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## Sketching - and Landscape Design

Spring 2008

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### Sketching - what it means to a landscape designer

-By Jerry Miraldi

I am very rarely without a piece of paper and a pen in my pocket. Sketching is way of thinking, absorbing and experiencing my surroundings. I started out my working career as a draftsman, making my living drawing. Drawing not only to record existing projects but to communicate to others what is to be constructed and what it will look like when completed.



View up an avenue in Ambria, Italy

Sketching is way of thinking, absorbing and experiencing my surroundings.



A convent in Rome



Site Details

In learning to be a better designer my belief is that there are many solutions to design problems. I have found that the answers are out there in the form of gardens, sculptures, buildings and piazzas galore, some good and some not so good. My learning comes not only from good designs but probably more can be learned from poor or not so good designs. This is where I find the hidden value of sketching. When I sit down to sketch a particular view or building I find myself more deeply involved in analyzing the view or object or at least asking myself, how did this come to be, what was the person who designed it thinking. What were they trying to overcome or achieve. Although in some cases a more valuable experience is gained by seeing better ideas and solutions. Sketching, because it requires more time than snapping a picture, requires me to think about the details all the while experiencing the surroundings, sounds, light, etc.

Lately I have had the opportunity to travel and visit Europe, more specifically Italy, which, in my opinion, is the source and birthplace of good design, old and new.

Whether you are investigating modern design or are looking to one of the Masters for inspiration Europe is the place to sketch and learn.

To me, the benefit to learning to sketch is that when you are finished you not only have a thing of beauty but you have achieved a valuable learning experience simply by sketching a scene.

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A patio view



An entry stair