the Architect’s Sketchbook

a compilation of design sketches from my sketchbooks, prepared as a guide for second year pre-architecture students at College of DuPage

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Your sketchbook should be a visual record of your design thought process this semester. Sketching should become an integral part of thinking. Designers think visually through the sketches they create.

Initial concept sketches from the Mine the Gap competition, 2010
Process sketching allows designers to quickly explore alternatives and test multiple solutions in a quick and efficient manner.

Process sketches from the Design for the Children Competition, 2009. The majority of these sketches are exploring roof truss variations, a key concept of the design.
Using your sketchbook effectively will allow you to explore variations within your design work before committing the time to develop concepts further in physical models, 3d models or accurate CAD drawings.

Process sketches exploring folded plastic forms from the Rethink, Redesign, Recycle competition, 2005.
Use your sketchbook to think in plan, section, perspective, and detail simultaneously.

Concept sketches from the Flight 93 Memorial Design competition, 2004.
Concept sketches for an AIA Chicago design competition, 2007
Various process sketches, miscellaneous projects.
Site analysis sketching and diagramming should be thorough and communicate a depth of analysis. This diagram is illustrating the phenomena of natural daylight on a given site. The diagram speaks to both the daily path of the sun as well as seasonal variations, and graphically records the information using both plan and section drawings.

For your site analysis projects these drawings would be considered as “one” diagram which tells a complete story about light on the site.
Use your sketchbook to completely document your precedent study research. Include research notes, sketches and analysis diagrams. Photographic images may also be included as supplemental information.
Your sketchbook can also be a valuable tool to mock up presentation layouts and develop presentation board compositions.
Use your sketchbook for note taking on all assigned readings and class lectures. Notes should always include sketches as a way to visually record key concepts.
The following pages contain various travel sketches from my sketchbooks. These types of sketches were created on site from observation, and are equivalent to the types of sketches that I will be asking you to create for several assignments this year, including the “Inspirations Collage” in the first few weeks of Arch 2201.
TRAVEL SKETCHES
The following pages contain sketches from architects that I admire. These are intended as further examples of how architects use their sketchbooks to record, develop, understand and present their work.
El plan teórico de la ciudad de las ciencias de
Valencia.

Idea del ojo para la intersección del mundo
supernatural con el progreso hiperbólico.

Santiago Calatrava

PRECEDENTS
Draw, Just Draw

“Draw what you see, how you remember it and contemplate it. Draw what you understand. Draw to understand. Draw with whatever medium you are comfortable. Draw to enhance your skill of seeing. Draw to remember. Just draw and draw and draw. It will bring you an acute awareness of who you are.”

Marvin Malecha, from the Urge to Draw, the Cause to Reflect