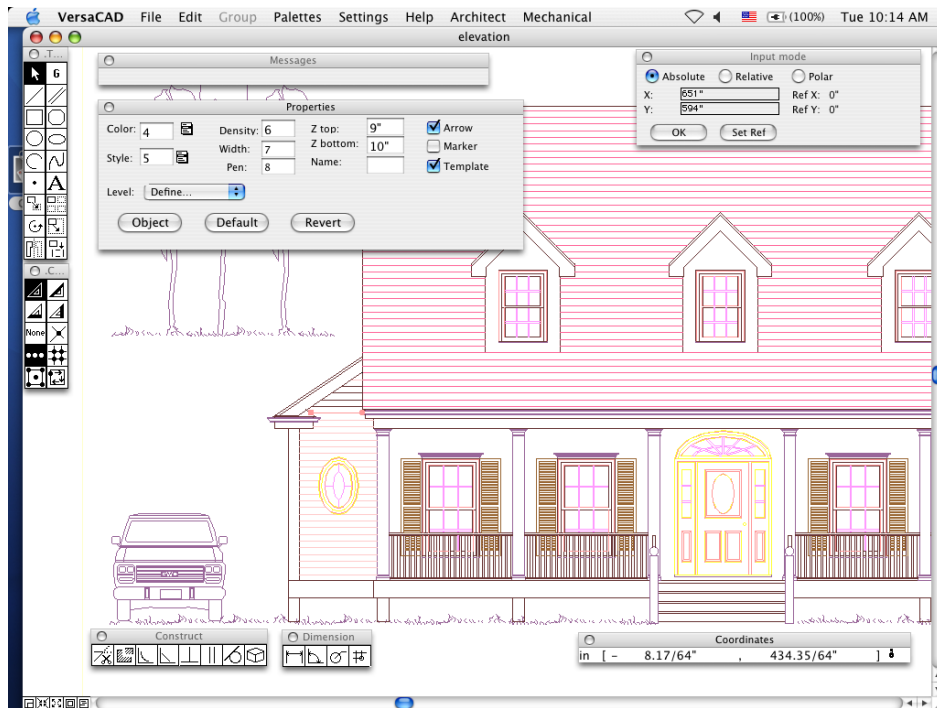# VersaCAD Mac
Getting Started

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Chapter 1-Introduction

Who this pamphlet is for and how to use it
This pamphlet is intended to help new users get started using VersaCAD for OS X.

If you are using VersaCAD 2001 (classic), or older VersaCAD, proceed directly to the User's Reference manual entitled VersaCAD, Macintosh Edition.

If you are a new user of VersaCAD for OS X, start with this pamphlet (after installing VersaCAD according to the Installation instructions) and then use the User's manual as a reference to explain specific commands, definitions and details on how to use VLINK for translating files.

This pamphlet is intended to get you started with VersaCAD for OS X quickly. It provides a short description of how VersaCAD works and the features which are unique for OS X. After reading this, see the paper found in the VersaCAD Curriculum folder on the distribution CD entitled: " VersaCAD Mac Application Vignettes.pdf" to learn how to use VersaCAD for a specific application. If you then have a question on a particular command, refer to the User's Reference manual mentioned above. For in-depth tutorials, refer to the VersaCAD Curriculum folder on the distribution CD and see Training.pdf which is a 200 page book suitable for self teaching or classroom instruction. See also "Quickstart.pdf" and "transitioning.pdf" which are also on the CD.

Understanding that you have very little time to spend learning a new software, we hope that this short pamphlet will help you get started with VersaCAD in record time. Starter files and discipline specific symbol libraries are included with the software to help minimize your startup time.
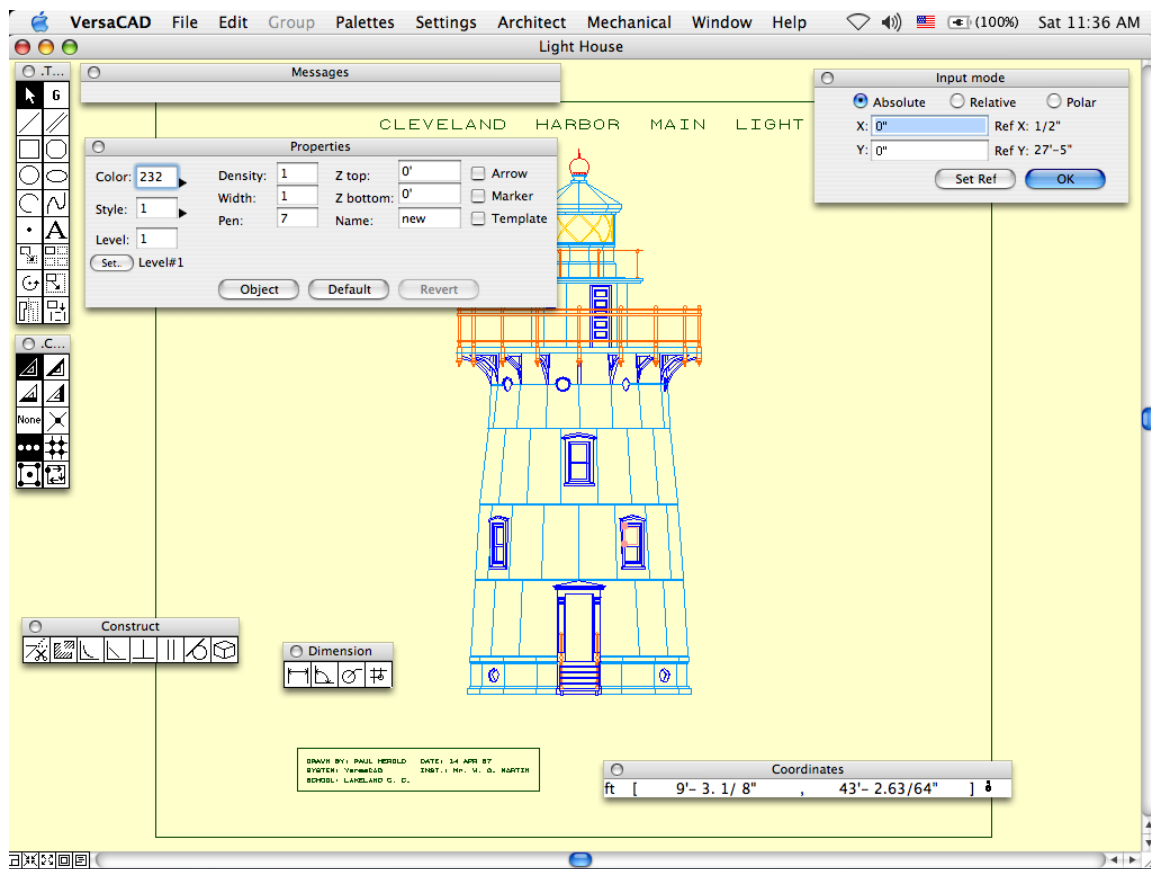
Figure 1. VersaCAD for OS X, screen showing palettes open.

General to All Disciplines
VersaCAD for Macintosh is a production design/drafting software for making drawings such as: a floorplan, elevation (as shown above), mechanical part, electrical schematic, construction drawing, campus map, utility map, room layout, store layout, plant layout, piping isometric, process diagram, control diagram, flowchart, organization chart, and the like.

The eight basics of VersaCAD for any discipline are Tools, Tool Settings, Command/Prompt, View Control, File Navigation, Export/Import, Printing, Preferences and Help.

Tools
All tool bars, such as those shown at the left in Figure 1, are found in the Palettes menu. The tool bars can be placed anywhere on the screen. The tools are activated by clicking on the tool icon or by pressing the upper case shortcut letter you can find in Help. For example, Add Line is chosen by pressing L or clicking the line icon. Some shortcuts require two keys, for example, the scale tool is selected by shift-S. You can use the shortcut keys or click the icon interchangeably, whichever is preferred.

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Tool Settings
Tool settings are found for each tool by **double clicking the tool**. This is important and works consistently for every tool.
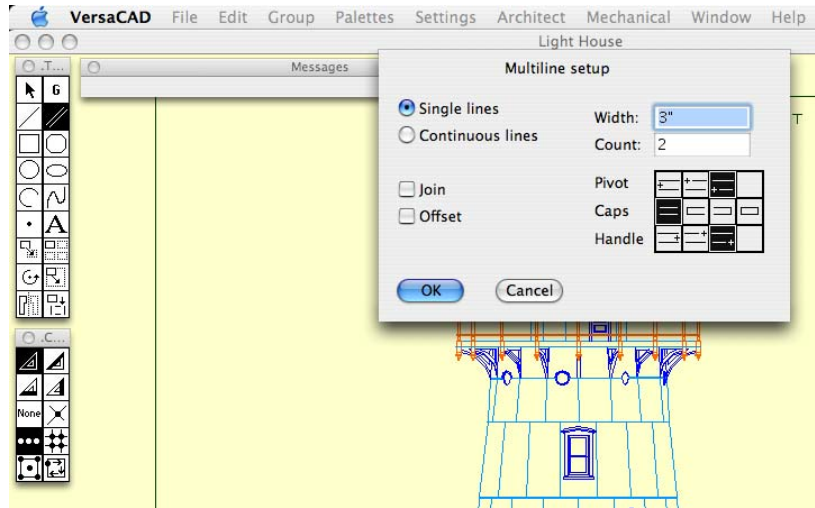

Figure 2. VersaCAD screen with Mulitline tool double-clicked to bring up the Multiline tool settings.

Command/Prompt
The command and prompt message line appears in the "Messages" window. This window can be placed anywhere on the screen, but, opens at the top by default. See Figure 2. After clicking a tool, always look to the Messages window to verify you are in the correct tool and to read the prompt for what to do next.
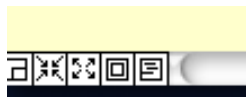
View Control

Figure 3. View Control Tools: base, Window-In, Window-Out, Window Full and Sketch

The portion of the graphic design seen on the screen at any one time is set by the view control tools that appear on the bottom left corner of the drawing window. These tools are also described clearly in Help. (See graphic under Help below) In short, double click on the zoom-in tool (arrows pointing in) then click on corners of the area you want enlarged. Then, single click the arrows-out tool to step out a bit, or single click the fourth icon (two rectangles) to fit the whole drawing to the screen. Single click zoom-in tool to step in a bit. Zoom at any time during any other command without affecting the current command. Pan by clicking the arrows on the lower right of screen. For details, see page 1-19 in the User Reference manual.
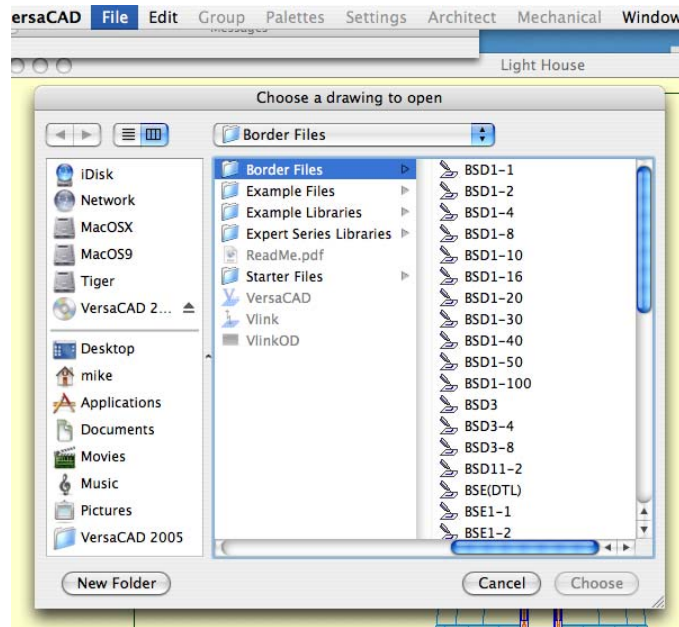
4

File Navigation

Figure 4. File>Open showing standard folders as delivered and Border files

Files-Drawing Files

There is a standard File menu at the top of the screen where you can Open, Merge or Save drawing files just as you would in any OS X application. You can start a new file by clicking File>New Drawing, or for convenience, start a new file by opening one of the Starter files that already has the settings you want, and then click New. The new file will have same settings.

Starter files with settings preset are included for several disciplines: architecture, facility, mechanical, mapping and plant. You can open one of these and then Save As your file name to use it as a template.

Border files are included for most standard sizes and scales (eg, BSD1-1 is a border file for D size drawings using 1 to 1 scale. BSD1-100 is D size for scale of 1 to 100 etc). There is a short document: " VersaCAD Border Files Readme. Rtf" found in the Border Files folder that describes how to use the border files with your drawings.
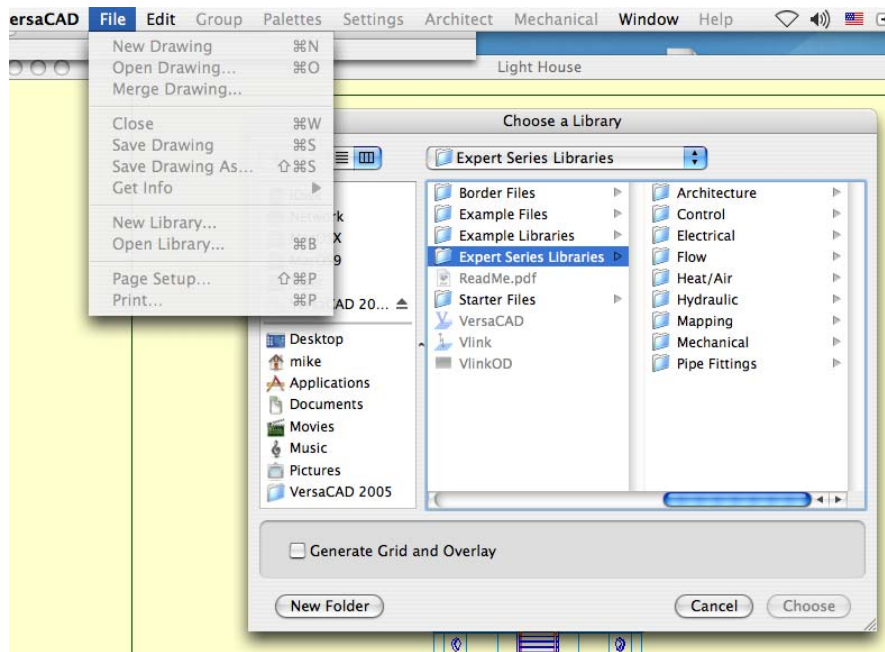
Files-Symbol Libraries

Figure 5. File>Open Library with Expert Series Libraries highlighted

In addition to the Expert Series of symbol libraries, other libraries can be found under the folder Libraries. Here is a short list of libraries included:

Discipline	Location (see Fig 5	Library Name	Function
Architecture	Libraries	ASL 1-7	complete set from Vince Puyear*
Architecture	Expert Series **	various	alternative set
Control	'' ''	'' ''	complete set
Electrical	'' ''	'' ''	'' ''
Flow	'' ''	'' ''	'' ''
Heat/Air	'' ''	'' ''	'' ''
Hydraulic	'' ''	'' ''	'' ''
Mapping	'' ''	'' ''	'' ''
Mechanical	'' ''	'' ''	'' ''
Piple Fittings	'' ''	'' ''	'' ''
Plant Design	Libraries	Weldpipe	piping isometrics
Electrical	Libraries	elecsymb	electrical schematics
Landscape	Libraries	treesymb	plan view of various trees
General	Libraires	Library	general purpose, several disciplines

*Vince Puyear is a professor at Hutchinson Community College who previously was a supplier of symbol libraries including the ASL set which is included with his permission.
** The Expert Series of symbol libraries were previously sold as a separate product, now included at no charge.
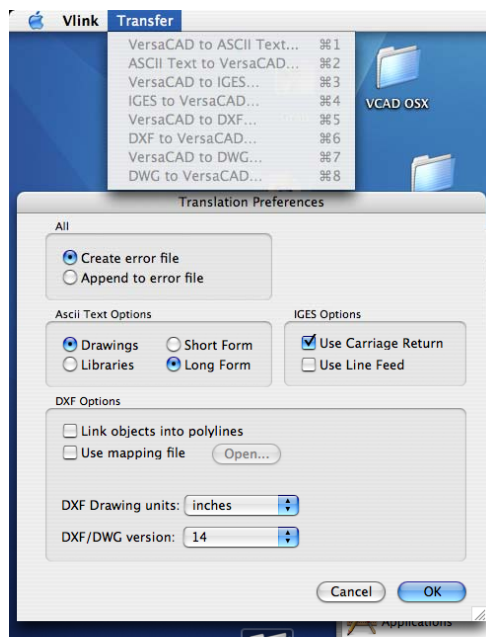
Export Import

Figure 6. VLINK showing Transfer menu and Preferences dialog open

VersaCAD includes Vlink, a translator that converts to and from DWG, DXF, IGES and VersaCAD text formats. Launch Vlink from the VersaCAD folder. Use Options found under VLINK>Preferences to specify any version of DXF, DWG from or IGES that you want. VersaCAD Ascii text format can be used to move drawing and library files from VersaCAD for Windows to/from VersaCAD for Mac. Also, VersaCAD Mac can save VersaCAD Windows files directly from File>Save Drawing As, setting file type to VersaCAD PC. For more details, see VersaCAD Macintosh User Reference Manual.
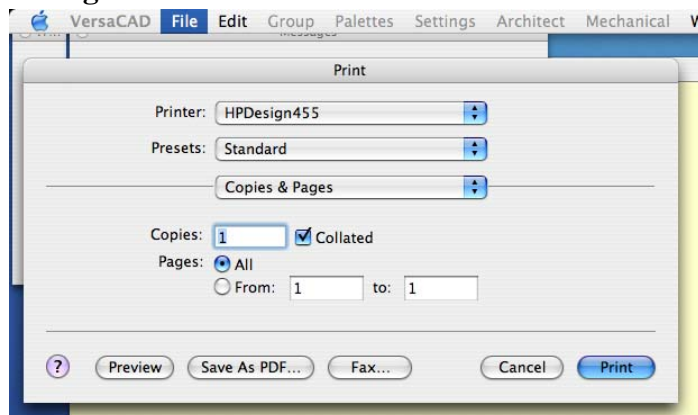
Printing

Figure 7. Print dialog showing printing to HPDesignjet 455. Note Save as PDF

If you are printing to a Macintosh standard output device, and if the Macintosh driver for that device has been installed, you can simply Print from the file menu as you would any Macintosh program.   Watch the screen prompts in the message area. If you want to print to a drafting scale (like ¼" to the foot etc), you can setup a plot specification. Go to File>Page Setup to graphically set the portion of the screen to be plotted, the scale and the boundary on the page.   Then, click Print to plot your drawing to scale.

Note the folder of Border Files found in the folder: VersaCAD\\Border Files.   These Border Files are to be merged with your work. The Border Files include a Plot Specification appropriate for the size of project you are working on and the size of sheet you want to plot to. Read the rtf file included in the border file folder.

Note on the Print dialog that you can Save or Print directly to a file in PDF format. PDF is built into Mac OS X and accomodates zooming, panning and large sheet formats at very high resolution. This is very convenient for plotting large drawings at a service bureau or emailing drawings to a correspondent which they can view and print with their free Acrobat reader. Also, note that using the Print Preview or just viewing a drawing in PDF, you can use OS X features to save the PDF file as an image such as JPEG for including the drawing in a document.
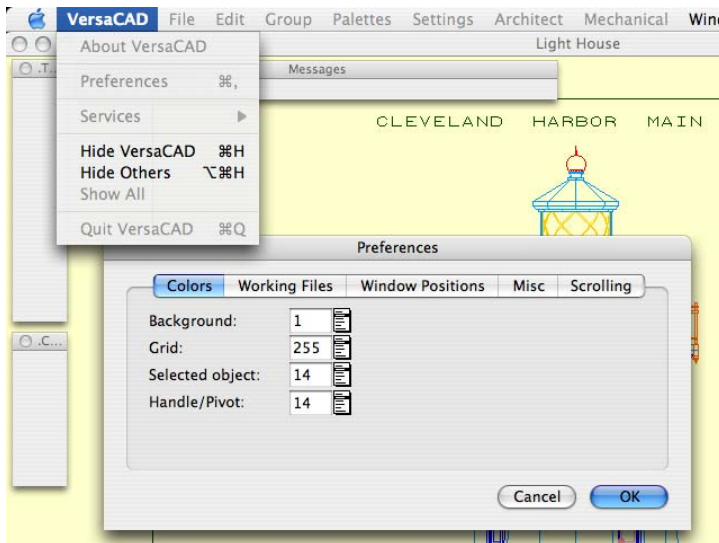
Preferences

Figure 8. VersaCAD>Preferences showing colors tab

Look under the pulldown "VersaCAD" for setting preferences and to Quit VersaCAD. The preferences allow you to change background color, size of file allowed and more. Preference categories are chosen from the tabs at the top of the dialog.

Application Pulldowns Included with VersaCAD for OS X

Note the "Architect" and "Mechanical" pulldowns on the top right of the VersaCAD screen. These can be included or not per check boxes under the Misc tab in Preferences. The application pulldowns include commands or tools to do specialized functions such as inserting doors and windows from parameterized standards in the Architect pulldown or placing geometric tolerancing symbols from the mechanical pulldown. Both pulldowns include dual dimensioning and other useful supplements.

Help

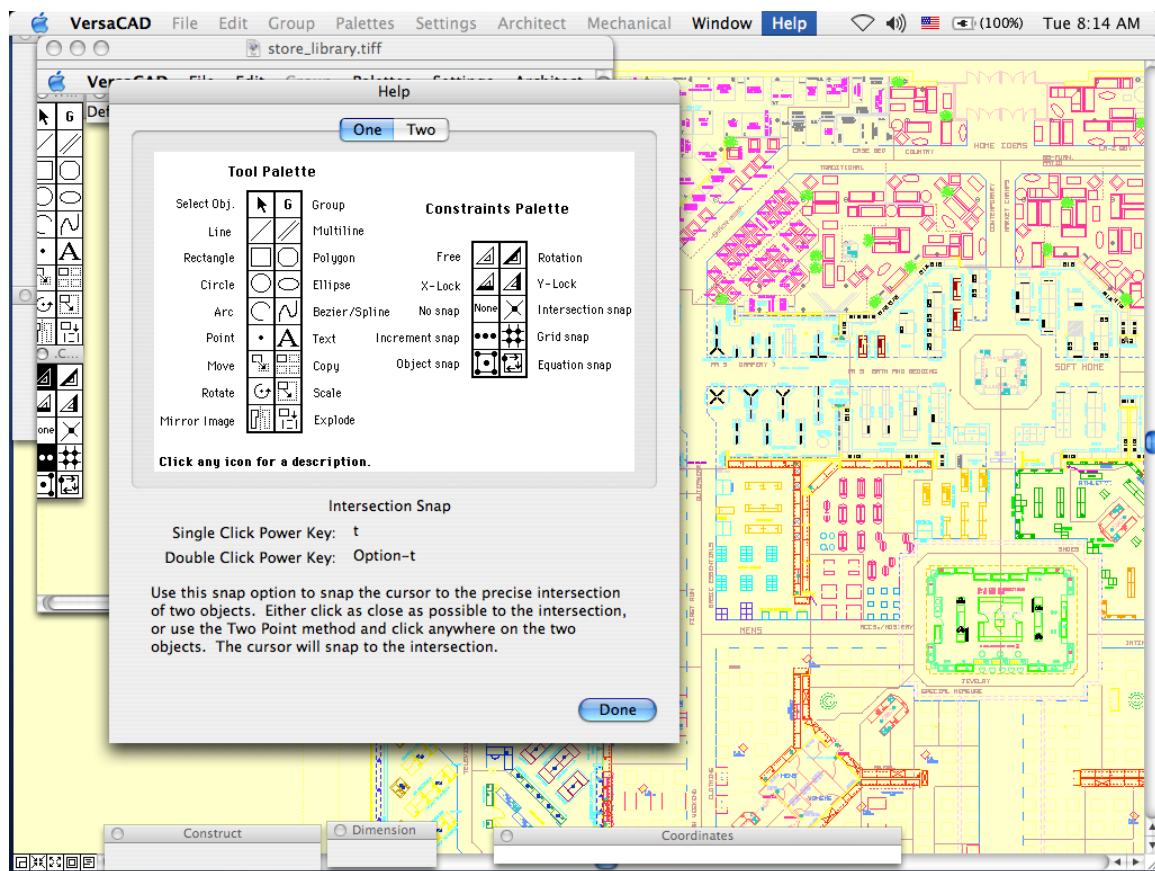The VersaCAD Help menu presents a graphic as shown. .

Figure 9. Help. User has selected Intersection snap from the Constraints Palette in Help.

Click on a tool to see a description of what that tool does and to find the shortcut for the tool, ie the the Single Click Power Key to evoke the command and the Double Click Power Key to change settings for the tool.

The following short exercise will get you well on your way with VersaCAD.

VersaCAD Mini-Quickstart
You can do these few steps to learn the basic approach after launching the program by double clicking the VersaCAD icon.
1. To start out, load a file by File>Open Drawing. Then navigate to Applications>VersaCAD>Example Files.   For example, open Ball Valve
2. Remember: click on the icon of the tool you want to use. Double click the same tool icon to change the settings for that tool. Watch the Messages window for prompts.
3. Click on the rectangle tool icon at column 1, row 3 of the tool bar. In the drawing area, click on 2 points, i.e. opposite corners to define the rectangle. Draw a couple more. Press Q to stop rectangles. Try L for line etc. Remember to read the prompting messages on the message window to see what to do next.
4. To zoom in on a detail, double click the second icon at lower left of screen (arrows pointing in). Then, click two corners of a box around the area to zoom in to. To return to full view, single click the fourth icon at lower left (two rectangles).
5. Click File>Print. Select Printer.   Press <Enter>. Your drawing will print on whatever Macintosh print device you have connected to your computer.
6. Or, File>Print. Select Save As PDF. You will save a file that is very high resolution and can be emailed and viewed or printed with free Acrobat Reader.
7. VersaCAD>Quit.   You will be warned that you didn't save your file.

That's all there is to it. There are 100s more commands, but all work like above.

Now, you should read and follow "VersaCAD Mac OS X Application Vignettes" found under Curriculum on the VersaCAD distribution CD. In the table of contents, find your discipline, ie Architecture, Mechanical, etc. Follow the very short exercise there to learn how to setup a file and get started on your own type of work.

For more detailed tutorials, first see "Quickstart" manual on the CD. Work those tutorials to develop more proficiency. Then, for in-depth training, refer to the Training manual on the CD.

Our hope is that you will read this document and be able to begin productive work in less than an hour. Another hour spent on Application Vignettes and the Quickstart will have you more confident. After several more hours on the Training Manual and you will be an expert VersaCAD power user. When you have detailed questions about how a particular command works, like how to trim two circles together, that is the time to look it up in the VersaCAD Macintosh Edition User Reference manual using the index near the back of the reference manual.

Finally, we want you to be very successful in your chosen design profession and hope that VersaCAD will be a useful tool to help you accomplish that goal. If you have any question, please email to support@versacad.com and we will respond.