

Scale

Architecture

Which scale to draw at, what each is for, and how to read one.

The scale tells you how many real millimetres one drawn millimetre stands for.

real = drawn x scale factor

20 mm at 1:50

a metre

1000 mm real

A 3 m room at 1:100

very small

30 mm on paper

A 100 mm block at 1:5

detail scale

20 mm on paper

THE COMMON MISTAKE

✗ **Scaling a dimension off a printed drawing**

✓ **Read the written dimension**

Printing and PDF export shift the scale, and drawings get revised without reprinting. Written dimensions govern, which is why drawings say so.

Common set: 1:5 and 1:10 details, 1:20 assemblies, 1:50 and 1:100 plans, 1:200 and 1:500 site, 1:1250 location.