

How to Draw a Building Plan



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Do You Want to Make Your Floor Plan?

EdrawMax specializes in diagramming and visualizing. Learn from this article to know everything about floor plan, and how to make your floor plan. Just try it free now!

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In the first semester of architecture studies, all the students are taught how to draw a building using building sketches or vector-enabled tools. When you create a **building plan**¹, you ensure that you have already imagined what your dream building will look like after the final construction. In this elaborate guide to understanding building plans, we will walk you through some of the most important building plan elements, how to design a house using traditional ways, and **how to draw a building plan** for free using EdrawMax.

It should be noted here that a building plan is a set of designs that shows the interior and exterior structure of any building core project. In most building plans, you will see that the architects have included site plans, floor plans, elevation plans, landscape or garden plans, HVAC plans, and more. Before we talk about **how to draw a building plan**, let us first see some of the most important elements in almost all the building sketches needed for construction projects.

1. What Includes in a Building Plan

Some of the most common elements of any building are:

- Foundation Plan:

In a general sense, it depicts the building plan's section pertaining to slab, crawl space, beams, and the extent of structural slabs.

- Floor Plan:

A floor plan illustrates the general layout of the rooms, walls, doors, and other important elements.

- Roof Plan:

A roof plan indicates any roof surface's roofing material and slope.

- Elevation Plan:

¹ Building plan:

In most building plans, you will find the mentioned exterior and interior elevation plans that show how the building will look from a different angle.

What Includes in a Floor Plan:

- Remember to add a couple of important elements to your design, like: foundation plan, floor plan, roof plan, elevation plan.

2. Preparations for Drawing a Building Plan

Some of the most general preparations that you have to do before **drawing a building plan** are:

- The primary step that you follow is to physically visit the site and note all the internal and external factors that will play some role in drawing the building plan.
- Always understand the client's budget and the availability of resources.
- If you have existing furniture, list them before drawing the building plan.
- Remember that if you have added the details outside the building area, you are only making your building plan more technically solid for the architect or the builder.

2.1 The Importance of Building Plan

There are several building plans, floor plans, site plans, millwork drawings, exterior elevations, landscape plans, and more. All these building plans are very important for the construction process. Following are some of the benefits or importance of having a building plan beforehand:

- When drawn to scale, a floor plan illustrates the location of walls, doors, windows, and furniture, such as kitchen cabinets, beds, night tables, and more.
- The detailed site plan helps maintain open communication between government authorities meant for approval.
- With the millwork drawings, you can get information on all the minute details you might add to your building plan.

3. How to Draw a Building Plan in General

There are generally two ways of **creating a building plan**. The first one is more traditional, while the other way is where you use EdrawMax to draw a building plan. Both ways will provide you with the building plan design, but the design created in EdrawMax will be more technically accurate and can later be submitted to some local government body to get their

approval. Before we share the importance of having a building plan and how EdrawMax lets you in just a few minutes, let us see the general way of **drawing a building plan**.

- Take measurement:

With the help of tape, measure the entire building from corner to corner on top of the baseboard or along the floor. Add these building measurements to a rough sketch and write down each measurement in your desired system (imperial or metric).

- Create the scale:

Now that you have measured your entire building, you should convert your measurements with a scale rule for precision.

- Create the plan:

Once you have laid out the starting point, you can create the building plan by adding the exterior lines. Along with the outline of the building structure, ensure that you add details of the driveways, trees, and external patios.

- Add relevant information:

Ensure you add the right address of the property, always add "N" for North in the right location, the scale size, and your details.

- Add details:

Always keep a log of revisions or changes in the building plan sheet. It will be of great use once you start your construction.

- Sketch the details:

Now that you have completed the basic outline for the building property, it is time to sketch some of the most important details of the property, like the width, depth, and height of the building.

- Label & Legends:

Since you are using a general way of creating the building plan, you depend on your legends and labels. Ensure that you label everything related to the building construction plan.

How to Draw a Building Plan :

- Take measurement about the entire building;
- Convert your measurements with a scale rule for precision;
- Create the plan;
- Add relevant information and details;
- Label & Legends.

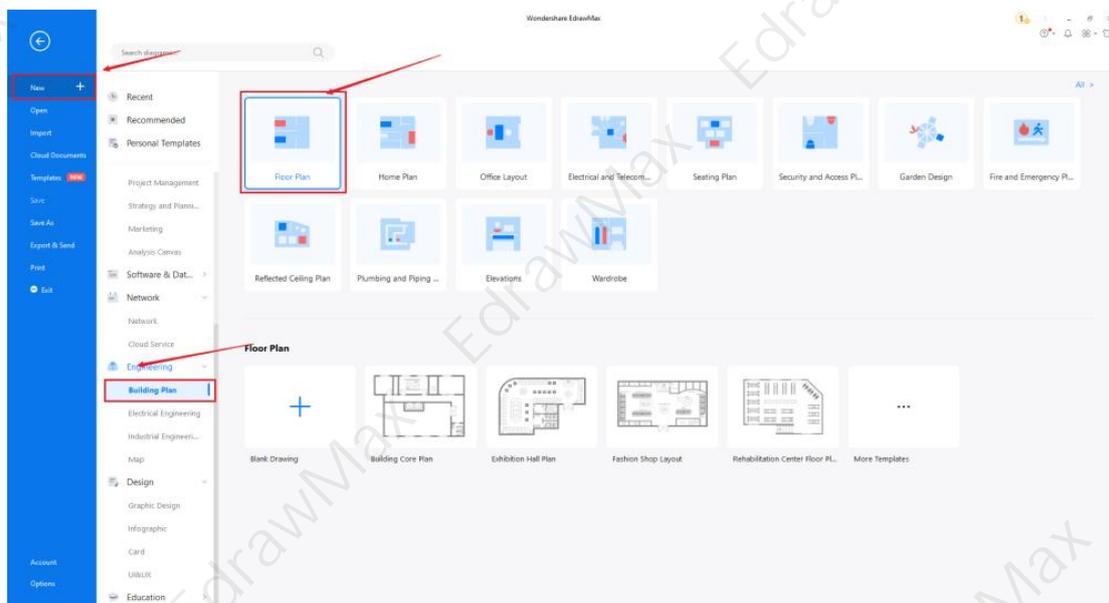
4. How to Draw a Building Plan in EdrawMax

Now that you are wondering how to draw a building plan? Well, there are basically two ways that you can follow. The first method is to draw a building plan from scratch using EdrawMax, and the other method is when you work smartly and choose templates provided by EdrawMax. Here we will walk you through the basic ways of drawing a building plan.

4.1 Draw a Floor Plan from Scratch

Step 1: Login to EdrawMax

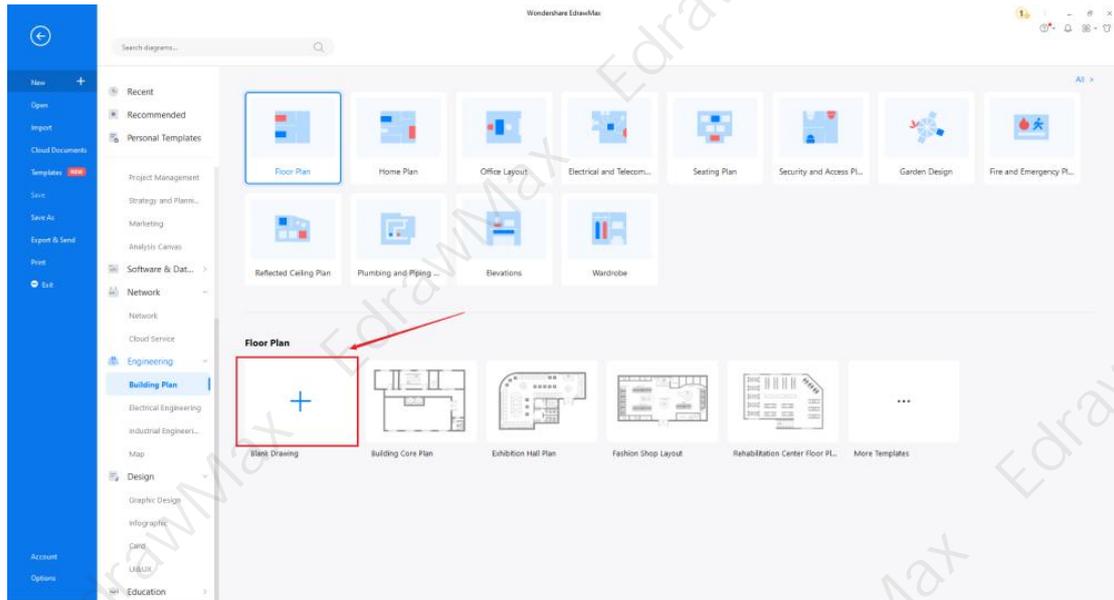
If you are using the offline version of EdrawMax, then open the tool in your system. If you wish to have remote collaboration, head to **EdrawMax Download**² and log in using your registered email address. If this is your first time using the tool, you can register yourself using your personal or professional email address. Go to '**Building Plan**' and click on '**Floor Plan**.' EdrawMax offers different building plans, like floor plans, home plans, office plans, elevation plans, seating plans, and more.



Step2: Open a New Canvas

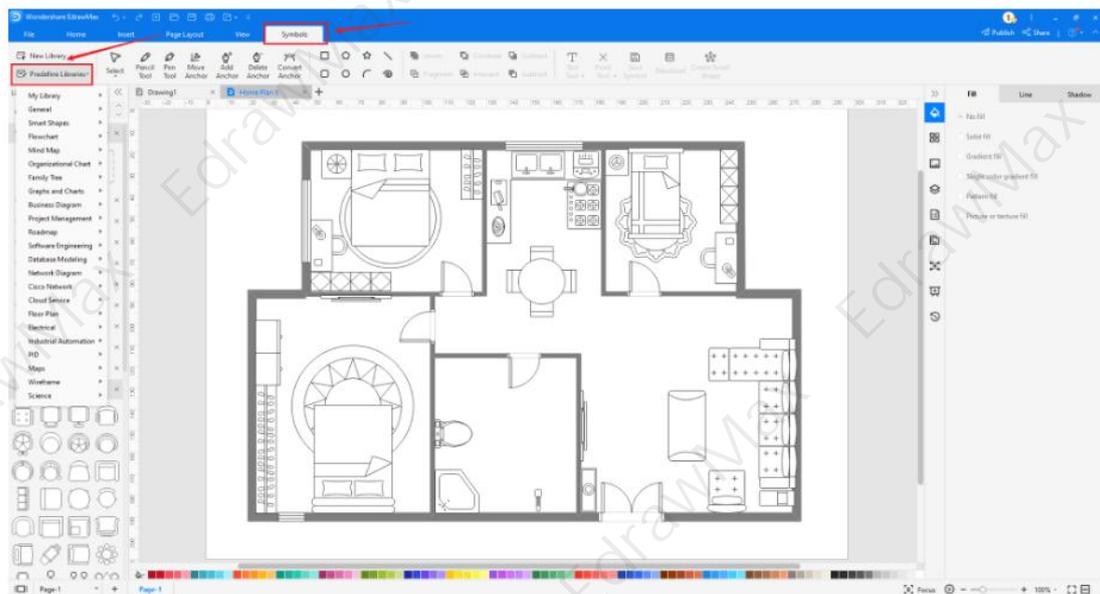
Since you are creating the floor plan diagram from scratch, you can click '+.' Simultaneously, click on '**Floor Plan**' to access free templates or sketches provided by EdrawMax. After clicking on '+,' It will open up the user-friendly EdrawMax canvas. EdrawMax comes with the in-built architect's scale that lets you easily understand the measurement and scale of your building plan outline.

² EdrawMax Download: <https://www.edrawsoft.com/download-edrawmax.html>



Step3: Consider the Elements

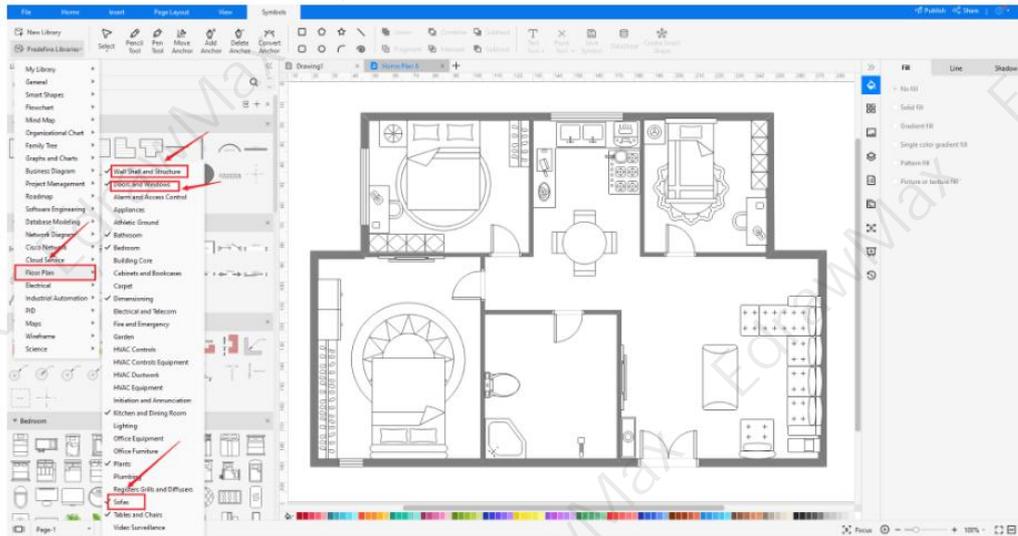
Every floor plan diagram is incomplete without symbols. You will find different symbols for making the floor plan on the left panel. Click on Doors and Windows, Wall Sheet and Structure, & Kitchen and Dining Room to access their respective symbols. If you cannot find your desired floor plan symbol, create the shape using the Pen Tool or Pencil Tool, and then click '+' on the My Library section to save your symbol for future usage. Learn more **building plan symbols**³ and find symbols you want here.



³ Building plan symbols: <https://www.edrawsoft.com/building-core.html>

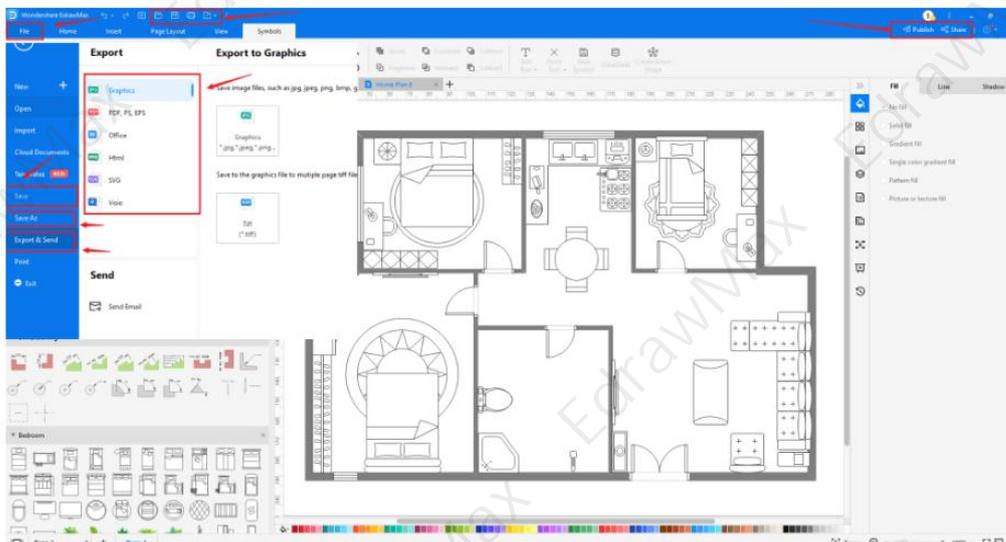
Step4: Add Elements

Once you have imported all the required symbols, you can start arranging them in the building plan that you have created in the above steps. You can add **'Wall Shell and Structure,' 'Doors & Windows,'** and **'Sofa'** to your building plan. Since you are working on the building plan, you will need to incorporate other elements and consider adding some external features. Just use **toolbars** on the top or right side of canvas to change the color, font, size, theme, and more with one click.



Step5: Save & Export

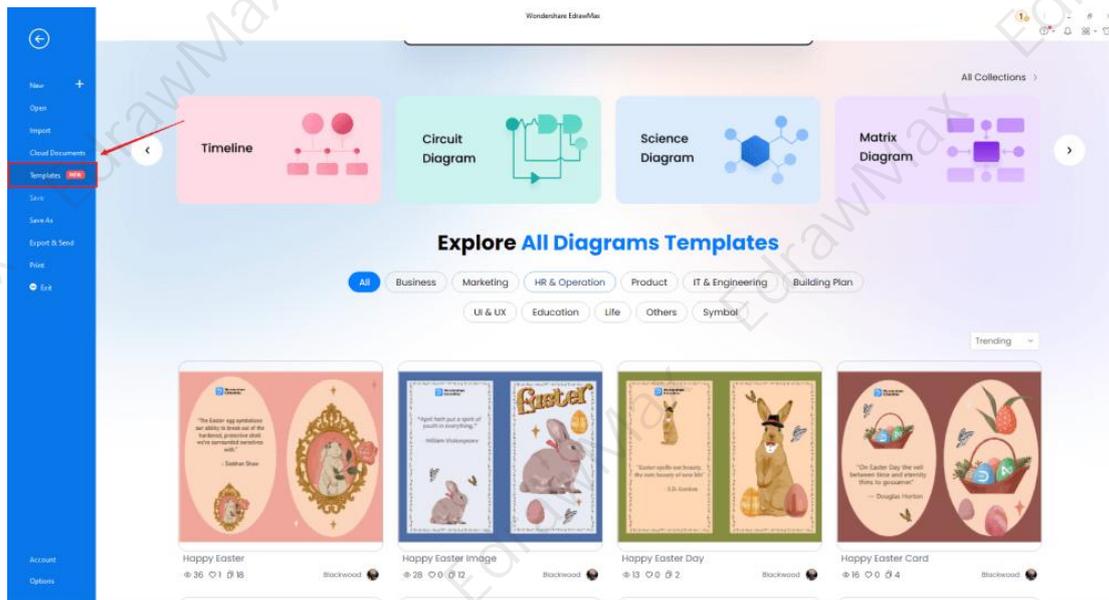
After drawing your floor plan, you can **export** it into multiple formats, like JPEG, JPG, PNG, PDF, and other Microsoft formats, like MS Word, MS Excel, PPTX, etc. You can also **share** the building plan diagram on different social media platforms, like Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, etc. Moreover, you can **print** your building plan drawing for showing with others.



4.2 Draw a Floor Plan from Templates

Step 1: Login to EdrawMax

If you are using the offline version of EdrawMax, then open the tool in your system. If you wish to have remote collaboration, head to **EdrawMax Download**⁴ and log in using your registered email address. If this is your first time using the tool, you can register yourself using your personal or professional email address. Go to the '**Templates**' section on the left and type '**floor plans**.'

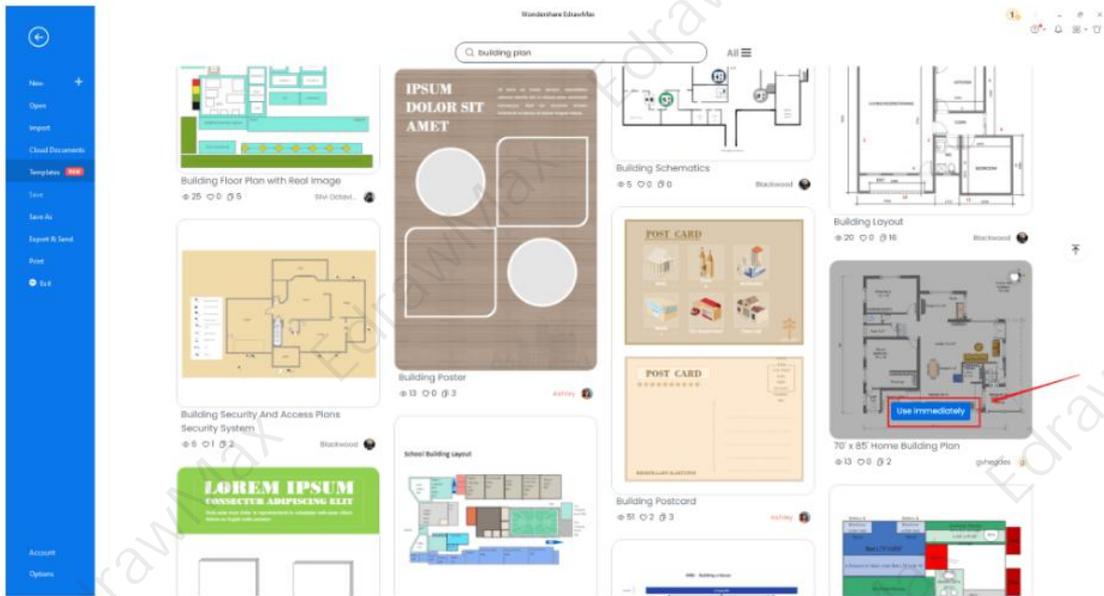


Step2: Choose a Template

In the **template community**⁵, you will find hundreds of built-in templates readily available to use. Choose any templates that closely resemble your ideal building plan drawing and duplicate it to '**Use Immediately**.'

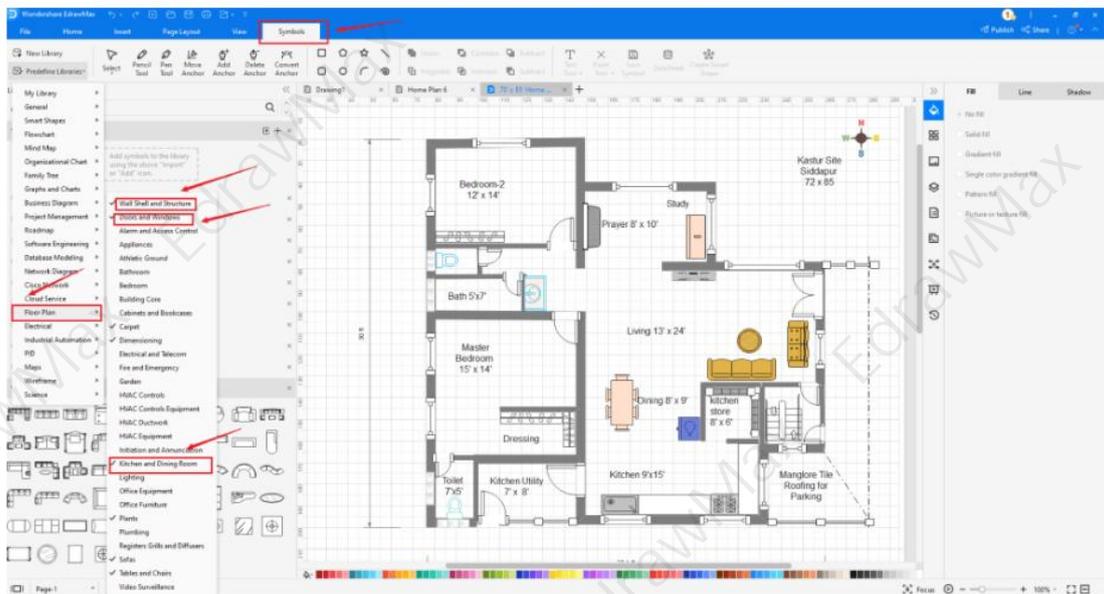
⁴ EdrawMax Download: <https://www.edrawsoft.com/download-edrawmax.html>

⁵ Template community: <https://www.edrawmax.com/templates/>



Step3: Add Symbols

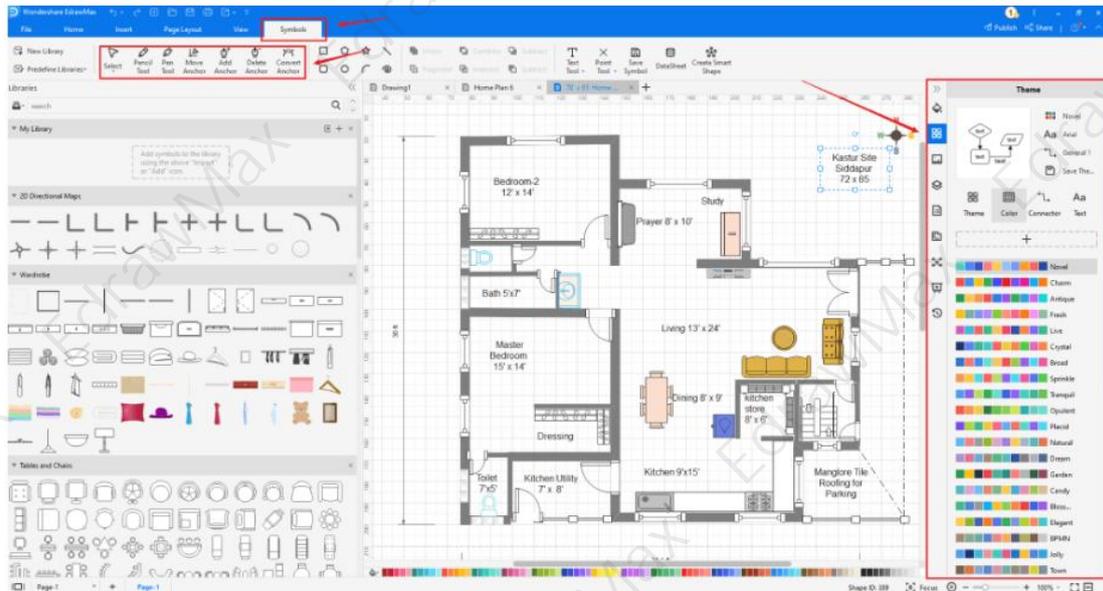
Head to the 'Symbols' section and click on the 'Predefined Symbol' section from the top toolbar. Click on 'Floor Plan' to import them to your library. If you cannot find your desired floor plan symbol, create the shape using the Pen Tool or Pencil Tool, and then click '+' on the My Library section to use the symbol for future usage. Learn more **building plan symbols**⁶ and find symbols you want here.



⁶ Building plan symbols: <https://www.edrawsoft.com/building-core.html>

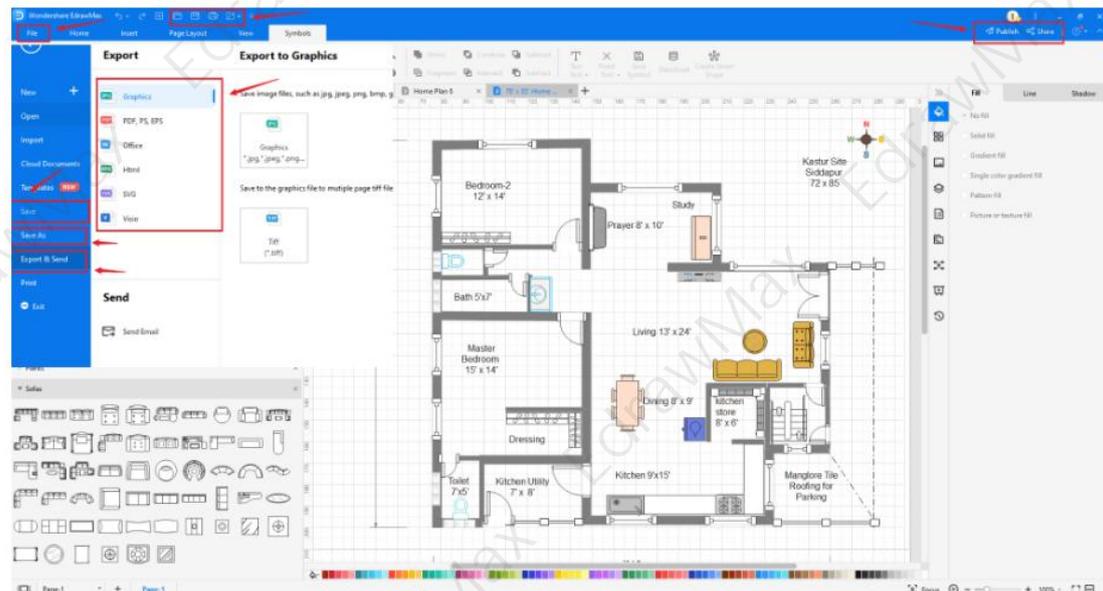
Step4: Change Details

Once you have imported the free built-in template to the EdrawMax canvas, you can change basic details. You can add or modify the basic floor plan details that you deem fit necessary for the current requirement from the imported symbols. EdrawMax lets you work on different architect's scales without worrying about the loss of formatting. Just choose the **toolbars** on the top or right side of canvas, and find the functions you want.



Step5: Export or Publish

Once your floor plan is ready, you can export it to multiple formats or publish it to the template community for the other 25 million registered users to see and get inspired by your design. Click the **"Publish"** button on the top right area of the canvas, and fill in your template details, like template title, description, and tag to share your drawing with others.



Basically, it is simple to draw a building plan in EdrawMax, just grab a template and keep customizing, drag and drop professional building plan symbols to make your plan better. If you are still confusing about how to draw a building plan in EdrawMax, just check the **building plan guide video**⁷, or learn more from our **Youtube**⁸ channel.

5. Tips & Consideration

The core tip that you need to follow when drawing a building plan is to understand all the other plans carefully. You can easily create a building plan if you have a good idea about the floor plan, roofing plan, reflected ceiling plan, and more. If you are a beginner, you can draw a building plan using the built-in templates. If you wish to explore the tool further, you can draw the building plan from scratch.

When you create a building plan from scratch:

- Use as many predefined symbols as possible.
- Understand the dimensions beforehand

When you create a building plan using built-in templates:

- Customize till you are satisfied
- Publish the design back to the template community so others can learn from your design.

5.1 Comparison between General and EdrawMax Methods

Now that you have seen how easy and effective it is to create a floor plan using EdrawMax, let us show you some basic comparisons between the general and EdrawMax methods.

General Method:	EdrawMax Methods:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Creating a building plan without the help of tools is time-consuming. ✓ You have many ways to share the building plan design with your colleagues or teammates. ✓ If creating a building plan using a general way, you will learn that you cannot have multiple revisions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ With the help of built-in templates, you can create building plans in just a couple of minutes. ✓ With EdrawMax, you can share your building plan design on multiple social media platforms and attach the URL to your email. ✓ This free building plan software can

⁷ Building plan guide video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9B2puOHqfvA&t=18s>

⁸ EdrawMax Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/c/cutedrawedin/>

without losing the formatting and clarity of your design.

let you have unlimited revisions.

5.2 Symbol Libraries

Drawing a building plan will require some easy-to-use **building plan symbols**⁹. Some of the most common building plan symbols that are readily available at EdrawMax are:

- Building Core, like direction, North, scissor staircase, winding staircase, curved staircase, elevator
- Bathroom symbols, like shower lamp, towel rack, bathtub, drain
- Bedroom symbols, like single bed, double bed, bunk bed, shoe rack, carpet
- Tables & Chairs, Sofas

5.3 Template Community

EdrawMax has a rich community of over 25 million registered users. These users are based on different demographics and constantly update the template community. So, head to the template community and search for the diagram whenever you plan to draw any diagram. The system will instantly share user-generated templates.

For instance, if you look for building plans in the **template community**¹⁰, you will see free templates, like building core plan templates, simple hospital building plans, first-floor building plans, building core plans for the project, etc. Duplicate any of these templates and start customizing them as per your requirements.

6. Free Building Plan Software

As you saw in this elaborate guide to understanding how to draw a building plan, EdrawMax is your go-to tool because of its amazing features. In addition to creating the building plan using free **building plan examples & templates**¹¹ and symbols, this free building software provides some amazing features, like:

- Unlike other tools, you get a built-in architect's scale in this free building software. Using this architect's scale, you can create technically correct building plans.

⁹ Building plan symbols: <https://www.edrawsoft.com/building-core.html>

¹⁰ Template community: <https://www.edrawmax.com/templates/>

¹¹ Building plan templates: <https://www.edrawsoft.com/building-plan-examples.html>

- EdrawMax is one of those tools that offer free online collaboration. Just hop on to the online version of this **free building plan software**¹² and start collaborating with your remote team.
- All the files you create in EdrawMax are 100 percent customizable and platform-independent.
- This free building plan software comes in multiple options, including separate versions for Windows, macOS, Linux, Android, and iOS.
- This free building plan software also lets you create different house plans, like floor plans, blueprints, HVAC plans, and others, in one single dashboard.

EdrawMax Desktop	EdrawMax Online
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Create over 280 types of diagrams ✓ Windows, Mac, Linux (runs in all environments) ✓ Professional inbuilt resources and templates ✓ On-premises software for business ✓ Enterprise-level data security 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Create over 280 types of diagrams online ✓ Access diagrams anywhere, anytime ✓ Templates Community ✓ Team management and collaboration ✓ Personal Cloud and Dropbox Integration
	

7. Final Thoughts

As you saw in this guide, you can **draw a building plan** using old-age traditional methods, but EdrawMax offers robust support to create your building plans quickly. Once you have created the building plan and your builder or the architect has finalized the construction process, you should consider how you will design your house. Some of the most common methods for designing the house are:

- Consult a good interior designer who will guide you about the interior decor that will accompany your lifestyle and budget.
- Find a good carpenter who will come and help you create some amazing furniture that will replicate the interior you created in your building plan.
- Interior and exterior house colors also play a vital role in designing the entire property. You should consult with your family members or your clients to finalize the right color tone that will go along with your house.

Like every tool, even EdrawMax has a learning curve, but since the entire software is created using Microsoft Suite in mind, the user interface will give you a very homely feeling -- something you would want in a new tool. Once you start accessing the free templates and

¹² Free building plan software: <https://www.edrawsoft.com/floor-plan-maker/>

symbols provided by **EdrawMax**, you will never prefer going to a different tool. So what are you waiting for? Download the best building plan software of 2022 and experience the magic of creating and sharing some cool building plans.

You May Also Like:

- Building Plan Complete Guide¹³
- Building Plan Symbols¹⁴
- Building Plan Examples¹⁵
- Free Building Plan Creator¹⁶
- Floor Plan Complete Guide¹⁷
- Free Floor Plan Creator¹⁸

¹³ Building plan complete guide: <https://www.edrawsoft.com/building-plan.html>

¹⁴ Building plan symbols: <https://www.edrawsoft.com/building-core.html>

¹⁵ Building plan examples & templates: <https://www.edrawsoft.com/building-plan-examples.html>

¹⁶ Free building plan creator: <https://www.edrawsoft.com/building-plan-software.html>

¹⁷ Floor plan complete guide: <https://www.edrawsoft.com/what-is-floor-plan.html>

¹⁸ Free floor plan creator: <https://www.edrawsoft.com/floor-plan-maker/>



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