

# Enhanced Drawing Skills

Contributed by the editors of AIArchitect

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## SUMMARY

At the end of each chapter of Jim Leggitt's beautifully illustrated new book, *Drawing Shortcuts: Developing Quick Drawing Skills Using Today's Technology*, are handy "QuickTips" pertaining to particular styles of drawing and drawing tools. One tip from each chapter is presented here; the book contains many more.

## THUMBNAIL DRAWING

Create the thumbnail at twice the size you want it to be. Reduce the drawing 50 percent on a copier for a final reproduction.

## CONCEPT DRAWING

Don't hesitate to add wildlife to your drawing to help animate areas that otherwise would appear lifeless. Flying birds, geese on water, squirrels in grass, and dogs on a leash are good examples.



## PERSPECTIVE DRAWING

If you're drawing a bridge-level perspective of a building, try not to establish your horizon line much higher than the parapet line. Any higher and you'll begin to show too much of the parapet roof.

## PARALINE DRAWING

Isometric drawings rely so much on 30-degree angles that it's a good idea to purchase a drafting triangle with 30- and 60-degree angles. It is much quicker to draw with a preset angle.

## IMAGINATION DRAWING

Add humor to your drawing. Don't be afraid to exaggerate key elements of the image. The benefit of making drawings from your imagination is that they don't have to be realistically accurate.

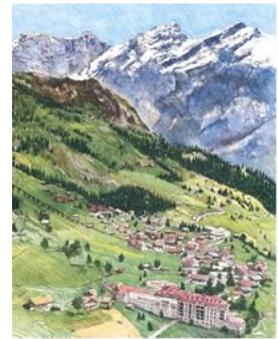
## DIRECT OBSERVATION DRAWING

Tilt your drawing board up so that you can work with your face square to the paper. If the board is flat and

you're looking at it from a severe angle, the image may stretch out of proportion.

## PROJECTED IMAGE DRAWING

It's much easier to draw from a projected image on a horizontal surface (table top) than a vertical surface (wall). Unless you are projecting a very large image, try to project onto a horizontal surface. Drawing on a wall surface can exhaust your arms.



## CAMERAS

If you can vary your camera's exposure settings, it's better to use a higher f-stop (f22), which increases the depth of field and ensures that a larger area will be in focus.



## OVERLAY AND TRACING

If you're tracing an image or a photograph and it's difficult to see all the detail through your drawing paper, work on a light table. The detail will be much easier to see. An easy makeshift light table is a piece of glass propped up on books with a desk lamp place beneath the glass.



## COPIERS

Research the different types of papers you can use for making copies. Color copiers use a much brighter and higher grade than the duller papers used in standard copiers. You can purchase a ream of high-quality paper and use it for all your copying work.

## COMPUTERS

Save all computer wire frame images and renderings to use for future reference and presentation.

## DRAWING TOOLS

When coloring with markers, always apply your lightest colors first and gradually build the colors to the darkest makers. Reversing the order will cause the dark colors to smear.

## COLOR DRAWING

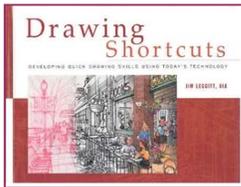
It may not be necessary to color every square inch of your drawing. Be selective and you can save a lot of time by highlighting only the most important information with color.



## RESOURCES

### For More Information on This Topic

*Drawing Shortcuts: Developing Quick Drawing Skills Using Today's Technology*, by Jim Leggitt, AIA, can



be ordered from the AIA Bookstore by calling 800-242-3837 (option 4) or by sending e-mail to [bookstore@aia.org](mailto:bookstore@aia.org).

### More Best Practices

The following AIA Best Practices provide additional information related to this topic

- 03.01.03 Five Basic Presentation Formats
- 03.01.06 Zen and the Art of Presenting in Public
- 05.05.06 Make Your Project Photos Sing

### Feedback

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### Keywords

- Practice
- Marketing
- Marketing presentations