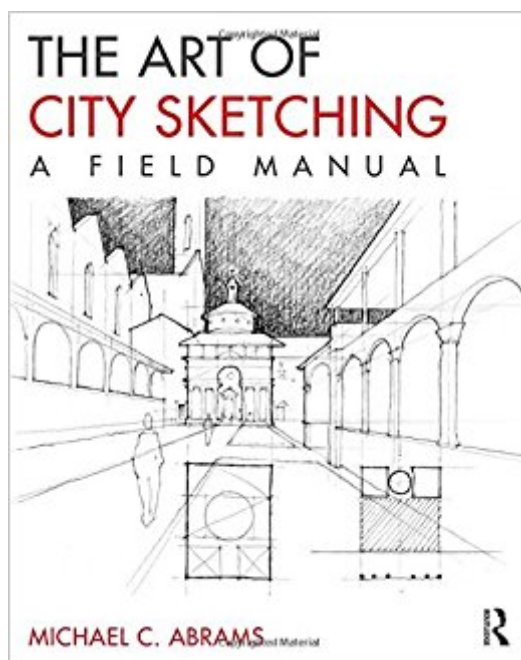


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# The Art Of City Sketching: A Field Manual



## Synopsis

The Art of City Sketching: A Field Manual guides you through the laborious and sometimes complex process of sketching what you see in the built environment so that you can learn to draw what you imagine. Illustrated with hundreds of drawings by students and professionals of cityscapes around Europe and the United States, the book helps you develop your conceptual drawing skills so that you can communicate graphically to represent the built environment. Short exercises, projects, drawing tips, step-by-step demonstrations, and composition do's and don'ts make it easy for you to get out into the city and experiment in your own work. Author Michael Abrams uses his experience as a field sketching instructor, to show you that by drawing, you can discover, analyze, and comprehend the built environment.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Trusting the power of passion, Michael Abrams offers each of his readers an indispensable urban companion." J. Chaffers, Professor Emeritus of Architecture, University of Michigan ["Michael Abrams"](#) provides a clear and creative methodology to guide students in sketching cityscapes, and the beautifully drawn examples provide extra inspiration." Stephanie Travis, Director and Associate Professor, The George Washington University ["An inspiring manual for students and professionals to capture and draw architecture in a fresh, yet systematic way"](#) Sophia Grudzys, Senior Lecturer, University of Southern California ["The book provides easy to follow guidelines and principles to make drawing a useful tool for research and analysis of buildings and places."](#) Edwin R. Quiles-Rodriguez, ["Founder, Community Design Workshop, University of](#)

Puerto Rico "Michael Abrams encourages us to slow down, use our eyes, hands, as well as our mind to step outside of ourselves so we can better understand the many diverse strategies that have historically defined and constructed our surroundings." Stanley Ira Hallet, Former Dean, The Catholic University of America "This welcome field manual takes classes or individual students away from the computer, into the streets, pencil in hand. Summing Up: Recommended." -M. Nilsen, Indiana University South Bend, CHOICE Reviews, February 2015

Michael C. Abrams coordinates the architectural sketching courses in the Interior Architecture Program at the George Washington University in Washington, DC.

The Art of City Sketching: A Field Manual by Michael Abrams will change the way you think about sketching. The Art of City Sketching will provide you with challenging exercises that teach you the basics of line drawing techniques to advanced perspective projections and analyticals. I recommend buying this manual for drawing and spending 15 minutes a day challenging yourself to drawing the world around you. In no time, sketching will become a form of meditation, relaxation and expressionism. The amazing example drawings in The Art of City Sketching provide inspiration for all levels of users. Whether you feel overwhelmed and don't know where to start or you're a seasoned sketcher, just by flipping through the imagery of this book is encouragement enough to pick up your sketchbook and start drawing today. Great book, I always have it at my desk!

Michael Abrams lays out great lessons, tons of examples, and an innovative, appealing approach to sketching that forces the observer/ sketcher to literally draw connections between what they see in front of them and the underlying relationships, ratios and geometries that create urban spaces and architecture. I would highly recommend this book to anyone interested in developing better sketching techniques, understanding architecture and urban spaces, or a student looking to master their ability to think about architecture and spaces. "The Art of City Sketching" is a must buy for architecture students!

I just received my copy of The Art of City Sketching! In a field that's dominated by computer rendering programs, this book is the cure from the monotony of CAD programs. When I was in school I had a few teachers who took the time to show me how to draw. Think of this book as your own personal teacher. Michael Abrams walks you through all the architectural drawing essentials from tone to perspective, 2D to 3D, elevations to sections and the list goes on! I have drawn for

years and I think this book is a great reminder for me to continually hone in my craft and continually learn new techniques. Whether you are a teacher who doesn't have time to teach all these techniques, or you are a parent with a student who just started architecture, urban planning, or interior design school, this book will become a classic book for them to look to when they need direction.

This manual and its author are both incredibly helpful. As a completely novice, I enjoyed the logical, straightforward approach to the material. I am happy to say after a few months of using this book, I have significantly developed my architectural sketching skills. Having personally worked with Michael Abrams, I enjoyed his clarity, amazing skill set, and true passion for the field. These are all reflected in his manual as well, which I would highly recommend to anyone interested in architecture.

I would highly recommend "The Art of City Sketching". I personally know Michael Abrams and he is beyond talented and educated in this field. He has traveled the world refining his skills, and this book is a great demonstration of his talents. Through his sketching methods I have drastically refined my skills. I recommend this book for refining sketching skills and educational purposes.

The Art of City Sketching is the perfect example of an easy to follow, inspirational and encouraging teaching tool! It successfully captures the diversity in drawing techniques and celebrates how different interpretations of the same architecture/space are equally valid - a fresh perspective from most drawing books. Michael Abrams incorporates his own work along with student work to emphasize this point which is reassuring to anybody picking up their "drawing" pencil for the first time or someone who is looking to enhance their skills. His lessons are simple, yet provide valuable building blocks to drawing composition and execution - my work has drastically improved through his guidance! I highly recommend this book to people of all ages who are interested in drawing (especially those in architecture).

Michael Abrams' book regarding field sketching is a great tool for all architecture students at all levels to have. What stands out is that Michael actually uses real sketches from his students that he taught the same developmental process as in the book. As a fellow student of Professor Abrams, this book has helped in improve my love for field sketching and my sense of space, proportion and geometry. I highly recommend this book.

This is really a great book because the steps are easily laid out in drawings throughout the book. The styles of drawing that Mr. Abrams shows are very relevant to sketching for leisure, artwork or for professionals making portfolios. I followed along the steps in the book and practiced frequently and saw a huge improvement in my ability to draw architectural drawings within a few months! You should definitely purchase this book! View pictures that I personally drew below from using this book and you'll see a glimpse of what's possible...good luck! (The larger structure drawn is the National Building Museum, Washington D.C.)

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