Design and designing
Sketching elevations in design

Activity Seven is producing some simple views of the cardboard model of the chair we produced earlier on in Activity Three. The three views I want to produce are the side view, the front view and the plan, so let me sketch out first of all approximately what we're going to be doing. I want to sketch onto my gridded paper the side elevation. Now we can either copy this from the drawing given in Activity Three or we could measure it from the actual model itself. That's going to be the view on there. I'm also going to produce the front view and that's going to appear about there, that's that view. I also want to produce the plan and that's going to be the view down to here. So this is my side view, this is going to be my front view and this is going to be my plan view – side, front and plan. Now I need to get another sheet of paper, measure my model and begin drawing a more accurate drawing of this. Okay, so I've got a lot of dimensions down now. I've got my side view, I've got the basis of my front view and I've got the basis of my plan view – and you can see that I've begun to show the thickness of the cardboard at the sides and to here. I need to show the seat and back and because I've been able to take the model and measure it, I can convert that dimension onto the front view and I can use that to project across to give me the base of here. So I'm going to use that dimension to project across to give myself a line onto here. That's how high that seat point is going to be. I now need to measure how far that comes out onto here so you can either take again the dimension from the modelling workbook or measure your cardboard model and on line it measures 30 mm so I've got a point on here. The front of the seat is 45, no 35 mm high so I can convert that dimension up here and put the point in. Now I've got the front of the seat, the base of the seat and the top of the back, I can draw those in onto here and onto here and I can show the thickness of the card, just estimating it for the purpose of this one. It's rather thick in my pen but you'll be using a thinner pen, an ordinary biro would be quite adequate to show that. So you can see that's the view now looking on the side of that seat. I can project this dimension across and that's the beauty of this kind of drawing, you can project dimensions from one drawing to another one rather than have to measure it every time in every drawing, and the same now for the back, I can draw in the back here. And in fact we are going to see just the edge of the back of that seat. I now need to produce a dimension for the back and I can do that by taking it from this dimension, I can measure it from here to here which is 30, produce that to there, draw that in and finally the front edge of the seat, which cuts across there, I've done that. So this line along here is the ground that the side view and the front view are resting on but I can also give more information in the form of a plan and this type of drawing is very useful if you are trying to communicate information in design.