Plan and Elevation View

Architects and engineers use sketches as a way to communicate and convey their designs to others. The types of drawings most commonly used are plan and elevation views. The plan view, or bird’s eye view, is the view seen looking down on the object. The elevation view is the view from one side of the object. Engineers and architects also use rough drawings and scaled drawings. Rough drawings are hand-drawn drawings that are not drawn to scale. Scaled drawings use scale to make an object smaller or larger than it actually is.

**Directions:** Try your hand at both plan and elevation view and rough and scaled drawings. Select a small object—a book, a piece of fruit, a desk. Sketch the object looking down on it, or using a plan view. Next sketch the object from one side, or using an elevation view.

Next, measure the object’s actual height, width, and length and create a smaller version of the object by determining an appropriate scale. For example, if you are sketching a book that is 6” x 9” x 3”, you could use a scaled ratio of ½ inch = 3 inches to recreate the object. The scaled drawing of the book would then be 1” x 1.5” x ½”. Remember to choose a scale large enough to produce a good drawing, but small enough to fit in the space provided below.

**Actual measurements:**

**Scaled ratio chosen:**

**Scaled measurements:**

**ROUGH DRAWING**

**SCALE DRAWING**