

Homeland Miniatures

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Citation: Avci, O. (2022). "Homeland Miniatures" UOU scientific journal #03, 142-157.

ISSN: 2697-1518. <https://doi.org/10.14198/UOU.2022.1.13>

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In architectural education, one of the most common and universal representation techniques is 'central perspective' which was discovered during Renaissance period. The rational world that The Renaissance offered us helps to create a universal language in the field of architecture and enables to represent our thoughts on space so as to create a dialogue between ourselves and others. On the other hand, some other techniques like iconography or miniature drawing reflect another understanding of the world and space per se that could be a new way of representation in our era.

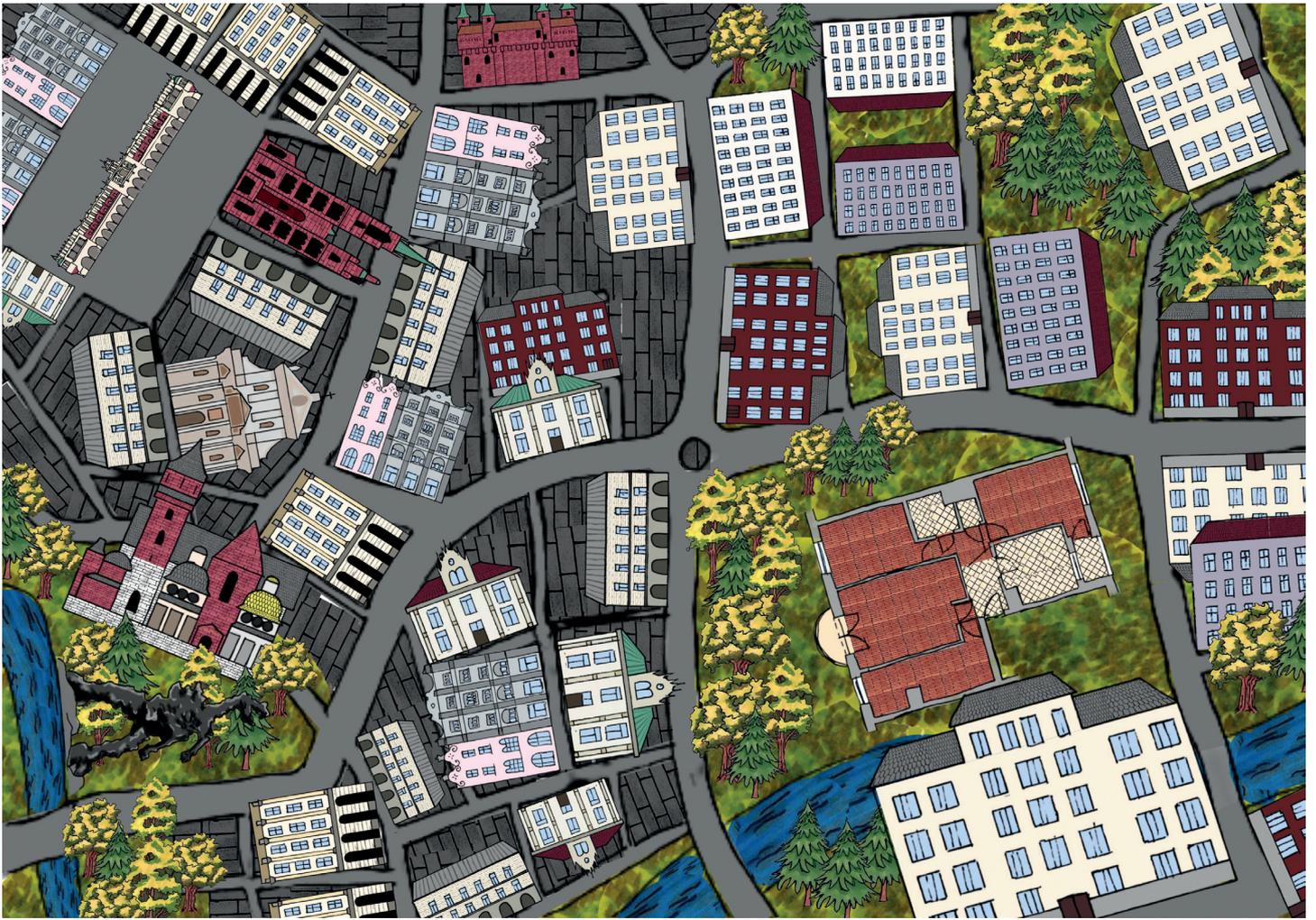
The understanding of perspective in miniature drawing is different from The European Renaissance painting tradition. The scene depicted usually includes different time periods and spaces in one picture. Thus, we may say that miniature drawing is a multi-layered representation. Miniatures are always a part of book, not like a standalone work of art, and because of that they are closely related with the context of the book they were included in.

In our "Homeland Miniatures: A Collective

Digital Travel book" workshop, we made a collective travel book that represents different cities/countries through miniature drawings of those homelands. Each student drew a miniature drawing of his/her homeland or the city where s/he was living at that time and wrote a short reflective paragraph that is related to her/his drawing. By putting all these drawings together we created our collective digital travel book at the end of the workshop.

The aims of the workshop can be listed as follows:

- To introduce a new way of looking and understanding the world around us
- To start a debate between "Western" and "Eastern" thoughts
- To think on how to represent a city/country through one drawing
- To discover the textures, important landmarks, and cultural artifacts of a city/ country
- To discover the multi-layered world of miniature drawings and their fragmented yet holistic spatial characteristics
- To discuss the emancipatory character of architectural representations.



CRACOW | POLAND by Aleksandra Trebacz

Cracow is a city with many important and symbolic historical monuments – a few of them are shown in the miniature drawing.

These include Wawel Dragon, Cloth Hall, Barbican, St. Mary's Church and few others. They are located in the centre, shown on the left side of the picture. Further away from the centre more and more vegetation appears and the

buildings become simpler in terms of structure, colours and textures. Both parts are connected by the Vistula River flowing through the city. The author's house is located in a quiet area, a bit from the centre of Cracow.

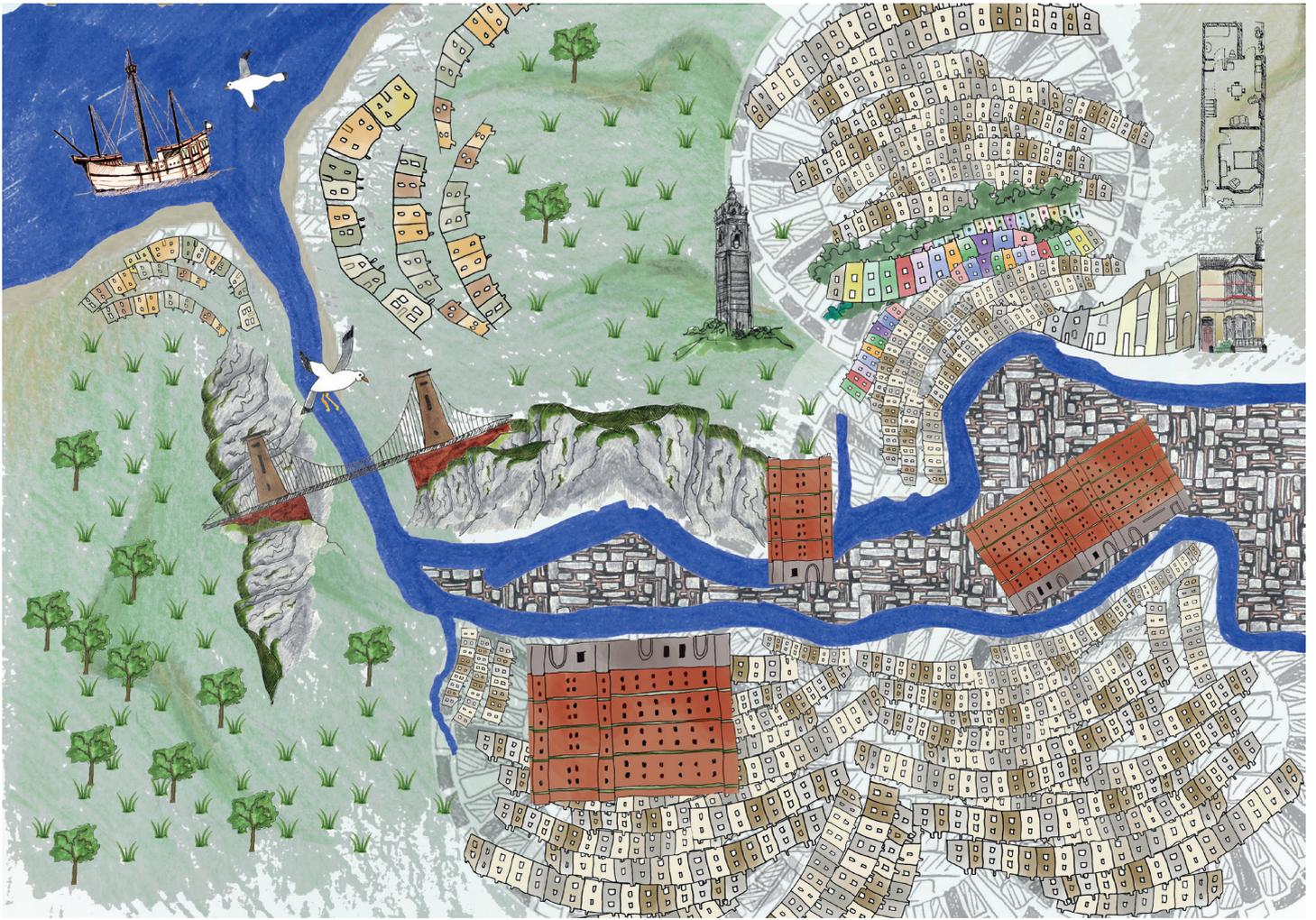


CRACOW | POLAND by Malgorzata Swieczka

Cracow is a city located in the southern part of Poland, near the Vistula river. It has a rich history and culture, as can be seen in the architecture of the old town. The

Old Town Square with the famous Cloth Hall is one of the largest town squares in Europe. Today, the old town is surrounded by a park on the site of the former city walls. However over time the city grew significantly. My family home is located on the outskirts of the city, where most of the buildings

are single-family houses. Although the city centre is usually busy and crowded, there are also a lot of parks and a few nature reserves in Cracow, which I also wanted to show in my drawing, because this part of the city reminds me more of home.



BRISTOL | ENGLAND by Maisie Walker

The port city of Bristol was an important point for The Industrial Revolution, and many monumental tobacco factory buildings remain in “Spike Island”, a cobbled industrial island sitting in between the waterways of the city.

The factory buildings contrast with the small terraced Victorian housing which moves up the hilly landscape to the north and south. To emphasise the repetitive high

density housing I chose to draw two lines of houses in similar colour schemes and overlap them in different orientations according to the river. These are juxtaposed by the larger and less densely populated suburban neighbourhoods. The suspension bridge is an iconic structure in Bristol, connecting the highest points of the city across towering cliffs. The bridge is oriented to show how it is viewed from the centre of the city. Isolated from the buildings, I drew Cabot Tower another iconic building which sits alone at the top of a hill in Bristol,

offering panoramic views.

Bristol has a strong link to nature. To highlight the difference between the built environment and natural environment I used different textures. The texture of the built environment flooring is a sketch of the “Bristol Byzantine” brickwork, which is a brick design specific to Bristol.

The home I live in is a Victorian terraced house, I used a gradual expansion of the terraced street towards this more detailed sketch of my house in elevation and plan.

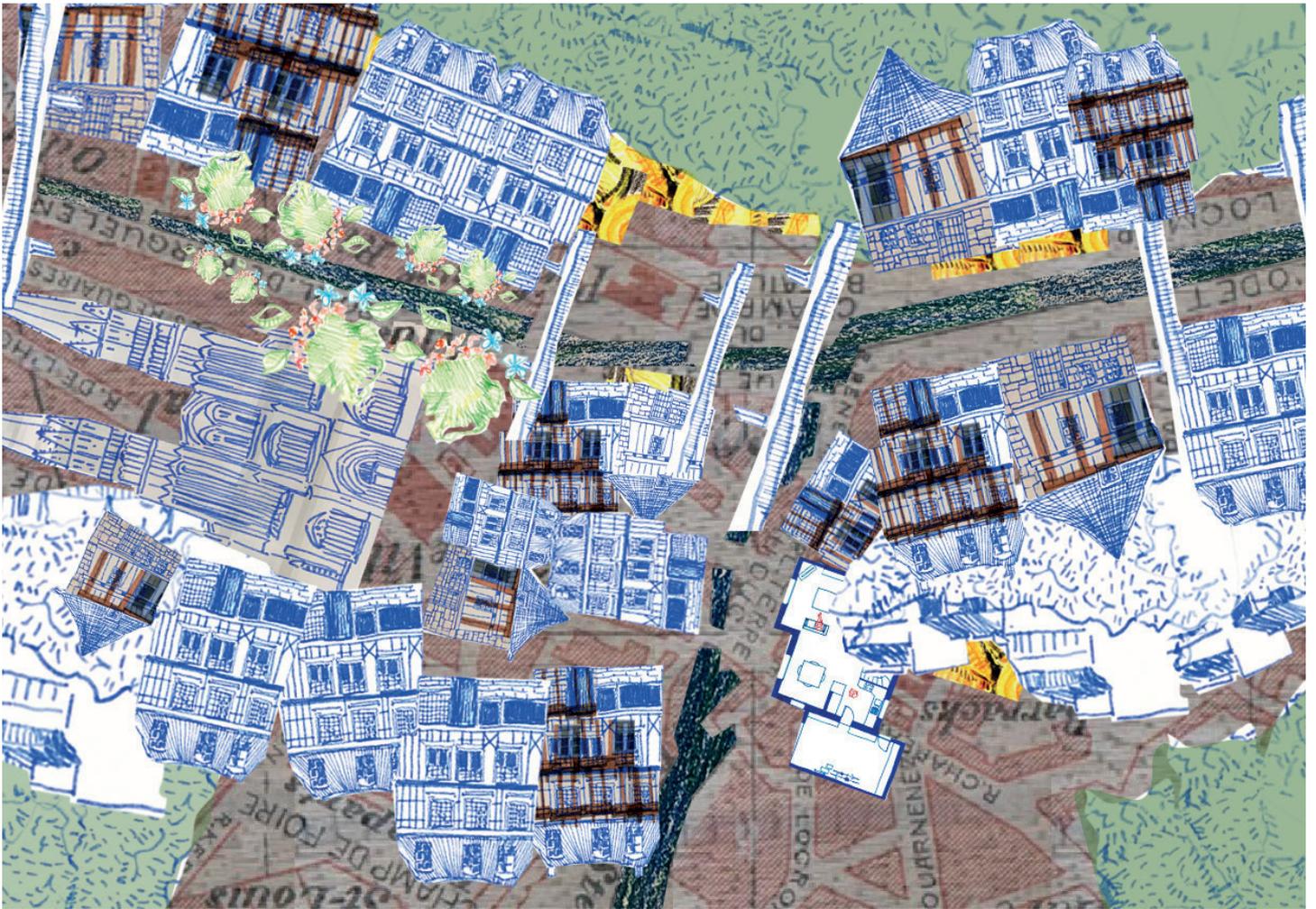


ALBACETE | SPAIN by María González

In this miniature drawing I am representing the city of Albacete from my perspective. We can see my house at the bottom right, including a plan of the room.

From there, I drew some paths to different places that I usually visit at certain times of the year. For example, I show how to get to the city centre. I usually go through a door that leads to this area, and from there go down some stairs to reach another. To represent these

seasons, the trees have more or fewer leaves depending on winter or summer. Also, to emphasize this change of season, the sky is drawn warmer in the summer areas and colder in the winter areas.



QUIMPER | FRANCE by Mathilde Le Dérout

This personal work includes several important points of this city:

- The predominance of white and blue: these are the colors of the city, used for many centuries in the kitchen earthenware. They are handmade in Quimper. It is also seen in the embroidery

of the household linen - A few touches of yellow-orange, like the lace of Breton costumes, they are handwoven. Also, we can envisage:

- The city surrounded by hills, Mont Frugy for example
- The city is known for its quays on the river Odet, very flowery quays and many bridges
- The cathedral of Saint Corentin,

dominates the city centre, its long spires can be seen piercing the sky

- The architecture of Quimper dates from the Middle Ages. It is made of half-timbered houses, the city centre does not have an orthogonal plan. It is a maze of small streets, one can get lost quickly. In my work you can understand the density of half-timbered houses and how to get lost.



SAMSUN | TURKEY by Mert Can Keskin

I live in Istanbul, but I visit my hometown, Samsun, every summer. In this work I drew my grandmother's house where I stay every summer and the images of Samsun that caught

my attention. Since the city is the oldest settlement in the Black Sea region it has many historical textures. According to a rumour, Amazon women lived in Samsun. For this reason, there is an Amazon woman statue in a park called Batı Park. The city has been one of the most important factors

in the independence of Turkey. The Bandırma Ferry, known to have started the Turkish War of Independence, still stands in the centre of the city. You can see the reflection of this diversity in Samsun, which has hundreds of tree species, such as Cedar and Cypress trees in my work.



ANKARA | TURKEY by Helin Karadeniz

In the workshop our homeland was depicted by drawing miniatures. I was born in Ankara and lived in Ankara for a part of my childhood. First of all, I started by identifying the important structures of Ankara. On the left

side of the drawing is Anıtkabir, the mausoleum of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, the founder and first President of the Turkish Republic. On the upper right is Ankara Castle. Atakule, which has become the symbol of Ankara, is located in the lower right corner of the drawing. Mogan Lake is located in the far left corner of the page as

it is located a little outside of the city. Also, there is the Museum of Anatolian Civilizations in the upper right. Kuğulu Park and Youth Park, where the people of Ankara often spend time, are in the centre of the miniature. After that, roads and structures were added to show the chaotic and crowded feeling of Ankara.

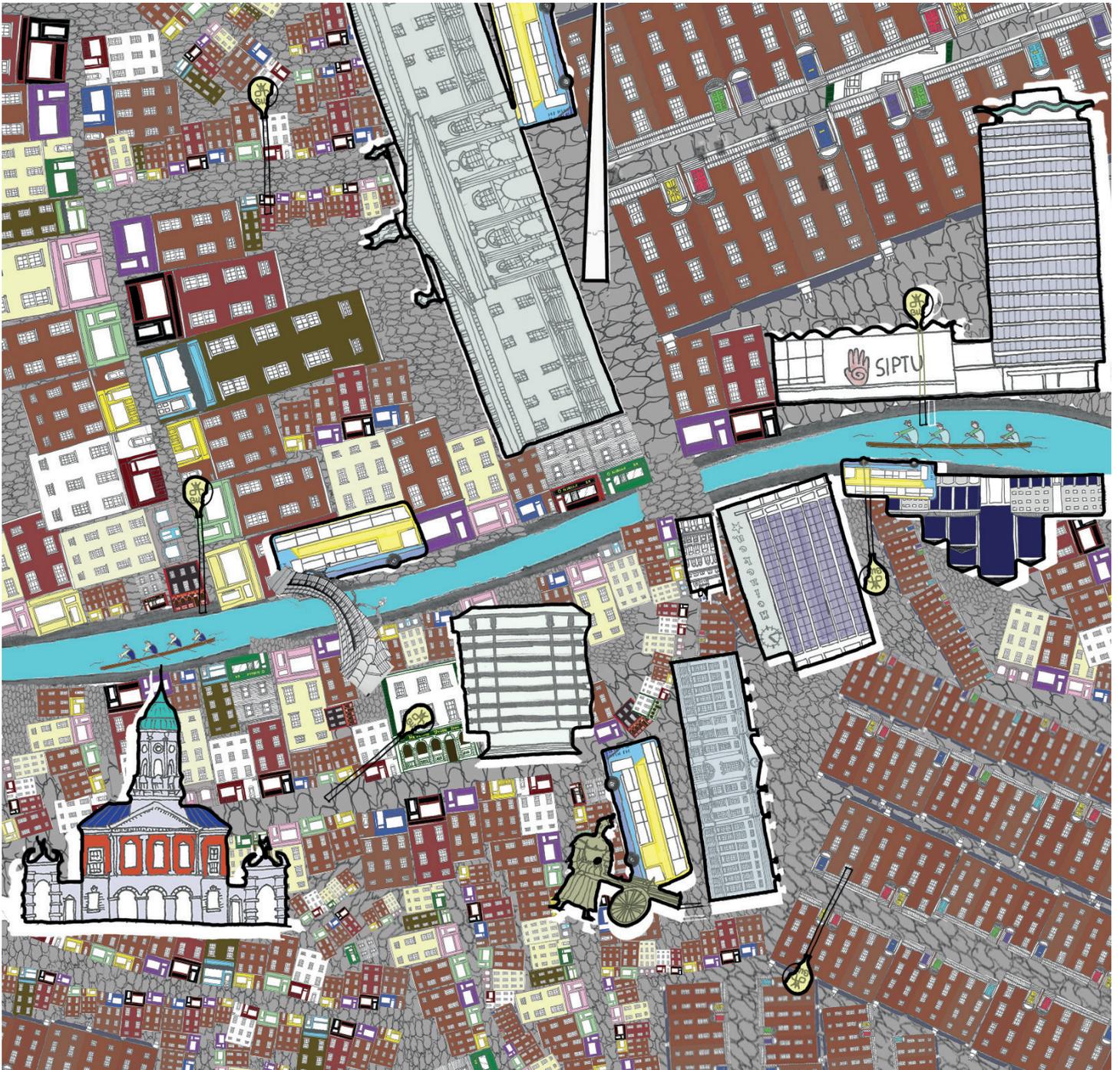


ÖDSMÅL | SWEDEN by William Kjaernes Tholl

Ödsmål Village is a coastal village in the west of Sweden. It is a rural place connecting one of the biggest Swedish islands to the mainland through a ferry, and the village is a mixture of farmers and industrial workers. Most villages in Sweden look like this. A roundabout with an

primary school, a church and two neighbourhoods closeby - one bigger and one smaller. Because of the dense Swedish forests it is hard to see the landscape, except for when a field appears. Most fields in Ödsmål are either wheat fields or made for horses or sheep. The typical house is a wooden house with the famous Falu red colouring and with white contrast and a black ceramic roof, or with red ceramic roofs if

the wooden façade has another colour. The village has a beach into the sea and one next to one of the small lakes. But, the last lake is a "bottomless" lake with a mud bottom so soft that you cannot stand on it; however, thick enough to make it impossible to swim out of it. Therefore it is forbidden for people to swim in it. The lake is surrounded by even thicker forest and is named "Pine Tree Lake" after that fact.

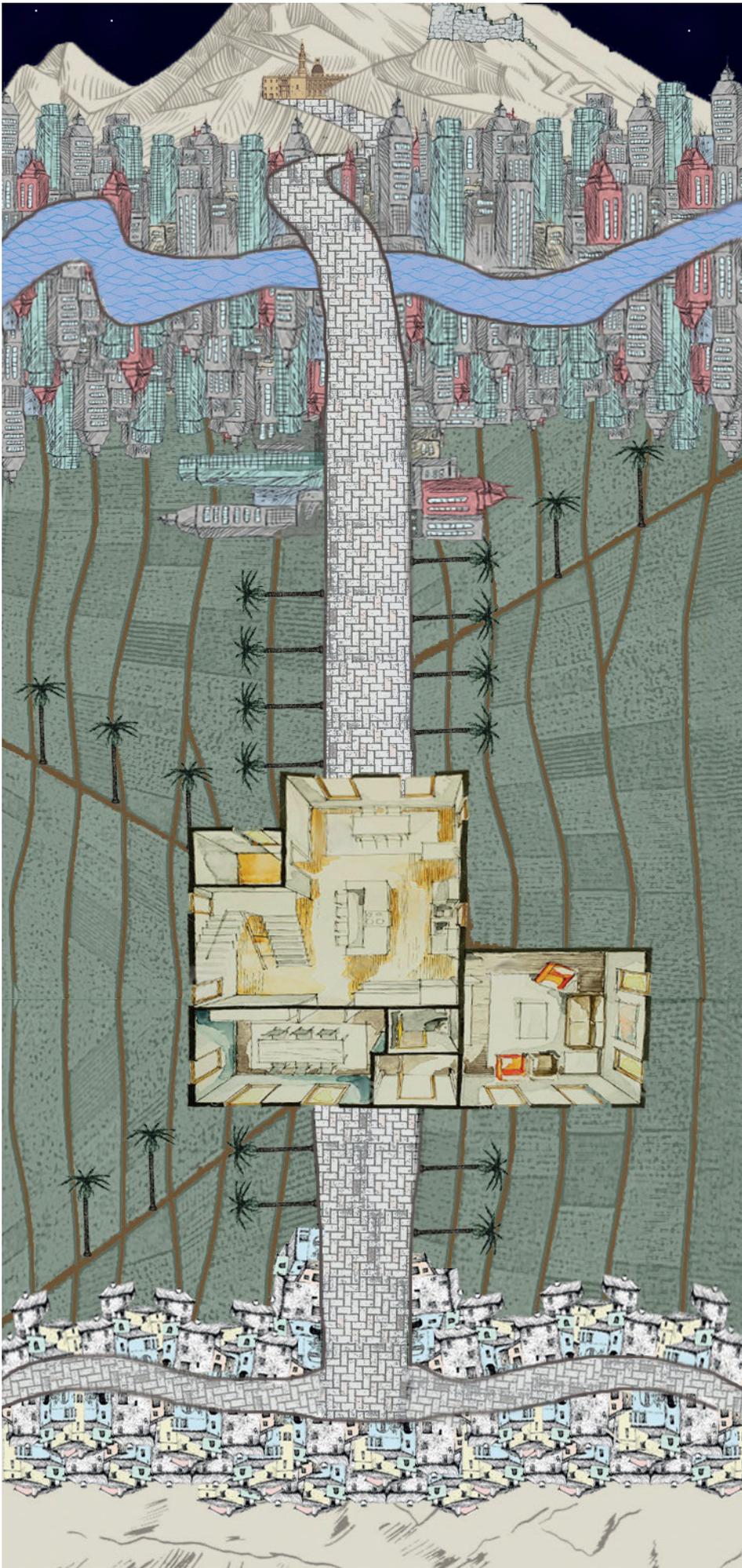


DUBLIN, IRELAND by Vladislav Krylov

Dublin as a city is characterised by two textures: the brick of its Georgian buildings and the cobblestone that lines the most iconic streets. It is a city of vibrance, although it rarely presents itself that way. One just needs to look at the entry ways and shopfronts to see

the colour and life that the city has to offer. In this miniature I tried to reflect Dublin's almost chaotic, mediaeval layout, full of tight streets and confusion. Punctuating these streets, and giving some orientation are its landmarks, grand structures such as: Trinity College, The GPO and more modern additions such as Ulster Bank buildings and Liberty Hall. One of Dublin's most iconic

features is one that is not present in its architecture - Dublin Bus. You cannot escape the hum of this double decker motor anywhere you go and they take you to all four sides of the cartesian map. This Miniature also helped me realise the size of the city, as many many parts had to be omitted to be legible, but overall it is a collage of the centre, a persian carpet of brick and stone.

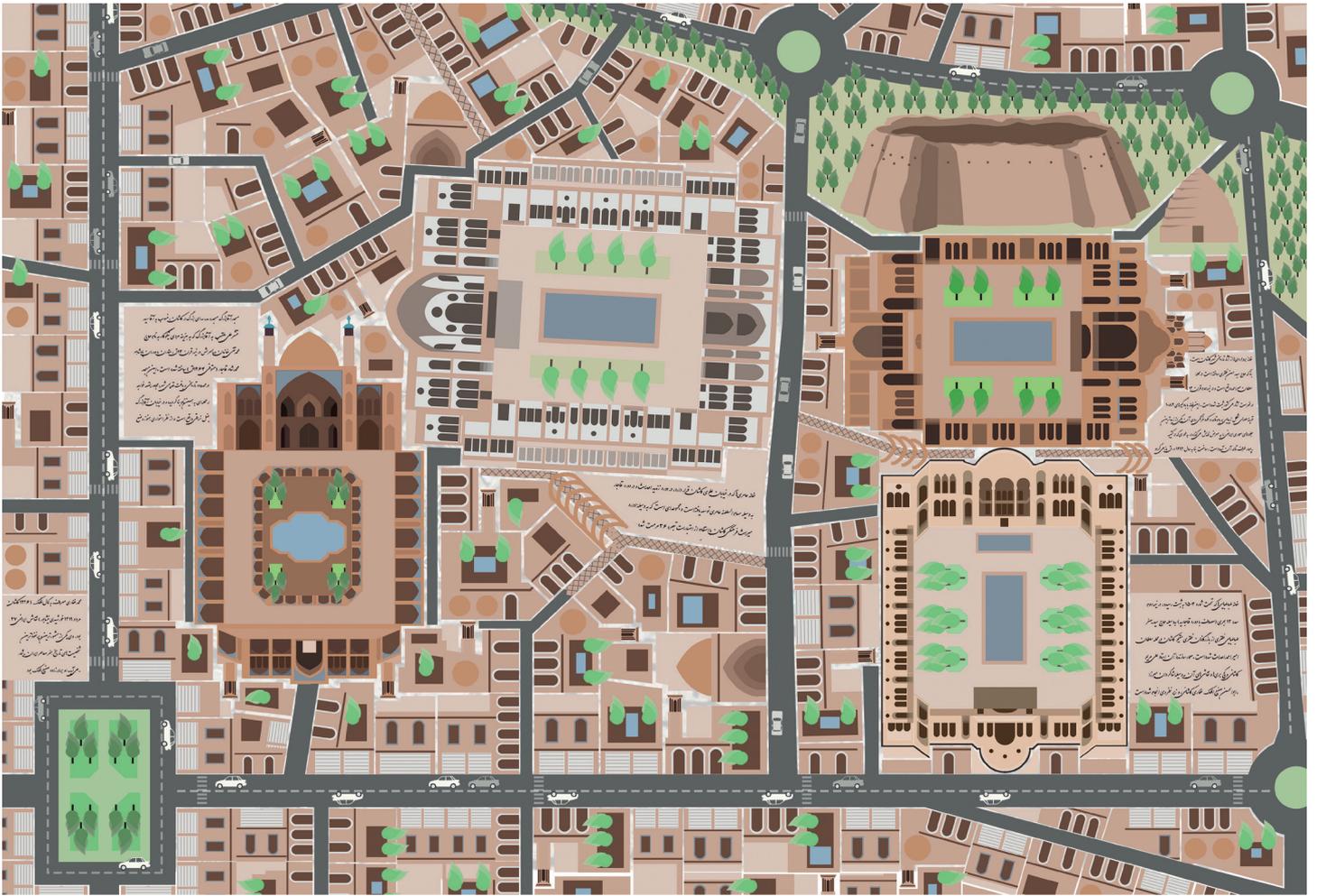


ORIHUELA, SPAIN by Manuel Penalva Cases

Orihuela is the main city in the district of La Vega Baja located in south Alicante, Spain. It is situated at the foot of the 'La Cruz de la Muela' mountain, on which a cross sits at the summit, along with a ruined ancient castle and a priest seminary from the XVI century. The city has an extension beyond the Segura river.

My house is part of the rural area located in the midpoint between Orihuela and Arneva, another residential zone which is still part of Orihuela. I've been living in Orihuela since I was a child and also in Arneva as my grandparents are from there.

All Orihuela is nestled between the mountains and one of them, the 'Repetidor de Hurchillo' close to Arneva, has a high antenna that controls signals for TV and radio. Palm trees are also typical, as an heritage from the Arabs and are very representative of the place's nature.



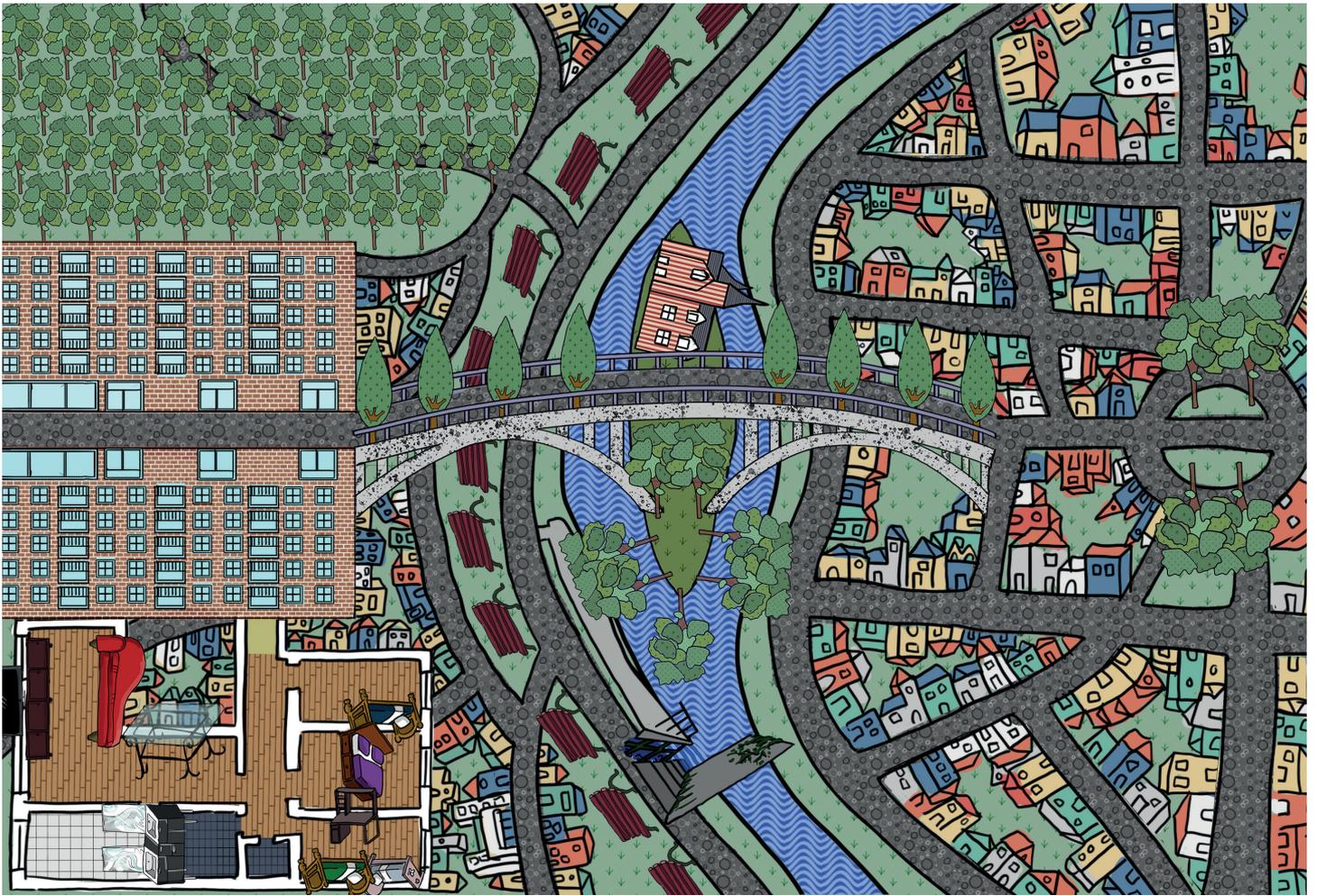
KASHAN, IRAN by Mohammad Gerami

Here is Kashan. A historical city located in the centre of Iran whose name is associated with traditional architecture and specifically central-courtyard houses.

And here, a journey through an eastern traditional style is illustrated in miniature. A very unique way of picturing tales and events through distorted

perspectives, known as reverse perspective. This is a style in which the widely-known illustration's principles do not limit the author from picturing a vast, detailed event and field of view. This is an architectural journey through the city and at the same time, an opportunity to picture our city in one shot and nothing more accurate, detailed, and artistic than miniature to help us to overcome this challenge.

The presented illustration is a selected part of the historical zone of Kashan, with its unique urban texture, shaped organically with mono-colour central-courtyard houses. In this picture also there are some well-known spots including: Agha Bozorg Mosque, Tabatabai House, Boroujerdi House, Ameriha House, and Saljooghi Castle, that shaped a considerable part of the final illustration.



JOINVILLE-LE-PONT, FRANCE by Tristan Sanchez

My hometown is a little town in France, in the suburbs of Paris. It is separated from the capital by a forest called "Le Bois de Vincennes". There are roads and

bike lanes that cross the forest to go to Paris. My town is called "Joinville-le-Pont" : the city that is joined by the 'pont' - bridge. Indeed, Joinville is divided in two by the river Marne" and there is a beautiful bridge that links the two parts. I live in the upper part of the town in an apartment with my family, in a building made out of

red bricks. I cross this bridge every time I have to go to the other side of the town, where all my friends live and where I had my school and middle school. The bridge also goes over an island "l'île Fanac" where I used to play violin in the music school. The town is very flowery and green, there are many sitting spaces along the river.