Taking DWG into Archicad – "automatic" 3d site model

1. Inside Archicad – FILE...LIBRARIES AND OBJECTS... OPEN OBJECT

2. When "Open Library Part" pop-up appears, click on BROWSE FOR A FOLDER and then BROWSE

3. When OPEN LIBRARY ITEM pop up appears. Change file type to DWG, find and select your DWG file and click OPEN

4. When DWG/DXF Partial Open pop up appears, turn off all the irrelevant layers then click OK

5. If it asks to locate an shx file, click SKIP ALL

6. In the window that appears, on the left hand side there will be a few different buttons appear, "DETAILS, PARAMATERS, MIGRATION" etc. Find 3D and click on it

7. There will be a bunch of text here, all you are interested in is the numbers – see image below for example

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LIN_ 462.73566546, 687.00889099, 0.03000000, 462.73569363, 687.00885964, 0.03000000
LIN_ 462.73569363, 687.00885964, 0.03000000, 462.73596653, 687.00855611, 0.03000000
LIN_ 462.73596653, 687.00855611, 0.03000000, 462.73623952, 687.00825266, 0.03000000
LIN_ 462.73623952, 687.00825266, 0.03000000, 462.73651260, 687.00794929, 0.03000000
LIN_ 462.73651260, 687.00794929, 0.03000000, 462.73760840, 687.00673233, 0.03000000
LIN_ 462.73760840, 687.00673233, 0.03000000, 462.73787762, 687.00642688, 0.03000000
LIN_ 462.73787762, 687.00642688, 0.03000000, 462.73813903, 687.00611717, 0.03000000
LIN_ 462.73813903, 687.00611717, 0.03000000, 462.73839263, 687.00580321, 0.03000000
LIN_ 462.73839263, 687.00580321, 0.03000000, 462.73863841, 687.00548499, 0.03000000
LIN_ 462.73863841, 687.00548499, 0.03000000, 462.73869034, 687.00540892, 0.03000000
LIN_ 462.73869034, 687.00540892, 0.03000000, 462.73873445, 687.00532860, 0.03000000
LIN_ 462.73873445, 687.00532860, 0.03000000, 462.73877074, 687.00524403, 0.03000000
LIN_ 462.73877074, 687.00524403, 0.03000000, 462.73879923, 687.00515520, 0.03000000
LIN_ 462.73879923, 687.00515520, 0.03000000, 462.73889784, 687.00479029, 0.03000000
LIN_ 462.73889784, 687.00479029, 0.03000000, 462.73892275, 687.00469943, 0.03000000
LIN_ 462.73892275, 687.00469943, 0.03000000, 462.73894834, 687.00460877, 0.03000000
LIN_ 462.73894834, 687.00460877, 0.03000000, 462.73897461, 687.00451831, 0.03000000
LIN_ 462.73897461, 687.00451831, 0.03000000, 462.73900155, 687.00442804, 0.03000000
LIN_ 462.73900155, 687.00442804, 0.03000000, 462.73913839, 687.00397695, 0.03000000
LIN_ 462.73913839, 687.00397695, 0.03000000, 462.73927591, 687.00352607, 0.03000000
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8. These are figures in the X, Y and Z direction in 3D space. Copy all of these from start to finish (shift click to select all) and paste them into Notepad and save it as a .txt file

9. Open Excel, change the file type you are looking for to .txt and open the file you just saved

10. Under the options that pops up, choose "DELIMITED" as data type, then click next

11. The next set of options, under delimiters, click "COMMAS" and unclick "TABS" – in the preview box, your data should be split into columns now. Click FINISH

12. In excel, click HOME on the top toolbar, then click FIND AND SELECT (far right) and then REPLACE

13. In the pop up window, under FIND WHAT type LIN_

14. Under REPLACE WITH just press the space bar once and then click REPLACE ALL

15. Pop up window will say all done, close pop-up windows

16. Select the last three columns (in image below, columns D, E, and F) and delete them

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	462.7357	687.0089	0.03	462.7357	687.0089	0.03
2	462.7357	687.0089	0.03	462.736	687.0086	0.03
3	462.736	687.0086	0.03	462.7362	687.0083	0.03
4	462.7362	687.0083	0.03	462.7365	687.0079	0.03
5	462.7365	687.0079	0.03	462.7376	687.0067	0.03
6	462.7376	687.0067	0.03	462.7379	687.0064	0.03
7	462.7379	687.0064	0.03	462.7381	687.0061	0.03
8	462.7381	687.0061	0.03	462.7384	687.0058	0.03
9	462.7384	687.0058	0.03	462.7386	687.0055	0.03
10	462.7386	687.0055	0.03	462.7387	687.0054	0.03
11	462.7387	687.0054	0.03	462.7387	687.0053	0.03
12	462.7387	687.0053	0.03	462.7388	687.0052	0.03
13	462.7388	687.0052	0.03	462.7388	687.0052	0.03
14	462.7388	687.0052	0.03	462.7389	687.0048	0.03
15	462.7389	687.0048	0.03	462.7389	687.0047	0.03
16	462.7389	687.0047	0.03	462.7389	687.0046	0.03
17	462.7389	687.0046	0.03	462.739	687.0045	0.03
18	462.739	687.0045	0.03	462.739	687.0044	0.03
19	462.739	687.0044	0.03	462.7391	687.004	0.03
20	462.7391	687.004	0.03	462.7393	687.0035	0.03
21	462.7393	687.0035	0.03	462.7394	687.0031	0.03

17. Save this file as a TEXT Tab Delimited file type with a new name and click YES in the pop up window

18. Open a new Archicad, then click DESIGN on the top bar, then PLACE MESH FROM SURVEYORS DATA

19. Find the last .txt file you just saved from excel and click OPEN

20. In the pop up window select the unit of measurement (usually metres) and DEFINE GRAPHICALLY and click OK

21. Click to place the new mesh (at project origin usually a good spot)

22. Job done, check it out in 3D