

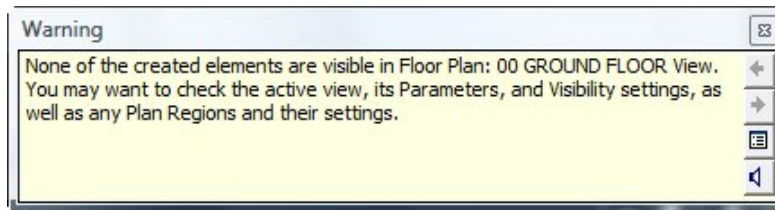
INFOCUS

This Month:

Visibility Issues

Welcome to **INFOCUS**, C3 Consulting Solutions' Monthly Newsletter. This month, we look at reasons why particular objects cannot be seen in your views.

Occasionally, Revit will warn you that something is preventing your object from being visible. It's a common warning, which (along with others) is too often ignored. The image on the right shows the dialog.



Now it's a pretty obscure message, particularly if you are new to Revit, so we're going to go through some of the reasons (hopefully *all* of the reasons) why this occurs. It should alleviate some of the frustration you may experience otherwise.

More generally, it would be handy to know why something can't be seen in a given view – not just why it can't be seen immediately after it's been inserted into the project.

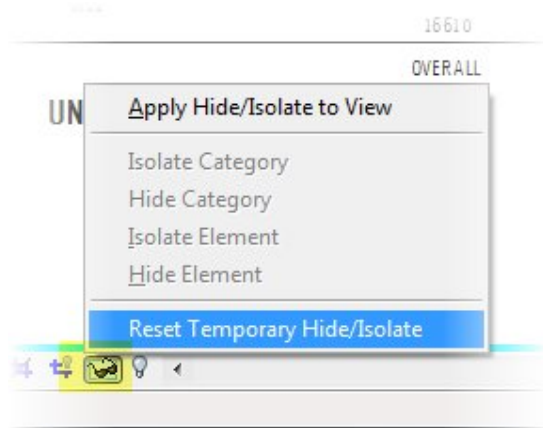
Typically, the latter occasion visits itself most frequently upon (fairly) new Revit users. The instinctive response from the user is to attempt to insert the object again (i.e. by clicking on the screen again). However, this fails to deal with the cause of the problem, and of course the result of which will be exactly the same as the earlier attempt(s). Moreover, if the object is simply not visible, then clicking on subsequent occasions will only replicate the problem and duplicate the object (and accumulate additional warnings in the project)

The former (i.e. not being able to see something that you just know should be there) is possibly the more frustrating, because the cause can be more difficult to track down. Usually, you can't make a change to an object without first selecting it, and to select it, you have to be able to see it (Hint: you can change the type properties of families by accessing them from the project browser).

The following is a list of reasons why an object may not be visible in a particular view. It's intended to be some kind of checklist and could save you valuable time on your next project.

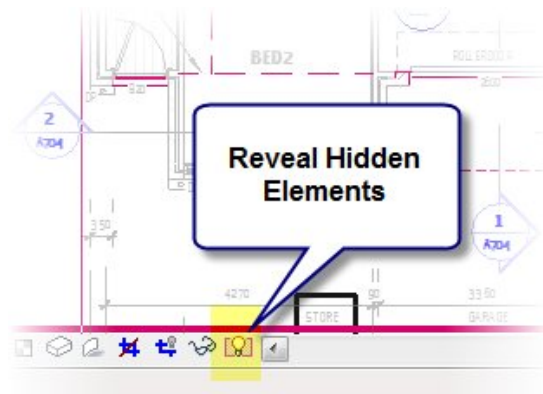
1. The object or category is temporarily hidden (by Hide/Isolate)

Solution: Reset Temporary Hide/Isolate state (Note: If the temporary Hide/Isolate tool has been used in the view, it should be fairly obvious, as a cyan border will be applied to the view)



2. The object or category is hidden in the view (via right mouse click->Hide In View)

Solution: Reveal Hidden Elements in the view. If the object is seen, RMC on the object and select 'unhide in view'

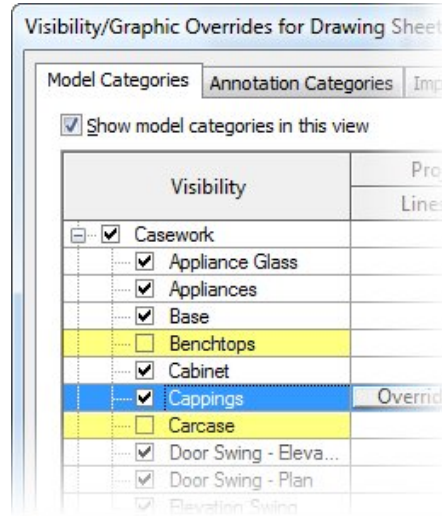


3. Another object is obscuring it

Solution: Try switching the view to be displayed as wireframe; turn off major obscuring object categories, such as walls, floors, ceilings and roofs; check whether the object is visible in a sectional or 3D view of the area where it should exist

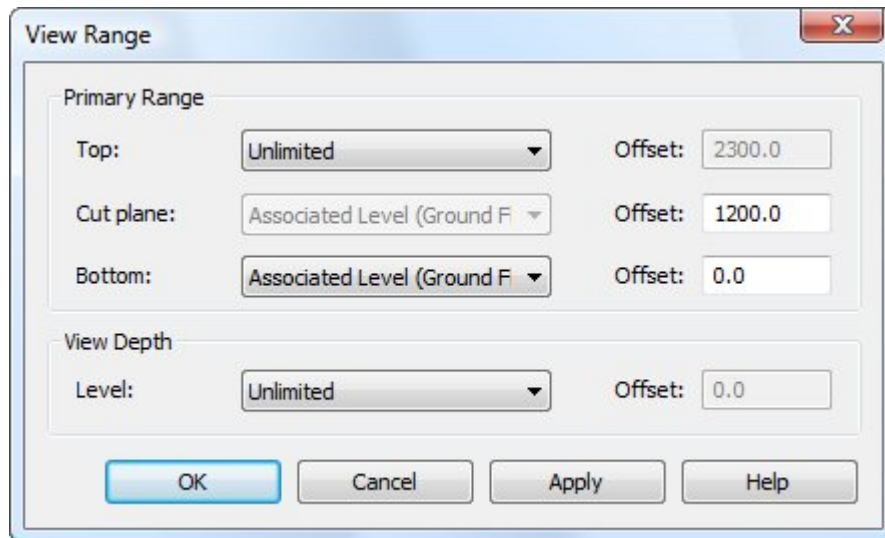
4. The object's subcategory is hidden in the view

Solution: Check the visibility of the object's category and all of its subcategories



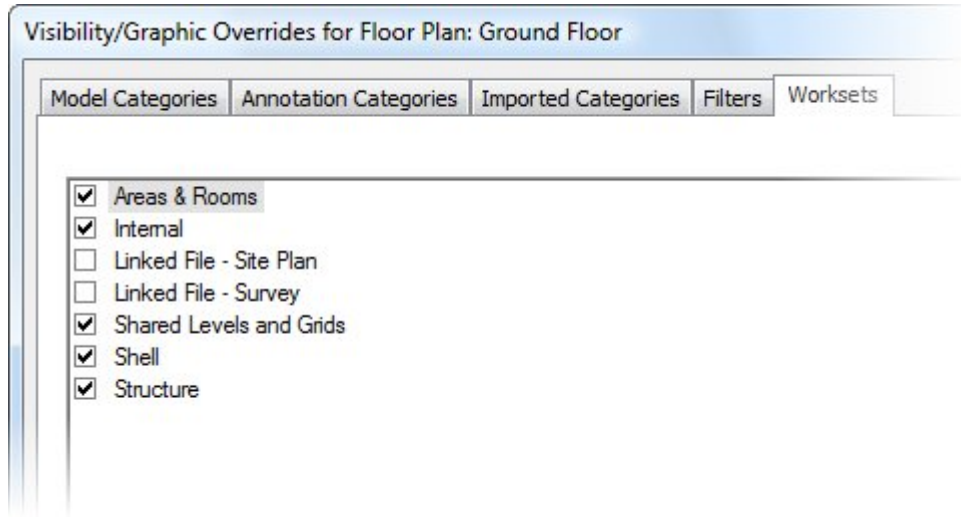
5. The object is outside the view's view range (above or below)

Solution: Adjust the view range to 'unlimited' in both directions (above and below), and/or check whether the object is visible in a sectional or 3D view of the area where it should exist. Check that there aren't any plan regions in the area that are applying different view ranges to what the view is set to. Alternatively, perhaps a plan region is required to solve the issue.



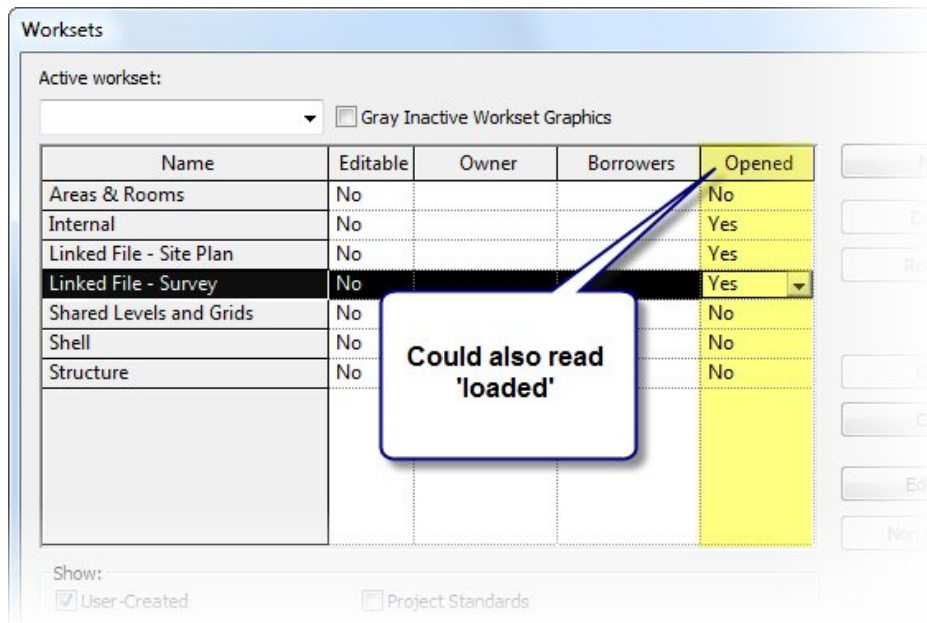
6. The object resides on a workset that is not visible in the view

Solution: If the project is using worksets, check which worksets are visible in the view. If you believe you've just placed the object, check to see if the current workset is visible in the view



7. The object resides on a workset that is not loaded in the project

Solution: Check which worksets are loaded. If you believe you've just placed the object, check to see if the current workset is loaded in the project

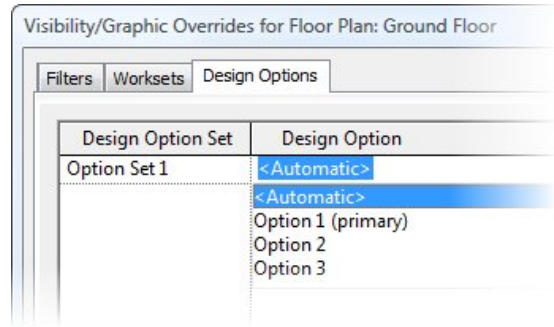


8. The object resides within a group (detail/model) and it has been excluded from the group

Solution: Find, then select the group, right mouse click and select 'Restore All Excluded'

9. The object is part of a design option that is not visible in the view

Solution: If you've just placed an object, this is unlikely. However, you can either toggle visibility of the view to inspect the contents of each design option. Alternatively, if you have other views already set up that are already set to show each design option (one per view), check to see if the object can be seen in these views

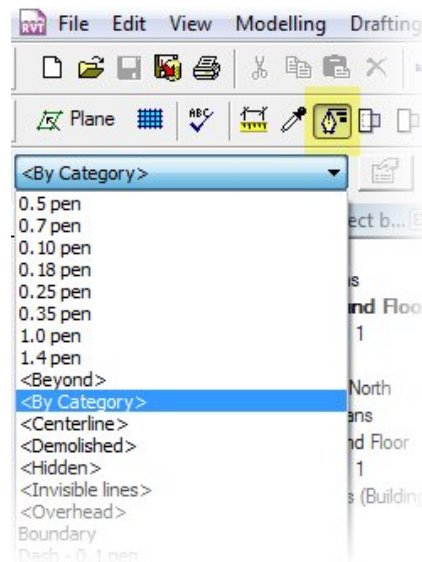


10. The object is part of a linked file that is not visible in the view

Solution: Again, this will be unlikely if you've just placed the object, but it can be a valid reason why something can't be seen. Check linked files to see if the object can be found within them

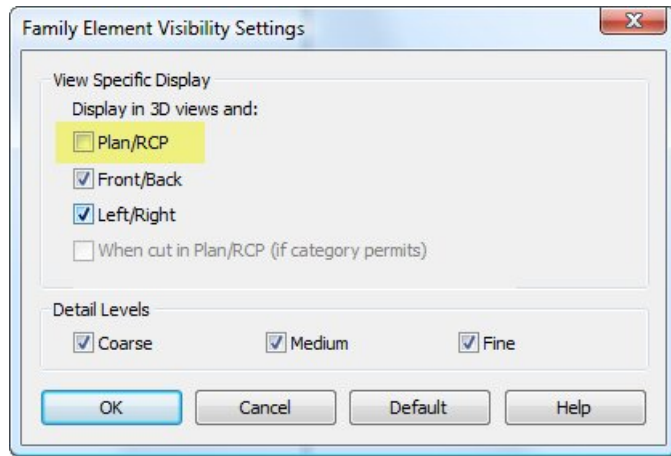
11. The object has one or more of its edges overridden to display as '<invisible lines>'

Solution: This is unlikely, but possible. However, since this linework override is view-specific, it is unlikely to have been applied in all views. Check alternative views for the element, or create new ones (which will not have view-specific overrides already applied). You can restore the edge of an element by re-applying the override and setting it back to '<By Category>'.



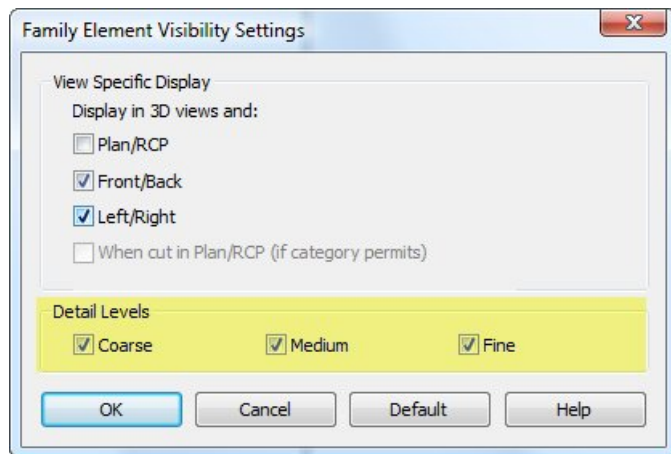
12. The object is a family and none of its geometry (including symbolic lines) is set to be visible in the view type

Solution: Select the family in question from the project browser, and edit it to open. Check the visibility of the elements within the family to determine if this is the cause



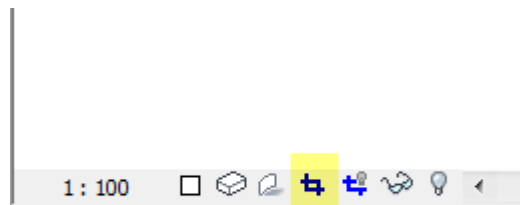
13. The object is set to not be visible at the view's detail level (check to see if the object can be seen in another detail level (e.g. medium or fine))

Solution: Select the family in question from the project browser, and edit it to open. Check the visibility of the elements within the family to determine if this is the cause



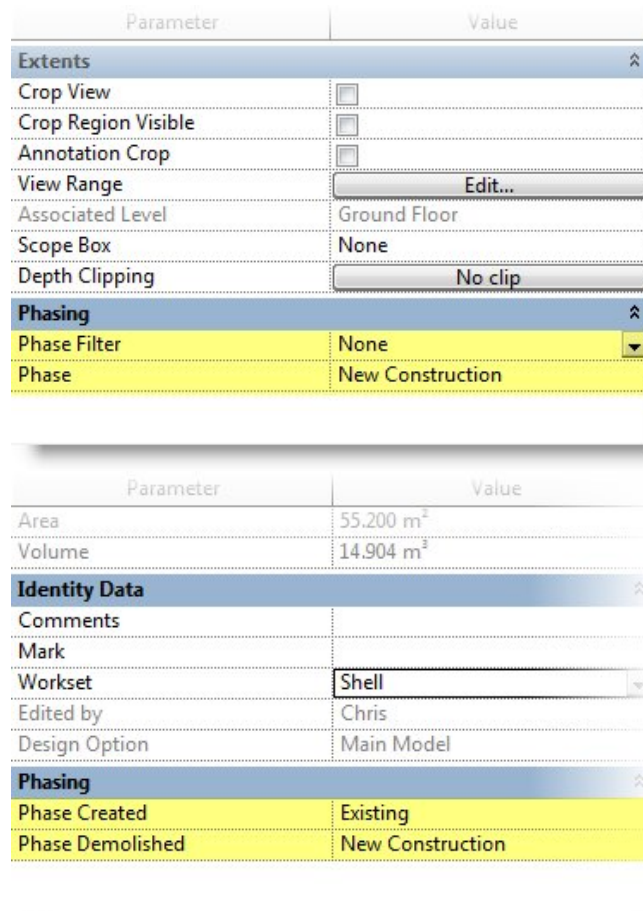
14. The element has been placed outside the view's crop region (visible extents)

Solution: This applies to model (3D) and detail (2D) elements. Change the view's properties so that a crop region is not applied, and see if the object can then be seen. Beware also of annotation crop regions, which may limit or prevent the visibility of detail elements in views (e.g. symbols, tags, text, dimensions etc.)



15. The object's phase settings ('phase created' or 'phase demolished') or the view's phase settings ('phase' or 'phase filter') prevent the object from displaying in the view.

Solution: There may be a mismatch between the phase settings of the view and those of the element. Temporarily set the phase filter of the view to 'none', which will display objects from all phases. If the object can be seen, inspect its element properties to determine in which phase it was created (or demolished) and therefore in which views it should be seen. Also, check the phase filter value of the view to ensure that the element (with its selected phase created and phase demolished parameter values) should indeed be visible in the view



Hopefully that has given you some insight into why objects may not be visible. Perhaps use this as a checklist during your next project. If you discover other reasons beyond those already listed in this newsletter, please don't hesitate to send them in!

Stay tuned for the next edition of INFOCUS, and enjoy your Christmas break!

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