

# Room with a view



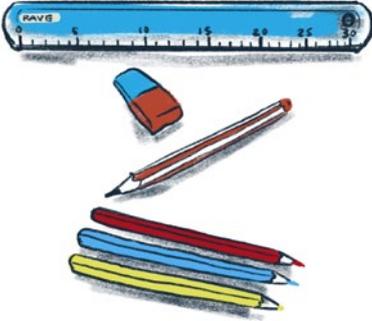
## Illustration

3 hours + extension task

Sketchbook development

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# What you need



## Pencils

Keep it simple—you can include colour/paint later if you choose to develop your drawings—for now stick to pencils, ideally use softer pencils, 2B is ideal, and keep it sharp

## Sketchbook

The sketchbook can be any size or format—if you don't have a sketchbook then printing paper or old schoolbooks will work just as well—be inventive.

## Pencil sharpener

## Rubber

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# Overview

Looking, seeing and recording is a fundamental skill in a lot of creative professions, whether you are a fine artist, film maker, architect or illustrator paying attention to what is around you, really focusing on the details that in normal life are so easily looked over or dismissed is a valuable way to spend your time.

Sketchbooks are a wonderful way to record what you can see, as well as what you think and feel, they are private places where you can explore creative ideas without the pressure of producing final outcomes.

The more you draw the better at it you become, and its a wonderful way to spend your time.



If you see this icon it means the link is clickable, this will take you to a video tutorial or website needed for the workshop

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## The brief

What can you see from out of your windows—really see?—is it the sky, a park, rows of houses, your garden—perhaps someone gardening or washing their car, rubbish bins—is there litter in the street, a cat sunning itself on a wall... this workshop encourages you to record the minutiae of life, tiny details, leaves, notices wrapped round lampposts, anything you can see. Do a series of drawings that record the view from 3 windows in your home.

Make sure you are organised so you can move around easily and not get in anyone's way remember there is no judgement, no deadline, just you with some paper, pencil and a view—even encourage others in your family to do it, I know I am going to have a go!

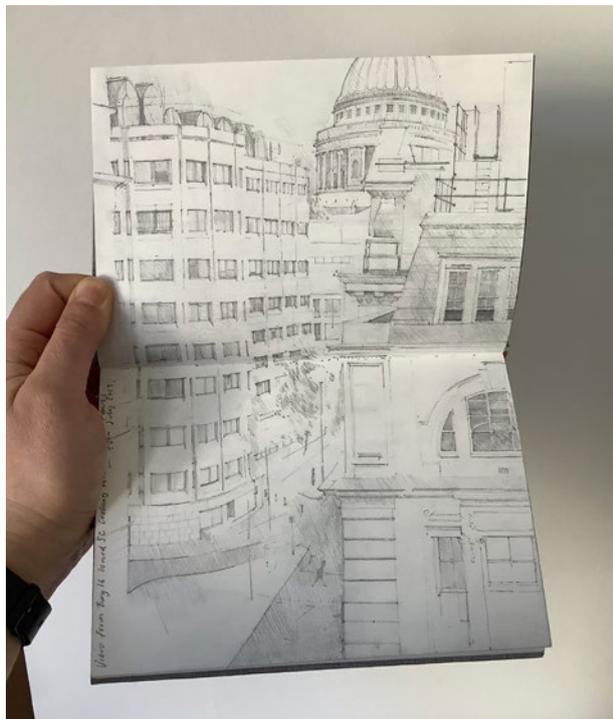
Spend 5 minutes sitting in front of the window, just looking at what you can see, decide if you want to focus on the whole view or just an element of it, once you have done that draw what you can see, the timings give you one hour per view—you can choose to spend this all on one drawing, or if you like a series of quick sketches—but for at least one window try to complete an entire window view that takes you an hour.

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# Suggestions

Consider how you frame the view, including the window or some of the window will make the viewer feel inclosed. Cross bars on windows can be useful to divide the composition.

Drawing close to the window, eliminating the frame, will open up the view. Think about how you use linear instance, stronger marks come forward and lighter marks recede so you can give the illusion of space. Keep pencils sharp, use 2B or softer if you have a range of pencils to hand, rubbing out is part of drawing.



Here are some examples for inspiration:  
[pinterest.co.uk/rhenchel/artists-window-views](https://pinterest.co.uk/rhenchel/artists-window-views)

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## Further development

Once the workshop is over consider developing your drawings, maybe they are prep sketches for a more developed piece that you can do during the week—consider drawing from the same windows at different times of day, to capture different light, think about creating more abstract pieces that are a personal/ conceptual response to what you see rather than a realistic version.

Drawings curtesy of Christopher Harrup (Ravensbourne tutor).

Ravensbourne Outreach tutors and students have produced a new series of online projects and courses to help you stay creative at home

If you'd like to find out more please visit our website [makeit.ravensbourne.ac.uk](http://makeit.ravensbourne.ac.uk) or email us at [outreach@rave.ac.uk](mailto:outreach@rave.ac.uk)

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#letsmakeitcreative

