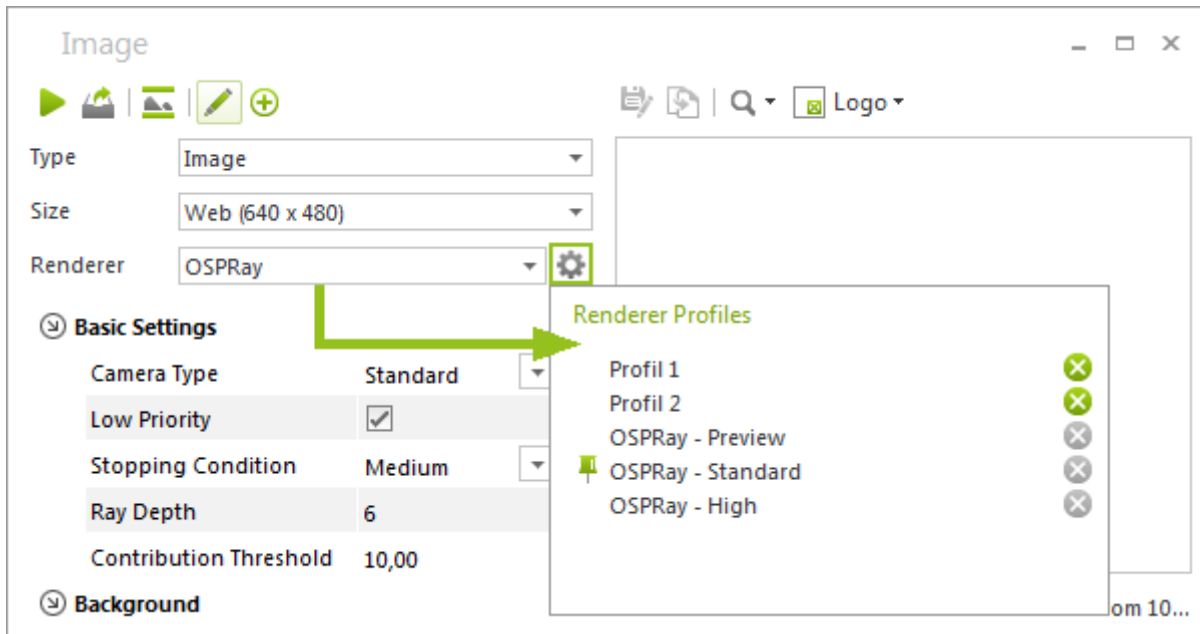
Tone Mapping settings have also been revised. You can read more about this in our online pCon.planner Help Center.

What's also nice: Self-illuminating materials and the *Architect* camera type, like those available for Yafaray, are now available when rendering with OSPRay, as well.

 [pCon.planner Help: Photorealistic Images](#)

1.6 More overview in the Image dialog: Rendering Profiles moved

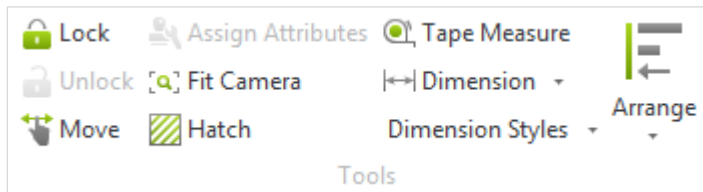
In the new version, you will find your *Render Profiles* dialog to the right of the *Renderer* selection. This clarifies the overview of the selection, as the chosen *Renderer* determines which profiles are available.



Note: This new arrangement also applies to the *Video* dialog.

 [pCon.planner Help: Single Frames](#)

2 Dimensions in Layout Area



It's now possible to use dimensions in the *Layout* area! This way, you can plan with more flexibility – no dimension lines in the design area and no visibility settings – since dimensions can often disturb visibility, but are a necessary part of the work process.

In the *Layout* area, various types of dimensions as well as the *Dimension Styles* dialog are available.



Dimensions are available for all 2D viewports as well as isometric perspectives. Dimensions from the layout area are not transferred into the design area.

Note: You still have the opportunity to set dimensions in the design area, of course. The dimension style is selected separately in the design and layout areas. With this, for example, size ratios can be adjusted to the scale of the layout page.

[pCon.planner Help: Layout Area](#)

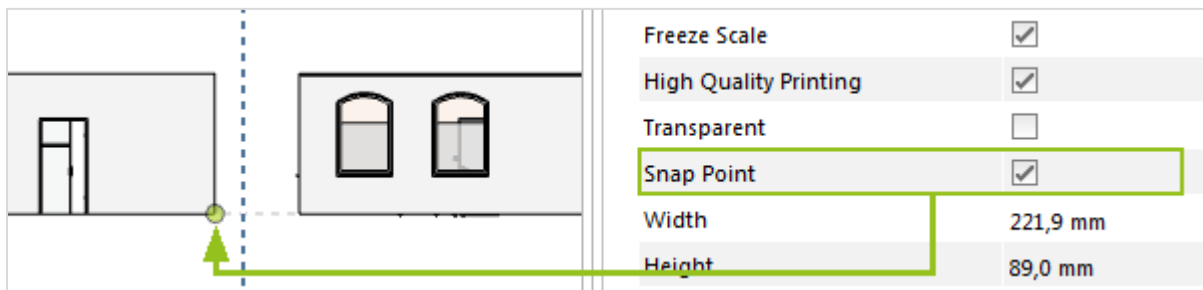
3 Professionally Arrange Printed Pages

3.1 Align viewports and their content to one another

One printed page, several viewports – and all of the content nicely and neatly aligned? With pCon.planner 7.4, there are new ways to organize your layouts.

For each 2D viewport or isometric view, you can now set a *Snap Point* and position it freely. You can then use this point to arrange the content of your viewports. Set each window with the same dimensions and your layout will immediately look more organized, even with several viewports involved.

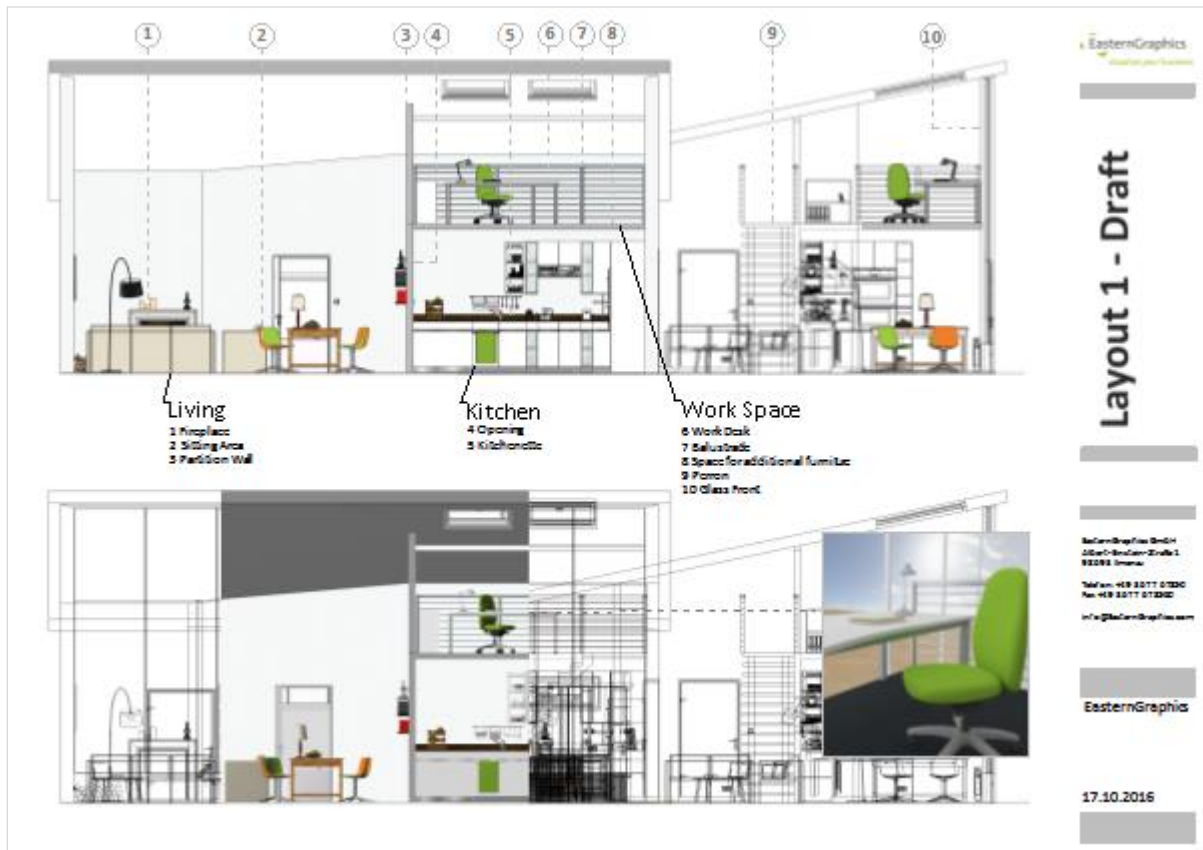
To keep it safe, enable *Freeze Scale* in the Properties Editor. This way, the content of the active viewport is protected against zooming.



When you insert and position a new viewport, pCon.planner helps you by marking the center of the view. This allows you to find the appropriate size and position in relation to the objects on your layout page.

Move your objects to the printed page: as a further acquirement from the design area, the *Move* tool is now available for you in the layout area.

[pCon.planner Help: Layout Area – Positioning Objects](#)



3.2 Select it in the design area, find it in the layout

Your selections in the planning view are retained when switching over to the layout view and are visible in the active (double-clicked) viewport. When you select objects in the workspace and then insert a new viewport, you will also have access to the selected objects.

This will help you find the part of your plan that you want to focus on for the printed page. By clicking on *Hide Others*, the selection is released – just a few more clicks and you'll have inserted the view of a single piece of furniture.

You could also use the following method: Select a 3D object in the layout, switch to the view of the plan and directly edit your selection.

3.3 Objects on their own printed-page layers

All objects that you insert into your printed pages – whether drawing elements, stamps, text, viewports or other elements – are now on their own layout layers. This way, they are separated from the layer structure of the design area.

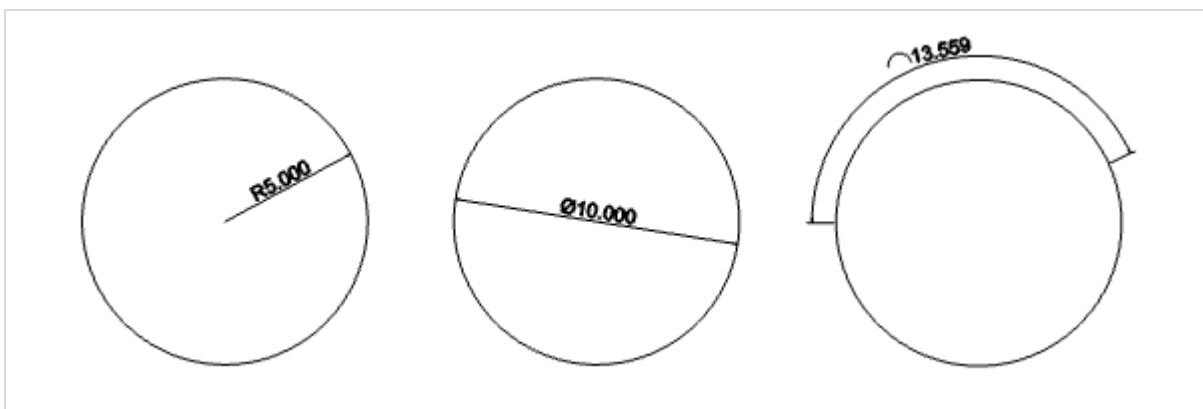
4 Several New Dimension Features

You can do much more with dimensions in pCon.planner 7.4. You'll find suitable tools for even more objects and 2D elements within your plan. The dimensions packet is also available in the layout area.

4.1 Dimensioning radii, diameter and arcs

Round out your dimensions with the new features for diameter, radii and arc dimensioning. With these three new dimension types, nothing is standing in your way of complete plan dimensions – not even excessive free form curves or your own individual constructions.

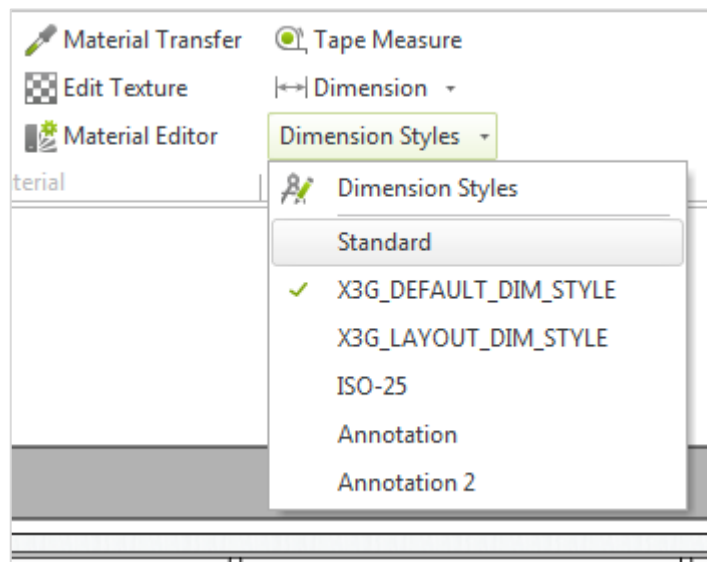
[pCon.planner Help: Circular Dimensioning](#)



4.2 Select Dimension Styles directly from the ribbon

The path to dimension styles is shorter now. By clicking on *Dimension Styles* in the *Edit* tab under the group *Dimensions*, you can open a drop-down menu that contains all of your styles. Simply click on one of the styles and it will be enabled for all future dimensions. You can recognize this by the green check mark placed before the entry.

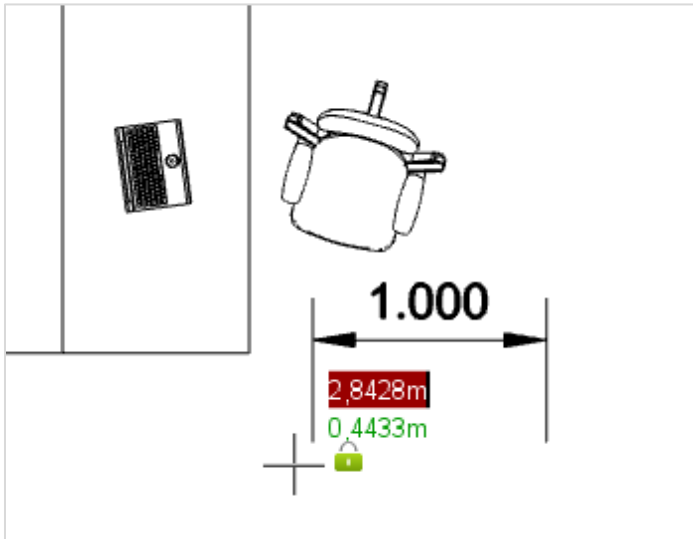
Note: Your individual *Dimension Styles* are saved together with the DWG. They will then be available when you continue to work on the project.



[pCon.planner Help: Dimension Styles](#)

4.3 Import Dimension Styles

You can easily transfer your *Dimension Styles* to other plans. Click on the *Import* button in the *Dimension Styles* dialog and select a DWG from your file system. All styles included in this DWG will then be inserted into your current plan and can be used for further planning.



4.4 Insert dimensions easier

pCon.planner 7.4 guides you through the dimensions more quickly. Once you select the type of dimension, the dimension is attached directly to the mouse.

Set it in the right place and you will always see which point you have to click next.

4.5 Insert labels with better annotations

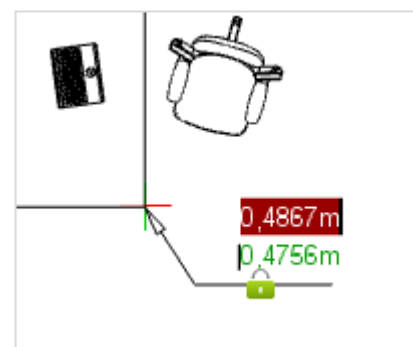
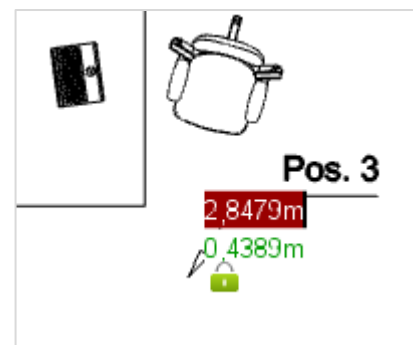
Annotations, or Callouts, are texts that refer to a particular position on your plan with the help of an arrow.

You can find them in the *Start* tab, *Drawing Elements* group, under the drop-down menu *Text* (click *Callout* entry).

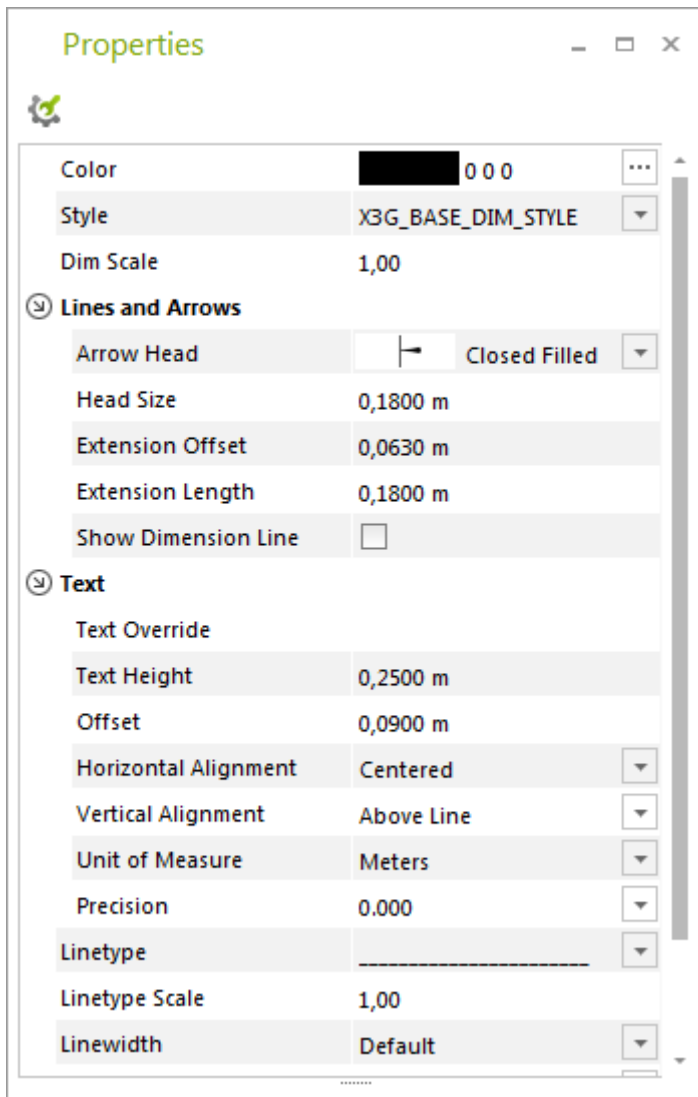
This feature puts forward an improved drawing process. You can remove the text in the *Properties Editor* and have more freedom when using annotations.

The properties for your comments depend on the chosen dimension style, and work to keep the dimensions and annotations uniform.

 [pCon.planner Help: Callout](#)



4.6 Set Unit of Measure and even more new dimension functions



You can now define a color in the *Properties Editor* for individual dimensions. Coloring helps to structure your plan better, as the dimensions are clearly distinguishable from object edges.

The new option *Remove Connections* awaits you in the context menu. This eliminates the connection between objects and dimensions. With this, you can move dimensions independently from objects or move them to different positions.

The following settings can be defined globally by way of Dimension Styles or, for a single dimension, through the Properties Editor:

Select dimension units: Measurement values are automatically converted into the selected *Unit of Measure*. To do this, set the number of decimal places in the *Precision* input field.

Place a check mark next to *Show Dimension Line* and the dimension lines will be shown, even if the dimension arrow head and dimension values are outside of the guides.

 [pCon.planner Help: Dimensioning](#)

5 Further Developments and Improvements

5.1 Share Model: Familiar function, new location

The *Share Model* button has found its new home on the *Presentation* tab. As usual, this gives you the opportunity to upload a 3D model of your furniture or an entire group of furniture items online or to share them via link with colleagues, customers and friends.

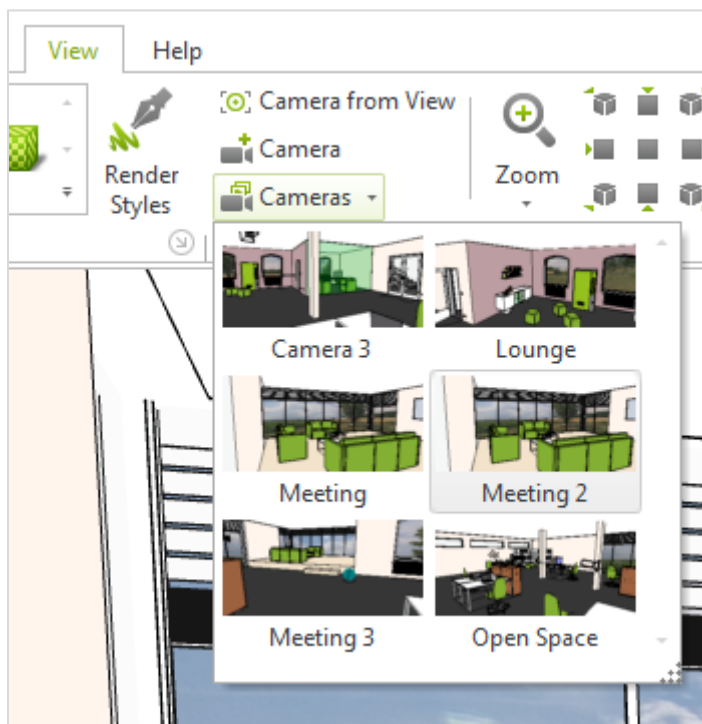
 [pCon.planner Help: Share Model](#)

5.2 Improvements for Commercial Articles

The positioning of commercial articles has been improved. If you've rotated an article and are unhappy with its orientation, simply select the article and choose the command *Reset Rotation* from the context menu.

With the new program version, you can copy *Set Articles* in an instant. Until now, the *Copy* command copied a single piece of furniture within a set. Now, by clicking *Copy Set Article* within the *Article Toolbox*, the complete Set Article will be duplicated and can be inserted into the plan as a new set.

 [pCon.planner Help: Editing Articles](#)



5.3 Narrative Cameras

When selecting a camera in the *View* tab, you will now see a thumbnail image. This makes it easier than ever to select the desired camera.

A new, organized camera area in the *View* tab allows for more efficient work.

5.4 New functions in the Media Browser

The Media Browser has been supplemented with a quick filter, making it more convenient to search for content. You can also use the context menu to determine whether you want to display subfolders for the current directory or only individual files.

 [pCon.planner Help: Media Browser](#)

Legal remarks

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