

Introduction to Architectural Drawing and Drafting

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Fundamental concepts, tools, and workflow for creating clear, communicative building designs.

1. What Is Architectural Drawing?

Aspect	Description
Definition	A visual representation of a building or space that conveys design intent, dimensions, materials, and construction details.
Purpose	- Communicate ideas to clients, engineers, contractors, and authorities. - Serve as a legal record for permitting and construction. - Aid in analysis of spatial relationships, structure, and performance.
Mediums	Hand-drawn sketch, ink, technical pen, raster graphics, vector CAD, BIM models.

2. Types of Architectural Drawings

Category	Typical Content	Scale (common)
Site Plan	Building footprint, site boundaries, landscaping, utilities, circulation.	1:100 – 1:500
Floor Plan	Walls, doors, windows, furniture layout, dimensions, room labels.	1:50 – 1:100
Elevations	Exterior façades, material notes, heights, window/door details.	1:50 – 1:100
Sections	Cut-through view showing vertical relationships, floor-to-floor heights, structural elements.	1:50 – 1:100
Details	Enlarged view of specific construction elements (e.g., wall assembly, window head).	1:5 – 1:20
Reflected Ceiling Plans	Ceiling finishes, lighting, HVAC diffusers, fire-sprinkler layout.	1:50 – 1:100
Schedules	Tabular data: doors, windows, finishes, hardware.	N/A (text)

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Category	Typical Content	Scale (common)
Perspective / Axonometric	3D visualisation for presentation, massing studies.	N/A (illustrative)

3. Drafting Standards & Conventions

Element	Standard Practice
Line Types	- Continuous thick line – visible edges, outer walls. - Continuous thin line – hidden edges, interior partitions. - Dashed line – invisible or future elements.
Line Weights	0.5mm (thin) for dimensions & hidden lines; 0.7mm (medium) for general outlines; 1.0mm (thick) for primary edges.
Text	Upper case, sans serif, 3mm height for notes; 2mm for dimensions.
Dimensioning	Orthogonal dimensions, extension lines, arrowheads, clear spacing; use metric (mm) or imperial (in) consistently.
Symbols	Adopt ISO 128 (or local equivalents) for doors, windows, fixtures, electrical, plumbing.
Title Block	Project name, drawing number, revision, date, scale, sheet size, author, approvals.
Layer Management (CAD/BIM)	Separate layers for <i>Architecture</i> , <i>Structure</i> , <i>MEP</i> , <i>Annotations</i> , <i>Dimensions</i> .

4. Tools & Technologies

Tool	Use Cases	Advantages
Traditional Drafting	Sketch pads, drawing boards, T-squares,	