

Sketching Architecture

Begin with easy subjects and progress to the more difficult.

However, do not be afraid to try anything. It is only a sketch.

Start with sheds, barns, out houses, store fronts, towers, portions of a building or architectural details.

Questions to ask yourself before beginning a sketch.

- What caught your attention?
- Take time to find the best view.
- Safety?
- What feelings and emotions does the building elicit?
- How much time do you have?
- A drawing that is 2 times larger than another will have 4 times the surface area to cover.

Make thumbnail sketches if you have time.

Look for large, geometric shapes. Squares, rectangles, triangles circles etc.

Add depth to elevation sketches with a fore, middle and background.

No perspective or also called an elevation view is easiest to start with. Although roofs may slope inward to a vanishing point directly above your eye level somewhere.



Two-point perspective sketches – Where to begin?

Draw your eye level line -



Estimate building height-



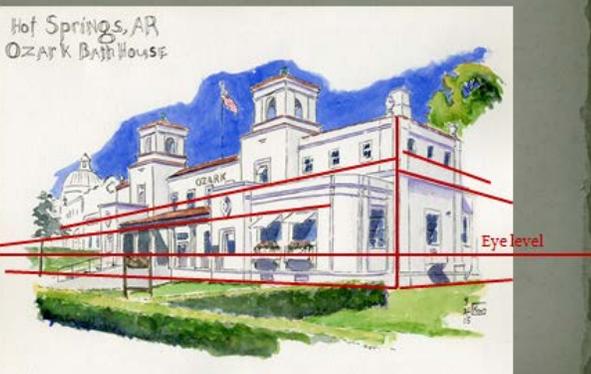
Beginning to draw -



Establish angles to vanishing point -



Align windows and doors along perspective lines-



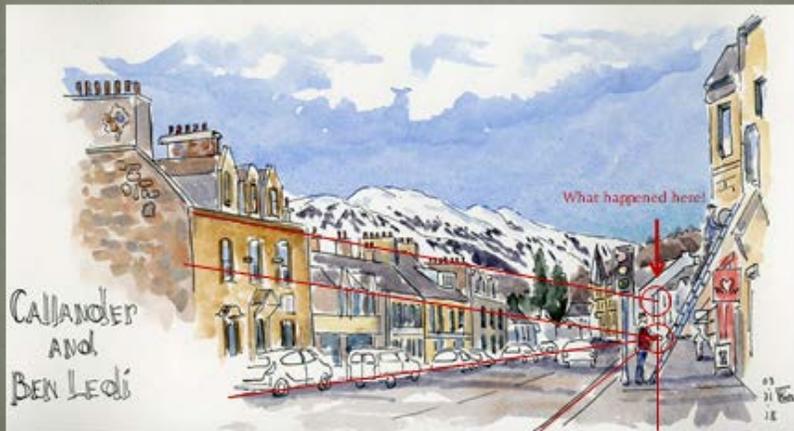
Finish with tone, detail and color -



Street views -

Watch out for pedestrian traffic when sketching on the sidewalk!

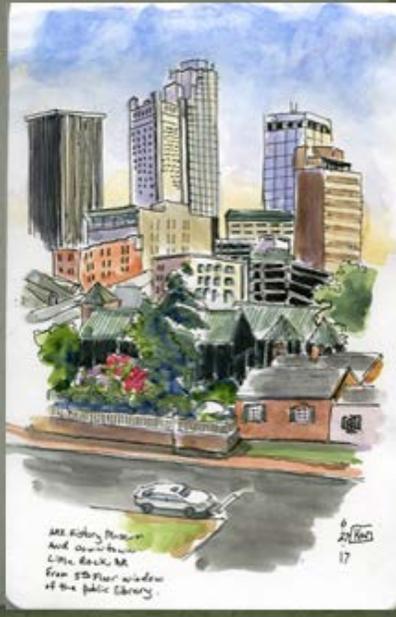
Street views are often one-point perspective looking down a sidewalk.



Sometimes estimated vanishing points do not all meet at the same place. This is usually OK.

Skylines and city views -

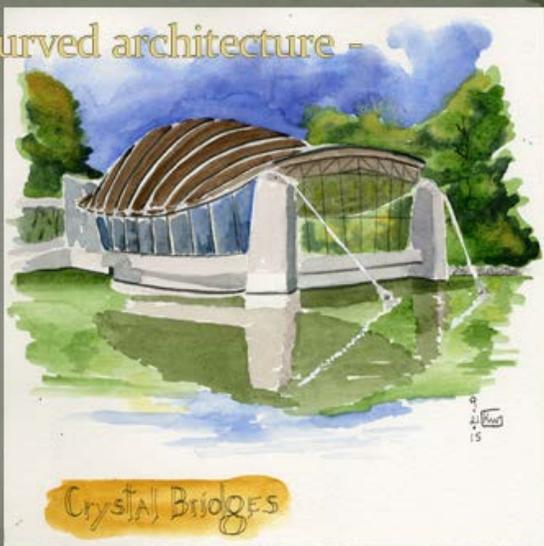
More detail closer up.



- Squint to reduce view to tones only.
- You do not have to count stories or windows. Just go for the overall feeling.
- You do not have to always draw individual windows.
- Use a good tonal range.
- Always include some blacks.
- Consider aerial perspective. Tint more distant buildings a bit blue, grey or purple.

Organic, curved architecture -

- These buildings can be a challenge.
- Consider a perspective box to begin with.
- Careful observation is required.



This type of building can be the hardest to accurately draw. However, due to all the curves, most people would not recognize mistakes if you made some.

Drawing the Barn

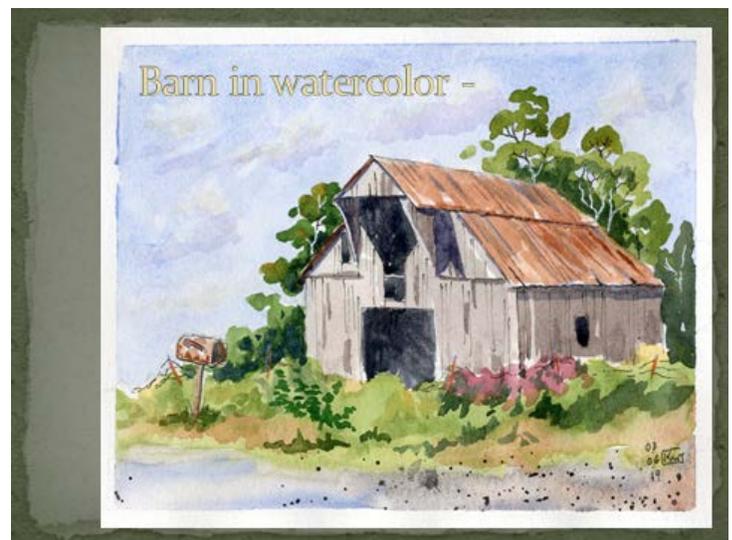
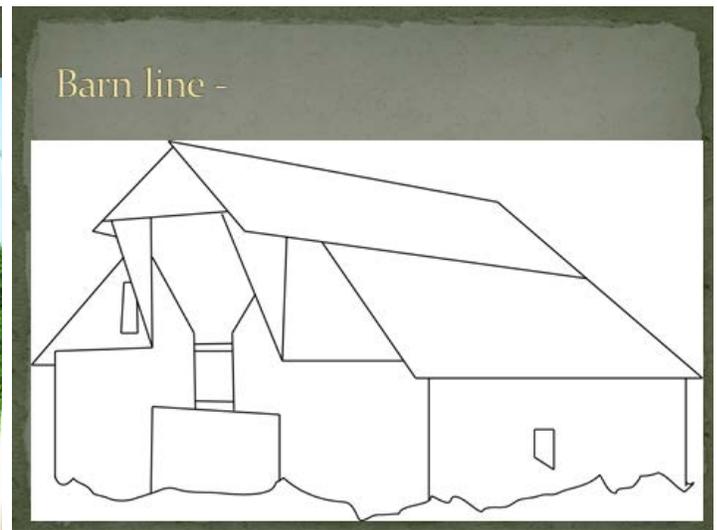
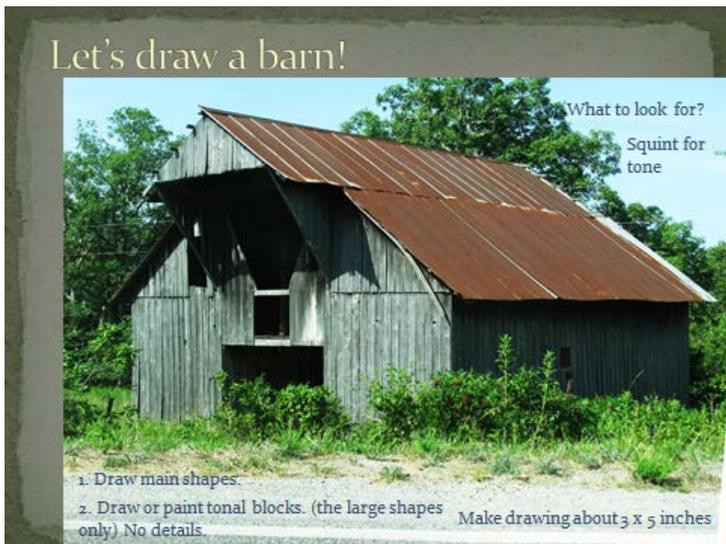
Line- Get the structural proportions as accurate as possible.

Use a very light line for this.

If it is a line drawing, use this to finish the sketch always considering line weight etc.

Tone- Tone is added next. Use either with monochrome color or line hatching methods.

Color – Add color after the building is constructed to your satisfaction.



That is all there is to it!