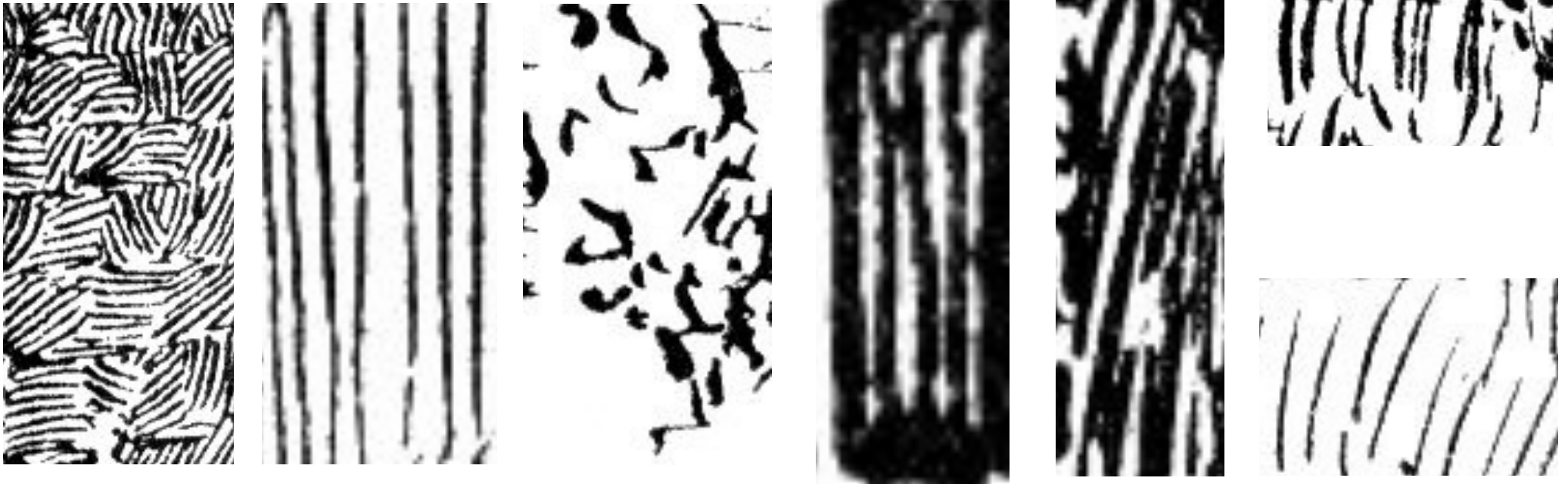


The Art Of Illustration

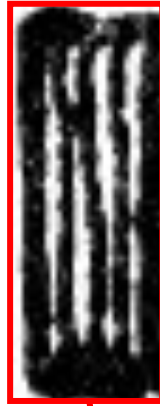
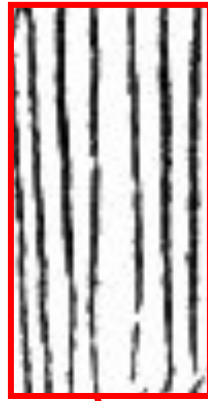


Why have I chosen to call the art of illustration the art of illusion?

Anytime you put a line to paper, whether it is to create something abstract or something that is more representative, you are creating an illusion. How you make that illusion work is up to you but it is simply a series of lines on paper. The above lines belong to one drawing which is on the next page. They are from a traditional sketch of a house and yet separately could be anything.

There is a tradition in art known as cross-hatching, when an artist crosses lines in different styles to create depth, lightness, a three dimensionality to the drawing. Think though, how can you make something appear to be three dimensional on a two dimensional surface like a sheet of paper?

By creating an illusion of course.





In these examples, Arthur Comfort has used different techniques to build up depth and those lights and dark areas. More swirling, tighter drawing creates a shadow

On the left image, by using lines that are further apart, on the brickwork around the entrance, he brings them forward. Then tighter sketching makes the open entrance appear further inside the building.

Different thicknesses of pens also help to create this effect. Thinner lines appear closer than thicker ones.

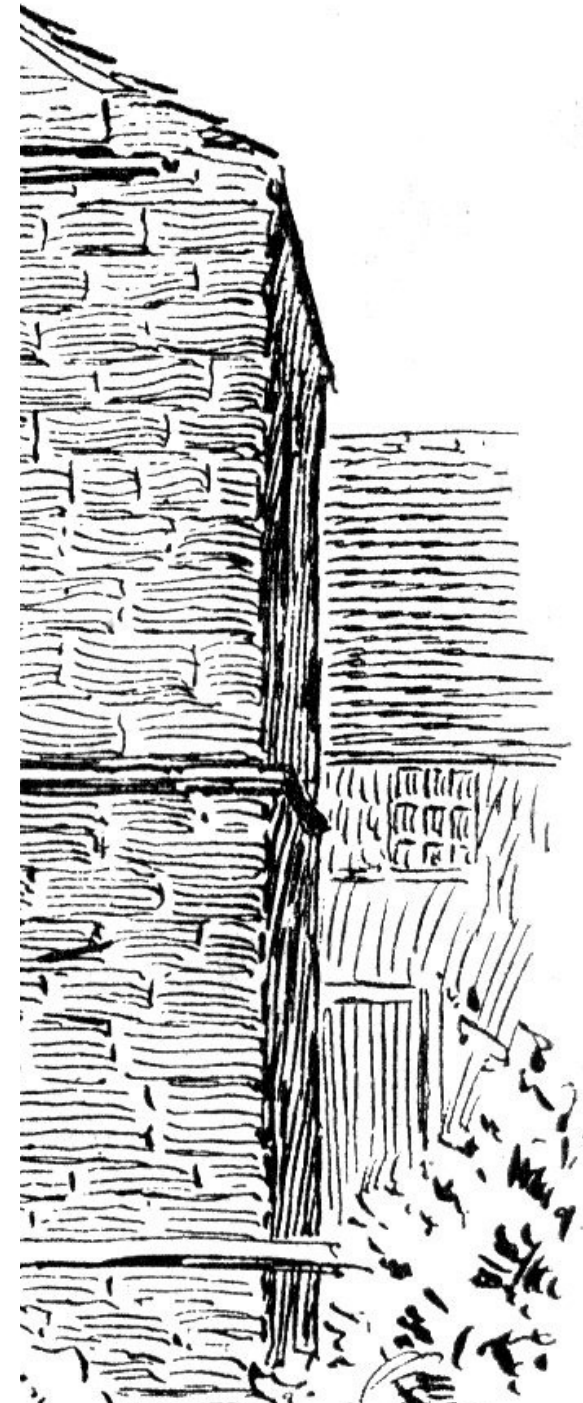
What you also have to remember is that, if you are working on white paper, then the heavier the shading can make that section appear closer. Look at the image on the right.

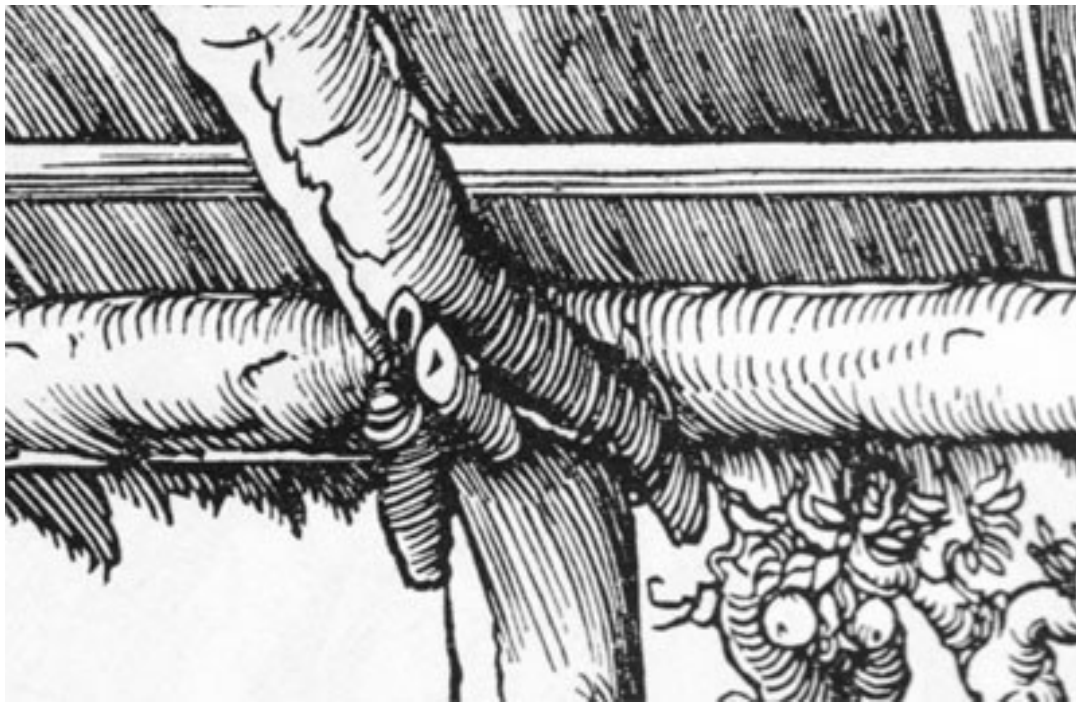
Tighter sketching brings the brickwork closer, shadows are drawn with a thicker pen

The roof and brickwork uses less lines throwing them not the distance

In this illustration, Arthur Comfort has created the illusion by 'reversing' this method in parts.

Notice that because of the amount of line work he has put into the building, by using less on the bushes, they appear to come closer.





One of the earliest masters of cross-hatching was the German artist Albrecht Dürer (1471–1528).

Dürer revolutionized printmaking and expanded its tonal and dramatic range.

These images are from *The Men's Bath House*, created some 600 years ago





In 1983 Comic book artist Berni Wrightson created an illustrated version of Mary Shelley's novel, "Frankenstein" and used cross-hatching to bring his drawings to life, much like the monster!

His masterful use of light and shade is put to great use on the top right image where he not only uses the pen but also uses the white of the paper itself to show light on the straw floor of the barn.