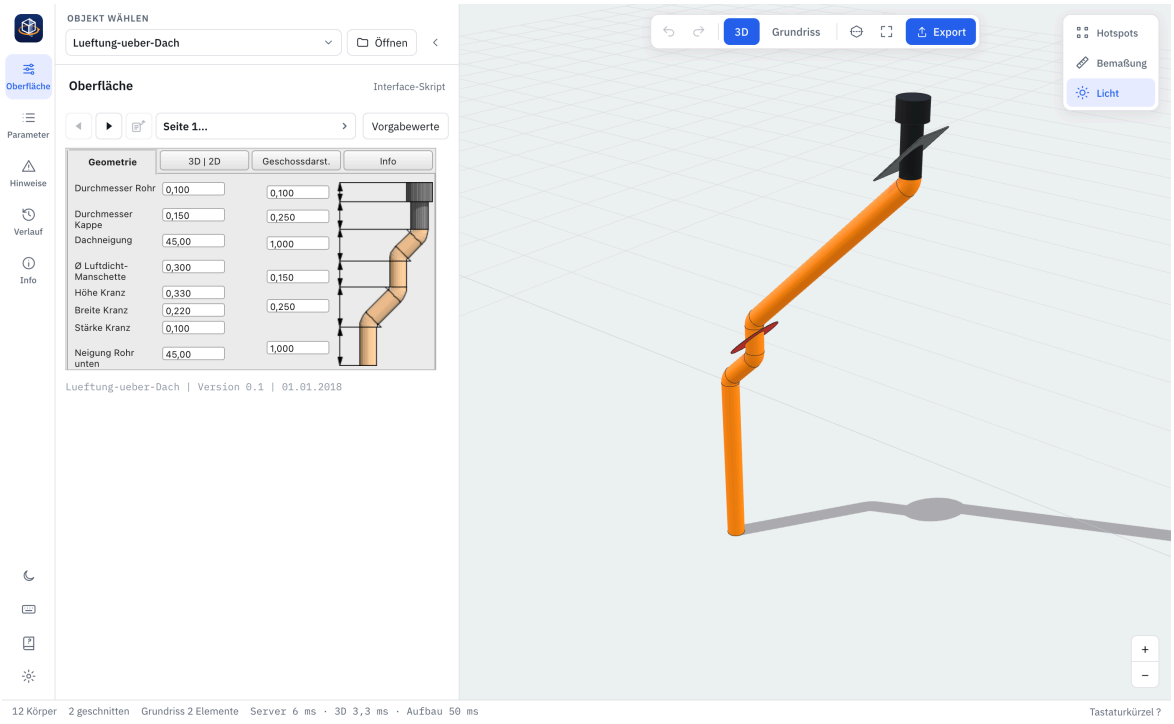


USER MANUAL

GDL Web Viewer

View and adjust Archicad objects: 3D, floor plan and the settings dialog as in Archicad — in the browser or as an app, without Archicad.

For everyone using the viewer on a web page or as the app GDL Viewer on their own computer. Server and VS Code extension are described in the manual for developers and operators.

VERSION	DATE	BROWSER	APP
0.5.8	21.10.2026	current, with WebGL	macOS · Windows

NEW IN 0.5.8 App: simply drag a folder onto the window to use it as the main folder — plus missing door handles, basins and page buttons in the dialog corrected.

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Archicad objects in the browser

The GDL Web Viewer shows an Archicad object as it looks in Archicad — and you can adjust it as you would there: sizes, design, materials.

The server recalculates every change in the settings dialog with the object's scripts; the browser shows the result as a 3D model and as a floor plan. It is the same calculation Archicad runs — not an imitation of its look.

In the browser all you need is a current browser. The object itself, the Archicad file, never leaves the server: to work with it in Archicad, you get it from the provider. Your own libraries are shown by the app **GDL Viewer** (next page).

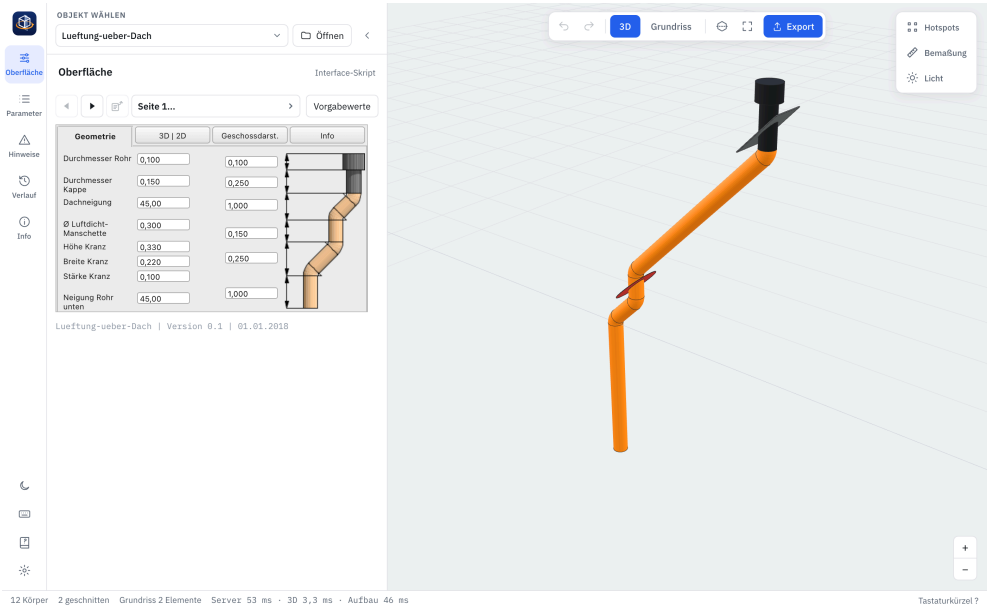


Fig. 01.1 · Roof vent pipe in the viewer: the settings dialog as in Archicad on the left, the 3D model on the right.

In the browser or as an app

Both show the same interface and calculate the same way. The difference is where the objects come from.

TWO WAYS

	BROWSER	APP GDL VIEWER
Where	on a web page or under a link	on your own computer, macOS or Windows
Objects	the collections the provider releases	your own libraries from a main folder
Installation	none	once, with a DMG or setup
Formate	—	source folders, HSF, library XML; GSM, LCF and .libpack if Archicad is installed
Textures	material colour	from the installed Archicad

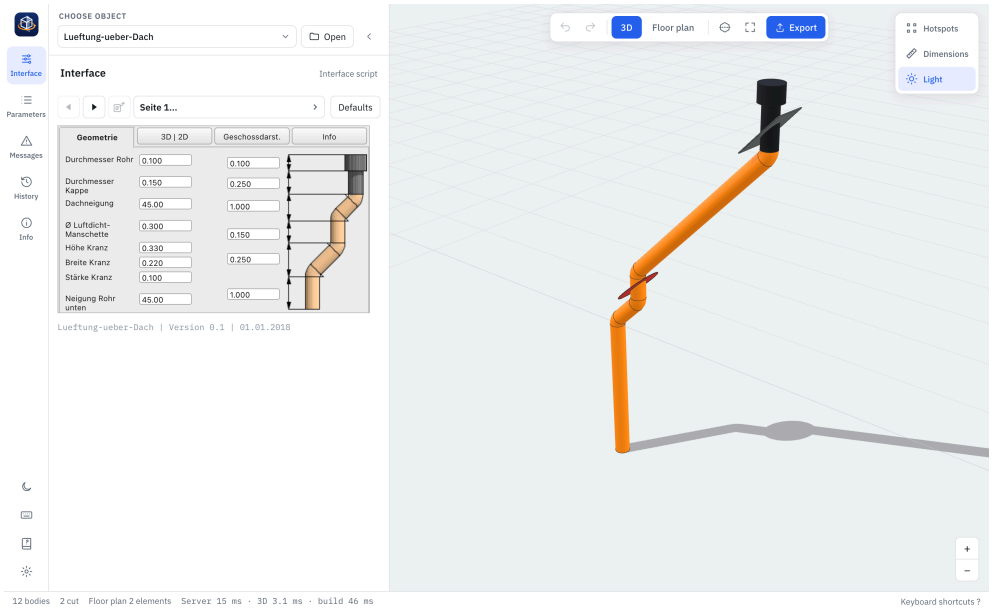


Fig. 01.2 · The app: “Choose object” above the selection, next to it “Open” for the main folder.

Your own configuration in five steps

1 Choose an object

Under **Choose object** at the top of the panel: as a list or as a tree with preview pictures (Fig. 02.1). The search finds names and collections. In the app, choose the main folder first (chapter 06).

2 Adjust

Change values in the dialog — the model recalculates at once. Turn pages with ◀ ▶ as in Archicad.

3 View

The left mouse button rotates, the wheel zooms, the right button pans. F fits the object into the window.

4 Floor plan

“Floor plan” in the toolbar shows the 2D symbol as in Archicad, with hotspots to drag (chapter 04).

5 Keep it

Export saves a picture, PDF or 3D file — or a link that opens exactly this state again (chapter 05).

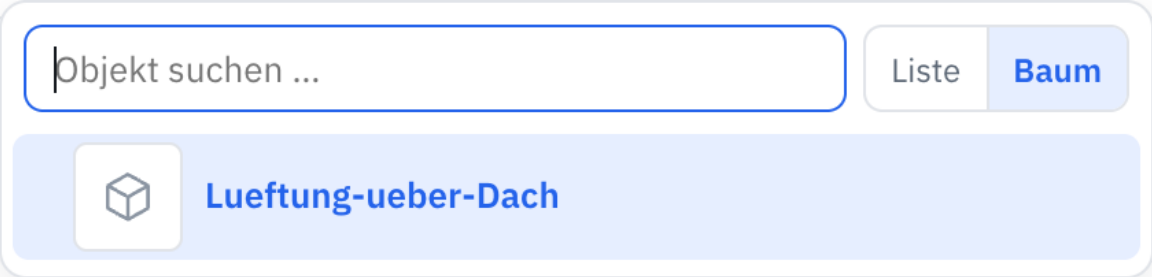


Fig. 02.1 · Object choice as a tree: library, folder, object with its preview picture.

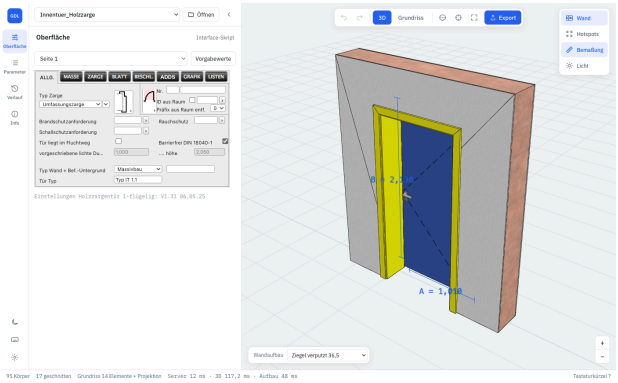


Fig. 02.2 · Interior door with wooden frame: doors and windows stand in a piece of wall.

The interface

Areas on the left, next to them the panel with the settings dialog, the view with floating tools on the right.

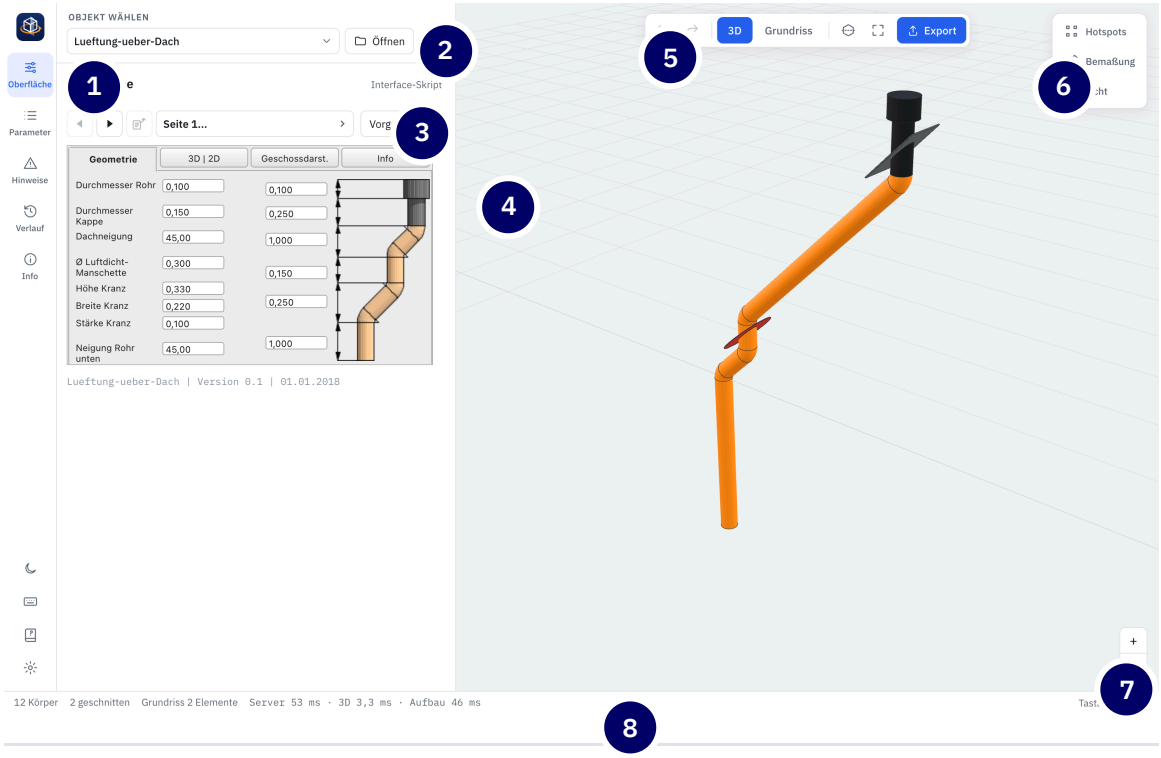


Fig. 03.1 · Controls of the viewer.

1 Areas: interface, parameters, hints, history, info

2 Choose object (list or tree, with search) · Open (chapter 06) · fold the panel

3 Pages as in Archicad: back, forward, parent page, page list · defaults

4 Settings dialog of the object

5 Undo, 3D / floor plan, section, position, fit, export

6 Display: wall, hotspots, dimensions, light

7 Zoom in, zoom out

8 Status bar: bodies, calculation time, hints

Areas and tools

AREAS (LEFT BAR)

AREA	CONTENT
Interface	The settings dialog as in Archicad: pages with ◀ ▶, jump to the parent page and page list, defaults; choice of materials, fills and profiles with a preview.
Parameter	All values as a table; search (key /), filter “changed”, defaults beside the values and reset one by one.
Hints	Messages of the object when something could not be calculated.
History	Every change with its time, old → new; undo restores the whole state before it.
Info	Name, library and kind of the object; files the object creates (e.g. lists) for download.
Bottom of the bar	Light/dark, keyboard shortcuts, this manual (book icon); under the gear 3D edges and the **language**. Texts of the objects stay as they are.

TOOLS (VIEW)

ELEMENT	EFFECT
3D / Floor plan	Switch the view; the viewer starts with 3D, with 2D-only objects with the floor plan.
Section	Horizontal and vertical section in 3D; drag the plane by its arrow.
Position, wall build-up	Doors and windows only: mirrored, rotated, reveal side, sill height · seven wall build-ups.
Fit · Export	Zoom to the object · pictures, PDF, 3D files, link (chapter 05).
Wall · Hotspots	Wall piece on/off · show hotspots, drag pink ones (chapter 04).
Dimensions · Light	Doors/windows width × height, otherwise the overall size · sun, shadows (chapter 05).

> **INFO** On other web pages the viewer is often embedded in a slimmer form: interface, parameters and info only, the status bar only for problems; in GDL references only the view and fold-out settings. What you see there works as described here.

Dragging values in the floor plan

With **Hotspots** in the display stack at the top right (key H) the object's hotspots appear — as in Archicad: plain ones **round and black**, those controlling a value as a **pink diamond**. Over such a point the pointer turns into a check mark.

Drag the point and the viewer shows the new value (1); on release the object recalculates.

Lengths move along their direction, angles along the arc. If two lengths share one point it becomes a **pink disc** and moves freely — both values change together.

The pink hotspots can be dragged in the 3D window as well.

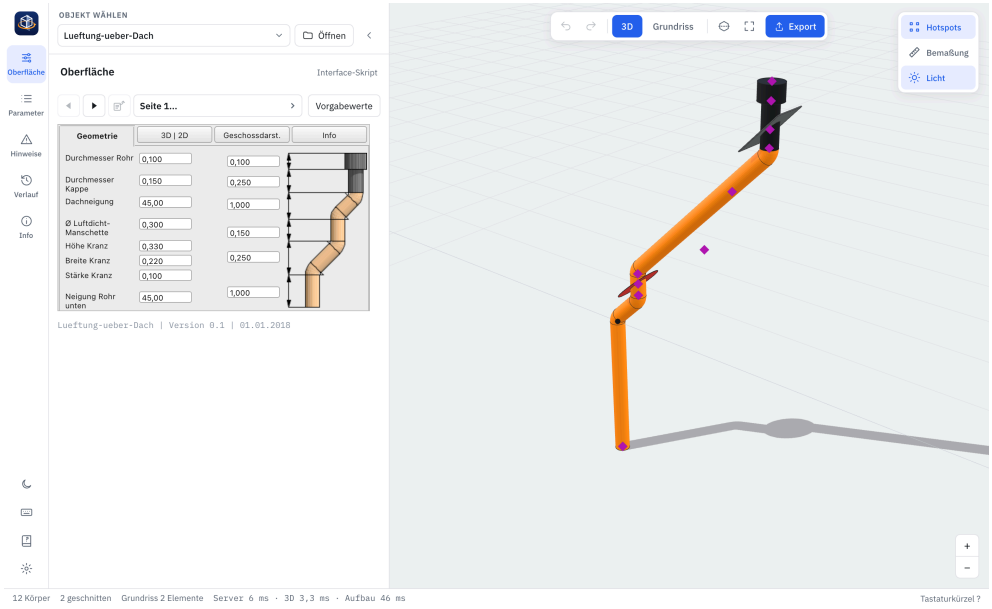


Fig. 04.1 · Hotspots switched on: the moving hotspots of the roof vent pipe appear in pink; they are dragged in the 3D window.

> **TIP** Undo (Ctrl Z) also takes back a dragged value.

Light, shadows and output

Light in the display stack offers two presets: “Archicad (soft)” matches Archicad's 3D window, “Sun with shadows” adds a sun casting shadows onto the ground. Direction, elevation and intensities can be set; the key L switches the shadows.

Reflections (in the same pop-up, on by default): glass, water, metal and lacquer mirror soft surroundings — as strongly as the material in Archicad intends.

Export (blue button) delivers 3D and floor plan as PNG or PDF. The floor plan PDF is **true to scale**: 1:50 on the smallest fitting sheet from A4 to A1, otherwise 1:100 to 1:500, with a title block.

The 3D model is available as a file (glTF, USDZ, OBJ, STL, PLY, in metres). The **link** opens exactly your state again — to pass on or for later.

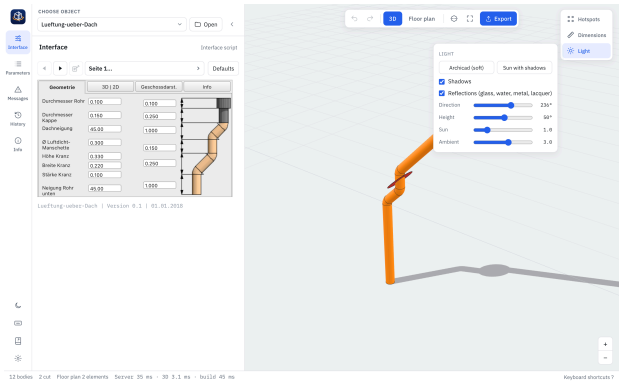


Fig. 05.1 · Roof vent pipe with reflections switched on, next to it the light pop-up.

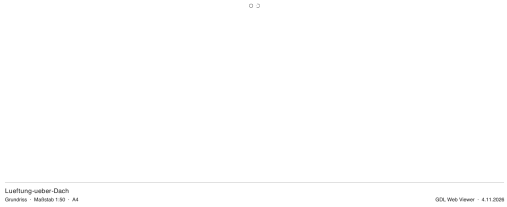


Fig. 05.2 · Floor plan PDF of the roof vent pipe, to scale on A4 landscape, title block at the bottom.

In the app: the main folder

NEW 0.5.8 Main folder by drag and drop.

1 Install

macOS: open the DMG, drag GDL Viewer into the Applications folder. Windows: run the setup.

2 Choose the main folder

On first start the app asks for it; later File → Choose main folder (⌘O), the **Open** button — or drag the folder from Finder or Explorer onto the window and confirm the question.

3 Let it read

Title bar and program icon show the progress, the object choice fills up step by step. The app reads changes on its own.

WHAT BECOMES OF THE MAIN FOLDER

IN THE MAIN FOLDER	IN THE OBJECT CHOICE
Subfolder	one collection each; if the main folder holds objects itself, it is one collection
Name starting with _ or .	skipped
Source folders, HSF, library XML	always readable
GSM, LCF	only with Archicad installed — the app uses its converter
Library package .libpack	likewise; the packages it needs come from the main folder or from Archicad. Names and texts in your language

INFO If Archicad is installed, the app also takes the materials' **textures** from its library at start-up — about 25 seconds the first time. The main folder is only read, never changed. File → Manage collections (⌘2) sets names and visibility of the collections.

In the browser: Open

Some viewers in the browser offer an **Open** button next to the object choice. With it you view your own GDL objects — without Archicad and without installing anything.

1 Choose a folder

One object or a whole library with macros, as a source folder or HSF (table).

2 View and check

The object appears like any other; messages name script and line.

FORMATS

FORMAT	RECOGNISED BY
Source folder	`1-Master-Script.gdl … 8-Backward-Script.gdl, Parameters.xml`
HSF	`scripts/1d.gdl, 2d.gdl, 3d.gdl …, paramlist.xml, libpartdata.xml`

Size per folder	**10 MB · 600 files**
Kept for	**1 hour, then deleted**

> **INFO** The browser sends only scripts, parameter lists and pictures to the server. Compiled `.gsm` files cannot be opened here — that is what the app is for. If the button is missing, the operator has not switched the function on.

What the viewer does not show

The viewer calculates the scripts as Archicad 27 does. A few GDL commands are not known yet; what they would draw is missing from the picture, and the status bar names the command.

If an object cannot be calculated with your values, the status bar says so. For openly published objects and your own folders, the **Hints** area names script and line as well.

- In the browser surfaces appear in their material colour; the app shows the textures if Archicad is installed.
- Messages appear in German or English; texts of the objects stay as they are — except in library packages, which bring their translations.
- Macros of Archicad's built-in library are locked; what an object would draw with them is missing (hint in the status bar).
- The viewer does not calculate properties for lists and schedules.
- Doors and windows stand in a piece of wall for viewing; the wall is not part of the object.
- What counts is always the object in Archicad — the viewer is a preview.

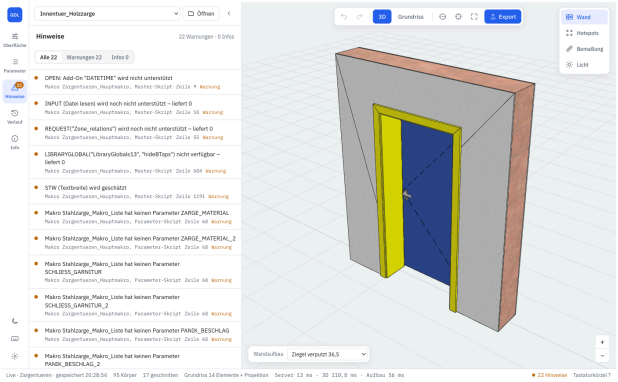


Fig. 07.1 · “Hints” area for your own object: messages with script and line.

> **TIP** If an object looks different than expected, a short e-mail with the link from “Export” helps — it holds exactly your state.

The viewer at a glance

MOUSE

Left button	**rotate**
Wheel	**zoom**
Right button	**pan**
Pink hotspot	**drag value**

KEYBOARD

1 · 2	**3D · floor plan**
F	**fit**
W · H · M	**wall · hotspots · dimensions**
L	**shadows**

EDITING

/	**search parameters**
Ctrl Z · Ctrl ⇧ Z	**undo · redo**
Esc	**close**

DISPLAY

T	**light/dark**
?	**all keyboard shortcuts**

APP GDL VIEWER (WINDOWS: CTRL INSTEAD OF ⌘)

KEY	EFFECT
⌘O	Choose the main folder
⌘1 · ⌘2	Viewer · manage collections
⌘R	reload — shows objects read again

HOTSPOTS

SIGN	MEANING
round, black	Hotspot without a value
diamond, pink	drags a value: length along its direction, angle along the arc
disc, pink	two lengths on one point, moves freely

Scope, licence, contact

SCOPE OF DELIVERY AND INSTALLATION

In the browser you open the viewer from a web page or a link — there is nothing to install. The app **GDL Viewer** comes as a DMG for macOS or a setup for Windows; server and PHP are built in.

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

Browser: current, with WebGL; tested on Windows and macOS, not yet on tablets. App: macOS 13 or later (Apple Silicon or Intel) or Windows 10/11 (64-bit); Archicad only for GSM, LCF and textures. Using it with mouse and keyboard is most comfortable.

LANGUAGE VERSIONS AND UPDATES

Interface and messages are available in German and English, and so is this manual; further languages on request. In the browser no updates are needed — the viewer is updated centrally. You update the app by installing the new version.

DISCLAIMER AND LICENCE

The viewer is a preview; the object in Archicad is what counts. GDL and Archicad are trademarks of Graphisoft SE. The GDL Web Viewer is not a Graphisoft product.

The viewer is open source under the GNU Affero General Public License 3.0 (AGPL-3.0): you may use, change and pass it on. The objects shown are not part of it — the terms of their provider apply to them.

QUESTIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

Questions, ideas and suggestions are always welcome. How do you use the viewer, what is missing, what could be simpler? Just write to **gdl@suehlo.de**.

Version history and support

0.5.8
21.10.2026
CURRENT

- NEW · 06 — App: drag a folder onto the window — after a question it becomes the main folder.
- FIX · 07 — Door handles, handrail brackets and other round tubes were missing in some objects; half basins made of revolved bodies were placed wrongly.
- FIX · 03 — Page buttons in the object's dialog turn the pages like ◀ ▶.

0.5.6
19.10.2026

- NEW · 06 — Library packages (.libpack) of Archicad 28–30 in the app, with the packages they need; names and texts translated.
- CHG · 07 — Limit: macros of Archicad's built-in library.
- CHG · 06 — Reading much faster; the objects of each finished collection appear at once.

0.5.5
19.10.2026

- NEW · 01 — Browser or app: the app GDL Viewer for macOS and Windows.
- NEW · 06 — Your own libraries in the app: main folder, collections, GSM and LCF, textures from Archicad.
- NEW · 05 — Reflections for glass, water, metal and lacquer.
- NEW · 03 — Interface and messages in German and English; label “Choose object”.
- CHG · 09 — Open source under AGPL-3.0.

0.4.0
10.10.2026

- CH · 01–08 — First edition of the user manual: operation, hotspots, light and export, opening your own objects, limits, quick reference.

SUPPORT
By e-mail to gdl@suehlo.de. For questions about an object, the link from “Export” helps.

THIS MANUAL
English version 0.5.8, as of 21.10.2026. The German version is a separate document GDL-Web-Viewer_Anwender_Handbuch_DE. Set-up and operation: manual for developers and operators.