

# Perspective Lesson 4: *Drawing One-Point Perspective*

## Materials

- Pencils
- Paper
- Ruler
- ERASERS!!!!

[There are three aspects to perspective. The first has to do with how the size of objects seems to diminish according to distance: the second, the manner in which colors change the farther away they are from the eye; the third defines how objects ought to be finished less carefully the farther away they are.](#)

[Leonardo da Vinci](#) <sup>1</sup>

**Tutor:** Today, we're going to work with "perspective". Have you ever seen photos like this?

*<Show the Train track photo.>*

Or have you ever seen a road like this?

*<show the road photograph>* <sup>2</sup>

Both of these photos show how objects get smaller and closer together until they seem to "vanish" at the "vanishing Point" on the "horizon". These are some of the art vocabulary for the drawing technique of perspective, and both the photographs depict "One-Point Perspective"—where the object all seem to head for a single point in the picture.

We are going to do something similar today.

This type of art is very step-by-step process, so we're going to work on this together.

*<I tried to make the tutorial easy to follow. That being said, I do encourage practicing the tutorial step-by-step before demonstrating it!>*

---

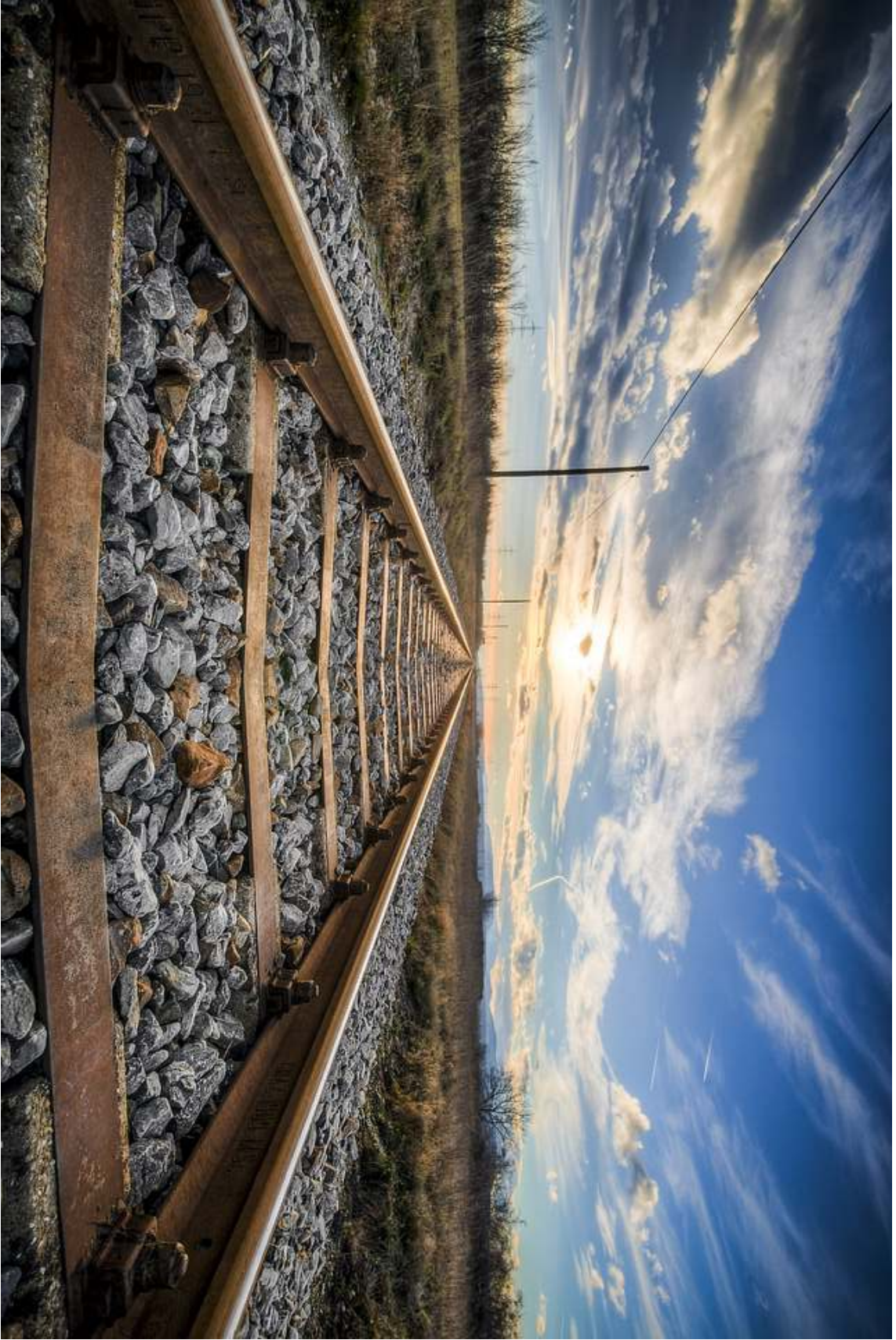
<sup>1</sup> A note about the drawing you see paired with this quotation. The portrait is from Leonardo's later career, but the landscape is his FIRST surviving drawing of his that we know of. Dated August 5, 1473, Leonardo completed it when he was 21. It depicts that Arno river valley, and the castle on the left is the Montelupo Castle. This drawing is an example of informal/zero-point perspective.

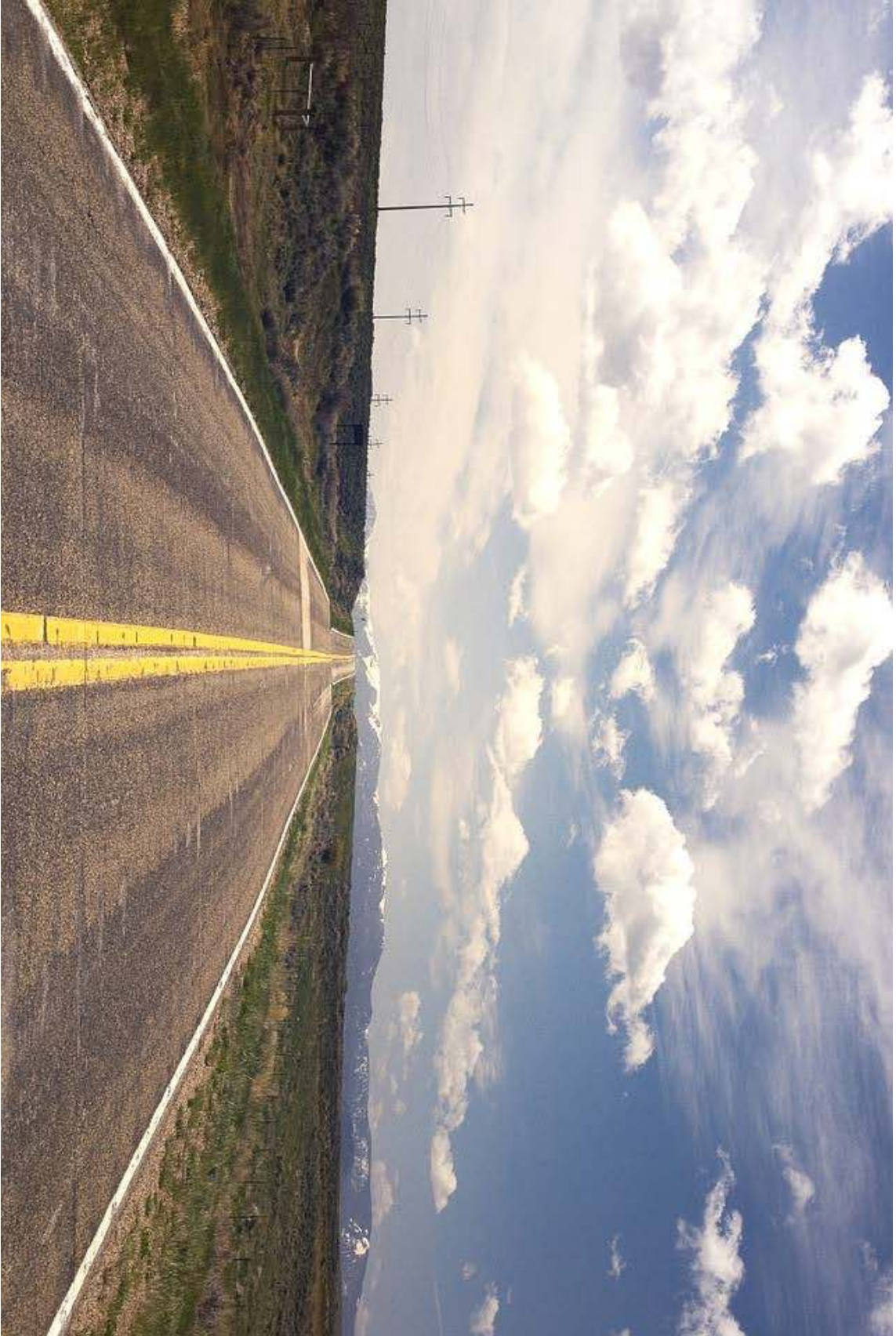
<sup>2</sup> Both of these photos are listed as being in the public domain on the website pixabay.com.

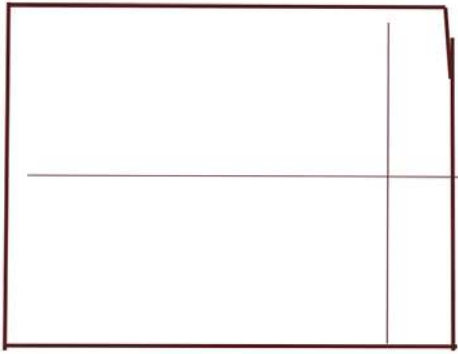
“There are three aspects to perspective. The first has to do with how the size of objects seems to diminish according to distance: the second, the manner in which colors change the farther away they are from the eye; the third defines how objects ought to be finished less carefully the farther away they are.”

*-Leonardo da Vinci*

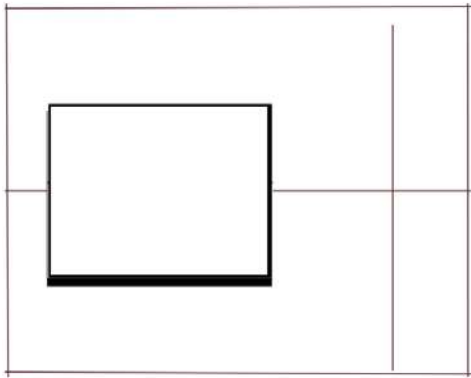




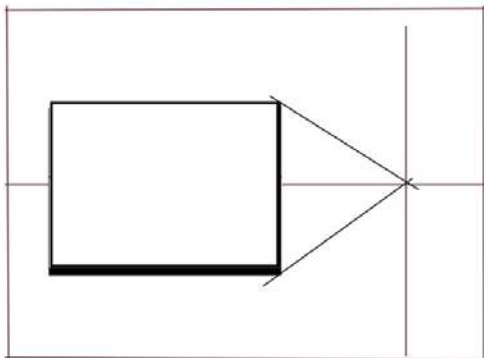




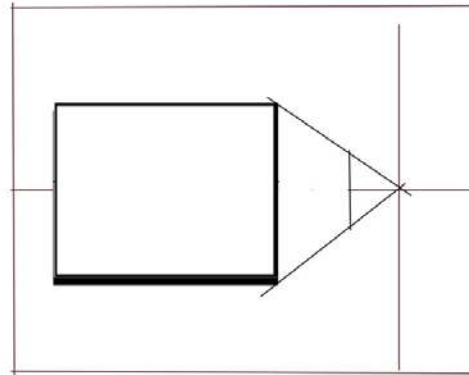
1.) To start, create the vanishing point by drawing a vertical and horizontal line which crosses in the lower third of the paper.



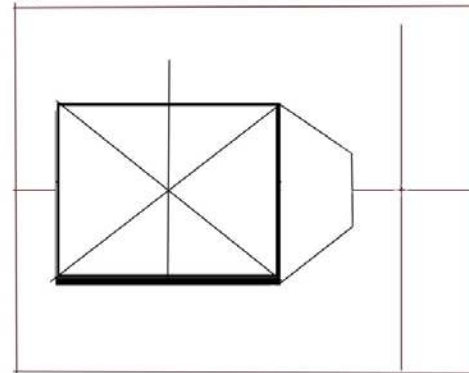
2.) Draw a rectangle which crosses over the horizontal horizon line. This will be the front of the temple.



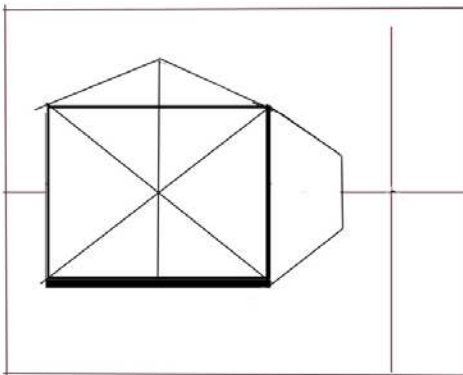
3.) Using a ruler, draw lines which connect the top and bottom corners of the temple to the vanishing point.



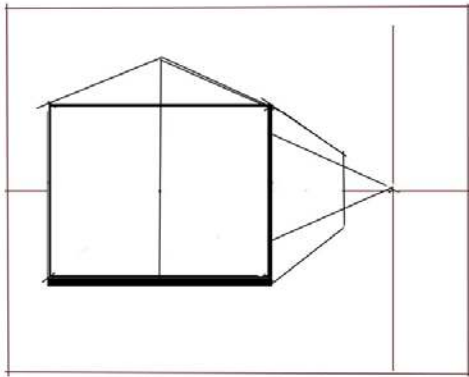
4.) Within the triangle you've just drawn, draw a vertical line. The farther from the rectangle you draw the vertical line, the longer the temple will appear. Erase the horizon line within the "wall"



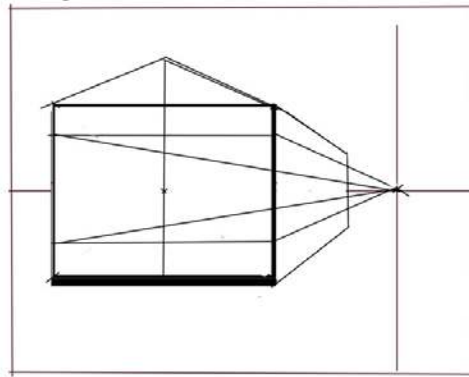
5.) Within the rectangle, draw a cross, corner to corner; this marks the center of the rectangle. Draw a vertical line through the cross-this will mark where the roof will peak. Erase the lines from the side wall to the vanishing point.



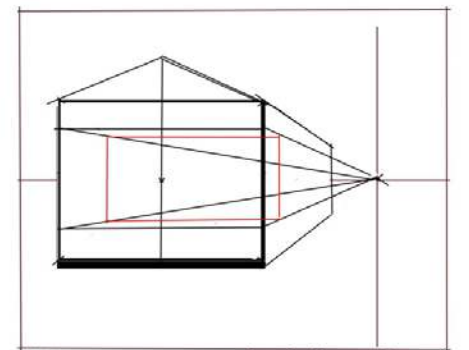
6.) Draw diagonal lines for the roof. Once done, erase the front 'X'.



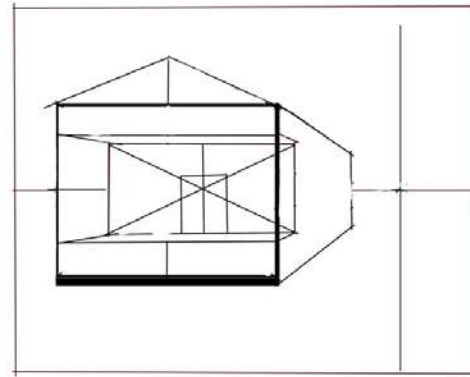
7.) Draw two lines connecting the top and bottom of the temple's face to the vanishing point. These will be the top and bottom of the front portico.



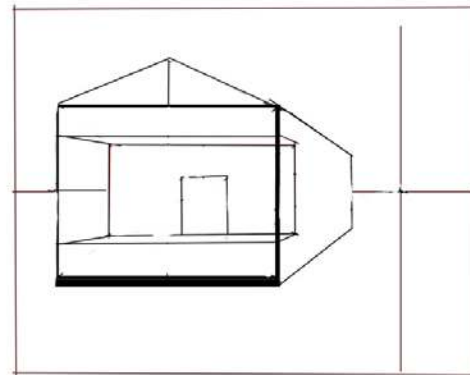
8.) Where the new diagonals touch the front rectangle, go straight across horizontally to the other side of the face. Draw another set of receding lines to the vanishing point where the horizontal touches the other side of the face.



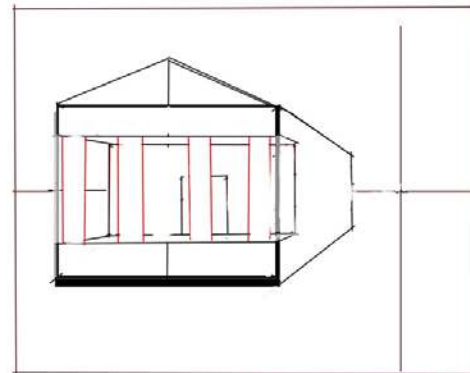
9.) Draw a new rectangle, similar to the red one above. This will be the front wall of the temple, with a portico roof and elevated floor, extended out front.



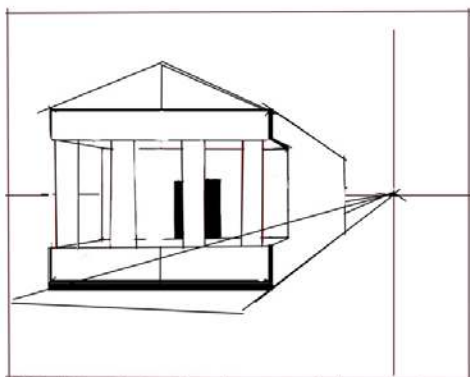
10.) Erase the vanishing lines. Criss-cross the front wall like you did earlier to find the centerpoint. Using that as the guide, draw a door in the center of the wall.



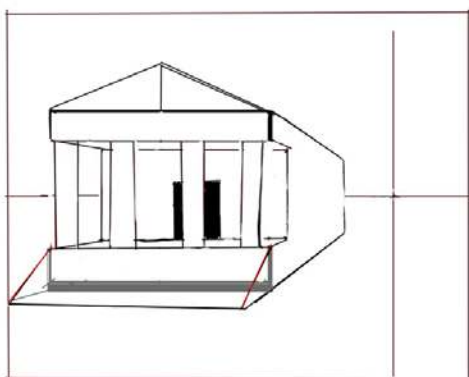
11.) Erase the guide lines



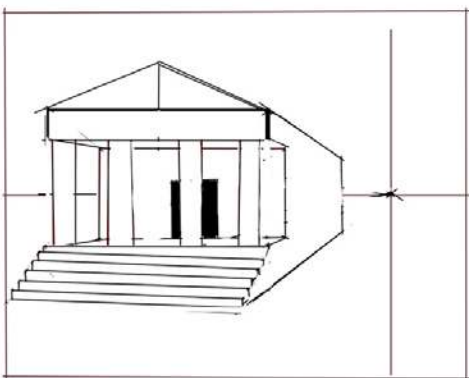
12.) Lightly sketch in the front four columns of the portico. Erase any line which falls inside the columns, plus the outer vertical edge of the original rectangle next to the columns.



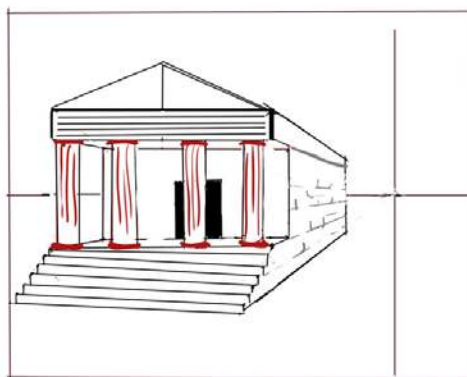
13.) After darkening the part of the temple door which still appears behind the portico column, draw two more lines running along the temple's base to the vanishing point. This will be the base for the stairs.



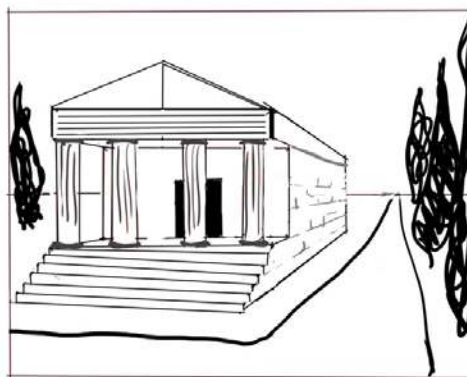
14.) Connect the stair base to the portico (red lines). Erase the internal lines of the stairs.



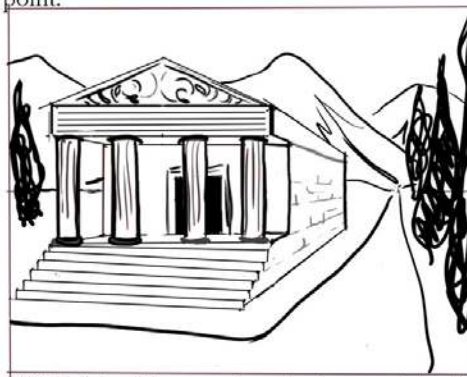
15.) Draw several horizontal lines along the diagonal face of the stairs slope to create stairs.



16.) Start adding details, like flutes on the columns, and edges to a few blocks along the side. Make sure the tops or bottoms of the side bricks recede to the vanishing point.



17.) Add a rough road receding to the vanishing point, then some landscape details like trees. Trees should also recede towards the vanishing point.



18.) Finish with some deep background details like mountains, or carvings on the temple, and you're done!