FL-216 Honors Project

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The Arc de Triomphe is the world’s largest triumphal arch located in Paris. Its construction was completed in 1836, and it is an emblem of French patriotism. The Arc honors those who fought and died during the French Revolution and the Napoleonic Wars. It is engraved with the names of French victories and generals. Beneath the Arch lies the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier as well as an eternal flame. The flame has been lit since 1920 and commemorates the victims of World Wars.

I picked this drawing for many reasons but mainly for its cultural significance. The structure of the monument is essentially perfect for drawings in perspective. I took advantage of this by making it two point perspective. By doing so I was able to capture both the side and front façade of the structure. I placed the vanishing points greater than half way up, setting the eye level closer to the top of the monument. By making the edge of the monument closest to the viewer the longest, I was able to set the size of the structure to a relatively large scale. The most difficult part of this drawing was the detailing. I’ve dulled most of the actual detail, through shading, in an attempt to focus on shape and depth.
The Cathedral of Our Lady of Amiens, or the Notre-Dame d’Amiens, is a French Gothic architectural cathedral completed in 1270. It is located in the city of Amiens in the Somme River valley north of Paris. It is the largest Gothic cathedral built during the 13th century.

For the Amiens Cathedral I have drawn a plan view that maps the arches. From this view one can see the eminent structural detail that went into building these cathedrals. The biggest challenge with this sketch was to make noticeable variations in line quality.
Originally the Gare d’Orsay, this building was a former Paris railway station. Designed by Victor Laloux, Lucien Magne, and Emile Benard, it was constructed in 1900 for the Exposition Universelle. Initially used by the Chemin de Fer de Paris à Orleans (Paris-Orleans Railroad), it housed the first electrified urban rail terminal in the world. While the station closed in 1939, it reopened in 1986 as a Museum.

This sketch was done free hand while looking at a photo. The Beaux-Arts type architecture would have been difficult to portray any other way. I chose to sketch this building because I knew it would be a challenge for me because I tend to prefer more technical drawings. However, I was drawn to this building because of its style. I wanted to attempt portray that feeling by using no shading in order to focus on lines and make it more of an “in process” sketch.
Notre Dame de Paris stands on the site of Paris’ first Christian Church, the Saint Etienne Basilica, which was itself built on the site of a Roman temple to Jupiter. The Notre Dame is an example of French Gothic architecture. Its construction was completed in 1250. While the Notre Dame is one of the most popular monuments in Paris it is currently an active Catholic church. Elements of gothic style incorporated in its design include stained glass, rose windows, transept portals, and flying buttresses.

This drawing was done in two point perspective on a rather small scale. The corner line of the cathedral is roughly four inches in the original sketch. My difficulty for this drawing was in shading and detail. Because the size was small, shading was difficult because it would constantly blend together. It was hard to put detail on the building because of the size. Therefore, I kept the detail limited to the front façade and the sides of the two towers.
The Pont du Gard is an aqueduct bridge that crosses the Gard River in southern France. The Pont du Gard is a section of the Nimes aqueduct. Built during the Roman Empire, the structure carried water from a spring at Uzes to the city of Nimes. It was constructed with limestone and is three levels high. Its maximum height stands around 50 meters and spans a distance of 50 kilometers. The structure itself is considered an engineering masterpiece.

This drawing was done with pencil as well. It is two point perspective that spans the entire page. I picked the Pont du Gard because it was not a building. It also had a repeating pattern of arches that spans the entire structure. It was something that was different from the buildings and monuments I had drawn before. Shading is always a challenge for me, and in this sketch it is evident. Under the arches should be darker than they currently are and I wish I could adjust some of my lines.
The Louvre Museum is the largest national museum in France and the most visited museum in the world. The Louvre has been the center of Paris since the late 12th century and was originally a royal palace. Over time, with the help of many architects and designers, the Louvre has been demolished and renovated to form the structure it is today. It is the home of many famous works of art including the Venus of Milo and Da Vinci’s Mona Lisa. It contains more than 380,000 objects and displays 35,000 works of art. The construction of the Louvre pyramid was added in 1989. It was designed by American Architect I.M. Pei and doubles as the entrance to the museum.

For this sketch I want the same “rough” feeling as in my other drawing, and was also done free hand. I drew the pyramid first and then added in the Louvre. What was particularly challenging for me was the actual Louvre because it is not as technically clean as the pyramid.
Often regarded as Paris’ most recognizable monument, the Eiffel Tower was built for the 1889 World Fair. The lead architect, designer, and engineer was Gustave Eiffel. While Eiffel himself receives full credit for the monument as the tower’s namesake, it was one of his employees who conceived and fine-tuned the concept. The designer was a structural engineer by the name of Maurice Koechlin. The final design consisted of 18,000 pieces of wrought iron and 2.5 million rivets. While criticized at first, the tower has become synonymous with the city of Paris.

This drawing was done in one point perspective, although it is hardly noticeable because the vanishing point is placed low. The hardest part of this drawing was all the little lines that intertwined, especially in the third section. With one point perspective, depth is conveyed through one vanishing point. This drawing almost looks flat until you look at the base of the structure. It is here that you see the other two base pillars.
This is a typography drawing using French architecture to spell out my name; Lauren. The “L” is formed with the July Column and a bridge. The “A” is the Eiffel Tower. The “U” is the Arc de Triomphe. The “R” is formed with the Louvre pyramids (look closely at the textural pattern). The “E” is the arch entrances on the front of Notre Dame. And finally, the “N” is the Centre Pompidou. The most challenging building to make was also my personal favorite, the Centre Pompidou. This building was designed so that the internal structure, as well as other supporting elements such as beams and duct work, are all on the exterior. I exaggerated certain elements in the building, and in other buildings I used, to more easily translate my name.


