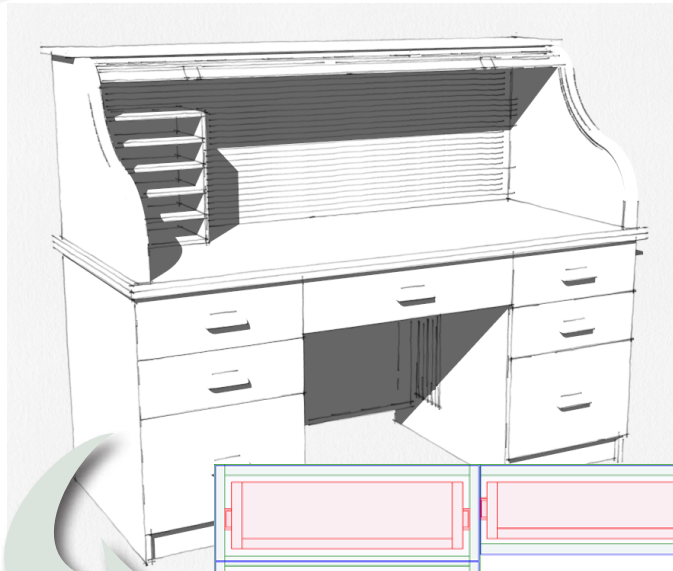


Does the design process itself leave you feeling baffled?

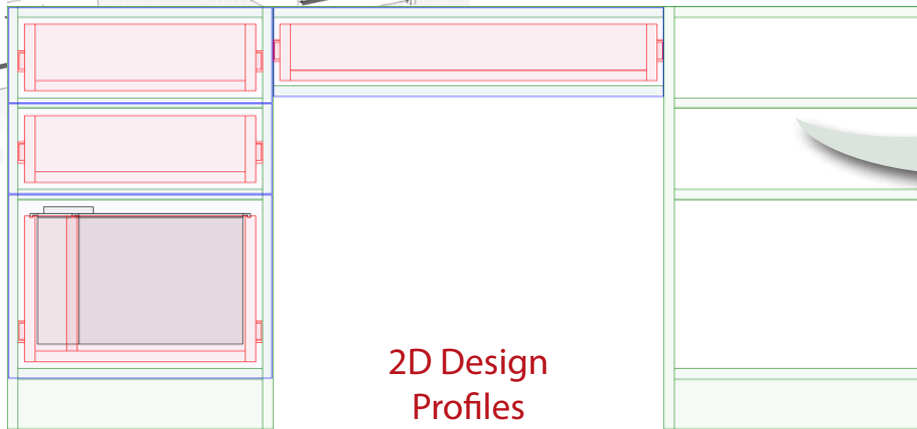
Pencil sketch



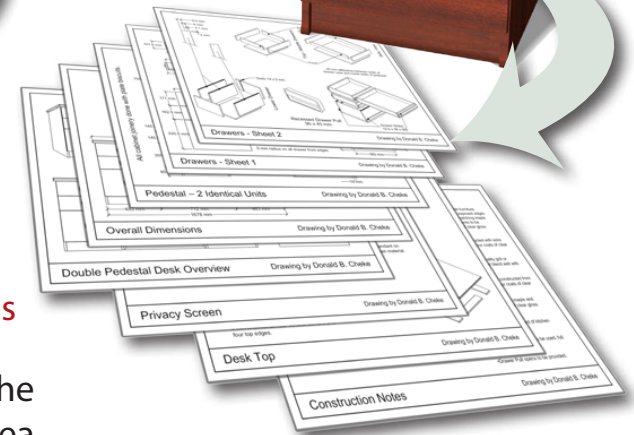
3D Rendered
Model



2D Design
Profiles



Shop
Drawings



One very common subject that many new TurboCAD users e-mail questions about is the design process itself. They usually want to know how one goes about developing an idea from conceptual seed to 3D model, and finally to blueprints from which to have their concept brought forth to reality.

Describing the design process is not an easy task and proceeding with a design can prove challenging right from the start.

How about a definition first. WordWeb has many definitions, but perhaps these two describe best the 'design' talked about here.

1. Plan something for a specific role, purpose or effect. (Design as a verb)
2. The act of working out the form of something (as by making a sketch, outline or plan). (Design as a noun)

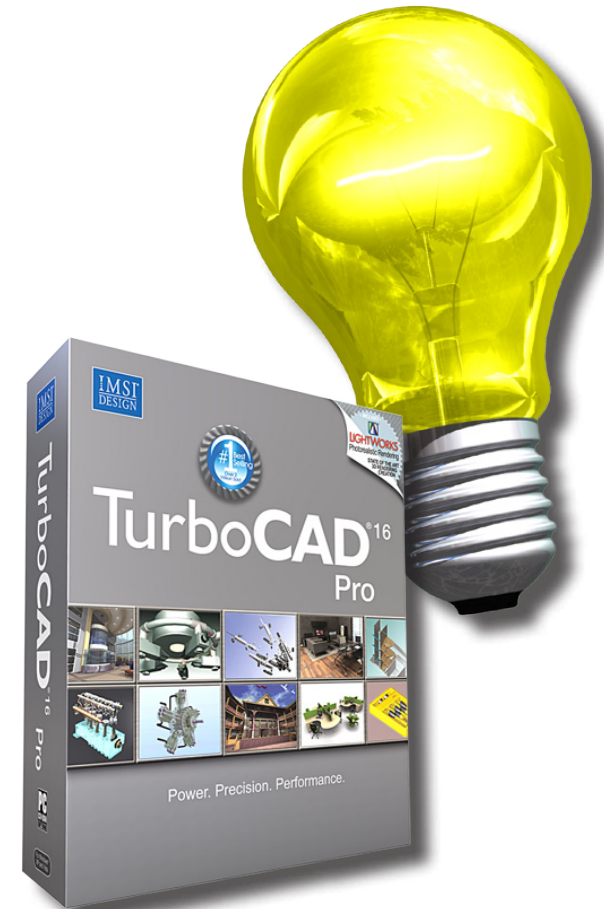
No doubt, those who employ TurboCAD on an ongoing basis can relate to both definitions quite readily, but how do they go about making a design a reality?

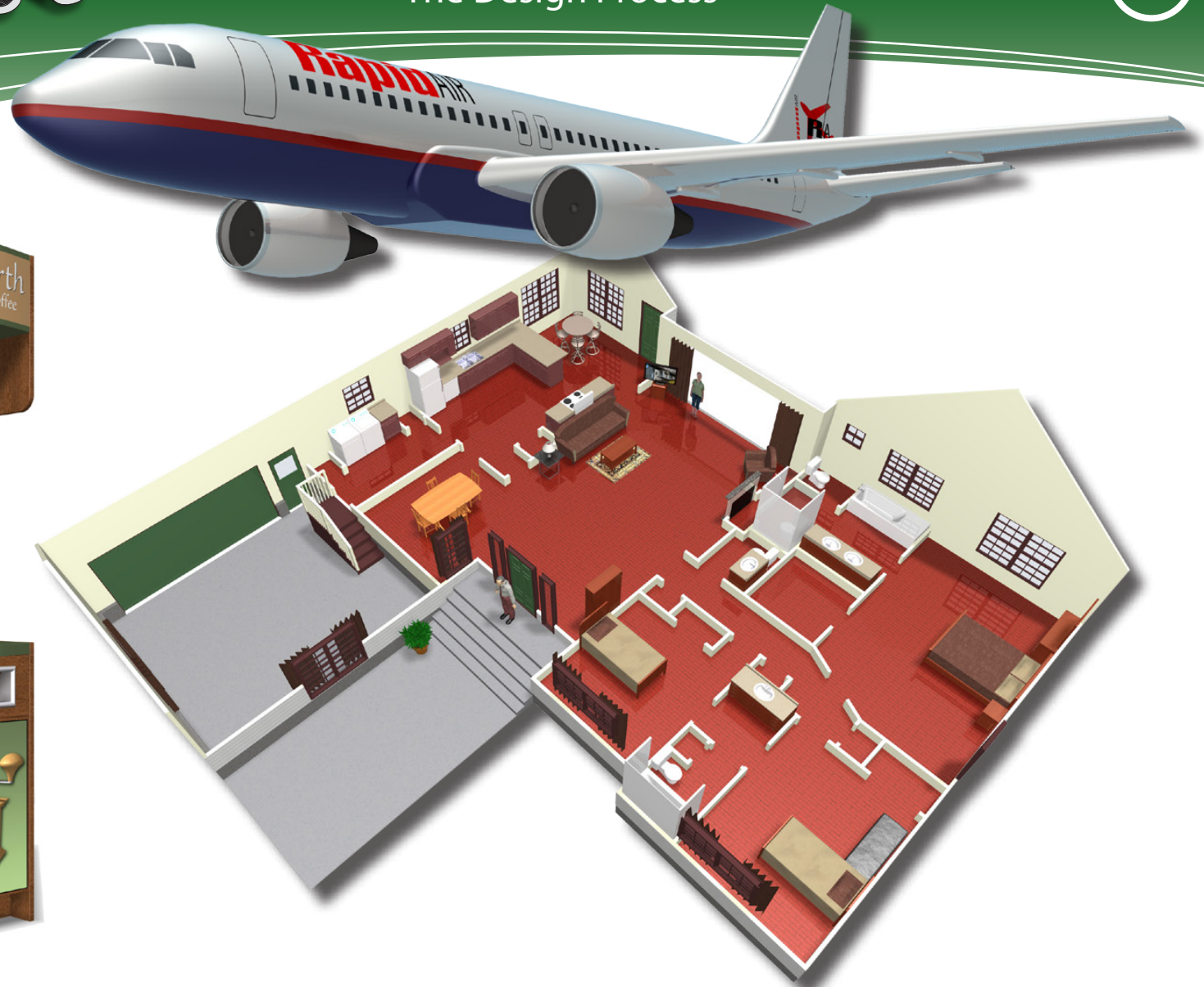
Well, it certainly must begin with an idea and some considerations.

Does one have a concrete idea or concept of what they want to design and build or just the desire to become an inventor? Without a concrete idea from which to build it is nearly impossible to give directions.

Does one have experience in the field for which their concept can be applied? Having little or no experience in the field of interest will make it pretty difficult to make headway. Many variables will be encountered that one will not know the answers to. Without some knowledge in the desired field a user may not even know the right questions to ask.

Does one have the right tools to develop the design and illustrate it so that others can understand its intent or its construction?





Complexity too, will play a huge roll in the design process. After all, a simple cabinet would be much easier to design than a house and a house would be much easier to design than an automobile or an aircraft.

So let's assume a user has a burning desire to create an elegant all wood desk for use in their home. This could be considered the seed phase - just a seed of an idea without much thought toward its function or its appearance.

Thinking about it further, a user decides that it should match their character style home, so a roll top desk might be suitable. Maybe even an heirloom style piece of furniture made of oak or mahogany.

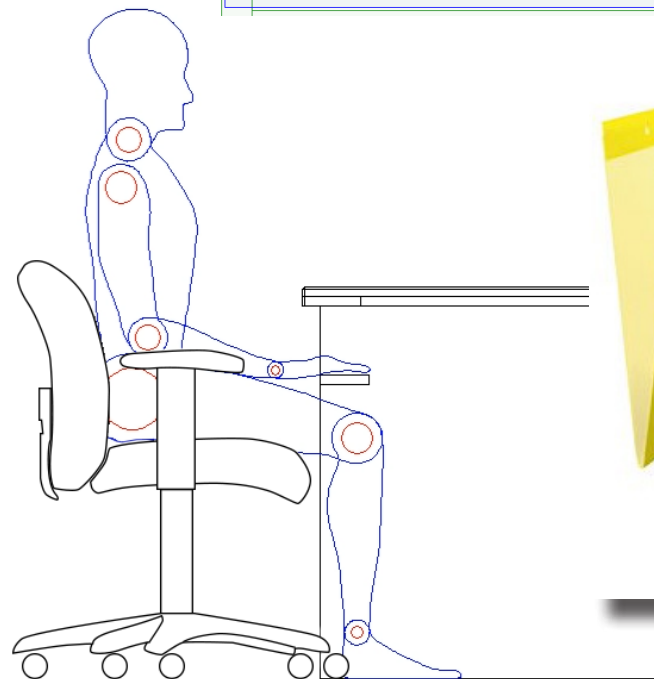
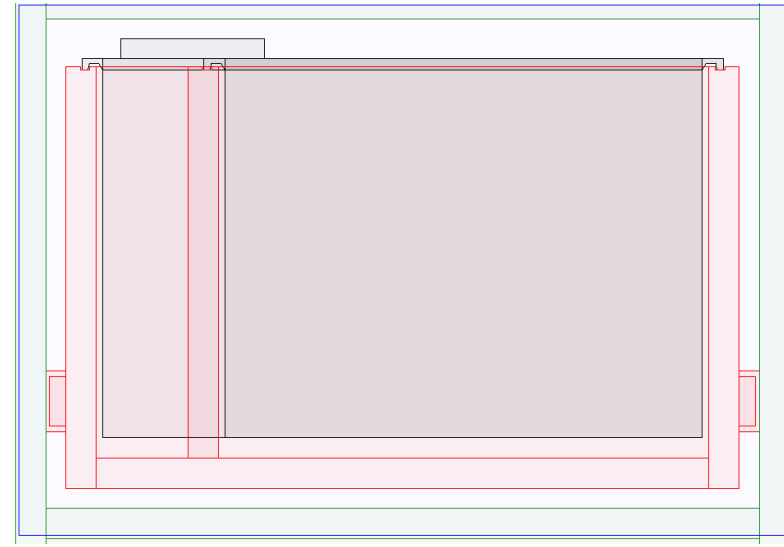
Given even more thought, it might be deemed necessary to be functional as well in terms of modern usage, such as ensuring that one can use their computer while sitting at the desk. These are all reasonable design intents and they are crucial to the design process.



With the idea now firmed up in one's mind it is time to give thought to the overall look, size and construction.

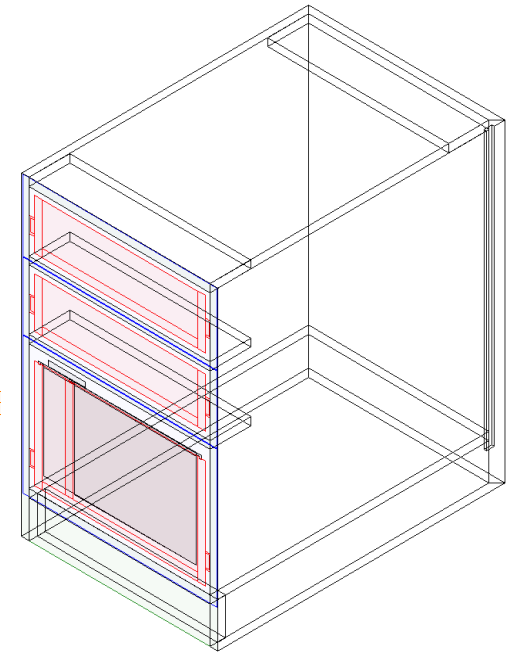
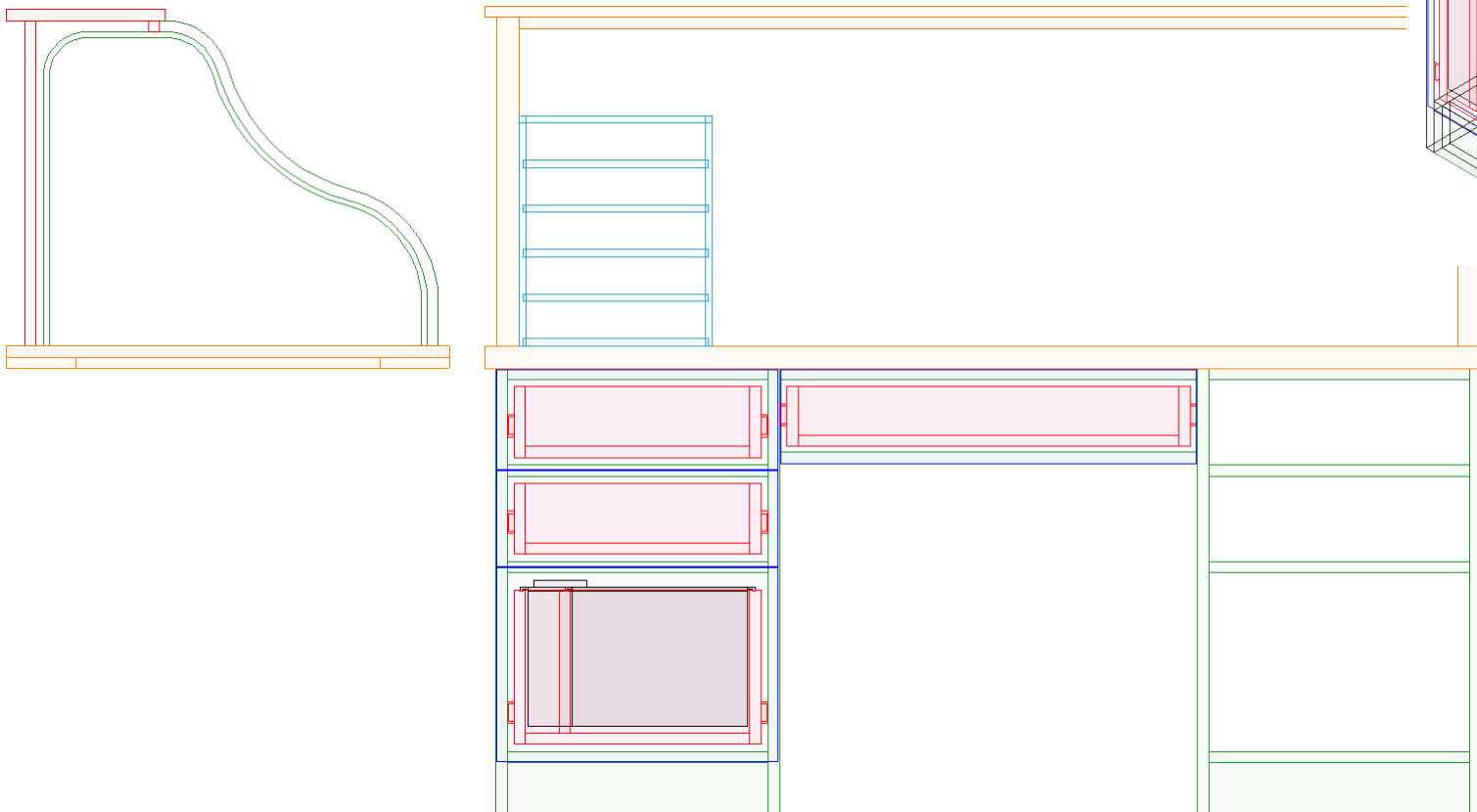
A user may do research to determine common sizes and design with those questions in mind. There are many aids to be located via a Google search to help with this.

Interestingly enough one consideration in determining the drawer sizes for this roll top desk came with the idea of using a hanging file folder system in the lower drawers. Although this may seem strange at first, it is not so out in left field considering that folders are generally based on standard sizes. Although standardization exists, a bit of research should be in order before any design is sent off to the shop for real world construction. In this design, it has been decided that the folders will hang on the sides of the drawer as opposed to metal rails, which would be an option to use by simply increasing the width of the drawers by about 1 inch and making notches to accommodate the rails.



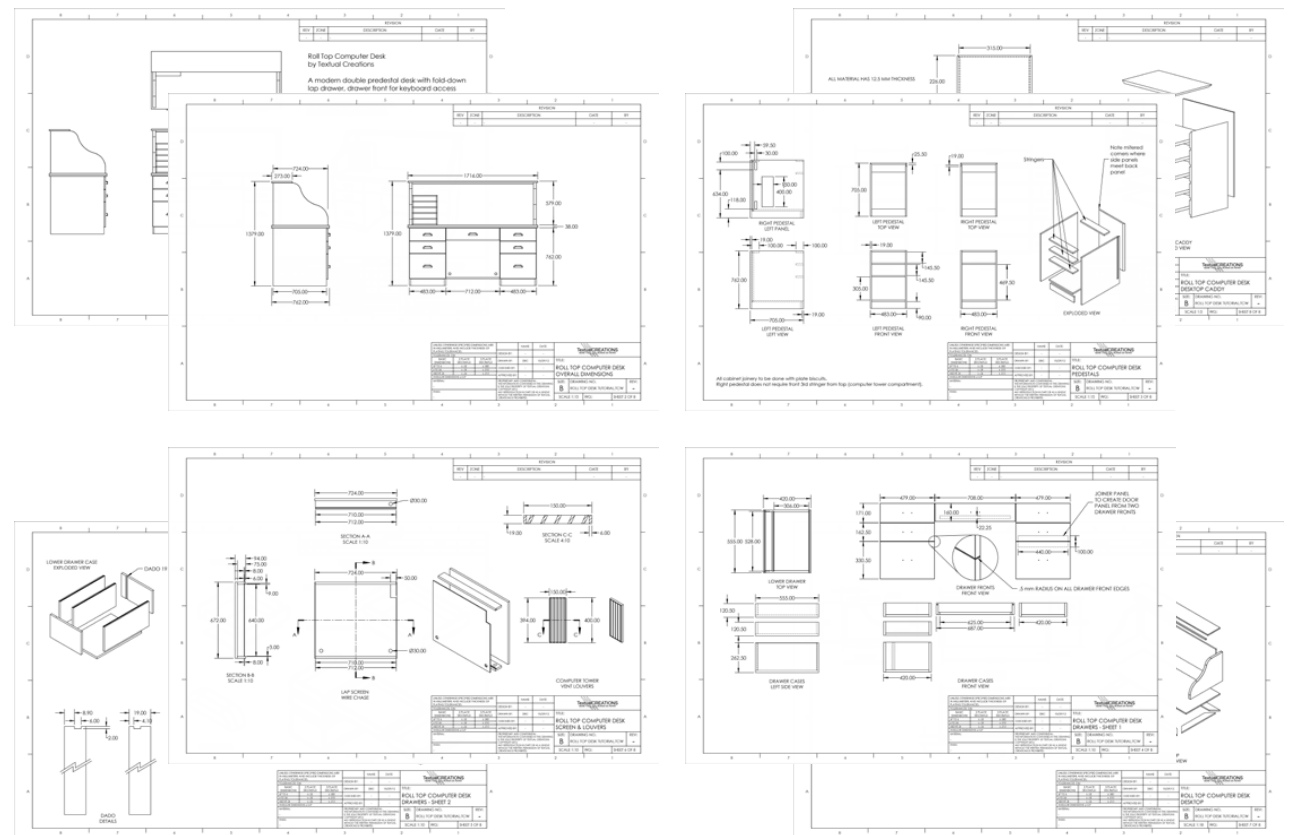
Layout can now begin in TurboCAD. It may prove useful to layout the design with 2D profiles so that all relations can be defined.

The profiles can later be converted to 3D with the use of the many tools that TurboCAD offers, including the extrude tool.



Rendering and blueprints (shop drawings) are the next order of business and TurboCAD can make this process a breeze, providing top notch professional output.

To experience the design process first hand, consider running through Don Cheke's Roll Top Computer Desk tutorial. It contains 440 pages of instruction that should get the reader well on the way to understanding design, at least when it comes to TurboCAD. It will also show the reader how to get that design to paper so that the plans can be used for real-world construction - making that seed of an idea into a reality.



If you found this TurboCAD tip helpful, please consider purchasing a full Textual Creations TurboCAD project tutorial that will lead you through an entire project, keystroke by keystroke. You won't be disappointed! Visit the [Textual Creations Shopping Page](https://www.textualcreations.com/shopping-page)