

PERSPECTIVE WITHOUT RULER

In episode 5 of [That's another way of doing it](#) **What do you mean, perspective?** we learned that if you sit right in front of a building, you don't have to take perspective much so seriously.

Or you can throw the rules completely overboard, that's also possible; sketch what you see, without thinking too much.

In this new episode you can see that your own style is sometimes more important than the rules of perspective. Look at the whole, forget the details. Whether your lines are straight or not is of secondary importance.

You'll meet ten urban sketchers who don't need a ruler to sketch their own version of perspective. My advice: sketch what you see in front of you and do it especially in your own style, depending on your mood at that moment. Have faith in yourself.

If you click on [a link underlined in red](#), you will see much more (except here). Let's take a look.

[That's another way of doing it.](#)

ANNE ROSE

KC Lee from Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia) calls himself Sketch Journalist. He is – together with his daughter – the founder of Urban Sketchers Kuala Lumpur. He sees it as a great way to meet locals and see some interesting parts of the city, and above all to introduce the city to the younger generation of sketchers. KC: 'Sketching is a way for me to express myself and document my memories instead of just snapping photos, especially during my travels. I experience a place more fully by capturing its essence through sketches'. In this sketch of *China Town* in Kuala Lumpur, you can see that KC has developed his own style. He sketches by feeling. He knows the rules of perspective, but gives them his own interpretation. No line appears to be straight.

KC has a special story, which he has captured in his sketches. KC was just eight days old when

he was given up by his parents and adopted by another family.

Later, when KC Lee was working in a restaurant, he found out that a colleague of his was his father. He heard that he had been given up because his father had a gambling addiction at the time and had no money to support KC. KC has sketched his story in a huge folding book (lepollelo) that is 88 meters long. It contains sketches of his adoptive and biological parents, relatives, friends and other people who were important in his life, as well as buildings and villages from his childhood. Some of the sketches have been published in a book: *The Faith, The Dream*. Here you see the power of urban sketches.

[Facebook](#)

[Instagram](#)

[YouTube \(about the book\)](#)

'I collect ideas, dreams and experiences'

KC Lee





Luis Ruiz Padrón from Málaga (Spain) is a freelance architect, Professor of Architectural Graphic Expression at the Higher Technical School of Architecture of the University of Málaga and founder of the Urban Sketchers in Málaga. And he is a great sketcher. Luis: 'I belong to a generation that only started working with computers at the end of their studies, so I sketched a lot by hand during my first few years at university. I still enjoy that.'

Luis always goes out with a few blocks of watercolor in a small tin box, a squirrel hair brush and his waterproof pens: 'I can make loose, quick sketches with them, but at the same time suggest details and show something of the sky, color and ambiance.' He prefers to sketch somewhere in the city or harbour, preferably in busy places. If you look closely, you'll see that

Luis doesn't make clean straight lines in this drawing of *Villa Chelo*, in the Bellavista district; this is his signature vibrant line (*linea vibrante*). Ruiz has a light touch, sketching first in pen and ink and then adding a touch of watercolor. He has the gift to suggest enough structure with minimal means and to capture the Mediterranean light (and shadow).

- [Facebook](#)
- [Instagram](#)
- [Flickr](#)
- [Website](#)
- [YouTube](#)
- [YouTube](#)
- [Interview:](#) Luis Ruiz Padrón: *Sketching, Writing, and Teaching Through The Lens of Architecture*

'When I draw, I see the city with new eyes'

Luis Ruiz Padrón

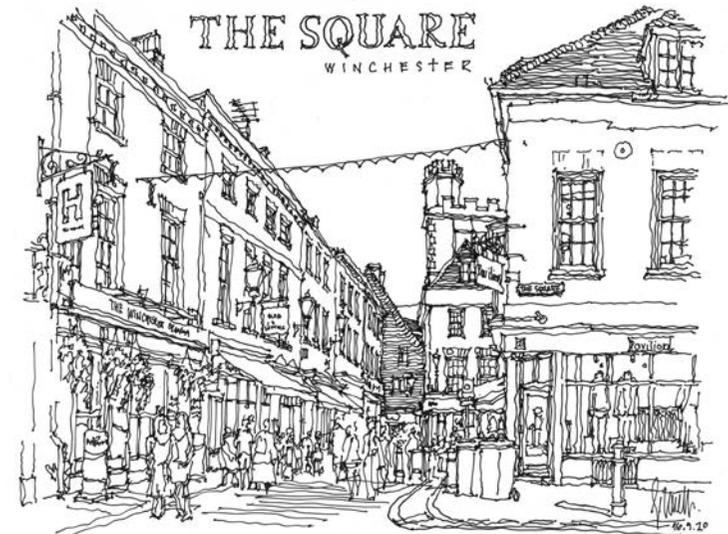
Si Newell, architect and urban sketcher, was introduced to urban sketching for the first time in 2014 when his city of Southampton (UK) celebrated its 50th anniversary and the city council was looking for residents 'to do something unique to celebrate the anniversary and to make the city a better place'. Si and six or seven other sketchers embarked on a one-year project to sketch their city. A few years later, that group of sketchers is now a USk regional chapter with six administrators and membership in the hundreds. Si is a passionate sketcher, which is why he has now set up a design and illustration consultancy working for real estate develop-

pers and design practices. His favorite pen is a 0.3 pigment liner, of which he has hundreds scattered around his home. It looks like Si has a confident sketching hand, but if you look closely at his lines, as in this drawing of *The Square* in Winchester, you'll see that the lines are always searching. That intrigues me, his lines are always spot on. His idea of a perfect day is sitting in a square in Spain, with a coffee and a beer, headphones on, and drawing whatever is in front of him.

- [Facebook](#)
- [Instagram](#)
- [Website](#)

'I am an architect who loves to draw'

Si Newell





Sketcher Ben (Luk) from Hong Kong is an engineer, urban sketcher and intrepid explorer of the unknown. 'I am specialising in building conservation and revitalisation. I lived and worked in London for more than ten years, eventually moving back to my home town in 2012. I found myself having to 'relearn' about city life in Hong Kong, build new networks and form new hobbies. Urban sketching allowed me to rediscover my passion for sketching and learn about places and events in Hong Kong that I never knew existed. A year later I co-founded Urban Sketchers Hong Kong, now one of the largest sketching groups in Asia.'

Ben was also one of the organizers of the Hong Kong 2020 symposium, which unfortunately had to be cancelled.

Ben records the world in his sketchbook, including the protests of recent years. Ben sketches quickly and energetically, his buildings seem to move.

'I brought back last year's USK challenge *Loosen your lines by drawing in different directions*. This involved sketching in the opposite direction of what you are used to. This counter-initiative way of drawing yielded wonky lines and a more sketchy look.'

[Facebook](#)
[Instagram](#)
[YouTube](#)

'Urban sketching forces me to work at a slower pace'

Sketcher Ben

'Step by step my fear of drawing with others disappears'

Angel Beltran

Angel Beltran from Madrid (Spain) is the urban sketcher who never seems to stop drawing: the man seems to be tireless. Madrid is a colorful, noisy and busy city; you can see that in Beltran's drawings. He doesn't seem to be interested in what he sketches in: sometimes he fills his diary, other times an old notebook. I love it when he sketches with colored pencils, he manages to capture the essence with a few punches, especially in portraits. But he also hardly seems to care what material he works with, he always succeeds.

Angel seems to draw quickly and by feeling, straight from his heart. The sketch below of the Catedral de *Justo Gallego* in *Mejorada del Campo*, just outside Madrid, is an example of this. If there's one person who doesn't need a ruler in his sketches, it's Beltran. It seems like he always wants to practice, to get better. As far as I'm concerned, he's already 'better'.

[Facebook](#)
[Instagram](#)
[Flickr](#)





Neil Whitehead is an artist and urban sketcher from Taunton, Somerset (England). He was originally a graphic designer and illustrator working across London, but he has moved to South West England.

'Ink and paint converge in my art where I infuse strong tones, rapid mark making and negative space to create artful urban scenes. I use to sketch in a rhythmic style that fuses rapid mark-making and big, bold watercolour washes. Speed is central to my work.

My daily sketchbook is full of watercolours and fine liner markings. So much water indeed that my books, when full, have warped in size and carry the battle scars of the

urban landscape.

Art and sketching was my true love. Art was my subject at school. I am evidence alone as to how influential good teachers can be. The urban sketching movement offered me the opportunity and mindset to mix with likeminded sketchers and enjoy observing the places we live in. The perfect hobby! Don't forget to check out [YouTube](#) to see how carefully Neil sketches and how wet his washes are.

[Facebook](#)

[Instagram](#)

[Website](#)

[YouTube](#)

[Pinterest](#)

'Art is everywhere and is my conscious and subconscious driving force'

Neil Whitehead

John Albany Hoyle lives and works in the Charnwood Forest area of the UK.

'I love to draw and paint, and have always done that for as long as I can remember. I enjoy a full and active career in the visual arts, working as a professional designer, illustrator, artist, urban sketcher and perpetual doodler.'

John sketches in ink, preferably with a fude pen (with a curved nib) and waterproof fineliners and later adds some color with aquarel. John also almost always brings a white gel pen with him, sometimes a few colored pencils.

This impressive sketch of the quarry at Mountsorrel is drawn with bold, expressive lines, fast and powerful. All out of hand, with wet-on-wet watercolor stains. No time for dead straight lines, thankfully. On the YouTube video you can see how he builds up his sketch.

[Instagram](#)

[Website](#)

[YouTube](#)





David Steeden is an artist & urban sketcher based in Cheshire, UK.

He is the administrator of the Manchester Urban Sketchers. David believes plein air sketching and painting allows him to observe the here and now of his chosen venue, be that architectural, rural or a social gathering. He prefers the immediacy of pen and ink with the addition of watercolour washes to bring depth and definition to the image. Although remaining true to the scene his style can be an interpretative one.

This means that he often uses circular lines, drawing opposite to the perspective. Normally a house narrows towards the top, but David sometimes reverses that. This makes it seem as if the roof is bending towards you.

David about that: 'The line does not have to be perfectly straight, its charm stands in the imperfection, and to be honest it makes the final output look more professional'

Usually David sketches standing up so that he can determine exactly how he has the best view of a building. Here above you see three versions of the same building: *Scrivener's bookshop* in Buxton.

[Facebook](#)

[Instagram](#)

'I just feel that sketching in a group is more productive'

David Steeden

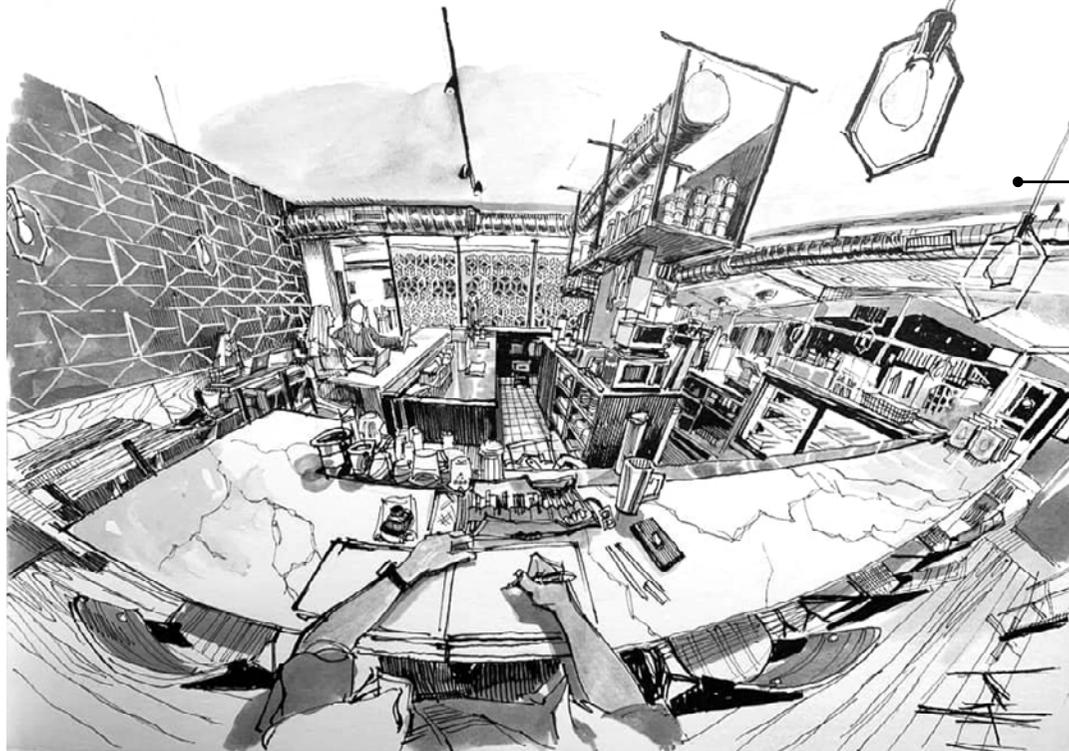
Marie Silver from Hamburg (Germany) has sketchbooks with tinted paper and makes beautiful sketches in it. She usually uses a fountain pen (TWSBI) and a few colors of water paint. She is good at using white opaque paint and gel pens. Marie often plays with perspective when drawing buildings, resulting in a dynamic, vital sketch. Take a look at this sketch of the *Alte Gummifabrik* in Harburg. A few touches of color and quickly applied opaque white paint. Totally spot on. No ruler for Marie, she follows her instincts. Don't forget to check out Marie's work on her social media, she is a master at drawing food and vintage cars.

[Facebook](#)

[Instagram](#)

[YouTube](#)





Have you missed the previous episodes of **That's another way of doing it?** Here you can see and download the last ten episodes (#1 and #2 are in Dutch only):

- [3. A tree in front of the building](#)
- [4. Colored pencils](#)
- [5. What do you mean, perspective?](#)
- [6. White is also a colour](#)
- [7. Sketching in your car](#)
- [8. It rains. Bah, now what](#)
- [9. No time. Really?](#)
- [10. Let's draw trees](#)
- [11. Pencil only](#)
- [12. Forgot my sketchbook](#)

The Dutch blogs have appeared on [the website of Urban Sketchers Netherlands](#). You can find all episodes and downloads at [urbansketchers.nl/vind-pagina](#) under the heading 'ZO KAN HET OOK'.

You want to see more? YouTube:

- **Jeff Carter:** *Perspective [Made Fun](#)*: from *Sketch to Watercolour*:
- **Neil Whitehead:** *Continuous [line sketch](#)*
- **Colourart Z:** *Urban [Architecture Sketching](#)*: *Quick drawing in ink and watercolour*:
- **Colourart Z:** *Quick draw with ink and watercolour*: *Draw in a [loose style](#)*

All artists have given permission for the use of their sketches in this blog.

© Anne Rose Oosterbaan. English translation: Erin Taylor.

'I sketch what I see'

Paul Heaston

Paul Heaston from Denver, Colorado (United States) has developed his own recognizable style. He graduated as a painter, but soon chose to sketch. 'I spend most of my day looking after my two young daughters. I often drive my wife to work and my daughter often falls asleep on the way home. I then stop and sketch from the car. They were always short breaks that I could take advantage of.' Paul now has drawn every corner of his house, but he also finds the time to sketch as much as possible outdoors, such as here in the *Bardo Coffeehouse*.

Paul draws the world around him as he sees it, often in a way that allows you to look 180 degrees around him, in a fish-eye perspective. He calls it *umbrella perspective*. This only works with curved, semicircular lines: then you can include a lot of information in your sketch. Heaston even draws his own arms, hands and sketchbook, making you feel like you look over his shoulder.

Paul's favorite fountain pen is the Hero M86, with curved nib, filled with Platinum Carbon Ink. Nowadays he also uses ink for the gray tones. For this Paul has a water brush with diluted ink (Lexington Gray from Noodlers). That works much faster than the hatches he made before. You can read how Paul came to use such curved lines on his [blogspot](#).

[Facebook](#)

[Instagram](#)

[Blog](#)

[Flickr](#)

[PDF download](#)

[YouTube \(timelapse\)](#)

[YouTube \(interview\)](#)