

felt tip design group, inc.

239. 643. 7871 | fax 239. 643. 7872

landscape architecture | luxury swimming pools | designs for resort living



Drawing on Experience.



The commerce of professional design requires us to be efficient. Computers have made drawing production and duplication very efficient. But in the wake of the digital age, hand-drawing is a lost art. How sad! Although hand-drawn images are becoming increasingly rare in our shared professions, they have not lost their emotional appeal. A well-drawn image captures the imagination better than a well-rendered digital image, in our opinion.

But there's no place for the time-consuming effort of drawing by hand in our streamlined, sophisticated world, is there? We think there is. We're in the business to visually convey abstract ideas to our Clients in ways they'll understand and appreciate, and a drawing or sketch might be the best medium.

Here's a true story: We prepared a landscape design concept for a small carriage home in Naples a few years ago. The budget was low and the project manager was the owner's interior decorator. So, we developed our concept quickly in AutoCAD and submitted it for review. The decorator didn't like it, but couldn't be specific as to why. She just felt that more work should have been done.

We knew the work was sufficient for the scope and budget of the project and the concept was a good one, so here's what we did: We laid a piece of tracing paper over the AutoCAD plot and traced everything by hand. We re-wrote the notes in a loose, cursive script, made all the arrows squiggly, put a sketchy border around the whole thing, and threw a little color on it with pencils. We made no changes to the design, and re-submitted it.

And she loved it. "Just great! Can't wait to show it to the owners!" she gushed.

So, there you go. We had a client whose reaction to our ideas was driven by the medium we used to convey the ideas, not the ideas themselves. That's a pretty powerful lesson we won't forget.

Inside, you'll find examples of our hand-drawn work and even more examples on our website under "The Designers' Page."



The Medium's the Message.

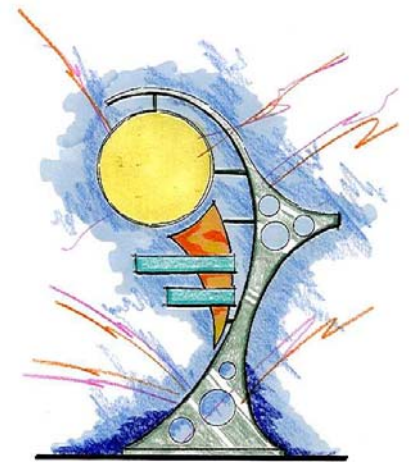
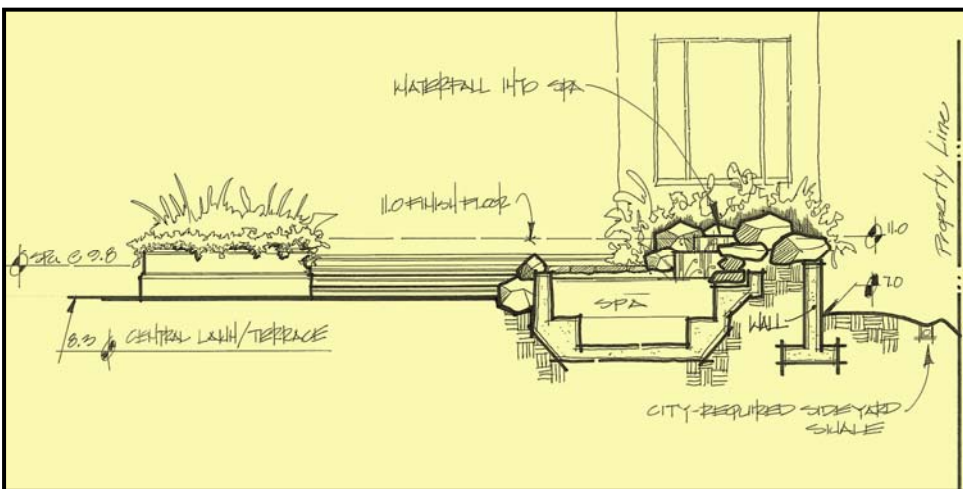
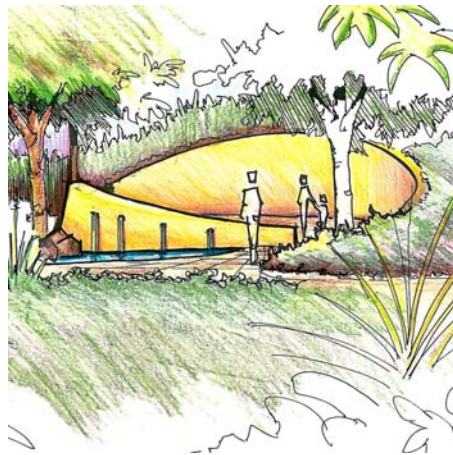
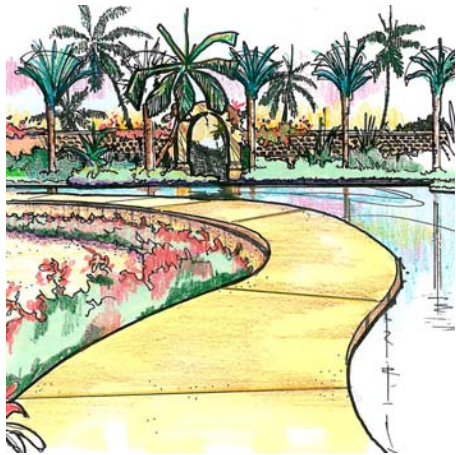
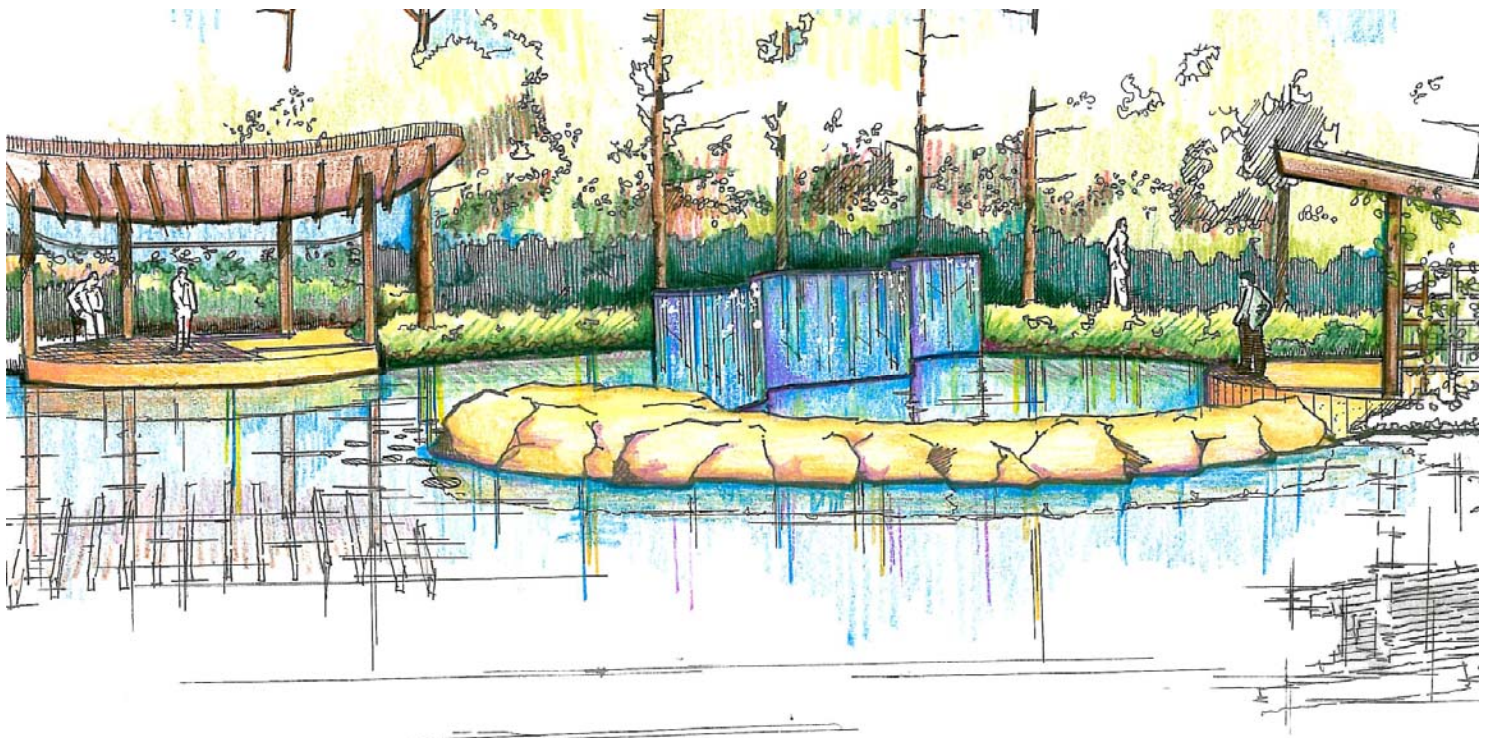
Copyright 2008 felt tip design group, inc. All rights reserved.

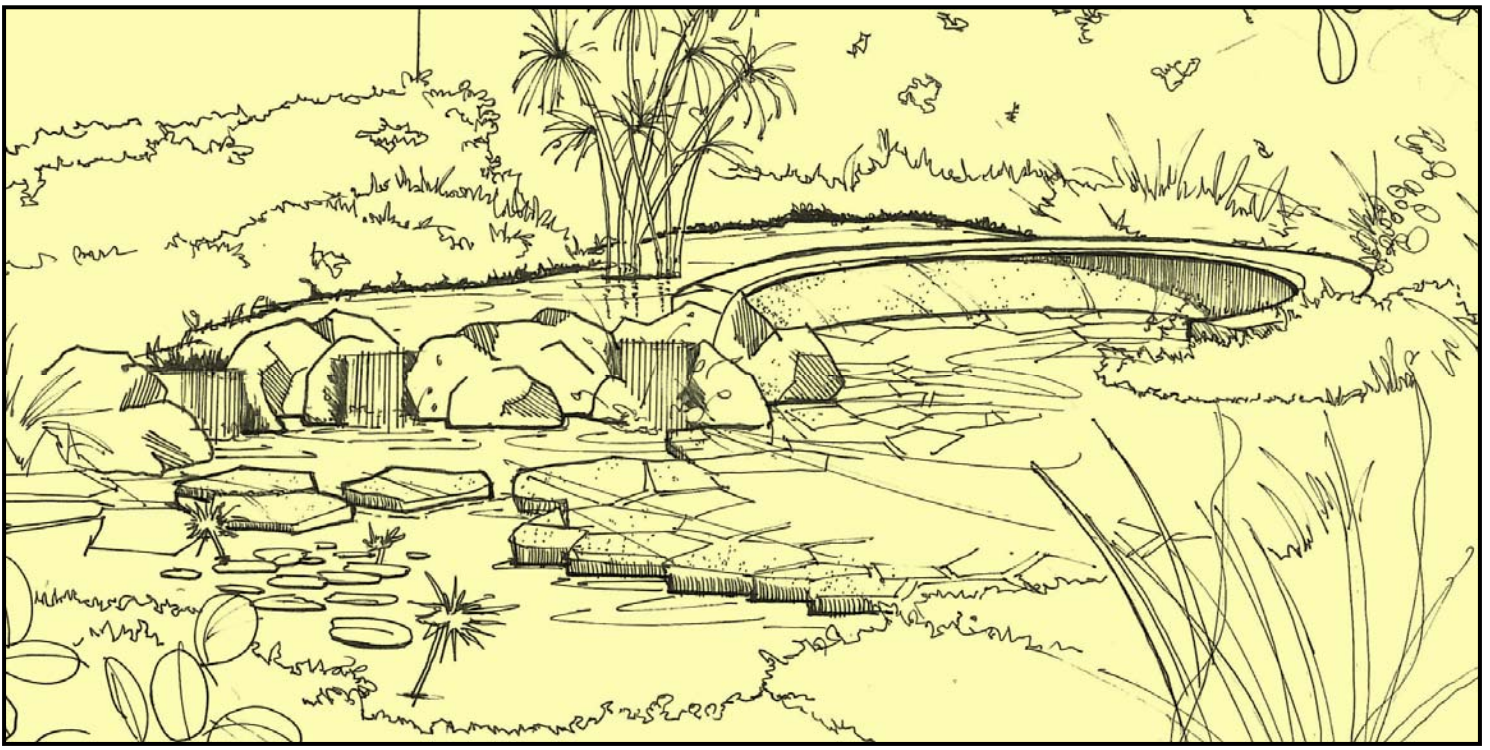
Keep copies of this newsletter in the office bathrooms for your continued enjoyment.



Fall 2008

www.felt-tip-design.com





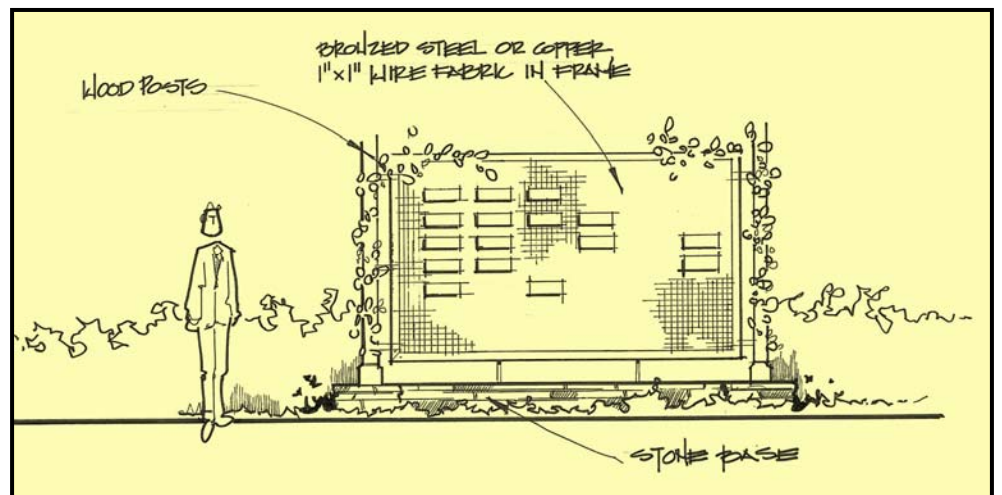
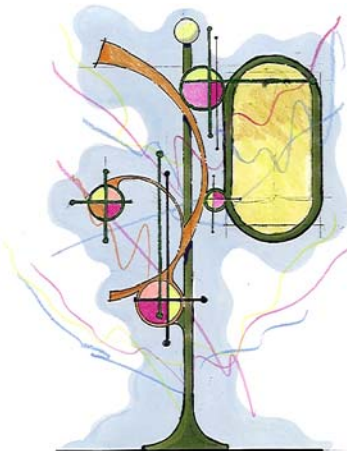
No School like the Old School

Hand-drawn sketches illicit an emotional response that digital imagery doesn't do as well. They're not works of art, but they do have a sort of charm.

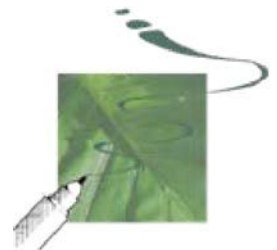
See more examples of felt tip design group's renderings and hand drawing at

www.felt-tip-design.com

All drawings copyright 2008 felt tip design group, inc. All rights reserved. No unauthorized duplication is permitted.



felt tip design group, inc.
239. 643. 7871 | fax 239. 643. 7872
landscape architecture | luxury swimming pools | designs for resort living
po box 10098 naples florida 34101



AutoCAD Rant – Learning to Share

AutoCAD has revolutionized how we do our jobs. The quantity of work that is produced by a single person using AutoCAD efficiently must be ten times that produced in the days of vellum, drawing boards, and T-squares. But we forget that we have to share our drawing files with other people, and that's when things turn ugly.

Learn to Hate E-transmit

It might be wrong, but we don't like e-transmit. We don't use it ourselves, and we wish others wouldn't, either. It is a cumbersome way to get an AutoCAD file in our-day-to-day business.

Put yourself in another discipline's shoes and ask yourself, "What do I really need from the landscape architect to do my job? Do I need all the notes and dimensions? All the layer filters? The title block? All the viewport tabs? All the hatching and symbols? The plot styles?" Probably not. Your subs probably need the line work, the base x-ref files, and that's about it. It would be nice for them to have a PDF of the sheet as it would look plotted for reference, but that's enough. Yet, when we use e-transmit, all that unnecessary and unwanted stuff comes in the package. Is there an easier way?

Of course there is! And it's *really* old school AutoCAD. It's creating an old-fashioned block with the Write Block command. Here's how: 1) Unload all the X-ref files and turn off all the unwanted layers until just the necessary stuff is visible; 2) Type `<-w>` in the command line; (there's a minus sign in front of the w;) 3) save the block by browsing to the place you want it saved and typing a name; 4) hit `<enter>` at the next prompt; 5) type `<0,0,0>` as the insertion point; 6) Select everything on the screen, then hit `<enter>`. You've now created a new drawing file containing only what your sub-consultant wants and needs, and nothing more! It can be opened in AutoCAD because it is only a new, stripped down .dwg file.

But now your screen's blank! Where's your stuff? **DON'T PANIC!** Immediately, type in `<oops.>` Yes, **Oops** is an AutoCAD command, and it will undo your last command and bring all of it back. Now, reload your X-refs, turn your layers back on, and keep working. Once created, the block can be re-written as many times as needed. Once you've practiced this a few times, you can write and re-write the block in as little as ten seconds. You'll love it!

In the next issue: Wipe Out!...

