Giving Your Model Some Style

SketchUp Styles enable you to change your model's appearance — the way it's drawn, basically — with just a few mouse clicks. SketchUp also comes with a library of premade styles that you can use without knowing anything about how they work. (After you discover how styles work, you might want to try creating your own, as explained in Chapter 10.)

Follow these steps to try a couple styles on your doghouse:

1. **Open the Styles panel by clicking the right-pointing arrow next to its name in the Default Tray (Windows). Or choose Window ⇒ Styles (Mac).**
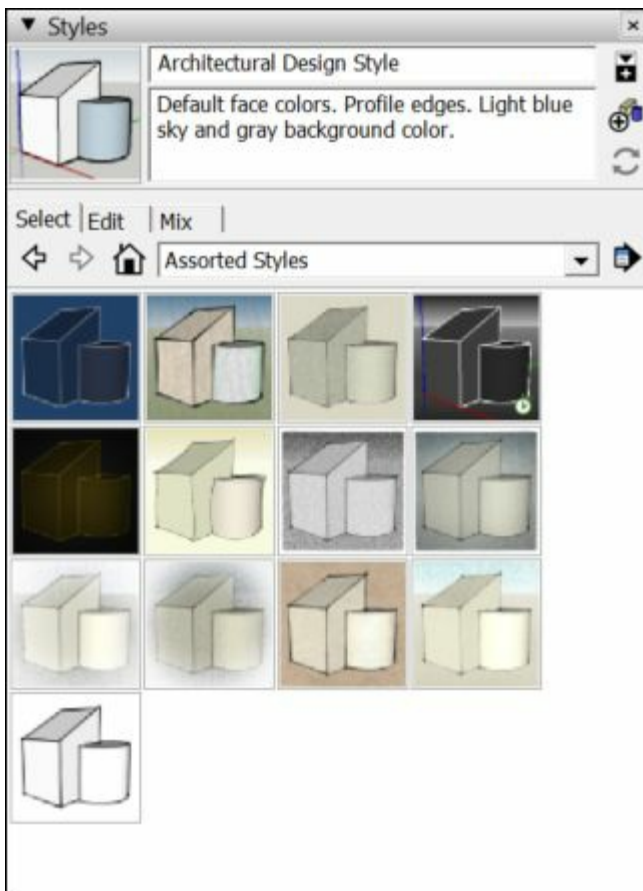
   By default, you see the Select tab, which is where you can browse and select styles. At the top of the Select tab, a drop-down list enables you to open different style libraries. The styles in each library appear in the bottom half of the Select tab.

2. **From the drop-down list, choose the Assorted Styles library, as shown in Figure 2-15.**

3. **Click a style to see how it changes your model's whole appearance.**
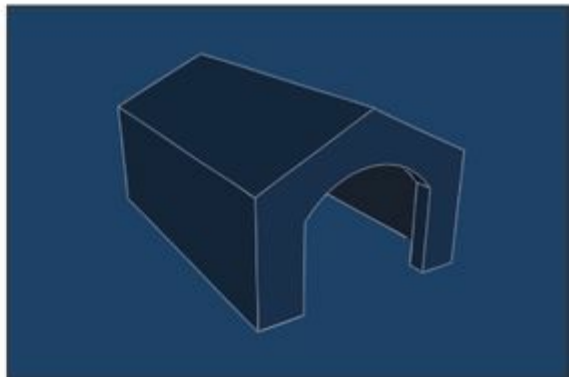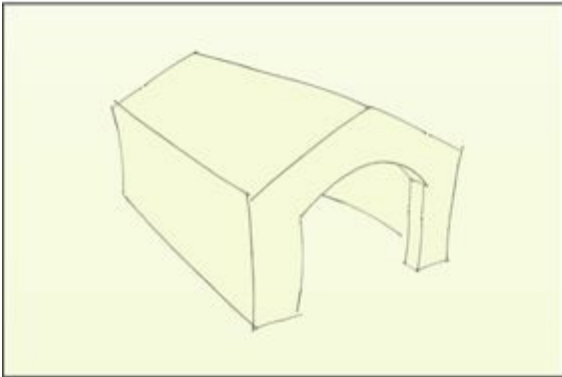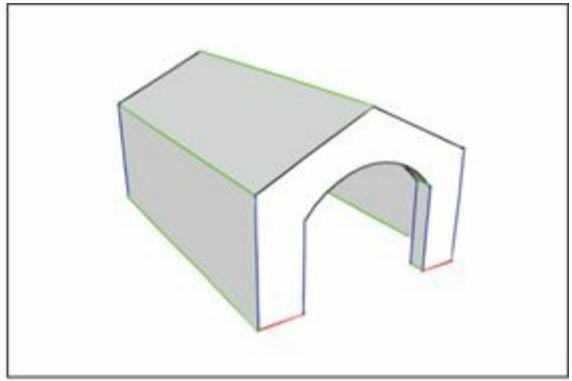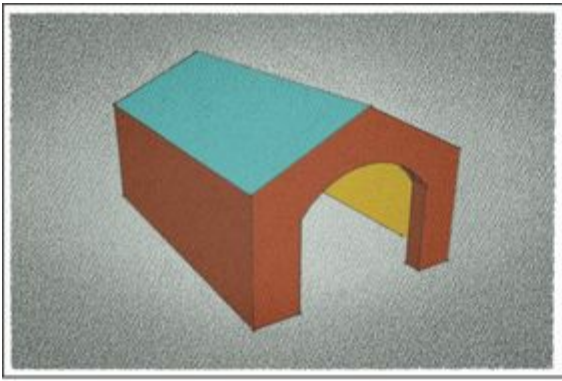
   You can click through the different styles to see what your options are. Figure 2-16 shows the doghouse with a few styles applied — can you figure out which ones?

4. **Go back to your original style by clicking the In Model icon and selecting the Architectural Design style.**

   In the Styles panel, clicking the In Model icon displays a list of all the styles you've applied to your model. The Architectural Design style should be first in the list. Chapter 10 explains styles in more detail.

FIGURE 2-15: The Assorted Styles library is a sampler of ready-mixed SketchUp styles.

FIGURE 2-16: The same doghouse with four very different styles applied to it.

Switching On the Sun

You're about to use what we consider to be one of SketchUp's best features: Shadows. When you turn on Shadows, you're activating SketchUp's built-in sun. The shadows you see in your modeling window are *accurate* for whatever time and location you set.

Ready to shine light on your model? Follow these steps:

1. **Use Orbit, Zoom, and Pan to get an aerial, three-quarter view of your doghouse, sort of like the view shown in Figure 2-17.**

2. **Click the right-pointing arrow next to the Shadows panel in the default tray (Windows). Or choose Window ⇒ Shadows (Mac).**
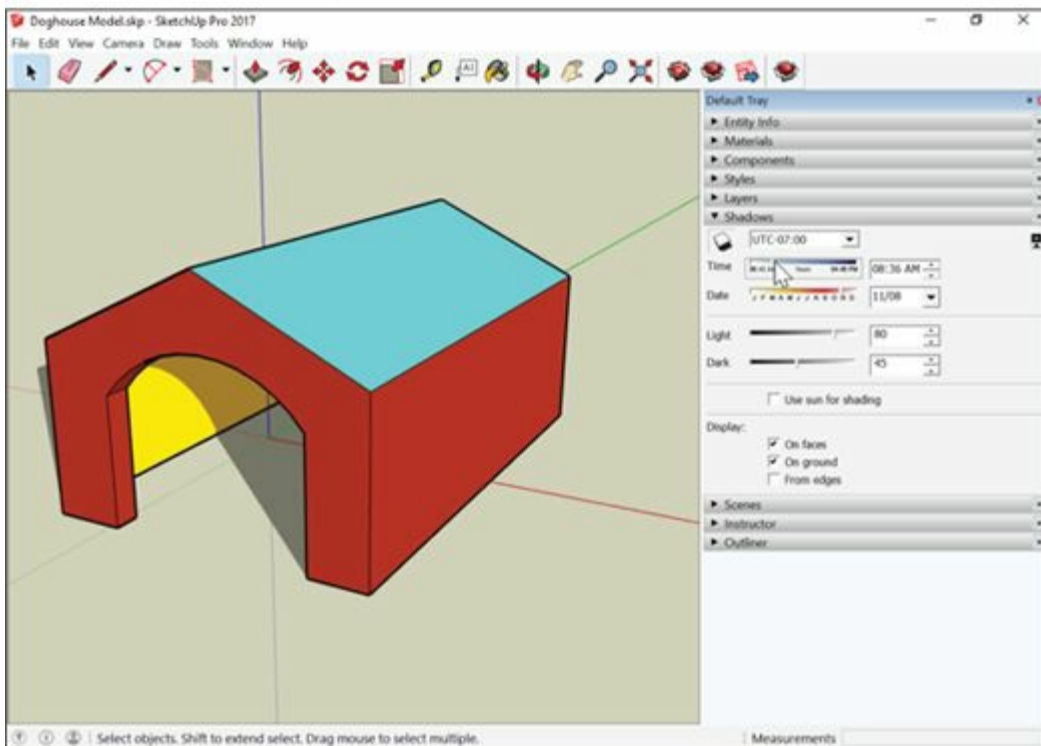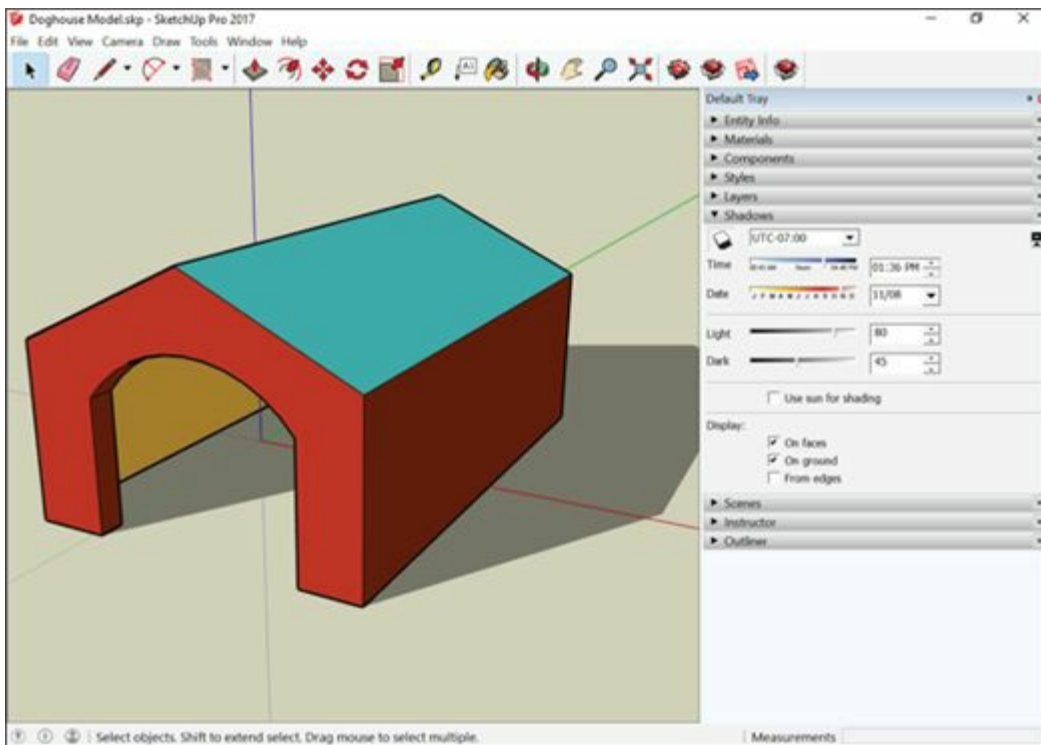
   You see the Shadow Settings panel. (Refer to Figure 2-17.)

3. **Click the Show/Hide Shadows button (in the upper-left corner) to toggle on the sun.**

   Your doghouse casts a shadow on the ground.

4. **Move the Time slider back and forth.**

   Changing the time of day means that you're moving SketchUp's sun around in the sky. When the sun moves around, so do your shadows. To see accurate shadows, you also have to *geolocate* your model, which is a fancy way of saying that you give it a latitude. Chapter 10 explains how to create accurate shadow studies.

FIGURE 2-17: Use Orbit, Zoom, and Pan to navigate around until your model looks something like this.

Sharing Your Masterpiece

Now that you have a model that looks about the way you want it to, you probably want to show it to someone. The easiest way is to export a JPEG image that you can attach to an e-mail. Follow these steps, and you're on your way:

1. **Navigate around (using Orbit, Zoom, and Pan) until you like the view of your model that you see in your modeling window.**

2. **Choose File ⇒ Export ⇒ 2D Graphic.**

3. **In the Export dialog box that opens, choose to export the graphic as a JPEG.**

4. **Pick a location on your computer and give your exported image a name.**

5. **Click the Export button to create a JPEG image of what's visible in your modeling window.**

Exporting a JPEG file is just one way to share models. To find out about all your options, see Part 4, which explains how to share your model on the SketchUp 3D Warehouse, as a printout, as an image or animation, as part of a multipage document, or as a slick presentation that will (hopefully) impress all your friends.