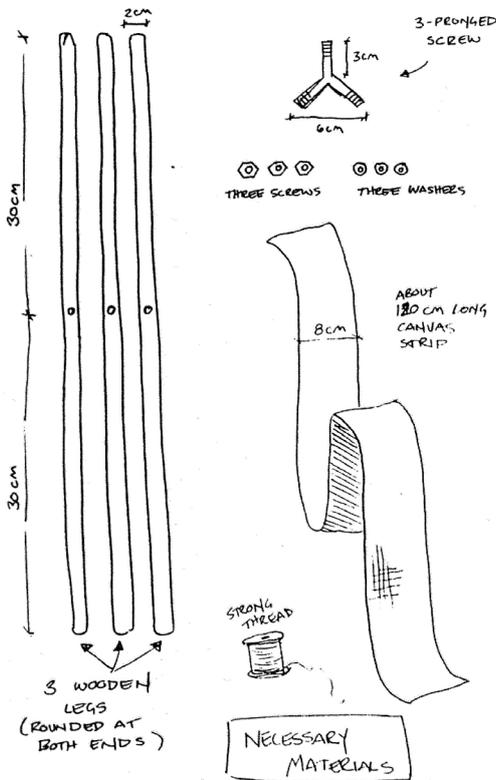


Assignment 1: Introduction

Analytical Thinking and Visual Note-taking



Assignment

Select an object and analyze it: for example, the folding stool, the pocketknife, or another comparable object.

The task is to produce a series of analytical sketches —schematic and detailed— that provide the essential information about your object(s) of choosing; such that a craftsman would be able to reproduce the object without any other record of it than that embodied in your sketches.

What information must you include?

How will you choose to visually and textually communicate it?

Readings

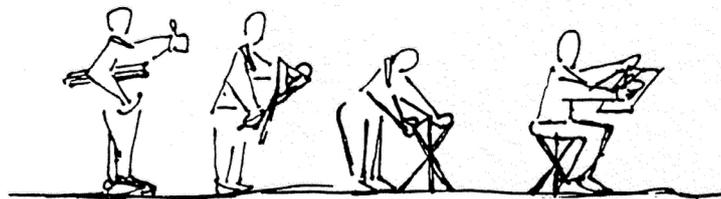
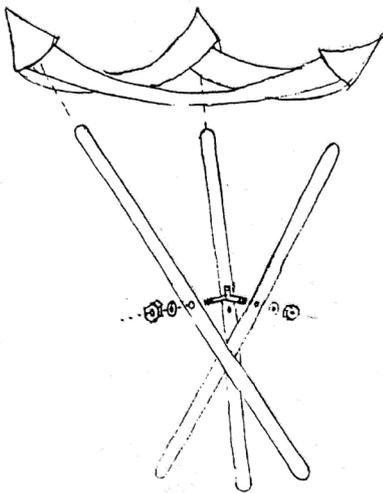
- Crow, Norman & Paul Laseau, *Visual Notes for Architects and Designers*, (New York: Van Nostrand Reinhold), 1984, pp. 1-9, 35-49.

Some Considerations

Remember that the goal here is communication and understanding, before the production of “pretty” drawings.

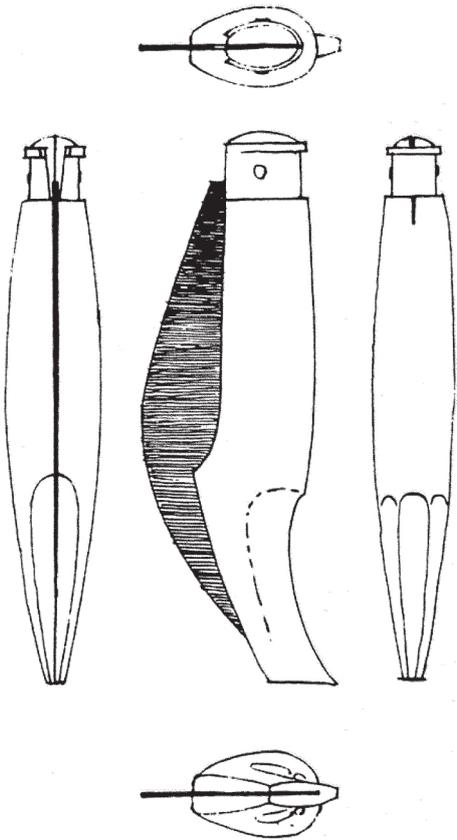
Analyses are abstractions and transcend prosaic descriptions. Most people fail to draw what they are observing; i.e. they end-up “symbolizing” instead of truly “seeing”. Analytical drawings are seen foremost in the mind’s eye.

It is neither always wisest nor most informative to only depict objects “as seen”. Show what cannot be seen in a single view. Examine. Abstract. Re-structure.



Assignment 1: Introduction

Analytical Thinking and Visual Note-taking



Some Suggestions

Perhaps begin by drawing a few quick free-hand perspectives of the object: sketch it from the angles that you consider most telling. These sketches should show its function(ing) as well.

Analytical drawings: Pull apart or explode the object into its constituent parts. Show the elements with their proper measurements, proportions, inter-relationships, materiality, etc. Show parts: whole. [What is it made of? Why? Is the material used efficiently? How much material is needed to reproduce it? etc.]

Construction sketches/Assembly drawings: Show how the object is assembled and constructed.

Examination: Use your drawings as your primary means of observation, questioning, and discovery.

Abstraction: Do not be afraid to constantly modify your drawings ("visual notes")! Frequently drawing the reverse of what you see (showing it from above, below or as "exploded" elements) or reducing what you see to its pure geometry may help you to further elucidate the problem at-hand. Composite and simultaneous views can also prove deeply insightful.

Re-structuring: Most often, your analyses will lead you to speculations about possible alternatives to the design in question. Feel free to also sketch your own design ideas, resulting from a re-structuring of your "finished" analytical sketches.

