

# Practice Makes Proficiency...

Keeping a sketchbook filled with drawings from school, work and play will improve your ability to graphically communicate information and ideas. Continually practicing sketching, drawing and drafting skills is a worthwhile commitment. Proficiency in graphic communication leads to clarity, confidence, efficiency, inspiration and delight. Here is a list of possible sketchbook entries (freehand and drafted) that may inspire you.

## Drawing Utensils

Graphite, (soft, medium, hard)  
Flat pencil (carpenters pencil)  
Graphite stick  
Graphite dust (for erase away drawings)  
Water-soluble pencil  
Pen and Ink  
Water-soluble ink  
Sepia pencil  
Colored pencil  
Carbon Pencil  
Compressed charcoal  
White charcoal  
Conte crayons  
Oil/chalk pastel  
Marker (fine, thick and chisel tipped)  
Watercolor pencils  
Watercolor  
Tempera paint  
Acrylic paint  
Oil Paint  
Combination of the above

## Drawing Papers

Trace paper  
Vellum  
Mylar

Sketch Paper  
Canson Paper  
Bristol Paper  
Watercolor paper  
Craft paper  
Black paper

## Drawing/Rendering Types Techniques & Topics

Linear drawing  
Texture drawing  
Tonal drawing  
Line type and weight practice  
Texture/tonal gradients for creating value scales  
Color sampling mixing  
Poche'  
Hatching  
Cross Hatching  
Irregular hatching  
Parallel hatching  
Stippling (dotting)  
Circular strokes  
Scribble strokes  
Etching (scraping away a medium)  
Contour drawing  
Light/shade/shadow practice  
Observation drawing

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Still Life drawings/compositions

Gesture Drawing

Figure drawing/anatomy

Portrait drawing

Abstract drawing

Cartoon drawing

Outline drawing

"Paint by number" drawing

Silhouette drawing

Negative space drawing

Erase away drawing

Drawing from memory

Outline drawings

Drawing with view finder

Drawing from photographs and an imposed grid

Blind Drawings

Drawing without lifting the utensil

Upside down drawing

Drawing "the box it came in"

Drawing by subtracting from a form

Drawing by adding to a form

Technical Drawing

Deconstruct/Reconstruct drawings

Illustrations of visual dictionary terms

Comparison/contrast different paper textures

Abstract

People/trees/vehicles/furnishings

Reflections in water and glass

Rendering differences in building materials

Scenery/landscape drawing

Site context drawings

## Lettering Practice

Practicing your lettering "kit of parts"

Upper case alphanumeric character sets

Lower case alphanumeric character sets

Lettering at different scales

Lecture notes

Research notes

Famous/favorite quotes

Design critiques

Visual dictionary definitions

Drawing labels, descriptions, and scales

Drawing symbols and dimensions

Project statements

Site conditions

Observations

Client/User wants and needs lists

Building program (spaces/square footage)

Materials lists

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Task lists

Brainstorm lists

Metaphors

Concept statements

Creative writing

## Diagramming (sketch/draw/draft)

Research Maps

Mind maps/trees/webs

Pictorial brainstorming

Pictograms

Graphic metaphors

Concept diagrams

Process/network diagrams (flow charts)

Bubble diagrams

Area diagrams (pie chart, bar graph, layout)

Circulation diagrams

Matrix diagram

Analytical diagrams

Site diagrams

Building diagrams

Sun angle/lighting diagrams

Natural ventilation diagrams

Schematic systems diagrams

Diagrammatic building studies

3D diagrams

Presentation compositions

## 2D Architectural Drawings

(sketch/draw/draft)

Concept sketches

Speculative sketching

Basic 2D shapes

2D orthographic patterns

2D patterns in perspective

2D orthogonal shapes in perspective

2D non-orthogonal shapes in perspective

Orthographic projections (multi-view drawings)

Graphic location maps

Vicinity plans

Figure ground plans

Reverse figure ground plans

Topographical plans

Site plans

Roof plans

Floor plans

Ceiling plans

Reflected ceiling plans

Plan details

Exterior building elevations

Interior room elevations

Cross Sections

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Longitudinal sections

Site sections

Details

Furnishings

Practice line weights, line types in 2D

Practice symbols, arrows, leaders in 2D

Practice poche, hatching, & rendering in 2D

## 3D Architectural Drawings

(sketch/draw/draft)

3D concept sketches

3D speculative sketching

Basic 3D extruded volumes

Basic 3D extruded and tapered volumes

Basic 3D revolved volumes

Composing 3D drawings with basic geometry

Paraline drawings

Axonometric projections:

Isometric, diametric, trimetric projections

Oblique projections:

Plan and elevation obliques

Perspective Drawings

One-point perspectives

Two point perspective

Three point perspective

Foreground & background line weights

Exploded axons

Shade and shadow for paraline drawings

Shade and shadow for perspective drawings

Plan perspectives

Section perspectives

Perspectives constructed with view finder

Perspectives constructed with a grid/diagonals

Perspectives constructed with a reference plan

3D people, trees, forms, and furnishings

Practice station point location

Lower horizon line for a viewer sitting

Middle horizon line (+/-) for viewer standing

Higher horizon line for a viewer on a landing

Practice keeping people's heads on horizon line

Rendering in perspective

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Furniture and Product 3D drawings

3D details

Practice drafting axonometric symbols, & arrows

Practice drafting dimensions & leaders, for 3D

## Paste-in Elements

Many people attach relevant and/or sentimental items in their sketchbook, and accompany them with drawings, observations, and written descriptions.

Feel free to do so, but do not let the past-in elements supersede drawing practice.