

**EVERY BRIDGE IS DIFFERENT**

Upon seeing this edition, you will probably say: ‘

A bridge, what’s special about that?’ It will surprise you.

We often draw a striking or beautiful building that we see, but try to take a look at bridges too.

Each bridge is different, each with its own story.

A bridge brings people from one side to the other (often over water), but a bridge has more functions.

All sorts of things can happen around a bridge.

Look again: sit on top of, under, next to or far from the bridge and draw what you see.

Ten urban sketchers did just that in this edition of

**That’s another way of doing it.** Here you can see their view on their bridge.

**That’s another way of doing it.**

ANNE  
ROSE

**Guy Moll** is born in Colmar, France. Guy was able to get a teaching job at a secondary school in Lisbon.

After retiring, he decided to stay in Portugal, in the Algarve. ‘The Algarve is one of the few regions in Europe that knows no winter.’

‘I would have liked a career as a painter, but no one is perfect. When I retired, I joined the urban sketchers.’

In this drawing, which Guy made in Châteaudun in France, we see exactly what the function of a bridge is: to connect two pieces of land that were previously inaccessibly separated from each other. In this case, we see the landscape, with the 12th-century castle in the background, beautifully reflected in the water of the River Loire.

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**Spiro Philippidis** from Yverdon-les-Bains (Switzerland) has a passion for drawing, preferably in a travel diary (*carnet-de-voyage*). Spiro comes from the graphics industry: for years he worked, first as a photo-engraver, then a photo-lithographer and finally a DTP operator. Spiro has been drawing since 12 years; he is self taught.

This drawing of the *Pont de Quissac* (France) bridging the river Vidourle has a typical French atmosphere, with the trunks of plane trees and the bright sun. The bridge was built in the Middle Ages and was destroyed and rebuilt several times, in 1780 it was widened. In 1933, there was a huge flood which destroyed the parapets; they have now been replaced by metal railings.

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**Alina Levytska** lives in Skellefteå (Sweden). Alina and her husband Sergij are from the Ukrainian town of *Kamjanets-Podilsky*, famous for its old castle. They have been together for a long time and have lived in Sweden for several years now. He went there to work and she to study visual effects. 'We try to live our lives as usual, but it's hard,' says Alina. 'I need a lot of concentration to study, but is difficult because my thoughts are spinning about how things are going in Ukraine. What we are seeing now started in 2014 when the Crimean Peninsula was annexed. It has been going on for nine years. Now everyone knows it is war.' Fortunately, Alina occasionally finds enough peace to draw outdoors. Here we see Skellefteå's red bridge, the *Lejonströmsbron*. Built in 1737, it is the oldest wooden bridge in Sweden. It was first a toll bridge, and in 1868 a law was introduced that set a speed limit: cars or horses driving faster than a pedestrian were fined. Today, cars have to take turns to cross the bridge from different directions. The bridge is a popular attraction among Swedish visitors. Thanks to Alina, we also now get to see this bridge.

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**Feliciano Gómez Corisco** lives in Casatejada (Spain). Whenever possible, Feliciano draws with the Urban Sketchers in Madrid. He is a great illustrator, who does not shy away from drawing complicated bridges.

On the left we see the baroque *Puente de Toledo* in Madrid, built between 1718 and 1732 and spanning the river Manzanares. On the right, we see the *Calle de Segovia*, under the Segovia Viaduct in Madrid.

Over the centuries, this area has been an important crossroads. The main function of the bridge was to facilitate access between the Moorish part of the city and the Royal Palace. A new bridge was built in 1934 to replace the previous iron version.

The bridge spans Segovia Street, 25 metres above the street.

This recent version of the Segovia Viaduct is designed for heavy two-way traffic and has walkways for pedestrians on both sides. Until 1998, this bridge was a common site for suicide. In that year, the city installed thick barriers made of acrylic glass to prevent people from jumping off; it was successful.

Now that I know these stories, I look at Feliciano's drawings with even more attention and respect.

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**Jonathan Bolch** is an architect living in Portland, Oregon (USA). He has been doing this work for more than 20 years; his focus is on designing sustainable buildings for colleges and universities. In addition to his work as an architect, Jonathan has been teaching students at Portland State University School of Architecture for over a decade.

About this drawing, Jonathan says: 'I love Portland's bridges and vowed to draw them all when we moved here seventeen years ago. After a sixteen-year break, here is drawing number two.'

We see the 1913 Broadway Bridge over the Willamette River, at that time the longest bridge in the United States with a center section that can be opened. The bridge has four lanes, but it is also an important connection for cyclists who want to cross. The bridge was initially black, but in 1963 it was painted 'Golden-Gate' red. We look from the old town to the northeast and see the concrete plant there. Had Jonathan not started his project years ago, we would have known little about this bridge. He has drawn it beautifully, from a low vantage point.

[Instagram](#)







**Amy Thraves-Connor** is from Leeds (England), and she is a Curating for Change Fellow at the National Railway Museum (NRM) in York. After completing her Bachelor of Fine Art, she now explores the NRM's artefacts and wider collection, looking for new stories. Alongside her work, she makes fantastic colourful drawings taking inspiration from the landscape and the world around her, mostly with the Urban Sketchers Yorkshire, but also with a sizeable group of drawing friends who occasionally go to another city for a weekend to draw together. Amy made this drawing on Kelham Island in Sheffield, just outside the museum, on a cold, sunny day in November.

This Island was once the beating heart of Sheffield's industry, created more than 900 years ago, when a stream was diverted to sup-

ply water to a nearby mill. The island was made, at the start of the Industrial Revolution in the 1900s. There were numerous cutlery and metal factories (Made in Sheffield) and one could see workshops everywhere. This is also where the famous Sheffield scissors were made. But times have changed and the industry moved away; now the island is home to pubs, cafes, shops and restaurants and is one of the city's coolest neighbourhoods. And, of course, it now houses the industrial museum, the Kelham Island Museum, where you can see how work used to be done there. The dark walkway connects two industrial buildings, about four metres above the ground.

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*'There is so much to discover if you take your time and really look at a building!'*

**Katrin Merle**

**Katrin Merle** from Berlin (Germany) is an illustrator, mainly for children's and school books. She loves going out with the urban sketchers in her hometown: 'I often start with one thing in the foreground, not knowing how far my drawing journey will take me. I work my way from front to back and eventually the drawing hits the edge of my sketchbook page. Construction details fascinate me. It seems like in the past, construction used to be done with more love: even the iron beams in factory buildings were decorated like Corinthian columns. I don't just document it for myself, I also want to inspire others, which is why I draw so precisely.'

For Katrin, drawing with the urban sketchers equals 'bringing the world home'. In this drawing we can see the above-ground metro near Eberwalder Straße in the Prenzlauer Berg district.

The line was initially planned as an underground line, but when the tunnel builders wanted to buy adjacent properties to avoid complaints from residents about the tunnelling, property prices rose dramatically. Hence, the last stretch of the line runs above ground. In retrospect, it worked out well: even the ring road now runs under the metro without any problems. And besides, now you get to see something of the city when you're on the metro.

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**Victor Beltran** is an architect/artist living near Pittsburg, Pennsylvania (USA); he is an organiser of the Pittsburg Urban Sketchers. Victor has been drawing for more than 45 years and has a tremendous flair when it comes to watercolour; he works quickly and effectively. When the Bach Choir of Pittsburg performed, Victor sat high on a scaffold and made four drawings of the performance. And if you look in his bookcase, you will see more than 60 sketchbooks, brimming with drawings. Victor was born in Lima, Peru, which is why he calls himself Victor Peru on social media.

In this drawing, we see the Claycomb Covered Bridge in Bedford. It is a truss structure reinforced with steel in 2002 to carry bus traffic. Such a bridge is usually made of wood because of the low cost of this building material. Wood is lighter than stone and cheaper than iron or steel, but still strong. However, wood can rot; by covering the bridge with a roof, it is better protected. Without a roof, a bridge like this will last 20 years; with a roof, at least 100 years. The roof also makes the bridge's structure stronger.

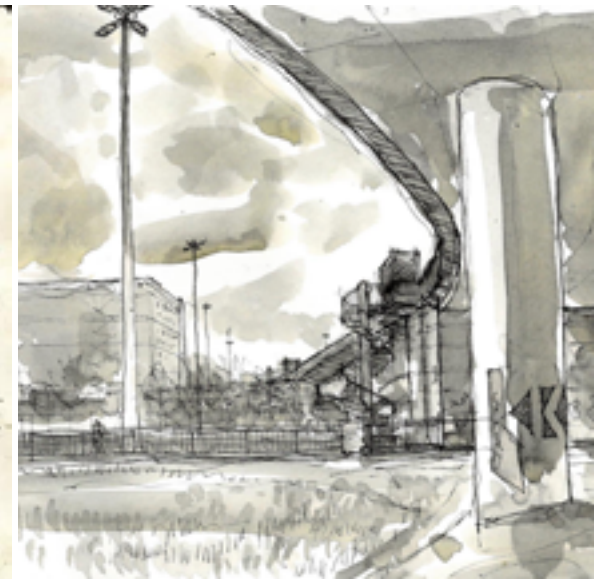
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**Martin Douglas** from Bristol (UK) has worked as an urban design and masterplanning consultant for more than twenty years. He is interested in engaging with the world around him through art, and wrote the thesis for his master's degree in Urban Design on the public perception of public art. Martin finds drawing a vital tool in his professional career, and in his spare time enjoys sketching in a variety of different media.

The pen and ink drawings we see here show a part of the Cumberland Basin, the main entrance at the western end of Bristol Harbour, where an intricate road network was built in the 1960s. Martin says about it: 'As ugly as it is, there is something fascinating about the infrastructure in this part of Bristol Harbour'. Hence the urban sketchers organised an event there. It makes for an intriguing drawing. We often see the top or side of a bridge, but what happens underneath?

[Instagram](#)





**Aibee Lim** lives in George Town in Penang (Malaysia). Aibee has been teaching for more than 20 years and she is an active member of the Penang Watercolour Society and the urban sketchers in her city. While travelling in Thailand, she made this impressive drawing of the *Sapan Mon* (Mon bridge) in Sangkhlaburi. She used charcoal pencil and watercolour on rice paper. This is a wooden pedestrian bridge, the longest wooden bridge in Thailand.

This bridge connects Songhalburi with a village on the other side of the river, where mainly the Mon people live. You can only walk across it; cars and mopeds are not allowed on it.

In 2013, part of the bridge was swept away due to heavy rains and subsequent flooding. The bridge became unusable, a disaster for the villagers. An emergency bamboo bridge was quickly constructed next to it. After a year, the repairs on the main bridge were still not completed because the wood to be brought in by the contracting company was not purchased out of fear that the wood had been illegally chopped.

The bridge was eventually repaired by engineers from the Surasi Camp, along with villagers in the area. They finished the job in a mere 29 days. What a fascinating drawing by Aibee Lim!

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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. Perspective?](#)

[6. White is also a color](#)

[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](#)

[14. The tower doesn't fit](#)

[15. The real color. Or not](#)

[16. Within the lines](#)

[17. Text in your sketch](#)

[18. Tinted paper](#)

[19. Up on the roof](#)

[20. So boring](#)

[21. Splatters and blobs](#)

[22. Thumbnails](#)

[23. Shadows](#)

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'.

**More inspiration:**

[Pinterest](#)

**YouTube**

• Easy Watercolour Urban Sketching - [Tower Bridge](#), London (Toby Urbansketch)

• Sketching [Elgin Bridge](#) with Pen, Ink & Watercolour (Timelapse Tutorial)