

# PRESS COVERAGE

Computing Which- FloorPlan  
March 2005

## Property program

FloorPlan 9  
Interior Design  
IMSI £27



If all the home improvement shows on TV have left you with grand designs for your home, why not take a look at a virtual version of your plans before you start knocking down walls? FloorPlan version 9 is a Windows-only design package that allows you to rebuild your kitchen or rearrange your living room without hammering a single nail in. Using the software, you can build walls, add windows, reposition and redesign kitchen units, and view the results in three dimensions or as a flat plan. It will even let you 'walk through' your creation.

Most of our reader testers found the program fairly easy to get started with. However, one

tester new to this kind of software felt it should be more intuitive. 'It looked easy and self-explanatory, but I found it quite challenging to use at first.' Another had difficulty placing items, such as furniture, in his designs despite following the tutorial.

It's worth bearing in mind that to redesign a room accurately with the software, you'll need to know the correct dimensions of your room and the fixtures within it. Testers were 'pleasantly surprised' at how easy it was to add the finishing touches to their designs - changing wall colours, adding floor tiles and so on. The range of fixtures and fittings to choose from is extensive but,

despite the addition of some styles for UK users, one tester still felt the fittings to be mainly aimed at American tastes.

The facility to 'walk through' your completed design in 3D was a big hit with reader testers. One said: 'I think this is the main selling point of something like this, so you can see what your house will hopefully look like,' while another found themselves 'switching between views to get a better appreciation of the design.'

**Verdict** While it doesn't require a degree in architecture, FloorPlan isn't for the faint-hearted. 'It's one of those products that requires a lot of input from you, but gives you lots of information back,' said one tester. Another tester likes it so much, he's going to use it to design a bungalow!

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**Overall rating** ☆

[www.floorplan.tv](http://www.floorplan.tv) Needs Windows 98, Pentium II processor, 64MB Ram, 80MB free hard disk space