



TL FILTER

GUIDE (English)

August 16, 2022

TL ELEMENTS: FILTER - RETRIEVAL TOOL \ \ GUIDE

TL Elements FILTER is a tool for filtering of Revit elements by Category, Family, Type and/or Parameter values. We can use multiple filters and choose between "and"/"or" operators for parameter filters combination. The standard TL Elements integrated visualization tools are also available to improve this workflow.

This is a guide to get you started on the basics of the command. Please, keep in mind that, in addition to this and any other support material, TL Elements also provides helpful tooltips with descriptions of features that you may invoke by hovering your mouse over the buttons of the application.

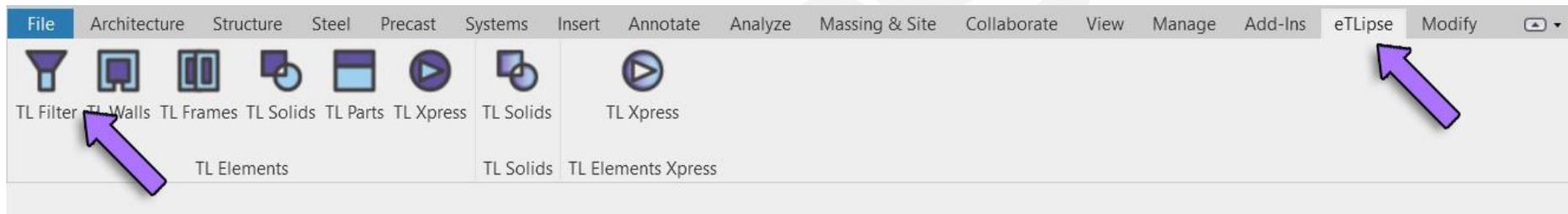
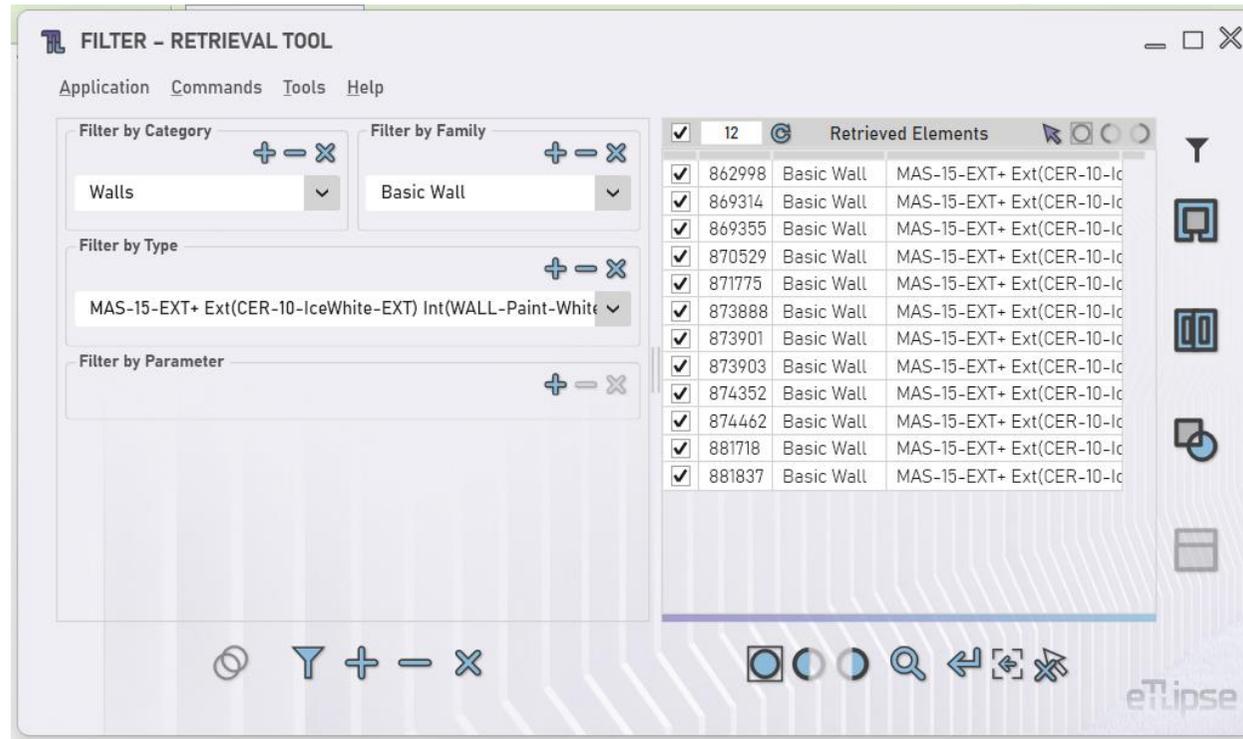


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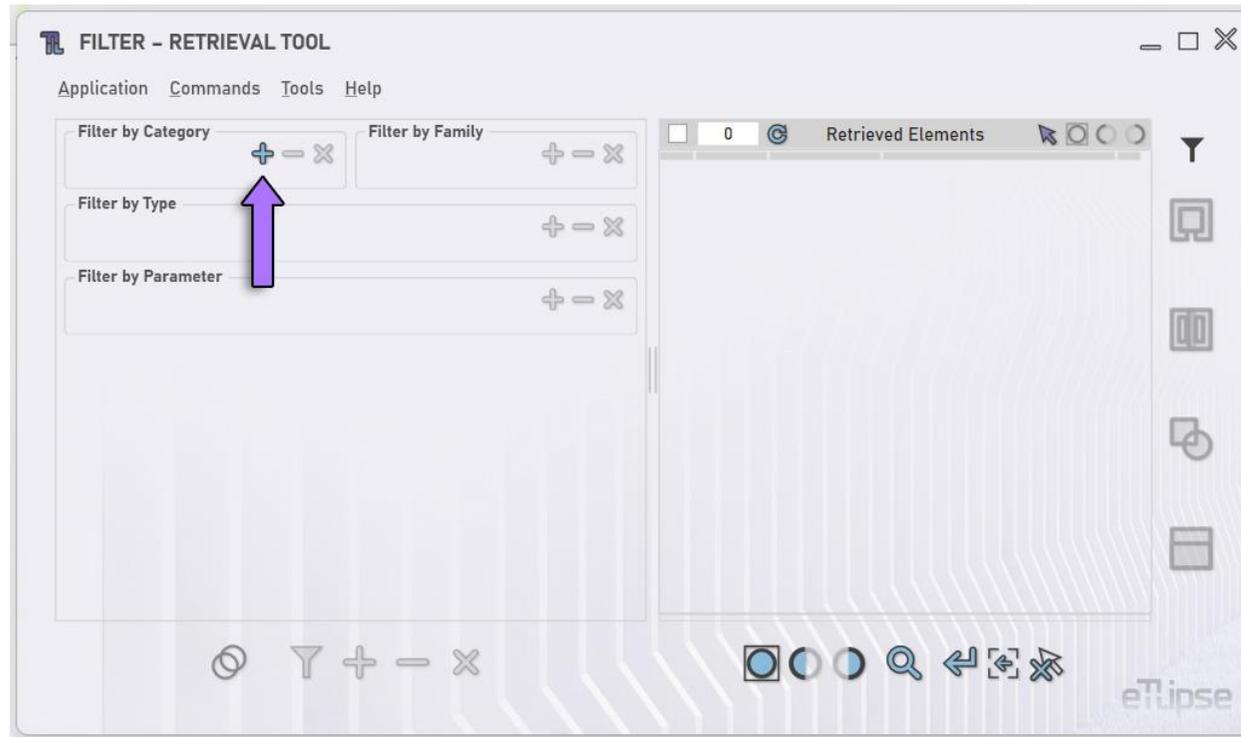
TL Filter Interface



As we can see in the image, the TL Filter command shows a group of dropdown lists and a list with a set of visualization tools in its user interface. The group of dropdown lists, on the left side, is where we can add and combine multiple filter items to customize our search for specific elements in the active Revit project. **The Elements Retrieval List**, on the right side, is used to list all the Revit elements retrieved by the combination of the chosen filters. These elements become available to be sent to the other main commands of the application as soon as their respective checkboxes are checked.

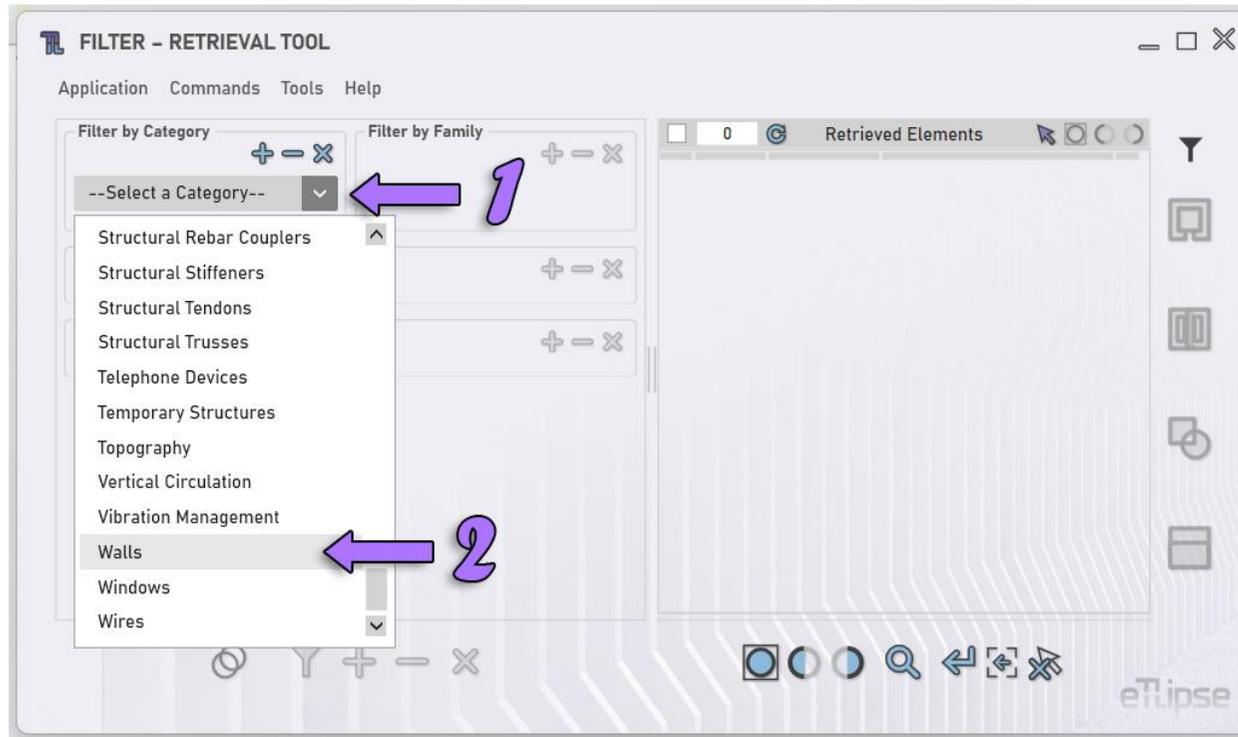
To learn how to use the controls in lists and the visualization tools, please, refer to the **TL List** and **TL Visualization Tools** guides.

Adding a Category Filter Item



By Clicking the **Add Category Filter** button (as indicated in the image), we add a filter item that will limit elements retrievals to one or more chosen Revit categories.

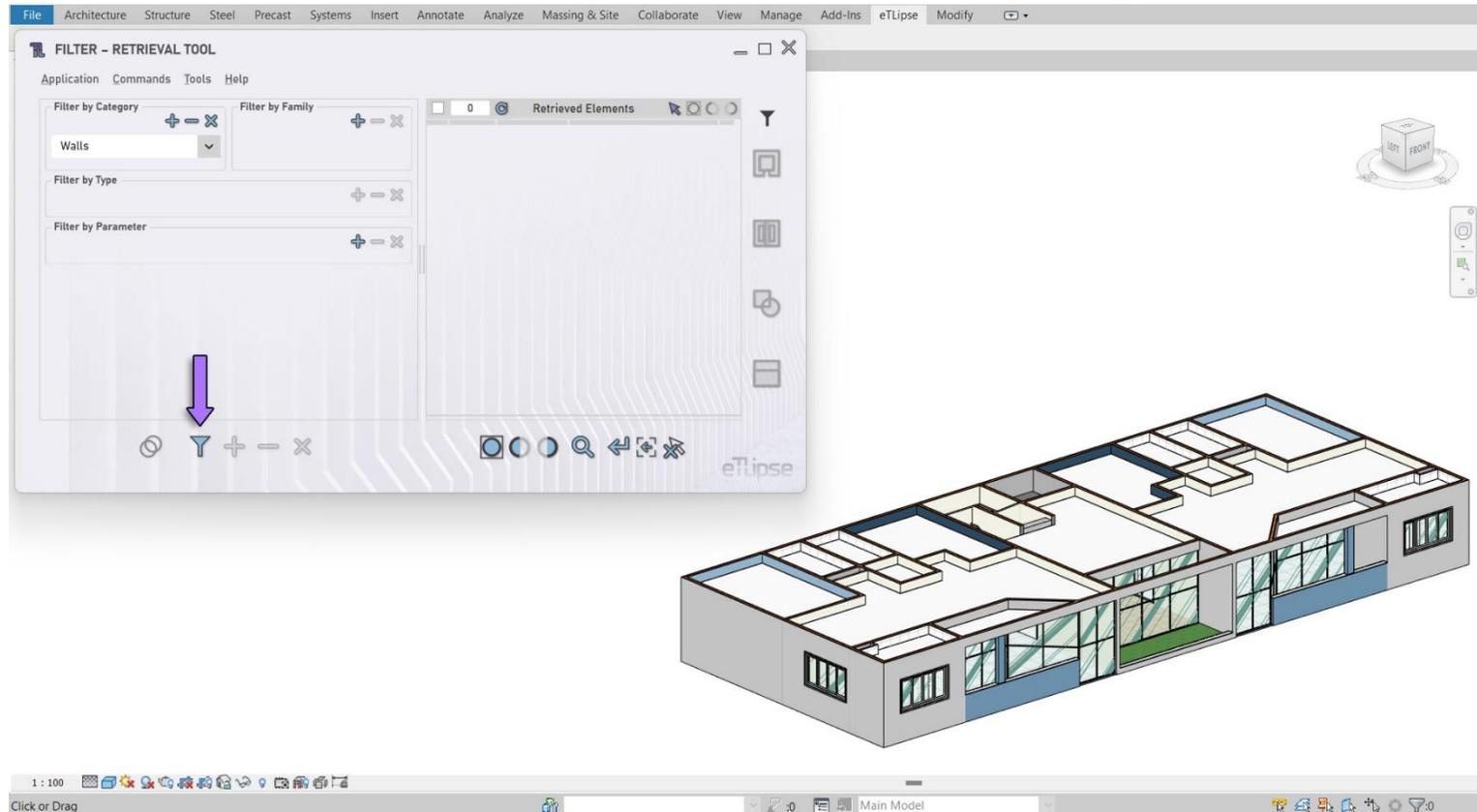
Selecting a category in a Category Filter Item



First, we click the dropdown box indicated in the image to open a list with the available category options for the filter. Note that only Revit categories that can be visible in the current active view in Revit will appear in this list (for example, the “Rooms” category will not show up if your active view in Revit is a 3D view, because this category cannot be visible in this type of view, as opposed to Sections and Plan views).

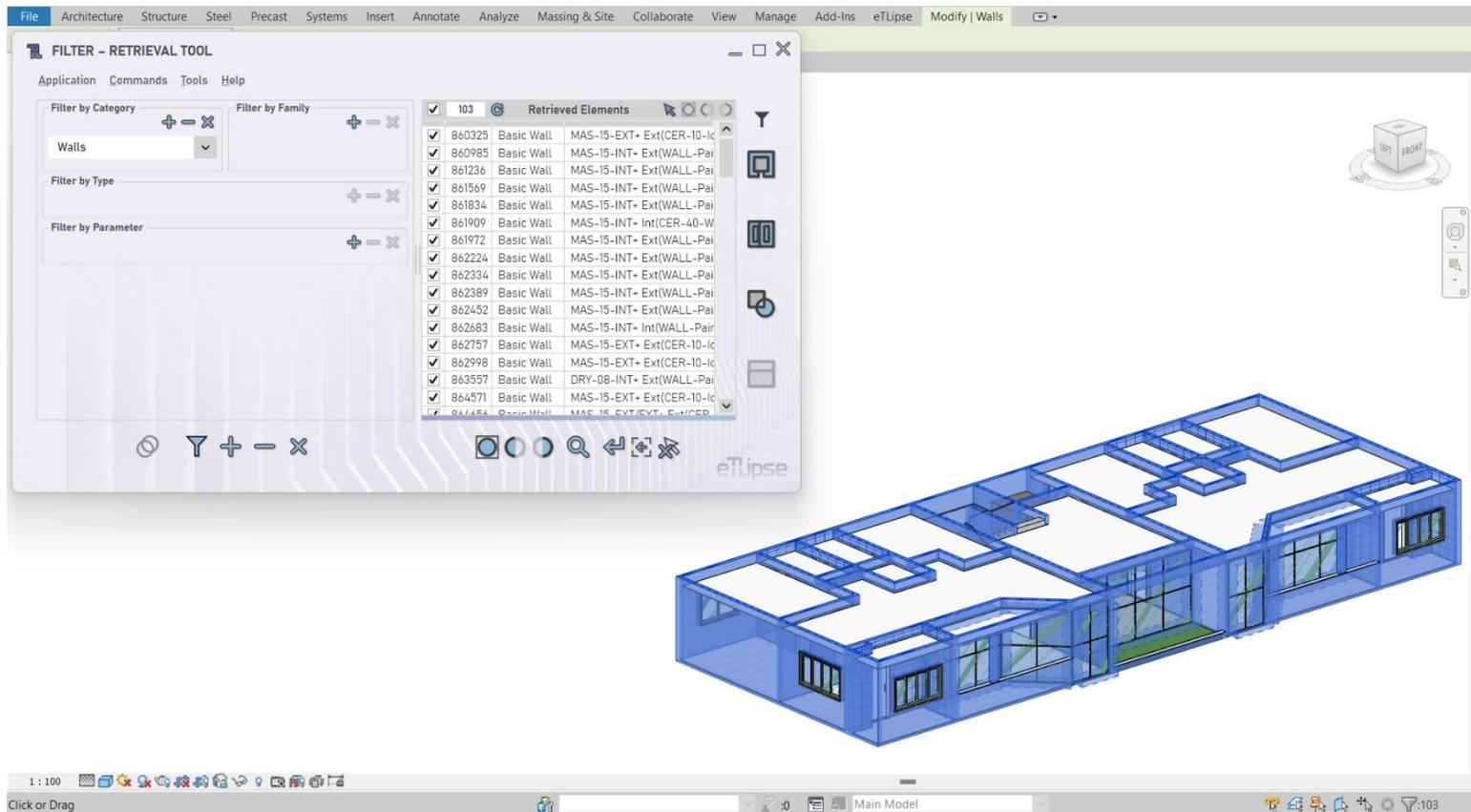
Then we can choose the desired category which the elements should be filtered by. In the image the “Walls” category is being picked.

Retrieving elements by Category Filter



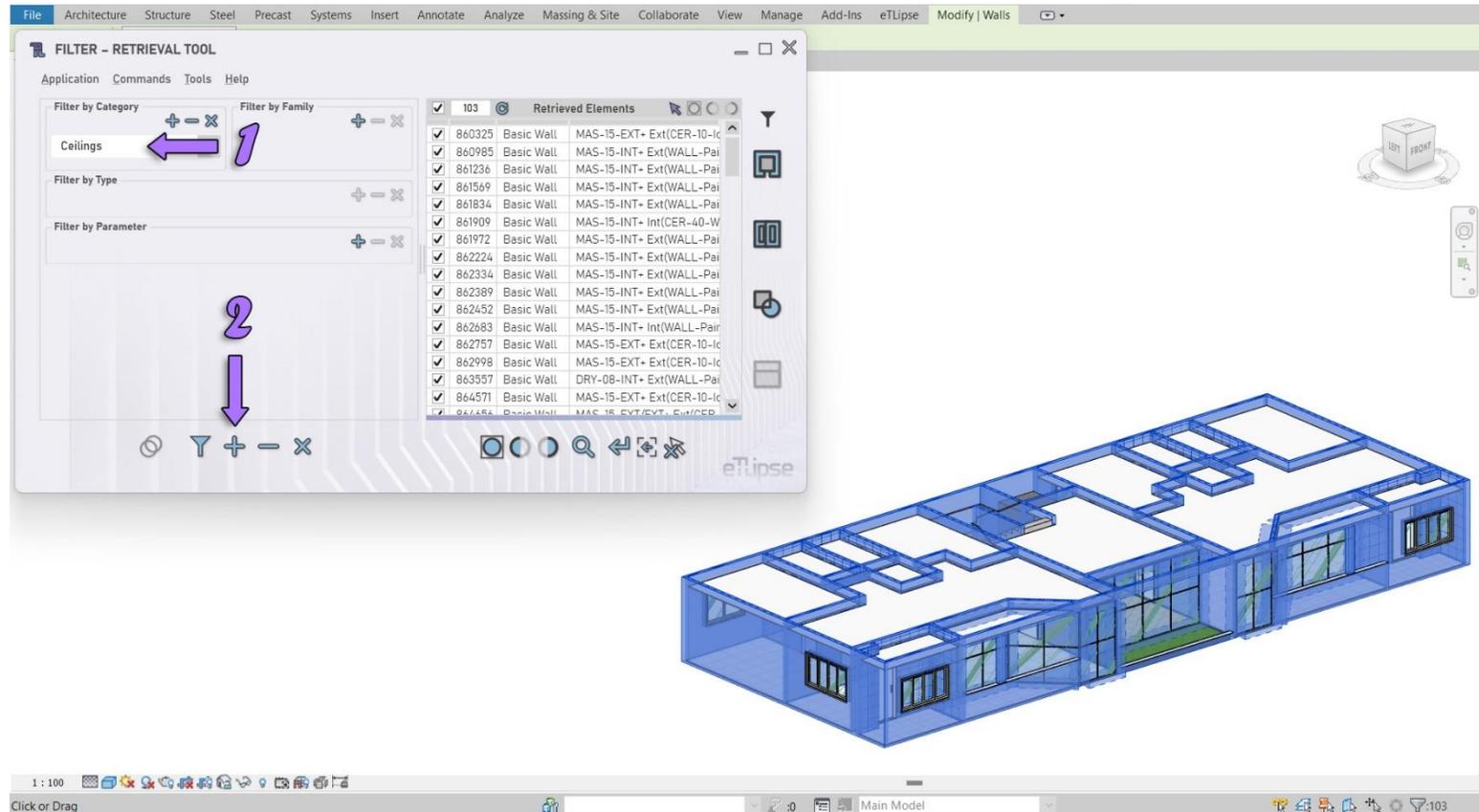
Once at least one Category filter item is added and a valid category is chosen, the **Retrieve Elements and Override List** button (the one presented as a filter, as indicated in the first image) is enabled and we can use it to retrieve the elements of the chosen category. Let's click it.

If the active Revit project has instances of elements of the chosen category, the retrieval should fill the list on the right side of the TL Filter interface with those elements (if the list already presents elements, these will be overridden), showing their id number, family and type names.

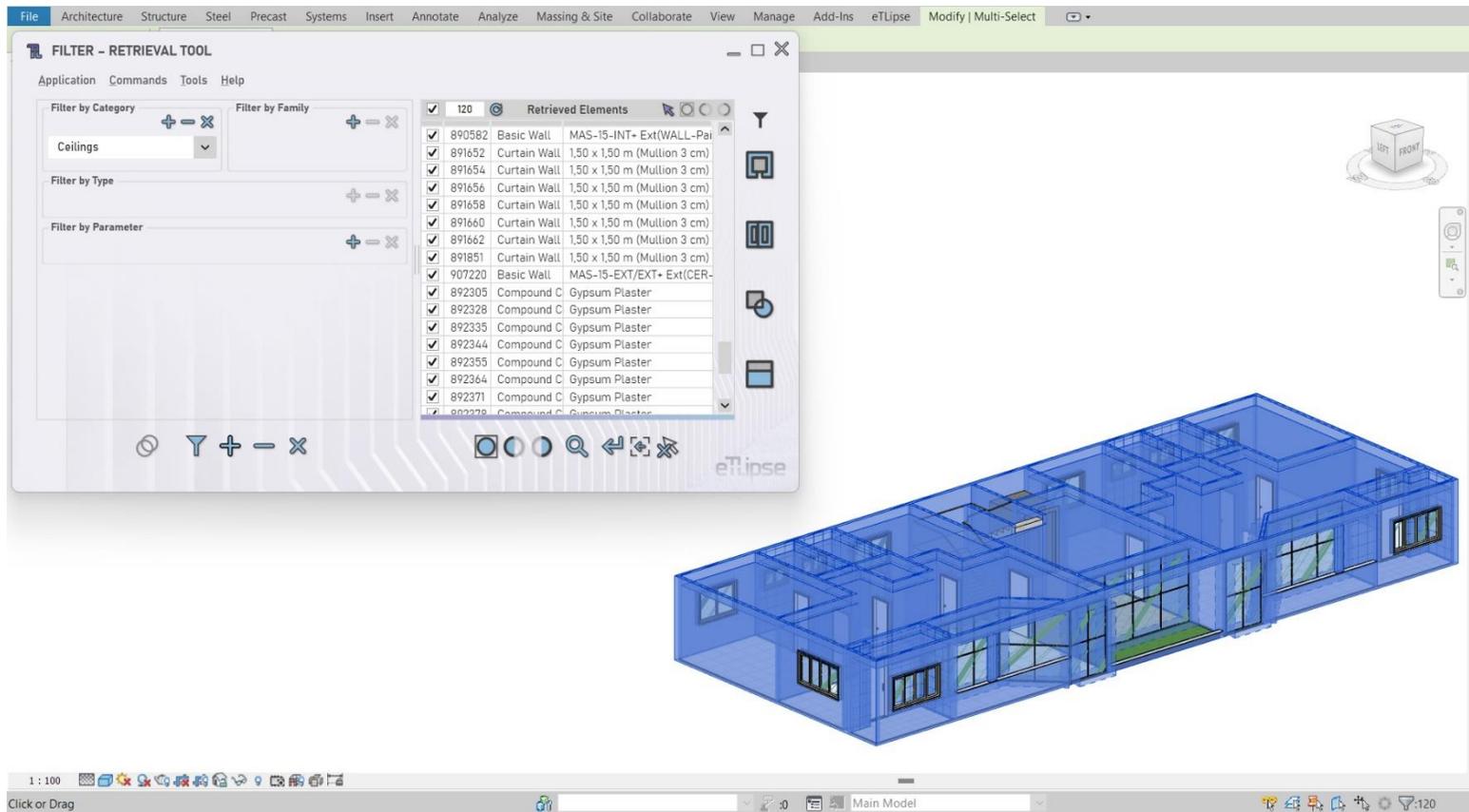


In the second image, for example, all the elements of the "Walls" category found in the model are listed and highlighted in Revit. If, on the other hand, no instance of the chosen category is found in the active project, the Elements Retrieval List will not be changed and a message reporting that no element with such requirement was found is displayed.

Adding elements by Category Filter

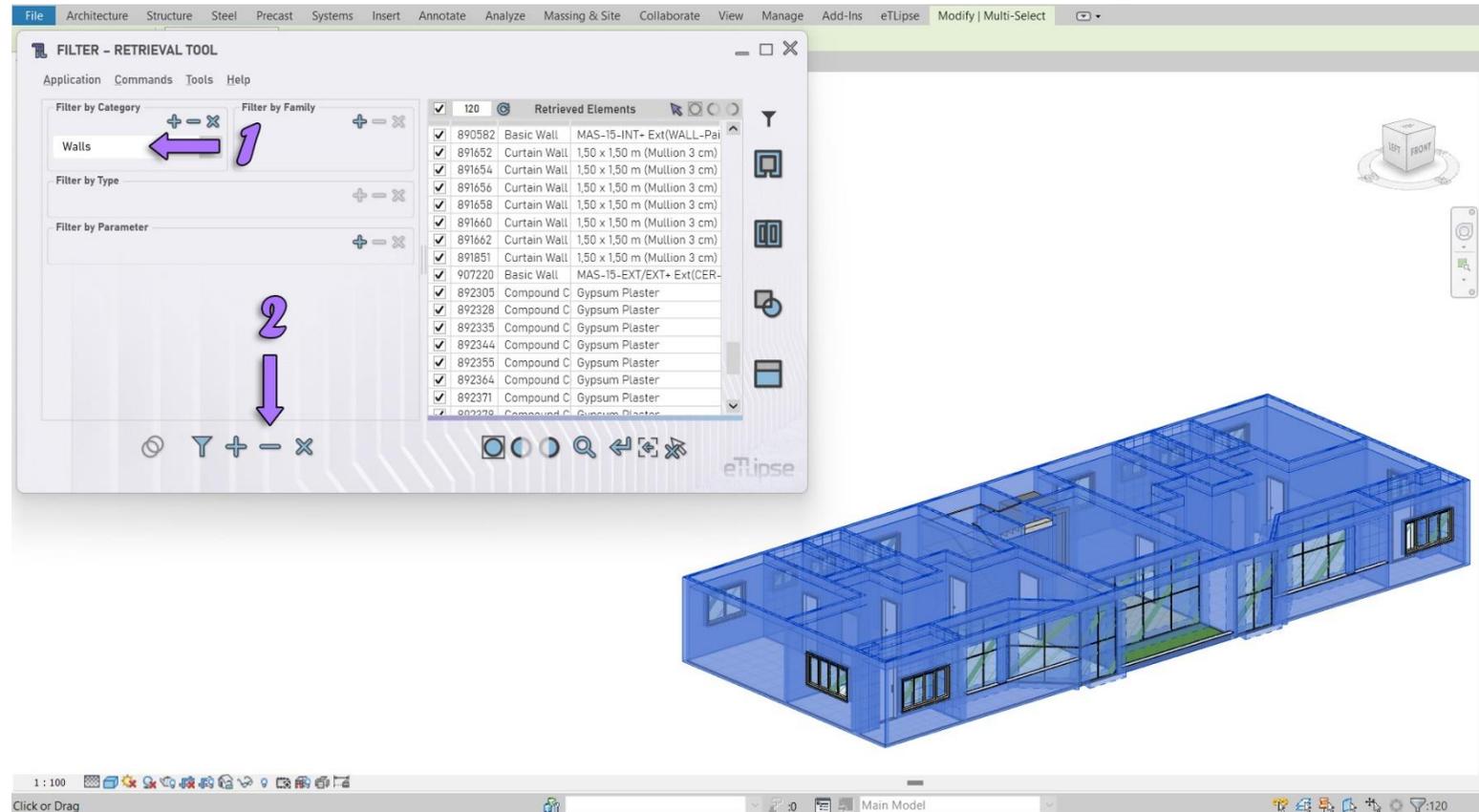


In the first image, the “Ceilings” category was selected in the same filter item that was just used to retrieve the walls. Once at least one Category filter item is added with a valid chosen category and there is at least one element listed in the Elements Retrieval List, the **Retrieve Elements and Add to List** button (the one presented as a plus sign, as indicated in the first image) is enabled and we can use it to retrieve the elements of the chosen category. Let’s click it. If the active Revit project has instances of elements of the chosen category, the retrieval should add these elements to the list on the right side of the TL Filter interface (in addition to any elements already listed), showing their id number, family and type names.

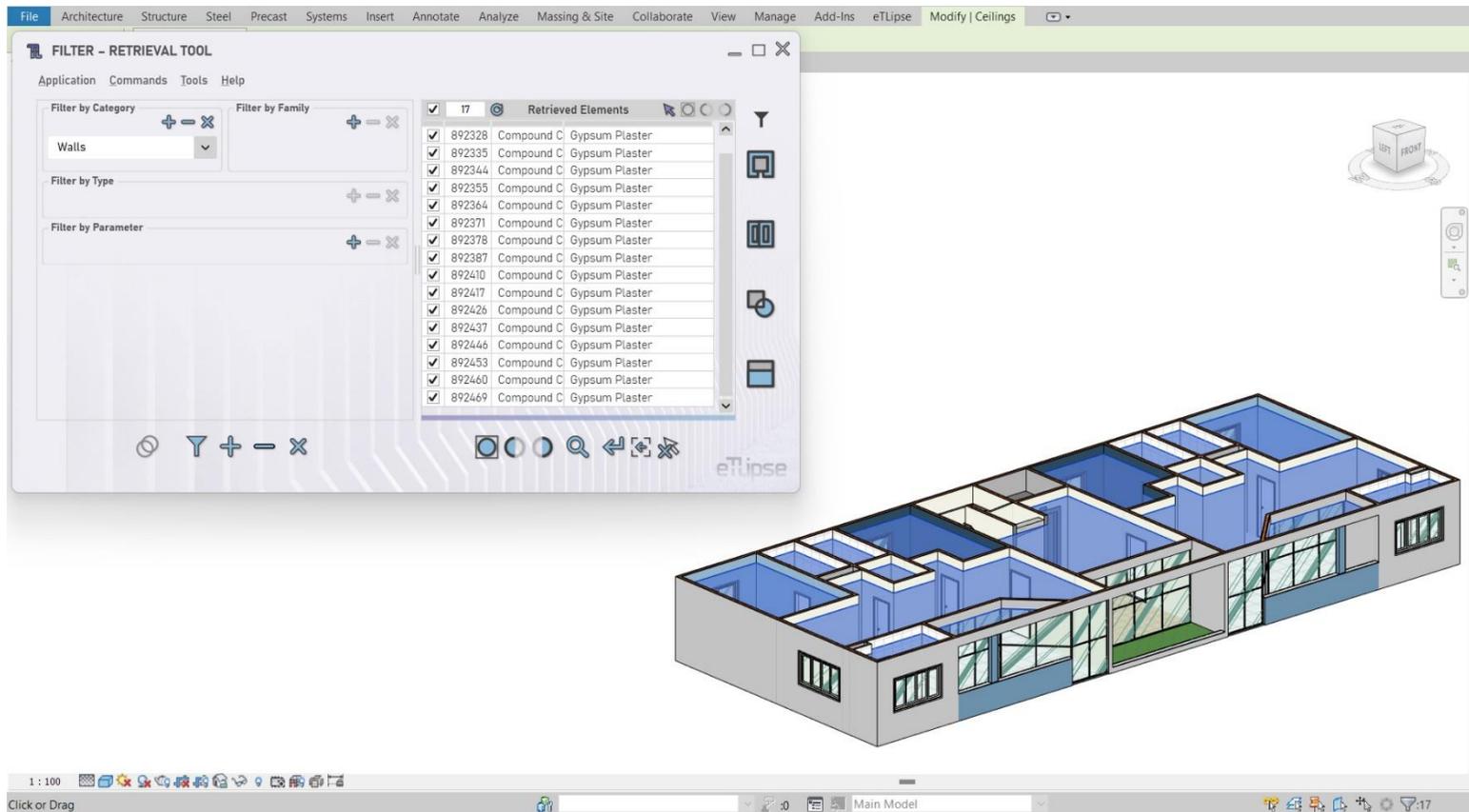


In the second image, for example, all the elements of the "Ceilings" category found in the model were added to the list and highlighted in Revit alongside the walls that were already listed. If, on the other hand, no instance of the chosen category is found in the active project, the Elements Retrieval List will not be changed and a message reporting that no element with such requirement was found is displayed.

Removing elements by Category Filter

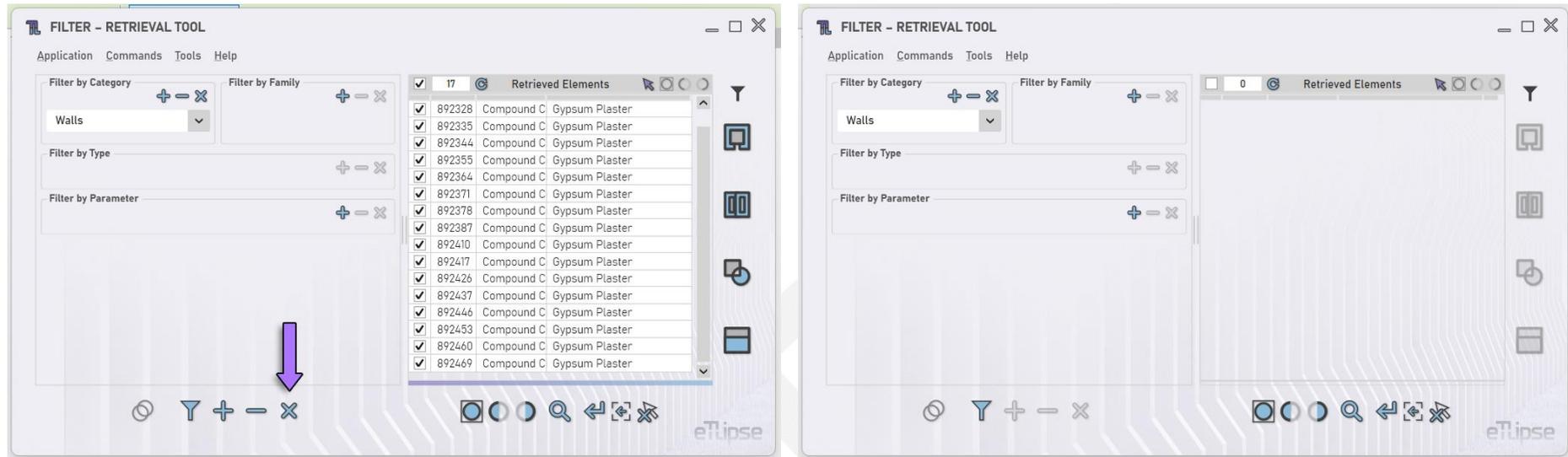


In the first image, the “Walls” category was selected again in the same filter item that was just used to add the ceilings to the list. Once at least one Category filter item is added with a valid chosen category and there is at least one element listed in the Elements Retrieval List, the **Retrieve Elements and Remove from List** button (the one presented as a minus sign, as indicated in the first image) is enabled and we can use it to retrieve the elements of the chosen category. Let’s click it. If the active Revit project has instances of elements of the chosen category, all among these elements eventually listed will be removed from the list on the right side of the TL Filter interface.



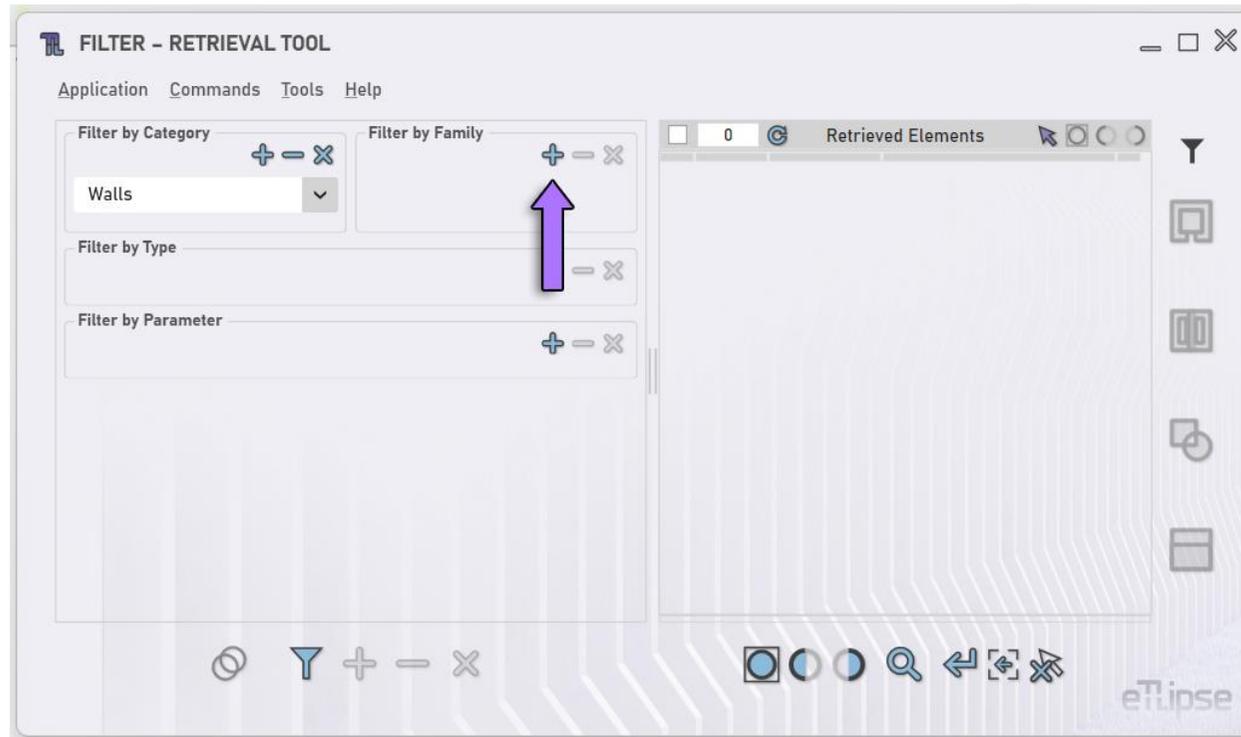
In the second image, for example, all the elements of the “Walls” category found in the model were removed from the list and lost their highlight in the Revit view. If, on the other hand, no instance of the chosen category is found in the active project, the Elements Retrieval List will not be changed and a message reporting that no element with such requirement was found is displayed.

Clearing the Elements Retrieval List



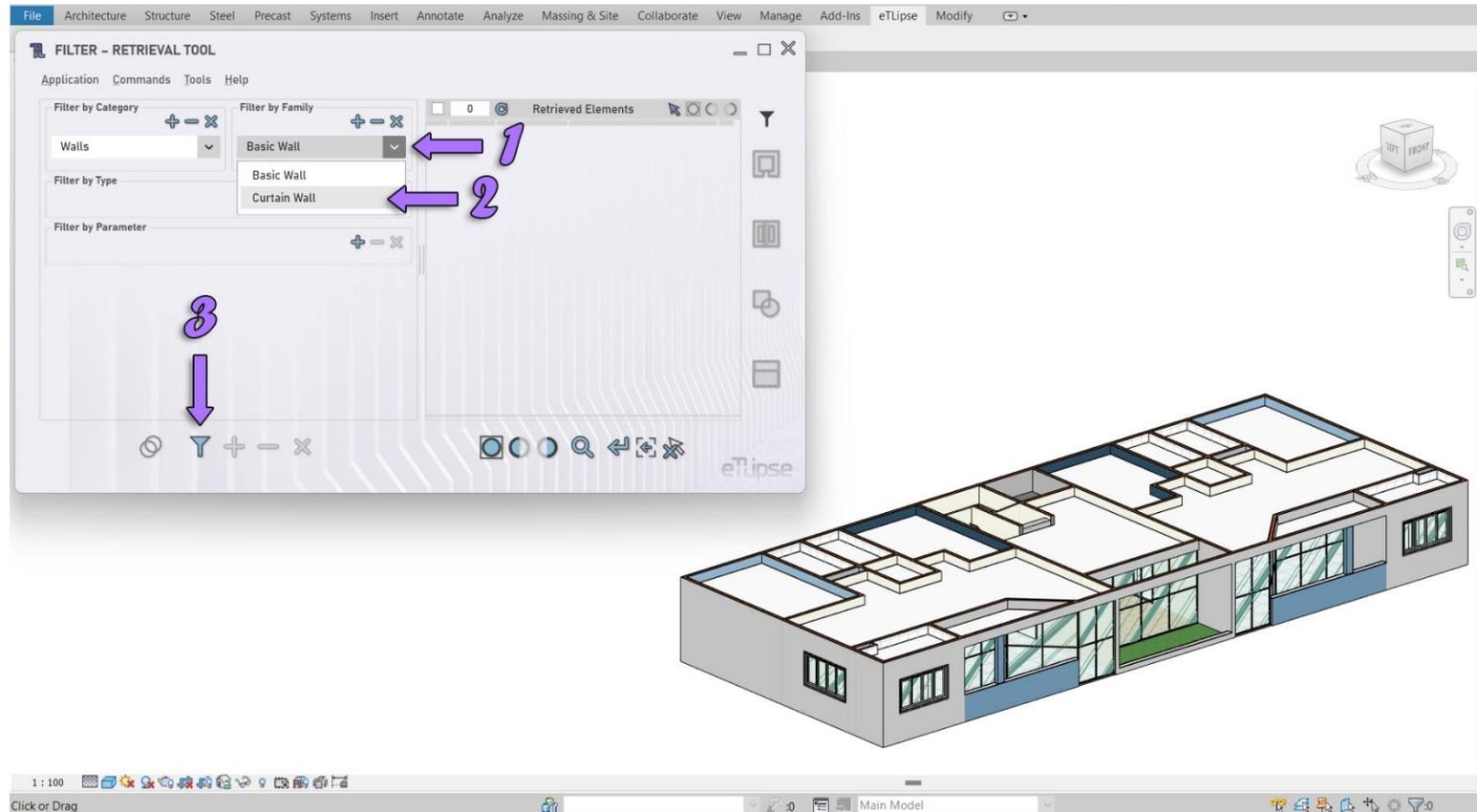
Once there is at least one element listed in the Elements Retrieval List, the **Clear Listed Elements** button (the one presented as an X sign, as indicated in the first image) is enabled and we can use it to clear the Elements Retrieval List (as seen in the second image).

Adding a Family Filter Item



Once at least one Category filter item is added and a valid category is chosen (basically, categories whose elements can be classified into families), the **Add Family Filter** button is enabled (as indicated in the image). We can click it to add a filter item that will limit elements retrievals to the chosen Revit family. Please, note that choosing category filters whose resulting elements are not classified into families, such as Parts and Rooms, will not enable this button.

Selecting a family in a Family Filter Item

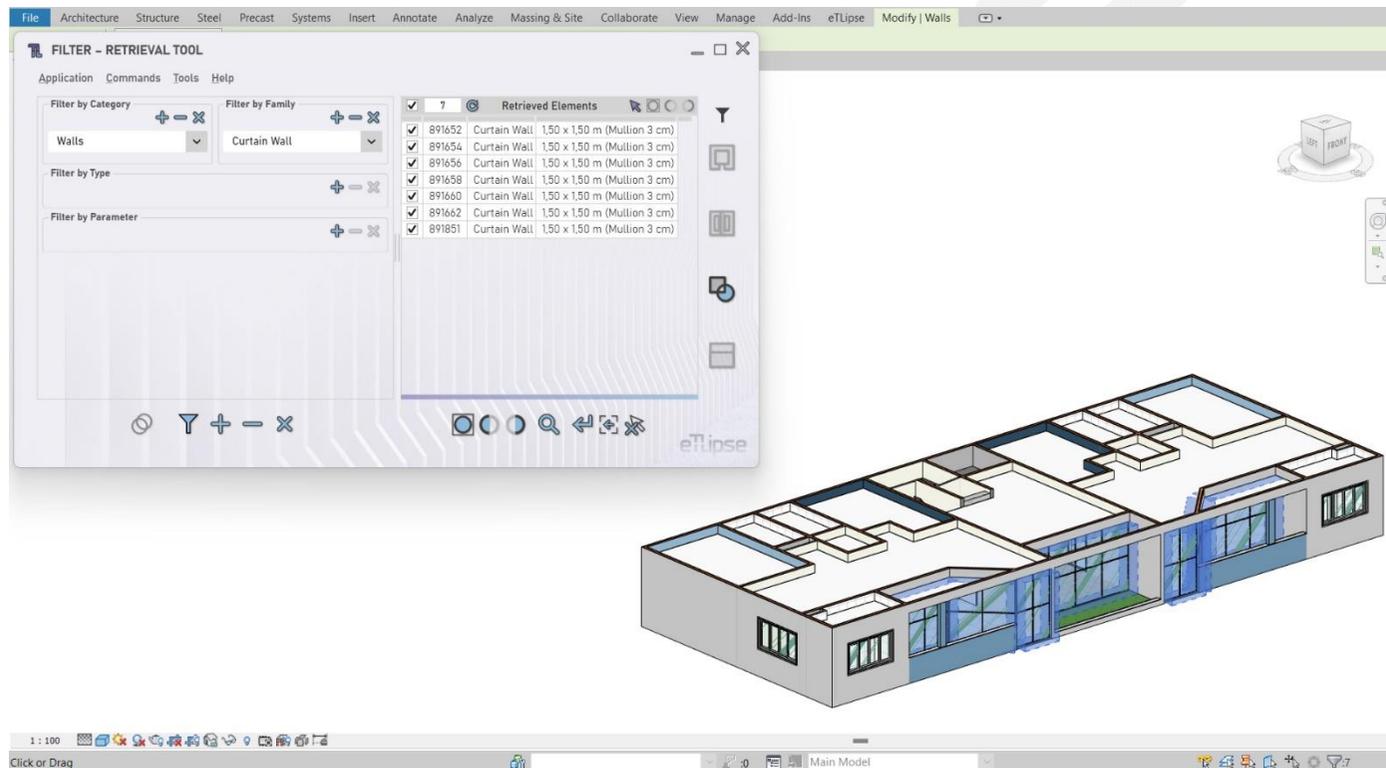


First, we click the dropdown box indicated in the image to open a list with the available family options for the filter. Note that only families of the chosen categories will show up on this list (more on multiple category items ahead).

Then we can choose the desired family which the elements should be filtered by. In the image the "Curtain Wall" family is being picked.

Retrieving elements by the chosen Family Filter

Once at least one Family filter item is added and a valid family is chosen, we can use the **Retrieve Elements and Override List** button (the one presented as a filter, as indicated in previous examples) to retrieve the elements of the chosen family. Let's click it.

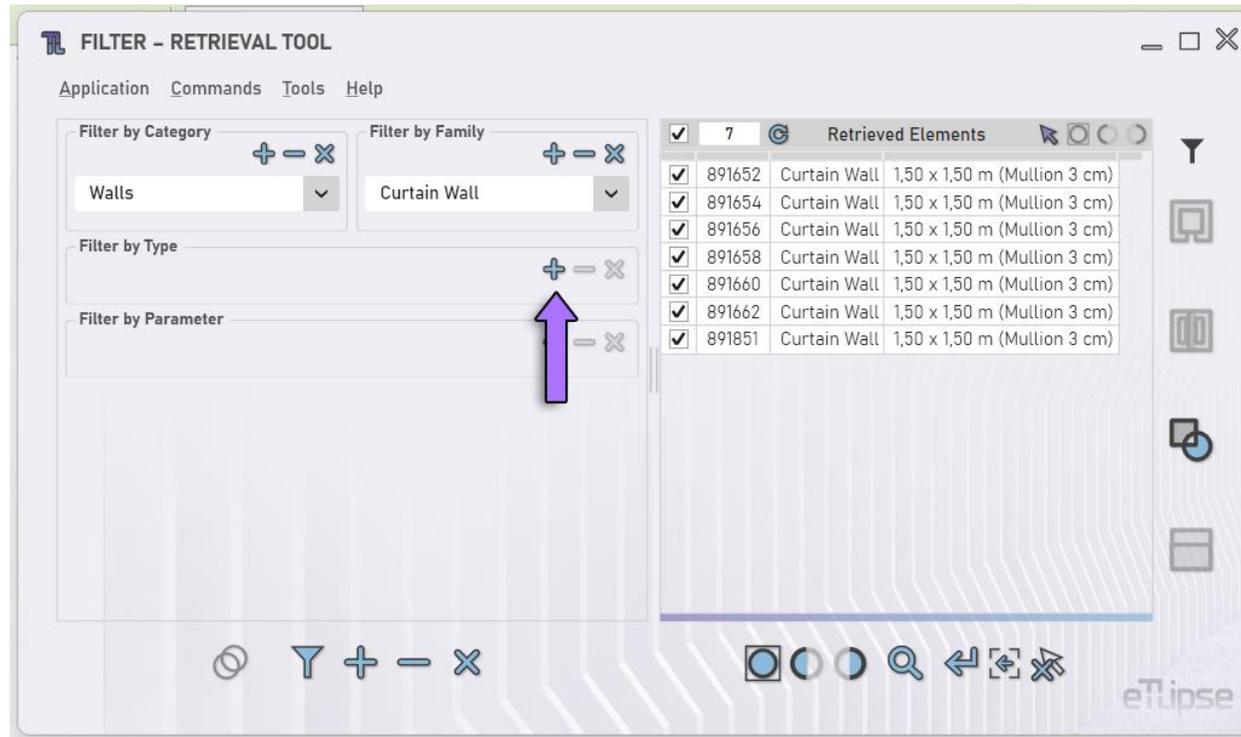


If the active Revit project has instances of elements of the chosen family, the retrieval should fill the list on the right side of the TL Filter interface with those elements (if the list already presents elements, these will be overridden), showing their id number, family and type names. In the image, for example, all the elements from the "Curtain Wall" family found in the model are listed and highlighted in Revit. If, on the other hand, no instance of the chosen family is found in the active project, the Elements Retrieval List will not be changed and a message reporting that no element with such requirement was found is displayed.

Adding/Removing elements by Family Filter

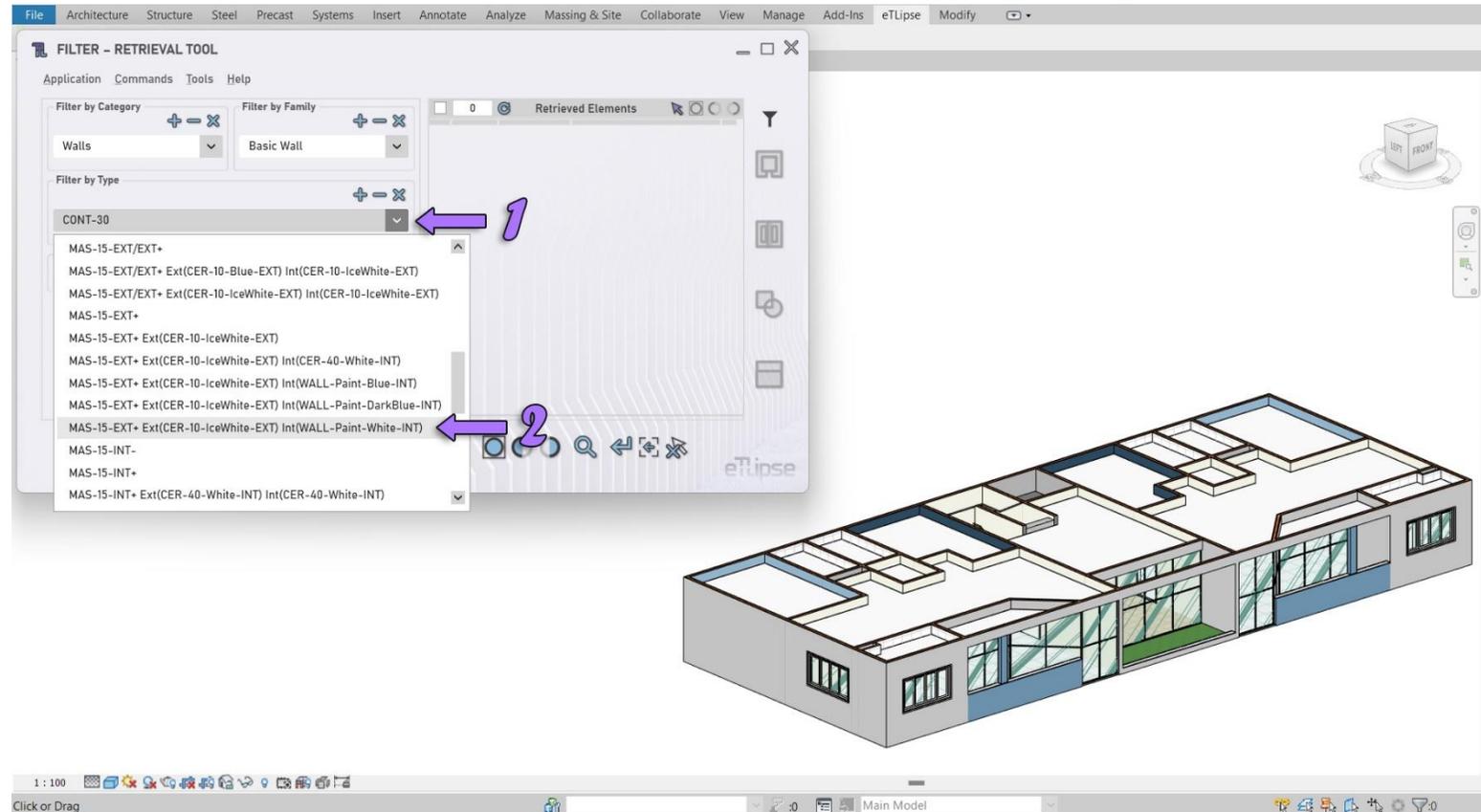
We can add or remove elements to/from the list by using Family filters the same way we can do it by using Category filters. Refer to the **Adding elements by Category filter** and **Removing elements by Category filter** topics and use the same logic to Family filters.

Adding a Type Filter Item



Once at least one Family filter item is added and a valid family is chosen, the **Add Type Filter** button is enabled (as indicated in the image). We can click it to add a filter item that will limit elements retrievals to the chosen Revit type.

Selecting a type in a Type Filter Item

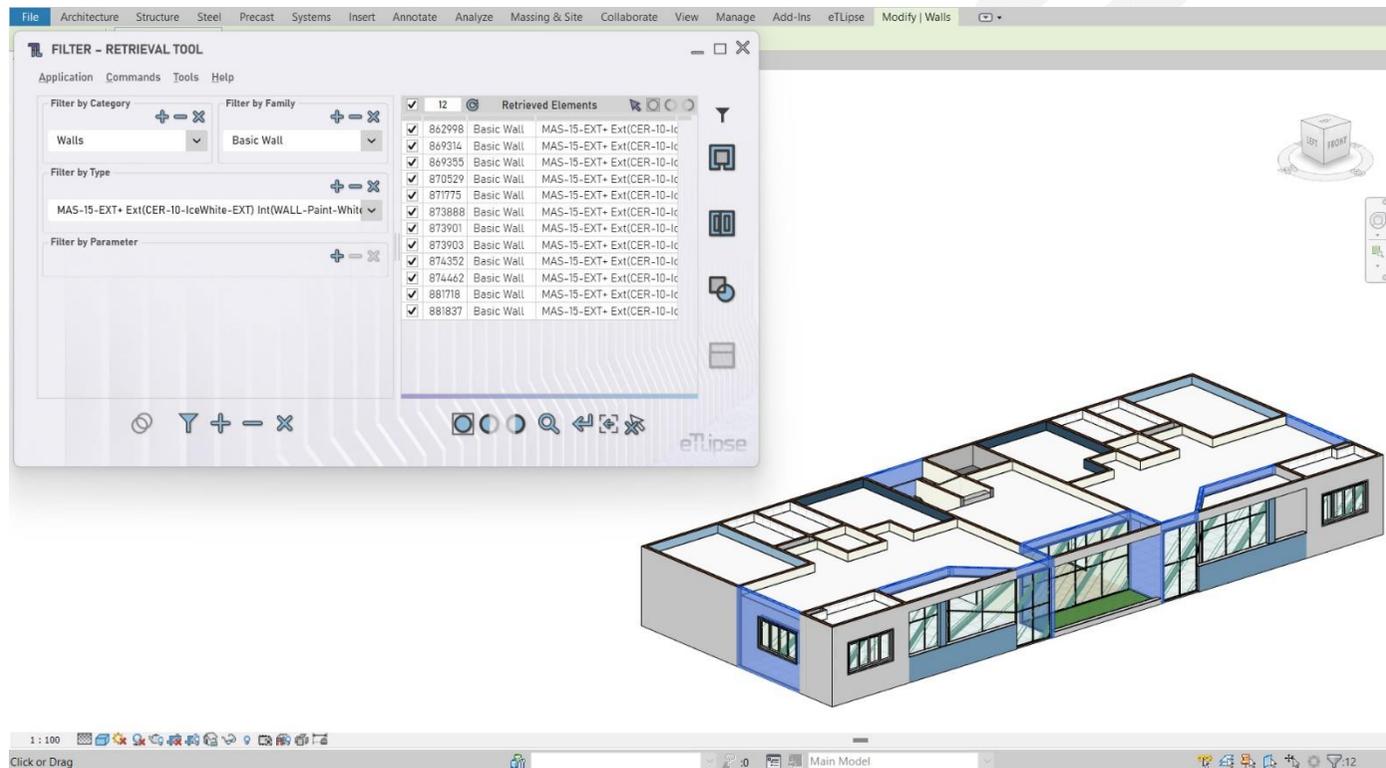


First, we click the dropdown box indicated in the image to open a list with the available type options for the filter. Note that only types of the chosen families will show up on this list (more on multiple family items ahead).

Then we can choose the desired type which the elements should be filtered by. In the image the wall type with external Ice-White ceramic and internal White painting is being picked (please, remember that the types and families displayed are the ones available in the active project, so keep this in mind when preparing your template/project file).

Retrieving elements by the chosen Type Filter

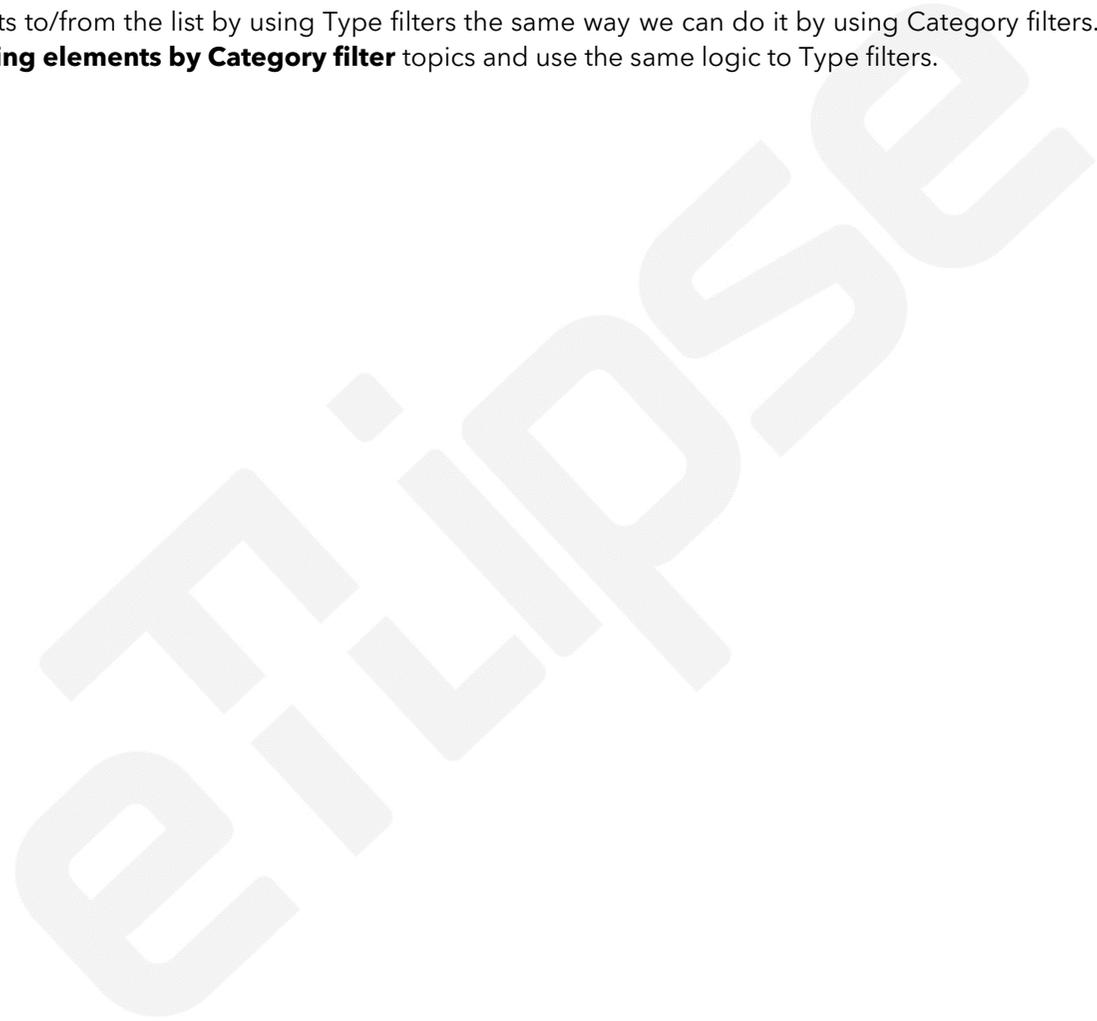
Once at least one Type filter item is added and a valid type is chosen, we can use the **Retrieve Elements and Override List** button (the one presented as a filter, as indicated in previous examples) to retrieve the elements of the chosen type. Let's click it.



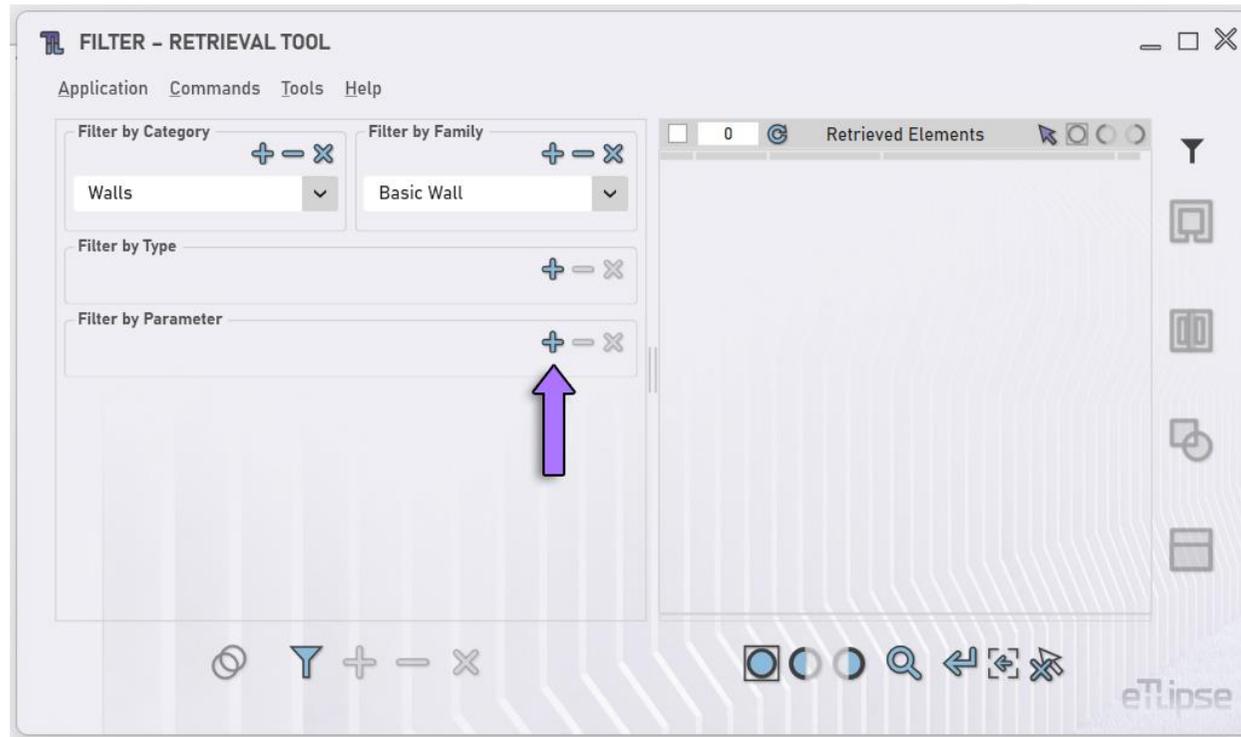
If the active Revit project has instances of elements of the chosen type, the retrieval should fill the list on the right side of the TL Filter interface with those elements (if the list already presents elements, these will be overridden), showing their id number, family and type names. In the image, for example, all the elements of the chosen type (walls with external Ice-White ceramic and internal White painting) found in the model are listed and highlighted in Revit. If, on the other hand, no instance of the chosen type is found in the active project, the Elements Retrieval List will not be changed and a message reporting that no element with such requirement was found is displayed.

Adding/Removing elements by Type Filter

We can add or remove elements to/from the list by using Type filters the same way we can do it by using Category filters. Refer to the **Adding elements by Category filter** and **Removing elements by Category filter** topics and use the same logic to Type filters.

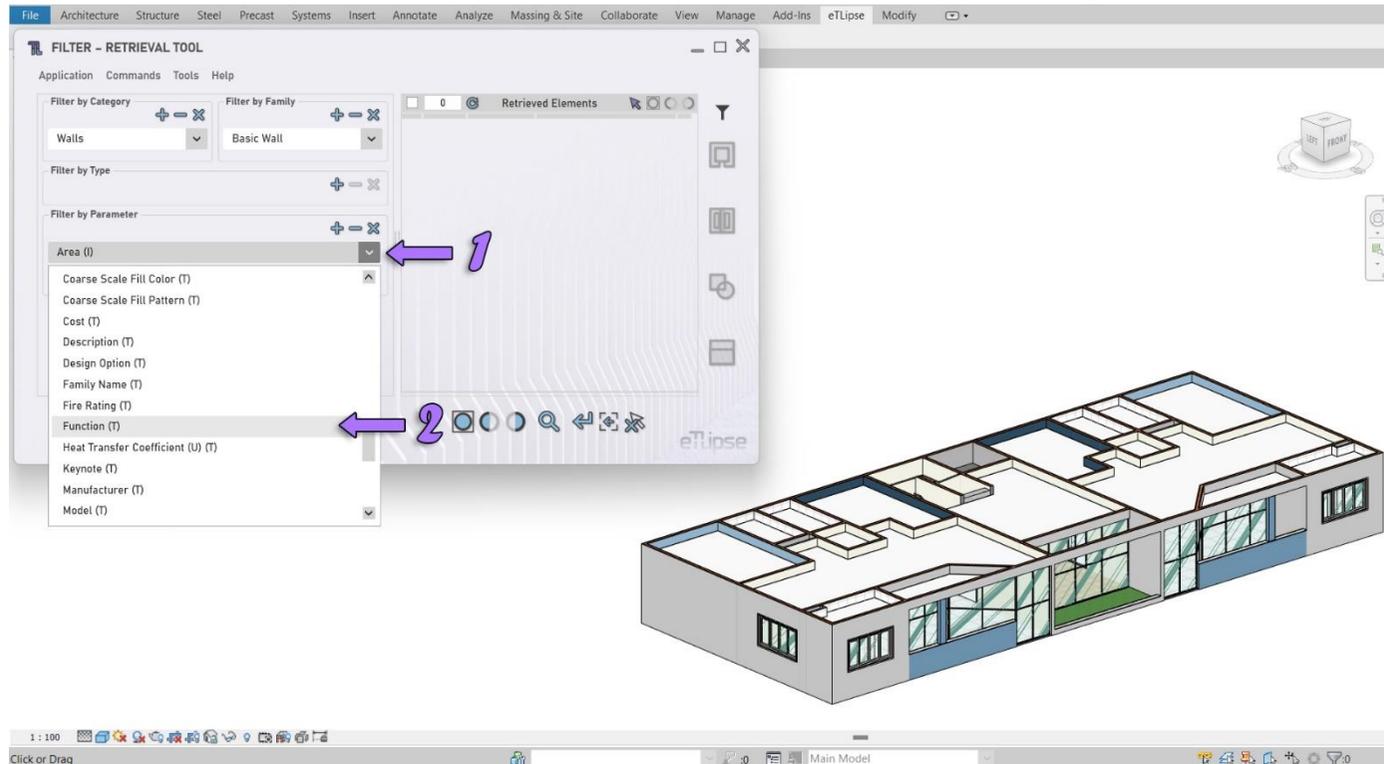


Adding a Parameter Filter Item



Whenever the combination of the chosen category, family and/or type filter items matches instances of elements in the project the **Add Parameter Filter** button will be automatically enabled (as indicated in the image). We can click it to add a parameter item that will limit elements retrievals to the chosen value of Revit parameter.

Selecting a parameter in a Parameter Filter Item

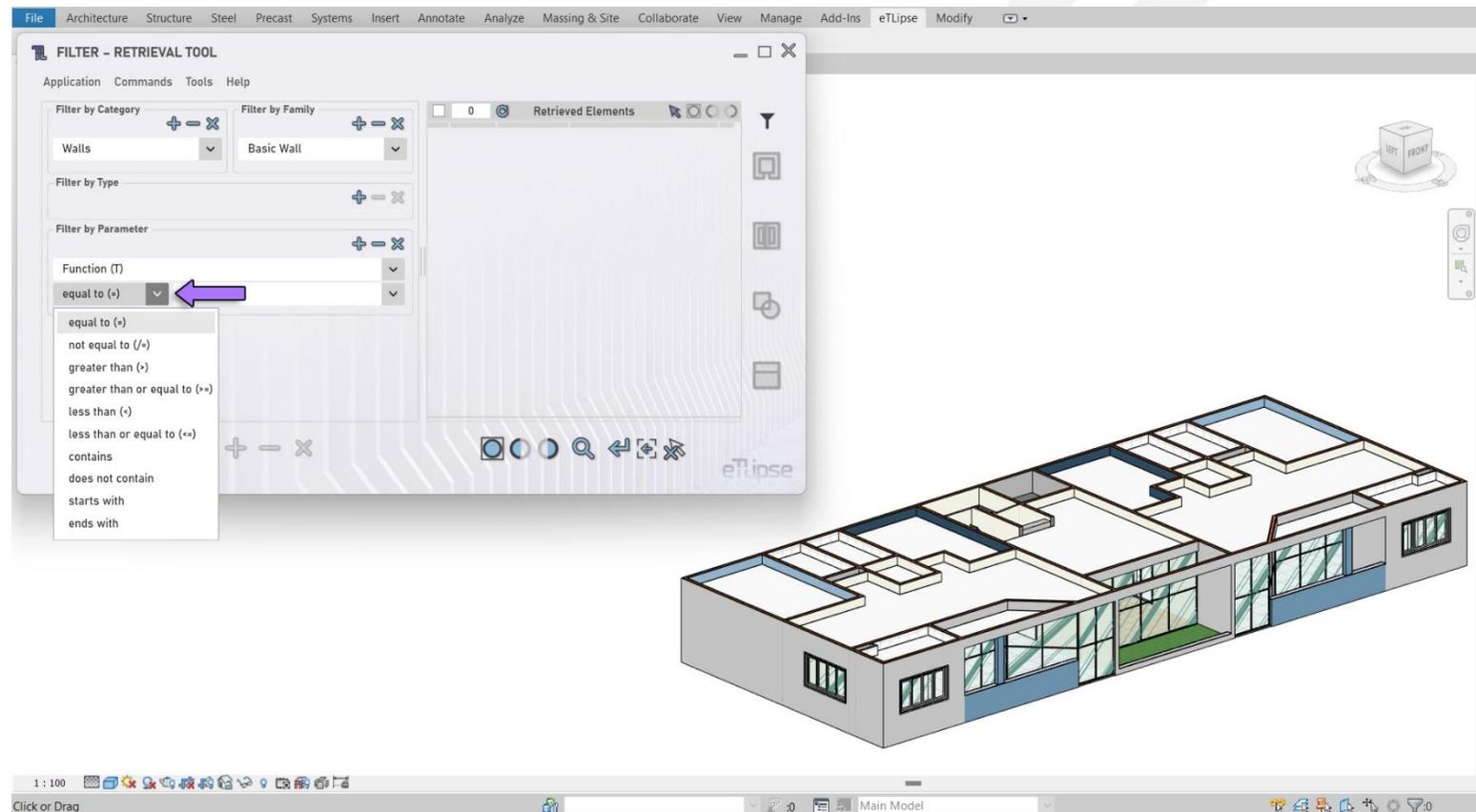


First, we click the dropdown box indicated in the image to open a list with the available parameter options for the filter. Instance parameters names are followed by "(I)", while type parameters names are followed by "(T)". Note that only parameters of the elements that match the combination of the chosen category, family and/or type filter items will show up on this list.

Then we can choose the desired parameter which the elements should be filtered by. In the image the "Function" type parameter of the walls is being picked (please, remember that the parameters displayed here are the ones available in types and instances in the active project, so keep this in mind when preparing your template/project file).

Selecting a condition in a Parameter Filter Item

We can click the dropdown box indicated in the image to open a list with all the conditions we can use to reach different retrievals based on a single parameter.



Use **equal to (=)** to filter by an exact parameter value. Use **not equal to (/=)** to filter elements excluding an exact parameter value.

Use **greater than (>)** or **greater than or equal to (>=)** to filter by higher numeric values or the same numeric value for the parameter (take note that numeric values are interpreted in the unit that are set for the parameter in the active project). Under these conditions, the numeric text box can parse simple formulas of multiplication, division, subtraction and addition in project units for length.

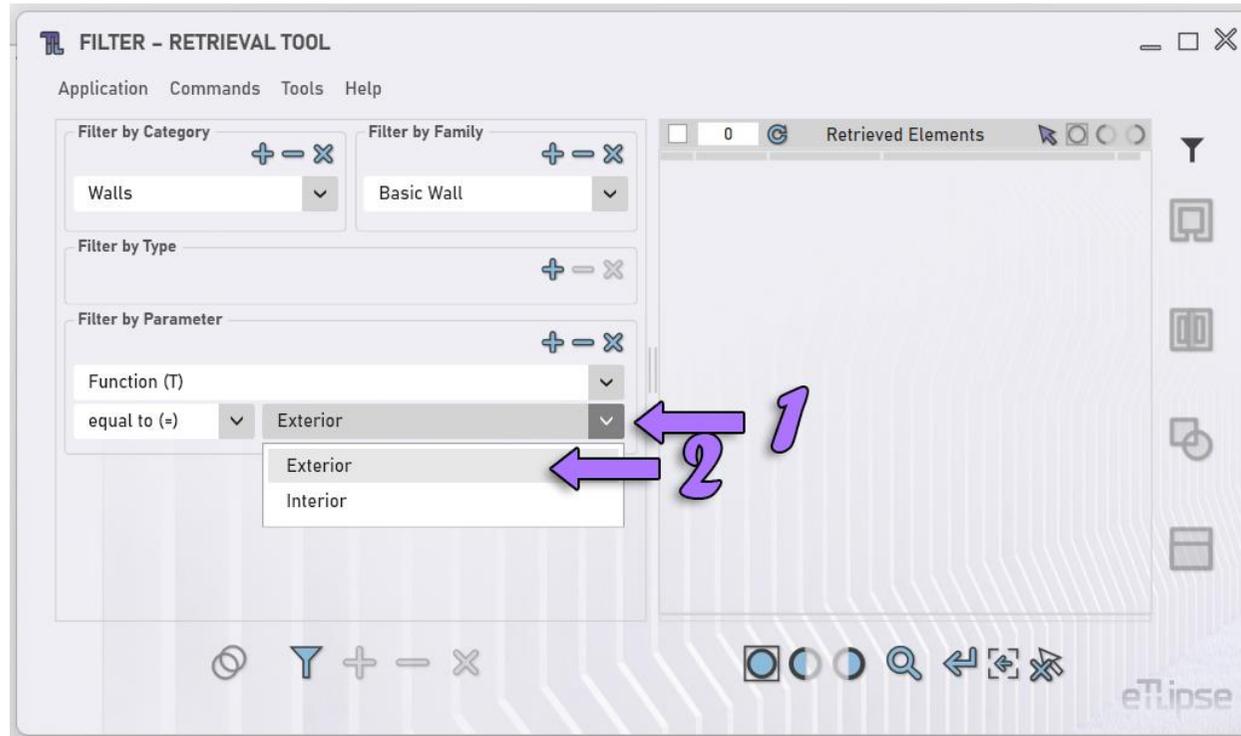
Use **less than (<)** or **less than or equal to (<=)** to filter by lower numeric values or the same numeric value for the parameter (take note that numeric values are interpreted in the unit that are set for the parameter in the active project). Under these conditions, the numeric text box can parse simple formulas of multiplication, division, subtraction and addition in project units for length.

Use **contains** or **does not contain** to filter elements that include a specific text value or do not present it at all in the value for the chosen parameter.

Use **starts with** or **ends with** to filter elements that present a specific text value at the beginning or at end of their value for the chosen parameter.

In the image the **equal to (=)** condition is being picked.

Selecting a Parameter Value in a Parameter Filter Item

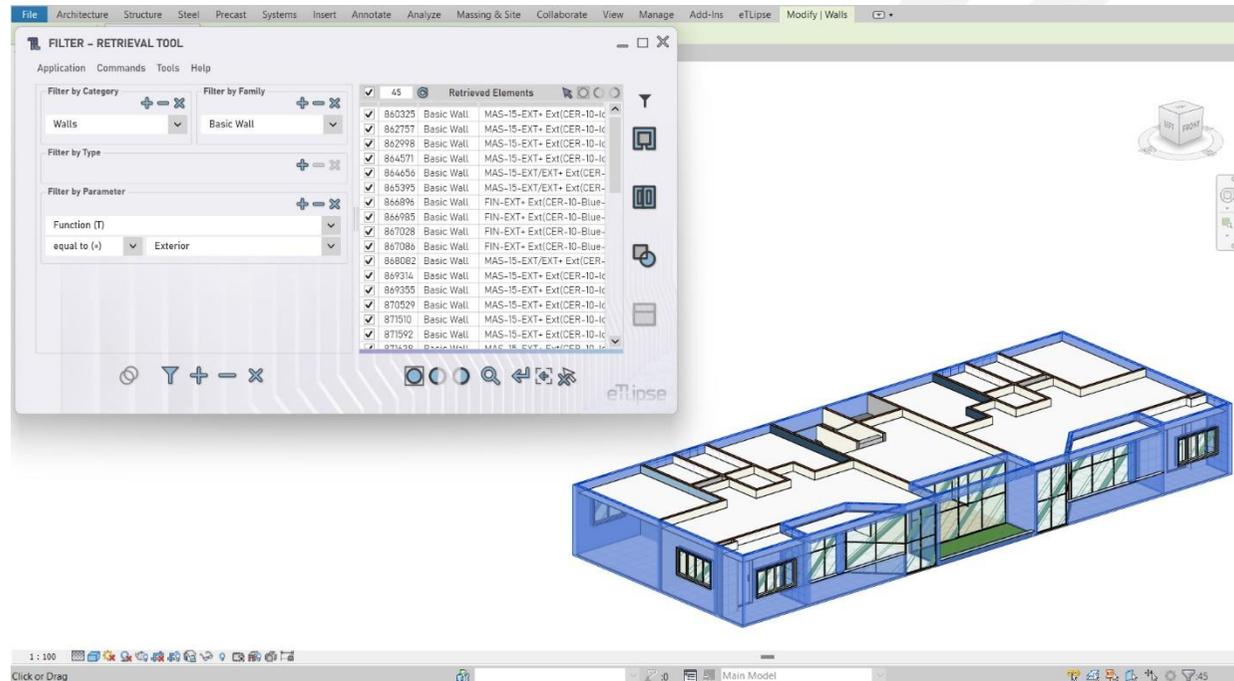


If we are using the **equal to (=)** or the **not equal to (/=)** conditions, which require exact parameter values, we can click the dropdown box indicated in the image to open a list with the available parameter values found in the filtered elements for the chosen parameter. If we are using any of the other conditions, we will have a text box instead, where the numeric/text value that will determine the condition should be entered. Also, **values will be assumed in the units currently set in the Revit active project.**

In the image the "Exterior" parameter value for the "Function" type parameter of the walls is being picked (please, remember that the parameter values displayed in the list are read from the instances of elements in the active project, if no element with a valid value for the parameter is found in the project, there will be no option of value to choose).

Retrieving elements by the chosen Parameter Filter

Once at least one Parameter filter item is added and a valid parameter value is provided, we can use the **Retrieve Elements and Override List** button (the one presented as a filter, as indicated in previous examples) to retrieve the elements with the chosen parameter condition. Let's click it.



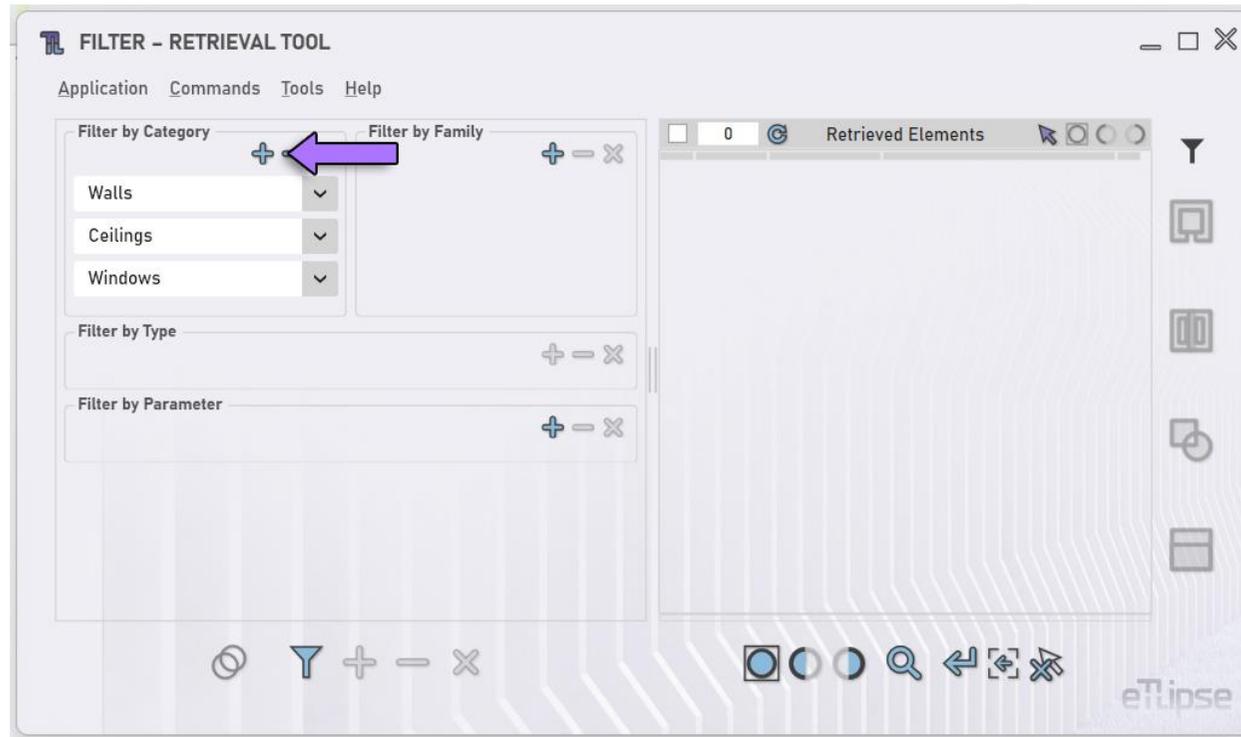
If the active Revit project has instances of elements matching the provided condition based on the given parameter value, the retrieval should fill the list on the right side of the TL Filter interface with those elements (if the list already presents elements, these will be overridden), showing their id number, family and type names. In the image, for example, all the elements matching the chosen condition (walls with the value "Exterior" for the "Function" type parameter) found in the model are listed and highlighted in Revit. If, on the other hand, no matching element is found in the active project, the Elements Retrieval List will not be changed and a message reporting that no element with such requirement was found is displayed.

Adding/Removing elements by Parameter Filter

We can add or remove elements to/from the list by using Parameter filters the same way we can do it by using Category filters. Refer to the **Adding elements by Category filter** and **Removing elements by Category filter** topics and use the same logic to Parameter filters.

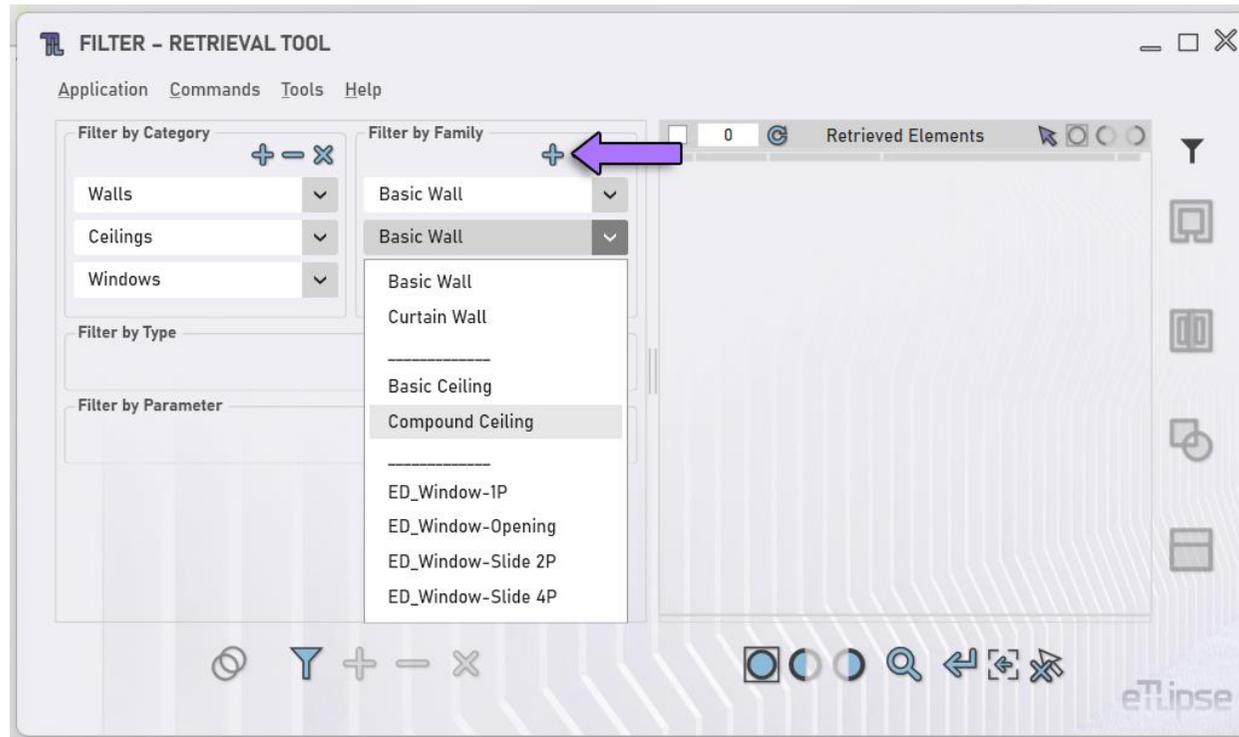


Adding multiple Category Filter Items



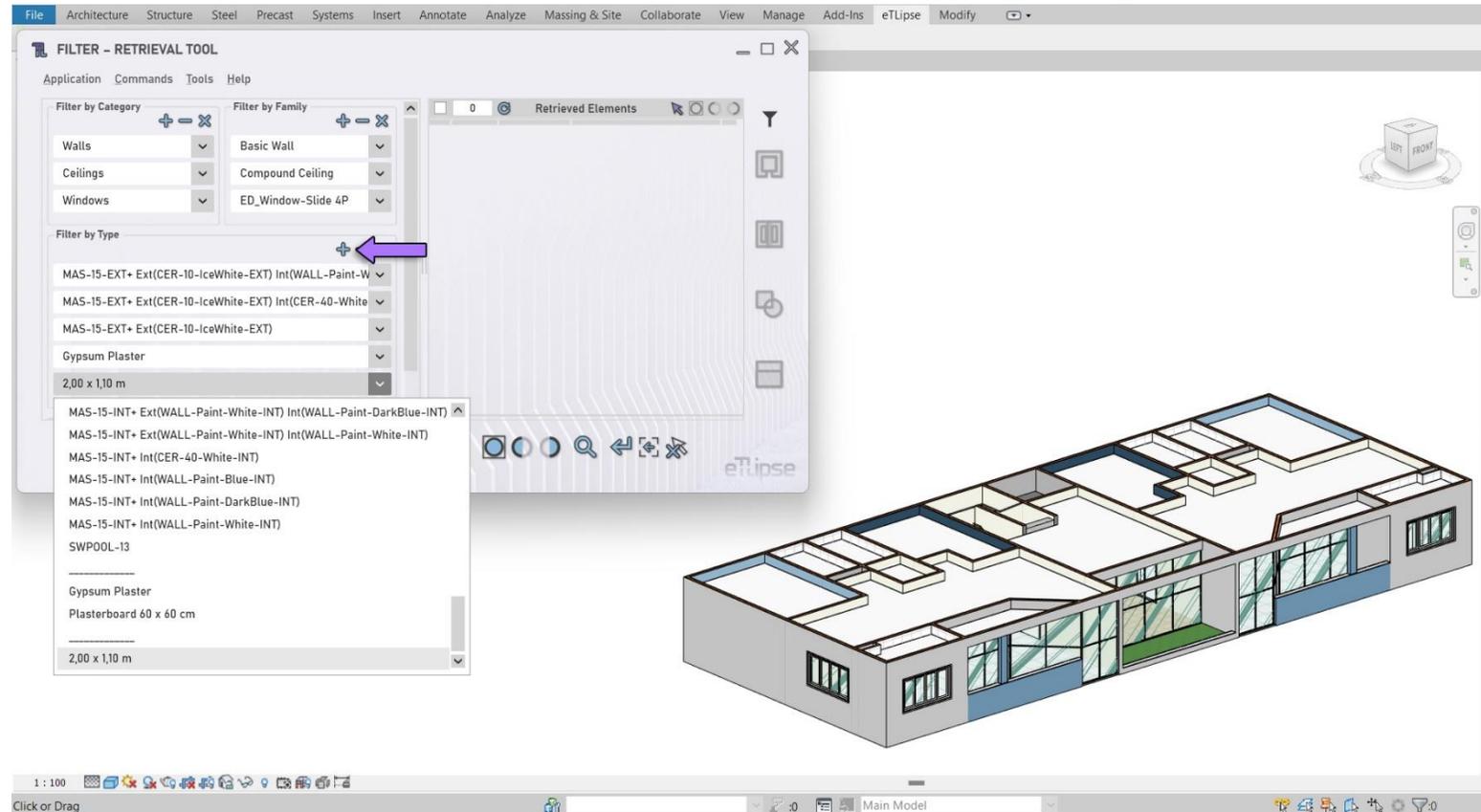
The **Add Category Filter** button (as indicated in the image) can be used to stack multiple Category filter items. This way, it is possible to combine elements from different categories in a single retrieval. In the image, for example, the filter is being built to retrieve walls, ceilings and windows.

Adding multiple Family Filter Items



The **Add Family Filter** button (as indicated in the image) can be used to stack multiple Family filter items. This way, it is possible to combine elements from different families in a single retrieval. In the image, for example, the "Basic Wall" family is being filtered for the "Walls" and the "Compound Ceiling" family is being filtered for the "Ceilings" category. Note that the groups of available families for each category are separated by lines and in the respective order the categories were listed.

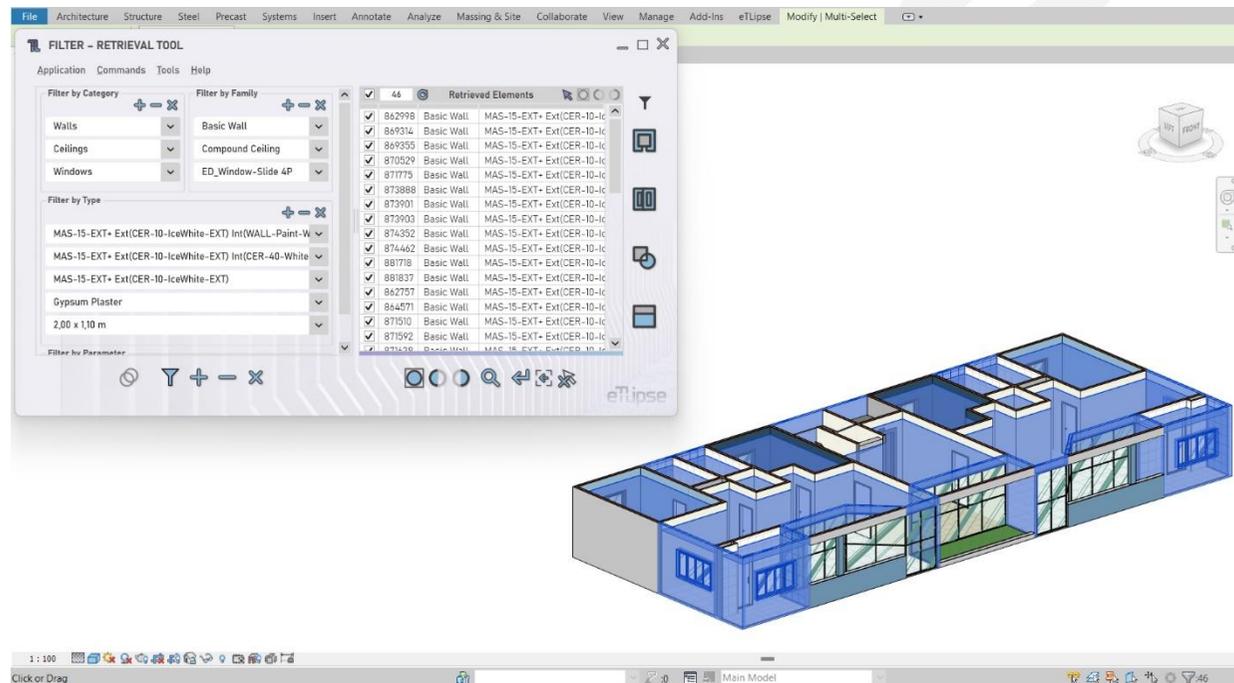
Adding multiple Type Filter Items



The **Add Type Filter** button (as indicated in the image) can be used to stack multiple Type filter items. This way, it is possible to combine elements of different types in a single retrieval. In the image, for example, different types that include the “Ice-White” ceramic are being used to filter the “Basic Wall” family elements, the “Gypsum Plaster” type is being used to filter the “Compound Ceiling” family and a “2,00 x 1,10 m” type of window is being used to filter the chosen window family. Note that, as we have seen for the families, the groups of available types for each family are separated by lines and in the respective order the families were listed.

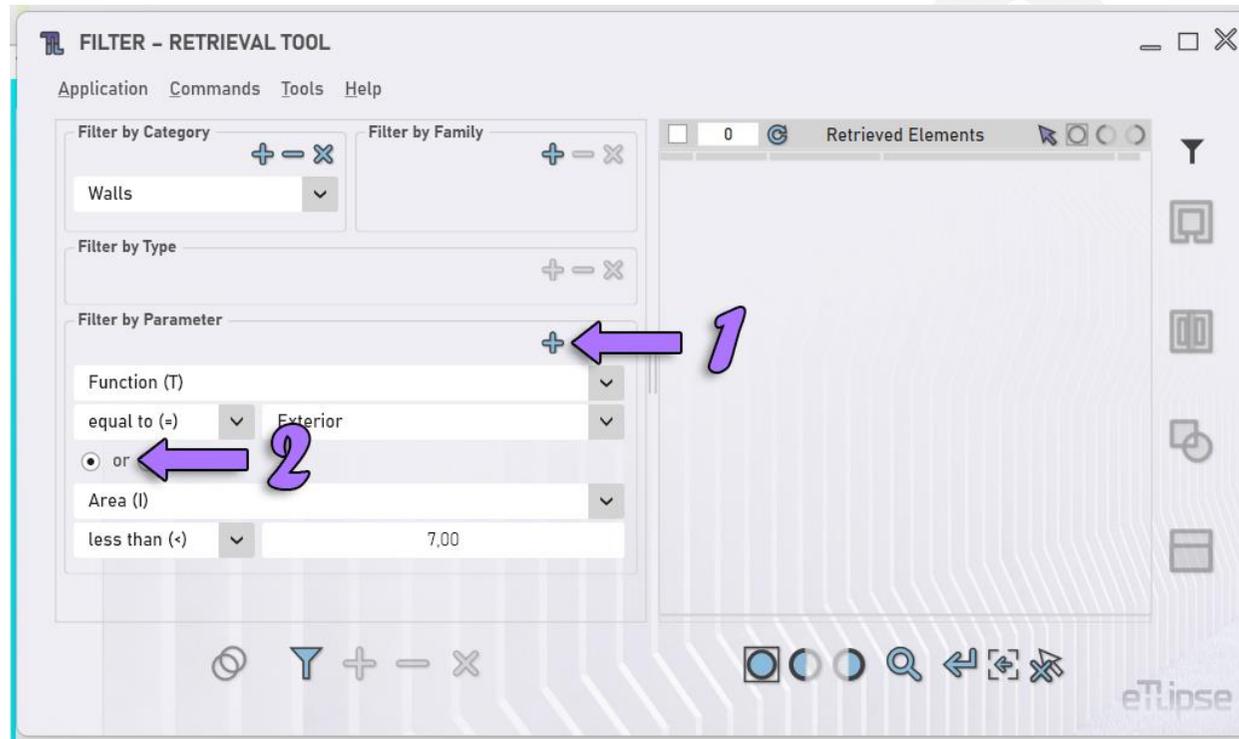
Retrieving elements by multiple Filters

Once the multiple filter items are set, we can use the **Retrieve Elements and Override List** button (the one presented as a filter, as indicated in previous examples) to retrieve the elements with the chosen parameter condition. Let's click it.



If the active Revit project has instances of elements matching the multiple categories/families/types stacks and requirements, the retrieval should fill the list on the right side of the TL Filter interface with those elements (if the list already presents elements, these will be overridden), showing their id number, family and type names. In the image, for example, all the walls, ceilings and windows from the chosen families and types found in the model are listed and highlighted in Revit. If, on the other hand, no matching element is found in the active project, the Elements Retrieval List will not be changed and a message reporting that no element with such requirement was found is displayed. The same retrieval logic applies to the use of the **Retrieve Elements and Add to List** and the **Retrieve Elements and Remove from List** buttons.

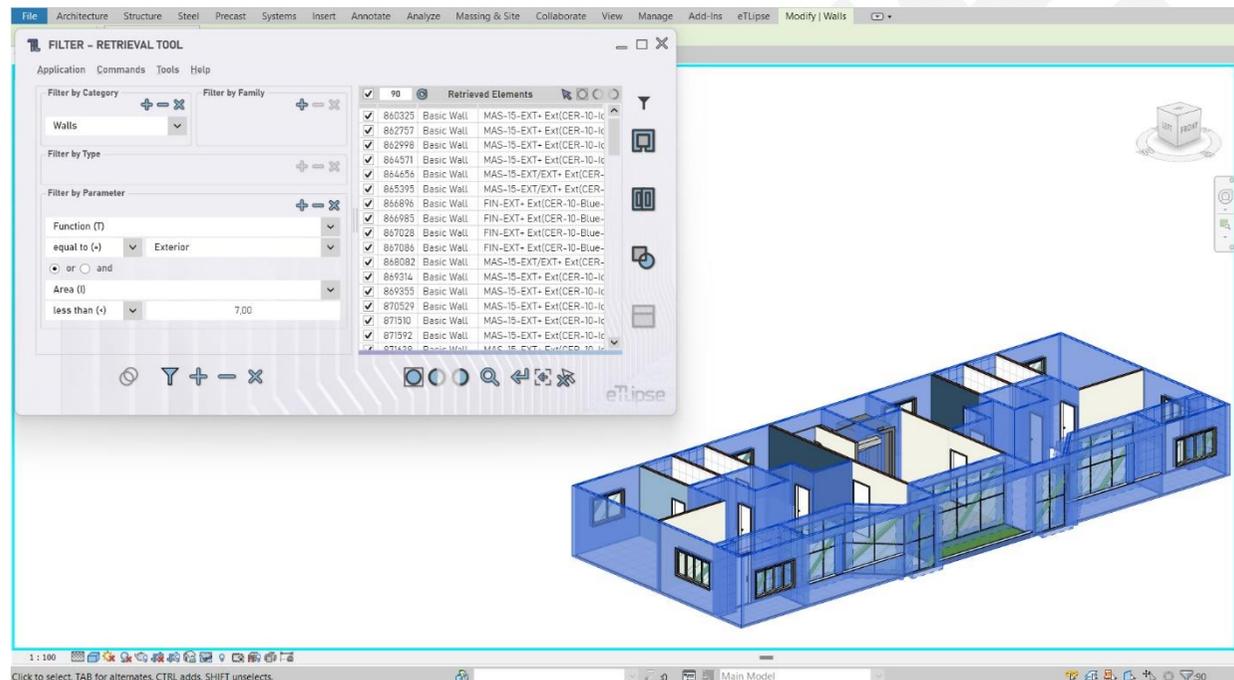
Adding multiple Parameter Filter Items (OR Operator)



The **Add Parameter Filter** button can also be used to stack multiple Parameter filter items in a logic of union (use of the **or** operator). This way, it is possible to combine elements with different parameter requirements in a single retrieval. In the image, for example, a parameter item that will filter wall elements with an "Area" parameter value that is lower than "7.00" m² was added to the "Function = Exterior" parameter item with the **or** operator.

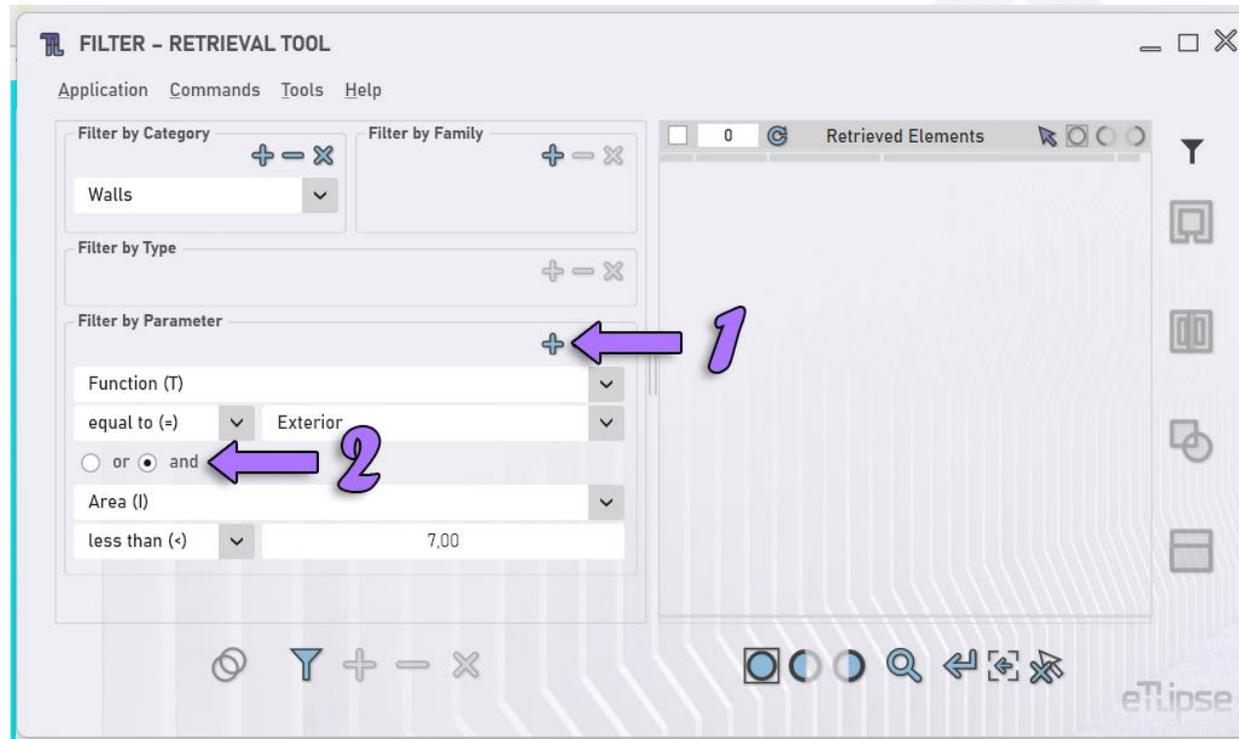
Retrieving elements using the OR Operator with Parameter Filters

Once the multiple filter items are set, we can use the **Retrieve Elements and Override List** button (the one presented as a filter, as indicated in previous examples) to retrieve the elements with the chosen parameter condition. Let's click it.



If the active Revit project has instances of elements matching **at least one of the conditions** passed in the parameter filters with the **or** operator, the retrieval should fill the list on the right side of the TL Filter interface with those elements (if the list already presents elements, these will be overridden), showing their id number, family and type names. In the image, for example, all the walls with the "Function" type parameter value as "Exterior" as well as all the walls with less than 7.00 m² as the value for the "Area" instance parameter found in the model are listed and highlighted in Revit (a total of 125 instances). If, on the other hand, no matching element is found in the active project, the Elements Retrieval List will not be changed and a message reporting that no element with such requirement was found is displayed. The same retrieval logic applies to the use of the **Retrieve Elements and Add to List** and the **Retrieve Elements and Remove from List** buttons.

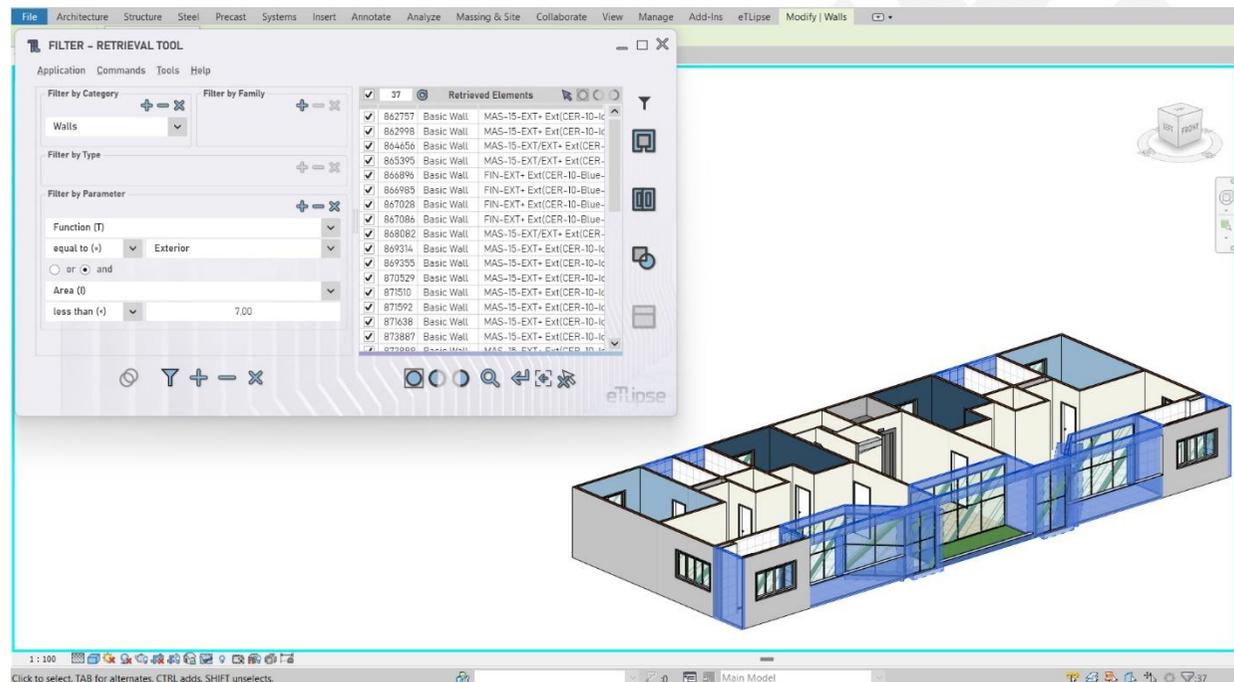
Combining multiple Parameter Filter Items (AND Operator)



The **Add Parameter Filter** button can also be used to stack multiple Parameter filter items in a logic of intersection (use of the **and** operator). This way it is possible to combine elements that match the same multiple parameter requirements in a single retrieval. In the image, for example, a parameter item that will filter wall elements with an "Area" parameter value that is lower than "7.00" m² was combined with the "Function = Exterior" parameter item with the **and** operator.

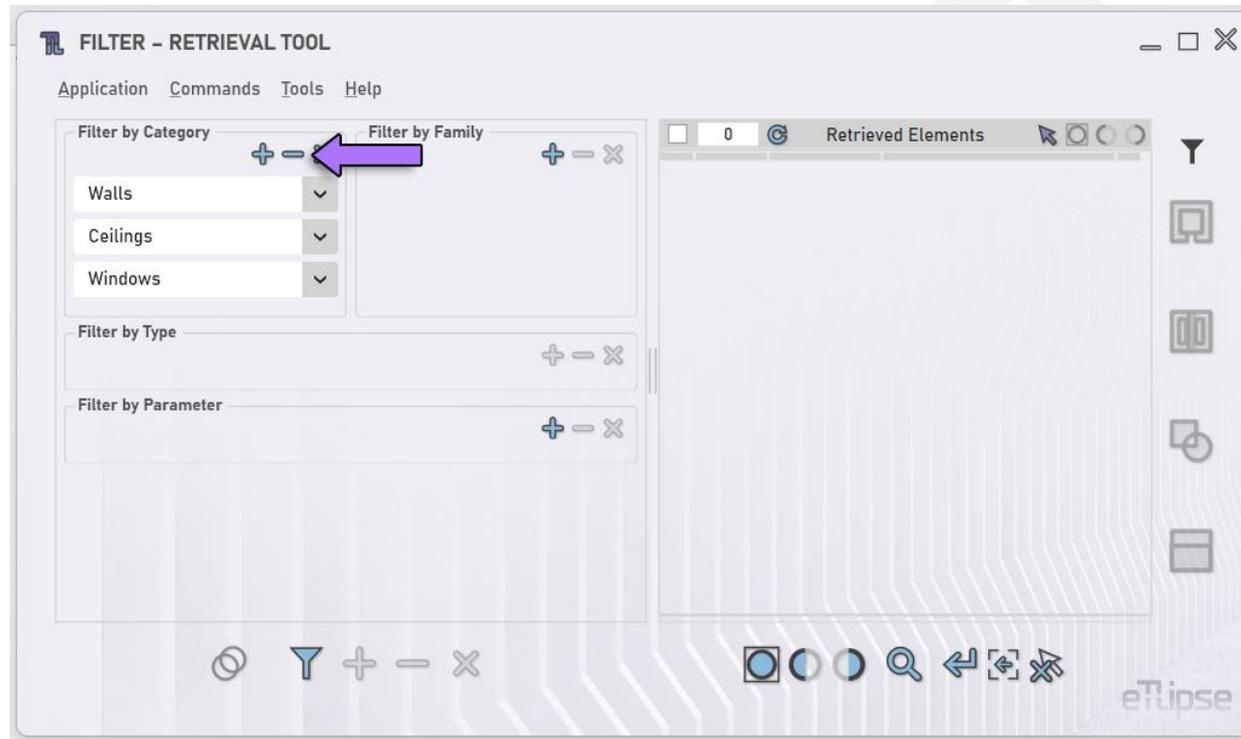
Retrieving elements using the AND Operator with Parameter Filters

Once the multiple filter items are set, we can use the **Retrieve Elements and Override List** button (the one presented as a filter, as indicated in previous examples) to retrieve the elements with the chosen parameter condition. Let's click it.



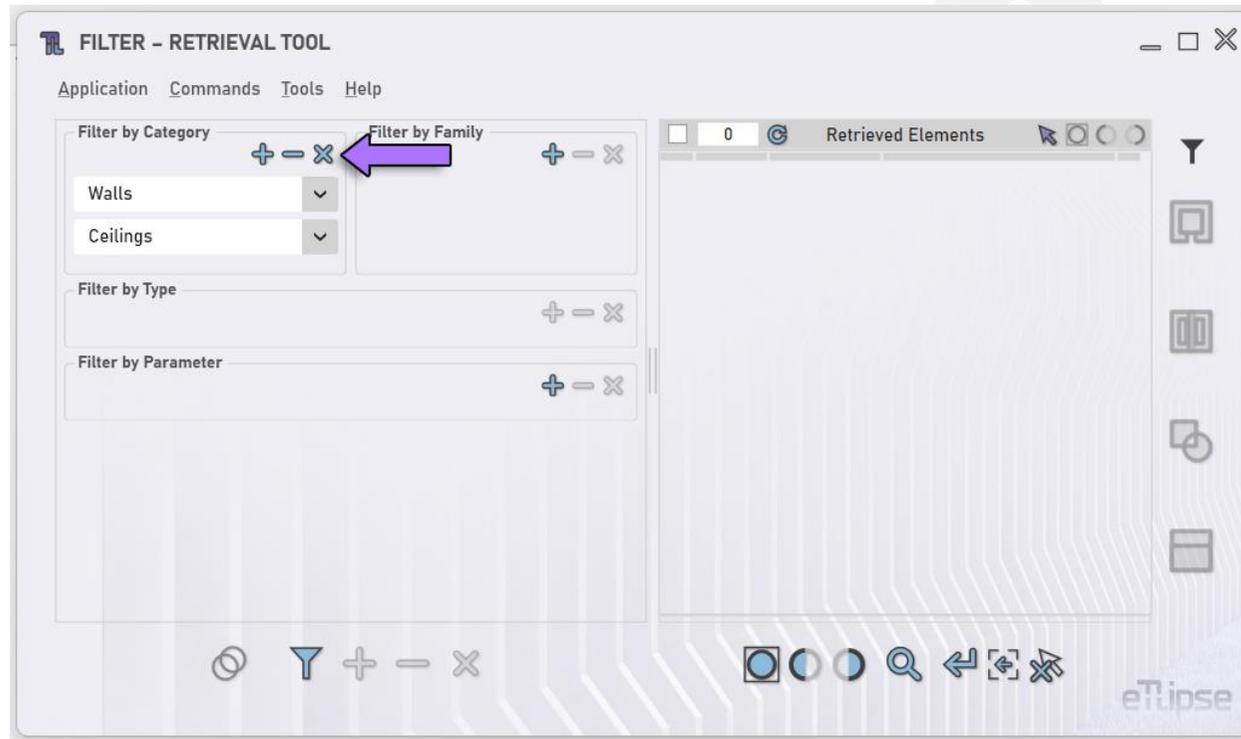
If the active Revit project has instances of elements matching **all the conditions** passed in the parameter filters with the **and** operator, the retrieval should fill the list on the right side of the TL Filter interface with those elements (if the list already presents elements, these will be overridden), showing their id number, family and type names. In the image, for example, only the walls with the "Function" type parameter value as "Exterior" with less than 7.00 m² as the value for the "Area" instance parameter found in the model are listed and highlighted in Revit (a total of 36 instances). If, on the other hand, no matching element is found in the active project, the Elements Retrieval List will not be changed and a message reporting that no element with such requirement was found is displayed. The same retrieval logic applies to the use of the **Retrieve Elements and Add to List** and the **Retrieve Elements and Remove from List** buttons.

Removing a Category Filter Item



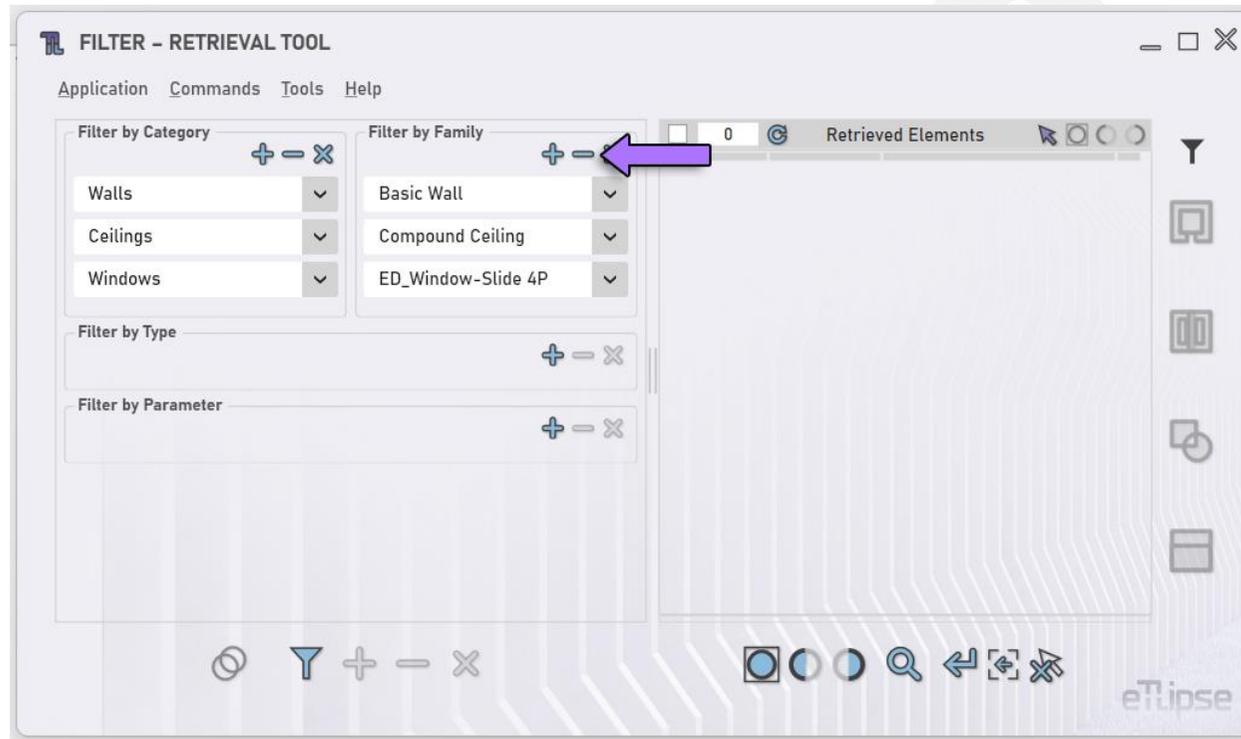
We can click the **Remove Category Filter** button (as indicated in the image) to remove the last inserted filter item (in the lower position) in the collection of Category filter items.

Clearing the Category Filter Items



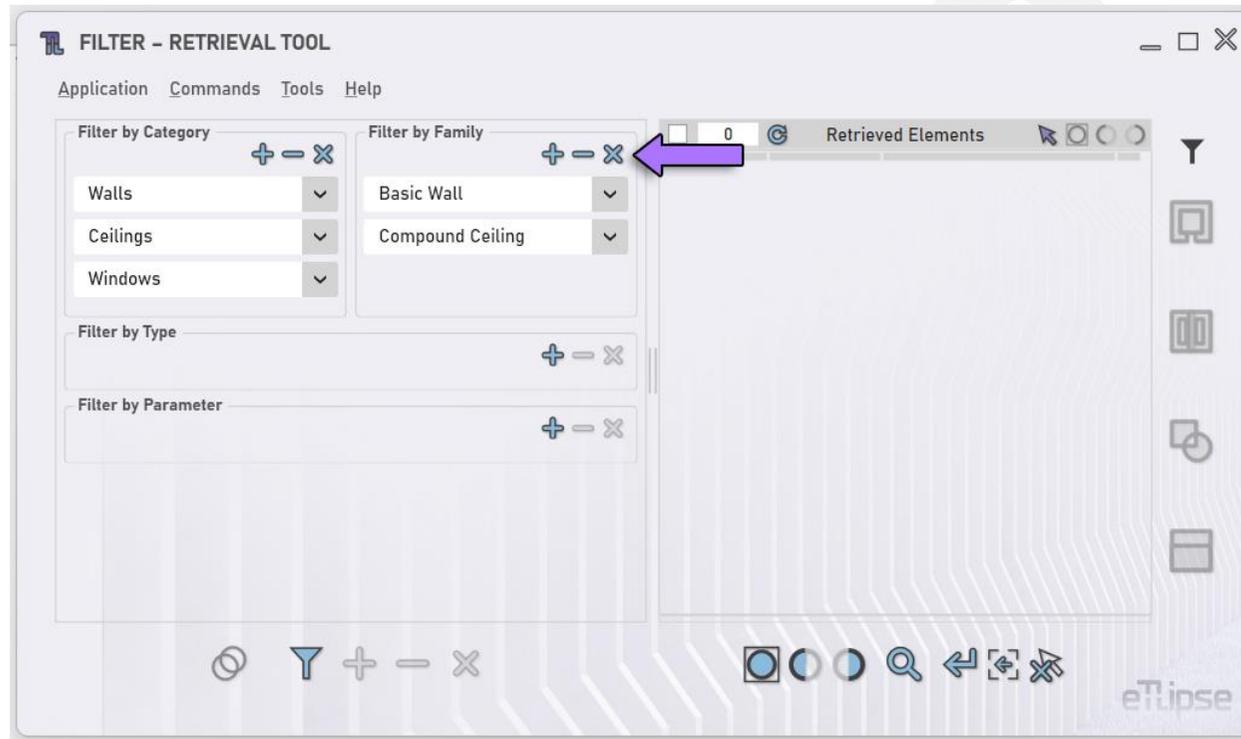
We can click the **Clear Filters** button (as indicated in the image) to remove all filter items of the collection of Category filter items.

Removing a Family Filter Item



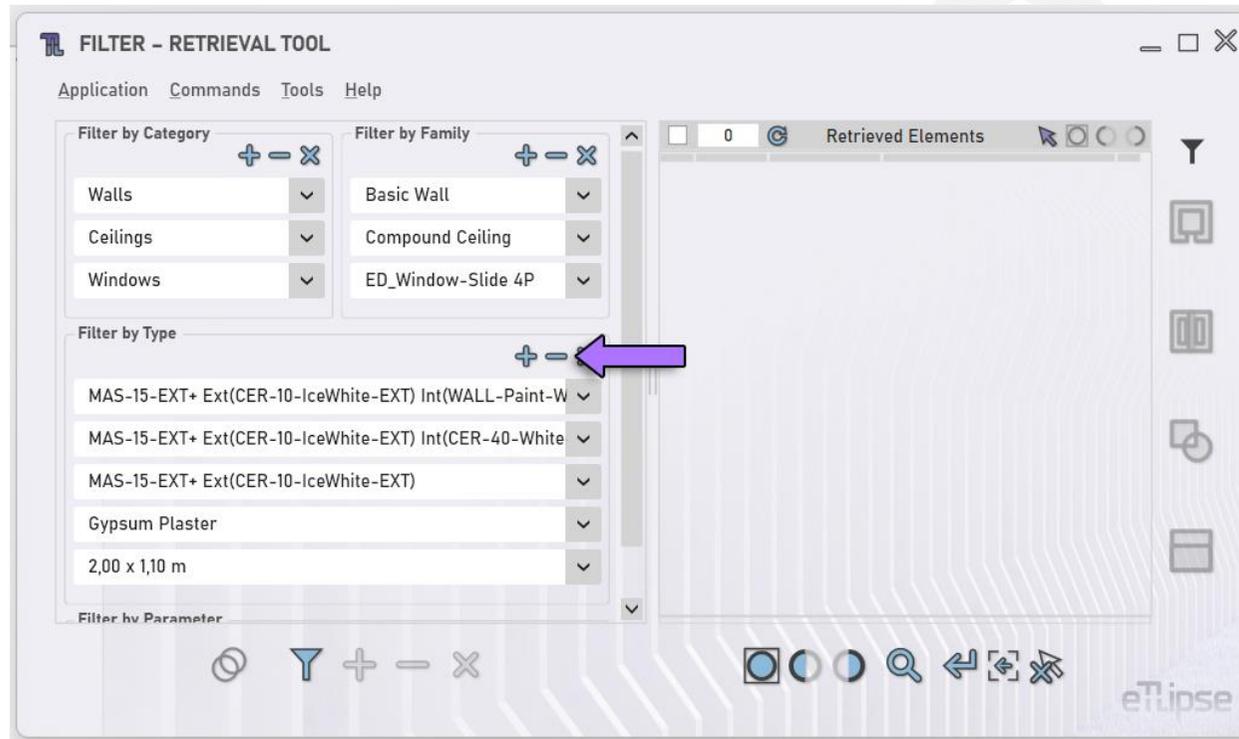
We can click the **Remove Family Filter** button (as indicated in the image) to remove the last inserted filter item (in the lower position) in the collection of Family filter items.

Clearing the Family Filter Items



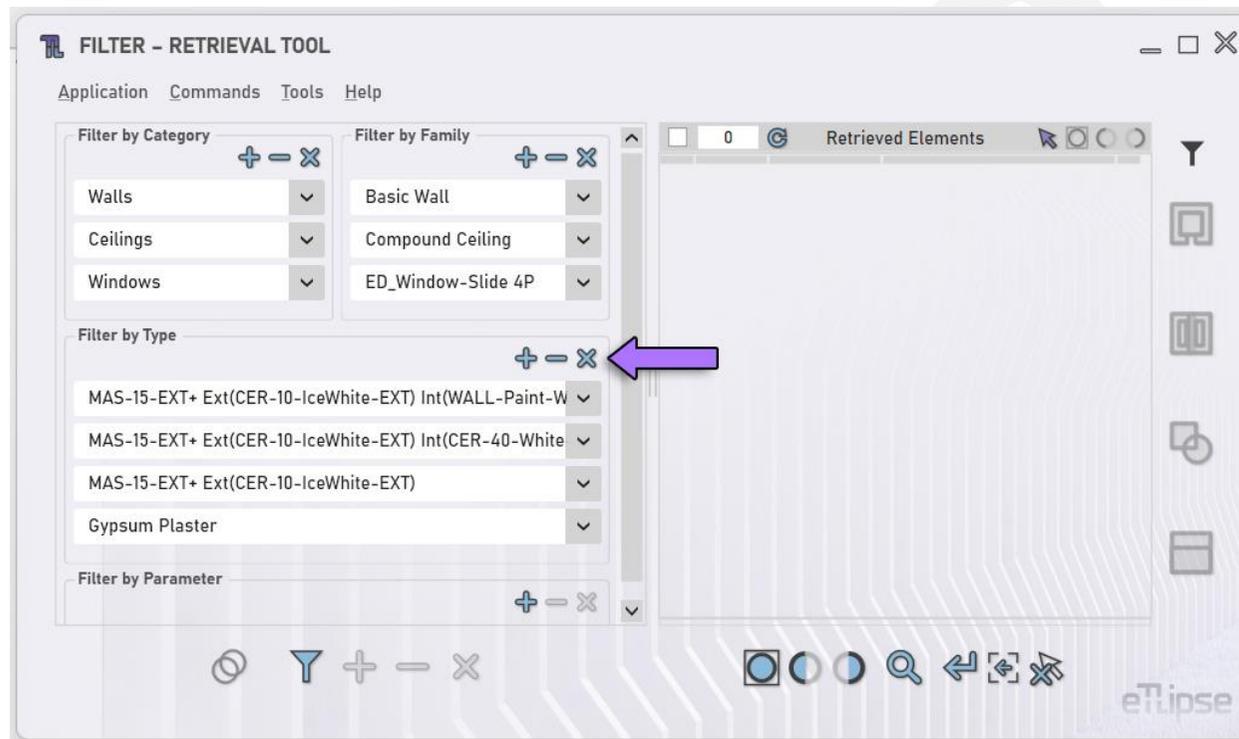
We can click the **Clear Filters** button (as indicated in the image) to remove all filter items of the collection of Family filter items.

Removing a Type Filter Item



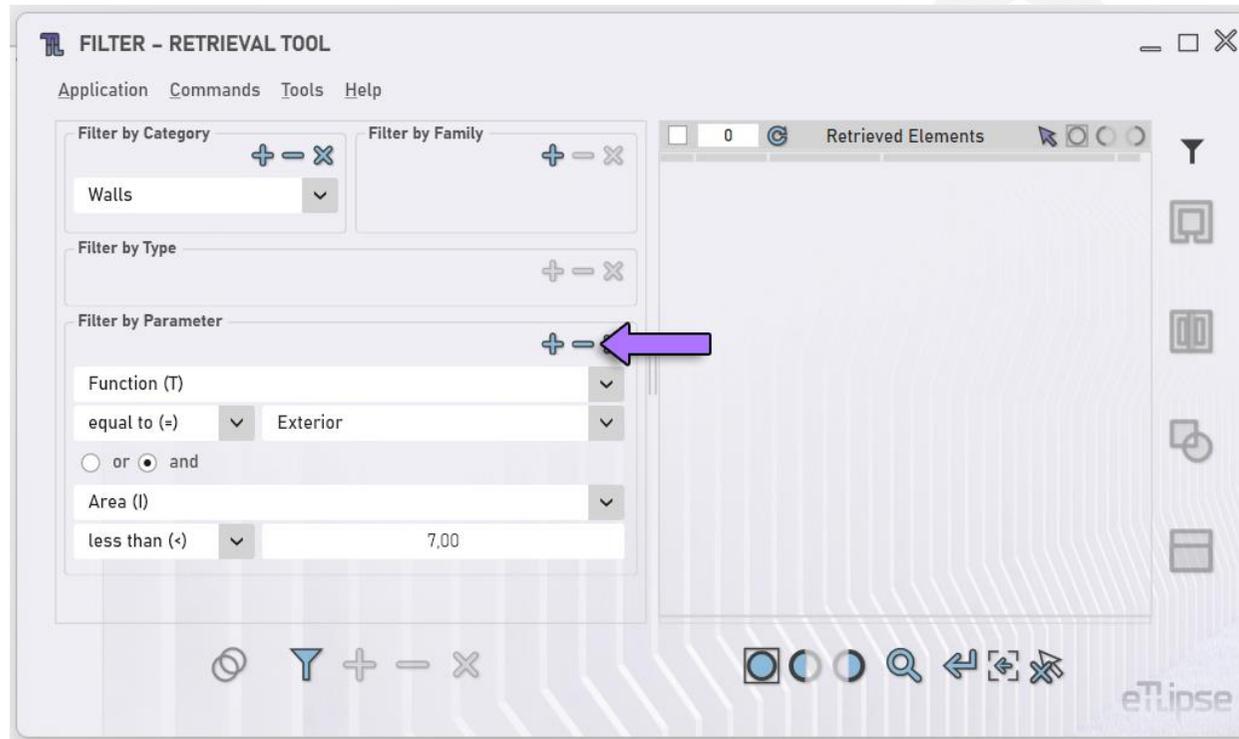
We can click the **Remove Type Filter** button (as indicated in the image) to remove the last inserted filter item (in the lower position) in the collection of Type filter items.

Clearing the Type Filter Items



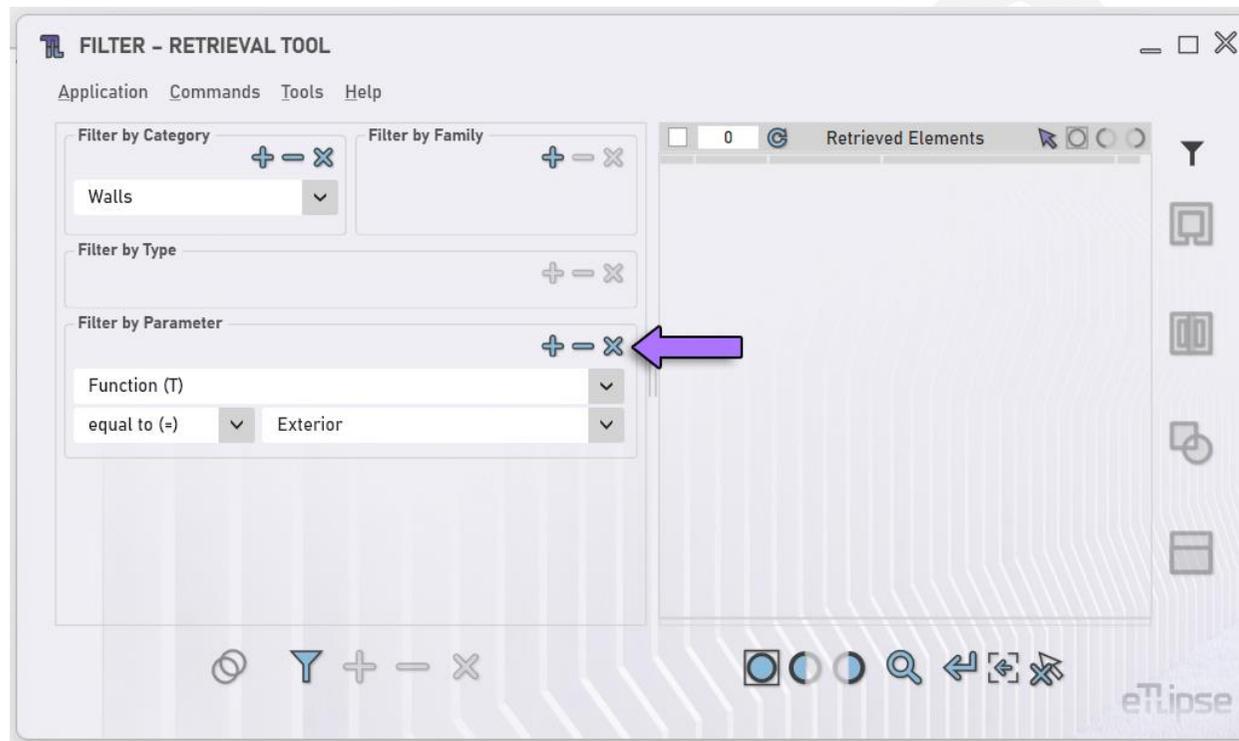
We can click the **Clear Filters** button (as indicated in the image) to remove all filter items of the collection of Type filter items.

Removing a Parameter Filter Item



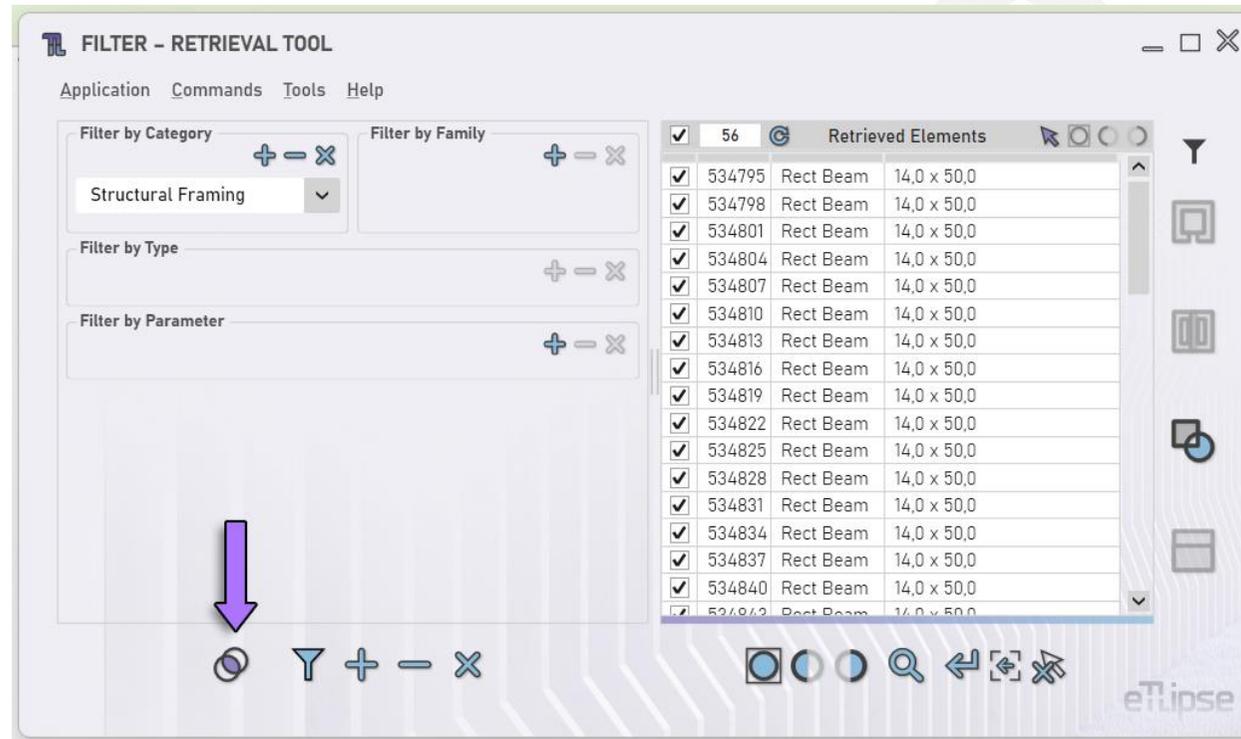
We can click the **Remove Parameter Filter** button (as indicated in the image), to remove the last inserted filter item (in the lower position) in the collection of Parameter filter items.

Clearing the Parameter Filter Items



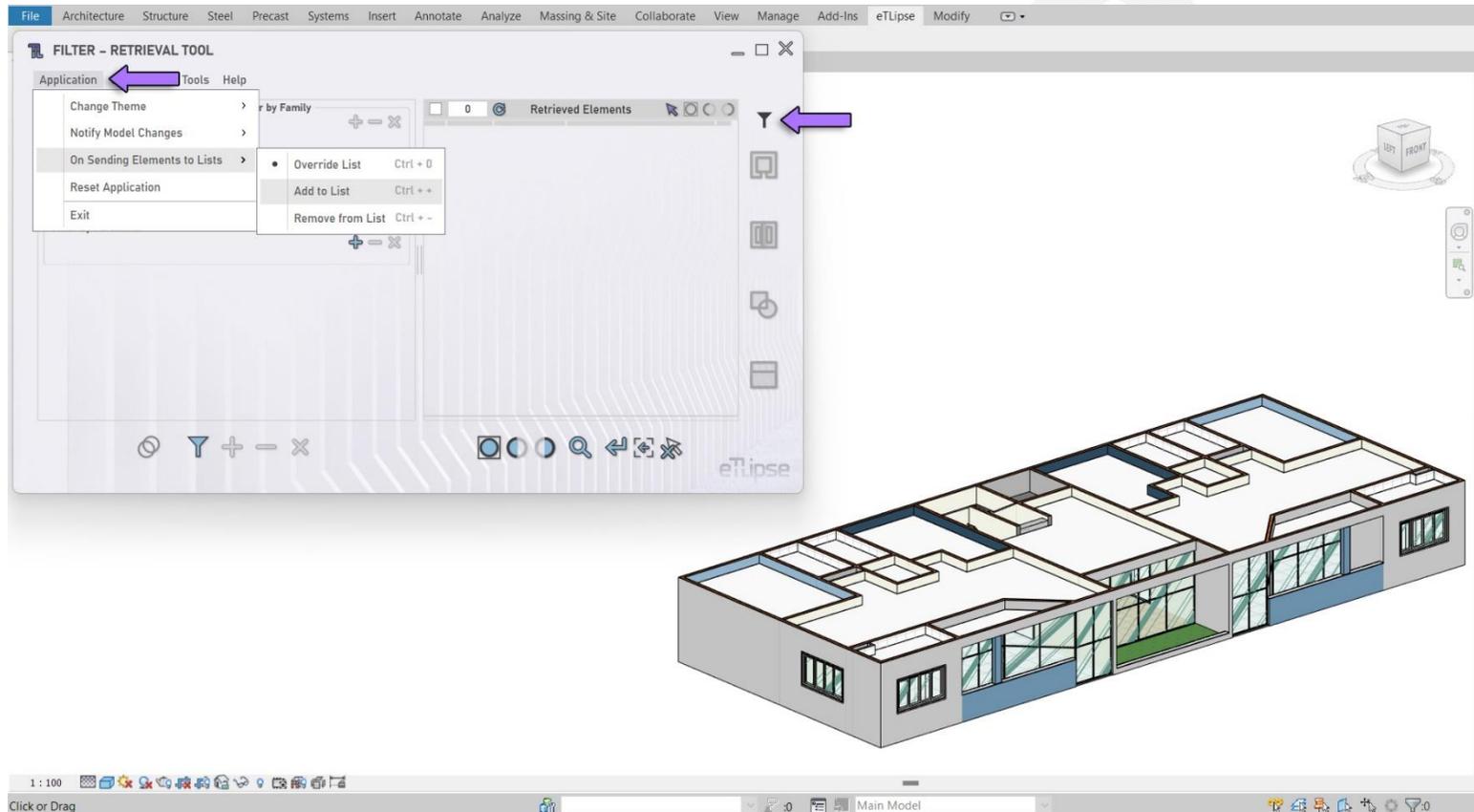
We can click the **Clear Filters** button (as indicated in the image) to remove all filter items of the collection of Parameter filter items.

Adding elements of Linked Models



TL Filter can filter elements from Revit models that are linked to the active project. We just need to click the **Toggle Allow Linked Models** button (as indicated in the image) to enable this feature and those elements should be included in the retrieval as well. Please, do note that the filtering of linked elements should present a slower performance compared to the same process performed exclusively in the active model and, also, that unfortunately the retrieved linked elements cannot be programmatically highlighted in Revit.

Changing the Elements Sending Mode



The elements listed in the Elements Retrieval List can be sent to proper lists in other commands of TL Elements. In the image the group of buttons on the right side are responsible for sending elements to TL Walls, TL Frames, TL Solids and TL Parts command respectively (from up to down). The button above this group (as indicated in the image) presents the currently enabled Sending mode, which are the following:

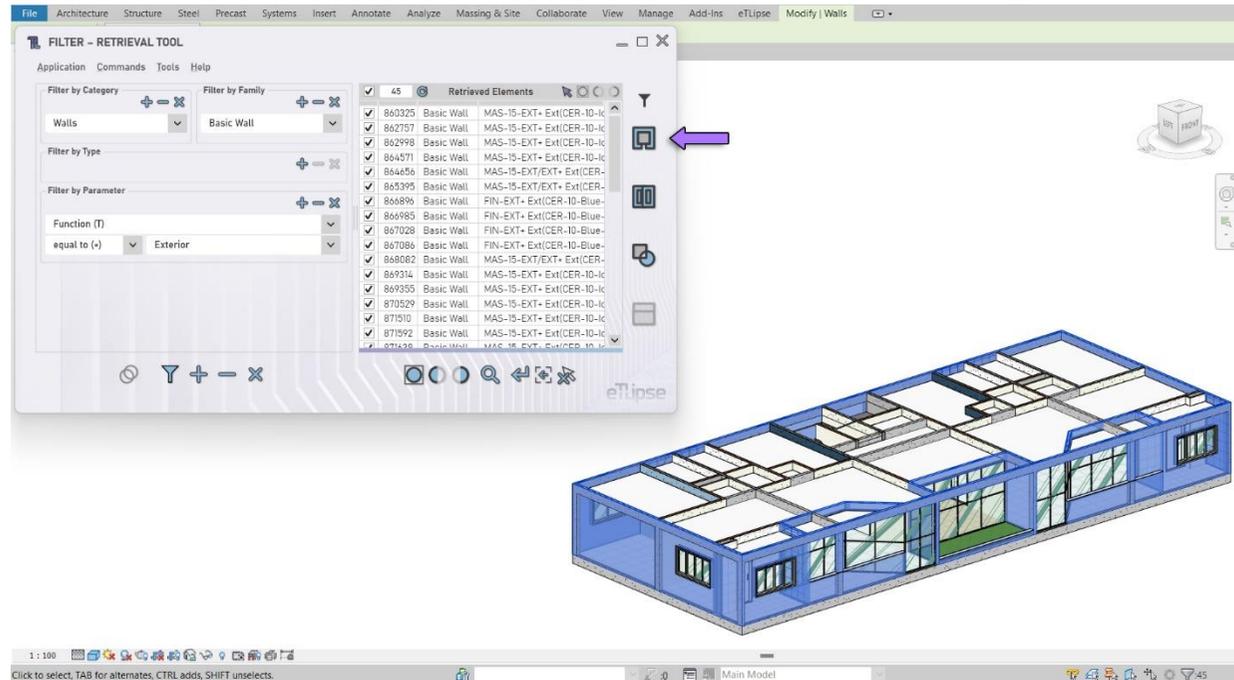
Override List (represented by a filter icon): when this option is enabled, every collection of elements that is sent to another command will overwrite any elements already listed in the destiny list.

Add to List (represented by a plus sign icon): when this option is enabled, every collection of elements that is sent to another command will be added to the destiny list, keeping any eventual elements already listed.

Remove from List (represented by a minus sign icon): when this option is enabled, every collection of elements that is sent to another command will be removed from the destiny list, if any of the sent elements is already listed there.

To change this setting, go to the menu bar and click: Application > **On Sending Elements to Lists**, as shown in the image.

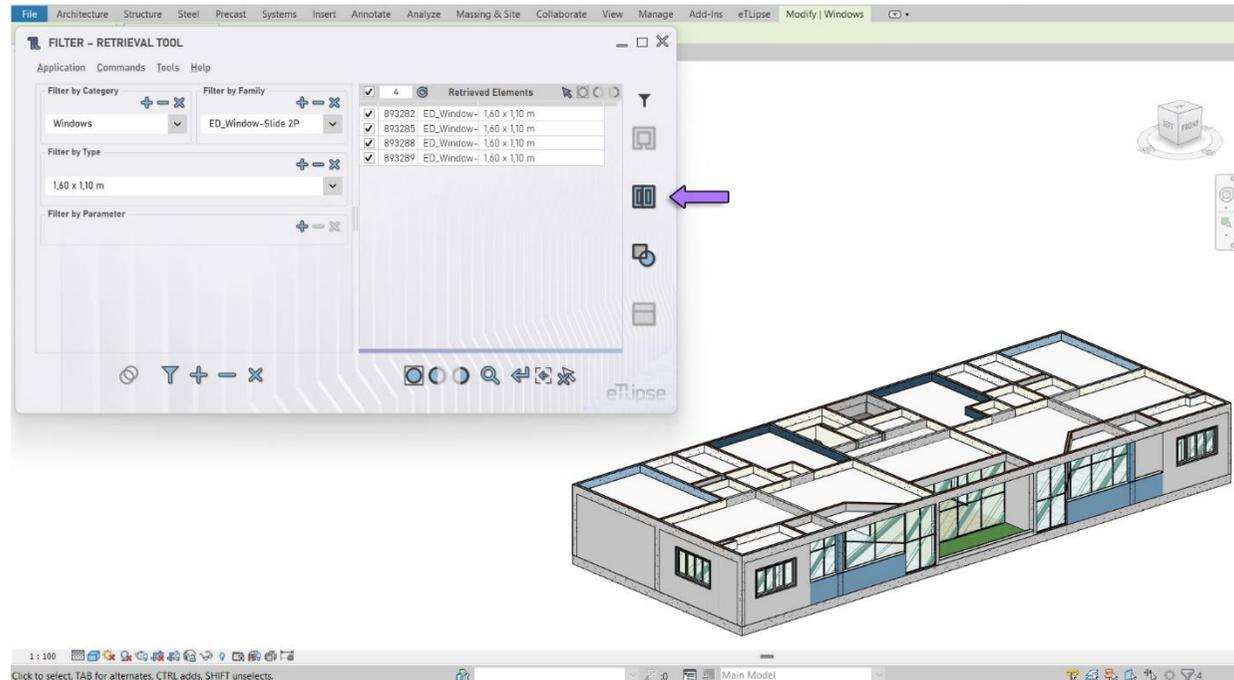
Sending retrieved elements to TL Walls



By clicking the **Send Elements to TL Walls** button (as indicated in the image), we can send rooms or walls currently checked in the Elements Retrieval List to TL Walls. If one room or more are amongst the checked elements, these rooms will be listed in the Rooms Retrieval List. Otherwise, the walls will be listed in the Walls Retrieval List. Depending on the option currently chosen for the "On Sending Elements to Lists" setting, the sent items will be added, removed or will override the destiny list (to know which option is currently enabled, pay attention to the icon above the Sending Mode group of icons). To change this setting, we can go to the menu bar and click: Application > **On Sending Elements to Lists**.

Curtain Walls will be ignored, since the features in TL Walls do not apply to them. This feature will only be enabled if at least one valid element is checked.

Sending retrieved elements to TL Frames

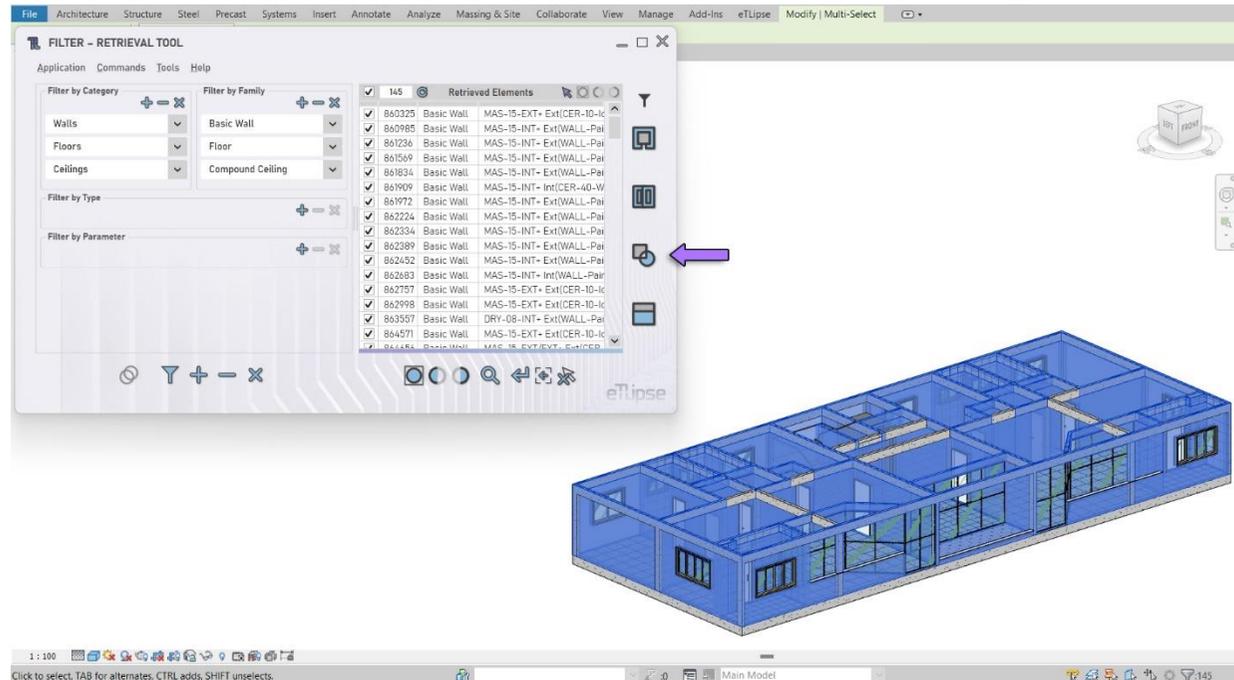


By clicking the **Send Elements to TL Frames** button (as indicated in the image) we can send walls, doors or windows currently checked in the Elements Retrieval List to TL Frames (in this exact order of priority). Depending on the option currently chosen for the "On Sending Elements to Lists" setting, the sent items will be added, removed or will override the destiny list (to know which option is currently enabled, pay attention to the icon above the Sending Mode group of icons). To change this setting, we can go to the menu bar and click: Application > **On Sending Elements to Lists**.

If we desire to send, for example, window elements to TL Frames, we need to check only window items in the Elements Retrieval List. Otherwise only the category with the highest priority among the checked items will be sent.

Curtain Walls will be ignored, since the features in TL Frames do not apply to them. This feature will only be enabled if at least one valid element is checked.

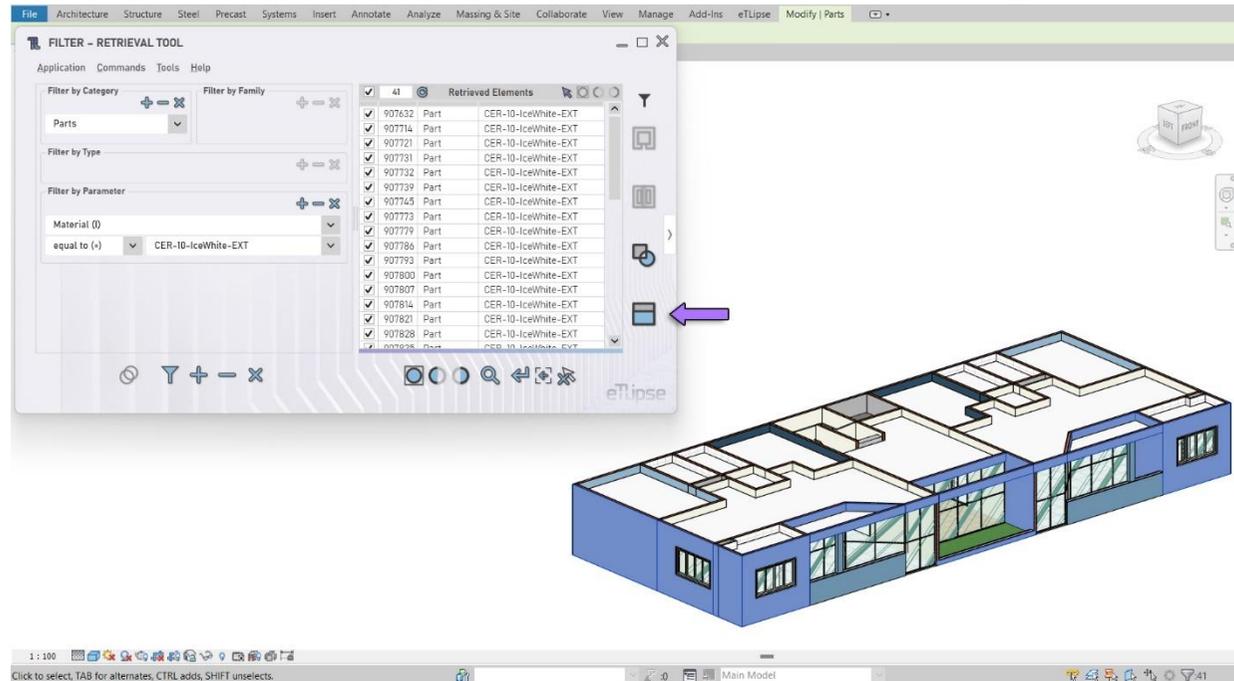
Sending retrieved elements to TL Solids



By clicking the **Send Elements to TL Solids** button (as indicated in the image) we can send the elements currently checked in the Elements Retrieval List to TL Solids. Depending on the option currently chosen for the "On Sending Elements to Lists" setting, the sent items will be added, removed or will override the destiny list (to know which option is currently enabled, pay attention to the icon above the Sending Mode group of icons). To change this setting, we can go to the menu bar and click: Application > **On Sending Elements to Lists**.

This feature will only be enabled if at least one valid element is checked.

Sending retrieved elements to TL Parts

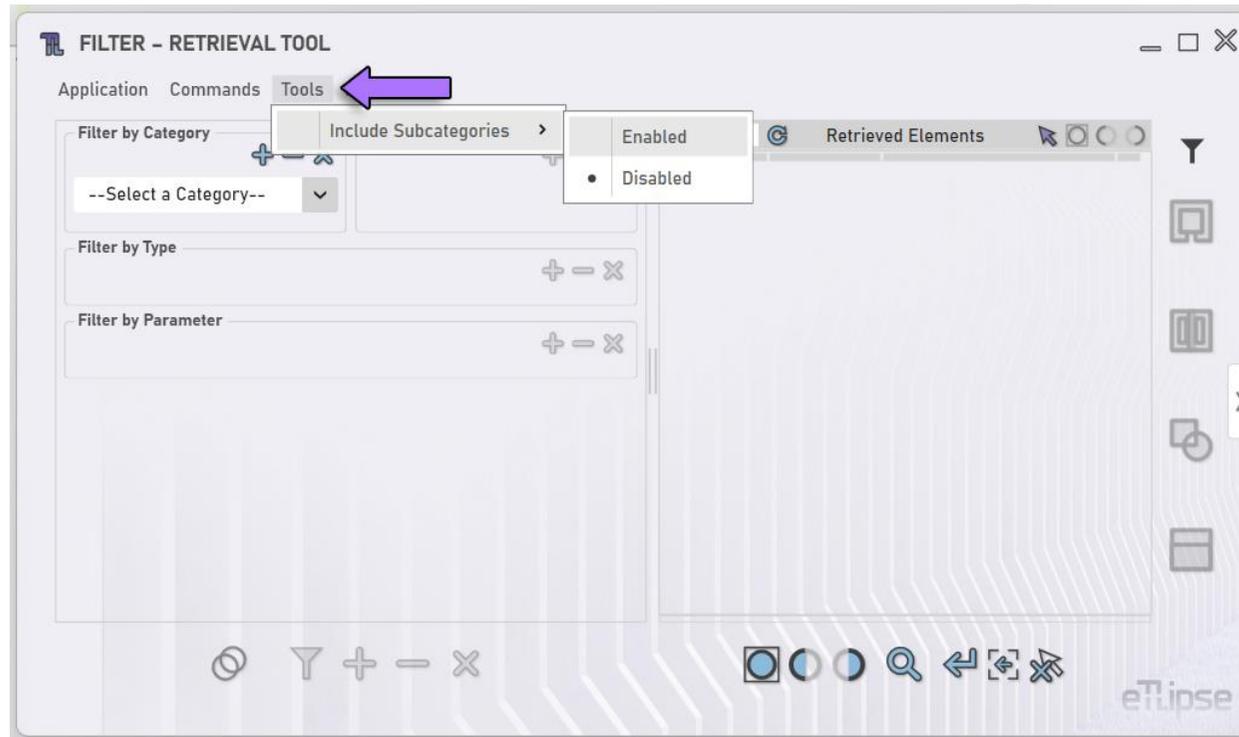


By clicking the **Send Elements to TL Parts** button (as indicated in the image) we can send parts, ceilings, floors or roofs currently checked in the Elements Retrieval List to TL Parts (in this exact order of priority). Parts will be sent to the Parts Retrieval List. Ceilings, floors or roofs will be sent to the Dividing Elements Retrieval List. Depending on the option currently chosen for the "On Sending Elements to Lists" setting, the sent items will be added, removed or will override the destiny list (to know which option is currently enabled, pay attention to the icon above the Sending Mode group of icons). To change this setting, we can go to the menu bar and click: Application > **On Sending Elements to Lists**.

If we desire to send, for example, floor elements to TL Parts, we need to check only floor items in the Elements Retrieval List. Otherwise only the category with the highest priority among the checked items will be sent.

This feature will only be enabled if at least one valid element is checked.

Enabling Subcategories Inclusion



As seen in the image, by going to the menu bar and clicking Tools > **Include Subcategories**, it is possible to include Revit subcategories in the Category filters. This option is disabled by default at every initialization of the command. The inclusion of subcategories in the Category filter may considerably increase the number of items listed. Be aware that most of these items probably will not work properly or at all with the other commands of the application. This option is available only for data filtering and model visualization purposes and will reset the current list and filter items.