

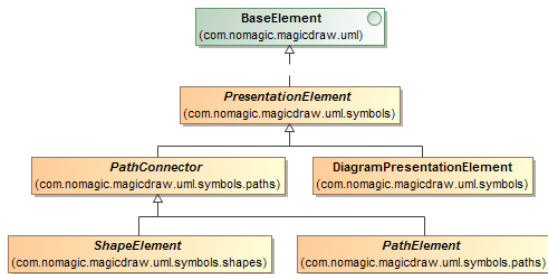
# Presentation elements (symbols)

The UML semantic defines only the UML metamodel. A modeling tool has its own structure of classes for UML elements representation in the diagram. The base class of this structure is [com.nomagic.magicdraw.uml.symbols.PresentationElement](#). A presentation element is a textual or graphical presentation of one or more model elements.

Presentation elements are sometimes called symbols also.

In the metamodel, a [PresentationElement](#) is the [com.nomagic.magicdraw.uml.BaseElement](#) that presents a set of model elements to a user. It is the base for all metaclasses used for the presentation. All other metaclasses with this purpose are indirect subclasses of [PresentationElement](#).

A current version of Open API provides just a basic structure of presentation elements:



Every presentation element can have children. For example, [com.nomagic.magicdraw.uml.symbols.DiagramPresentationElement](#) has a collection of inner presentation elements. [PresentationElement](#) of some *Package* can have a collection of presentation elements for inner *Package* elements.

Current version [PresentationElement](#) API allows you to:

- Access element bounds [PresentationElement.getBounds\(\)](#)
- Access a model [com.nomagic.uml2.ext.magicdraw.classes.mdkernel.Element](#) of a presentation element [PresentationElement.getElement\(\)](#). A presentation element can have no *Element*, for example, a [com.nomagic.magicdraw.uml.symbols.shapes.TextBoxView](#).
- Access children [PresentationElement.getPresentationElements\(\)](#)
- Access properties of the element [PresentationElement.getProperty\(java.lang.String\)](#), [PresentationElement.getPropertyManager\(\)](#). The sample of properties would be the *Suppress Operations* property for a class presentation element, the *Autosize* property for any [com.nomagic.magicdraw.uml.symbols.shapes.ShapeElement](#).
- Select/unselect or access a selection state of the presentation element ([PresentationElement.isSelected\(\)](#), [PresentationElement.setSelected\(boolean\)](#)).

A subclass of presentation elements [com.nomagic.magicdraw.uml.symbols.paths.PathConnector](#) provides information about connected paths to the presentation element. To get a collection of connected paths to the presentation element, use the method [PathConnector.getConnectedPathElements\(\)](#).

## Related pages

- [Diagram presentation element](#)
- [Shapes](#)
- [Paths](#)
- [Working with presentation elements](#)
  - [Creating shape elements](#)
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