**8\_Basic View menu**

In view menu first three options are for 3d, plan and elevation view options.

These are also available as shortcuts here.

For quick 3d view you can click on shortcut. For more detailed 3d view orientation you can click from the menu.

Here you can choose any orientation you want.

For example if we want to show top 3d view we will click on x-y plane by click on xy button and making aperture equal to zero.

Similar you can set 3d elevation view in xz or yz by making aperture zero.

3d view can be rotated from this shortcut button or from keyboard arrow keys.

You can toggle between different perspective views from this shortcut. For example when something is not clear in 3d view, you either rotate it or switch between different perspective views.

This shortcut is to go to a specific story plan. From this list you can select any story to display its plan.

This button is to show elevation view. Select any elevation name from the list to view its elevation. You must have grids to view its elevation.

You can also define custom grids or reference planes to view their plan or elevation.

This shortcut is to move between different story plans or elevations.

For example if we are in a plan view, clicking on up arrow will take us to upper story plan and so on.

Similar if you are in an elevation view, clicking on these buttons will bring up elevation of next grid or the previous grid.

Next option is the set 3d view limits. Here you define the limits for 3d view; what areas to show and what to hide.

You define here limits for x, y and z directions or show them all from show all buttons.

You can also limit plan view by adjusting this area.

Let's show a 3d view but excluding roof.

In story range, limit the view up to second floor only and click ok.

Roof is invisible from the view now.

Let's go back and just show first floor.

Click ok

Go back again.

This time limit the extents of model by changing this area and still showing just first floor.

Click ok

You will notice that the current view is a partial view of first floor.

These options are handy when you are working in a large model and want to concentrate in detail for only a specific portion. Because the more elements you show in a view more memory is used and slower is the process.

Now let's go back and reset the limits for this model.

You can keep this selection and just click on ignore limits. And then click on show all buttons and then ok.

The view is restored now.

These limitations apply to all the views, in 3d, in elevation and at floor plans.

Next is the most important tool that we will be using a lot and again and again.

This is building view options.

Its shortcut is also located here.

In this window you can show elements by different colors. For example

By sections

By materials

In black and white etc.

You can show objects as filled to be more prominent.

Or even extrude them

Also you can show shrieked view of objects by this option. Its shortcut is located here.

You can remove them from all the view by upchucking them here.

Or you can reset the defaults from this button.

One very important thing here is that even if you remove something from view by this window and then select all or select previous if the hidden elements were selected previously, they will still be selected although not visible in views.

So if you select hidden floors by selecting all elements and delete them they will be deleted, because there were selected.

Hiding something from view does not prevent selecting them.

You can also show sections names or labels from view option window.

For example sections name of line elements

Or section names of slabs and walls

Then in view menu next are zoom options. These zoom options are also available as shortcuts here

For example, zoom in and zoom out one step.

You can go to previous zoom by this option.

One step in zoom is defined in options menu.

Go to options>preferences>tolerances

Here if you define the zoom step to 100 and then zoom in or out, it will zoomed much faster.

Make sure if you are using ETABS 9 or previous and you have many elements on screen in view, and you zoom in or out too fast, ETABS might crash and close and chances are you might lose unsaved work.

Zoom shortcuts are also here.

Then is the pan option. You can move the whole model in any view by this button as well.

Then is the measure tool to measure area, line lengths or even angles.

For example let's measure the distance between this grid point to this grid point.

Then is the show all or show selected options.

If you have selected some elements you can remove all other elements from all view by clicking on show selected options.

You can also do by right clicking in empty part of model screen.

If you want to hide selected elements and keep the rest you can click on hide selected elements from view.

And then you can show all the elements from this option or by right clicking in the model empty area.

These options will not make something visible that is hidden from building view options.

For example if we hide the floors from view options.

And then click on show all from view menu, floors will be still hidden although they can be selected by click all as explained previously.

And then there is refresh view option and its shortcut is here.

View is also refreshed automatically when you zoom in or out.

For example, if you draw a beam and turn on its labels, it might not appear on the spot. You can click on this pencil button or zoom in or out a step.