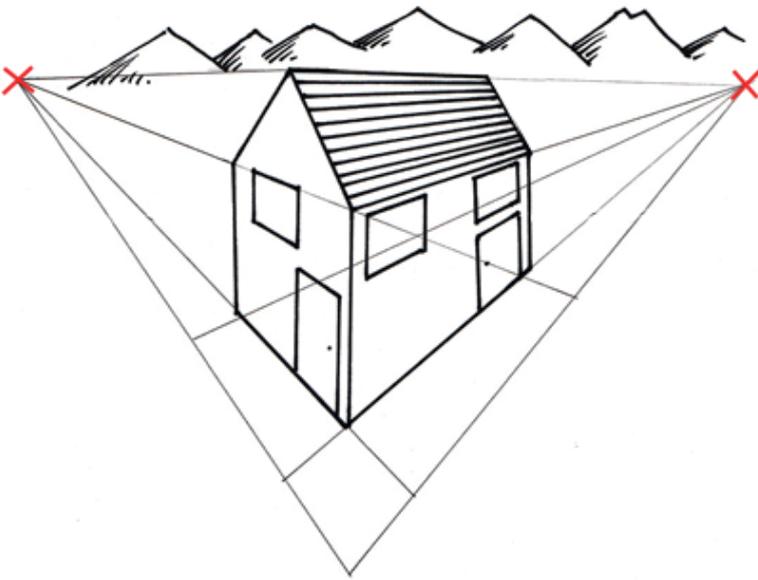




PERSPECTIVE 101 – TWO POINT PERSPECTIVE



Two point perspective gives us more room to play with and makes for a more dynamic image. Length and breadth, or width and depth, now both have separate vanishing points on the horizon, while the verticals stay vertical.

Big, expensive cameras are able to tilt and shift so as to produce this effect on photographs of buildings, although most of this can be done in photoshop on the computer these days.

The human eye finds this kind of perspective quite pleasing in a picture or drawing of a building. We like to see verticals and know that they are straight up and down. We spot anything leaning over very quickly!

In the image above, we see the whole plane that the house is built on as if we were a bird flying over it.

The vanishing points can be as near or as far apart as you like. In the image below the ground plane is on the same horizontal line as the Horizon. But the two drawings are constructed in exactly the same way, with two vanishing points on the Horizon.

You would probably have to lie on the floor to get this sense of perspective!



We don't really see the world in such extreme perspective as the two drawings above. What we normally see is something like the house in the drawing below.

Here the vanishing points are a long way off the edges of the page. They are so far off the page, the angles are not easy to detect. This is more like how we see the world and this is where experience comes into play.

You could construct lines on a very large piece of paper and make the drawing hyper-correct or just draw what feels right! This comes with practice. The more you do little perspective exercises and get the feel of how perspective works, the more confident you will become just drawing what feels right. Most of the time you will be right and occasionally horribly wrong, but that is how we learn to get it right next time!

Never be scared of having a go! As I always say, "Practice! Practice! Practice!"



The vanishing points are some distance off the page!

Exercise:

Try copying the drawing on this sheet: Construct the horizon first, then the Vanishing point lines. The Verticals will still all be vertical.

Use this grid to construct the buildings. You cannot do this too often while "getting the hang" of perspective.

When you feel more confident, try drawing buildings from life, photographs (remember the camera will distort the view, so you may need to compensate) or from your imagination