

## THE TOWER DOESN'T FIT!

Everyone has experienced it at some point: you are drawing the building in front of you, and then, as you reach the end of your sketch, you find that the tip of the tower does not fit onto the page. How annoying! You've put so much time and energy into your drawing, and just as you're almost done, it seems to be ruined. Not at all. Even the very best sketchers have had to deal with this problem. Each one has their own solution for it. In this edition of **That's Another Way of Doing It** you will see how ten other sketchers solved this problem.

**That's another way of doing it.**

*'Talent means energy and perseverance and nothing more'*

Felix Scheinberger

ANNE  
ROSE

To **Felix Scheinberger** from Berlin (Germany) it really doesn't matter whether or not the top of a tower fits onto his sketch. In this drawing of the *Dom* in Berlin, he deliberately chose not to include the tower. He embraces making mistakes. Felix: 'In my opinion, the famed fear of a blank page is nothing more than the fear of making mistakes. It's the fear of not living up to our own or someone else's expectations; the fear that it might not *turn out well*. Mistakes are full of creative potential. If all we produce is whatever we can produce without mistakes, we are robbing ourselves of the opportunity of discovering uncharted waters. Creative processes thrive on the unexpected, the uncontrollable, yes, even on mistakes. Get on the stage and start. If you make mistakes,

you make mistakes. It's a bigger mistake to let it hold you back.'

About talent: 'A passion for illustration is far more important than talent. If we enjoy doing it, we will do it often and if we do it often, we will do it well. So in my opinion the word *talent* is more than overrated.

A passion for illustration is far more important than talent.'

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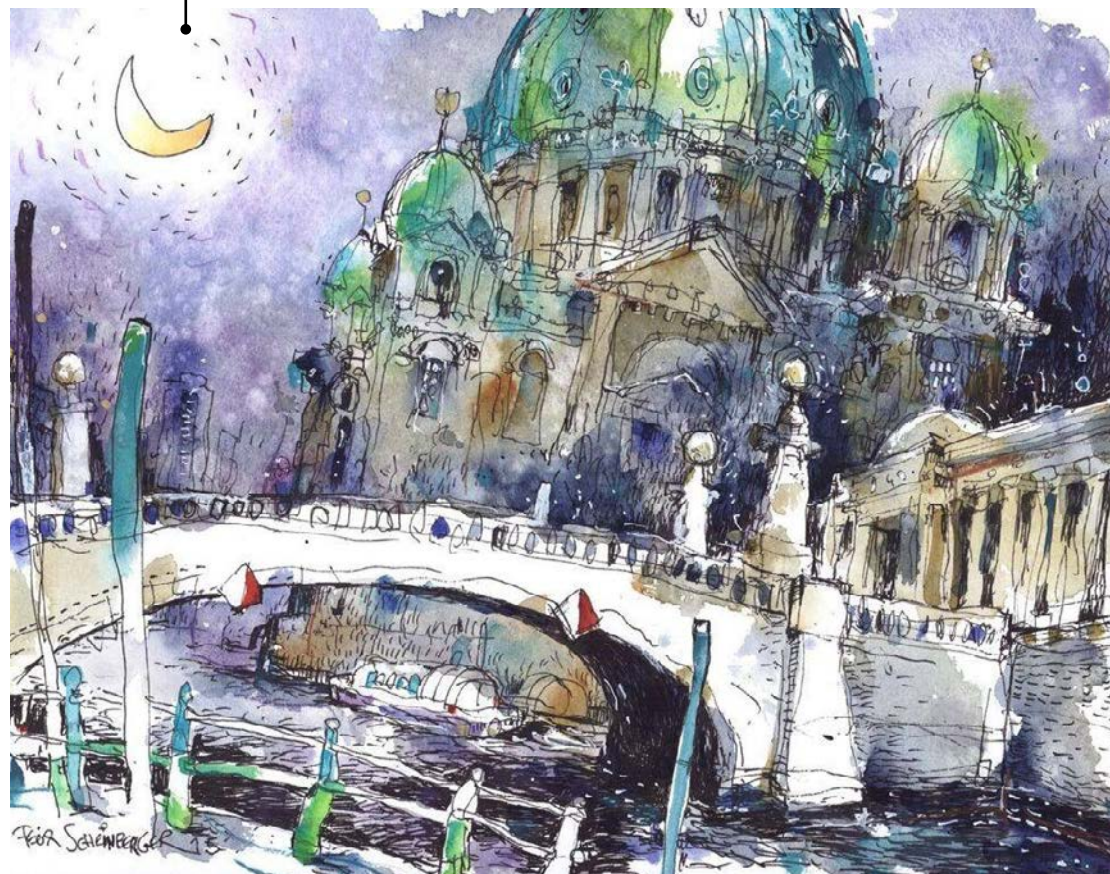
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**Book:** *Urban Watercolor Sketching, A Guide to Drawing, Painting, and Storytelling in Color Dare to Sketch, A Guide to Drawing on the Go, Kinder der Nacht*

**Buy original sketches?**





**Steven Reddy** from Seattle (Washington, United States) is an artist, teacher, walker and author of *Everyday Sketching and Drawing: Five Steps to a Unique and Personal Sketchbook Habit*. Steven is a stubborn sketcher. He doesn't mind sketching a pay phone, water pipe, or the cluttered shelf of an antique store; he thinks almost anything is worth sketching. While traveling, he wanted to draw the cathedral in Oslo (Norway), however, the tower wouldn't fit onto the page.

Not at all. He then, without batting an eyelid, omitted large pieces of the tower: for example, the lower part of the tower is supposed to reach much higher and the spire should actually have more parts. He really omitted a lot. Yet for Steven, it remains Oslo Cathedral.

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*'Do your own thing,  
 don't follow what everyone else is doing'*

Steven Reddy

**NIRAJ GUPTA** from New Delhi (India) manages the Urban Sketchers group in Delhi. During a stay in New York (United States) Gupta visited the Brooklyn Bridge, and drew the view. He used a fountain pen with black ink, a pencil and touches of watercolor. On this sketch, the *Freedom Tower* (now better known as *One World Trade Center*) is not quite visible. Niraj: 'Thanks to clouds only less than half of the *Freedom Tower* is seen, which otherwise would have been too big to fit in.'

Well, that's another way of doing it. During the first period where we had to stay indoors and our movements were restricted due to covid, Niraj

realised that the lack of exercise and human interaction could cause problems. He saw the lack of mental activity and brain-eyes-fingers exercises as some of the causes. Niraj was convinced that sketching could play a big role in filling the void in such a situation. 'It works like meditation by diverting our mind from daily worries and staying creative.' Gupta used this time well and wrote the book *Anyone Can Sketch*.

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**Book:** *Anyone can Sketch - The 7 Magic Keys To Awesome Sketches: The Easiest Way To Exercise Your Brain, Eyes, And Fingers*







Almost every urban sketcher knows the drawings of the French illustrator **Lapin**, from Barcelona (Spain). Lapin says about himself: 'I sketch from direct observation, quickly and precisely, depicting my surroundings, the people I meet, the places I am traveling to. I travel light and don't need much more than a sketchbook, fineliner, watercolor and my folding stool. The street is my studio.' He has now filled more than 200 sketchbooks. Well, accounting books turned sketchbooks: Lapin can often be found at flea markets, looking for vintage accounting books in which he loves to draw. 'The old paper with the red and blue lines reminds me of the first drawings and observations that was brought back from unknown civilisations and lands by scientist expeditions of

the XVIIIth century like Cook or Laperouse. I wish to become one of those explorers and often times my reportages are ethnographic.' I think Lapin was the first to bend the truth to his own distinctive style: more than ten years ago he made his first sketch of a building, which he bent a little to get it to fit onto the page. This solution has since found many followers among urban sketchers. Lapin: 'What I like the most about the Urban Sketchers community is the deep friends I have made through the organisation. I get to sketch with so many gifted artists, all around the world, I learn and share a lot with them.'

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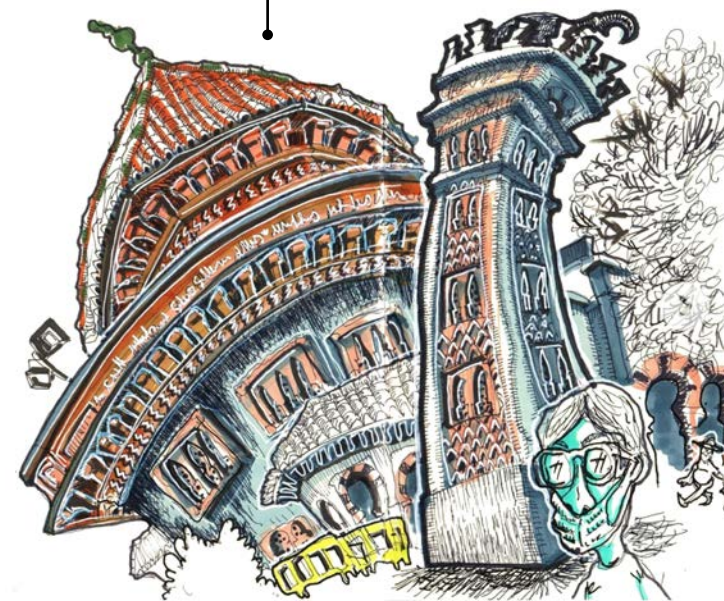


**José Manuel Vicente Martín**, urban sketcher and illustrator from Málaga (Spain), really doesn't care whether or not his tower fits onto the page. You can see that here in his sketch of the *Al-Andalus mosque*, near *Arroyo del Cuarto* in Málaga. It seems as though his buildings are made out of rubber which he simply moulds to his liking. He pushes and pulls on the buildings until they fit onto the page. José also felt that he had been locked up in his house for too long. A problem which he confronted with humour, by writing and drawing a story about four disposable cups of coffee in the cafe section of a gas station. How can these cups remain useful and reach all those people who are locked up at home?

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**Book:** *Relaxing Cup of Coffee in Coronavirus*



*'The street is my studio'*

Lapin





**Arnaud De Meyer**, an architect from Luxembourg City, has a carpenter's eye and manages to see the problem from miles away. The *Eglise Saint-Joseph* (Saint Joseph's Church) in Limpertsberg has quite a high tower, which will probably not fit onto the landscape format of the sketchbook. Arnaud turned his sketchbook slightly to counter this problem. The funny thing is, that this feature makes the drawing more impressive than it would have been as a 'normal' straight sketch. Arnaud is one of the founders of Urban Sketchers Luxembourg,

a very active group. 'As an architect I make sketches of places and buildings that do not yet exist, I do research by sketching what and how these places and buildings are meant to be. To feed my creativity I need to observe and spend time registering all that has already been done before. I do it by sketching on location as an urban sketcher.'

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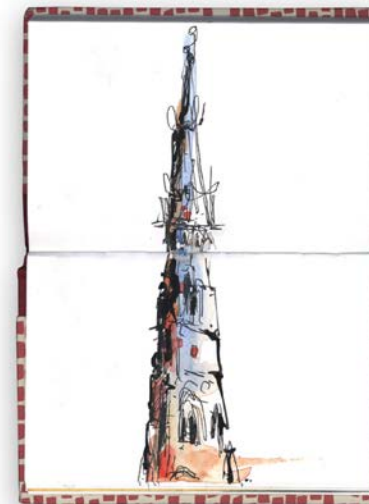
*'As a kid I drew and imagined my games, my stories and my heroes. Later I realised that I could also draw things so that they might become real'*

**Arnaud De Meyer**

**Daniel Nies**, artist and landscape designer from Augsburg (Germany), has a passion for drawing. He is one of the founders of Urban Sketchers Augsburg. Daniel loves to travel and sketch on location. When sketching he experiments with different styles and materials which leads to a large variety in his drawings. In addition to sketching, Daniel is also fascinated by different paper qualities, as well as the binding and design of the sketchbook. He prefers to make his own sketchbooks. Daniel never has trouble capturing the tower of a church (like the *Martinskirche* in Landshut, the world's highest brickbuilt church). He always carries an extra book with him and loves to spread out his drawing on a second or even a third book. 'I aim to run out of space.'

Which makes creating your own sketchbooks especially useful.

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**Martí Viladomat Llorens** is from Sant Feliu de Llobregat, Barcelona (Spain). He is a member of several Urban Sketch groups in Catalonia. Martí studied Industrial Design, which is still visible in his drawings. While his love for the industrial world has remained, he has, since, become a logistics specialist. 'I have always liked to sketch, as a child I spent hours making dolls and allowed my imagination to run wild on paper.' That imaginativeness comes in handy when the spire wouldn't fit onto the paper. The solutions he finds have their origin in the time when he made industrial sketches. If the top doesn't fit, draw it next to it or somewhere else on the paper. And if the column is too long, just tell it is actually longer. Smart solutions.

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*'I destress when I draw.*

*It helps me to relax'*

**Joao Albergaria**

We already came across **Joao Albergaria** in [That's Another Way of Doing It 7](#), when out of frustration with being stuck at home he started sketching from inside his car. Joao is an architect (metro construction), and works in Copenhagen (Denmark):

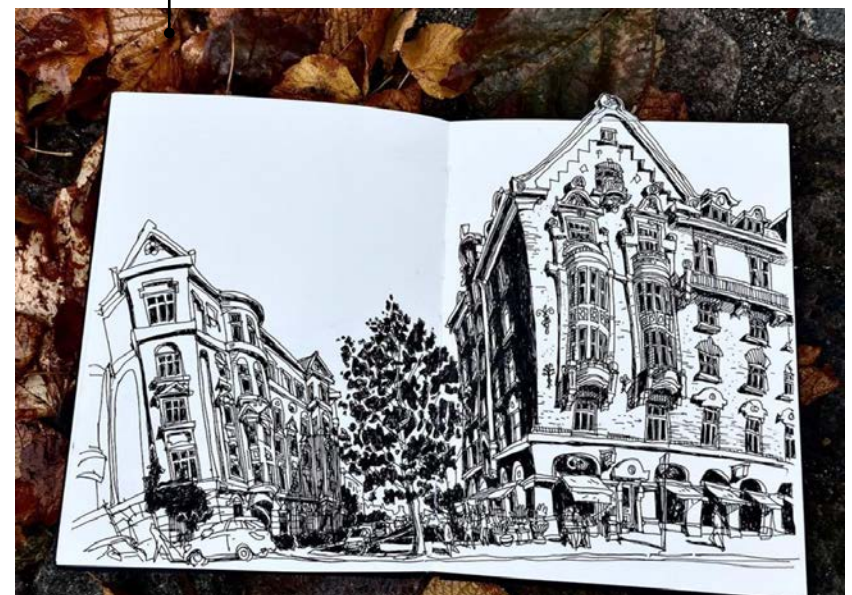
'I organise all activities on site. I explain the drawings to the building workers, order materials and talk to security representatives.' Fortunately, Joao can once again sketch outside, both with the Urban Sketchers Copenhagen and on his own.

He often uses a light fisheye perspective when drawing, which causes his buildings to bulge slightly. That, together with a proficient use of black and white contrast, is what makes his drawings so dynamic. In this case, though it is barely visible, the tip of the building would just not fit onto the page. Joao mostly doesn't mind when it happens, he just continues the drawing without the top; this time, however, it was such a small bit that he decided to attach a small piece of paper to his sketchbook at home, so that his drawing of the building on *H. C. Ørsted's Vej* could be complete.

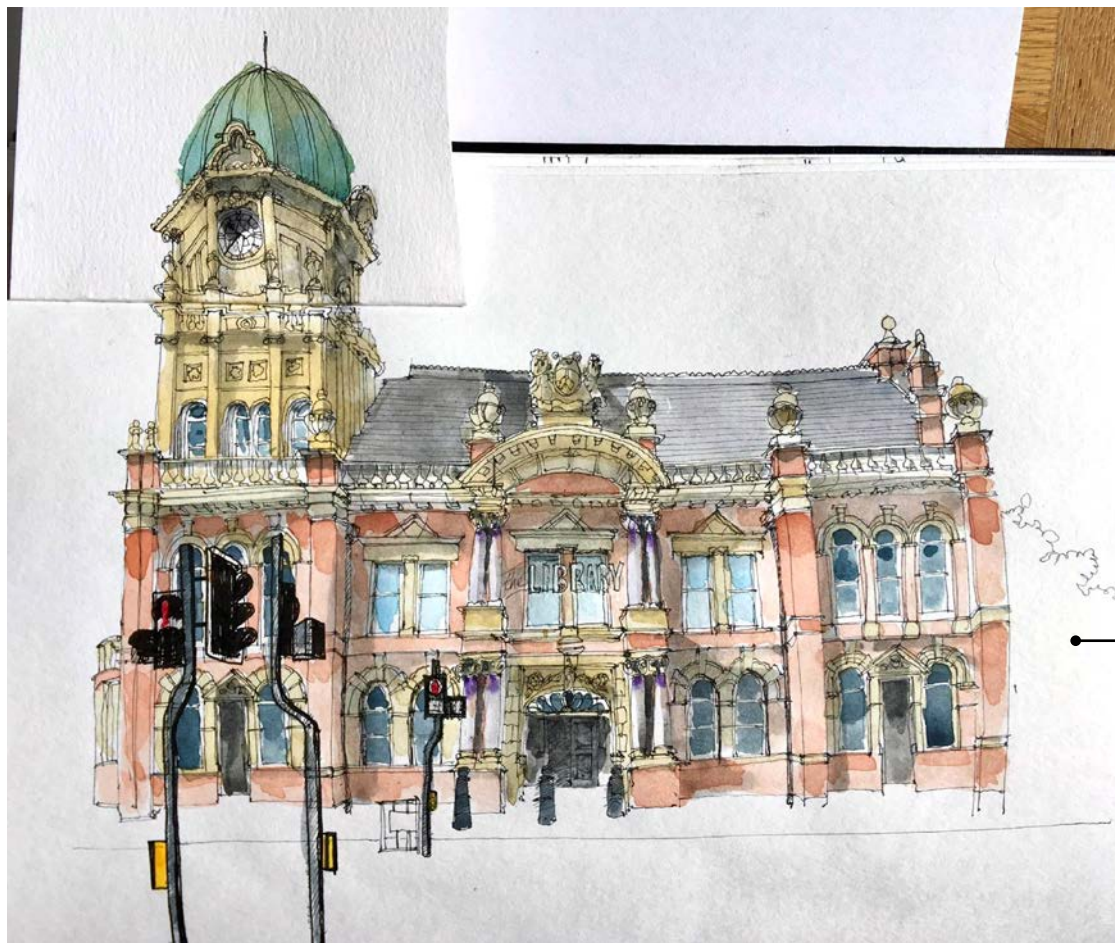
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Have you missed the previous episodes of **That's another way of doing it**? Here you can see and download the last eleven episodes (sorry, #1 and #2 are in Dutch only):

**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**

**13. Perspective without ruler**

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

**Roger Carter** from Leeds (England) says that he loves 'brewing beer, pubs, cycling, music, art and everything else!'

Roger takes considerable pleasure in the beautiful buildings that is to be found in and around Leeds. 'I am not chasing an architecturally accurate representation, more something that captures the spirit and character of the place.' He goes out to sketch both on his own as well as together with the Urban Sketchers Yorkshire. Roger has had to deal with a spire that wouldn't fit on the page before; he now always carries an extra piece of paper with him, which he then sticks in his sketchbook there on the spot, so that he can continue with the drawing. That came in useful once again when he drew the *Old Library* (now a pub) in Hyde Park, Leeds.

'My style is to start sketching on a part of the scene that interests me, what first grabbed my attention. Sometimes I even miss out a floor, or a bank of windows, to get the drawing to fit.'

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*'My old problem, fitting everything on the page, meant adding a bit of paper for the tower'*

**Roger Carter**

**Need more inspiration?**

Another great sketcher who never struggles to fit his subject onto the drawing: Yang Guo Bin from Guangzhou (China).

There he is known as AlienBinBin:

**Instagram**

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

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