

Lost and Found Structure

Liz Steel

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In this workshop we will explore two methods for simplifying complex buildings - such as the skyscrapers in Chicago! The first is based on having a volumetric understanding of the buildings - seeing the underlying volumes and the structural grid. The second involves abstracting shapes, looking at values and then blowing out the highlights and merging the shadows. Combining the two approaches results in lively sketches with lots of lost and found edges.

Exploring Structure

- Draw the outlines of a few buildings focusing on the main volumes. Techniques to use: landmarks, intersections, angles, plumb lines, negative shapes, measuring.
- Next look at the pattern of the wall surface - windows and/or structure. Are there any major changes in plane? Is there a dominant direction to the pattern - horizontal or vertical?
- Draw grid lines on your volume sketch that represent this pattern. Note: Be careful of the scale of the windows.
- Add a few lines for the secondary elements.
- Note: Combining the grid lines with a limited amount of secondary elements is the key to fading out the structure.

Exploring Shape

- Redo your volume drawing but in shapes only. Paint the dominant 'local' colour of the buildings. You can either simplify all the subtle variations of grey, beige and blue, or you can 'push' the hues to make them more vibrant and increase the contrast.
- Draw one more version of the volumes (in pen) and this time just paint the dark areas.
- Review the two sketches and look for areas where you could merge shapes. Are they in the same place for both sketches?

Putting It Together

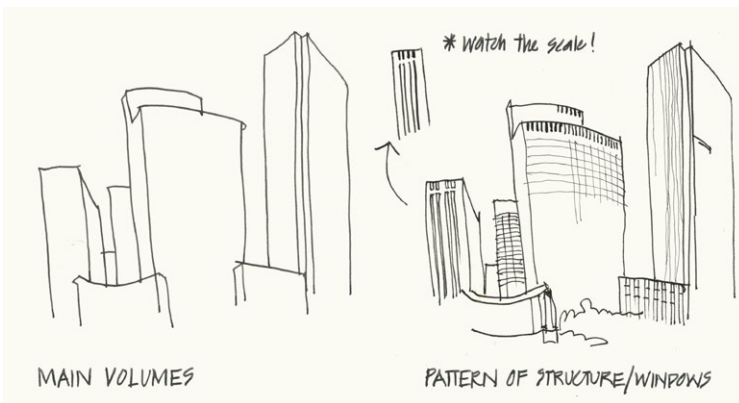
- Start your final sketch by painting some (not all) of the big shapes either using local colour or dark areas.
- After a few shapes, switch to adding structure. Do this either with a pen or continue using paint.
- Wherever possible blow out the highlights, merge together the dark areas and explore ways of fading the detail of the structure/windows.

For more in-depth instruction:

<https://sketchingnow.com/buildings-course/>

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w. lizsteel.com sketchingnow.com e. lizsteel@gmail.com



MAIN VOLUMES

PATTERN OF STRUCTURE/WINDOWS



'PUSH' HUE &/OR CONTRAST



DARKS



PUTTING IT TOGETHER
with lost & found edges.



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