

Arch 481:

3D Modeling + Rendering



Erik Salisbury,
Spring 2003

LeCorbusier's Villa Savoye

Handout

Online

University of Washington Arch 481
Department of Architecture 3D Modeling and Rendering

ARCH 481: 3d Modeling and Rendering

<http://online.caup.washington.edu/courses/arch481>

When: Credits:	TuTh, 1:30 to 2:50 3, Graded	Where: Prerequisite:	Digital Commons (GLD007F) Arch 350 (or permission)
Instructor: E-mail to:	Brian Johnson brj@u.washington.edu	GSA: E-mail to:	Nanching Tai tai@u.washington.edu
Office: Office Hours: Office phone:	Condon 622 By appointment 206.543.2132	Office: Office Hours: Office phone:	varies see web pages n/a

This is a course about Modeling and Rendering with computer graphics tools. There are two important things to keep in mind as you start this study, and they are encapsulated by these two quotes:

What remains hard is modeling. The structure inherent in three-dimensional models is difficult for people to grasp and difficult too for user interfaces to reveal and manipulate. Only the determined model three-dimensional objects, and they rarely invent a shape at the computer, but only record a shape so that analysis of manufacturing can proceed. The grand challenges to three-dimensional graphics are to make simple modeling easy and make complex modeling accessible to far more people.

-Robert Sproul,
keynote speech, SIGGRAPH 1990

Robert Sproul is one of the "founding fathers" of computer graphics. The "Special Interest Group on Graphics" (SIGGRAPH) annual conference is the biggest computer graphics conference in the world. This guy knew what he was talking about in 1990, and it's still true today.

A journey of a thousand miles must begin with a single step.
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Lao-tzu was a Chinese philosopher. China is a big country. He knows what he's talking about.

Introduction

This course is about beginnings, about preparation for the use of 3D computing during your professional career. It is not a course about a particular software package. You may not use the same programs in a few months or years as you use this quarter, not because they aren't good, but because change happens. From this point of view it is not so important what programs or commands you learn as it is what you learn from using those programs and commands. On the other hand, it's very hard to learn about this subject purely as "book learning". You need to do modeling and rendering as well as learn the concepts. The exercises and lectures are intended to work together to provide an enriched "soil" in which your professional experiences can flourish.

This is a fast-paced, "learning by doing" lecture & laboratory course. Each week lectures and demonstrations presented during the class sessions will prepare you to undertake a related modeling and/or rendering exercise. Background reference and online readings will explain the technical issues surrounding the exercises.

The weekly exercise is a very important element of the course. The lectures support and explain the exercises by providing material that may not be available in the readings and by providing an opportunity to ask questions. However, completing the exercise provides most of the actual learning experience. The exercises take time (5-10 hours/week) to complete and write up. That time must generally be spent on campus. In addition, most of the help is available during the day and early evening. Please consider these things as you set up your schedule for the quarter.

ARCH 481: 3D MODELING AND RENDERING AUTUMN QUARTER, 2014

Lecture & Project Schedule

Dates	LECTURE TOPIC/Lab Subject	Duo †	Weekly topic cluster
Th 9/25 Tu 9/30	#1 Concepts (CONCEPT MODELS)	#0	3D modeling data and operations: Solids (geometry + topology); Mouse input. "Cameras": projections from 3D to 2D, saving 2D images.
Th 10/2 Tu 10/7	#2 Lights + Shading ADDING LIGHT & RENDERING SHADOWS	#1	Boolean operations. Lights, Shading, Shadows. Hidden line removal by "back-siding" and depth sorting.
Th 10/9 Tu 10/14	#3 Geometric Detail DETAILS AND ENCLOSURE	#2	From 2D to 3D: extrusion, revolution, sweeps & lofting. Hidden-line removal by z-buffering. Symbols: instances v. copies
Th 10/16 Tu 10/21	#4 Surface Detail ADDING & CONTROLLING TEXTURES	#3	Faux geometry: Smoothing (Gouraud/Phong). Texture maps (surface, solid & procedural textures, color, transparency & bump maps).
Th 10/23 Tu 10/28	#5 Terrain (brj @ acadia) MODELING TERRAIN	#4	Landform modeling: contours, meshes or TINs. Building a site. Abstraction v. "reality" (fractals, meshes, randomness and irregularity)
Th 10/30 Tu 11/4	#6 Complex curvature NURBS, Splines, etc.	#5	Principles and introduction to modeling of curved objects beyond surfaces of revolution and sweeps. (NURBS, patches, handles, nodes)
Th 11/6 Tu 11/11	#7 Photorealism (VETERANS DAY HOLIDAY)	#6	Rendering refraction, diffuse reflection, soft shadows, fog, etc.-- (global illumination, ray tracing, radiosity, physically-based rendering)
Th 11/13 Tu 11/18	Raytracing, Radiosity, & time. #8 Motion	#7	Animation basics, (tweening, interpolation, paths, previews, codes) Playback technology bottlenecks, solutions and work-arounds.
Th 11/20 Tu 11/25	CAMERAS & MODELS IN MOTION #9 Post-production	#8	Designing & assembling presentations using video (codes, transitions, intellectual property rights, audio)
Th 11/27 Tu 12/2	(THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY) WORK & POST PRODUCTION	#9	
Th 12/4 Tu 12/9	Course Wrap-up, Review, Evaluation. (FINALS WEEK - NO CLASS THIS DAY)		Review of course material. Time for feedback.
Th 12/11	Final Show & Tell 4:30-6:00	#9	Presentation of completed (Ex 9) projects. Guest critic(s) will be invited.
			Attendance is expected.

Notes:

† Assignments are due at the START OF CLASS on the indicated date. These dates and times should be reflected in the Dropbox "due dates".

Arch 481 : 3D Modeling and Rendering



Model & Rendering by Roark Congdon, Aut 09.

Exercise Workbook

Autumn 2014

© by Brian Johnson
brj@u.washington.edu

Syllabus

University of Washington
Department of Architecture

Arch 481
3D Modeling and Rendering

ARCH 481: 3d Modeling and Rendering

<http://online.caup.washington.edu/courses/arch481>

When:	TuTh, 1:30 to 2:50	Where:	Digital Commons (GLD007F)
Credits:	3, Graded	Prerequisite:	Arch 350 (or permission)
Instructor:	Brian Johnson	GSA:	Nanching Tai
E-mail to:	bjr@u.washington.edu	E-mail to:	tai@u.washington.edu
Office:	Condon 622	Office:	varies
Office Hours:	By appointment	Office Hours:	see web pages
Office phone:	206.543.2132	Office phone:	n/a

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Course description

Contact information

Grading

Resources

Expectations

Schedule

ARCH 481: 3D MODELING AND RENDERING

AUTUMN QUARTER, 2014

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Tu 10/7	ADDING LIGHT & RENDERING SHADOWS	#1	
Th 10/9	#3 Geometric Detail		From 2D to 3D: extrusion, revolution, sweeps & lofting. Hidden-line removal by z-buffering. Symbols: instances v. copies
Tu 10/14	DETAILS AND ENTOURAGE	#2	
Th 10/16	#4 Surface Detail		Faux geometry: Smoothing (Gouraud/Phong), Texture maps (surface, solid & procedural textures, color, transparency & bump maps).
Tu 10/21	ADDING & CONTROLLING TEXTURES.	#3	
Th 10/23	#5 Terrain [brj @ acadia]		Landform modeling: contours, meshes or TINs. Building a site. Abstraction v. "reality". (fractals, meshes, randomness and irregularity)
Tu 10/28	MODELING TERRAIN	#4	
Th 10/30	#6 Complex curvature		Principles and introduction to modeling of curved objects beyond surfaces of revolution and sweeps. (NURBS, patches, handles, nodes)
Tu 11/4	NURBS, Splines, etc.	#5	
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Tu 11/25	#9 Post-production	#7	

Exercise Name

Weekly topics

Due Dates

Workbook

Arch 481 :
3D Modeling and Rendering



Model & Rendering by Roark Congdon, Aut 09.

Exercise Workbook

Autumn 2014

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Exercises by Name & #

Learning Goals

Production Goals

Instructions

Hints

Write-up Questions

Extra-credit opportunities

Web pages

arch 481: 3d Modeling and Rendering

http://online.caup.washington.edu/courses/arch481/00HomePage/0.default

Architecture 481: 3d Modeling and Rendering

3D Modeling & Rendering

The Online Course Resource

created by Brian R. Johnson, UW Dept of Architecture

Rendering by Misun Chung, Winter, 1998

These pages represent your source of information about the academic content of the course. This is where you will find information about relevant gen plus information about the programs we use, vocabu

Table of Contents

- ADMINISTRATIVE RESOURCES:
 - Syllabus,
 - Getting Help,
 - Online Grades,
 - Turning in Work
- CONTENT RESOURCES:
 - Tapestry An on-line reference for conep
 - Reading Assignments, by Week
 - Other Background Other info that might
 - Extras Projects illustrating interesting co
- GALLERY: Featuring a variety of student work
- Case Studies A collection of exemplary projec explorers. Creating such a case study is one w to get some extra credit points.
- Lecture Notes. (Misc lecture note links)
- form-Z pdf documents (Caution: BIG files!)
 - Tutorial [40MB]
 - User's Manual [129MB]

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fw, the linker is the tool I wrote and use to maintain these pages. It's free.

Shading - Flat Shading

http://online.caup.washington.edu/courses/arch481/00Hor

TAPESTRY: The Art of Representation and Abstraction

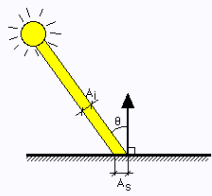
SHADING: Flat (aka Lambertian, Cosine or Uniform) Shading

The Dance of Light Upon Surface

What's it all about?

This is the simplest depiction of the way light interacts with a surface and a viewer, depending simply on the surface's orientation. It is based on the **assumption** that light is reflected uniformly in all directions (i.e., that the surface is a **diffuse reflector**). This might be diagrammed as shown at right, where we see a beam of light falling on the surface and being reflected evenly in all directions.

In this situation it doesn't matter where the observer is, because the light is reflected uniformly in all directions. What you see depends solely on the relationship between the surface and the light source(s).



The relationship between orientation and the intensity of what we see is derived from the diagram at left. When a beam of light, described by the cross-sectional area A_i , strikes a surface, it is spread out over an area A_s . This area is equal to A_i , only when the angle of incidence (theta), is zero. For angles of incidence greater than zero, the equation which describes the area of the surface covered by the beam is

$$A_s = A_i / \cos \theta$$

Note that this makes intuitive sense as well. When the light shines directly on the surface, we see a brighter reflection than when it strikes the surface at an angle, approaching zero at 90 degrees.

Because the total incident light energy is distributed over a larger area, the viewer perceives a lower intensity reflection from the surface as theta increases. That is, the perceived intensity is inversely related to the cosine of incidence.

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Catalyst Collect It

https://catalysttools.washington.edu/collectit/dropbox/brj/3183

Arch 481 - 3D modeling and rendering

Coursework submission area for Arch 481. Check your syllabus for due dates and exercise sequencing.

Questions about this dropbox? Send questions about this dropbox or its assignments to Brian Johnson.

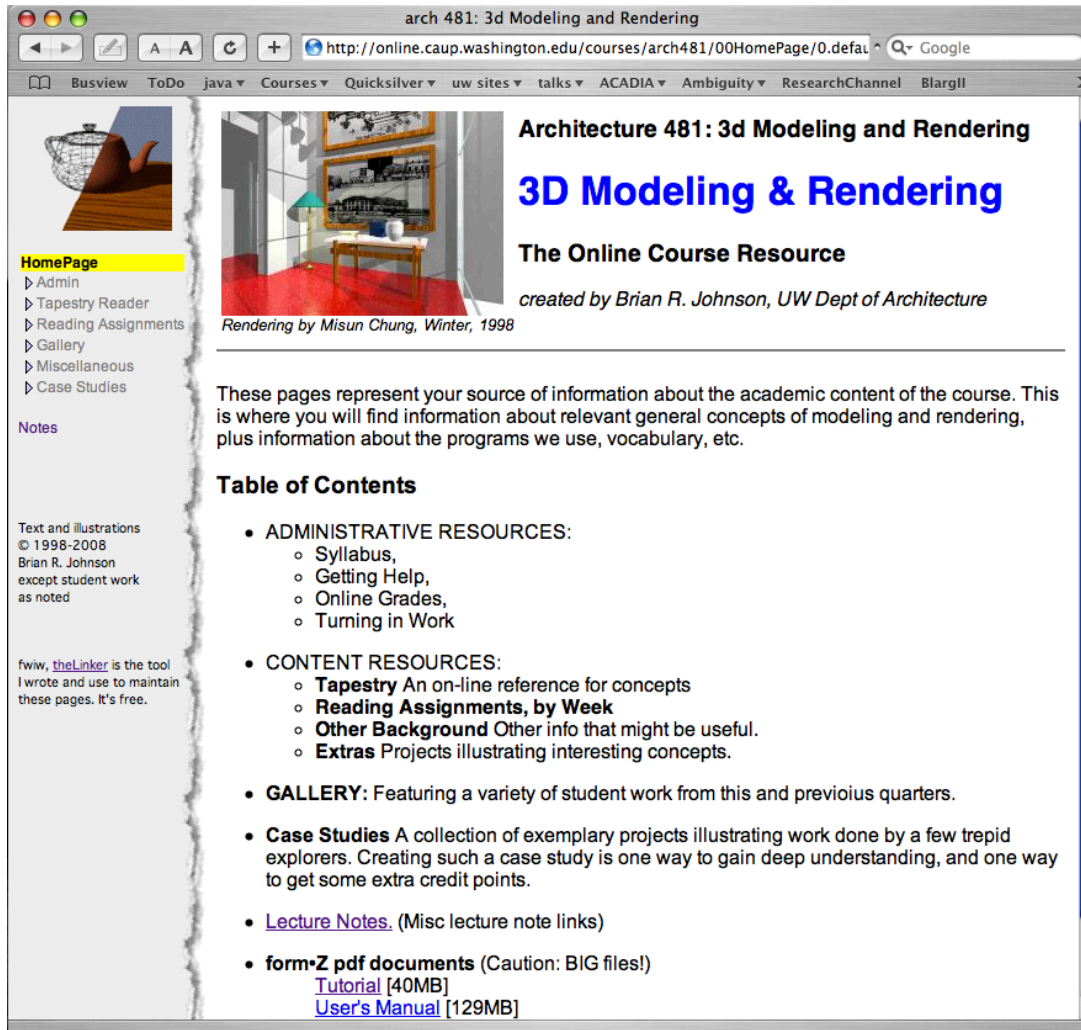
Assignments

Download your submissions

Assignment	Submission Status	Last Comment
1.0 - Project Choice (Open)		
Due on Sep 30, 2008 5:00 PM		
1.1 - Basic 3D Modeling	Opens: Sep 30, 2008 5:00 PM	
Due on Oct 7, 2008 5:00 PM		
1.2 - Shaded Images: Light + Geometry	Opens: Oct 2, 2008 5:00 PM	
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Questions or comments? Contact us or email catalysthelp@u.washington.edu Copyright © 1998-2008 Learning & Scholarly Technologies The University of Washington

Course web site



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the address bar displaying "http://online.caup.washington.edu/courses/arch481/00HomePage/0.default". The browser's menu bar includes "Busview", "ToDo", "java", "Courses", "Quicksilver", "uw sites", "talks", "ACADIA", "Ambiguity", "ResearchChannel", and "BlargII". The page content features a header with a 3D rendering of a teapot, a navigation menu on the left, and a main content area with a 3D rendering of a room interior. The main content area includes the course title "Architecture 481: 3d Modeling and Rendering", the subtitle "3D Modeling & Rendering", and the text "The Online Course Resource" and "created by Brian R. Johnson, UW Dept of Architecture". Below this is a paragraph of introductory text and a "Table of Contents" section with a bulleted list of resources.

arch 481: 3d Modeling and Rendering

http://online.caup.washington.edu/courses/arch481/00HomePage/0.default

Busview ToDo java Courses Quicksilver uw sites talks ACADIA Ambiguity ResearchChannel BlargII

Architecture 481: 3d Modeling and Rendering
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Rendering by Misun Chung, Winter, 1998

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- **ADMINISTRATIVE RESOURCES:**
 - Syllabus,
 - Getting Help,
 - Online Grades,
 - Turning in Work
- **CONTENT RESOURCES:**
 - **Tapestry** An on-line reference for concepts
 - **Reading Assignments, by Week**
 - **Other Background** Other info that might be useful.
 - **Extras** Projects illustrating interesting concepts.
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Home Page

- ▶ Admin
- ▶ Tapestry Reader
- ▶ Reading Assignments
- ▶ Gallery
- ▶ Miscellaneous
- ▶ Case Studies

Notes

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fwiw, [theLinker](#) is the tool
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Copies of Handouts

Reading

Assignments

Tapestry Reader

Gallery of work

Misc. resources and
links

Case Studies

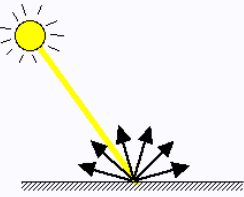
Tapestry Reader

Hierarchical by topic
Graphic/Animated
Vocabulary
“How To” pages

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the address bar displaying <http://online.caup.washington.edu/courses/arch481/00Hon>. The page title is "Shading - Flat Shading". The main content area is titled "TAPESTRY: The Art of Representation and Abstraction" and "SHADING: Flat (aka Lambertian, Cosine or Uniform) Shading". Below this is the subtitle "The Dance of Light Upon Surface".

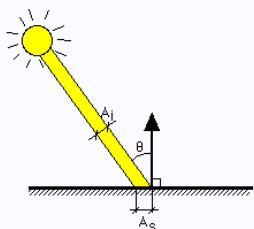
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HomePage
Admin
Tapestry Reader
About
The Art of it
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Ubiquity
About Digital Images
Camera
Analogy
Hidden Lines
Projection
Shading
Ambient
Flat Shading
Smoothing
Light Sources
Shadows
Textures
Ray Tracing
Radiosity
Animation
Output
The Web
How To
Gallery
Bibliography
Search
Reading Assignments
Gallery
Miscellaneous
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Turning in completed work

The screenshot shows a web browser window titled "Catalyst Collect It" with the URL <https://catalysttools.washington.edu/collectit/dropbox/brj/3183>. The page header includes the "catalyst" logo, "Collect It" branding, and user account information for "brj". The main content area is for "Arch 481 - 3D modeling and rendering" and lists several assignments with their respective due and open dates. A "Download your submissions" button is visible. The footer contains contact information for catalysthelp@u.washington.edu and copyright details for The University of Washington.

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Web-based

Linked from Course
"Admin" area

Exercises "open" and
"close" by dates.

An experiment--give
feedback

**Don't forget hardcopy of
Write-up questions!**

PhpTA (online grade report)

phpTA II
Viewing Your Grades To get a list (transcript) of your grades so far ...

To view your grades, enter your UWNNetID and phpTA password (the initial password will be provided by the instructor), then select the appropriate course and quarter and click "Show".

UWNNetID:
Password:
Course: Arch 481

[Change my password.](#)

phpTA II
Grade report for A Student (0012345 for Arch 486 (Spr quarter)).

Posted on	Modified on	Entry	Grade	Remarks
2011-04-11 08:34		P01: Billiards	3.75	
2011-04-17 15:44	2011-04-19 10:17	P02: Influence	4.00	
2011-04-19 10:16	2011-05-19 08:24	P03: Flying (3D)	3.25	"free late"
2011-04-28 15:38		P04: Bricolage	3.70	
2011-05-09 14:05	2011-05-13 11:51	G01: Bridging	4.00	thorough & complete
2011-05-13 11:53		G02: Spiderwebs	3.50	
2011-05-24 12:52	2011-06-02 12:19	G03: Surfaces	3.50	late
2011-05-24 12:52		G04: Subsurfaces	3.90	
2011-06-07 13:51		CS: Case Study	4.00	
2011-06-13 10:15	2011-06-13 14:14	EJ: Exploration & Journal	3.20	
Total:			36.8	

OK

This page for informational purposes only. In case of error, contact your instructor.
The instructor's records may be different but will determine the final course grade.

To preserve your privacy, when you are done, be sure to QUIT the browser.

Uses "pubcookie" (i.e. your UWNNetID name and password).

Is approximate--i.e. **not** the final record-- (doesn't show late penalty deductions)



<http://www.traveladventures.org/>

Beginnings...

Destination: *unknown*

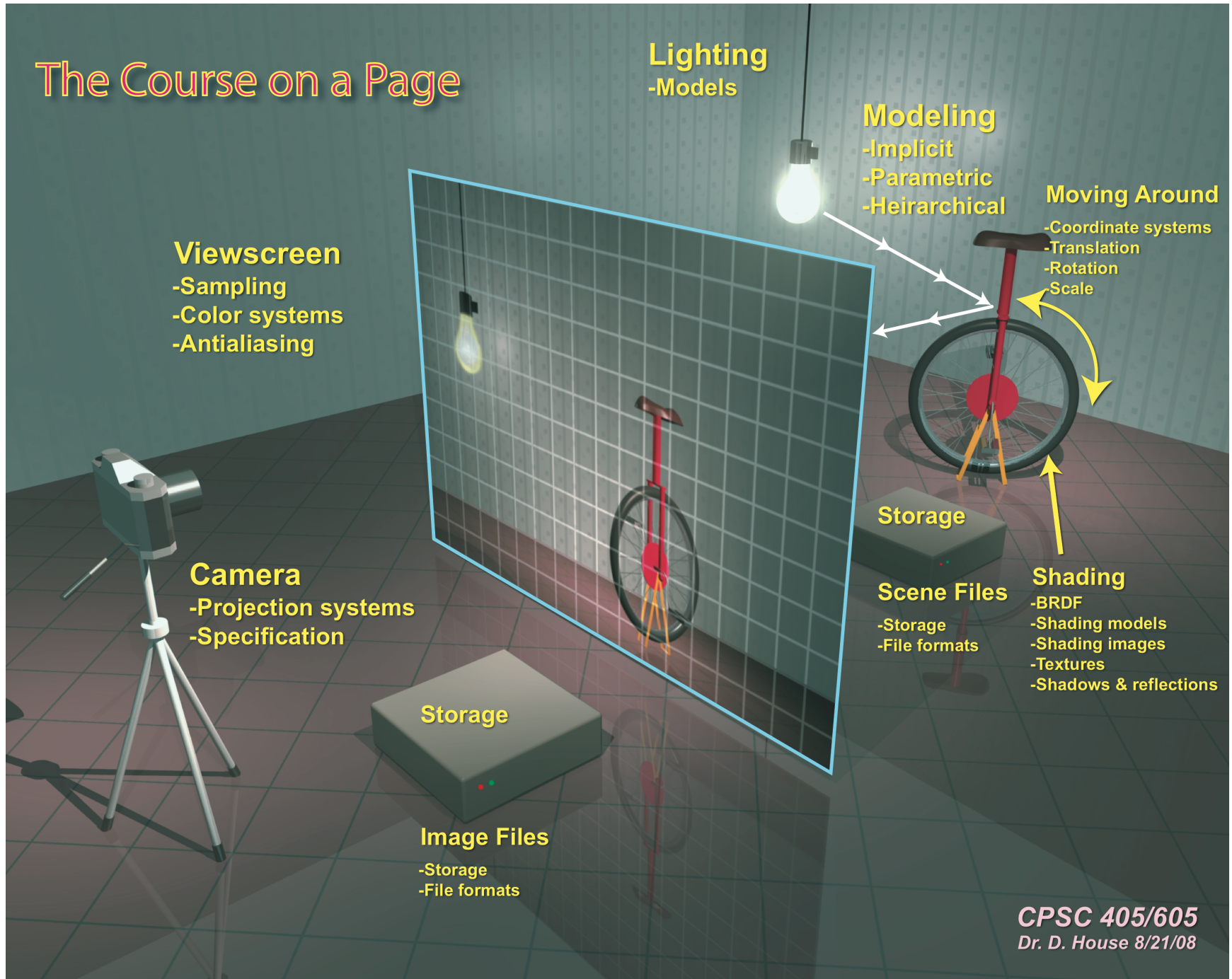
Path: *uneven*

Preparation: *some*

Motivation: *high*

When: *now!*

The Course on a Page



storytelling

Images have meaning (“worth 1000 words”)

Rendering is turning data into image.

Data becomes image → Data is subjective.

You are always telling a story.

Think about the story you will tell.

Control the story you tell.

photo real

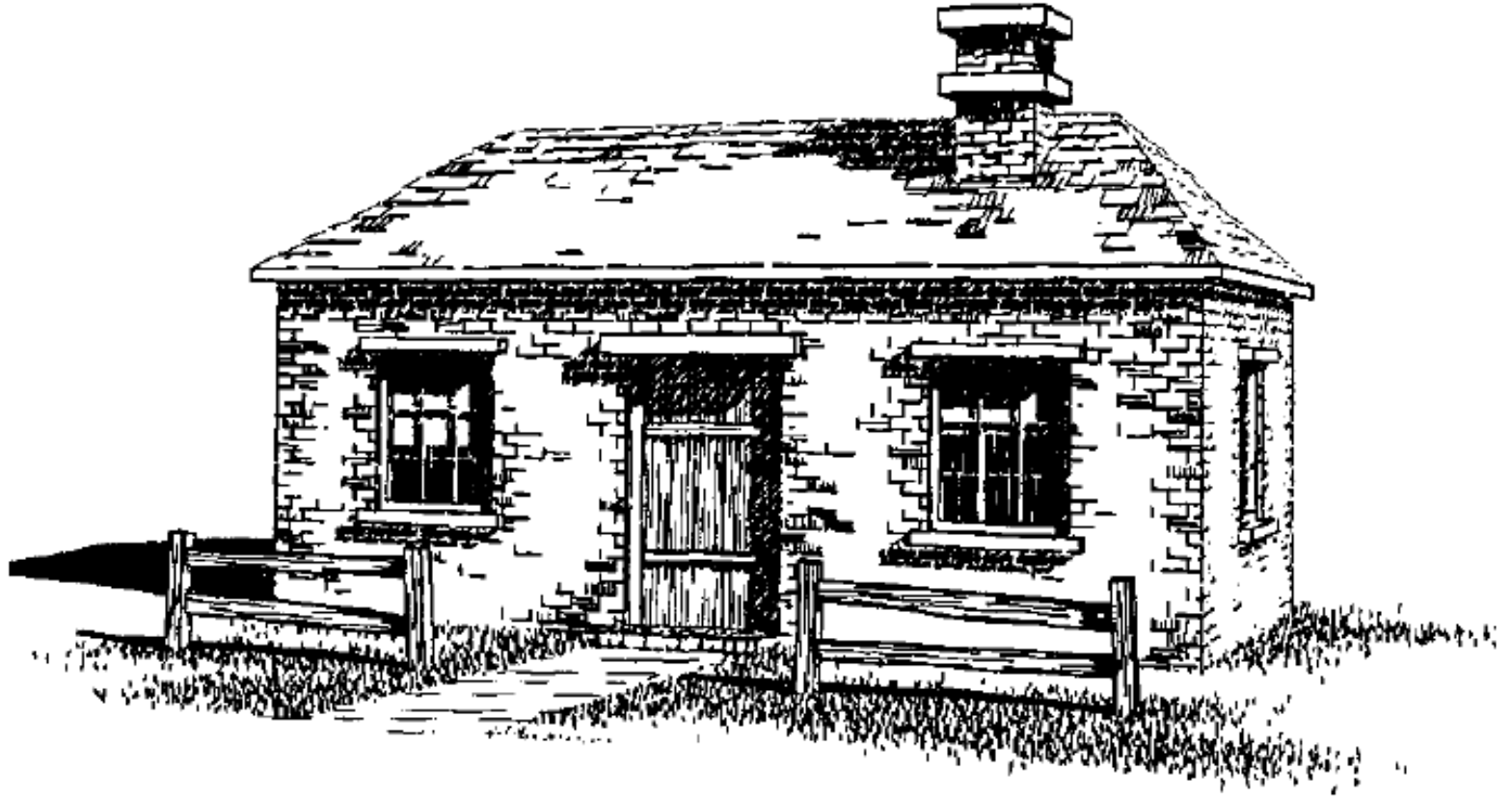
John Stout, Arch 481, Aut 2009



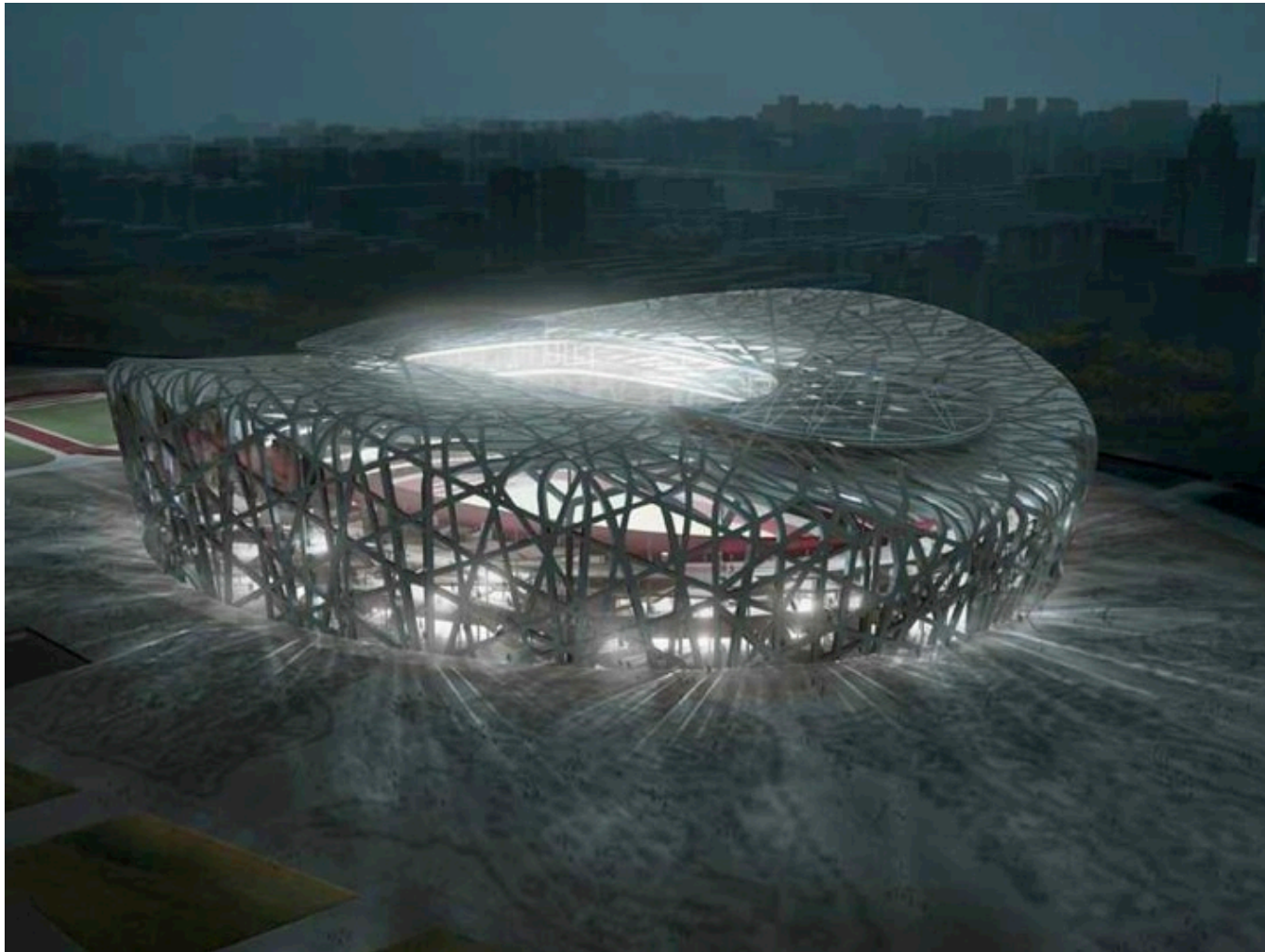
Here is an interior rendering with the new lighting of the ceiling fixture and furniture that i have created. A few of the details like the pictures and plates were pre made but all the furniture and cabinets where made to represent actual FLW pieces. I have used photomapping with final gather for scene renderer and adjusted shadow intensity, increases the number of photon bounces, and cut out all sunlight. There is also a global illumination map that is providing some light to the exterior.

Non-photo-real

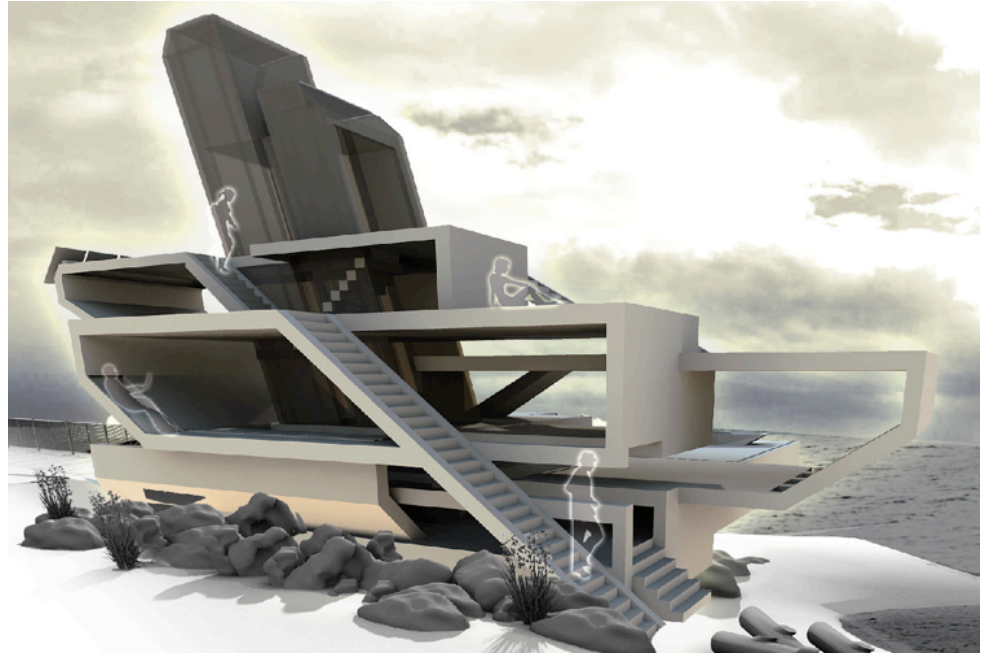
Winkenbach & Salesin, SIGGRAPH '94



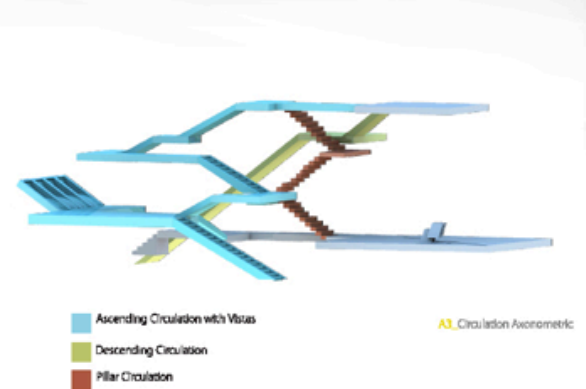
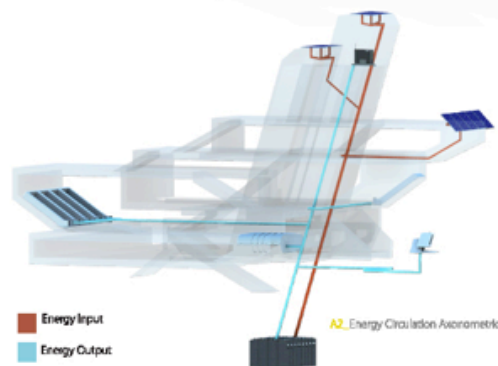
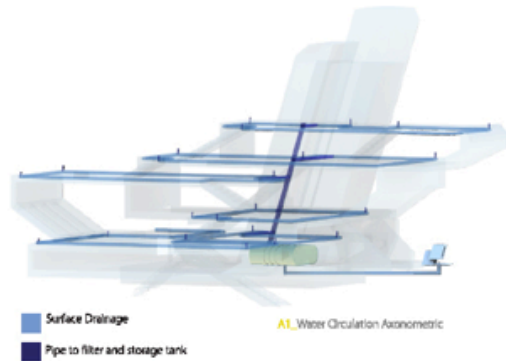
hyper real



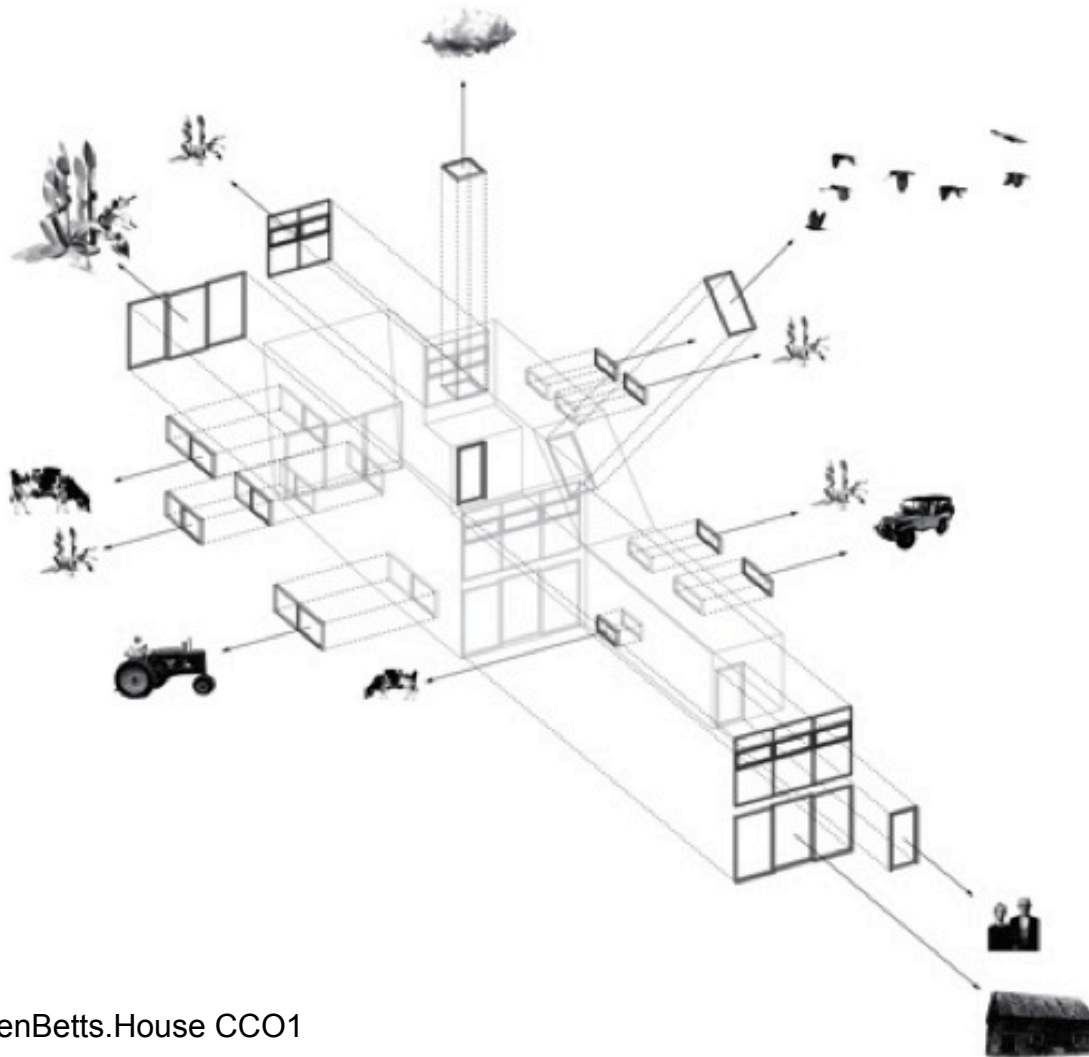
visual



conceptual

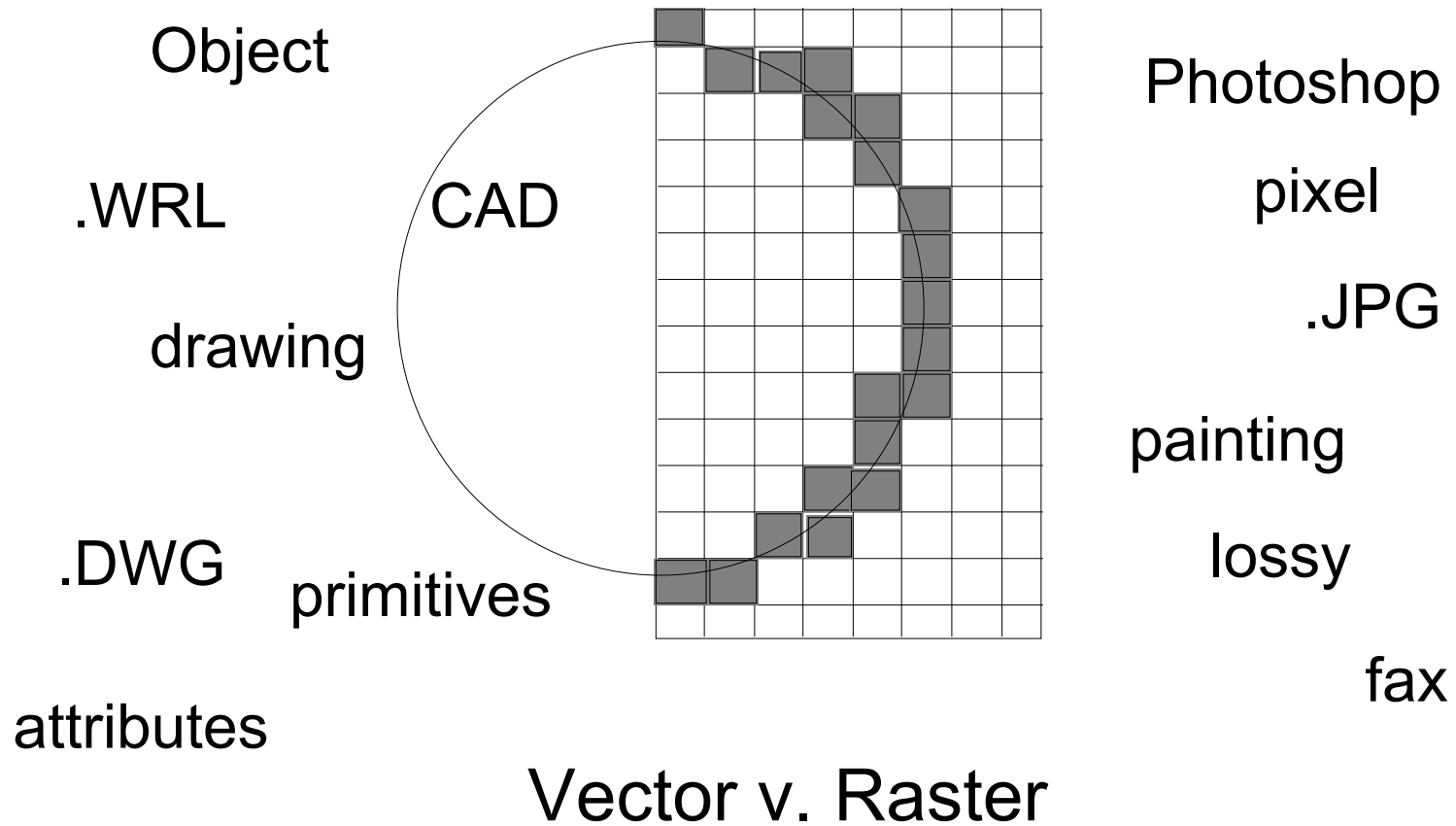


relationships



LevenBetts.House CCO1

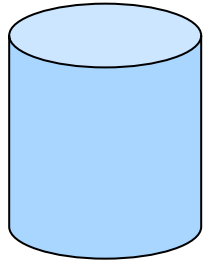
Key Concepts Review



Primitives & Attributes: Instances

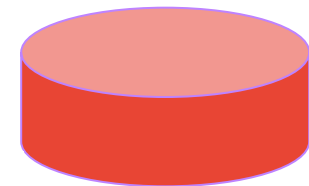
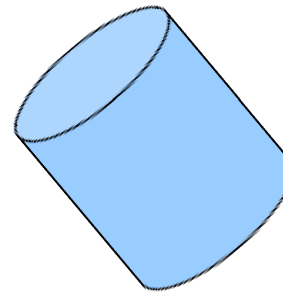
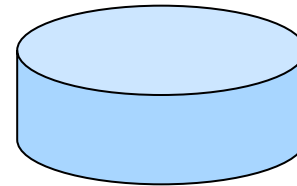
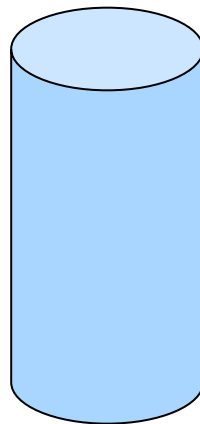
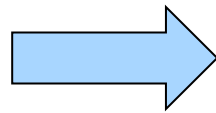
primitive

“cylinder”



Position
Size
Color
Diameter
Orientation

Instance variations

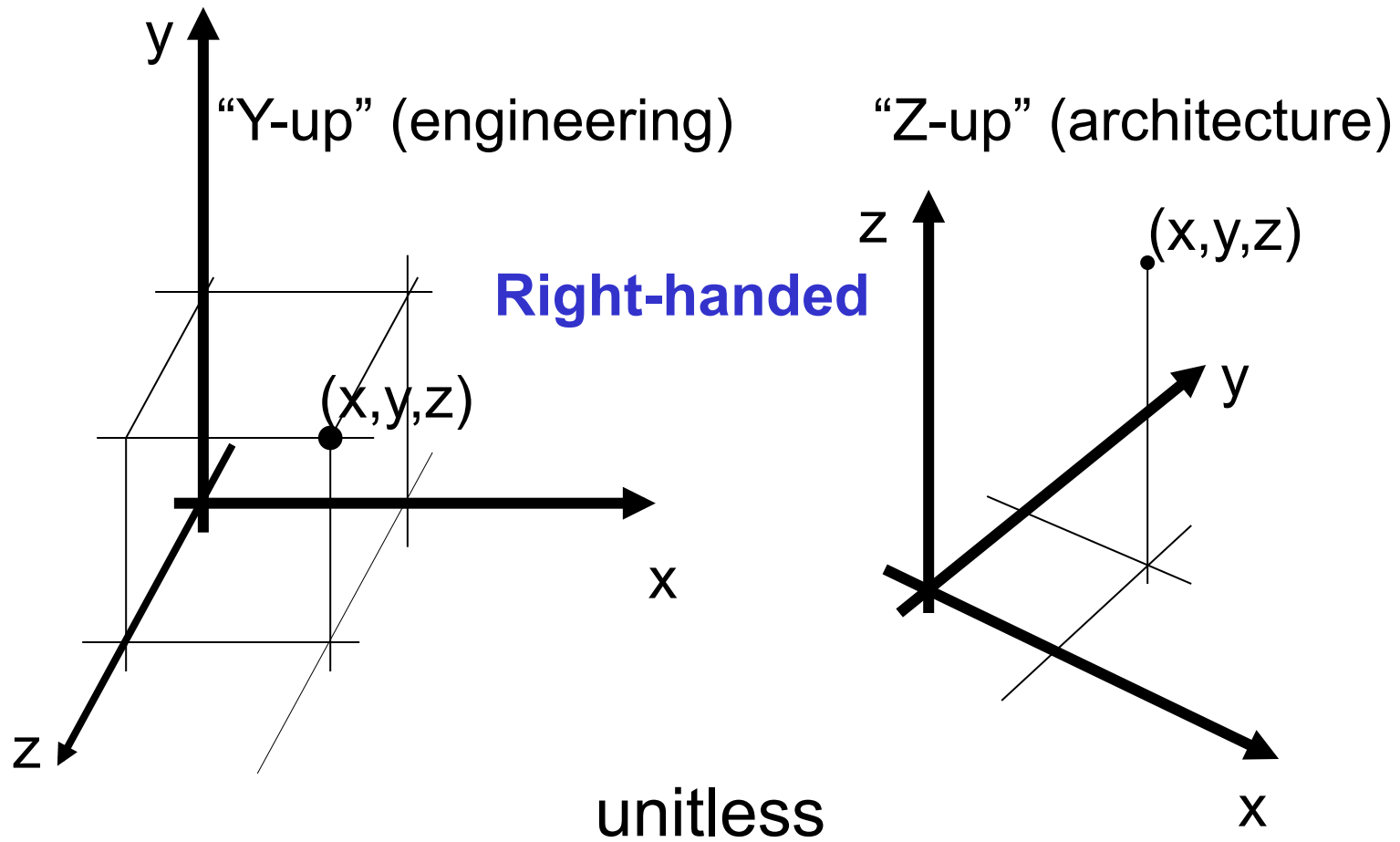


Primitives vs. pseudo-primitives

Attributes of primitives

- Varies by program
- Varies by primitive
- In Rhino ...
 - Object Type
 - Name
 - Layer
 - Name
 - Visibility
 - Color
 - Line-color
 - (more)
 - Color
 - Visibility
- Render mesh setting
- Shadow casting/receiving
- Texture/Material
- Texture Mapping
- Decals
- Control points
- Degree
- Coordinates (points)
- Analytic Properties
 - Planarity
 - Area & volume
 - Orientation/direction
- NOT (e.g. plane)

Coordinate Systems



The Pointing Problem

Mouse

2D

Model

3D

The Pointing Problem

Solutions:

- Keyboard coordinates

- Construction planes

- Reference existing data

- Multi-view input (multiple clicks – rare)

The influence extends to many 3D modeling operations that depend on 2D input (extrusion, revolution, sweeps, etc.)



Mouse is 2D -> Model is 2D?

2D drawings are ambiguous

- 2D *views* often combine data from multiple 3D *positions*

Making 3D Model with 2D points is hard

- Simply “clicking points” (raw pointing) places points on a plane
- Ortho, (grid) snap, etc. constrain point locations.



Find the right view

Multi-views

- Find the planar “control curve”
- Pick or construct a cplane for the curve

3D views

- “Disambiguate” snaps

Named views

- Camera info, not image, so re-rendering works



3D: right view, right osnap

Right view (no ambiguity)

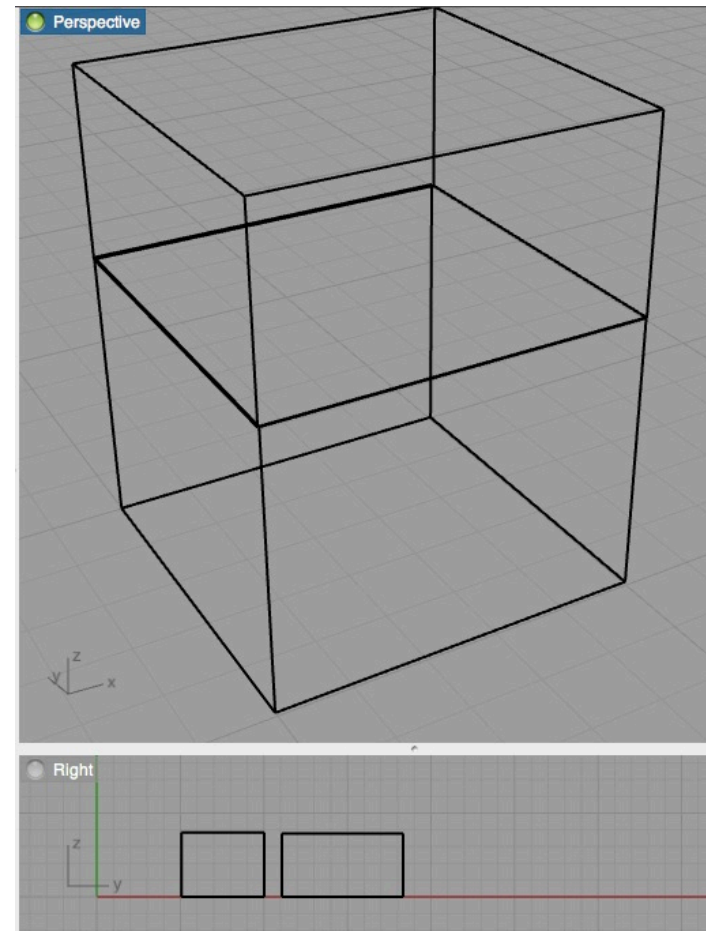
- Plan views have problems

Without osnap (at right)

- Stacked? Or not?

Osnap takes precedence

- Using osnaps, placing objects in perspective is usually quick and easy





Avoid “Clicks” + “Osnaps”

- Mixing Raw & Osnap points may be a bad idea
 - Raw pointing will reference points on a construction plane (cplane)
 - Using Osnaps you can make twisted shapes
 - Osnaps in ortho views can be ambiguous





- **To the rescue!**
- Rhino has “Project” (to cplane) option
- Rhino has “Planar” (temp cplane at first pt) option

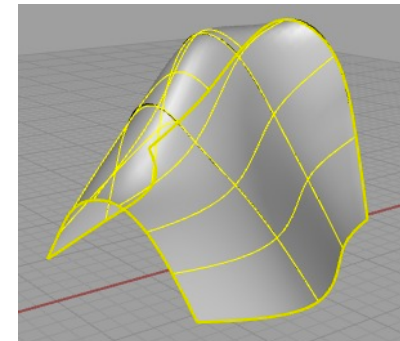
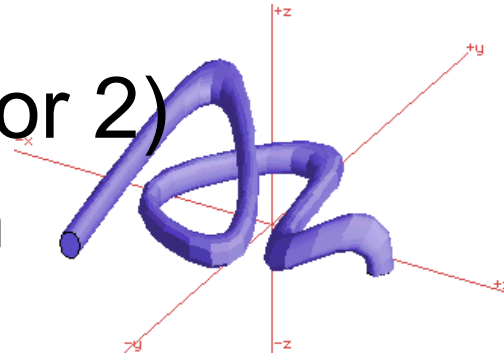
Derivative Geometry

Arch 481



3D shapes, 2D “sections”

- Extrusion 
 - Section & displacement
- Revolution 
 - Section, Axis & angle
- Sweep (1 rail or 2)
 - Section & path
- Lofting
 - Multiple sections (aka contours!)



The Camera Metaphor

In 3D programs the data is separate from the image. You produce images by “rendering” the data. The relationship of model data to rendered image is governed, in part, by the digital “camera” and its attributes, just as in the real world.



“Pinhole” Camera?

Most synthetic images mimic a pinhole camera:

- Perfect focus
- Infinite depth of field
- No spherical aberration
- No motion blur
- No lens-flare



Telephoto v. wide-angle lens

The mathematics of “projection”:

- Projection refers to “squashing” 3D data to 2D
- In the computer, it’s done with matrix math
- By varying the terms in the matrix, everything from a wide-angle view to a telephoto view can be generated. Normal “perspective” and “parallel” views are just variations.
- Usually, *points* are projected, and connected with straight *lines* in the image (no “fish eye”)



Camera “View Vector”

A line from the camera to the center of view

Station Point

- Location (x,y,z) in space of the camera
- “z-up” direction

Focal Point

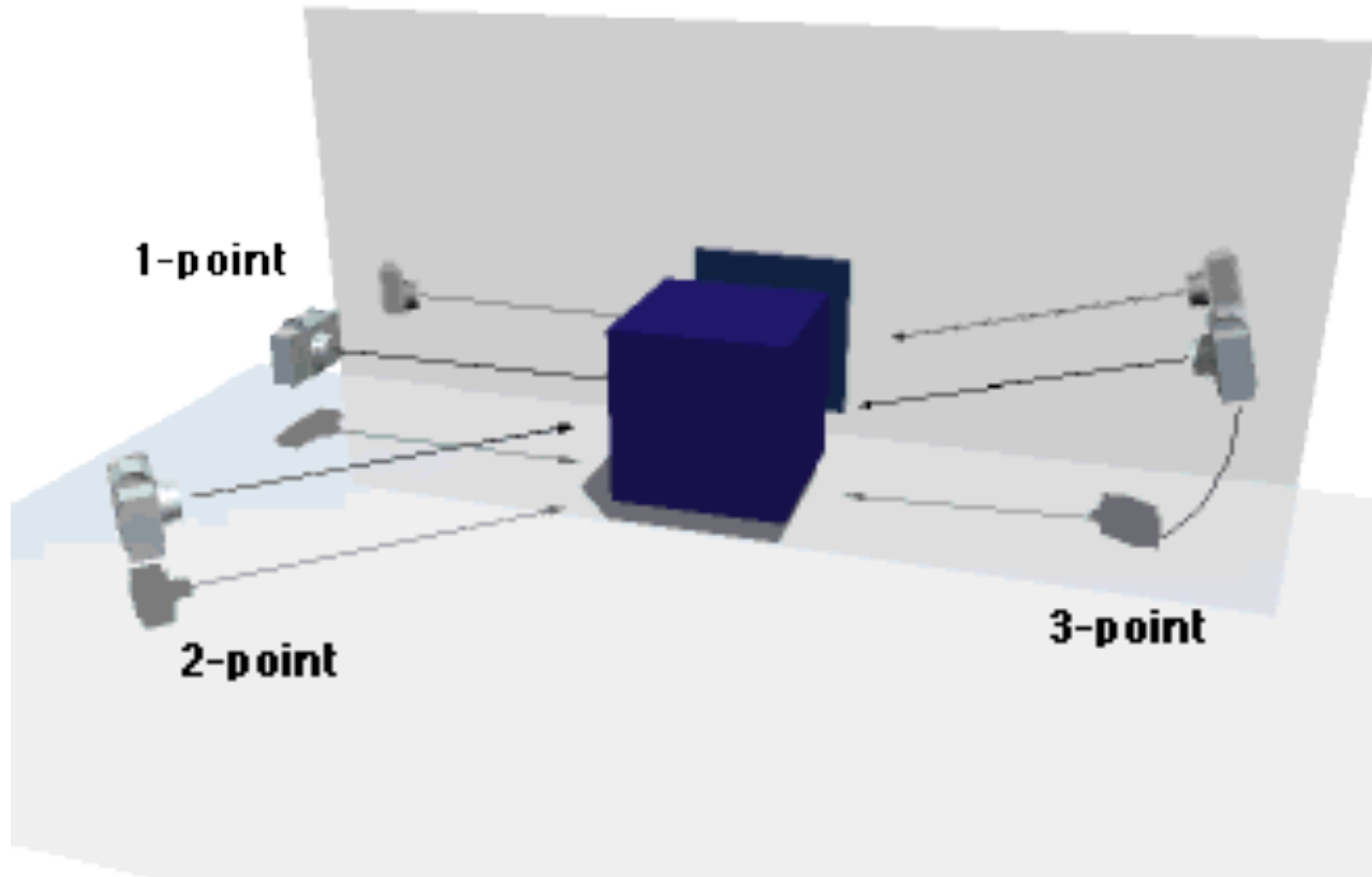
- Location (x,y,z) of the “center of view”

Cone of Vision

- Angle of view frustum (perspective)
- Sets zoom/scale of window (ortho)



Traditional Views?





Traditional Views?

“One Point”

- VV perpendicular to building face

“Two Point”

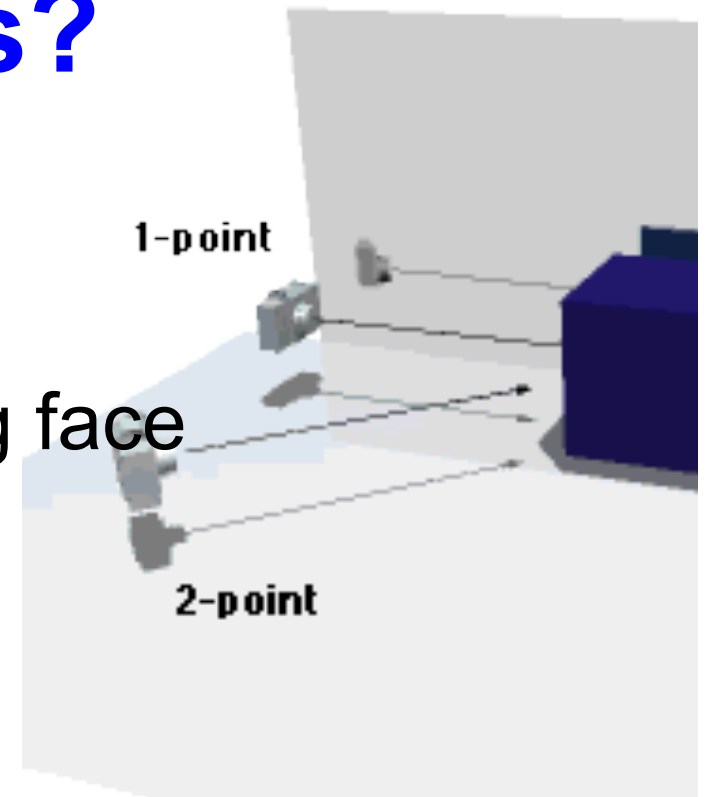
- VV parallel to ground

“Three Point”

- VV unconstrained

Elevation, etc.

- One-point, with parallel projection



Symbols / Blocks

Arch 481



Most 3D assemblies repeat parts



Avoid copy & paste!



Best Practice

- Construct just one!
- Duplicate through instancing
 - Separate model?
 - Named construction planes?



Different Kinds of Symbols

- **Full Size**
 - Manufactured items (cars, water-closets)
 - Limited size variation
- **Unit Size**
 - Variable use size (trees)
 - Insertion scale sets size
- **Insertion Point**
 - Placement handle, might be snapped
 - Can simplify placement

Symbols: Copies v. Instances

Copies (copy & paste, “copy”, etc.)

- Repeated geometry = repeated data
- Manual change propagation

Instances (blocks, symbols, etc.)

- Name subdrawings
- Repeated geometry = repeated name references
- Automatic change propagation

Symbols: Attributes

Original geometry attributes

- Location relative to global origin
- Layer, color, linestyle (“object attributes”)

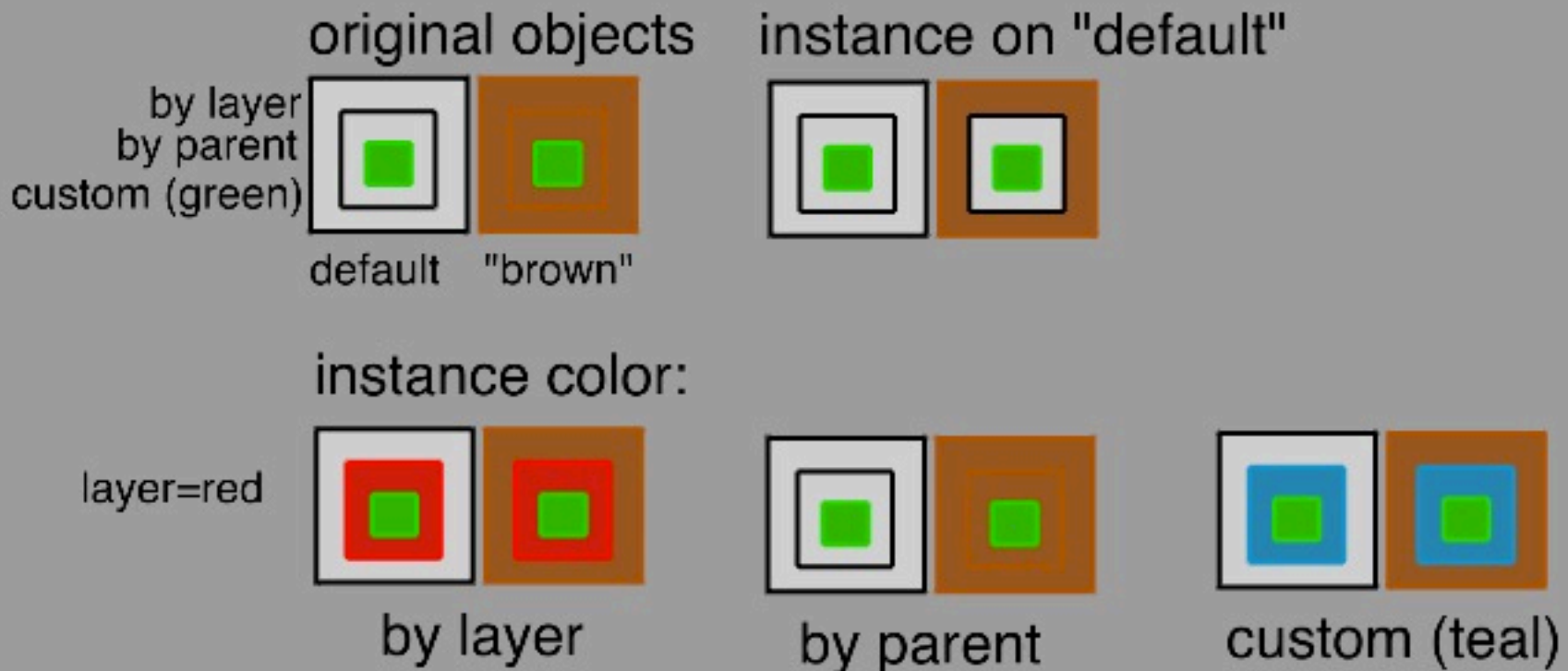
Instance attributes

- Each instance *is an object* in it’s own right

Predicting appearance ... can be a challenge

- Interaction of original attributes & instance attributes

Symbols: Instance Attributes



Blocks vs. Files

- *Existing geometry within a file* may be made into a block and inserted (insert).
- An *existing model* (.3dm) file may be inserted, creating a block and instance (insertFile).
- Internally defined blocks may be *redefined* (block), and are saved with the current file.
- External files may optionally be “*linked*” and automatically “re-inserted” at times, facilitating change propagation.



Some cautions

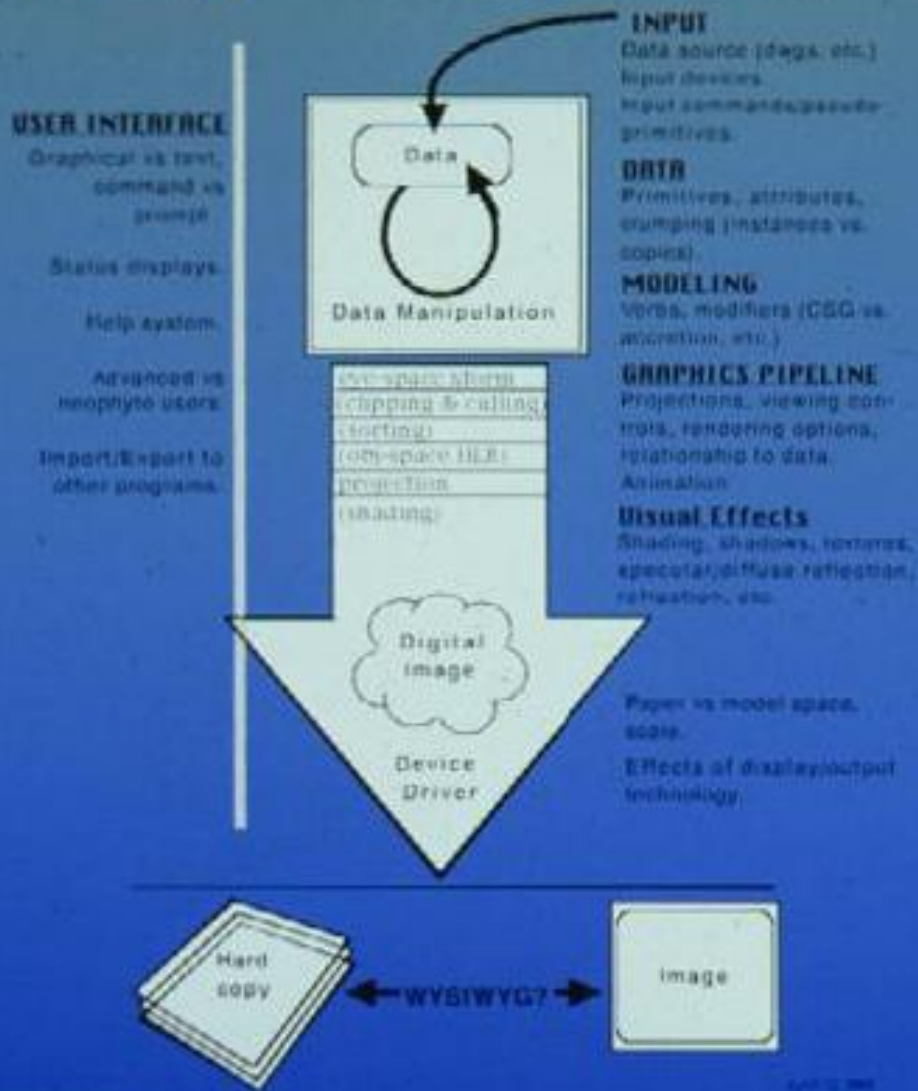
- Inserted file: origin becomes insertion pt.
- Editing = place, explode, edit, re-define
 - Mark insertion-point before re-defining or things will move!
- Redefining the block does not change instance references to the block.
- Blocks defined in the inserted file become blocks in the receiving file (libraries?).

2: The Graphics Pipeline

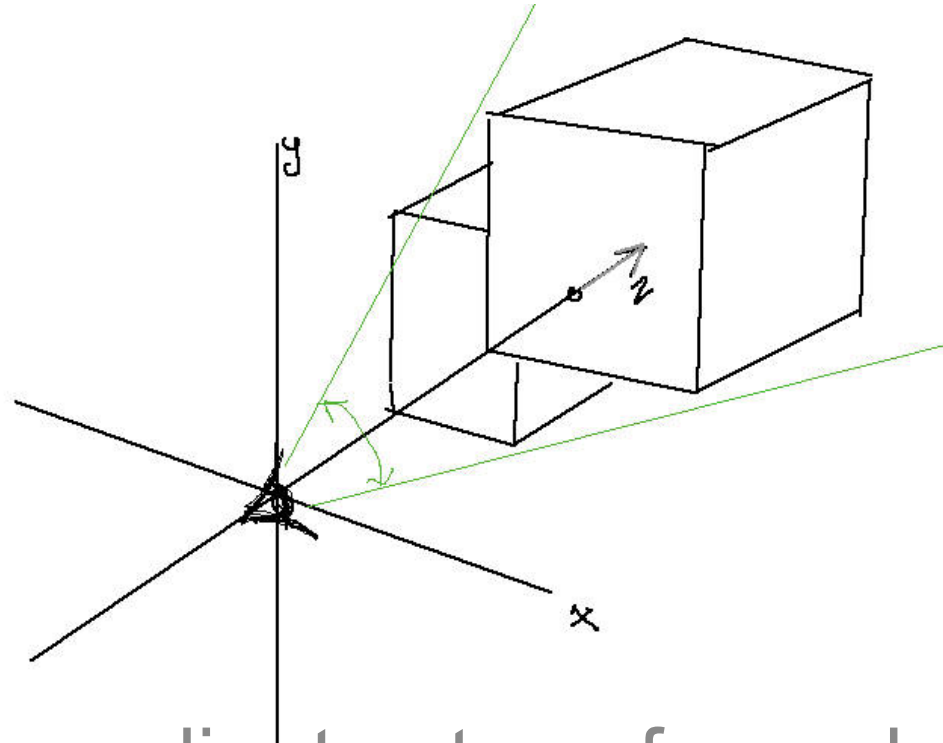
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Graphics Application Paradigm

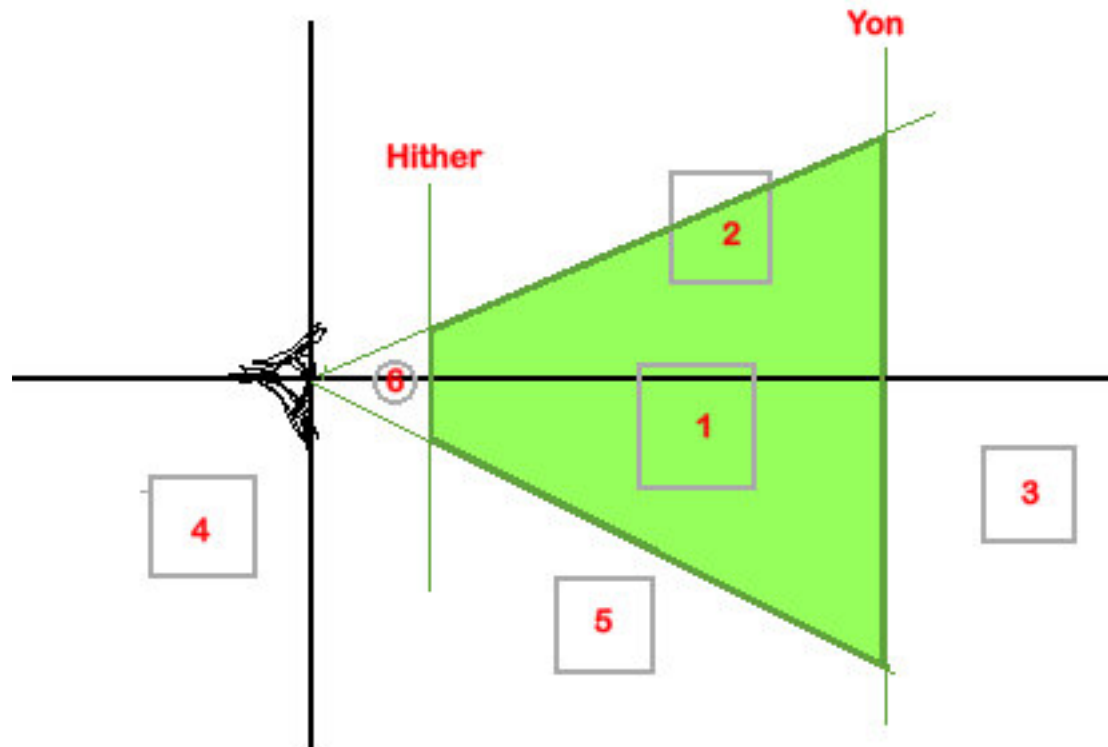


Eye-space transform



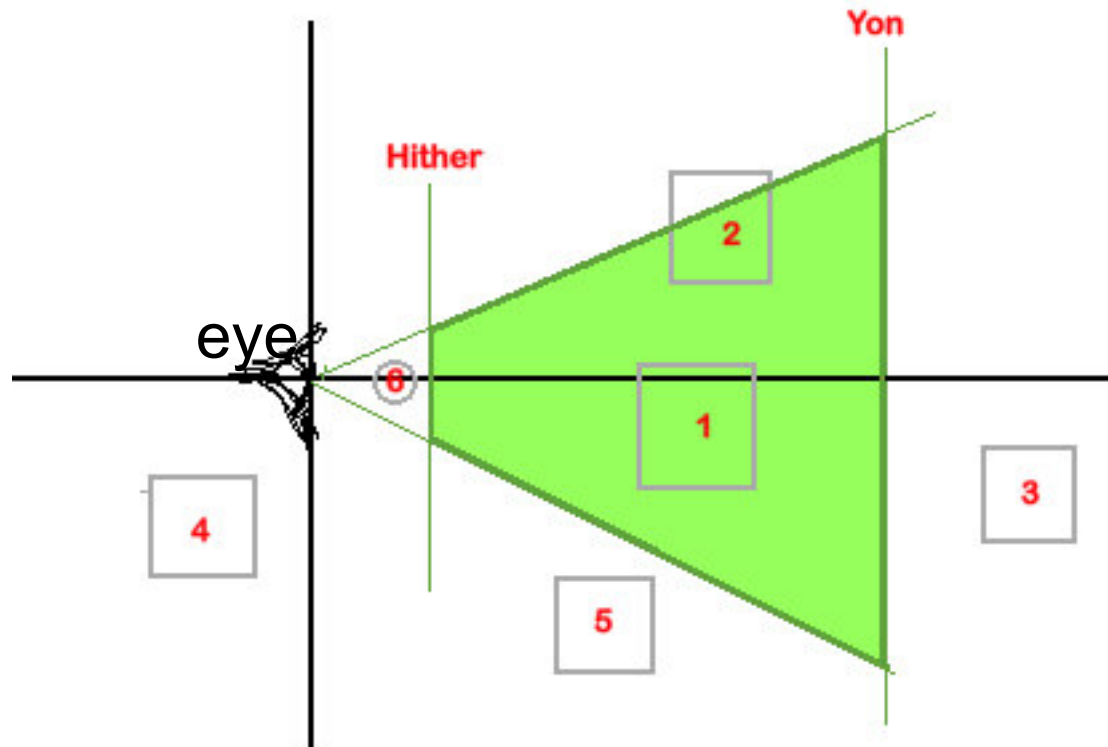
Model coordinates transformed so eye is at origin, with “image-x-axis” to the right and “image-y-axis” up (sometimes called u, v).

Clipping



Projection flattens **ALL** of 3D space onto the image plane, whether data is behind you (4) or off to the side (5). Clipping reduces it ...

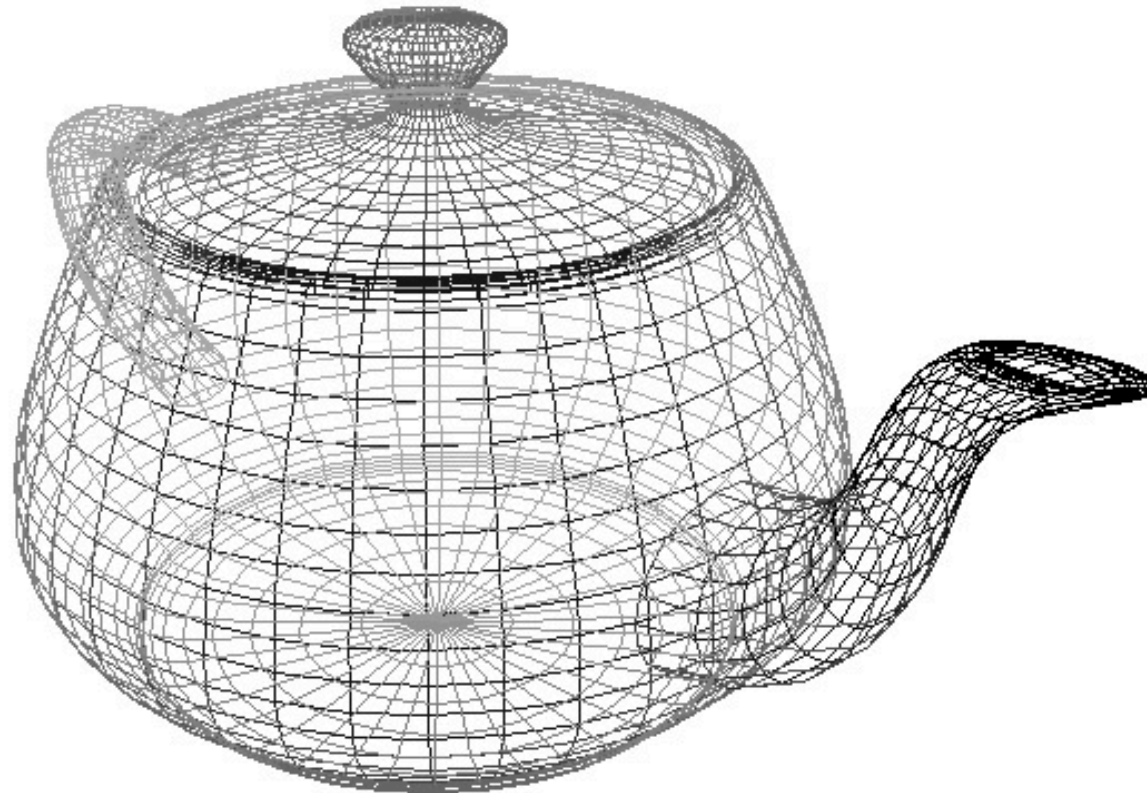
Clipping



Regular clipping will remove items **4** and **5** and trim **2**. “Hither and Yon” clipping, if available, will not draw items **6** or **3** either.

Hidden Surfaces

This image uses “atmospheric perspective” (far lines are gray, near lines are black) to help viewers understand the model.



The default is for EVERYTHING to be visible (wireframe). “Hidden” is a decision the program must *make*.

Hidden Surfaces

Multiple strategies have been developed to address this problem. Different renderers use different schemes or combinations of:

- Culling
- Depth sorting
- Z-buffer

Hidden Surface Strategies



Thinking in MODEL SPACE

- We see the *surfaces that face us*
 - Discard surfaces facing away (**culling**)
 - Fails with one-sided sheets
 - Fails in a concave world
- We see only the *surfaces that are closest to us*.
 - Relies on the “destructive write” computer displays
 - Sort surfaces by depth in scene (**depth sorting**)
 - There is a time-cost when sorting complex scenes
 - Fails when surfaces intersect or overlap
- Other: scan-line, etc.

Hidden Surface Strategies



Thinking in IMAGE SPACE – “Z-buffering”

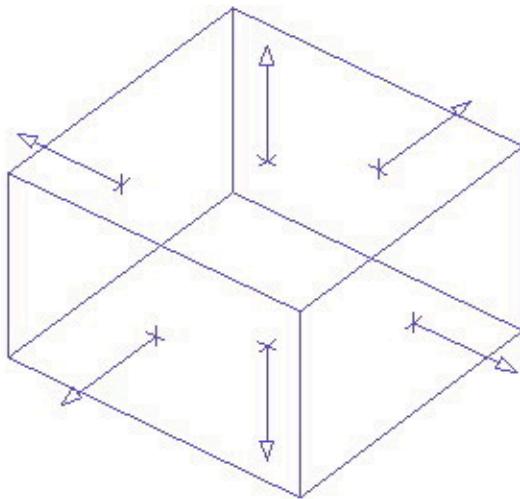
- Answer the “closest surface” question on a *per pixel basis*?
- The graphics pipeline “paints” polygons to the screen **one at a time** as raster data.
- In *eye space* the “z-coordinate” is depth into the scene.
- Knowing the depth at the corners allows us to interpolate depth at every pixel.
- Storing the depth at each pixel allows us to decide what is visible.



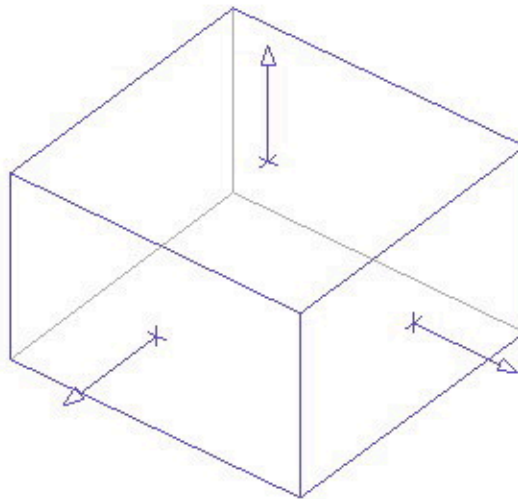
#1: “Culling” Hidden Surfaces

Surfaces have *orientation* (surface normals)

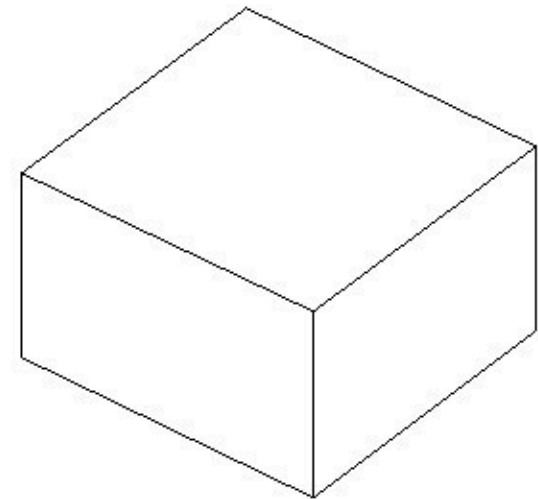
- **Normal:** a vector perpendicular to something
- You won't see what doesn't face you



All faces and normals



Faces facing the Camera

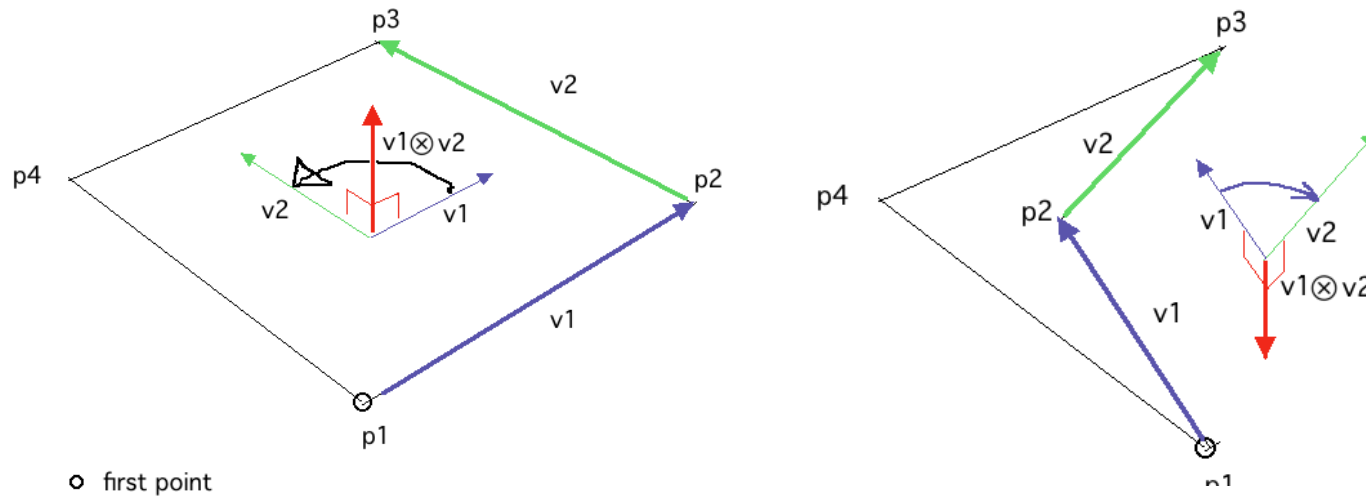


Finished Image

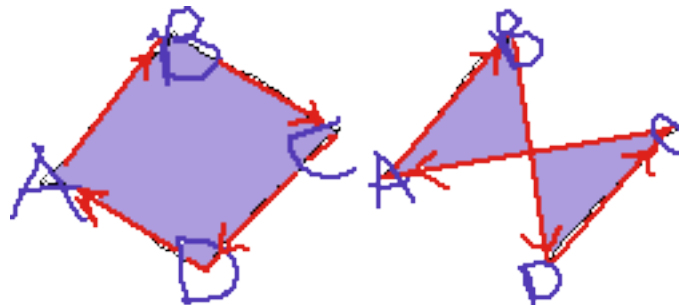


What can go wrong?

Orientation is computed from edges:



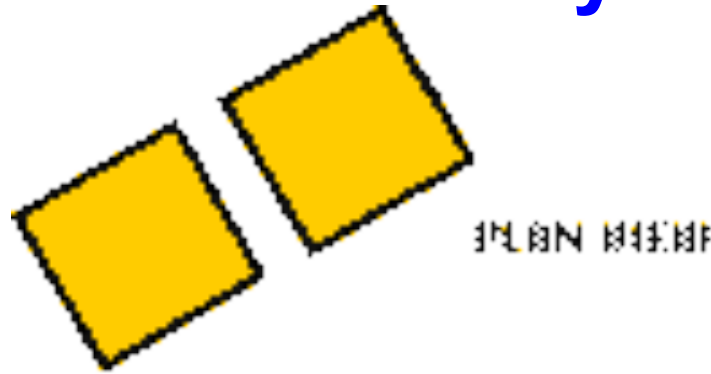
Polygons can get twisted or warped



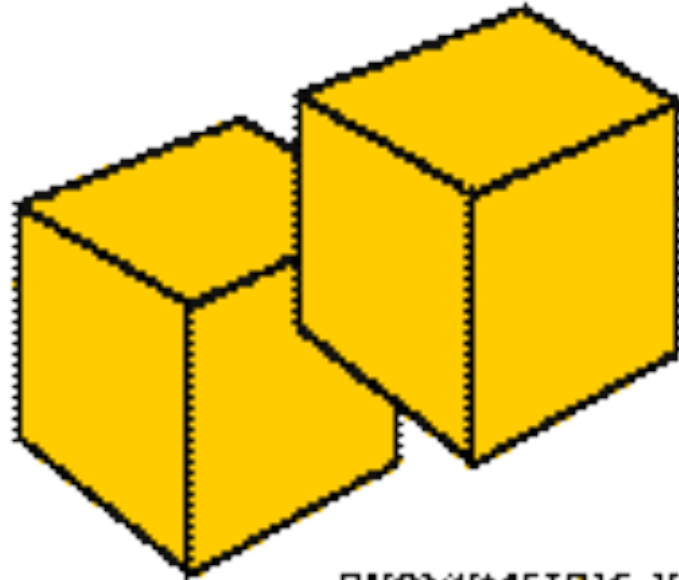


What else can go wrong?

Polygons can both *face you* and *overlap*:



3D 3D 3D 3D



3D 3D 3D 3D 3D 3D 3D 3D



#2: “Depth Sorting” Surfaces

Eye space

- first step in graphics pipeline
- “+x” to the right, “+y” is up
- “+z” is distance away from the eye

Raster screens support “destructive write”

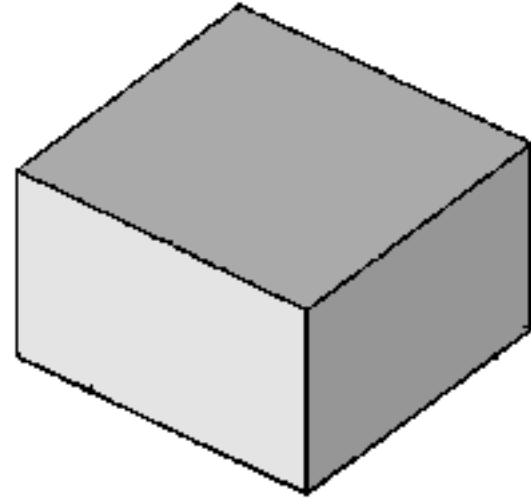
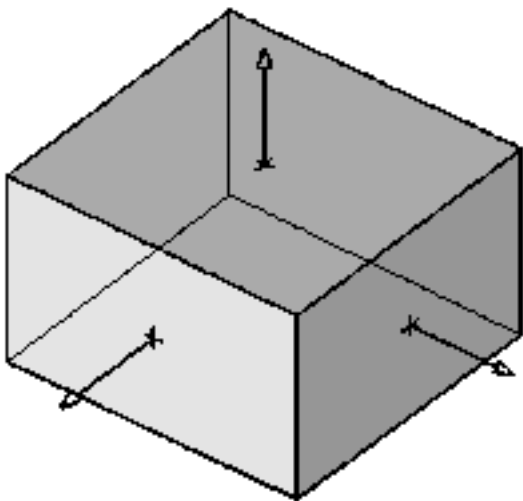
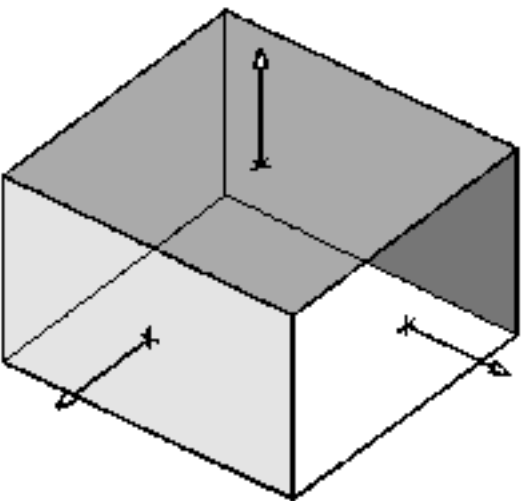
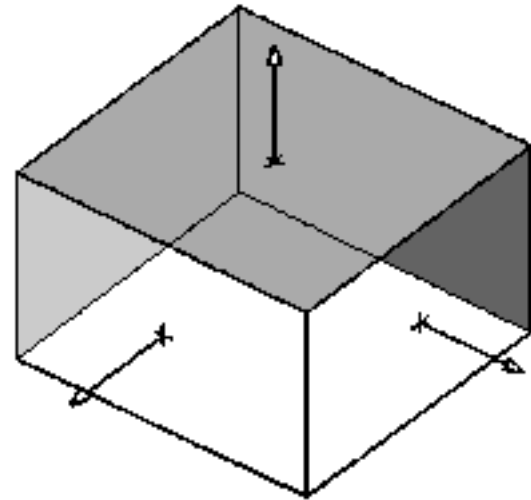
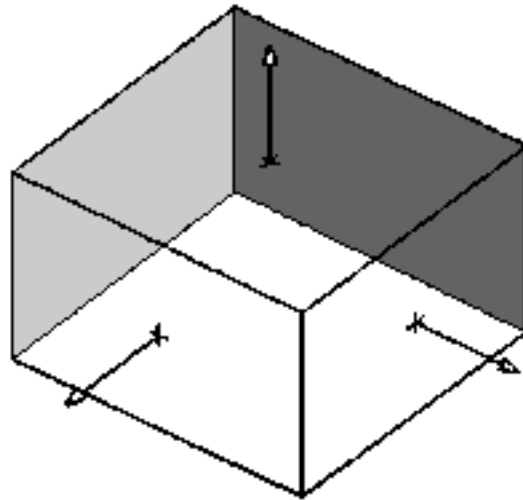
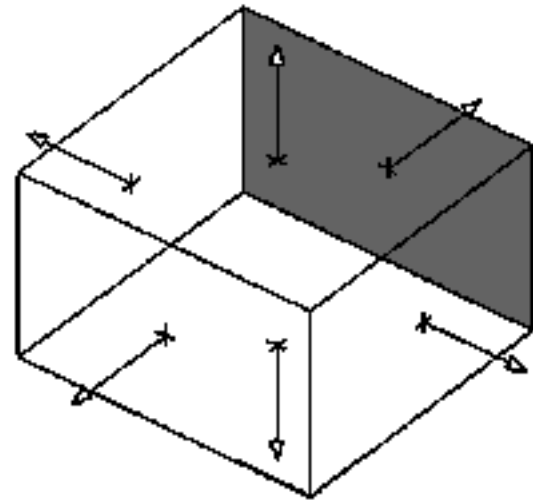
- New stuff, drawn over old stuff, completely replaces it.

→ **Draw from furthest away to nearest!**



#2: “Depth Sorting” Surfaces

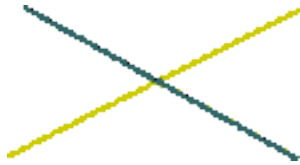
Draw the most distant face first, based on view point, then the closer ones.





“Depth Sorting” errors...

Because it works with whole polygons...



Intersecting polygons like this
(top view)



... that should look like this ...
(axo view)



... will look like this instead!



#3: *Z-buffering*

Works with pixels, not polygons ...

... works in “screen space” not “model space”

Screen space is NOT infinite (yay!)

Raster screen determines needed accuracy

Most uses will be raster.

Hidden Surfaces: #3 Z-buffering

