



## Fountain Pen (Urban) Sketching with Liz Steel

website. [lizsteel.com](http://lizsteel.com) • online courses. [sketchingnow.com](http://sketchingnow.com) • e. [info@sketchingnow.com](mailto:info@sketchingnow.com) • instagram. [@lizsteelart](https://www.instagram.com/lizsteelart)

# Why use fountain pens for sketching?

- The flow of wet ink on the page
- The nib does not deteriorate and become harder to use over time
- Variation in line using the one pen
- Ability to choose any coloured ink
- The type of ink gives options for different effects
- The lines are lively!
- Most fine liners come in very similar plastic bodies but fountain pens have many options for size, weight, balance and design
- They are reusable
- The flow of wet ink on the page!

The screenshot shows the Liz Steel website with the article 'Fountain Pen Sketching Part 2: Why Draw with a Fountain Pen?' dated December 1, 2018. The article features several images: a collection of fountain pens, a blue and gold teacup, a close-up of a fountain pen nib drawing a line, and a row of fountain pens. The article text discusses the benefits of fountain pens for sketching, such as the flow of wet ink and the ability to create varied line weights. The website also includes a navigation menu at the top, a newsletter subscription button, and a featured posts section.

more on [lizsteel.com](http://lizsteel.com)

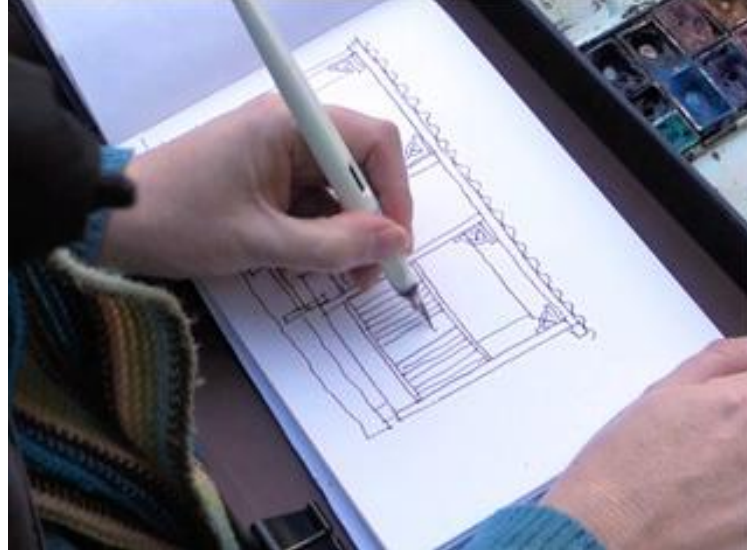
all images and text © Liz Steel 2018





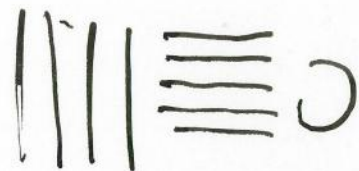
LA TERRAZZA  
DELLA BASILICA



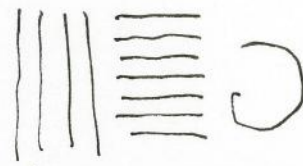




normal pressure  
normal grip



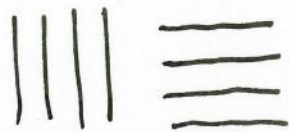
heavy pressure  
normal grip



light pressure  
normal grip



back of nib  
normal grip

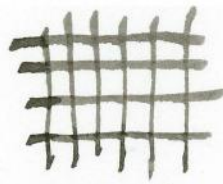


normal  
grip

side ways  
grip



M nib



fude nib



normal grip



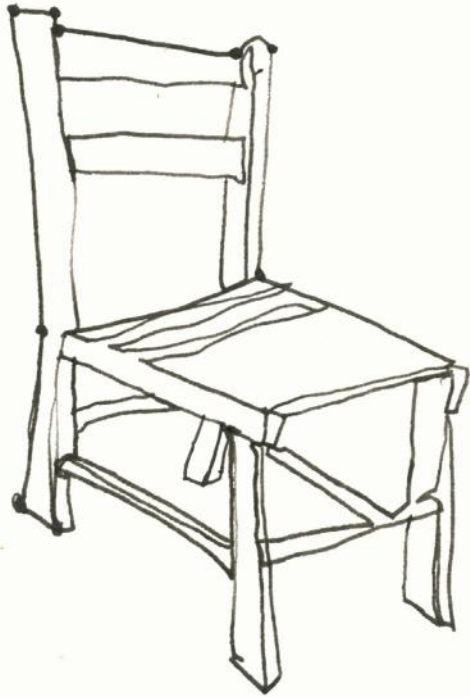
loose back  
of pen grip



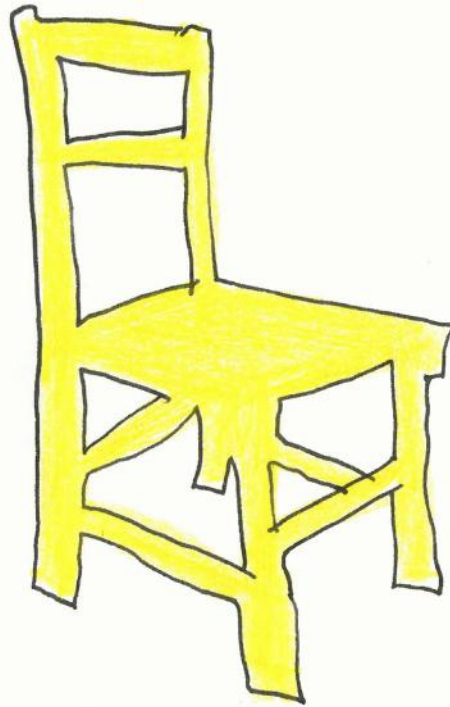
loose grip

normal grip

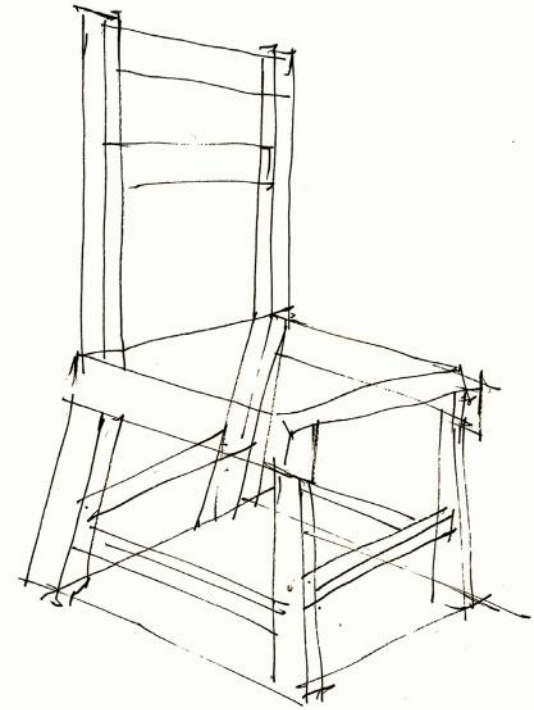
# LINE EXERCISES



FEELING EDGES



ABSTRACTING SHAPES



CONSTRUCTING VOLUMES

## Three ways of visual thinking

from SketchingNow Foundations online course



 YELLOW

+

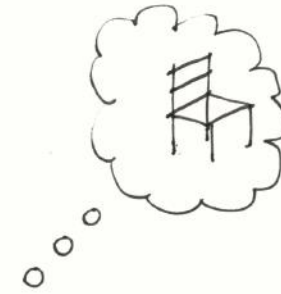
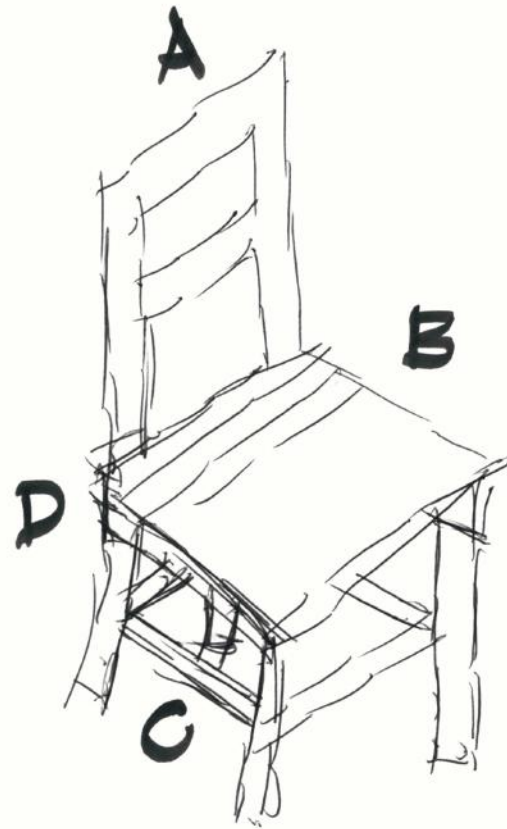
CHAIR



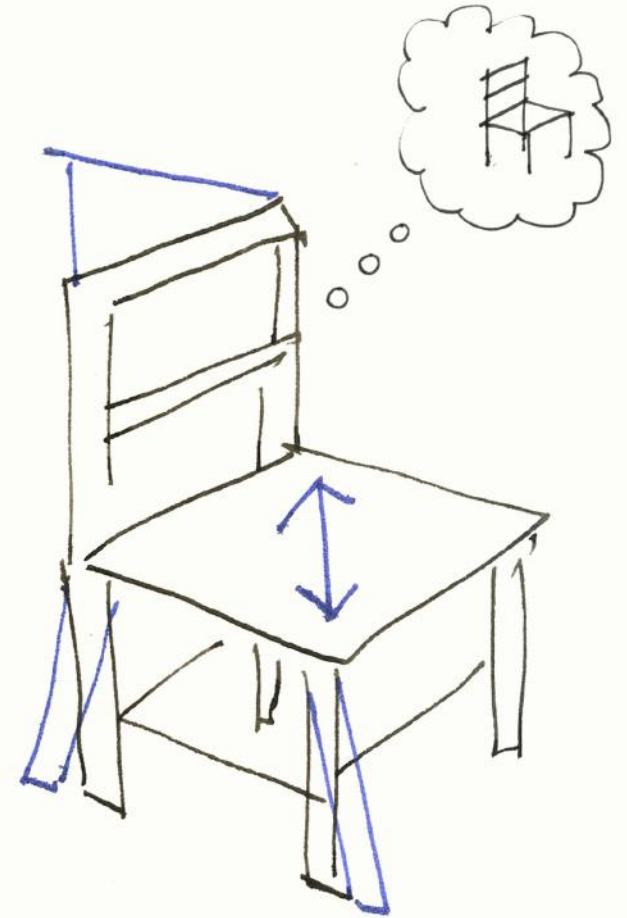
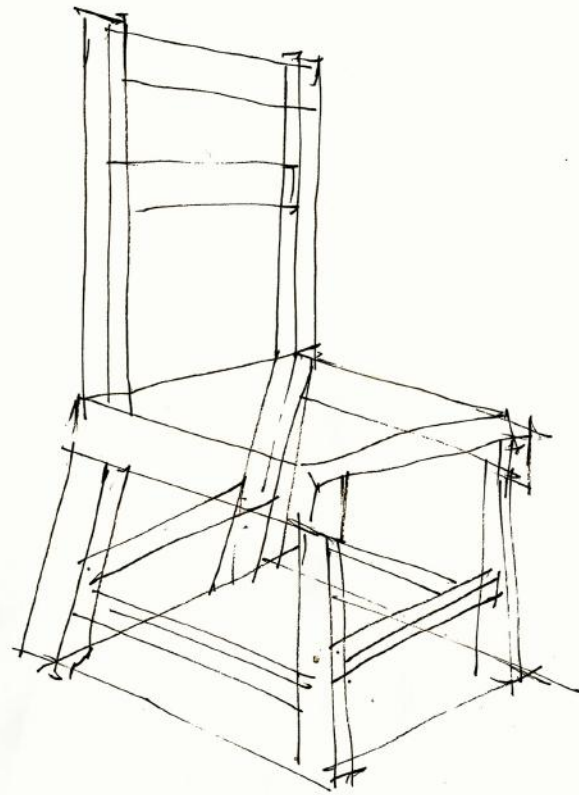
ON

 GREEN  
GRASS

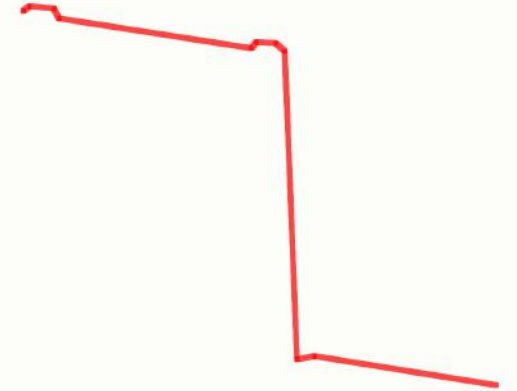
**SYMBOL + OBJECT  
BASED THINKING  
& SEEING**



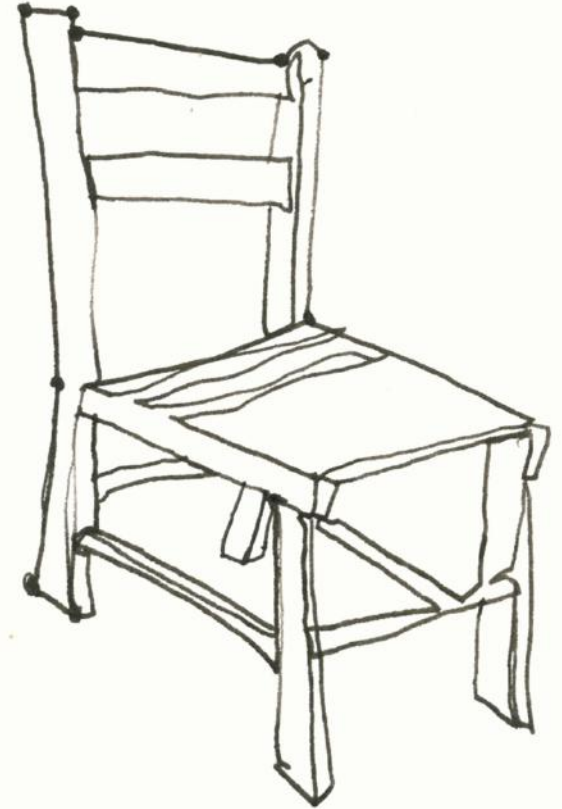
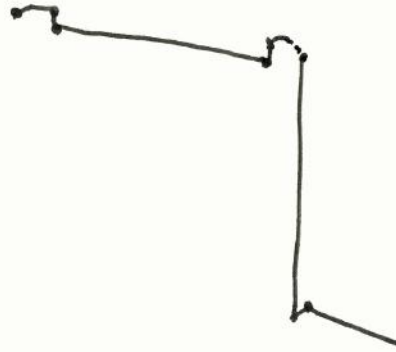
- A. WRONG ANGLE
- B. TOO MUCH SEAT
- C. BACK LEG?
- D. PANIC ATTACK!  
(oh! and hairy lines)



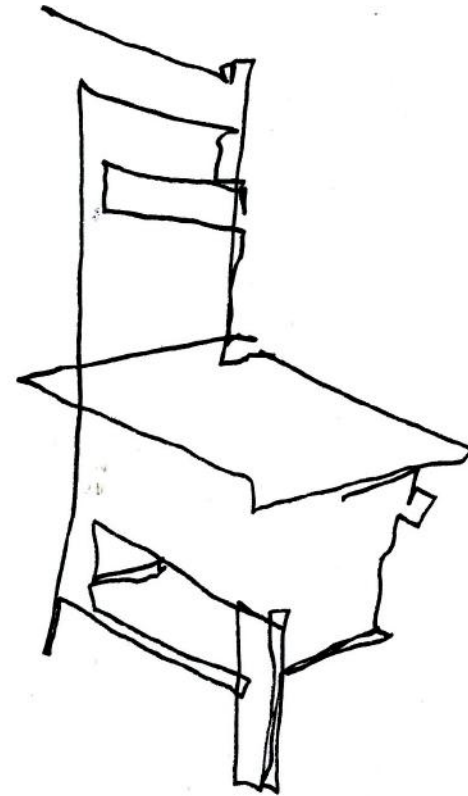
# CONSTRUCTING VOLUMES



SEEING EDGES



FEELING EDGES



**BLIND CONTOUR.**





## IMPORTANT EDGES



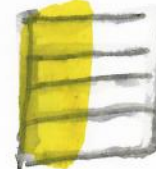
permanent ink

# ADDING COLOUR



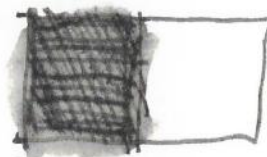
Water soluble ink

dirty yellow



← "inside" lines

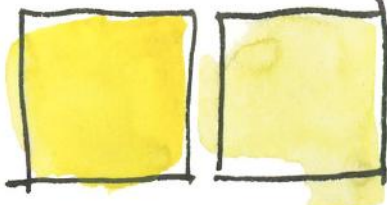
set ink first  
doesn't move once dry



more lines to increase shading

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Hansa Y.  
Med.



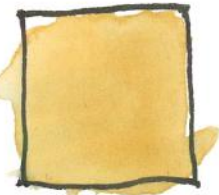
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DARK

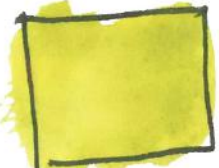
New  
Gamboge



Monte A.  
N. Sienna



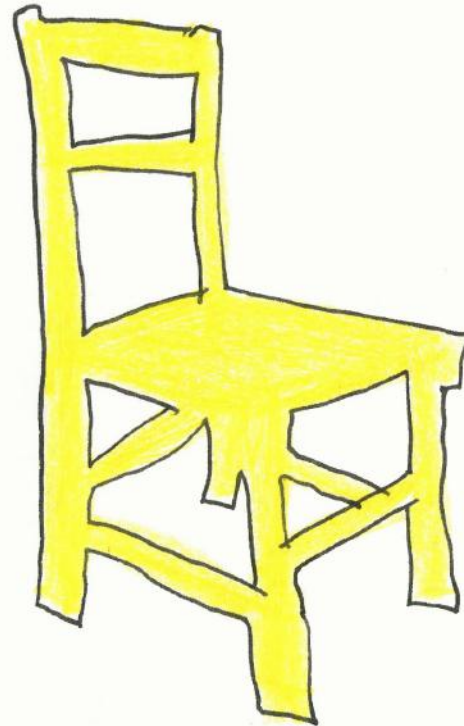
HYM +  
a touch  
of Sap green



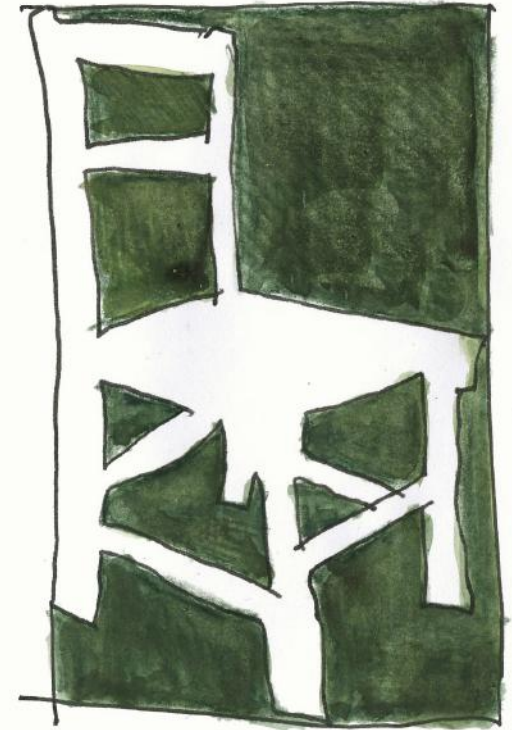
ADDING COLOUR





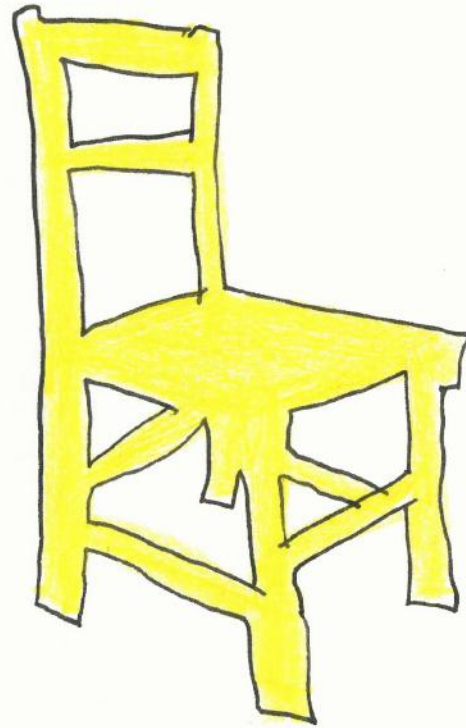


OUTLINE

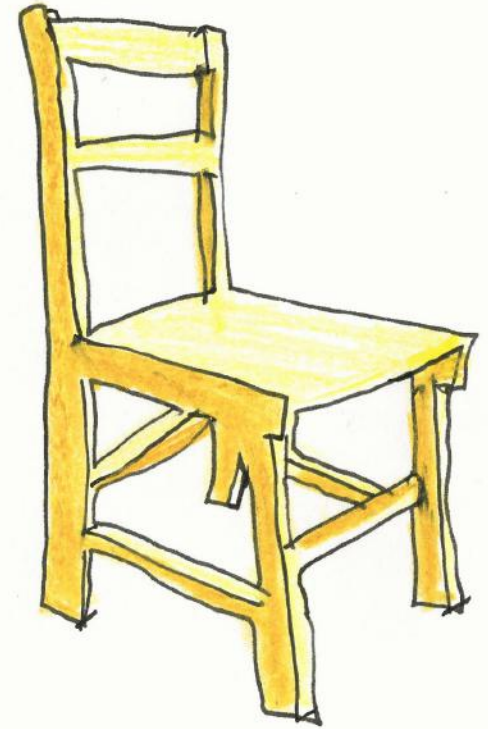


NEGATIVE  
SHAPES

# ABSTRACTING SHAPES



OUTLINE

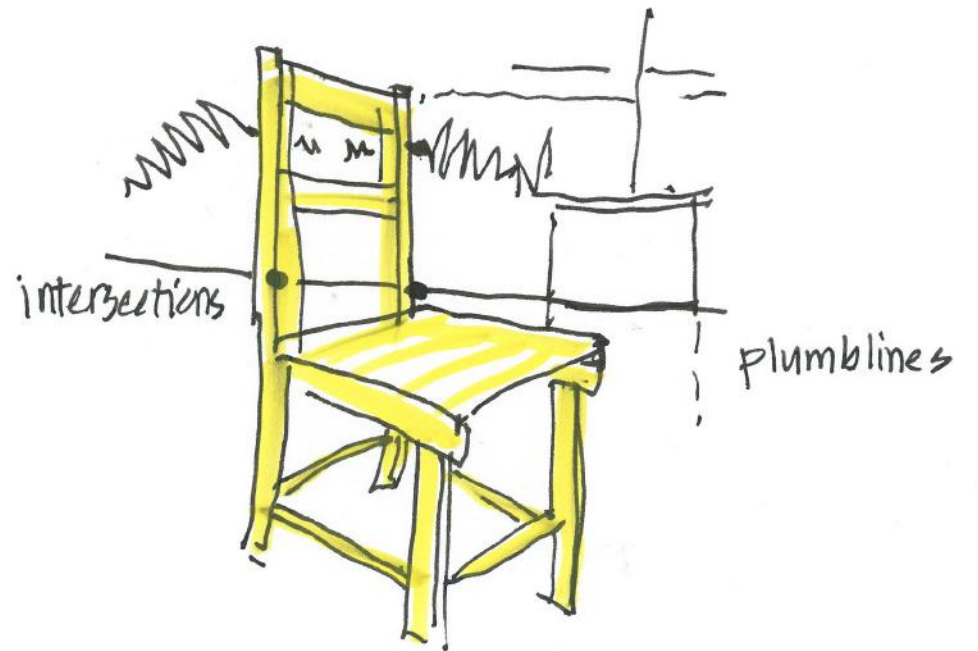


LIGHT + DARK

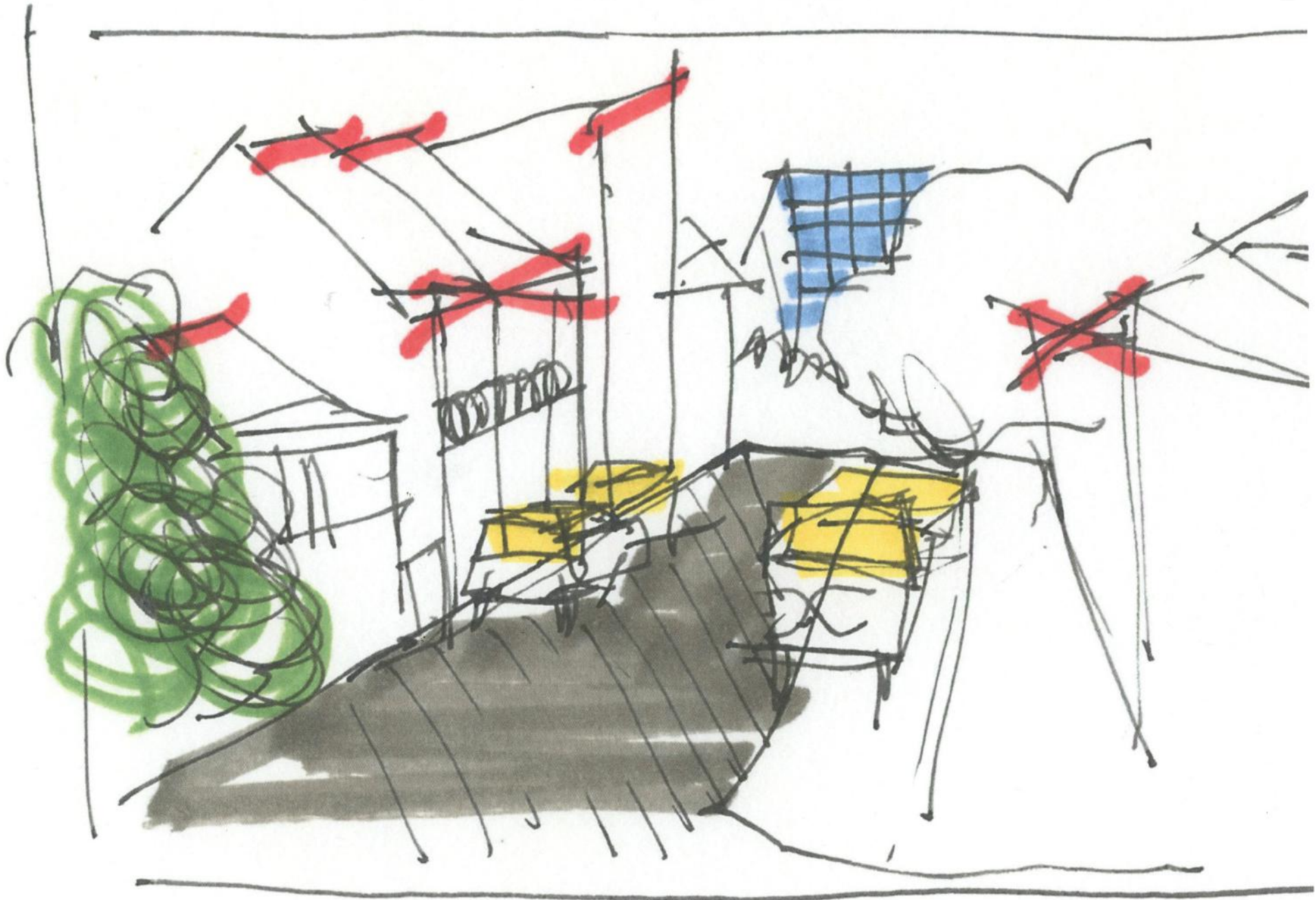
# ABSTRACTING SHAPES

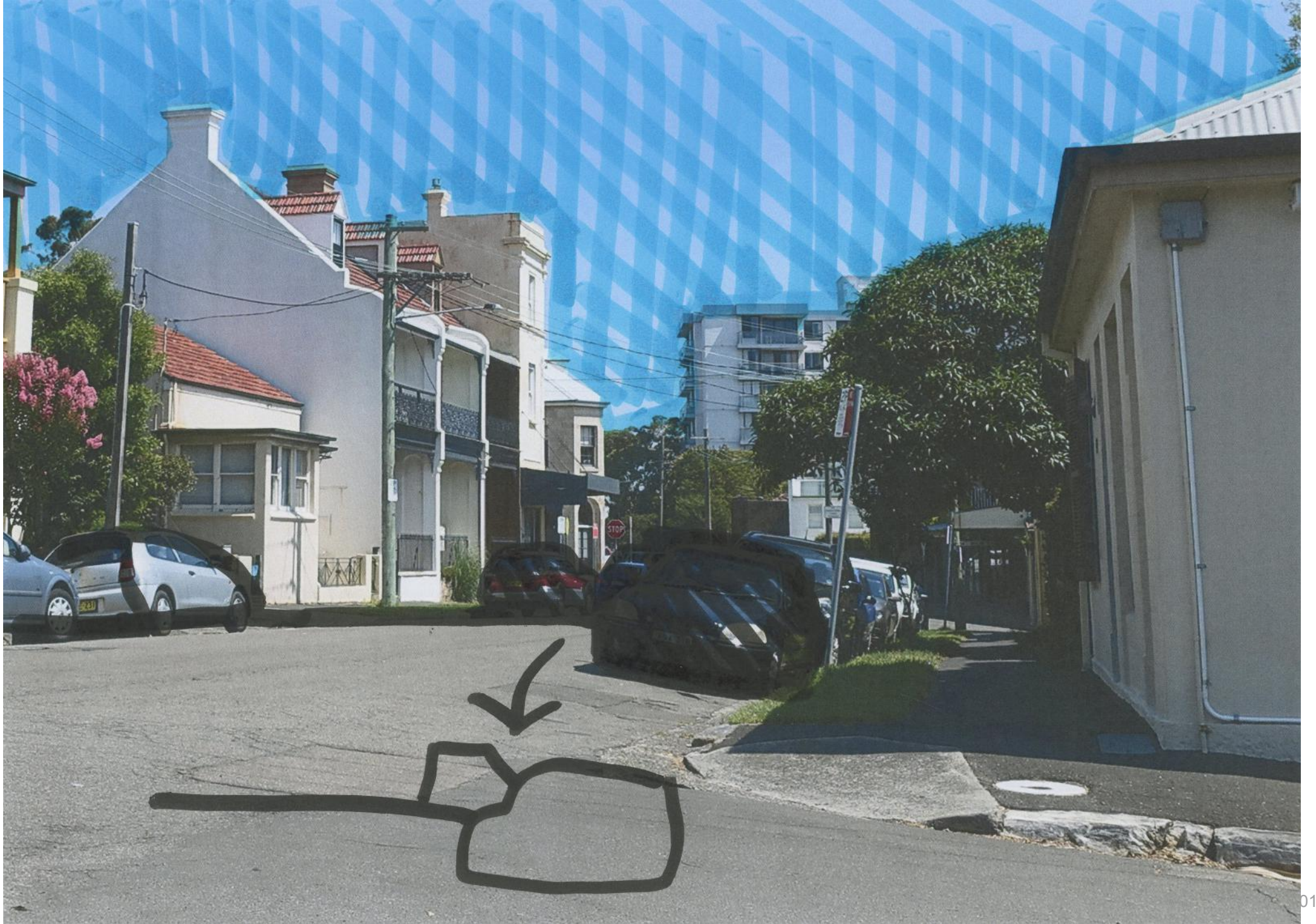


What object  
brain sees

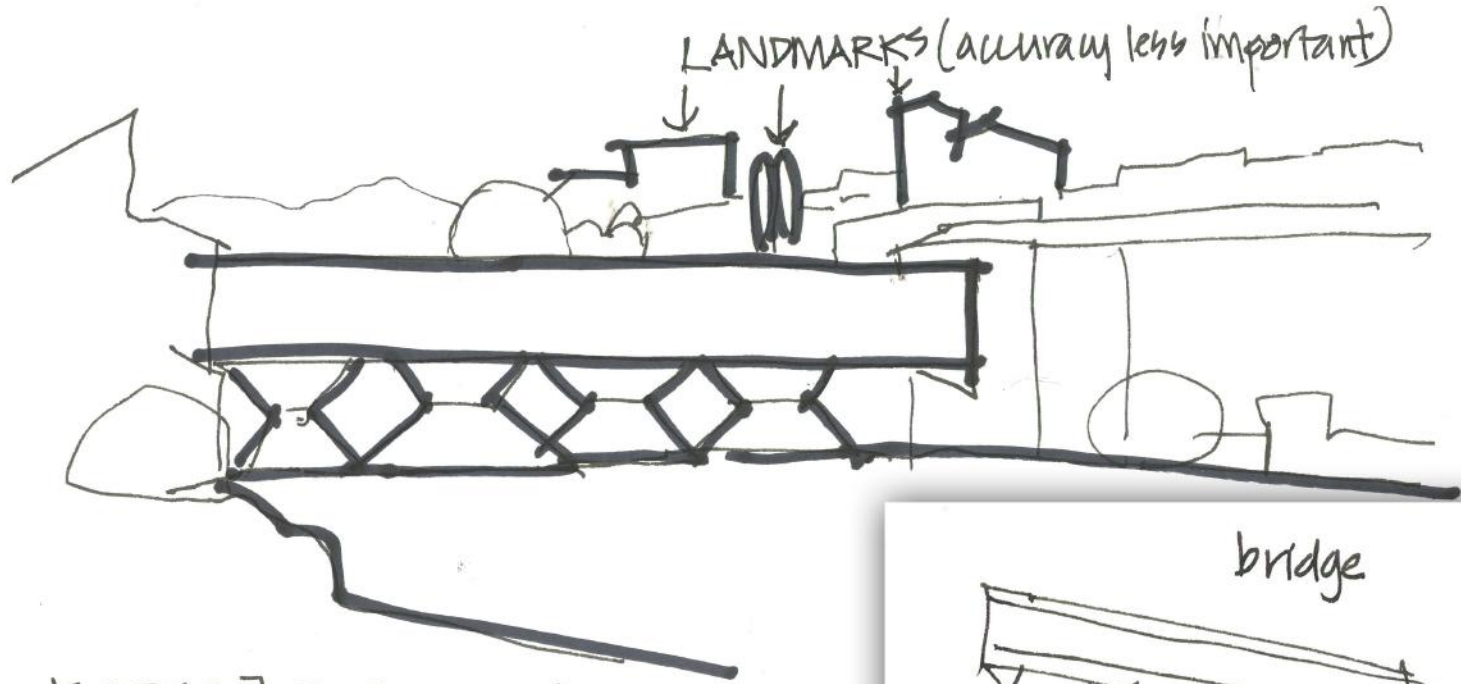


**CONTEXT**

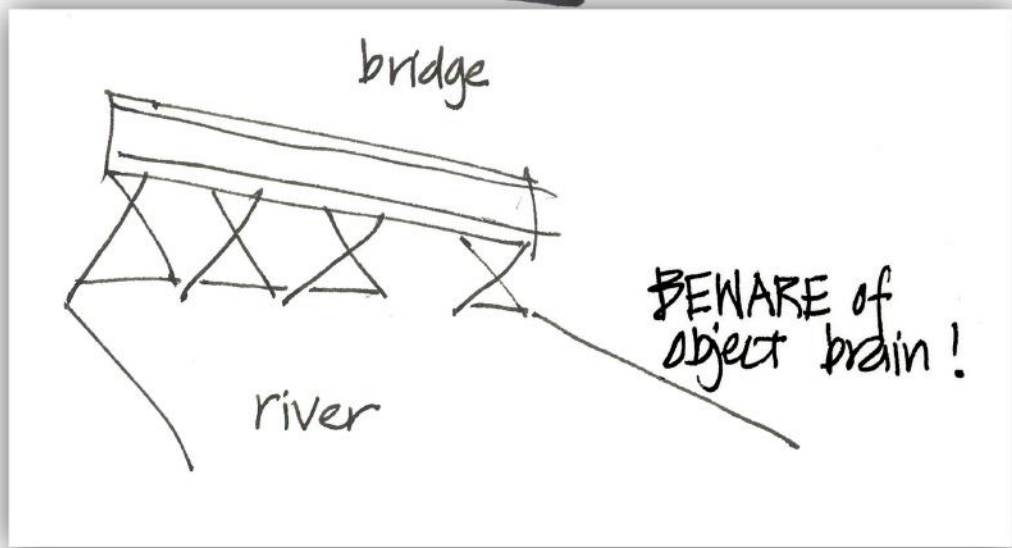


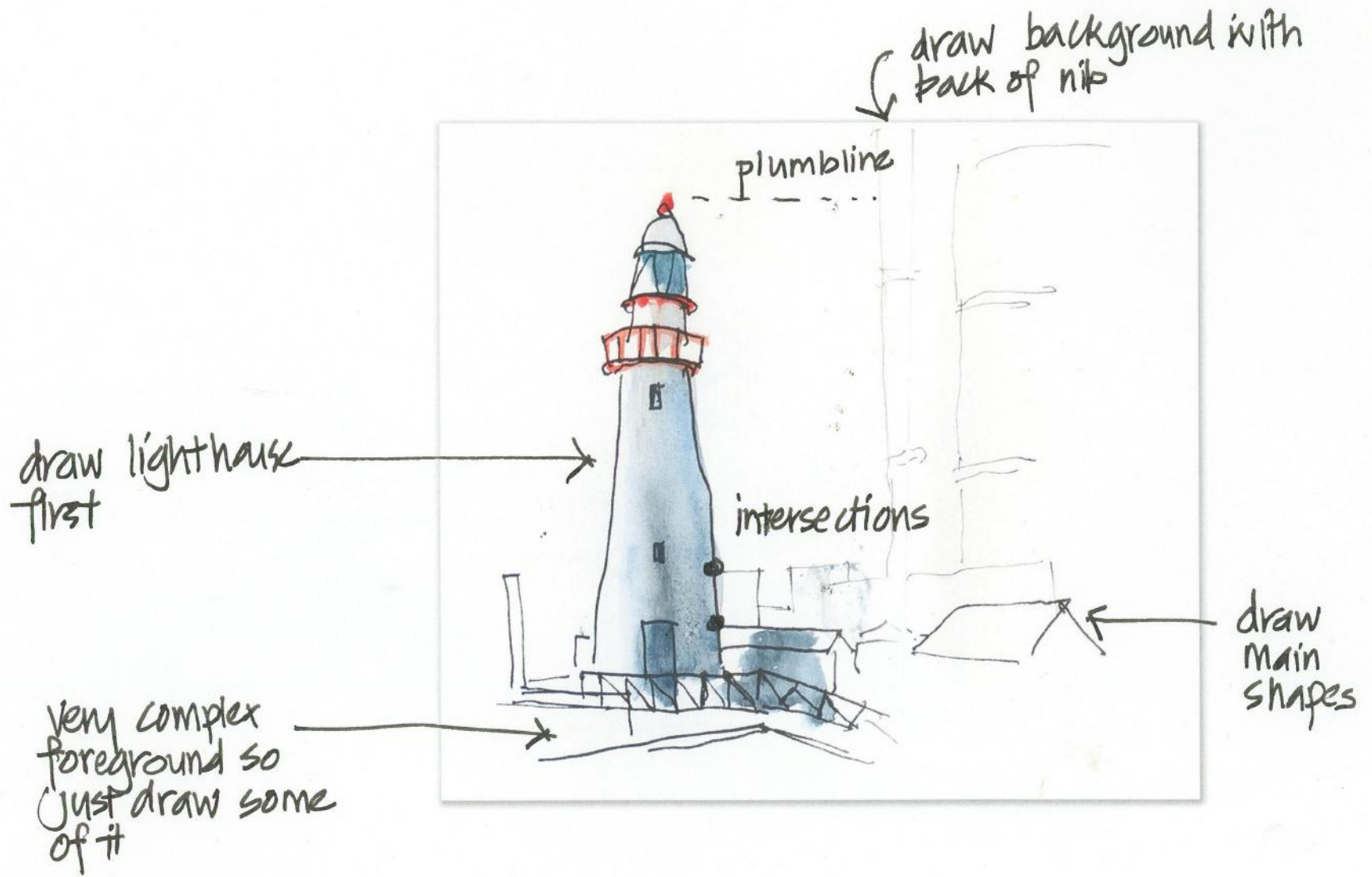






BRIDGE + RIVER ] the important edges





## URBAN SKETCH 1: SIMPLE

Trans P. Orange  
(plus bit Quin Rose?)

Cobalt Teal

Water first  
then  
Cerulean Blue  
Chrom

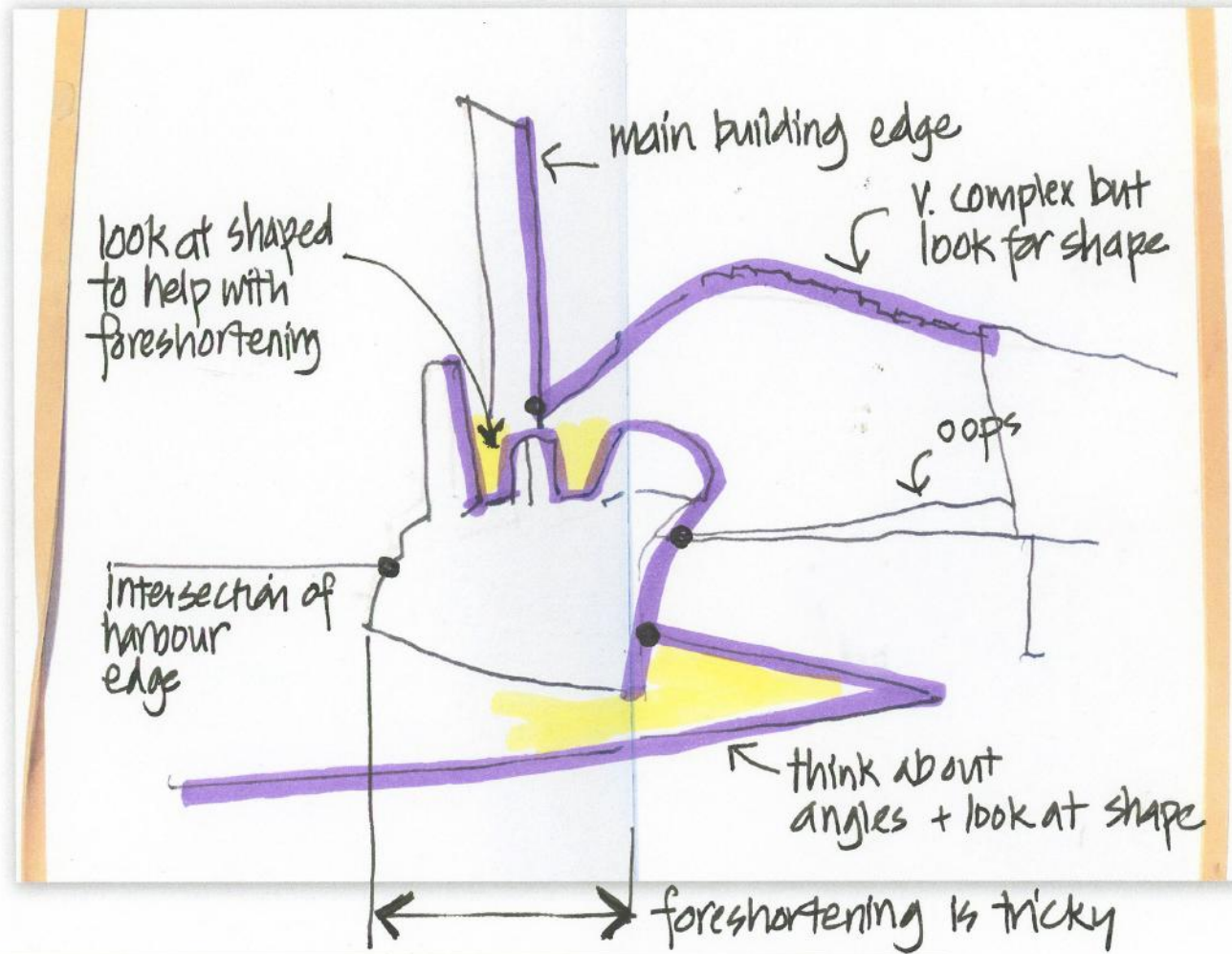
Add tall ships  
last?!?!

grey  
Trans. Red Oxide  
+ Ultramarine  
Blue.

think I  
should continue this

Black (hatching)  
Indanthrene Blue +  
VD Brown

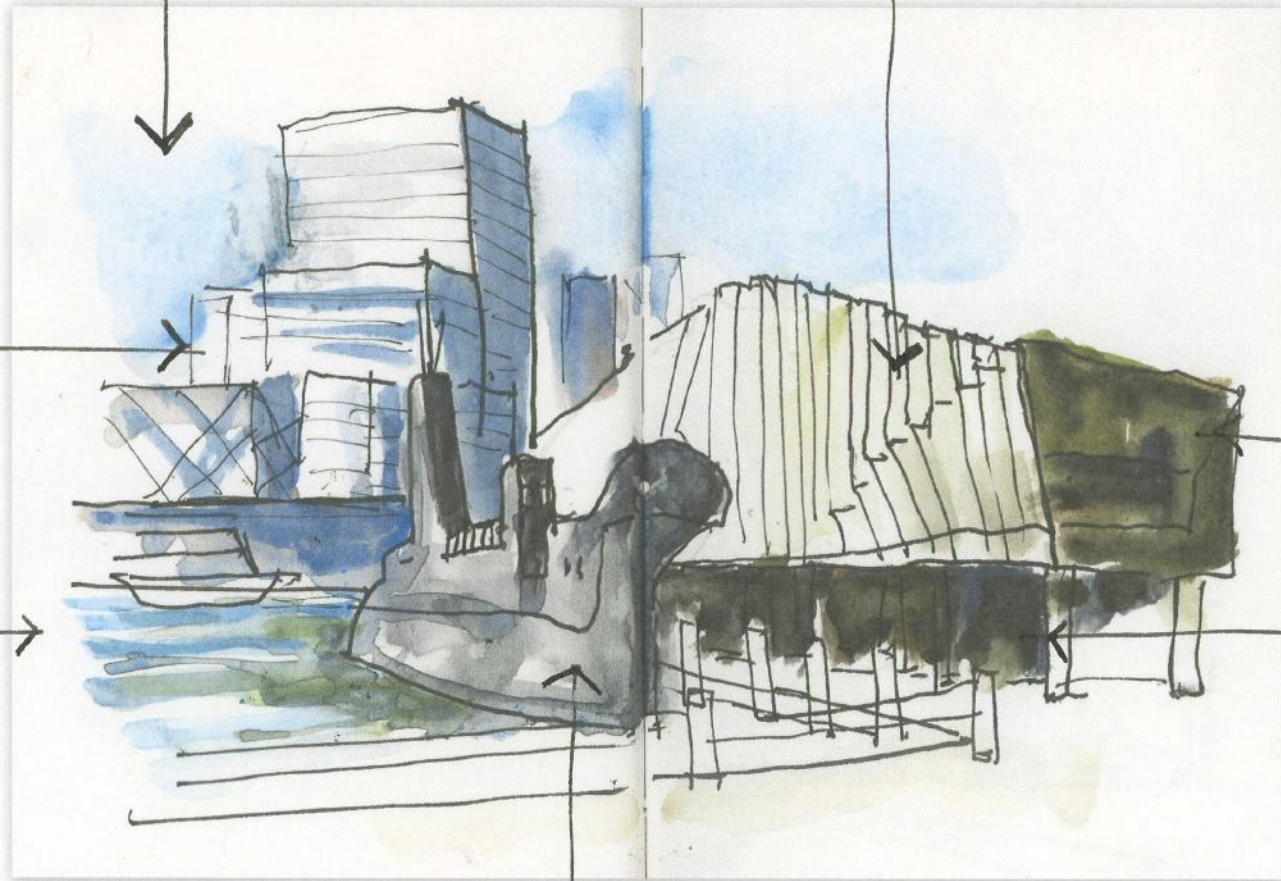




## URBAN SKETCH 2: COMPLEX

SKY. Water first then  
Cerulean

keep this side light!!



Buildings:  
Ultramarine  
plus T. Red Oxide  
to neutralise  
(make blue grey)

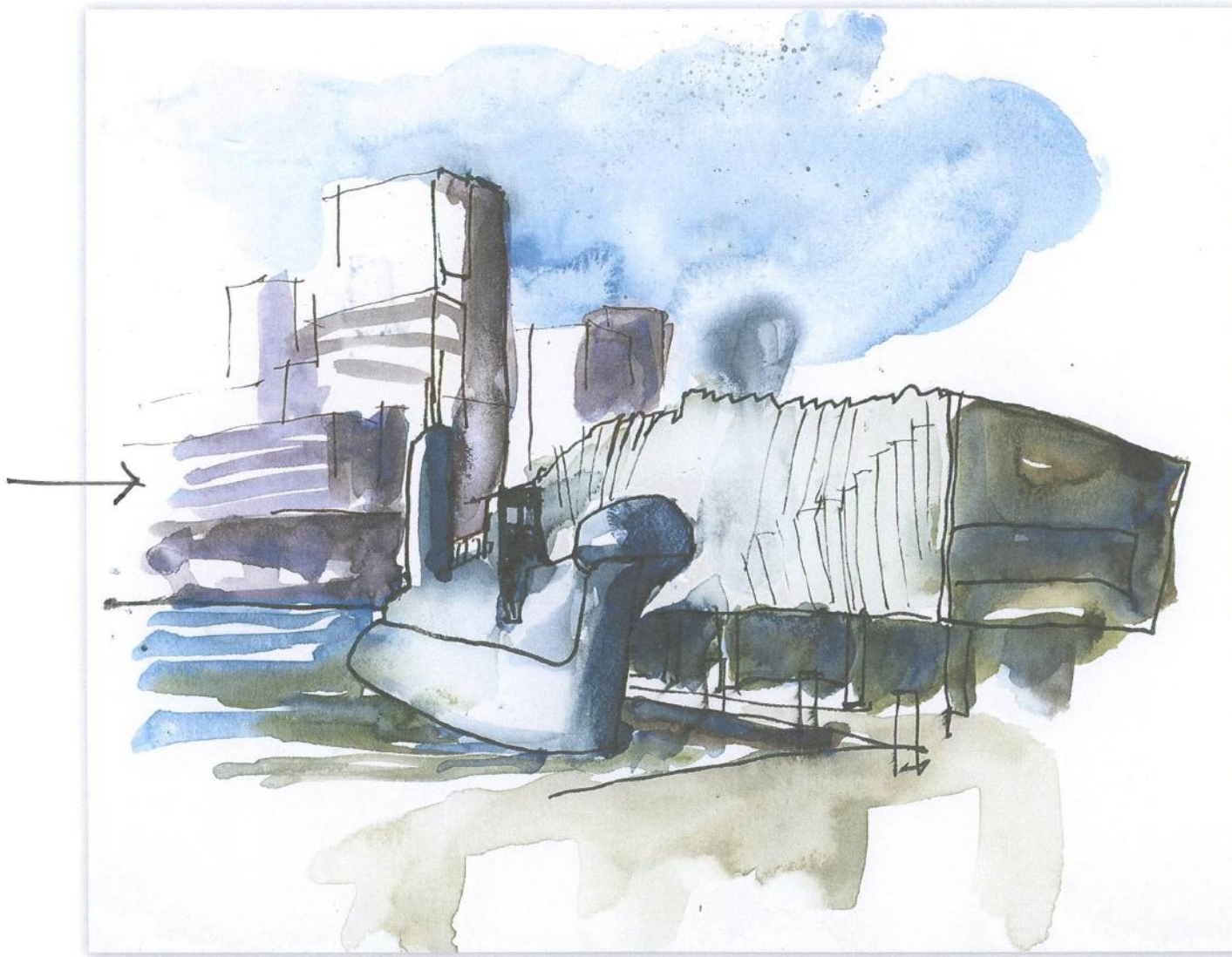
Cerulean  
Cobalt Teal  
Sap green  
Ultramarine

Sap green  
+  
V.D. Brown

+ Indanthrene  
Blue

Black: Indanthrene Blue  
V.P. Brown  
+ Water! to lighten it

Made  
distant  
buildings  
purple!



ANOTHER VERSION