

# **THE FIRST PRINCIPLES OF PERSPECTIVE**

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The first principles of perspective by Felix Duffin

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**FELIX DUFFIN**

**THE FIRST  
PRINCIPLES  
OF PERSPECTIVE**



THE FIRST PRINCIPLES

OF

PERSPECTIVE,

EXPLAINED

THEORETICALLY AND PRACTICALLY,

IN A

*Course of Easy Studies,*

DESIGNED FOR

SELF TUITION AND THE USE OF TEACHERS.

BY

FELIX DUFFIN.



LONDON:

E. & F. N. SPON, 16, BUCKLESBURY.

1853

## INTRODUCTION.

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IN connection with the artist, the engineer, the builder, or the artizan, the utility of a well-grounded knowledge on the subject "Perspective" has been sufficiently admitted, representations of objects as they would appear if constructed, being often required before the objects in question can be produced ; also, to assist the judgment respecting a choice from different designs, or to explain to others the nature of an idea, or of an invention originated in the mind, in either case that drawing which most nearly represents the natural appearance of an object is most elucidatory.

The plea of expedience in reference to the representation of objects as they are not, or cannot appear, is evidently an absurdity ; such a method of explanation is well calculated to mislead those on whom it is urged ; on the contrary, when an object is represented as it appears, the drawing addresses itself truthfully, and with equal force, to the scientific as well as to the comparatively uninformed observer.

To many, at first sight, the study of perspective has appeared so much enveloped in mystery that the idea of progress therein in the only manner likely to afford a feeling of satisfaction has been abandoned at the outset, owing to the dread of difficulty, while, in point of fact, the

principles of the science are theoretically simple, their application practically, of great utility in the ordinary intercourse of life, and certainly most elegant adaptations of mathematical science.

It has been remarked that a knowledge of some geometrical propositions may be gained during the course of practical operation required for the construction of the figures; in like manner it has been supposed that the elementary operation necessary to the acquirement here proposed may be successfully applied,—since the figures may be mechanically drawn in the first instance according to the instructions given, affording subsequent matter for reflection either in connection with the explanatory text or otherwise.

Works on the subject have frequently been considered obscure, and though some very useful treatises are extant, such are in most cases too expensive to attain general circulation. In the instance of tuition by professors, some difficulty has been experienced, owing to the want of a simple yet thoroughly scientific mode of procedure.

Although the method submitted be calculated to facilitate self instruction, it cannot be denied that much advantage may be derived from the assistance of a qualified teacher, to whom it is presumed the following work may be deemed of utility, the principal elementary operations of the art being herein concisely contained, with progressive steps, which, being strictly adhered to, the excursive practice frequently originating in mere curiosity will not retard progress.

In the following studies an attempt has been made to subject the first principles of perspective to a strict analysis, also to exhibit, in a compendious form, the elementary practice by which the art of projecting representations

of certain geometrical solids, under various conditions, may with ease be scientifically demonstrated and explained to persons previously unacquainted with mathematical science.

The student, having mastered the essential principles so far that the conditions of the ground plans may be varied at pleasure from those of the examples submitted—and the projections corresponding to such altered conditions readily produced, may be said to have acquired a practical acquaintance with the subject, the possession of which would to many prove a source of satisfaction and confidence. The theory and practice necessarily combined with that amount of qualification being capable of universal application; such also constituting the first and great step to a familiar acquaintance with the simple and elegant science “*Perspective.*”

FELIX DUFFIN,

*Teacher of Perspective, Drawing, and Painting.*

2, CARDIGAN PLACE,  
NEW NORTH ROAD, HOXTON.  
*September, 1858.*



The Author of this treatise will undertake to teach thoroughly, and without difficulty, the elements of Perspective in a course of eight lessons; and is open to engagements respecting Military and other Geometrical Draughting; Drawing of the Human Figure Anatomically, or from the Antique; also, Landscape Painting, in Oil, or Water.

THE NATURE OF  
PERSPECTIVE PROJECTION.

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Objects are seen by means of rays of *natural* light proceeding from the sun, or *artificial*, from a candle or lamp; rays falling upon an object are reflected to the eye.

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ERRATUM.

Page 27, lines 3 and 4, read, *distance* into the picture of angle, F, 20 feet.

the actual position of the object, the representation of such object would be correctly produced.

The following studies are geometrical demonstrations of the methods whereby the said points are found upon the plane of the perspective, and may be easily explained; but the perspective of colour must in a great measure depend on individual qualifications, natural and acquired.

