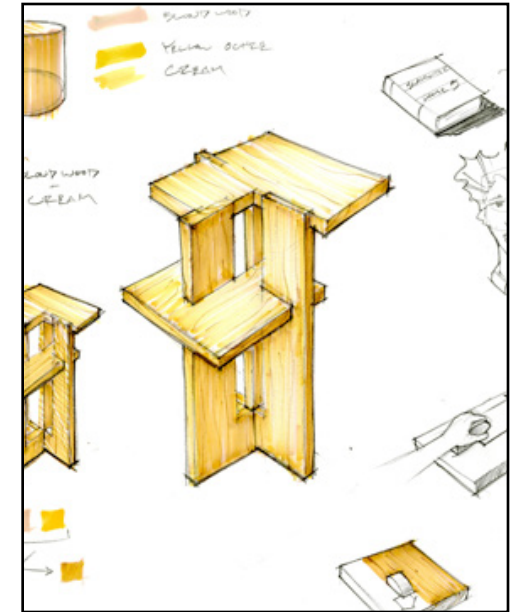# UX Sketching
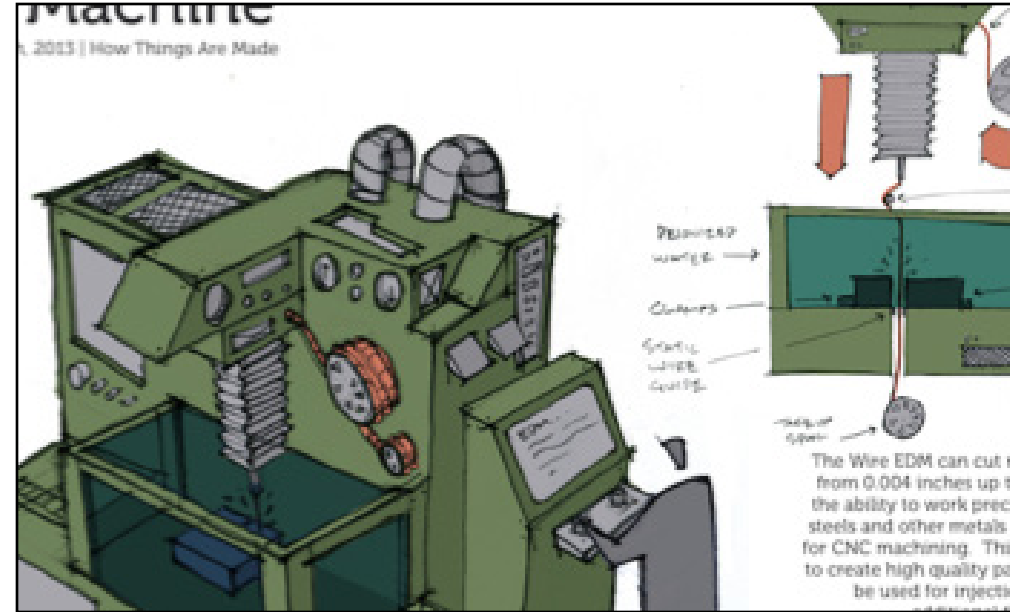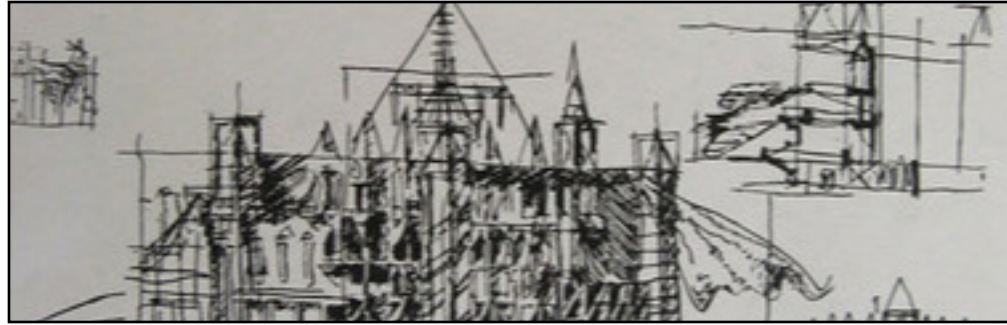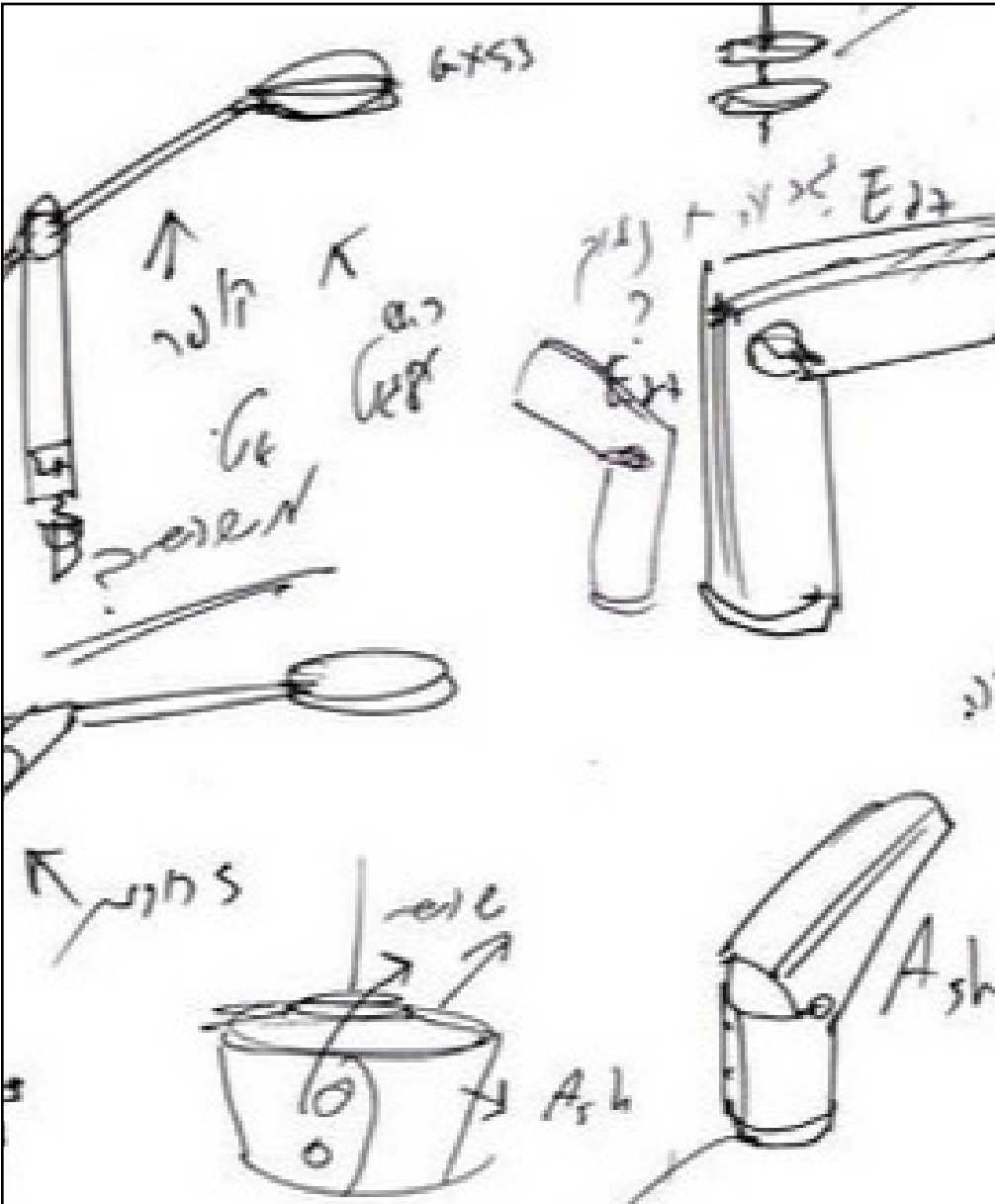
@yaakov

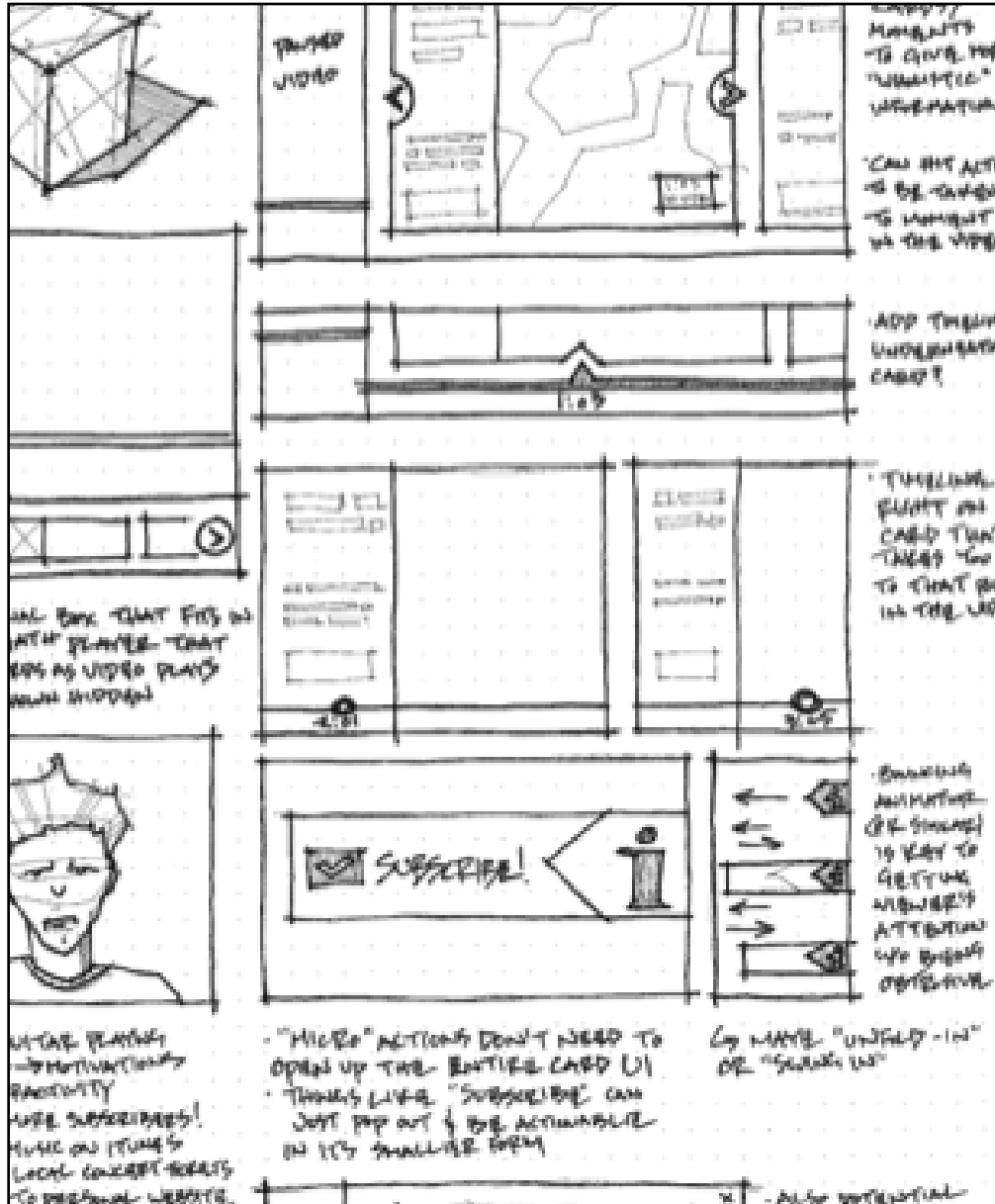# Sketching for Art Versus Design
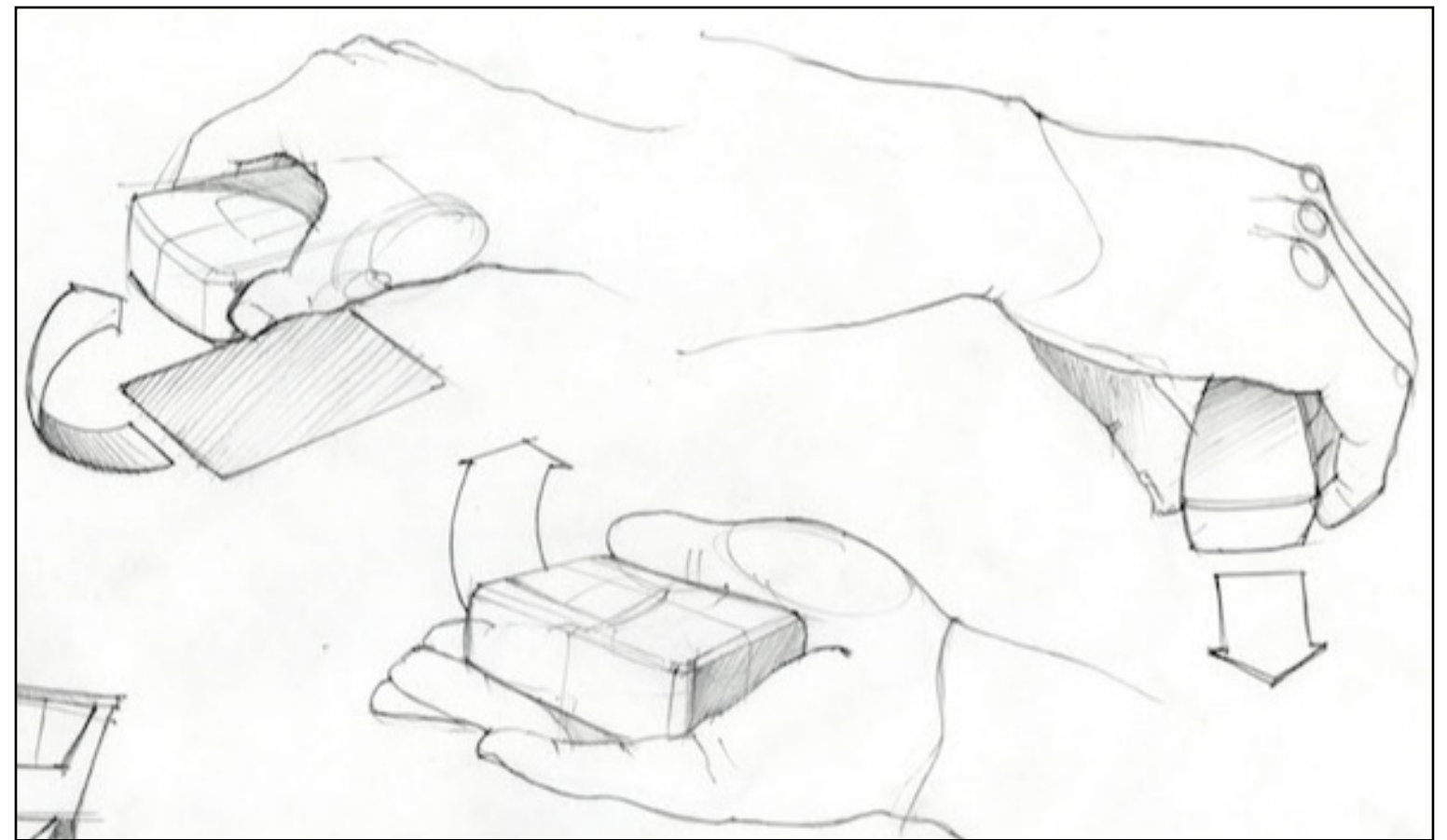
Sketching
Spectrum

Rough

notational

[for yourself to understand]

Refined

explanatory

[for others to understand]

Rendered

visual narrative

[for others to commit]

The Right Tools
for the Job

[Embrace the Permanence]

It's important to have a small but diverse set of tools that
different marks on the page. Pens of varying line thickness
can be used to gradually build up tone.

Working in permanent media, like ink, when starting out helps
reduce the instinct to erase and instead encourages you to
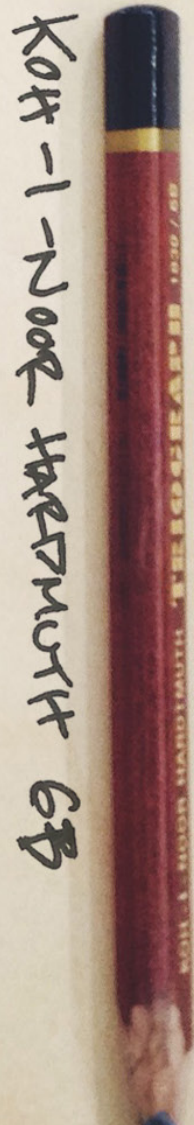embrace the marks on the page.
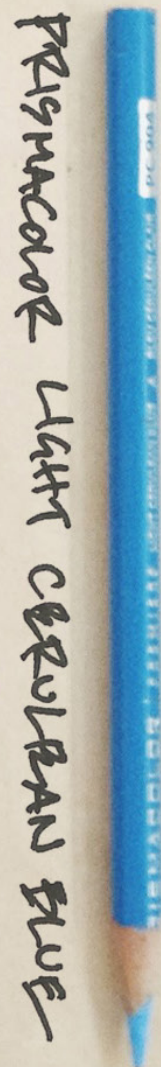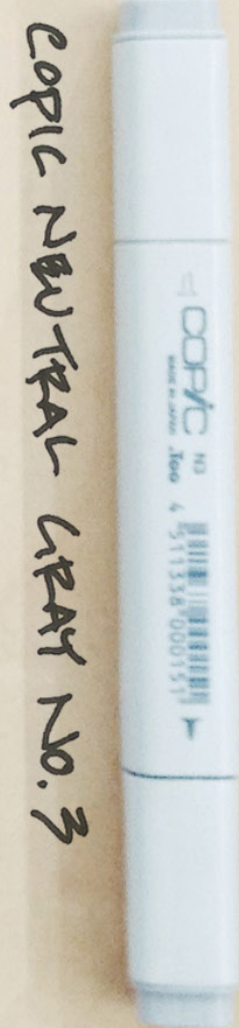
SHARPIE KING SIZE
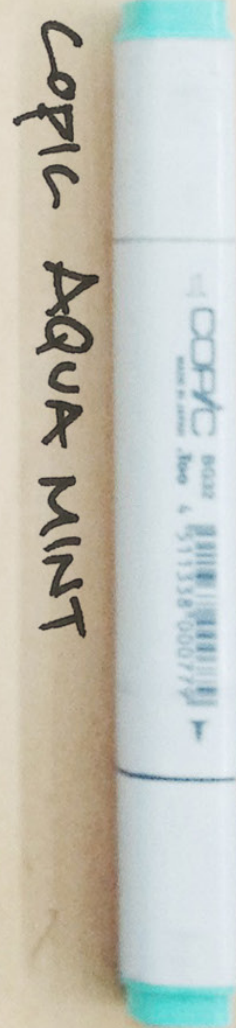
SHARPIE

COPIC MULTILINER SP 0.7

HI-TEC-C 0.3

EXACTO KNIFE

KOH-I-NOOR HARDMUTH 6B

PRISMACOLOR LIGHT CERULEAN BLUE
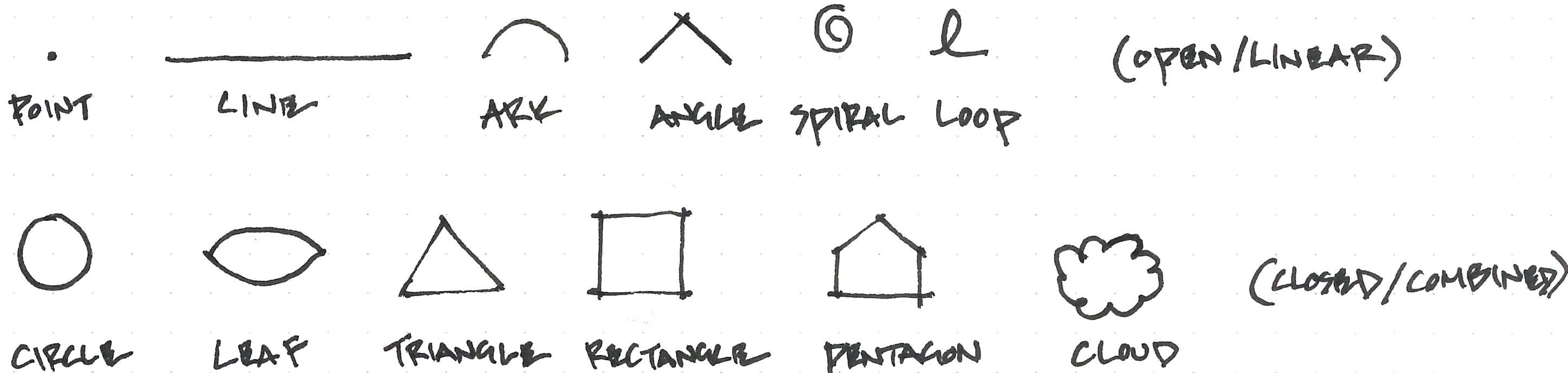
COPIC NEUTRAL GRAY No.3

COPIC AQUA MINT

PENCIL EXTENDER

Visual Alphabet
# (Glyphs)

[Start with the Basics]

Just like you can use the twenty six letters of the alphabet to make any word you can think of, you can use these twelve basic shapes to draw quick and compelling sketches of almost anything.

POINT LINE ARK ANGLE SPIRAL LOOP (OPEN/LINEAR)

CIRCLE LEAF TRIANGLE RECTANGLE PENTAGON CLOUD (CLOSED/COMBINED)

Fear of the Blank
Page

[Break the Surface]

A blank sheet of paper can't hurt you, but it can cause apprehension and pressure you to make the perfect sketch right away. Putting down a primitive sketch or doodle helps you 'break the surface' of the page. Starting with a title block or frame enables you to ease into the whitespace by setting parameters for your sketch
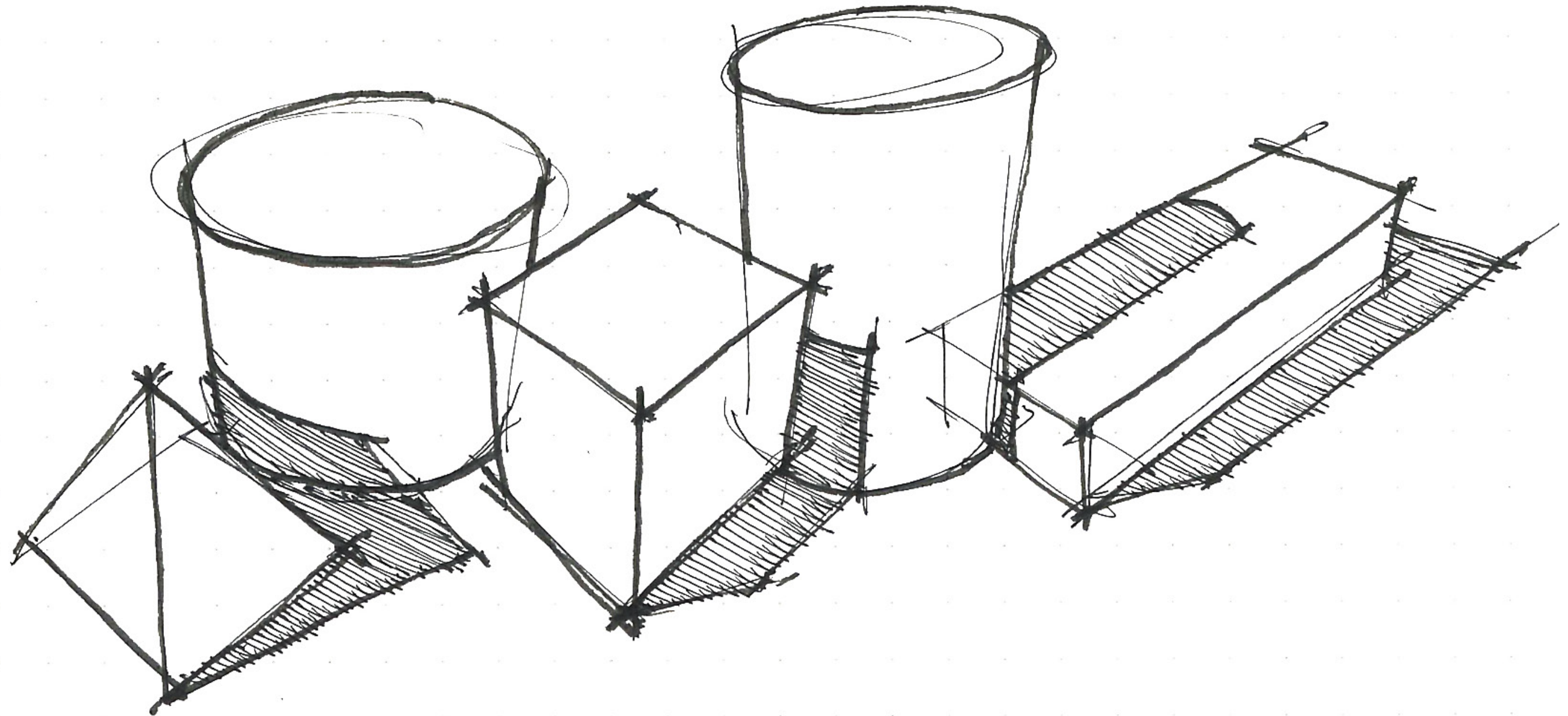
Warm Up
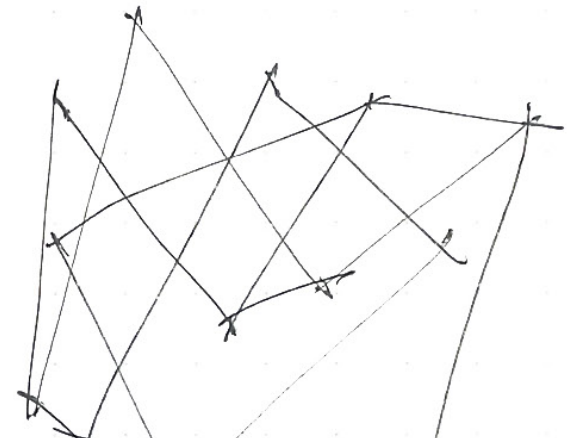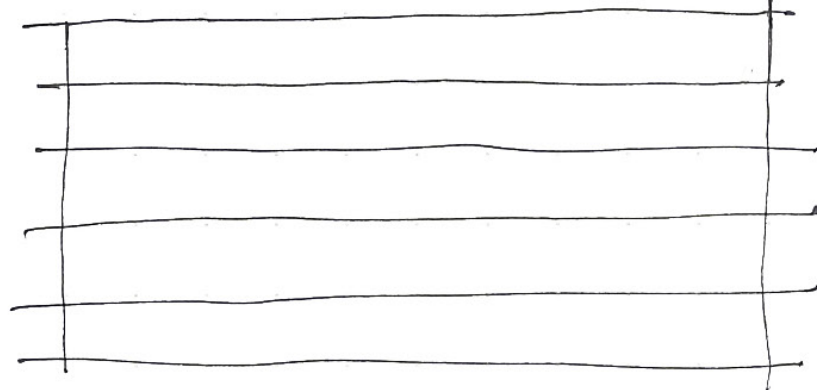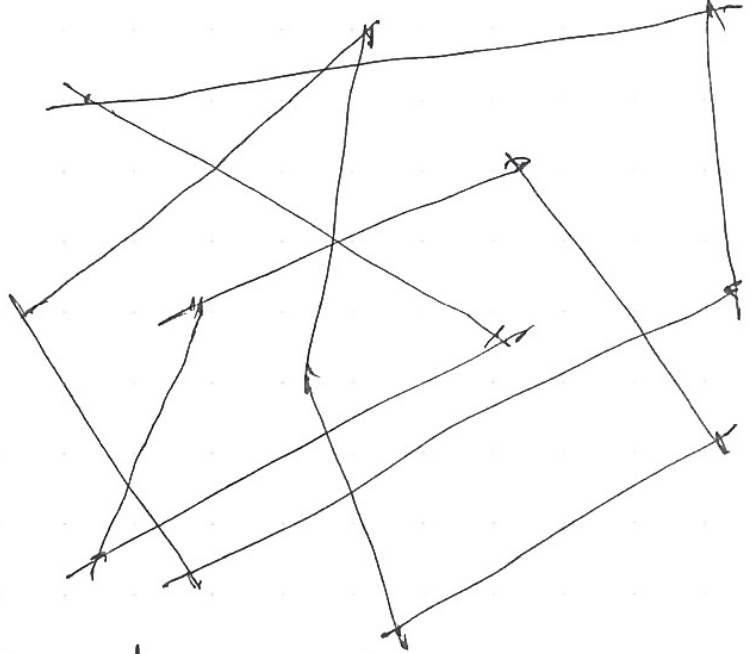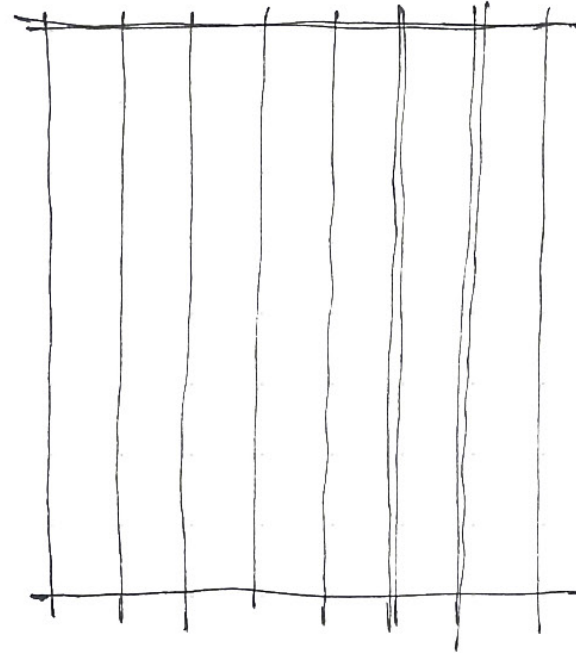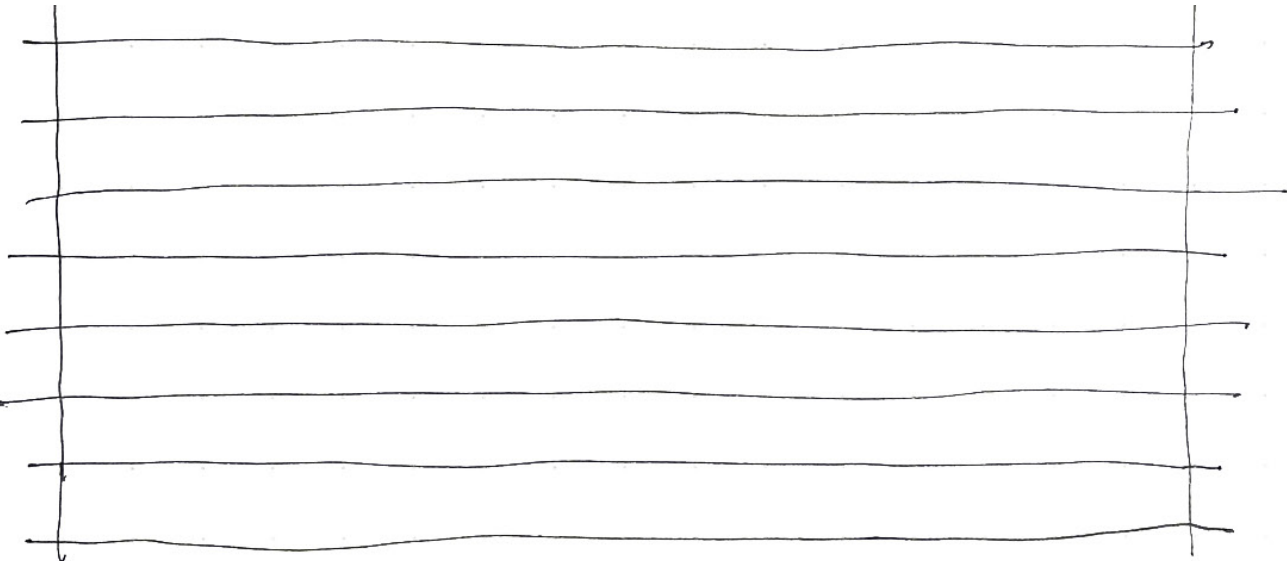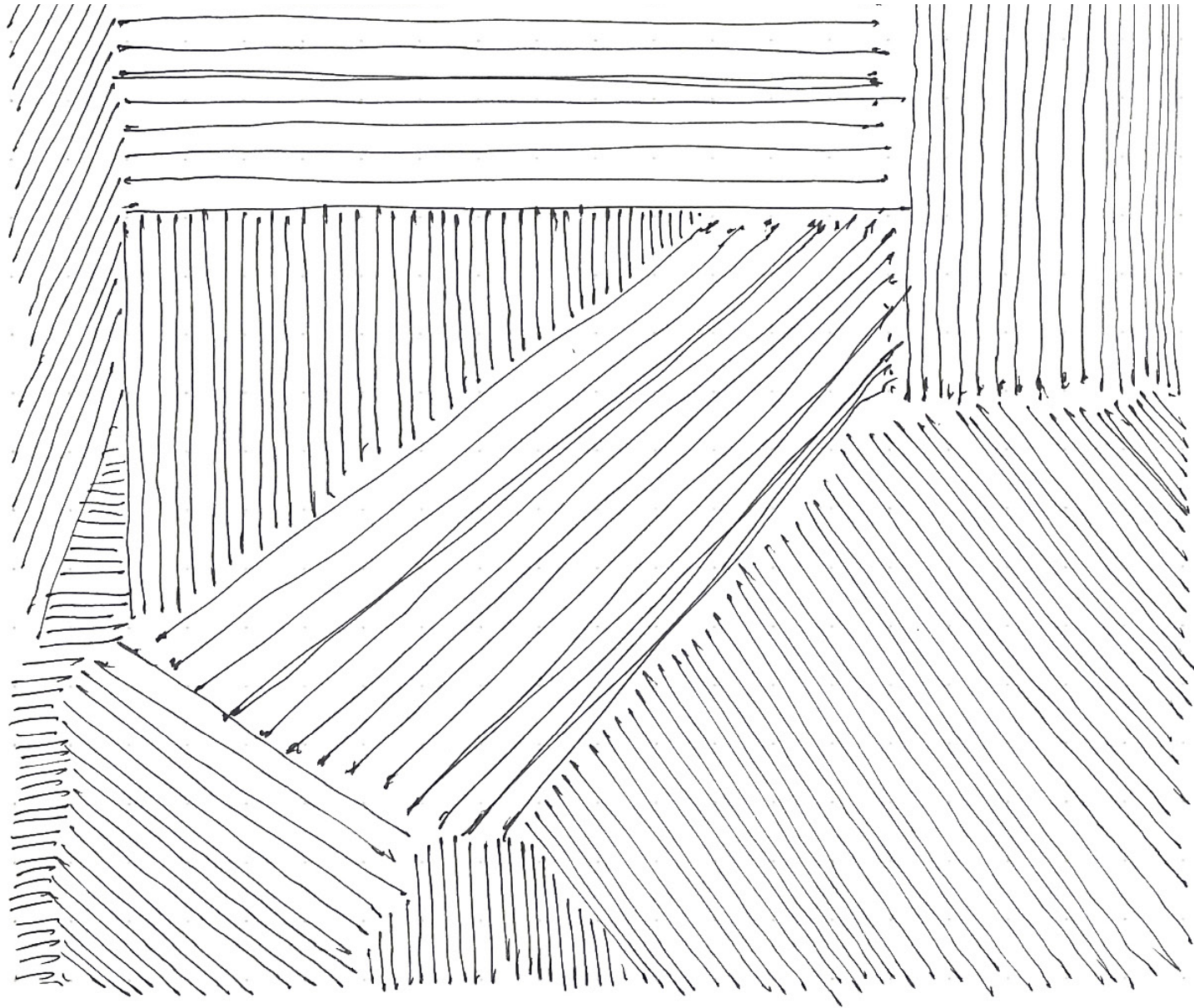
PLACE 2 DOTS ON THE PAPER &
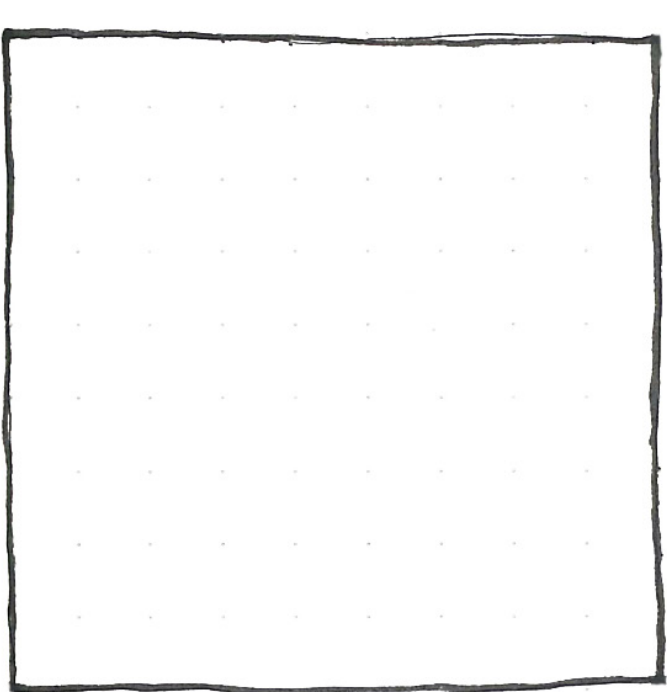CONNECT THEM WITH SWIFT BUT
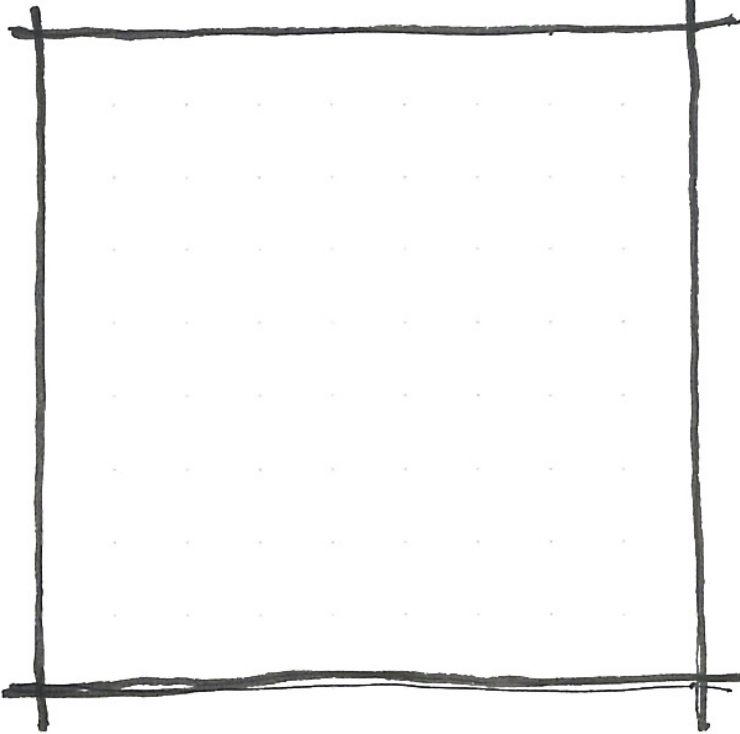ACCURATE LINES.

[warm up]

Mark Making and
Line Quality

[Overlap Lines]

Corners that overlap slightly and circles that are drawn over twice have a more expressive quality to them that is both visually engaging and inviting

CONNECT AT CORNERS   THROUGH CORNERS

[Focus on Primary Message]

Keeping each sketch focused on illustrating one aspect of the idea will keep the message simple and increase the likelihood that a viewer will understand an idea
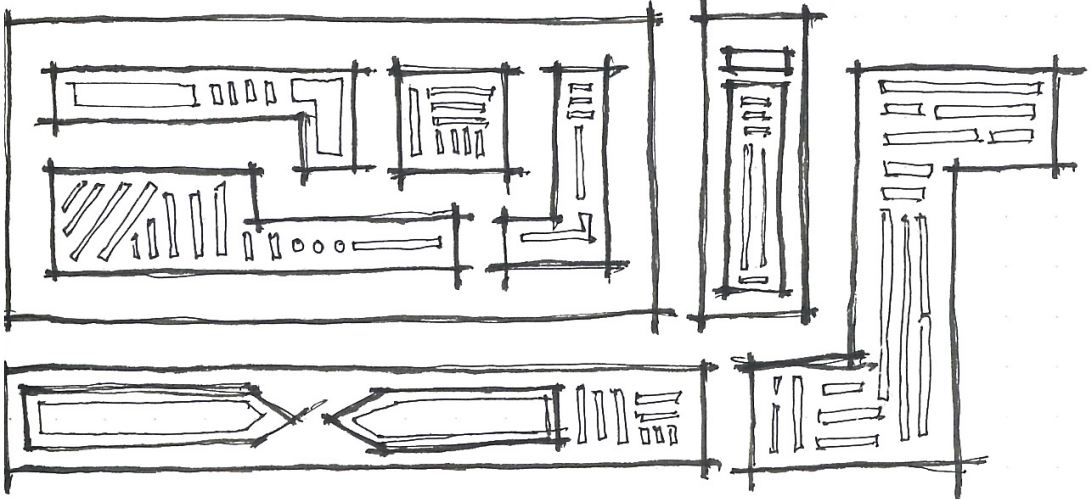
[Draw Accurately]

Accuracy of drawing will better support your message and the intent of the sketch. If you intend to draw a square, then don't draw a rectangle

HAIRY

CLEAN
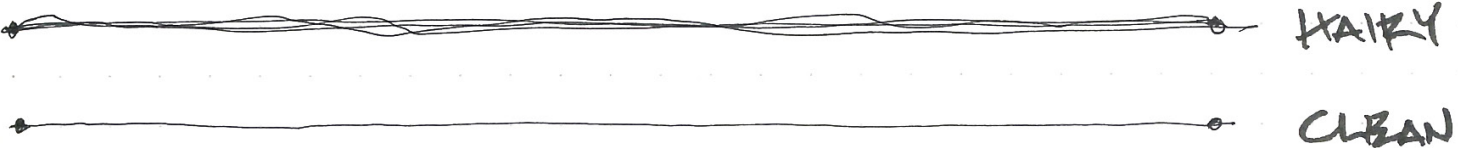
[Show Underlying Structure]

Using non-photo blue pencil, or a thin pen, or gray marker to create a framework allows you to lay heaver, bolder lines on top to create depth and visual interest
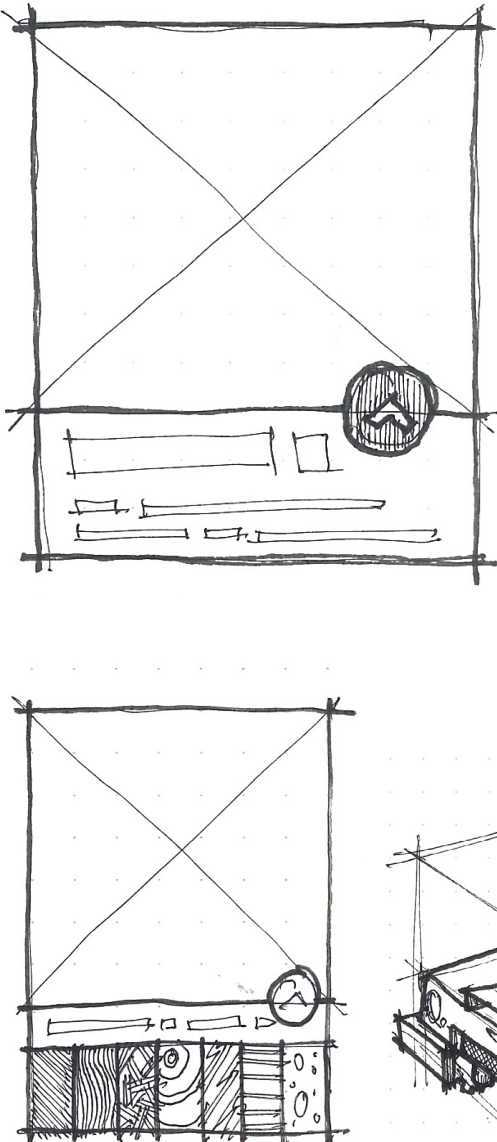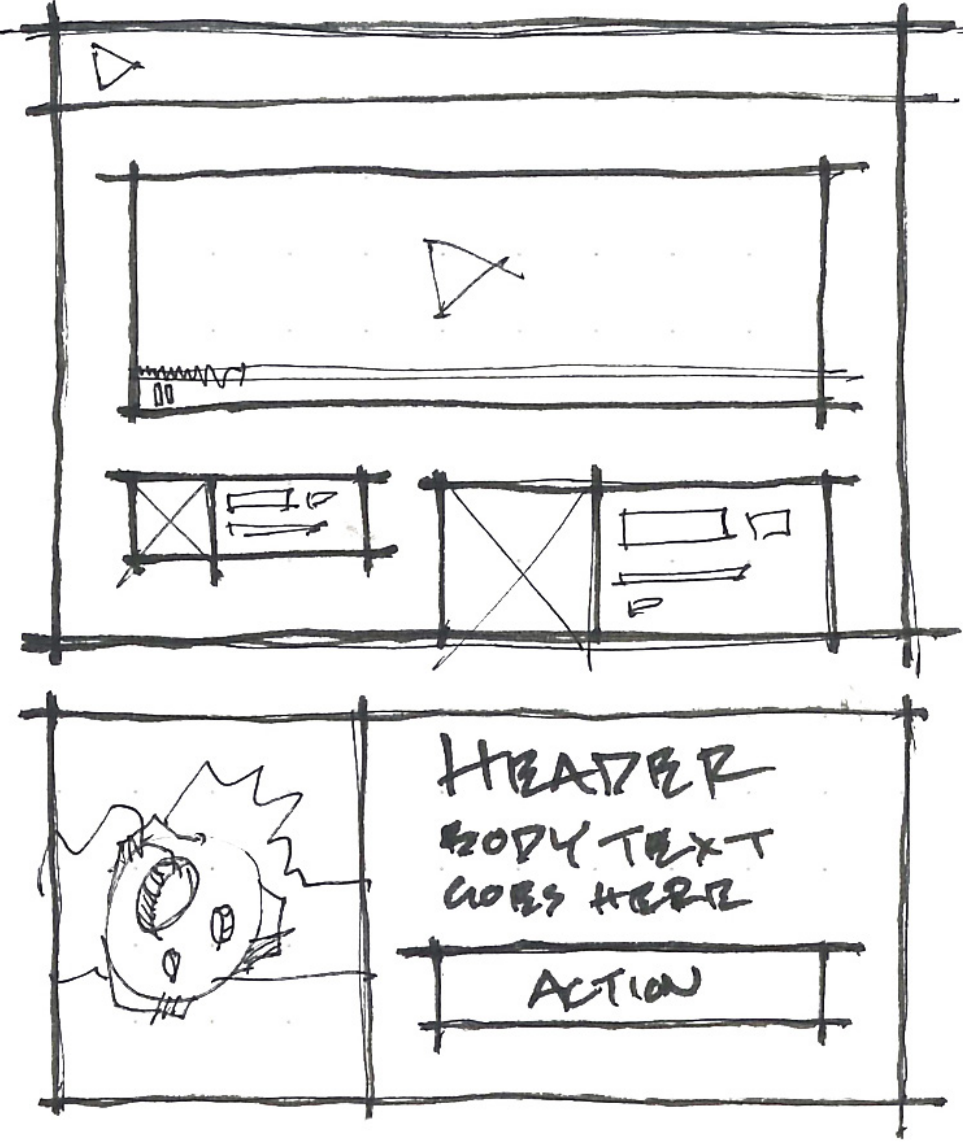
" **Good sketches are accurate and precise in structure but rough in expression** "

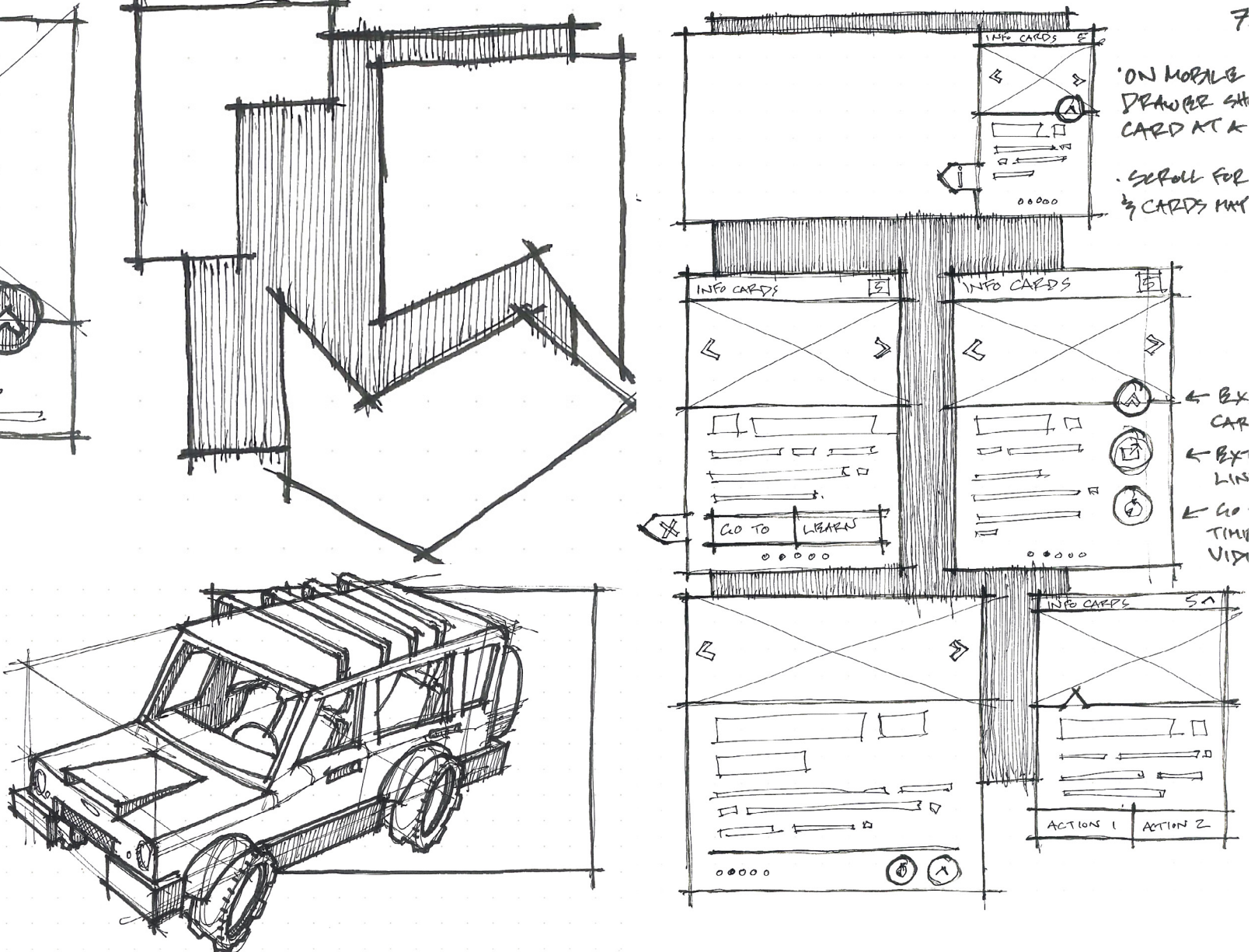# Visual Attention
and Composition

[Control the Use of Line Weight]

Line control and accuracy are important in more formal sketching. Good use of offset line weights will give a drawing more visual depth and hierarchy and enable a clearer reading of form

[Use Vignettes for Grouping]

Communicating that several sketches are part of a larger concept is important when showing states of objects. Good use of vignettes will establish a visual connection between sketches and create a stronger composition
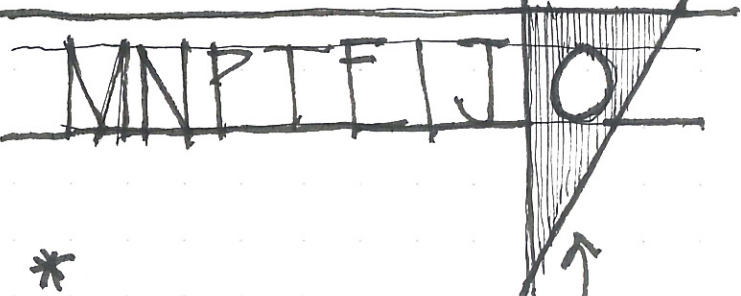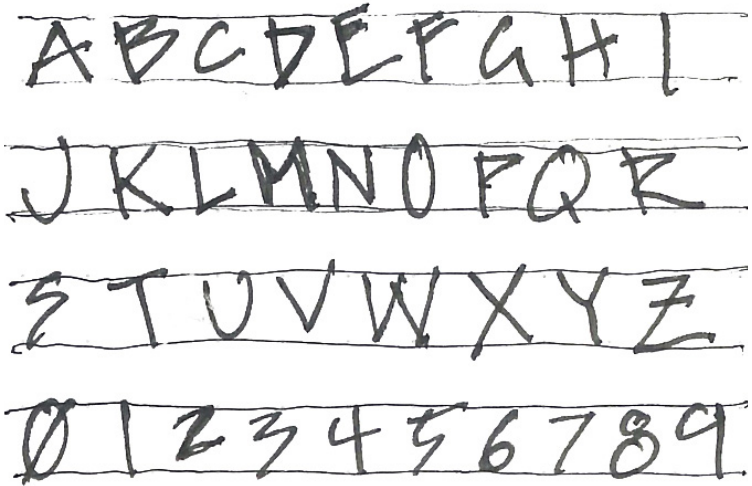
Visual Attention and Composition

[Arrows Indicate Motion]

Use arrows as graphic elements to inform UI motion, transitions, and relationships between sketches. More complex arrows can inform more intricate animations within their self contained form
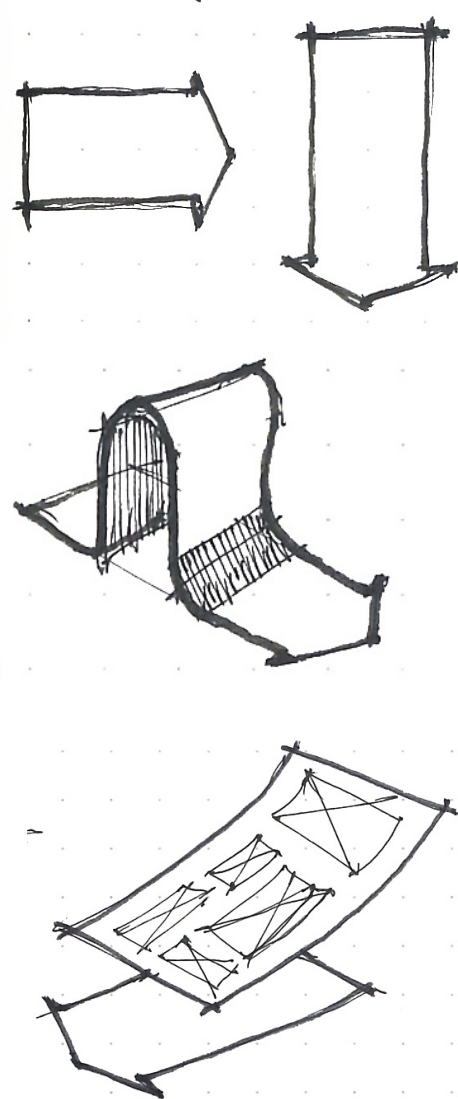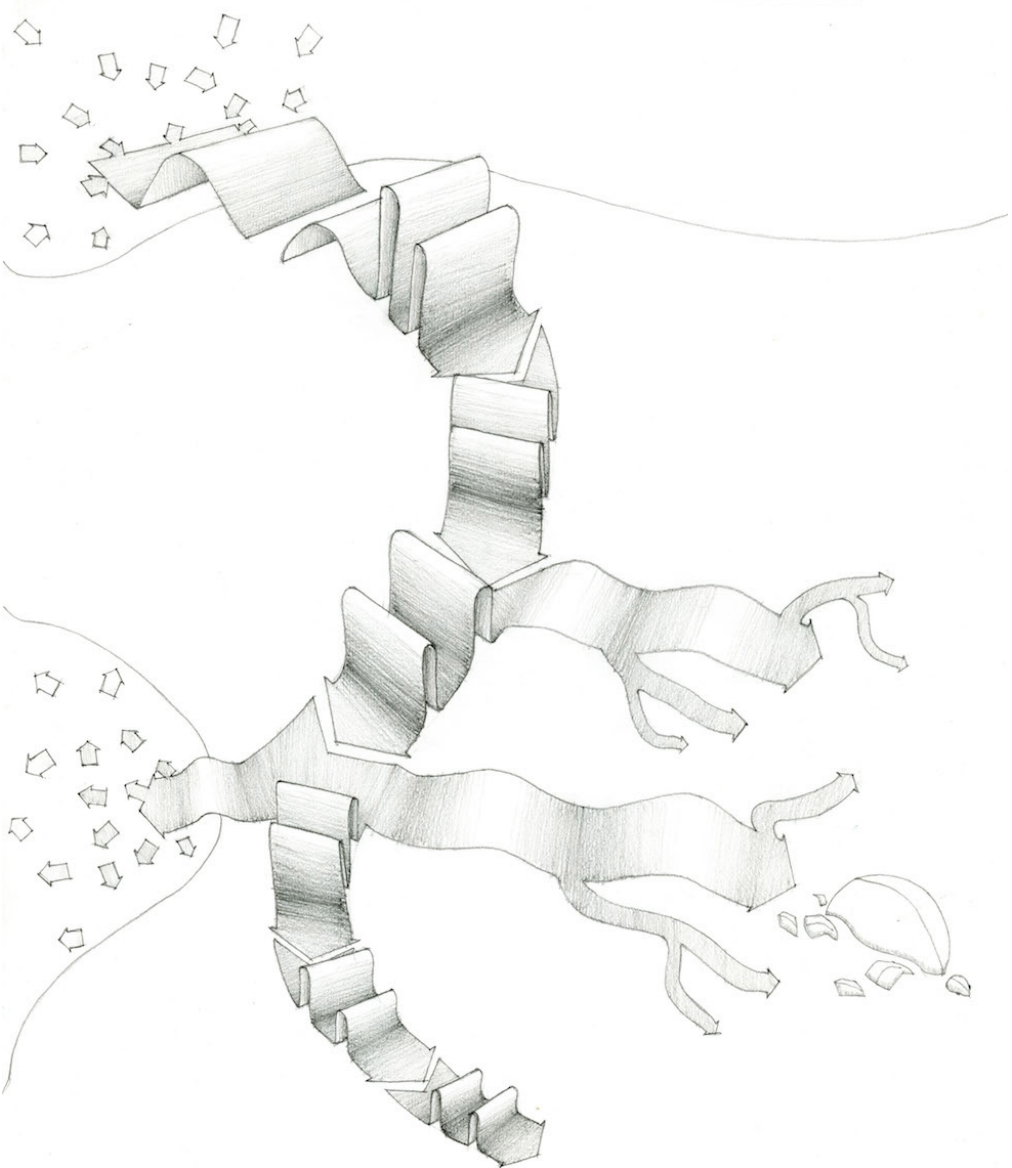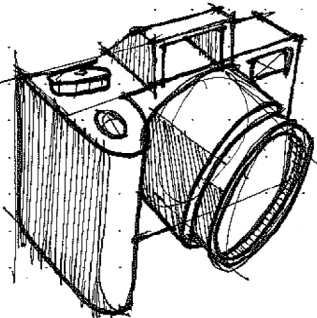
[Make Call outs Readable]

Call outs can be used to explain something that is too complex to draw out, or to leave a note for yourself. They should be considered part of the overall composition and be written in all caps for increased readability
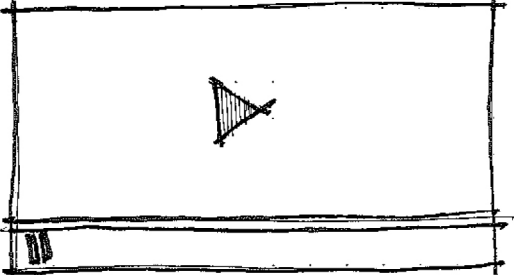
Combining Your
New Skills

CARDS ON DESKTOP USING SIDE DRAWER ORGANIZATION

LEFT HAND IMAGE, TEXT IN MIDDLE, & LARGE ACTION BUTTON ON BOTTOM

ACTION

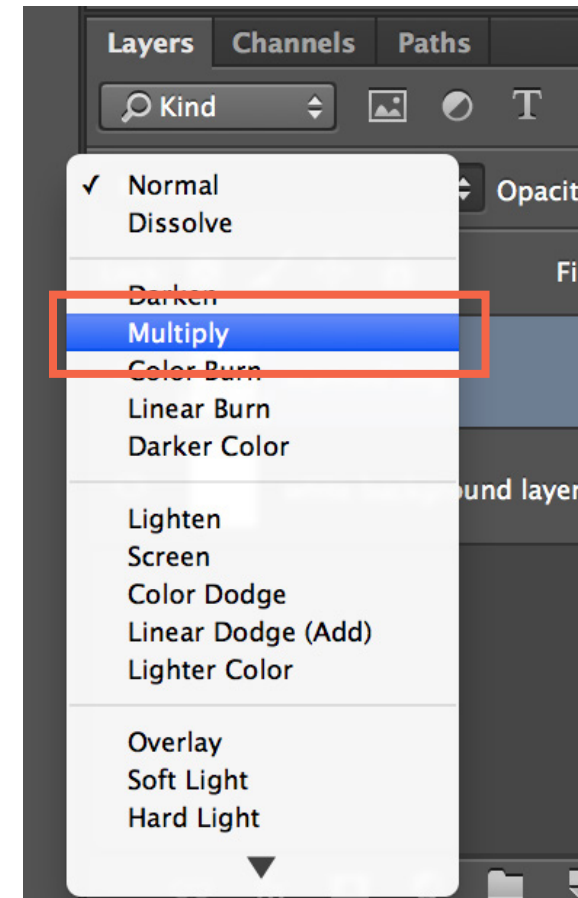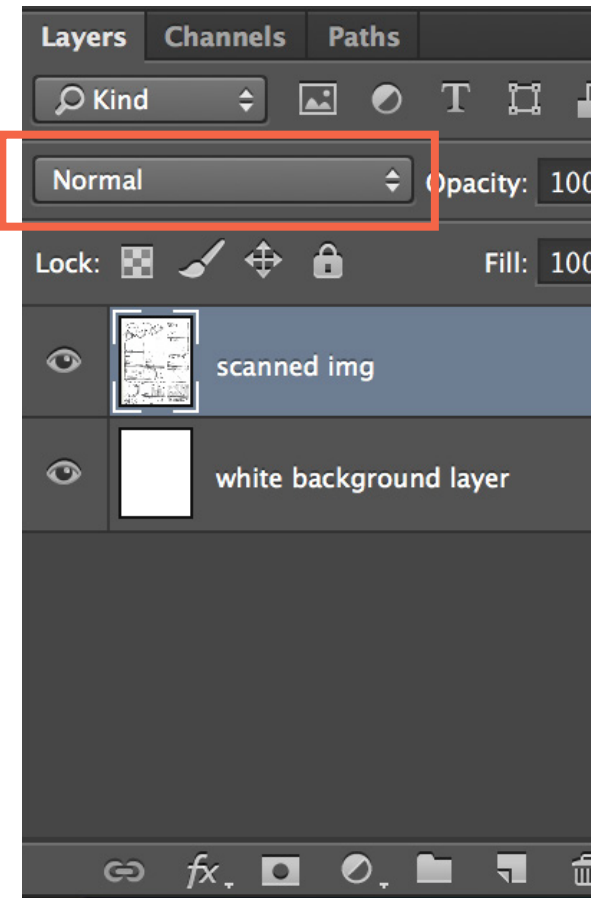ON MOBILE, CARDS SIT IN THE CURRENT ABOUT SECTION
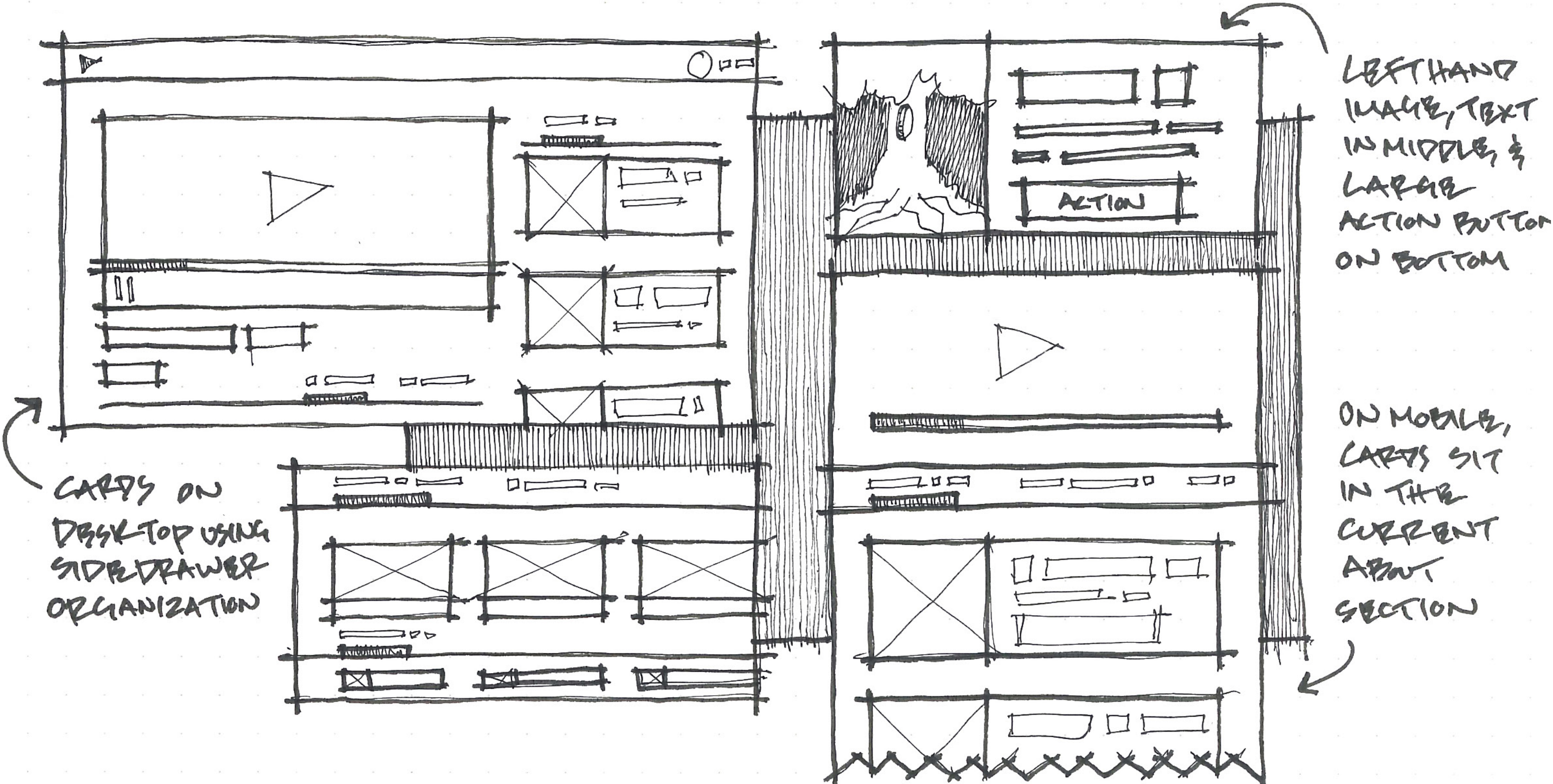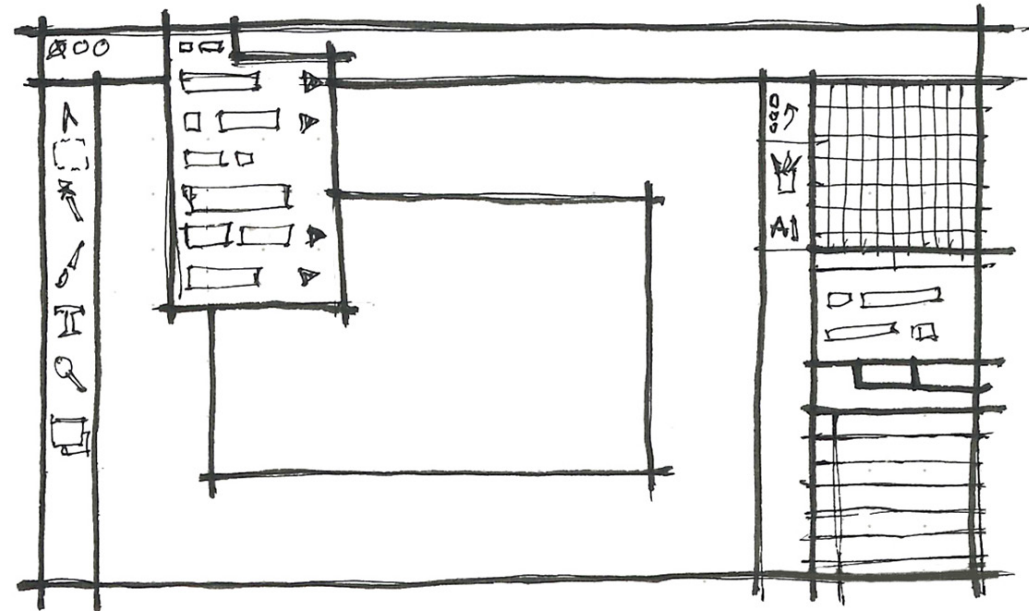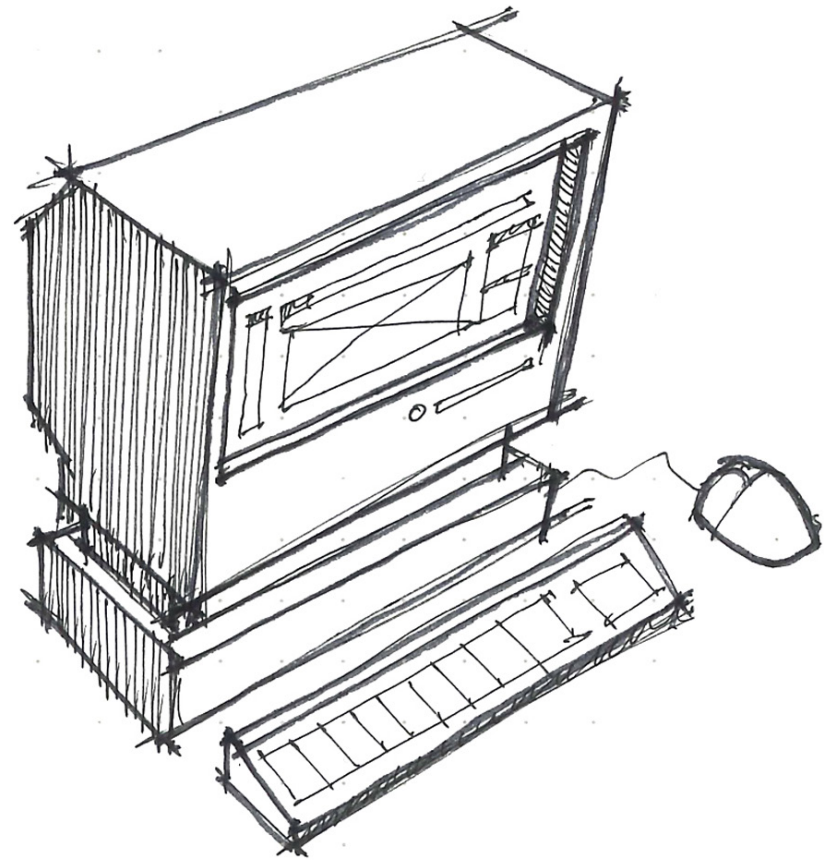
[sketching exercise]

Scanning
Sketches
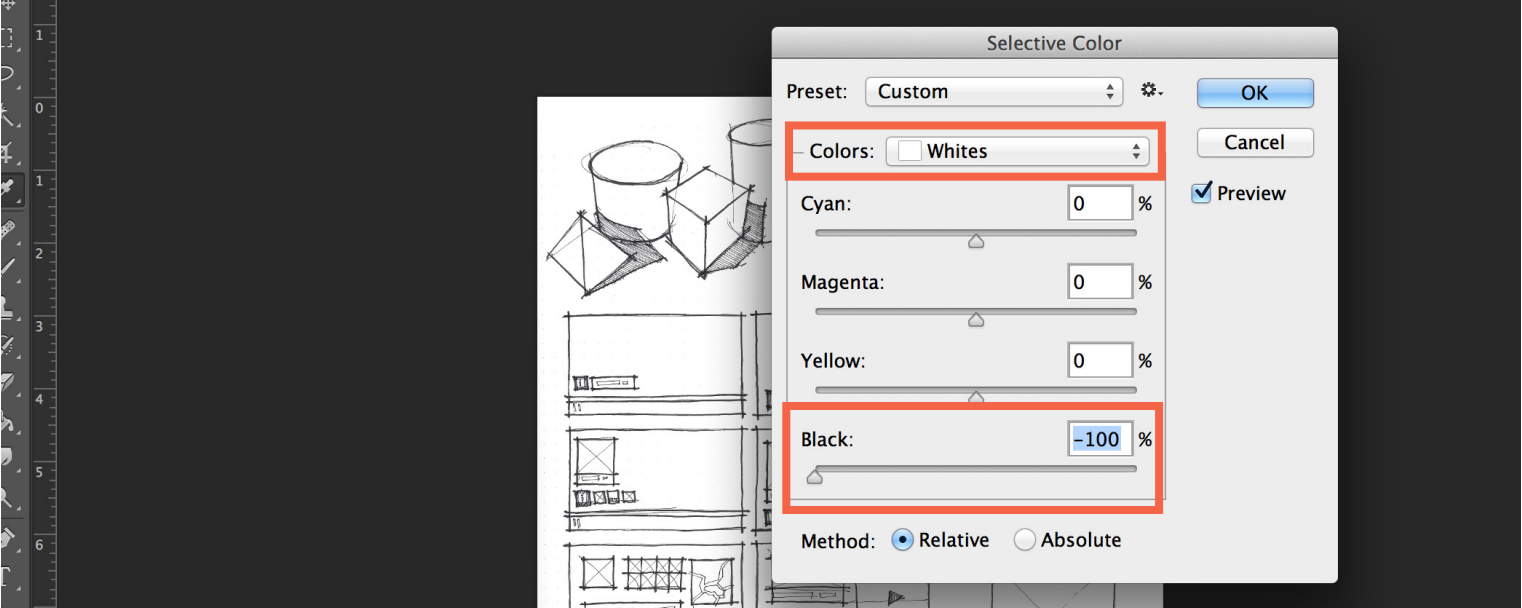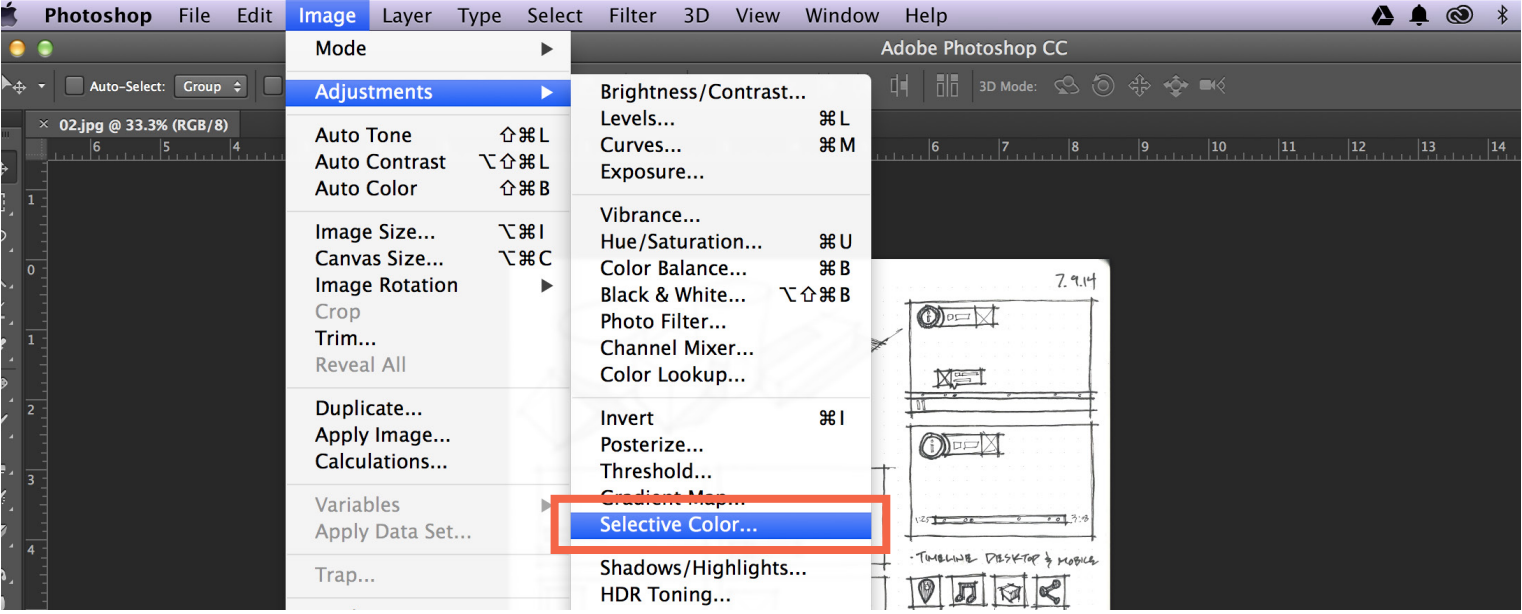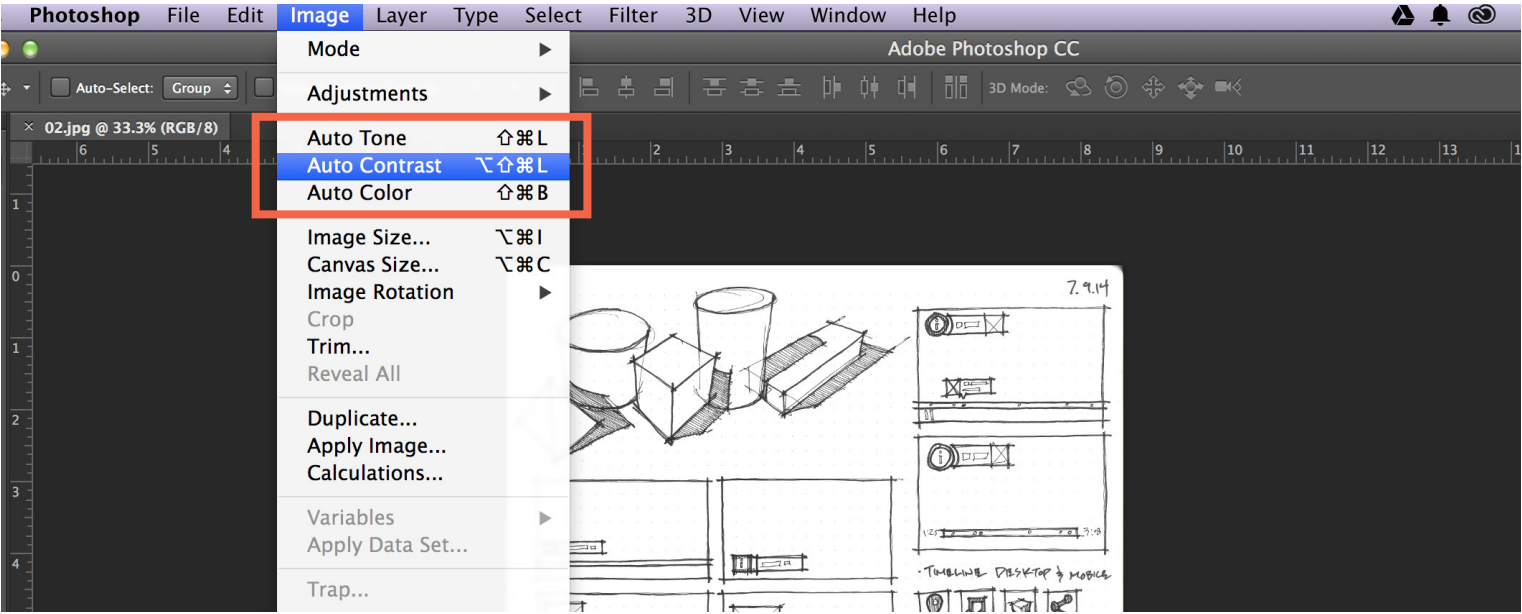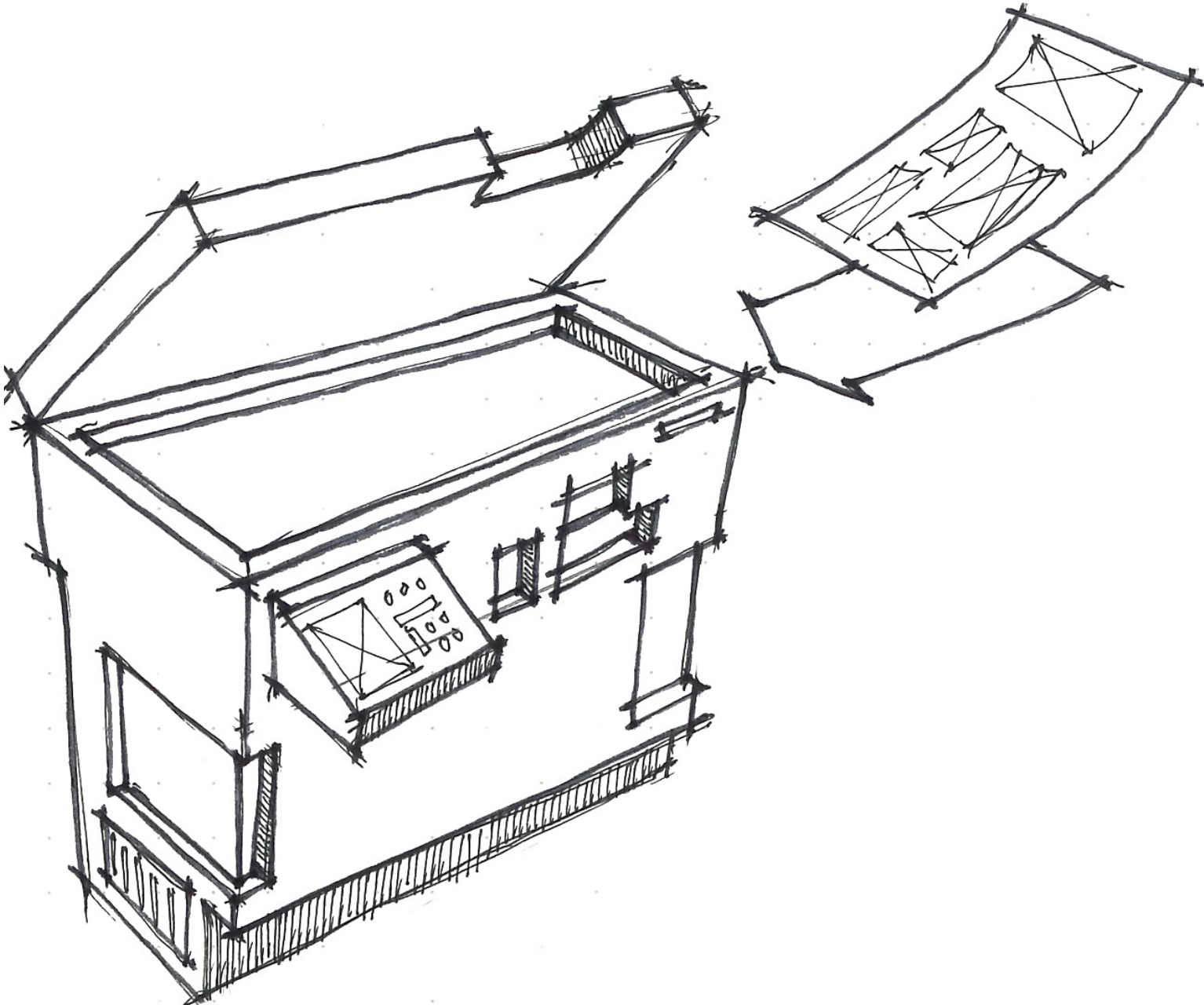
Adding Color in Photoshop
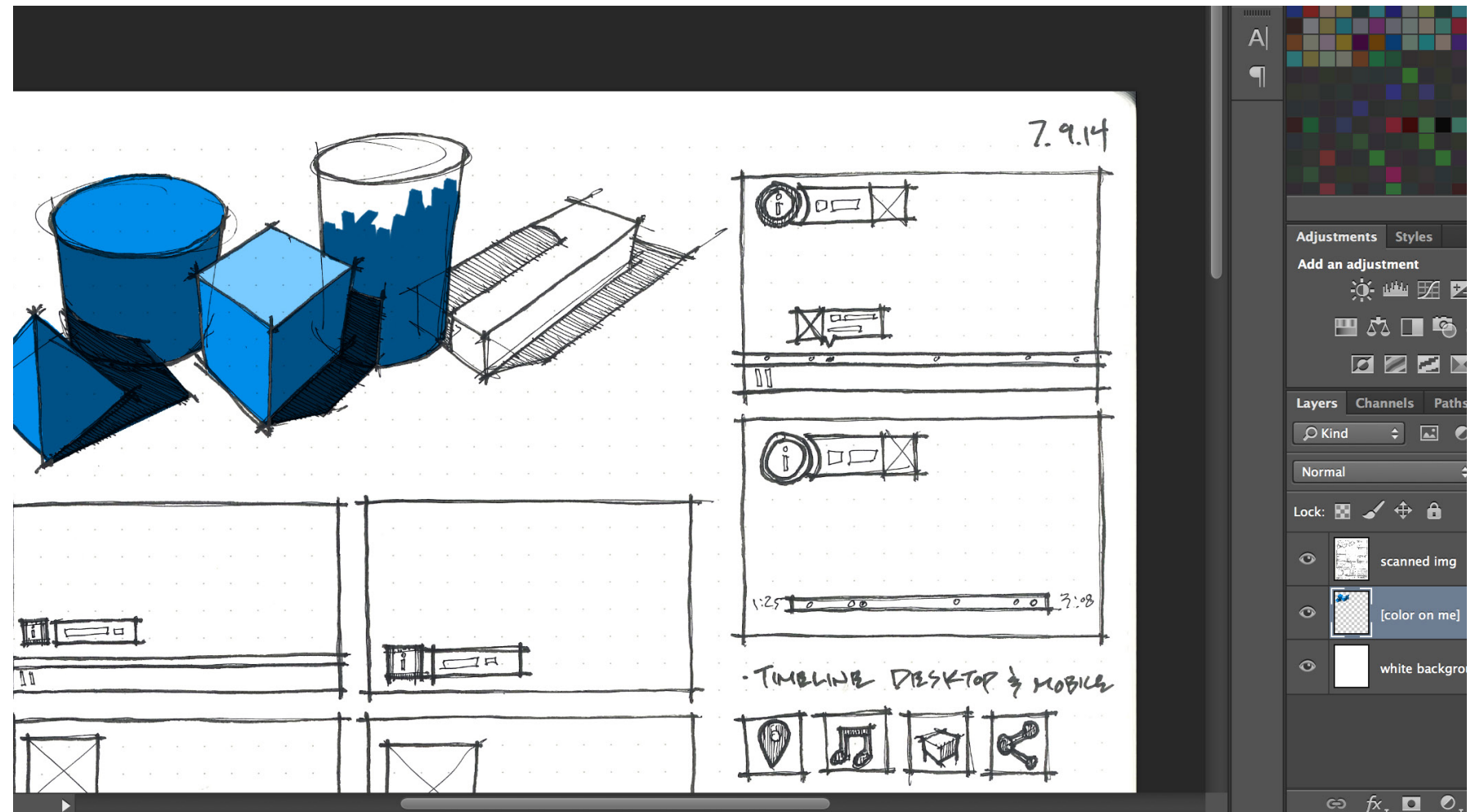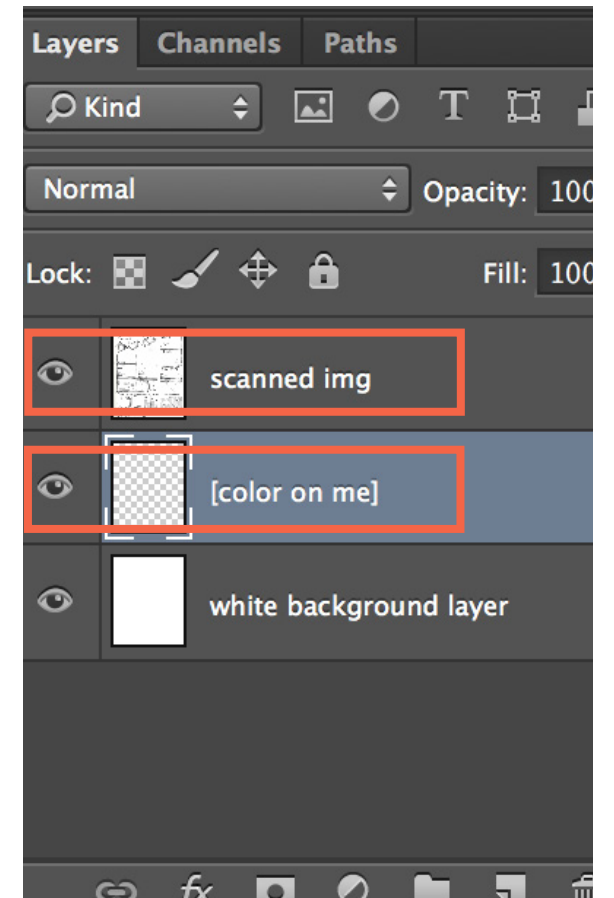
Closing Thoughts

[Kill trees]

[Copy everyone and everything]

[10,000 hours]

[Pin up]

[Document everything]

[Stay loose]

[Experiment]

[Sketch at inappropriate times]

" **Working with our hands to shape objects for our hands ingrains information deep within our bones** "

Mark Baskinger