

Precedent Study

Architecture

How to study a building so it changes your project rather than decorating it.

Copying an image teaches nothing. Redrawing a building teaches a lot.

1

Pick for the problem

Choose by the question you have, not by the architect you admire.

2

Redraw it to scale

Plan and section, by hand, at the scale you are working at.

3

Find the organising move

One sentence: what holds this building together?

4

Check the numbers

Spans, storey heights, room sizes, circulation width. Write them down.

5

State what transfers

Name the move you are taking and the context you are taking it from.

Cite what you use. Taking a strategy is scholarship; copying an image and calling it yours is not.