

DesignLab: Exploring Skylines

Through the V&A+RIBA Architecture collections

Presentation

V&A + RIBA
Architecture Partnership



What is a skyline?

Name the cities these skylines belong to.



What does the skyline look like where you live?

What makes a skyline stand out?



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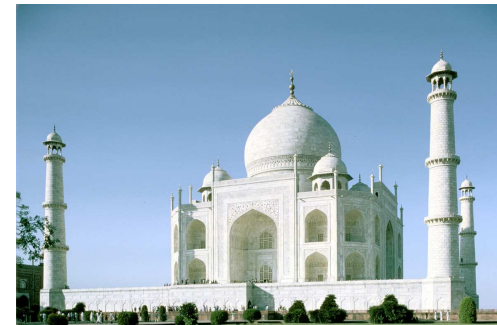
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Belinda Ross © RIBA Library Photographs Collection



© Bernard Cox / © RIBA Library Photographs Collection

Look at the different shapes of these building. Which is the most iconic?
Can you name them, and the cities and or countries in which they can be found?

Who designs buildings and shapes our city skylines?



Sir Christopher Wren, Edward Pearce, 1700s
© RIBA Library Drawings Collection



Sir Norman Foster, 1980s © RIBA Library Photographs Collection

Here are two famous architects, Sir Christopher Wren and Sir Norman Foster. They have both shaped city skylines.

Do you know any buildings they have designed?

Which buildings shape a city's identity?

Spot the differences between these two images of London's skyline. Can you find these buildings, St Paul's Cathedral and the Gherkin?

Proposed London 1945-55



Charles Holden and William Holford, Designs for Post-War London, 1945-55 © RIBA Library Drawings Collection

London today



How has London's skyline changed over time?

What might London's skyline look like in 2020?



Proposal for DIFA Tower, 2005, ©Kohn Pederson Fox and Cityscape

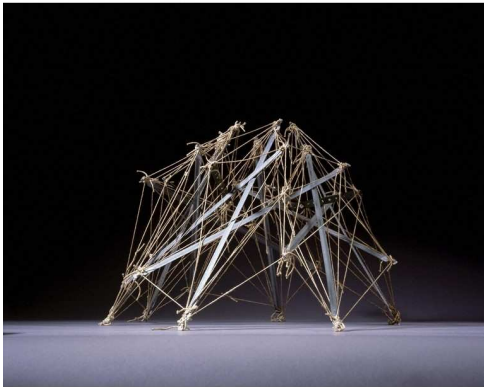
What might skylines look like in the future?

Who and what might they be influenced or inspired by?

How would you change or improve your local skyline?

How do architects design buildings?

Architects create different types of models when creating an idea.



V&A Spiral, Daniel Libeskind © V&A Images



Mosque of Miyan Khan Chishti © V&A Images



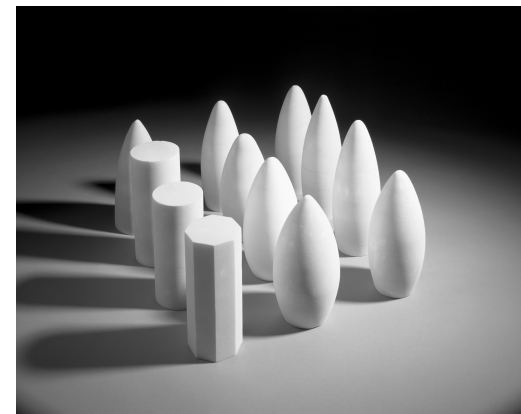
Eden Project, Grimshaw & Partners © V&A Images



V&A Spiral, Daniel Libeskind © V&A Images



St Martins in the Fields, James Gibbs © V&A Images



30 St Marys Axe, Fosters & Partners © V&A Images

Which of these designs would you combine to make an interesting city skyline?

How have artists and architects drawn skylines?

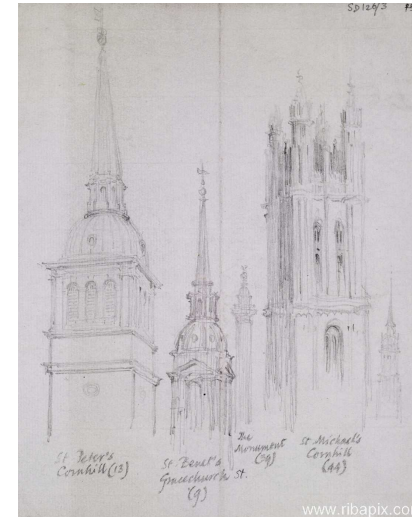
Which of these skylines do you think are real and which are imaginary?



Rome Books, Giovanni Piranesi, 1770s © V&A Images



Sleek Tower and Verandah Tower, Peter Cook, 1984 © RIBA Library Drawings Collection



Sketch for a Tribute to Sir Christopher Wren, Charles Cockerell, circa 1838 © RIBA Library Drawings Collection



Monte Carlo Camp, Archigram, 1961 © V&A Images



Suggested development for St Paul's area, Joseph Emberton, 1946 © RIBA Library Drawings Collection

How many different materials and techniques can you see in these pictures? 8

Creating skylines

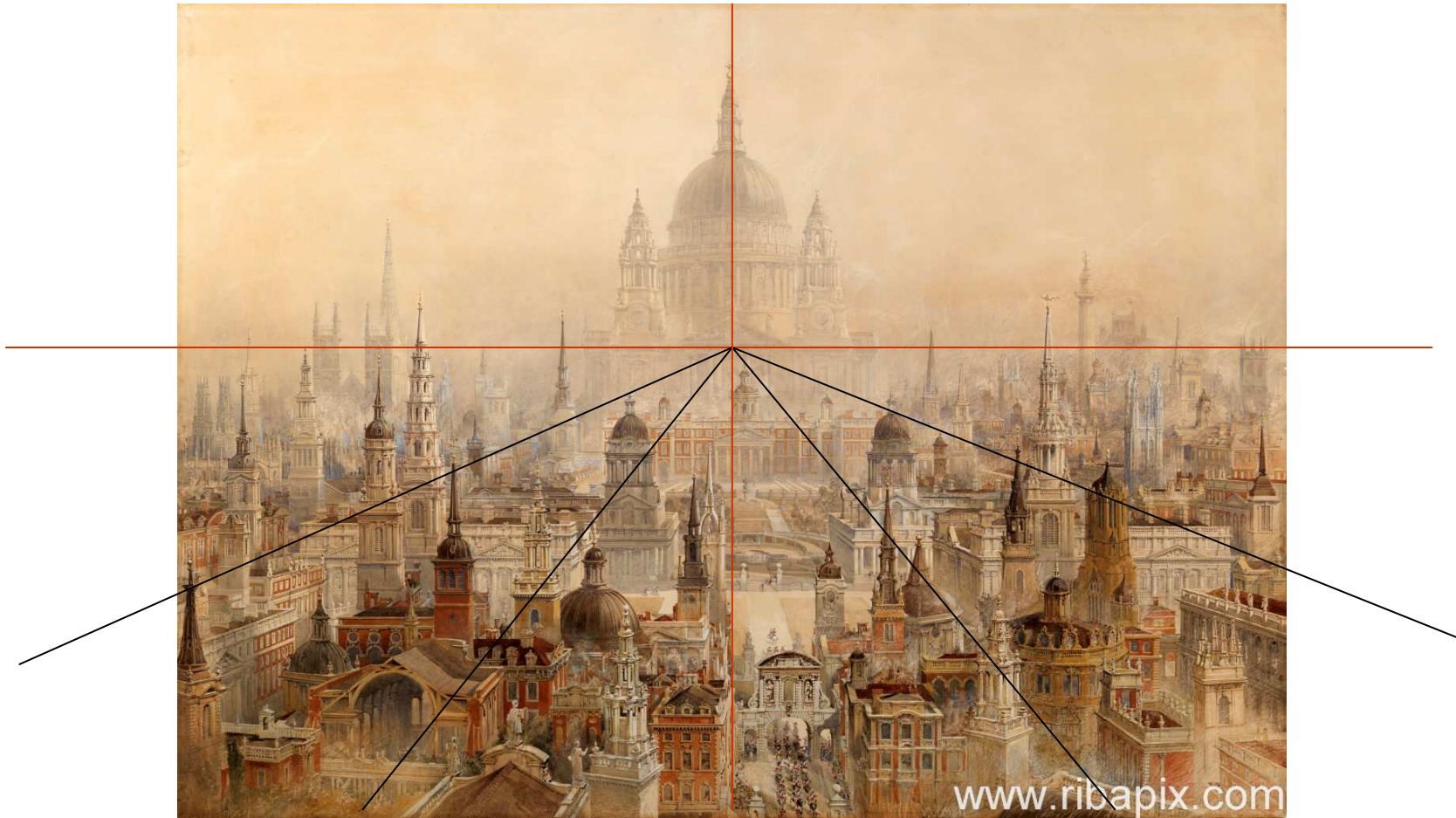
Do you recognise any of these buildings? Is this a real or imagined place?



A Tribute to Sir Christopher Wren, Charles Cockerell © RIBA Library Drawings Collection

Using perspective and scale

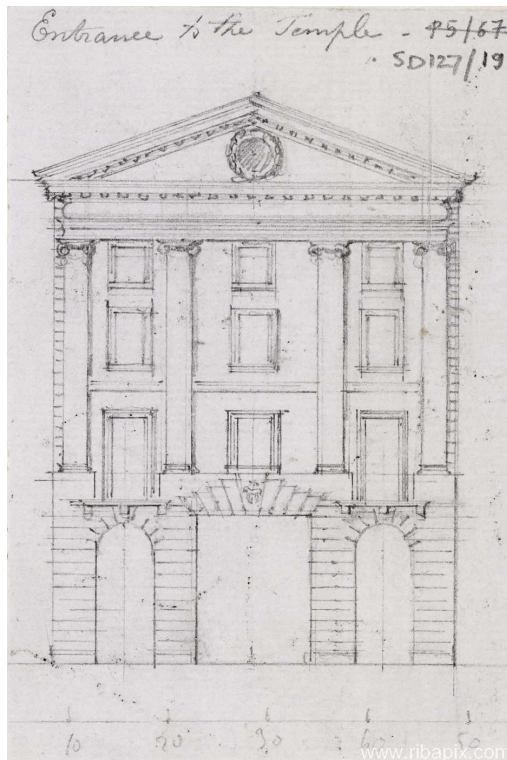
How has the artist used scale and perspective in this composition of a skyline?



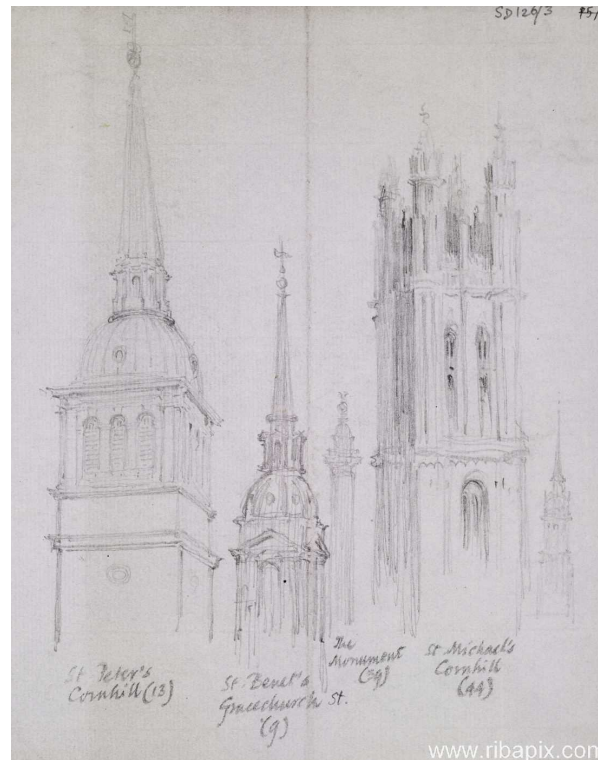
A Tribute to Sir Christopher Wren, Charles Cockerell © RIBA Library Drawings Collection

Researching skylines

How do you think Charles Cockerell researched and recorded the buildings for his painting 'A Tribute to Sir Christopher Wren'?



Entrance to the Temple, Charles Cockerell, circa 1838
© RIBA Library Drawings Collection



St Peter's Cornhill, St Benet's Gracechurch Street, The Monument, St Michael's Cornhill, Charles Cockerell, circa 1838
© RIBA Library Drawings Collection



Detail/ornament, Charles Cockerell, circa 1838
© RIBA Library Drawings Collection

Where can you find skylines?

Do you recognise any of these buildings. Can you find St Paul's or Big Ben?



Panorama of London, Henry William Brewer, 1898 © RIBA Library Drawings Collection

Explore skylines...
at the Victoria and Albert Museum
your neighbourhood
a nearby town or city
search online for cities around the world

Where could you explore skylines at the V&A?

Visit the...



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Prints and Drawings
Study Rooms



© V&A Images

Cast Courts



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The V&A+RIBA
Architecture Gallery

How to look at drawings of skylines

Describe what you see.

types of buildings?

real or imaginary place?

materials used?

line?

tone?

colour?

composition?



view point?

focal point?

scale?

interesting outlines?

details?

dramatic effects?

purpose of the drawing?

can you see buildings like this today?

A Tribute to Sir Christopher Wren, Charles Cockerell © RIBA Library Drawings Collection

How to look at architectural models

Describe what you see.

- type of building?
- interesting decoration?
- details?
- use of materials?
- line?
- colour?
- shape?



Gateway from the Mausoleum of Shogun Tokugawa , Architecture Gallery © V&A Images

front, back,
side view?

best viewpoint?

interesting
outline?

purpose of
the model?

can you see
buildings like
this today?

How to look at fragments of buildings

Describe what you see.

type of building this is from?

part of the building?

interesting decoration or details?

use of line?

colour?

shape?



Cast Courts © V&A Images

front, back, side view?

best viewpoint?

interesting outline?

can you see buildings or fragments like this today?

have you seen buildings or fragments like this before?

Could you draw an imaginary or a real skyline?



Exploring Skylines Workshop © V&A Images


Be inspired by...
architecture at the V&A
architecture in your local area
your imagination

Getting started: preparing to make your own skyline



Exploring Skylines Workshop © V&A Images

What and how are you going to research, record and draw?
What do you need to think about before you start?



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