

Class Overview:

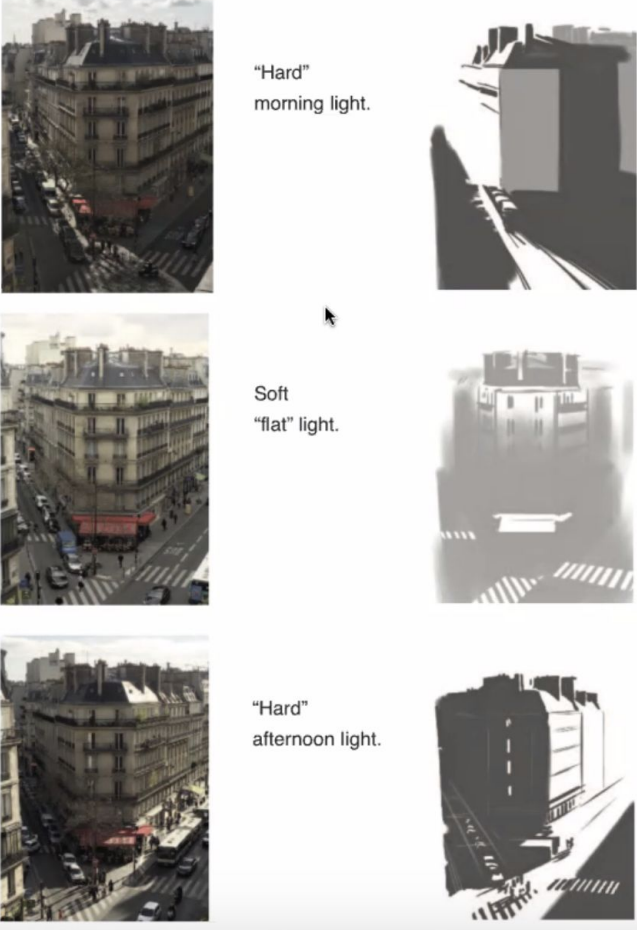
Today's lesson is about light and shadow. Light and shadow can change the entire mood of a scene and the shape of the buildings or objects in it, depending on the direction of the sun and the degree of light. Sun, light, and shadows follow the rules of one-point perspective because they come from a singular source (the sun). The demonstration focuses on reflected light.

Example:

See below how lighting can drastically change the appearance of a scene.

Week 5 - Light and Shadow

Notice how lighting changes the shape of objects and the mood of a scene.



"Hard" morning light.

Soft "flat" light.

"Hard" afternoon light.

Light and Perspective: sunlight and shadow follow the rules of one-point perspective. See the examples below.

Light and Perspective -

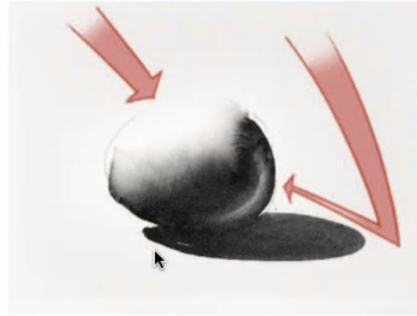
Sunlight all comes from one source, the sun, so light and shadows follow the rules of one-point perspective.



Focus on the bouncing of reflected light: every surface that light shines on becomes a light source. See examples and further explanation below.

Shadow, Shade, and Reflected Light -

Light bounces!
Every surface that light shines on becomes a light source.



Vary the color within your shadows.

Mix colors on the page to add variety to your shadows.

Light shining off colored objects will reflect that color onto other objects.



Example Below: A Victorian house. Not the height of summer, so the shadows here are blue. The reflected light is warm.



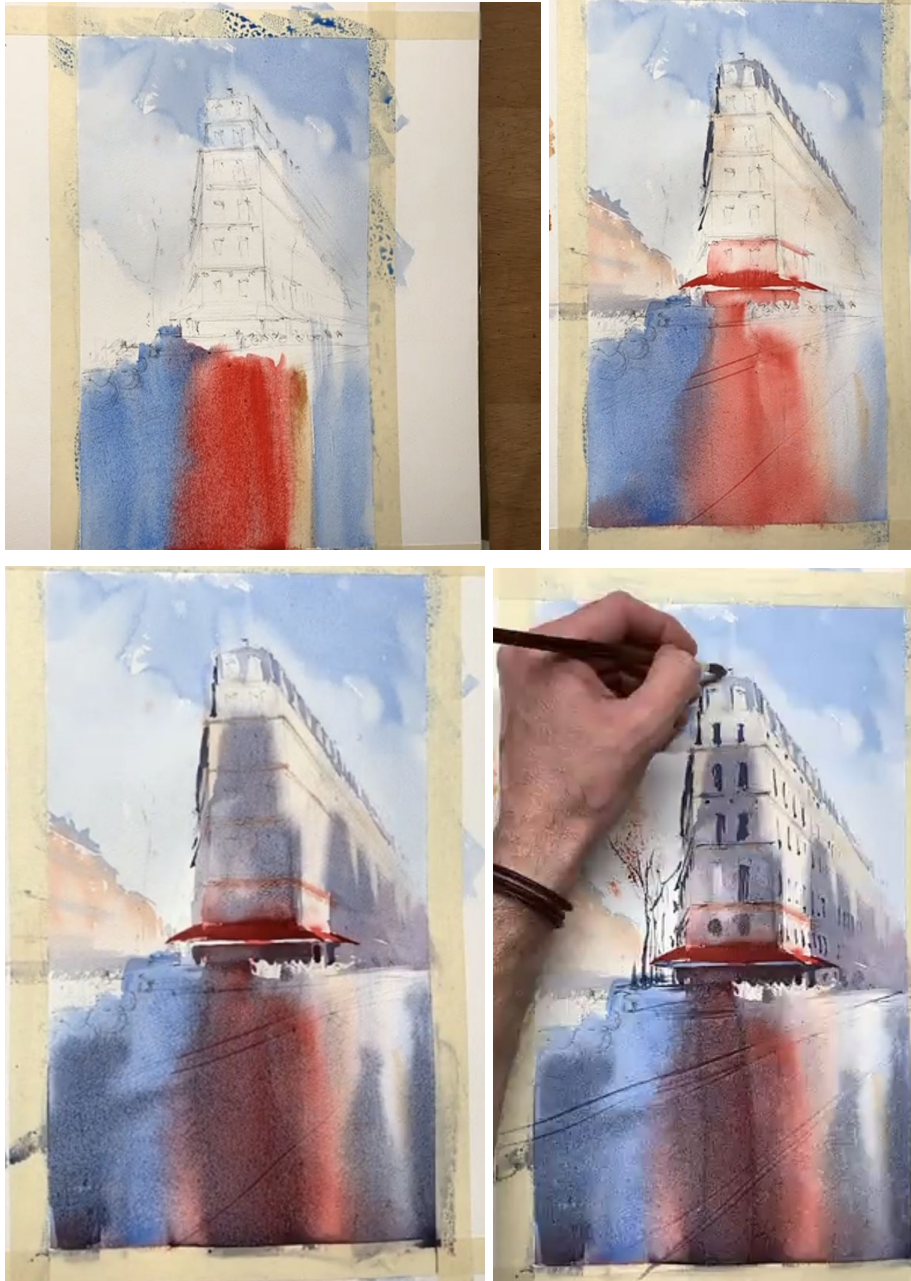
Instructor Demonstration:

Reference image:



Demonstration:





Notes on technique:

Note the use of water to mimic reflection of the shadows. Note the blend of colors used in the water for the reflection of the wet street. Don't be afraid to use deep shadows, but note the *gradual* darkening of the shadows.

Final Version:



Homework:

Paint an image with a strong sense of light and shadow.

1. Use light to define the shape of your subject -- paint contrasts of light and shadow to “sculpt” your subject.
2. Vary the colors within your shadows -- what colors are being reflected into your shadows? (blue from the sky, warm tones from walls, etc.)
3. Extra Credit! Use shadows to suggest other elements beyond the frame - include shadows from other objects (trees, buildings, people, etc.)