

Drawing Rooms

By the Learning team at RIBA

Key information and aims

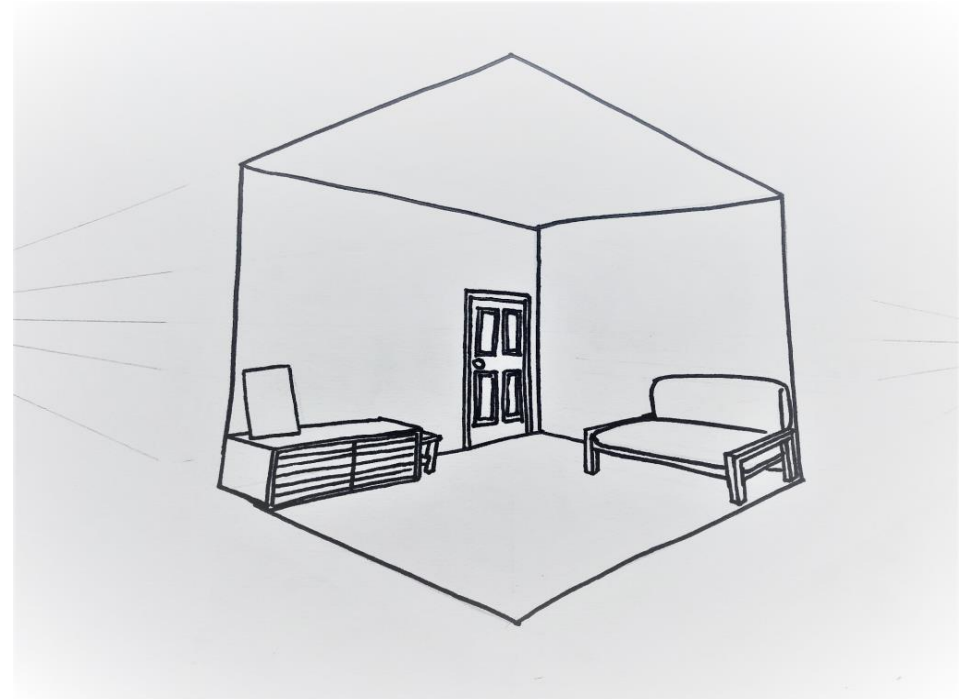
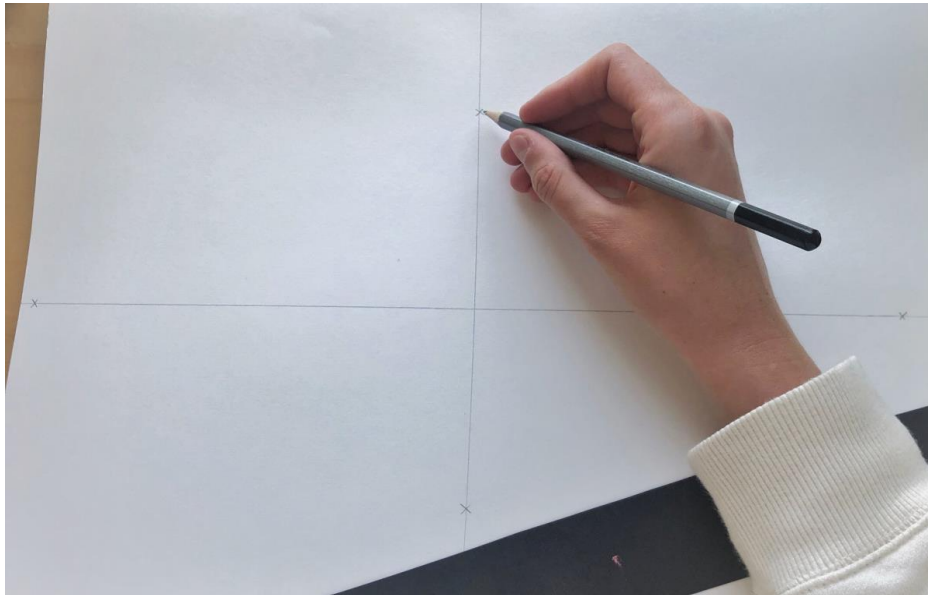
<p>Keywords – make sure you know what these words mean.</p>	<p>Horizontal – a flat line from left to right (along the horizon) Vertical – a line at right angles to a horizontal line, going up and down Intersect – where lines cross over Perspective – a 2D drawing or image that shows something that is 3D Vanishing point – the point where lines in perspective disappear into the distance Subject – something (a space, object or collection of objects) you are drawing Interior – an inside space, for example: a room</p>
<p>Materials – what you will need to do this project.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pencil• Paper• Ruler/straight edge• Rubber <p>Optional – pen, colouring pencils, paints, collage materials, etc.</p>
<p>Skills - what you should know how to do by the end of the project. Can you show someone else how to?</p>	<p>I can use 2 point perspective drawing to create a drawing of a room from the inside. I can employ different experimental techniques to create different styles of drawing. I can draw from life.</p>
<p>Knowledge – what you should know by the end of the project. Can you tell someone else about it?</p>	<p>I know that different experimental techniques can create different styles or moods of drawing.</p>

Drawing Rooms: the bigger picture

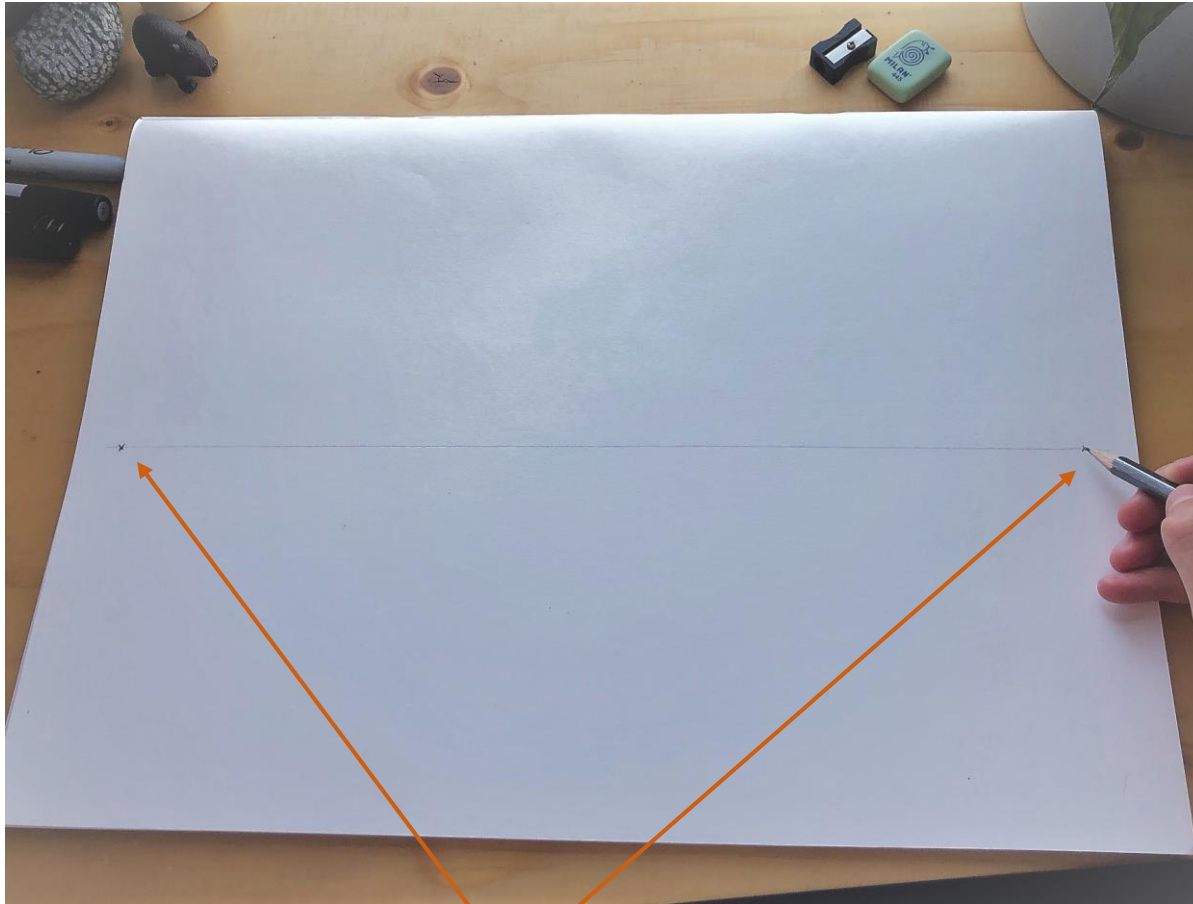
In this project, you will explore some different techniques for drawing spaces in your home and the objects within those spaces.

First, we will look at a simple technique for drawing an interior space using 2 point perspective drawing. This will show you how to draw a 3D space in a 2D drawing.

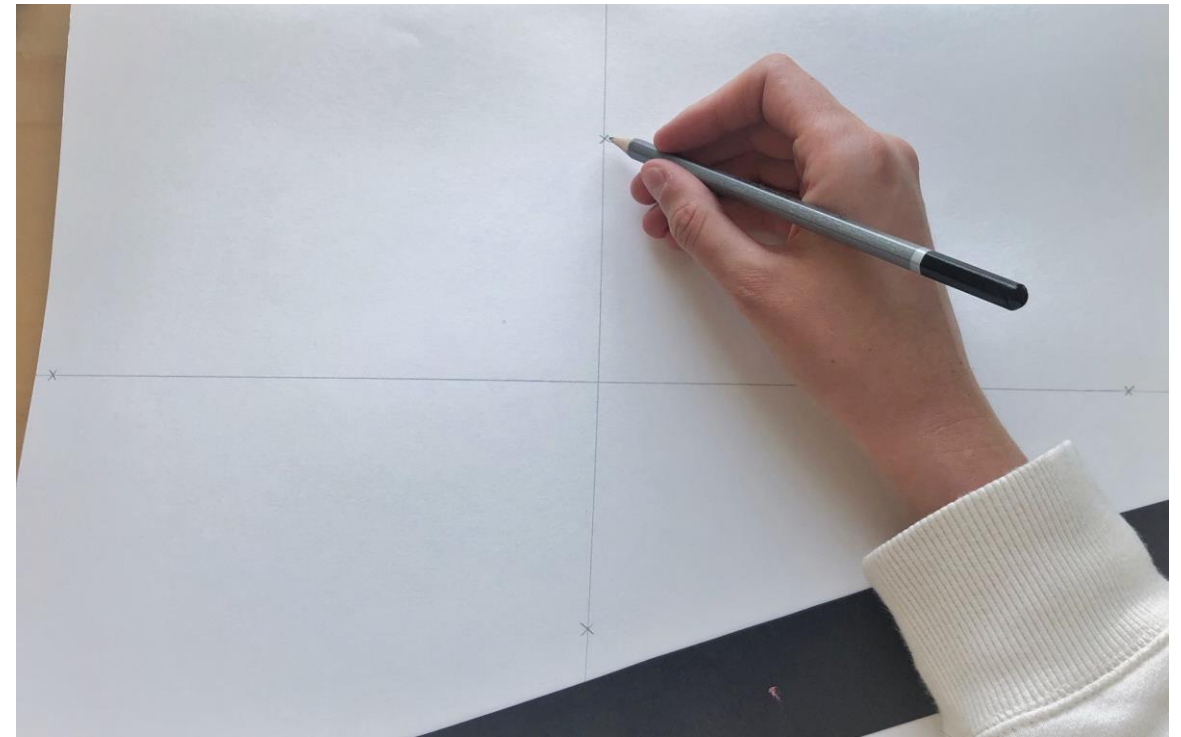
You will need a pencil, a piece of paper, a ruler (or something with a straight edge) and a rubber.



Begin by drawing a **horizontal** line on your piece of paper.



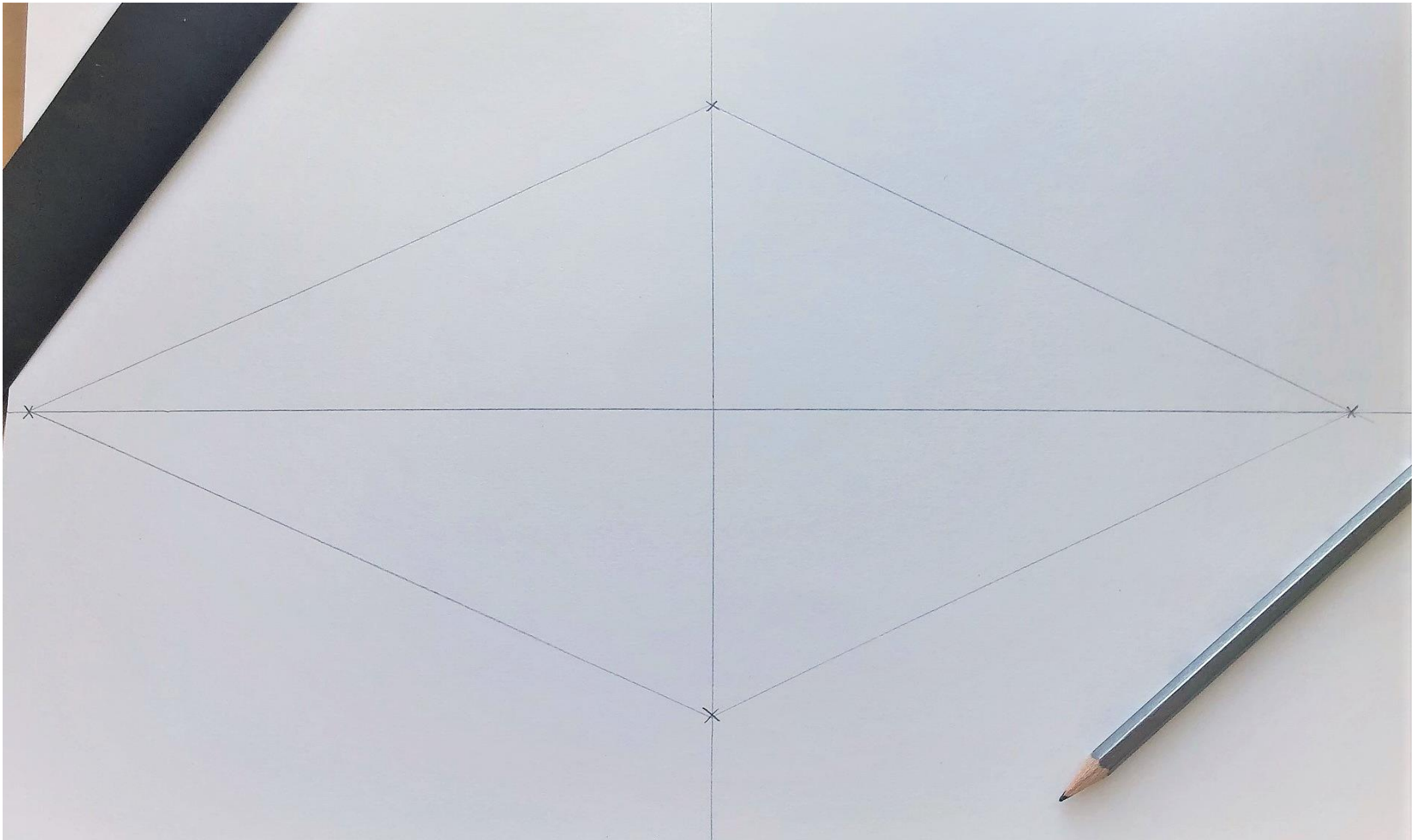
Then add a small cross at each end of the horizontal line. These are your **vanishing points**.

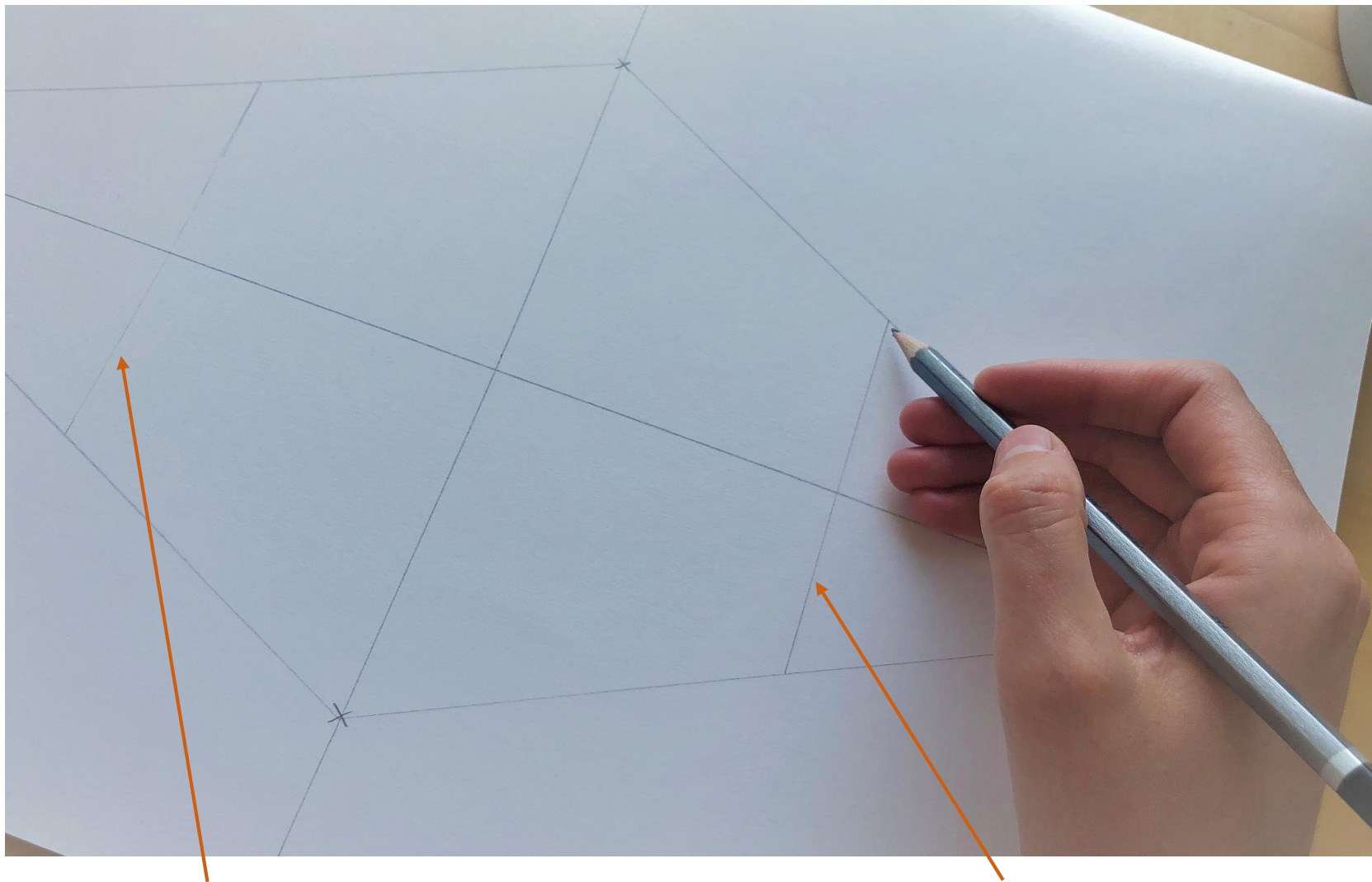


Intersect the horizontal line with a **vertical** line. Your lines should look like a large plus sign filling up your page.

Add a cross at the top and bottom of your vertical line.

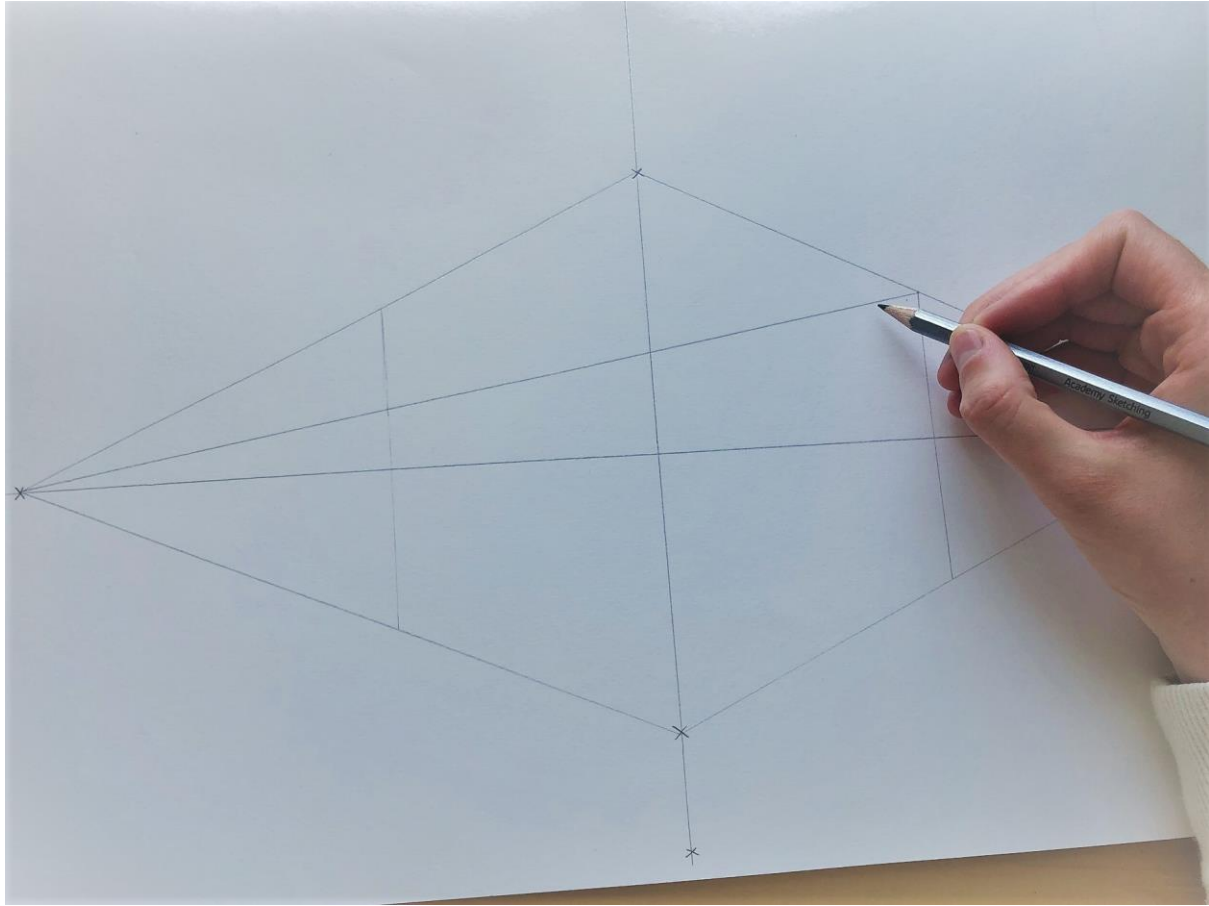
Join up the small crosses on your vertical and horizontal lines to make a large diamond shape on your page.





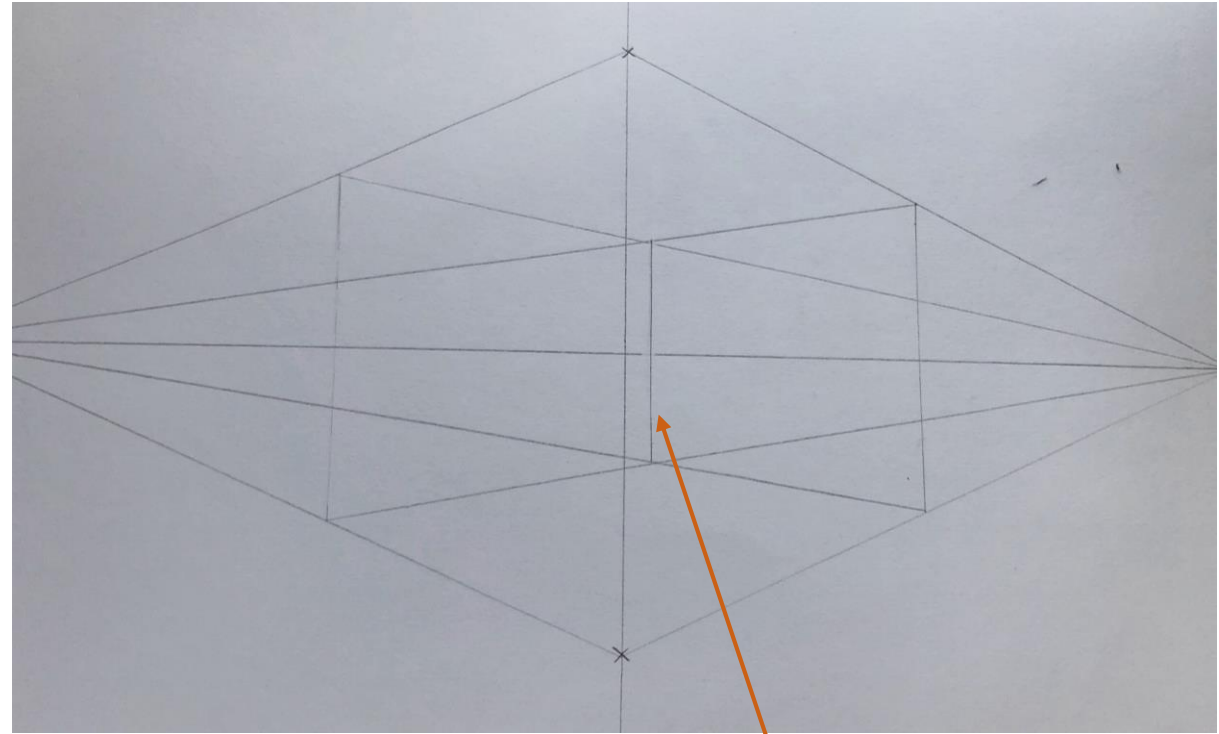
Draw **two vertical lines**, one that cuts through the left side of the diamond and one that cuts through the right side of the diamond. These will be the edges of your room.

If your room is wide, make these lines further apart. If the room is narrow, draw them closer together. The room in the example is medium sized.

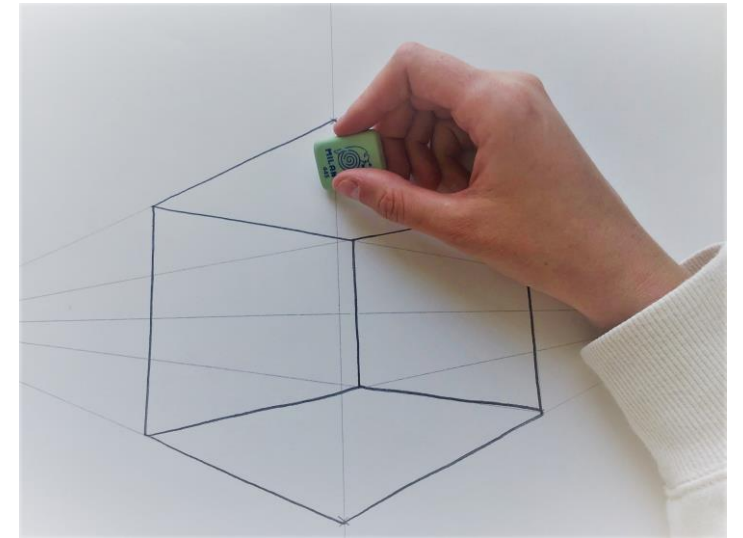
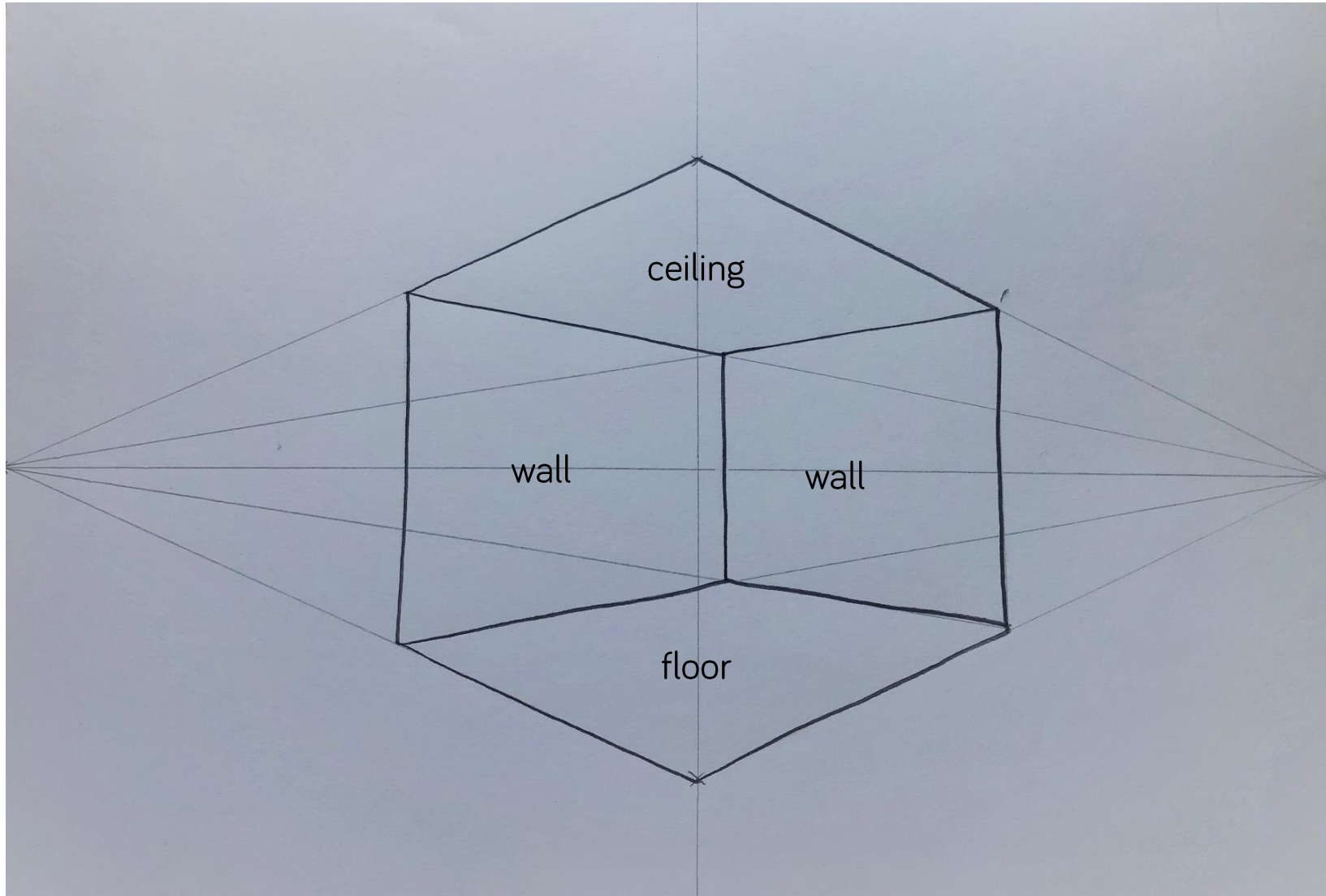


Join up the top and bottom of these vertical lines (the edges of your room) with the **vanishing point** on the opposite side of the page.

These lines should make two thin triangles pointing in opposite directions.

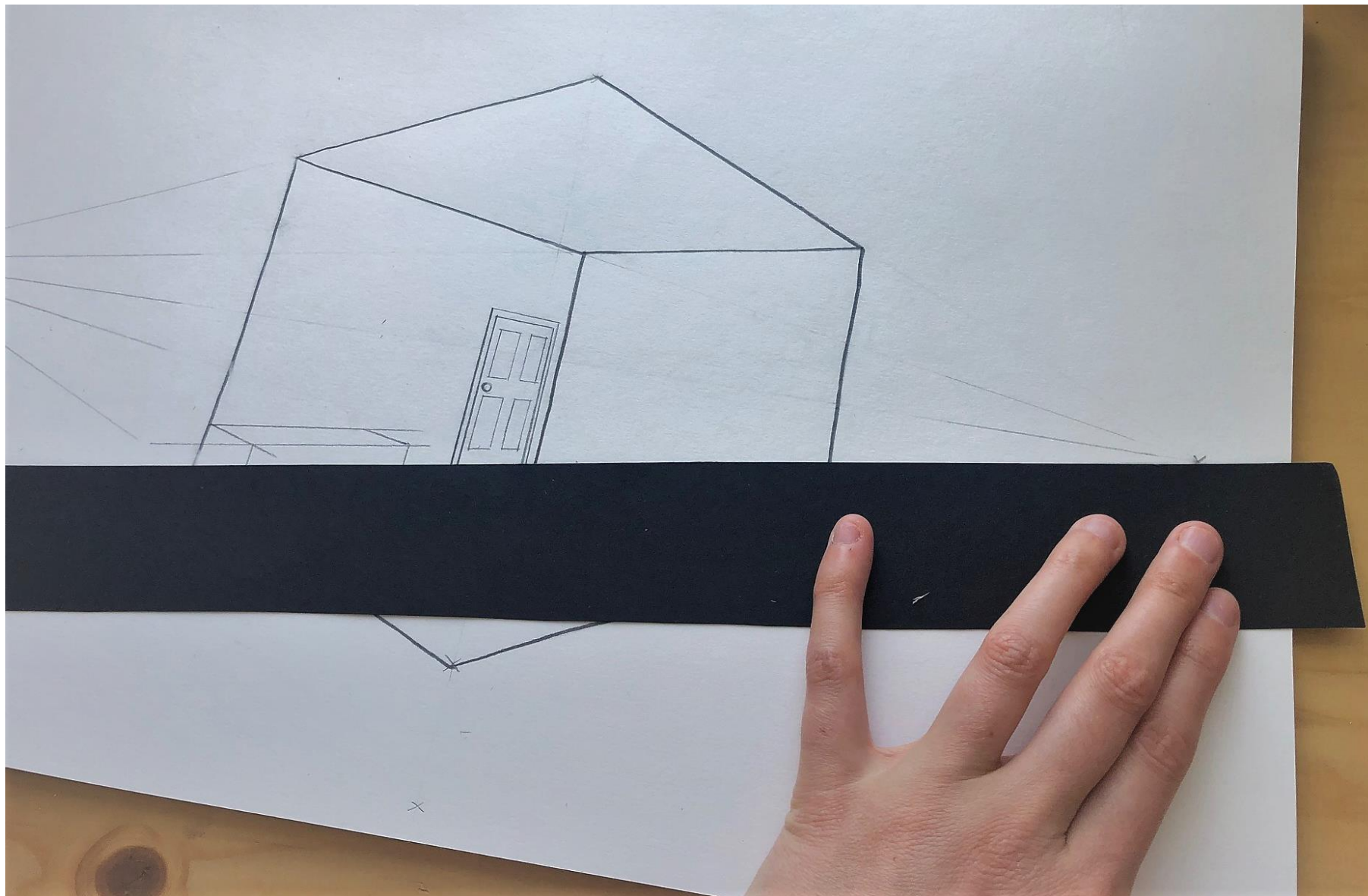


Where these triangles overlap, draw a **vertical line**. This is the furthest corner of your room.



You should now have the walls, ceiling and floor of your room on the page.

Erase the other lines that you don't need to make the drawing clearer. Don't erase the vanishing points as you will need these to add details to your drawing.

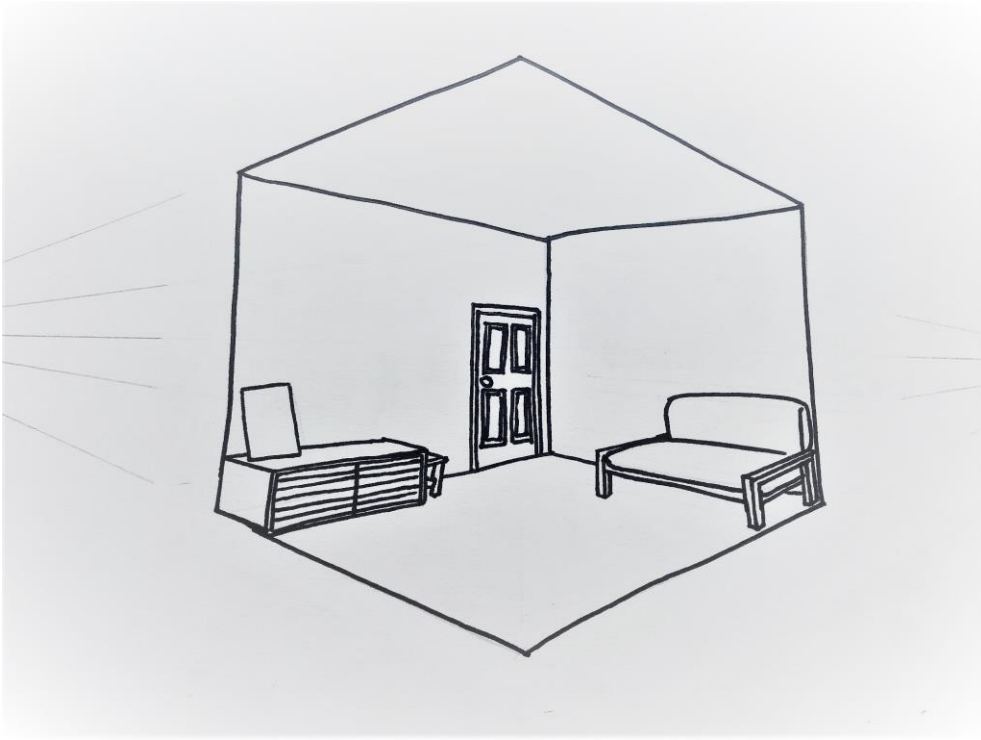


You can now begin adding the features of your room.

Decide whether you are going to show what the space looks like now, or develop a new design for your space.

Think about doors, windows, furniture and any objects in the room. Look carefully at where these objects are, their shapes and textures.

Line up any objects you draw with the vanishing points to make sure that they are in perspective as well.



Once you are happy with the details in your drawing, think about how you are going to add personality to the space. To make your image really stand out, draw over the final lines with a pen. Then you can erase any pencil guidelines.

You could use colouring pencil or paint to colour your image or add furniture and pattern to the design with collage. You could take a photo/scan of your drawing and edit it using computer software like Photoshop, or on a tablet/phone using Brushes Redux or Sketches Pro.



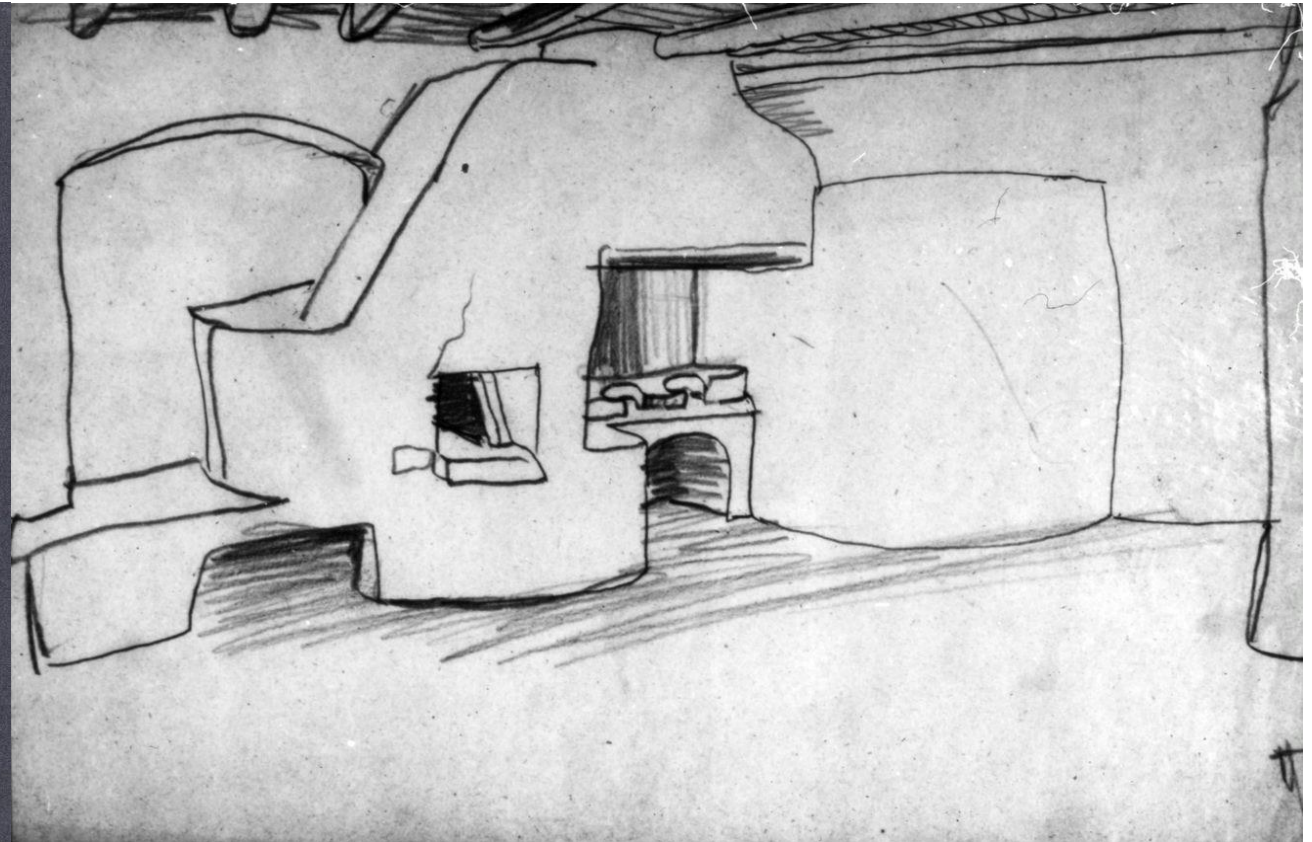
Now you can use 2 point perspective to draw a room, try using the method to draw using different materials or different styles. These two images from the RIBA collections show completely different styles of perspective drawing.

What materials have the artists/architects used to draw?

Does their style of drawing tell you something about the room they are in?



St Mary's College Cheltenham, The Library. RIBA Collections.

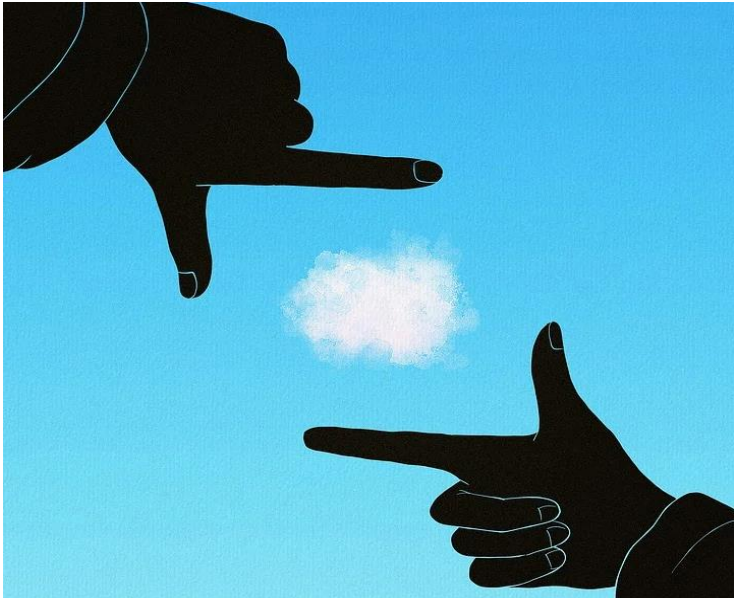


Drawing of a kitchen with a wood oven, Aeolian Islands, Sicily. RIBA Collections.

Drawing Rooms: focus on the details

Now you have looked at the bigger picture, it's time to focus on some of the interesting details in your home.

Choose a place in your house with an interesting collection of items or furniture. Use your hands to frame what you are going to draw. This will help you find the edges of your drawing.



Top tip: Make sure you look at what you are drawing! Challenge yourself to look up from your piece of paper almost every second.



Drawing by Elizabeth Adams, RIBA Learning.

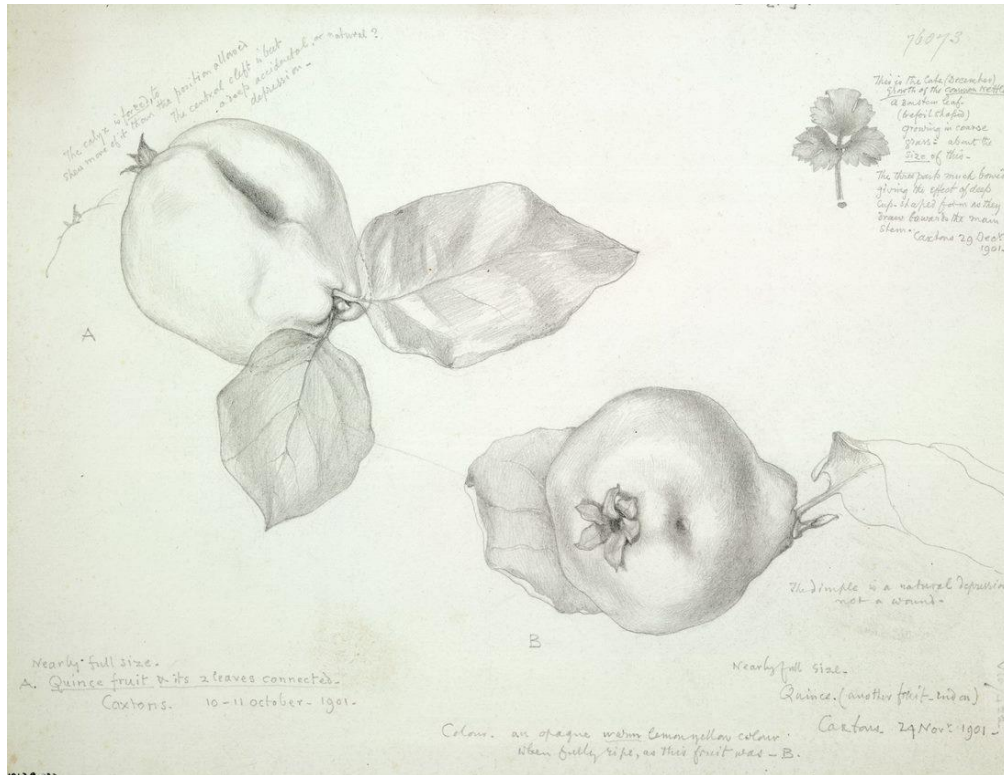


Using your pencil lines as a guide, finalise your drawing using a pen. This is where you can add or remove details.

When you have completed your pen outline, you can erase the pencil guide lines and colour in your drawing.

Architects and artists use some of the techniques explored in this project to capture places and spaces and the objects in them. These three plant studies from the Royal Institute of British Architects' collection show how different techniques of drawing can create different effects.

What materials have the architects/artists used to draw these objects? How does each drawing show that the objects are 3D? Which style do you prefer?



Plant studies: Quince fruits with leaves, nettle leaf. RIBA Collections.



Plant study. RIBA Collections.



Study of Aechnea Trifasciata. RIBA Collections.

Drawing Rooms: experimental drawing

Use some of these experimental drawing techniques to draw your chosen part of the room or the objects in it.

Continuous line

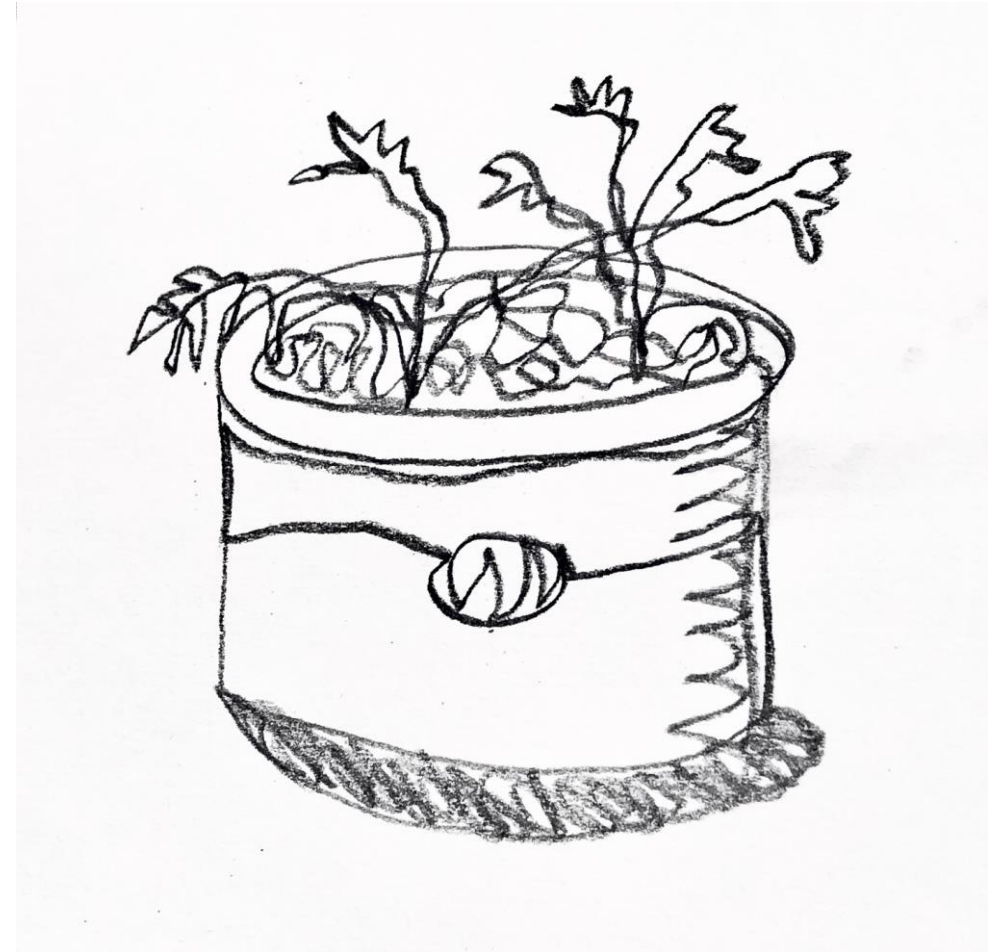
Draw your subject in one continuous, unbroken line. Keep your pencil on the paper until you have captured your subject. You may have to draw lines that you can't see in your subject to get from one part of your drawing to the next.

Timed drawing

Set a timer and draw your subject in 5 minutes. Then try and draw it in 2 minutes. Then see what you can draw in 1 minute. What details are most important when you have limited time?

Draw the negative space

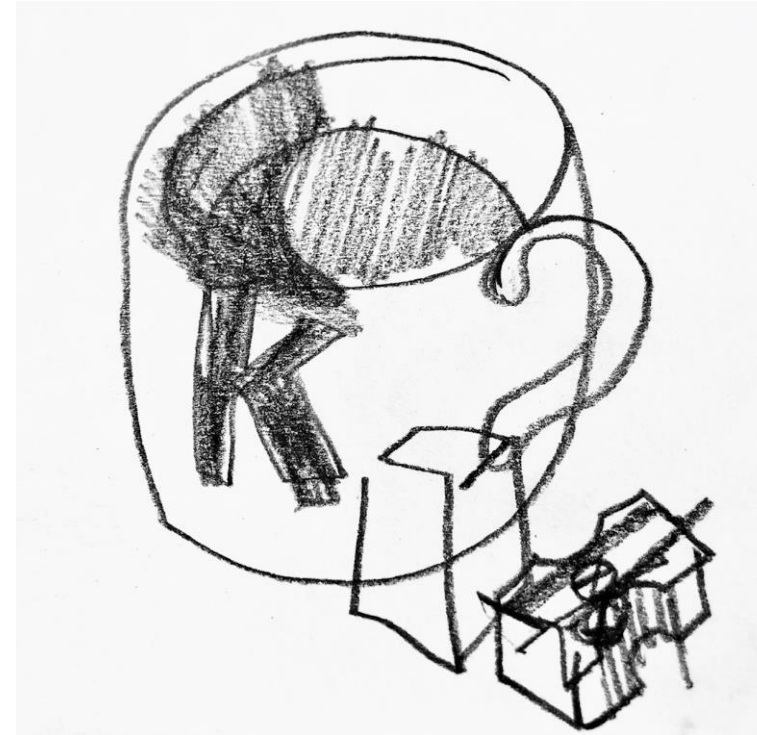
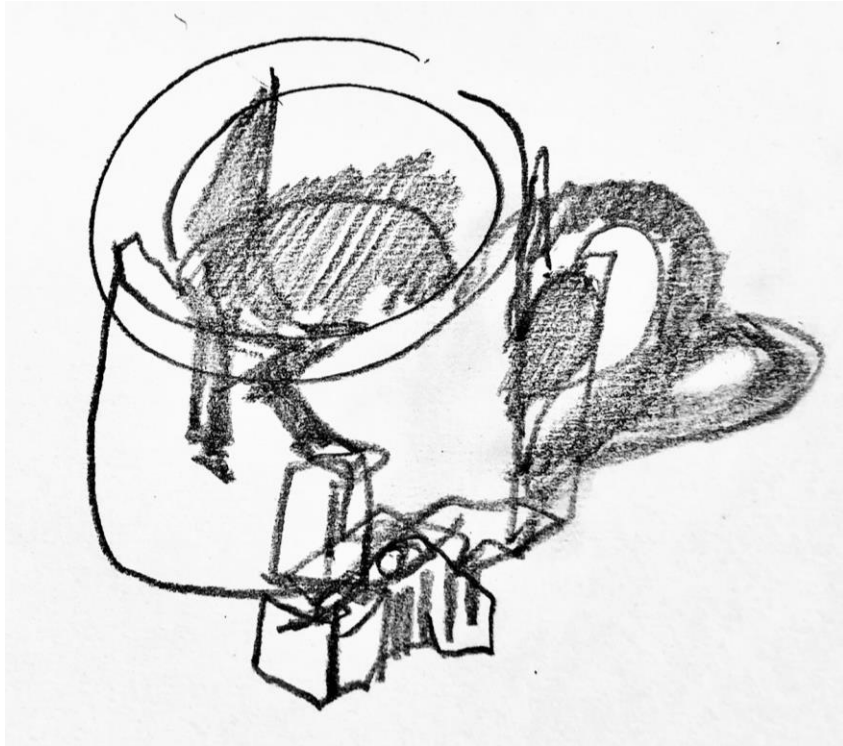
Draw the spaces between objects (this is known as negative space). How does this help you understand the shapes in your chosen subject?



Continuous line drawing. Kate Westbrook, RIBA Learning.

Blind drawing

Draw your subject without looking down at your piece of paper. Make sure you keep looking at your subject and don't look at the page. Try drawing the same thing a few times using the same method. Are your drawings different or the same? What did you find difficult each time? How has this activity helped you free up your way of drawing?

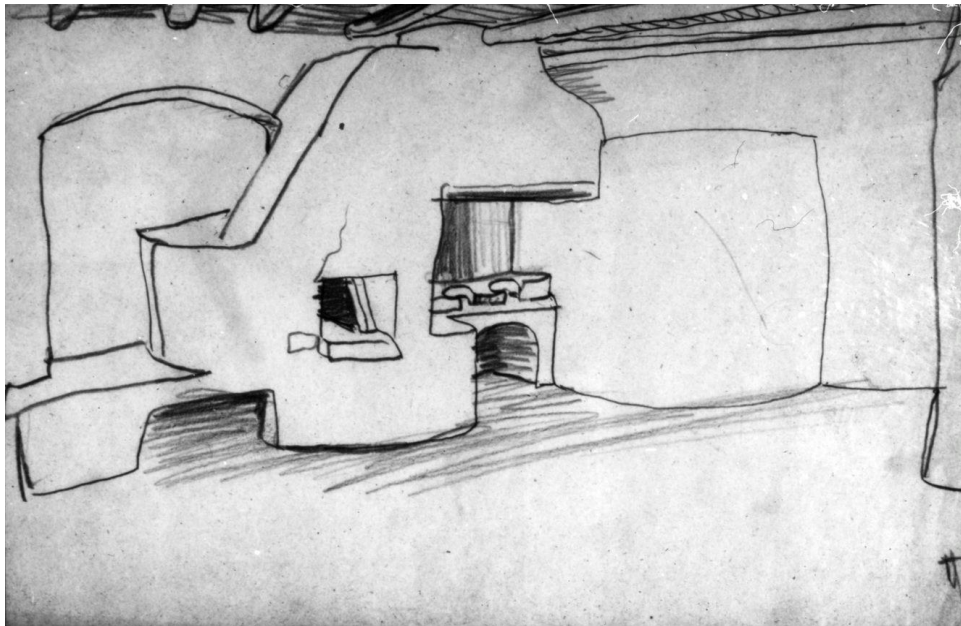


Mini extension activity: Set a timer for 30 minutes and draw your chosen subject using a range of the experimental techniques we have looked at. Each one creates a different effect – which ones will work best for each part of your subject?

Drawing Rooms: further challenges

Other ways you can explore drawing rooms:

- Draw a room, a place or an object from memory
- Reflect on what you've chosen to capture and why. Develop a "tour" of your space, thinking about the stories and the people who have used the space or the objects in it. This could be a factually accurate historical tour or a work of fiction!



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