

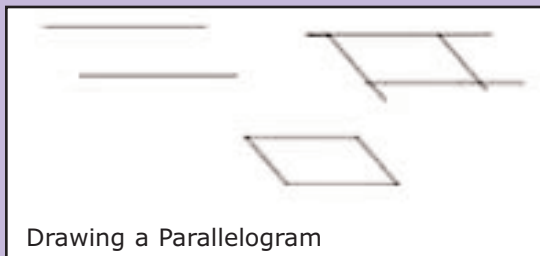


LESSON 19 LEVEL B SPACE(OVERLAPPING)

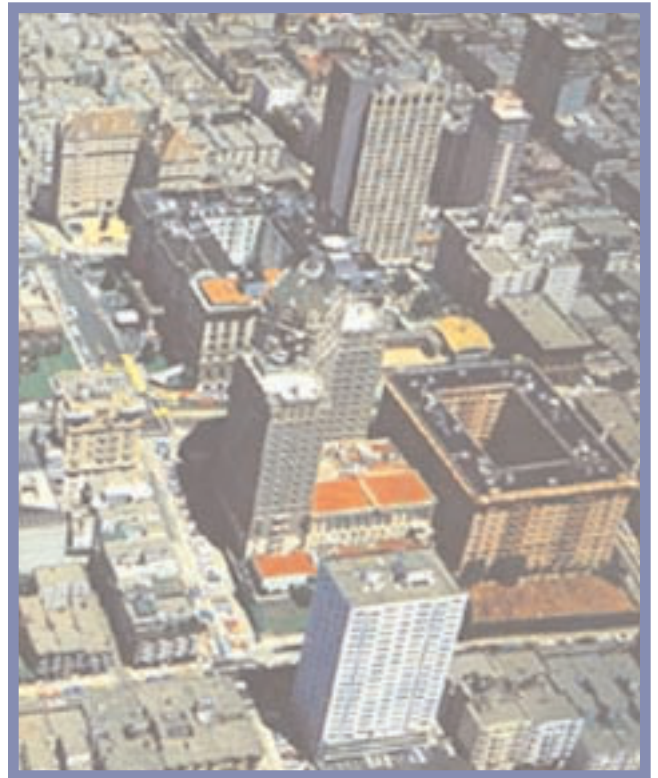
WHAT YOU WILL LEARN: drawing the illusion of depth (perspective, space) by overlapping shapes

WHAT YOU WILL NEED: Crayons; pencil; fine-line black pen; scratch paper; drawing paper 23 x 30.5 cm. or 30.5 x 45.5 cm. (9" x 12" or 12" x 18"); several parallelograms of different sizes.

"TIPS": You can trace around some pre-cut parallelogram shapes or draw your own. A parallelogram is like a rectangle that has been "pushed over" a little. Draw two parallel lines the same length, but not exactly above one another. Connect them with two other parallel lines (see illustration.) The parallelogram looks like the top of a rectangular building seen from an angle. Not all buildings are rectangular forms, but this lesson will get you started with one way to draw a cityscape (a landscape of a city.)



SKYSCRAPERS



Robert Cameron *Above San Francisco* (detail)

Getting Started: Look at "bird's-eye" photographs and paintings of cities made from an airplane or a very tall tower. Notice that many of the skyscrapers and other tall buildings often have flat roofs that are rectangle-shaped. But when they are seen at an angle, the rectangle looks like a parallelogram. On a piece of scratch paper, practice drawing several parallelograms of different sizes. Do you see that these could be drawings of the tops of skyscrapers?

1. To make a wide picture of a city,



place your paper horizontally; to make a tall cityscape, place it vertically. With a pencil draw at least nine parallelograms, putting the biggest ones nearer the bottom of the paper. (You may want to cut out and trace around some of your best scratch paper shapes.)

2. From the corners of the parallelograms, closest to the bottom of the paper, draw vertical lines, parallel to the sides of your paper. You will need to connect only three corners to the bottom of the paper . . . unless your building is transparent and you can see through it!

3. Connect the next higher shape in the same way, stopping at any line you have already drawn.



Hector Age 9



Sasha Age 10

4. Continue to draw the verticals until all the parallelograms appear to be the tops of buildings.

5. Be sure all your verticals are parallel to the sides of your paper. Now go over them with a fine-line pen.

6. To make your skyscrapers look more like real buildings, draw some windows in them. Remember that the windows must be parallel to the sides and top of each building.

(Some buildings have glass-like sides and these "windows" look very different.)

7. Think of some things that would make the roof tops more interesting. . . flags on poles, a roof top garden, a steeple or air conditioning units. Use your imagination.

8. Color your picture with crayons. Think: From what angle will the sun be shining? (your choice) Remember that the top surface will be the lightest;

one side will catch almost as much light, and the other will be darker, in shadow.

CLEAN UP: Another easy clean up. You'll be done in a flash. Throw out the scraps. Put away the rest of the supplies.

TALK ABOUT IT: Does your picture give the illusion of depth, or perspective? What would you draw differently in another cityscape?

MORE IDEAS: Make a similar skyscraper picture using crayon outlines and watercolor paints.

CONNECTIONS: Do some research and answer these questions: Why were skyscrapers created? What role did electricity have in making skyscrapers possible? Are all skyscrapers office buildings? Find some statistics about skyscrapers...the first...the tallest...the largest. Who were their architects?

One way to remember how to spell parallelogram is to remember that the first letter L has another next to it, making *parallel lines*.

