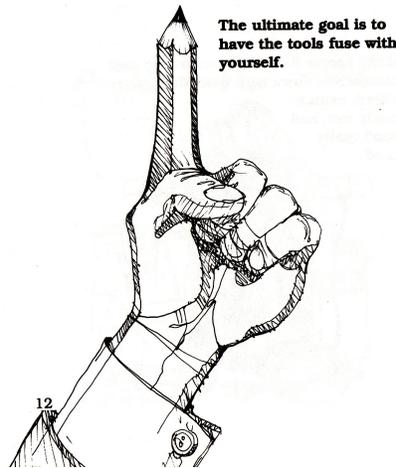


SKETCHING

A sketchbook is part of who we are as designers. Whether you are interested in product design, interior architecture, architecture, landscape architecture, or planning, you will use a sketchbook. Even in a world with computers, our design professions rely *–heavily–* on traditional ‘hand’ sketching and a variety drawing techniques.



Unknown author. (n.d.). *The ultimate goal is to have the tools fuse with yourself* [Pen on Paper]. In K. Hanks (1980), *Rapid Viz: A New Method for the Rapid Visualization of Ideas* (p.12). Los Altos, California: W. Kaufmann.

Buying a Sketchbook

Find a sketchbook that works for you. Some professionals prefer no larger than 5.25” x 8.25”, these fit easy in a purse or back pocket for easy access. Quick retrieval of your sketchbook gives you more opportunities to experiment and develop your sketching and observational skills. A sketchbook should not be treated as a “delicate object”, so it is highly suggest that you buy a durable and long-lasting sketchbook.



Hunt, J. (2014). *Untitled Drawing*. [Graphite and acrylic on paper]. In J. Hunt (2013-14), *Personal Sketchbook: Observational Studies of the Konza Prairie*.

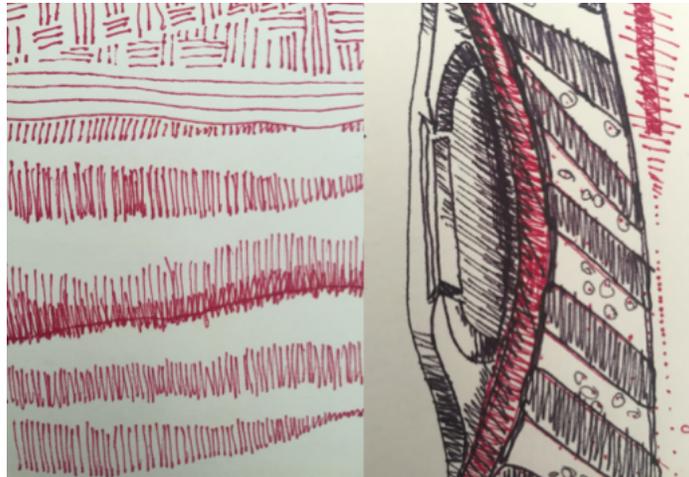
Observation and Exploration

The intention of sketching is to strengthen your perception and abilities to record, interpret, and reflect upon things, both visually and verbally. Drawing sends the information to deeper places inside oneself, where it becomes interpreted by the mind's eye, and translated into the language of marks and stains on a page. The information that is gathered during the process of sketching becomes etched in the memory (unlike taking a quick photo). Putting marks and stains on paper creates a new awareness: how to see the world around you—the detail, materiality, value, light, reflection, etc.

Opening Your New Sketchbook

Breaking in a sketchbook can be intimidating at first. So, it is highly suggested that you start by:

1. *Using the first page...making simple marks.* In other words “dirty the page” and remove the idea of a “clean” and “perfect” book. Use pencil, ink, watercolor or any other medium and simply make marks on the page.



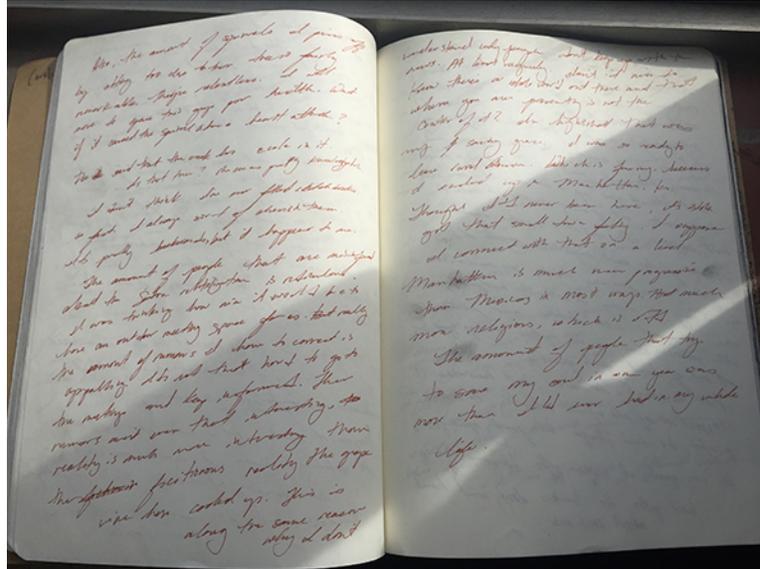
Hunt, J. (2014). *Untitled Drawings*. [Ink on paper]. In J. Hunt (2013-14), *Personal Sketchbook: Observational Studies of the Konza Prairie*.

2. *On the second page...build a collage.* Find images in magazines, newspapers or online and make a simple collage. Maybe the theme of your collage expresses what inspired you to go into the environmental design professions.



Unknown artists. (2009). [Untitled Sketchbook Collages]. Retrieved from ENVD class repository for APDesign, Kansas State University and AUP+D, University of Missouri—Kansas City.

3. *On the third page...write.* In a free-flowing style, write about your favorite place to visit.



Unknown author. (2014). [Untitled Sketchbook Narrative]. Retrieved from ENVD class repository for APDesign, Kansas State University and AUP+D, University of Missouri—Kansas City.

The hard part is now over. Your sketchbook has been “broken in” with mark making, images, and words.

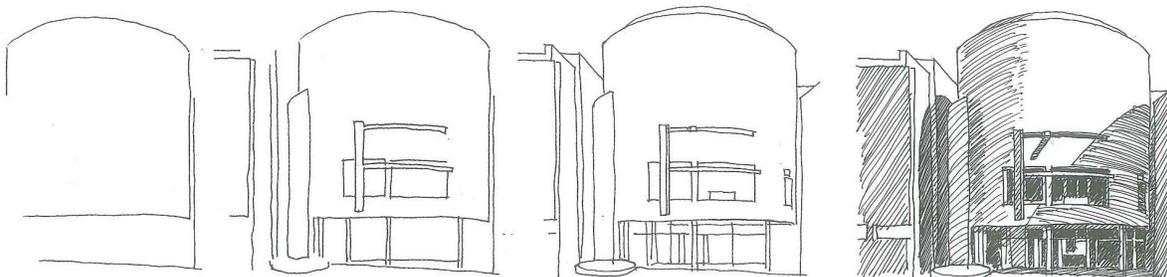
Develop the Daily Drawing Habit

Faculty who teach the first-year design studio recommend you make a personal commitment to sketch for approximately 20 minutes a day. By sketching daily, you will expand your understanding and appreciation for the principles and elements of environmental design and details through observation, analysis, and drawing. During the fall and spring semesters, you will be required to complete a sketchbook. **Now is the time to start practicing.**

4. On the fourth page...from observation, draw a scene in your neighborhood.
5. On the fifth page...from observation, draw your shoe.
6. On the sixth page...from observation, draw where you live and write about your home.
7. On the seventh page...from observation, (as you are waiting in line and with the time allotted before you pay) draw the candy display at the check-out register.
8. On the eighth page...from observation...

How to Build a Drawing

Many recommend to start sketching small then work up in scale as your skills improve. Starting small enables you to focus on the overall composition in the beginning then add details. Thumbnail sketches (size of your thumb to the size of your hand’s palm) are useful to start with, because this reduces the detail to a minimum.



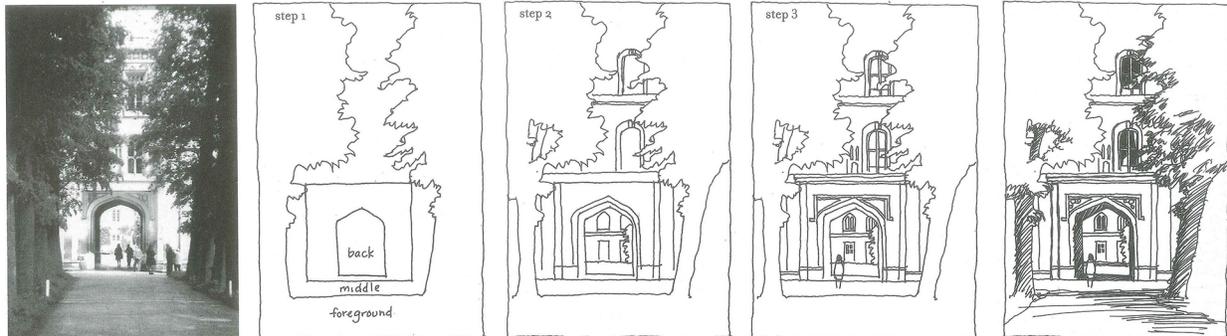
Unknown author. (n.d.). *Untitled Sketches* [Pen on Paper]. P. Laseau (2004), *Freehand Sketching: An Introduction* (front cover). New York: W.W. Norton & Company.

Composing the Drawing

Most of us have gotten used to framing a view through a camera's lens. Framing a sketch is no different—the same compositional rules apply. Consider the compositional issues:

- Placement of horizon line
- Orientation of the view (horizontal/landscape versus vertical/portrait)
- Foreground, Middle Ground, and Background
- Framing elements—trees or other architectural elements
- Focal points

For a beginning student, however, making this leap can be difficult. Take GREAT care in your composition and view. Simplify what you are observing by thinking in terms of foreground, middle ground, and background.



Unknown author. (n.d.). *Frame Exercise One* [Photograph and Pen on Paper]. P. Laseau (2004), *Freehand Sketching: An Introduction* (pp.40-41). New York: W.W. Norton & Company.

Experimenting with Media

Take initiative, explore various types of media, and with commitment “work” the pages. Experiment with different mixed media, which can be pen and ink, graphite, charcoal, watercolor, color pencil, pastels, image transfers, etc. Through exploration of various media, you will gain an understanding of the kind of mark (or how they stain the paper) each medium makes and how to manipulate such marks.

Recommended Books and Videos

1. Laseau, P. (2004). *Freehand Sketching: An Introduction*. New York: W.W. Norton & Company.
2. Explore how architects, designers, and artists sketch in their sketchbooks to record their observations, explore ideas, collect ideas, and for reflection. The following are a good place to start:
 - Borson, B. (2014, April 7). “Architectural Sketching or How to Sketch Like Me”. *Life of an Architect*. Retrieved from <http://www.lifeofanarchitect.com/architectural-sketching-or-how-to-sketch-like-bob-borson/>.
 - K-State. (2014, January 30). AP Design: Sketching (Long Version) [Video file]. Retrieved from <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B-7C0vk6ITQ>.