

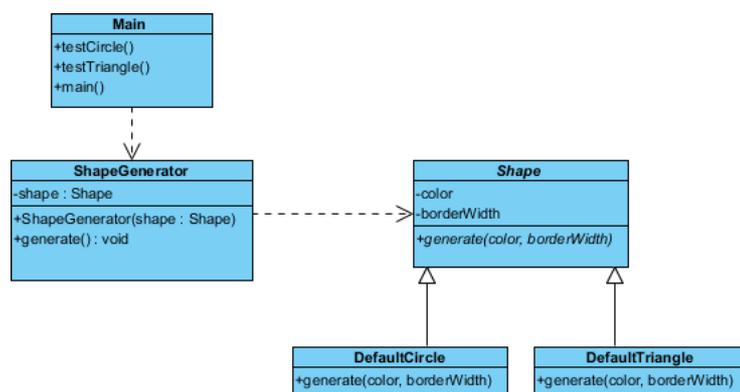


## Control Shape Appearance with Stereotype

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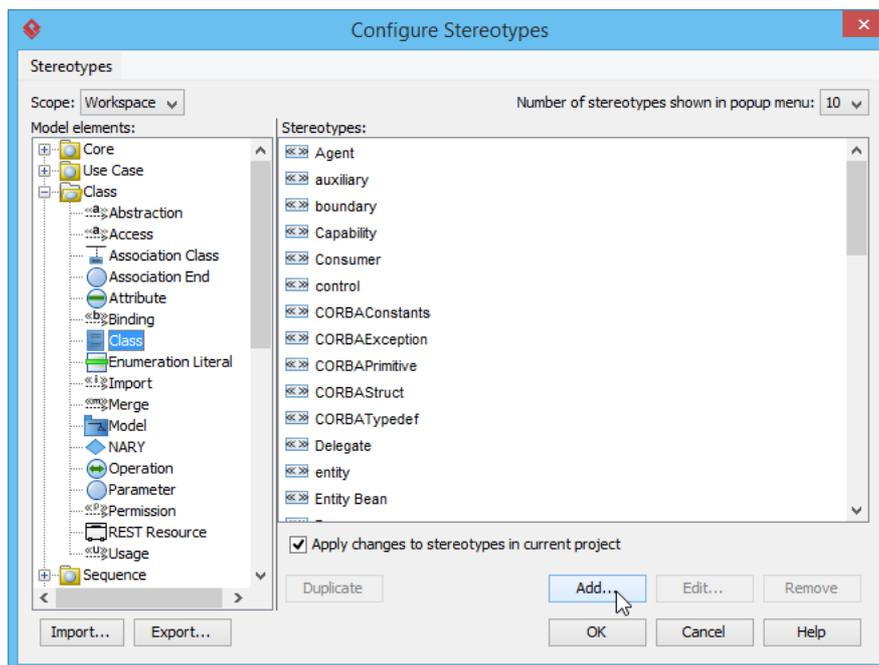
You can extend a model element from a stereotype to give it specific identify and specify its domain specific properties. Moreover, you can [define formatting properties](#) to stereotype, such as fill color and border style, to make model elements that extend the stereotype follow. In this tutorial, we will make use of a simple [class diagram](#) to show how to format a stereotype called *API*, and how to format an API class by applying stereotype.

1. Download [Simple-Shape-Generator.vpp](#). You can also find this file at the bottom of this tutorial.
2. Open the downloaded .vpp file in Visual Paradigm. To open a project, select **Project > Open** from the application toolbar. You can see the class diagram below.



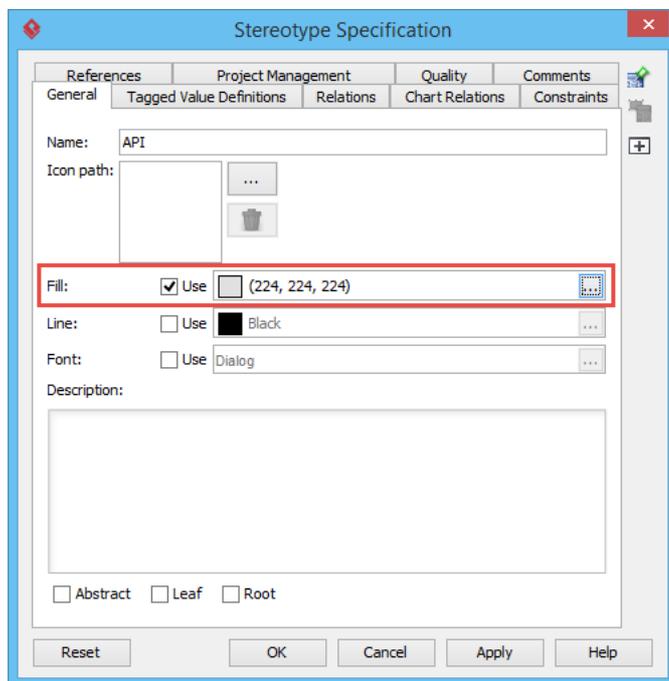
3. We want to model the fact that class *Shape* is an API class. We can do this by defining and applying an API stereotype. Select **Windows > Configuration > Configure Stereotypes...** from the toolbar.

4. In the **Configure Stereotypes** window, expand the tree node Class, and select Class. Click **Add...** at the bottom.

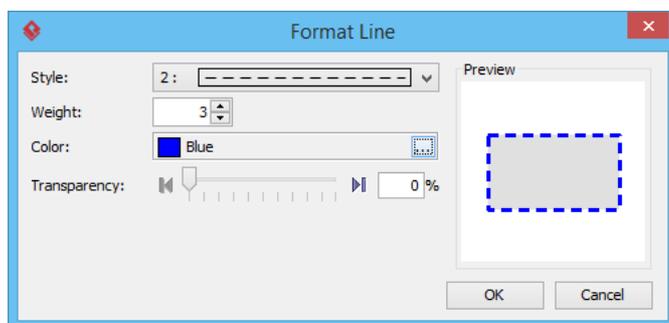


5. In the stereotype specification, enter *API* as name.

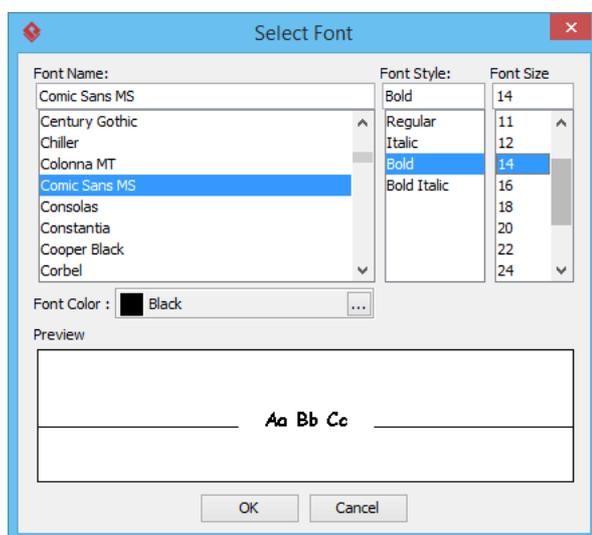
- Here you can see three options in the specification dialog box. They are **Fill**, **Line** and **Font**. By setting them, you can make classes that extend the *API* stereotype share the formatting properties defined. Let's try **Fill** first. Check **Use** for **Fill**. Click on the ... button. Select **gray** as color.



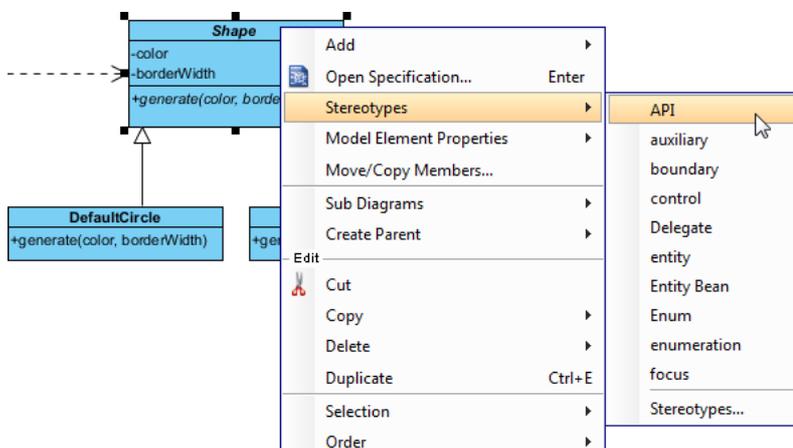
- Similar, check **Use** for Line and edit its properties. Select a style of dotted line, set 3 as weight, blue as color.



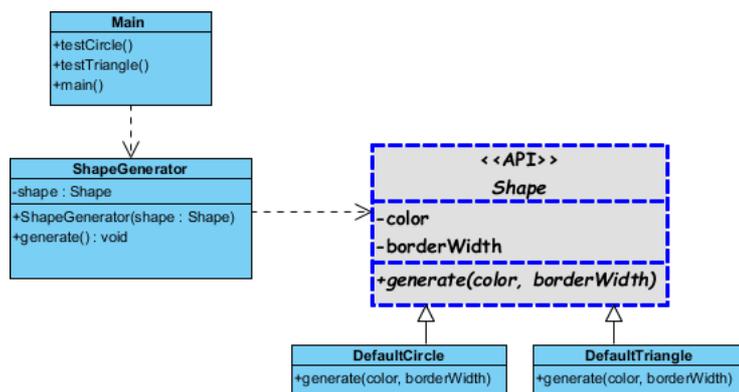
- Finally, check **Use** for **Font** and edit its properties. Select a font you like (Comic Sans MS is used in this tutorial), set **bold**, and select **14** as font size, which makes the text bigger than default.



- Click **OK** to confirm the changes in Stereotype Specification. Click **OK** in Configure Stereotype dialog box to close it.
- Now, we need to make the class Shape extend the API stereotype. Right click on the class Shape and select **Stereotypes > API** from the popup menu.



11. The appearance of class is updated to follow that defined for the stereotype *API*.



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