

My dear Watercolourists,

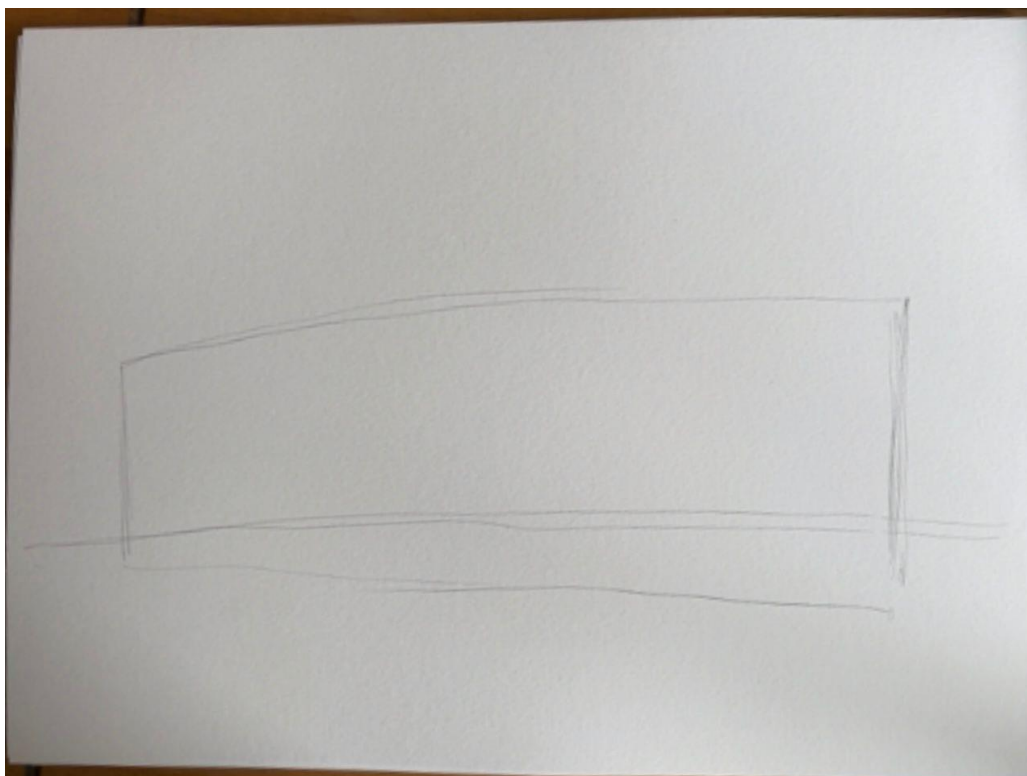
I hope you are well! Today we are going to paint a pavilion inspired by the Kew Gardens Palm!



As always, we are starting with a line of horizon. When I first proposed the subject, the class was a little bit reluctant, but I promise it is a lot easier than it looks.

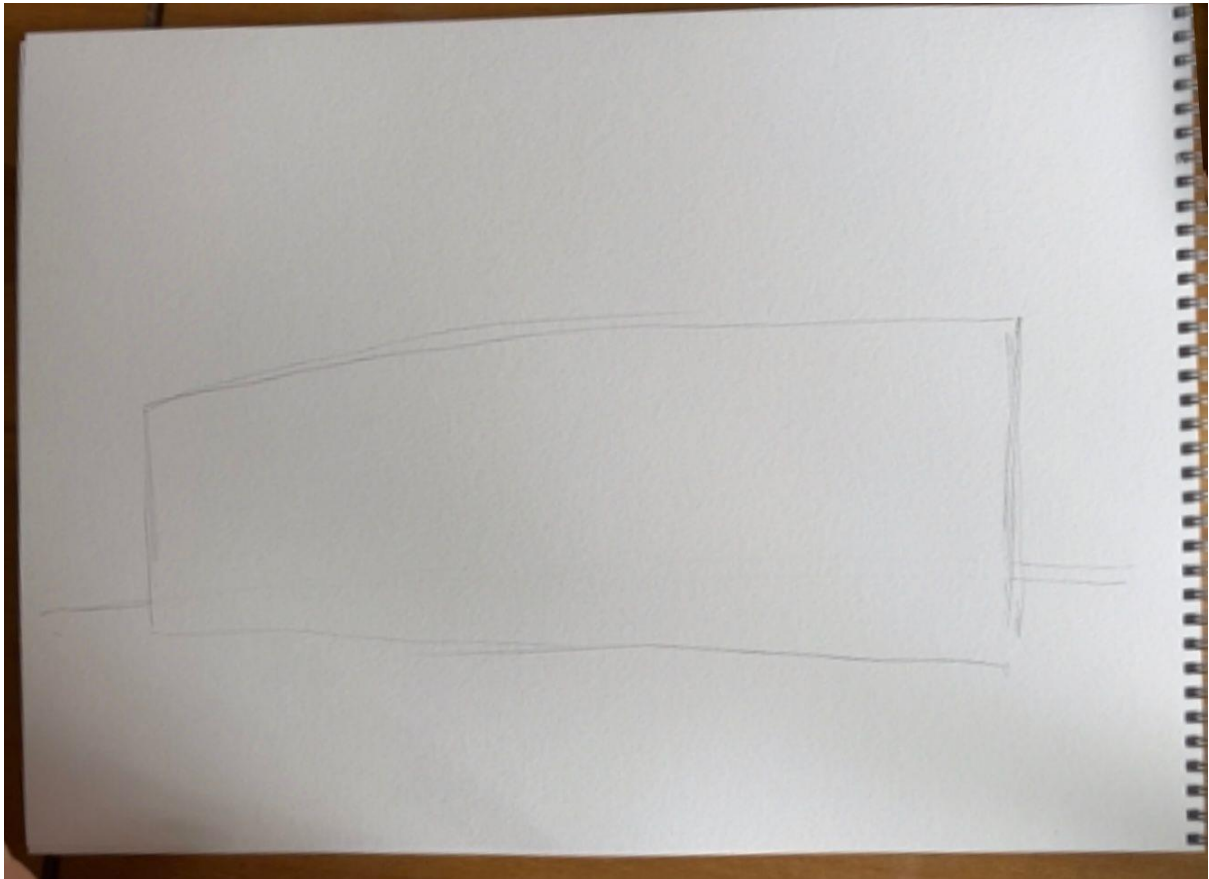
We start with very simple shapes, and then we add more detail. Although these pavilions have a very alien shape and they seem very complex, if you were to narrow them down to basic shapes, they would be a rectangle with rounded corners!

Here is one long rectangle that is going to take up most of the paper space:



In this view, I want the left-hand side to seem further away, while the right side to appear closer.

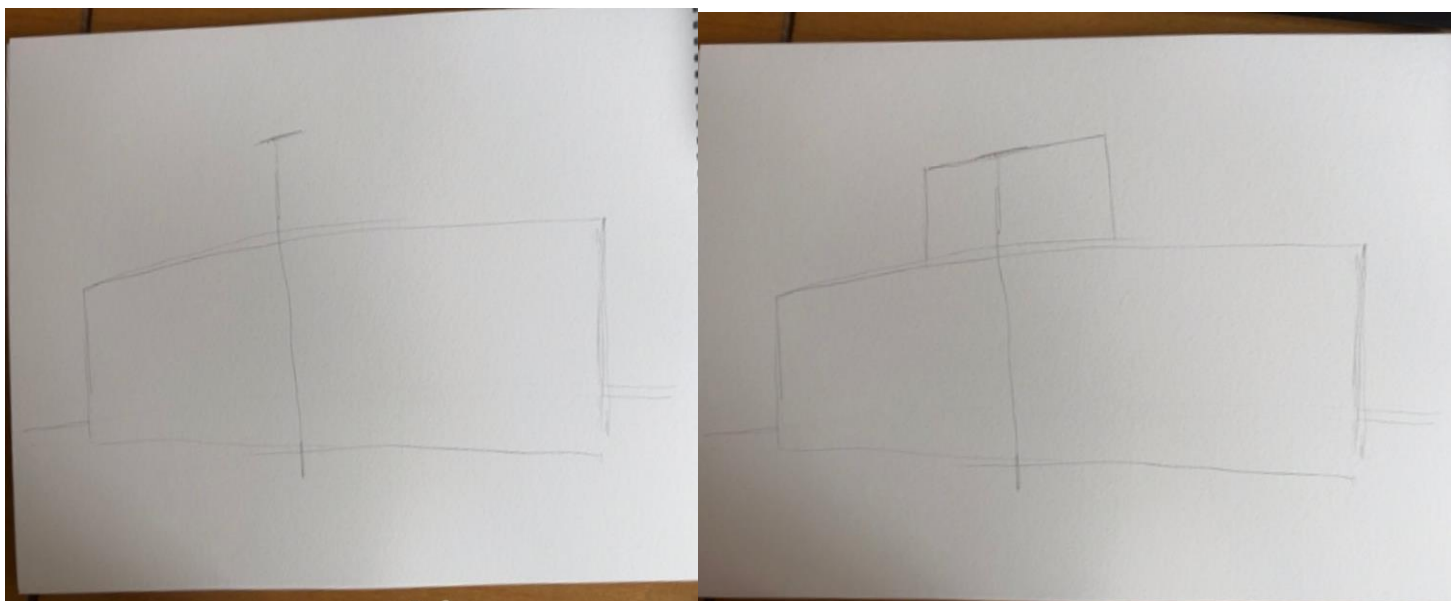
The vertical line to the left side of the rectangle is shorter than the right one.



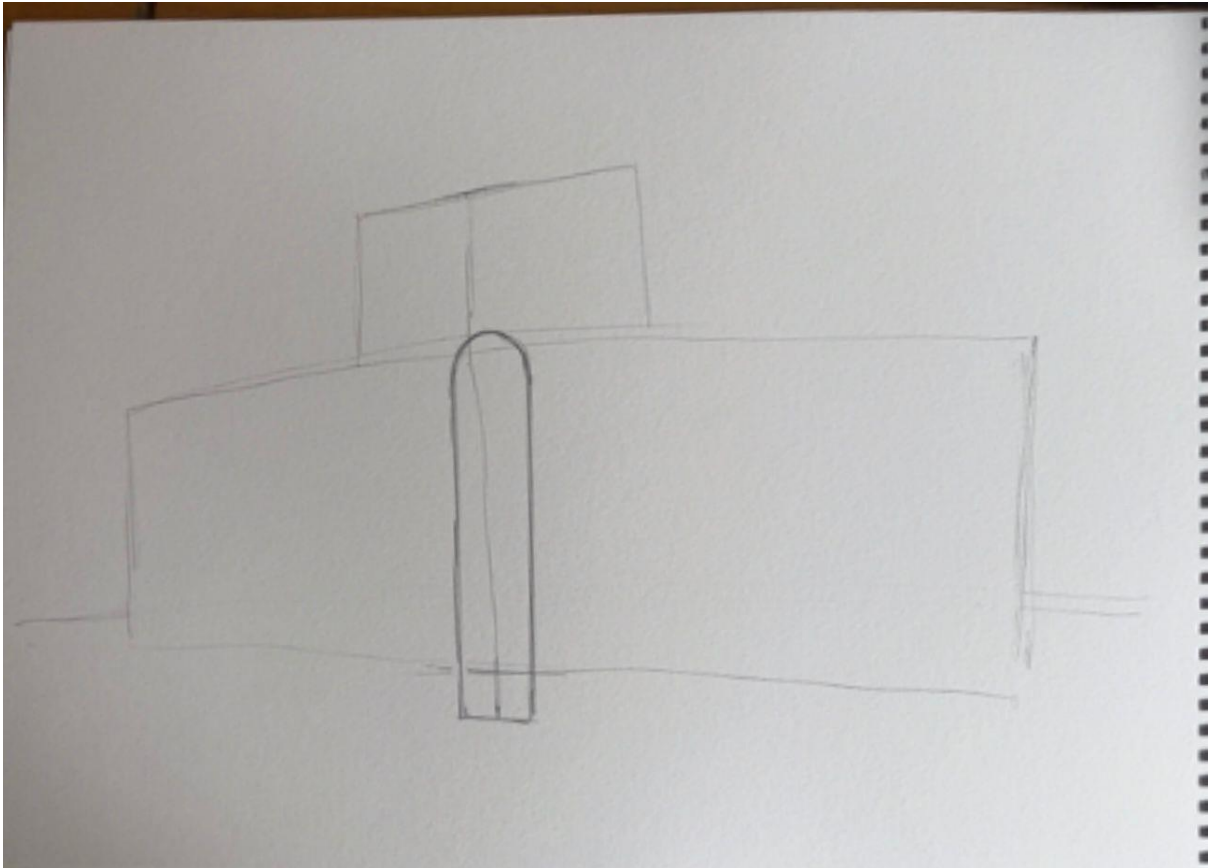
We erase the line of the horizon that is no longer visible.

Next, we add the line of symmetry. Since the perspective is not that of a perfect frontal view, the line of symmetry is slightly to the left. The right-hand side appears bigger.

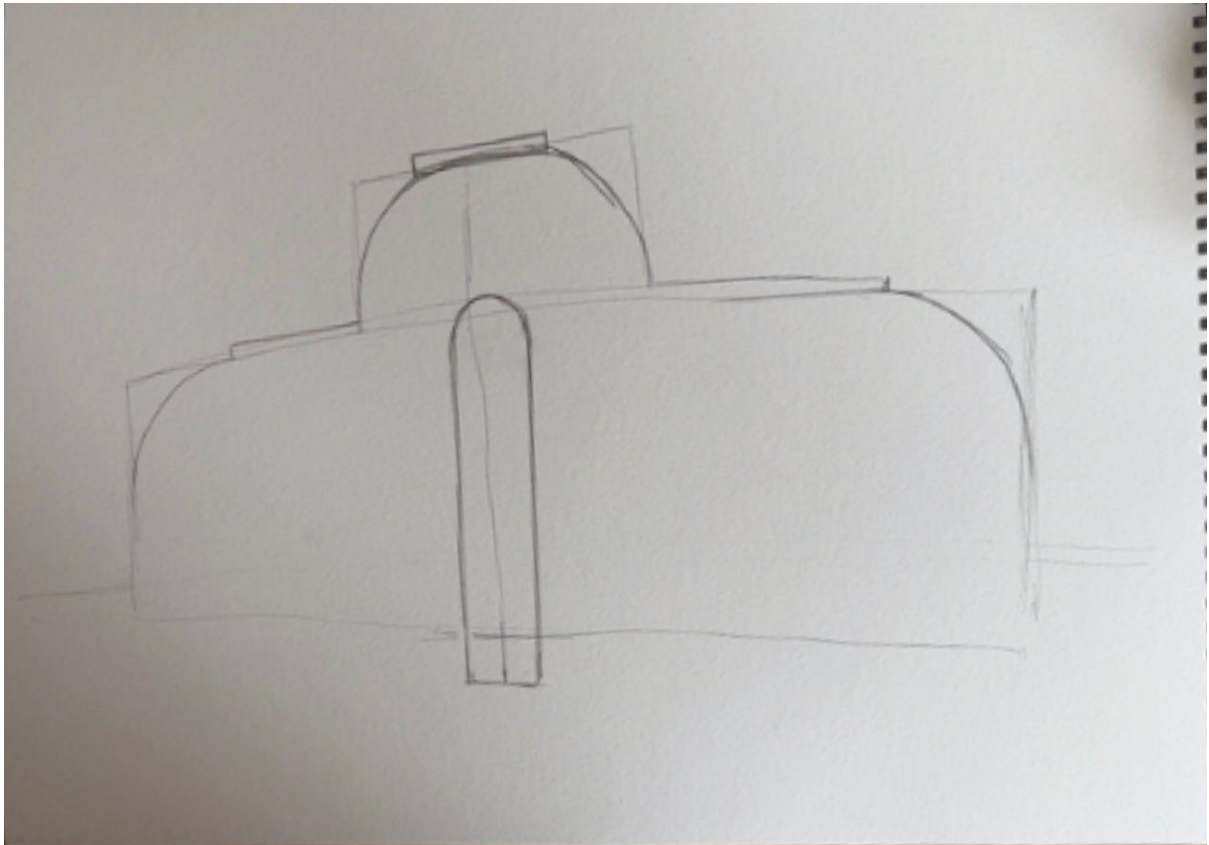
The greenhouse has a top floor, and we add this as a smaller rectangle on top of the one before.



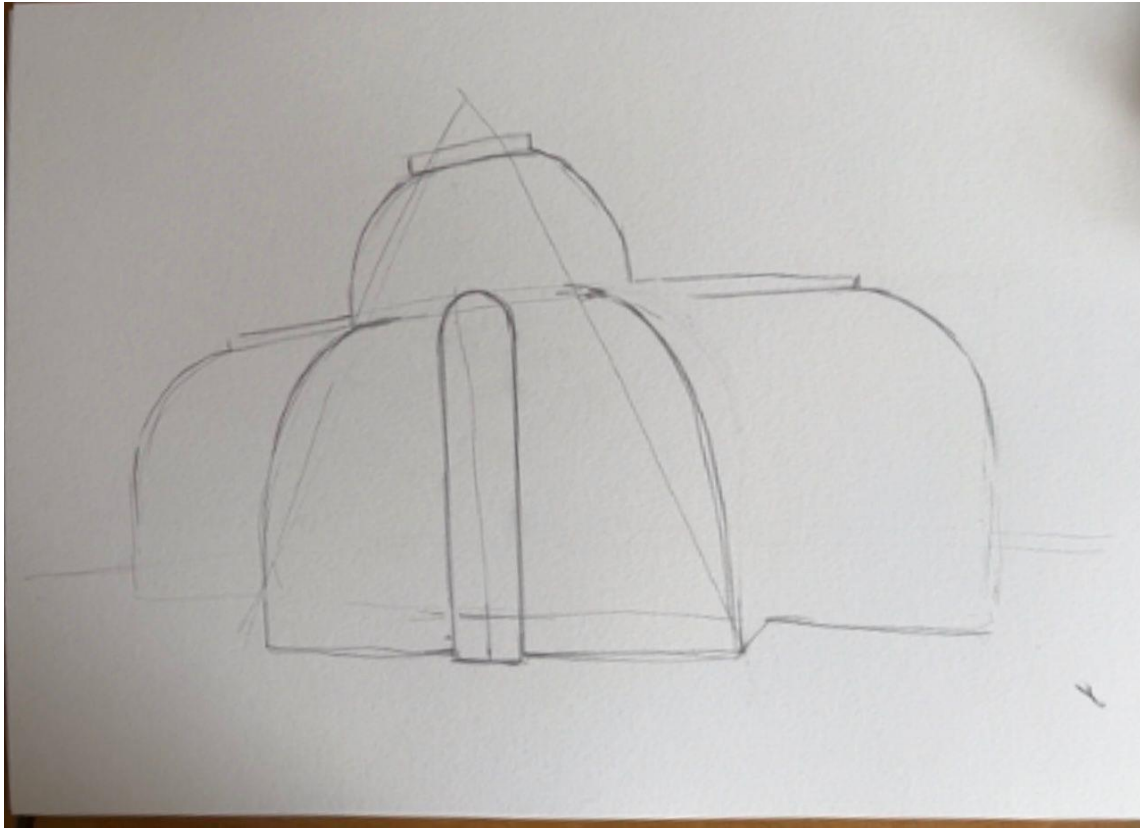
We use the line of symmetry to add the entrance gate:



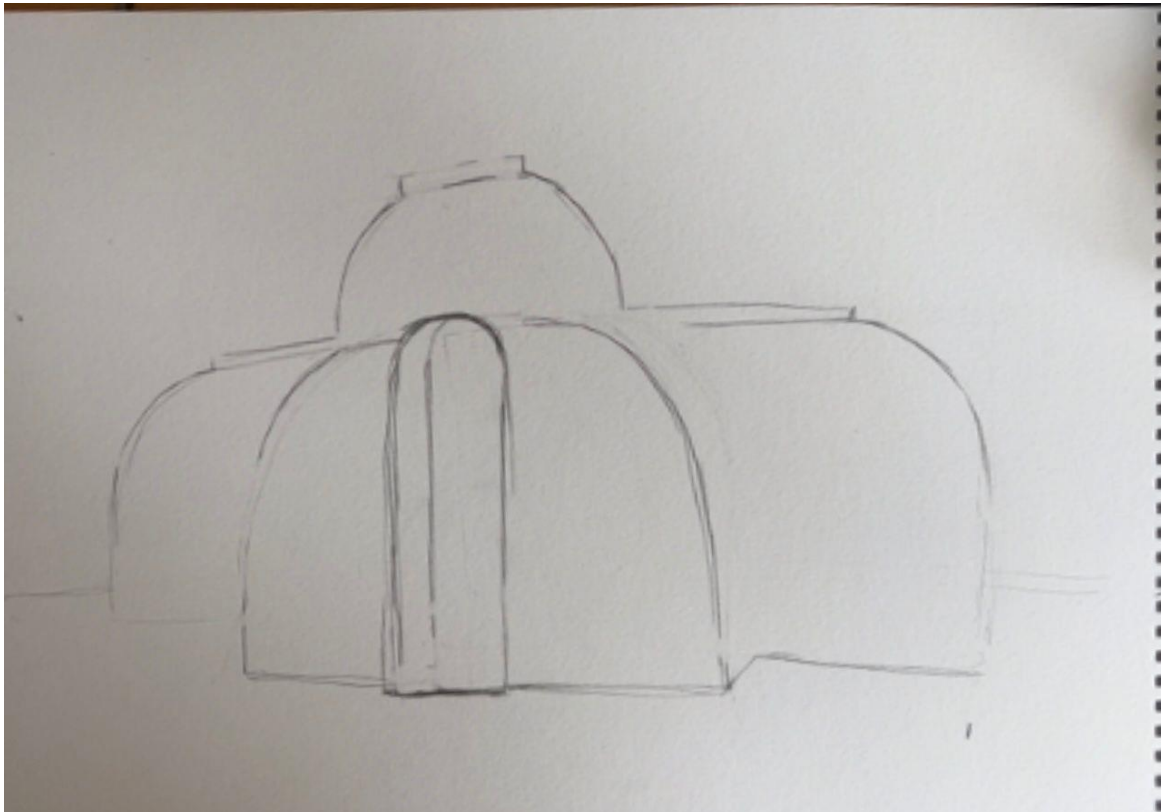
We round the corners of the pavilion and render the dome like shape:



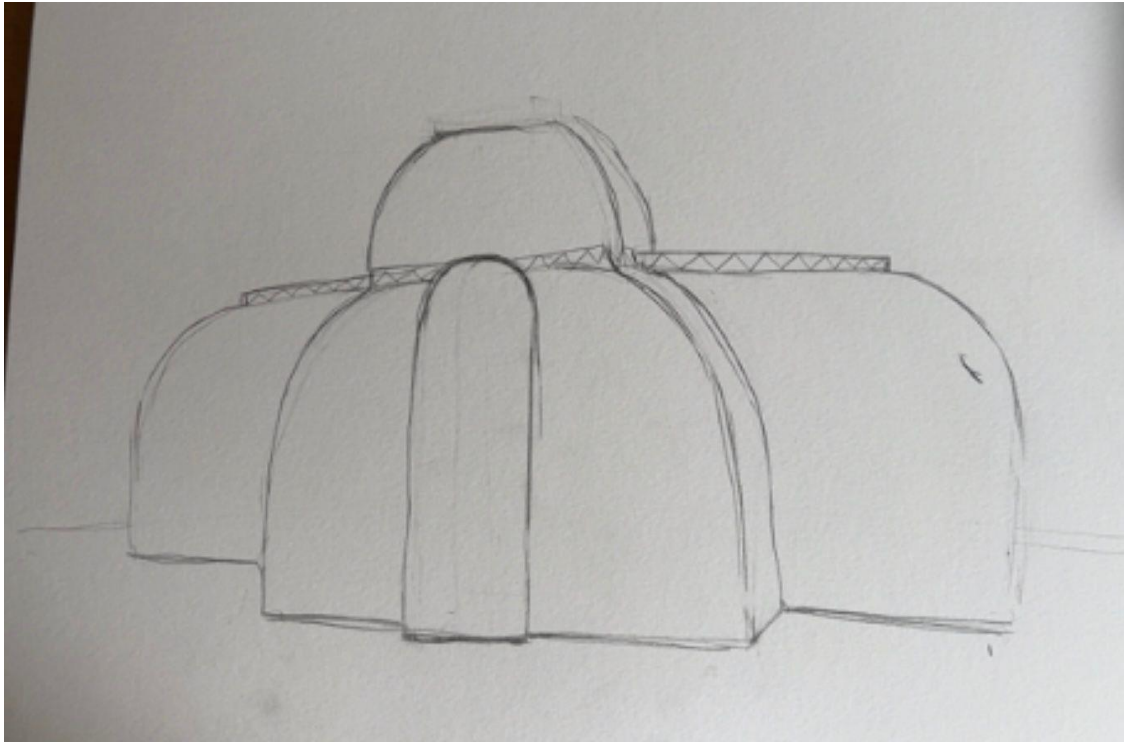
The entrance is a dome like structure chamber, symmetrically down the middle of the pavilion. To keep the symmetry, we used a triangle as demonstrated below. We departed from the original Kew Garden Palm House and made a smaller version of the green house.



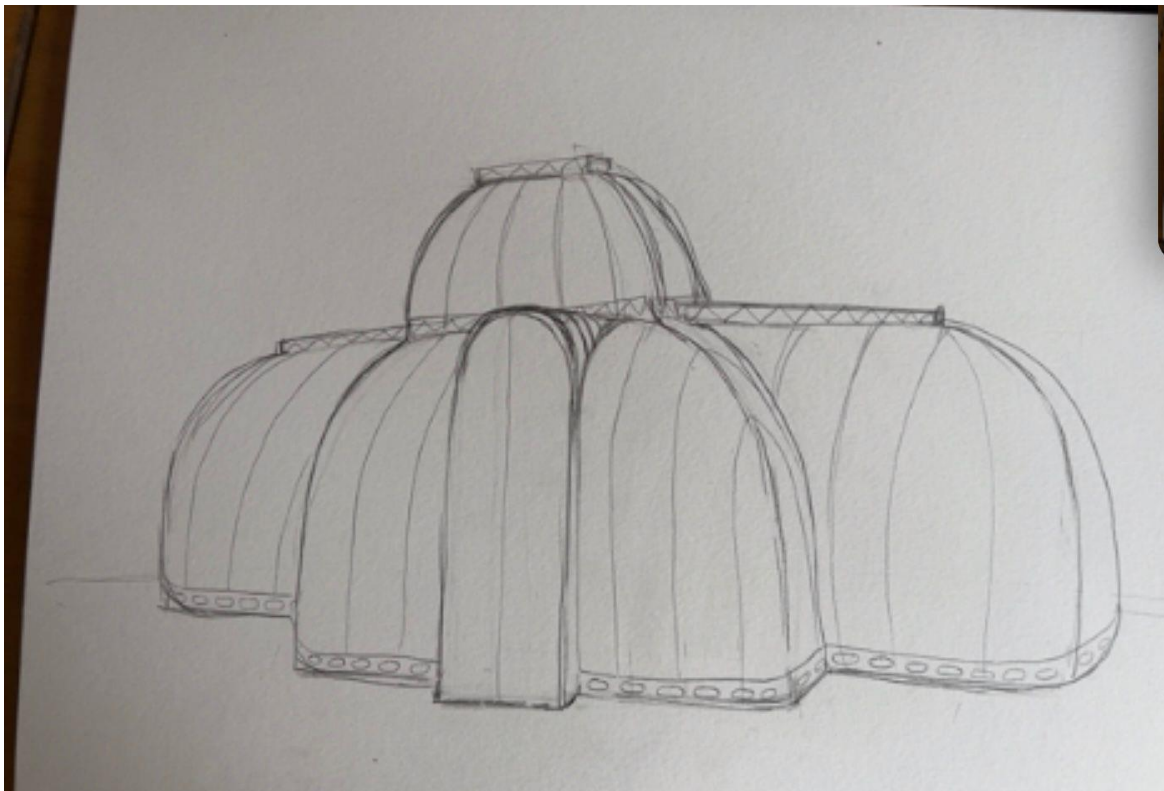
Below I enlarged the entrance gate, as the initial sketch did not look nicely proportioned.



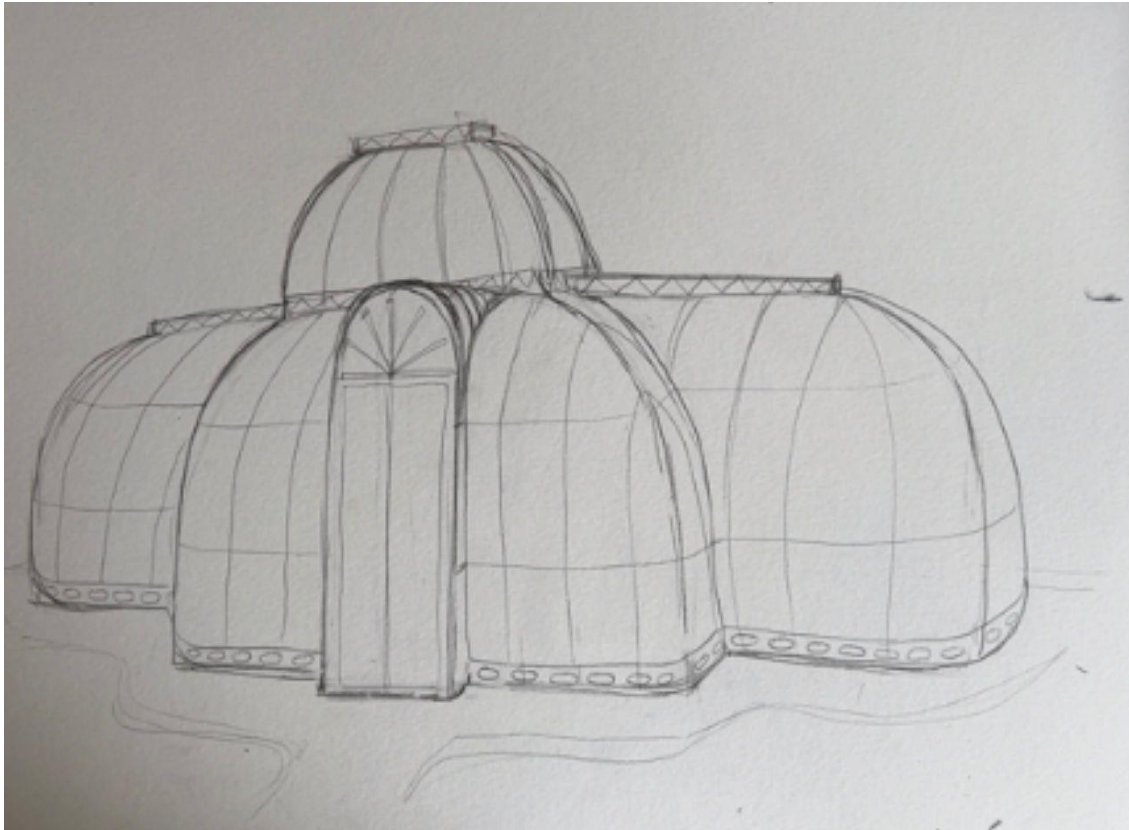
We redefine the entrance chamber, changing the bottom line, bringing it below the initial reangle baseline, so that the room appears closer to the viewpoint. We also add a side line to the top-level dome, using a curved line to the right that is following the outline of the dome. This creates volume.



With that, it was time for details such as the metal skeleton of the glass house. We follow the outline of the building and create parallel curved lines as demonstrated below. We also add details to the top and the bottom of the building.



We continue to add details such as the horizontal lines following the outline of the building.



Time to paint!

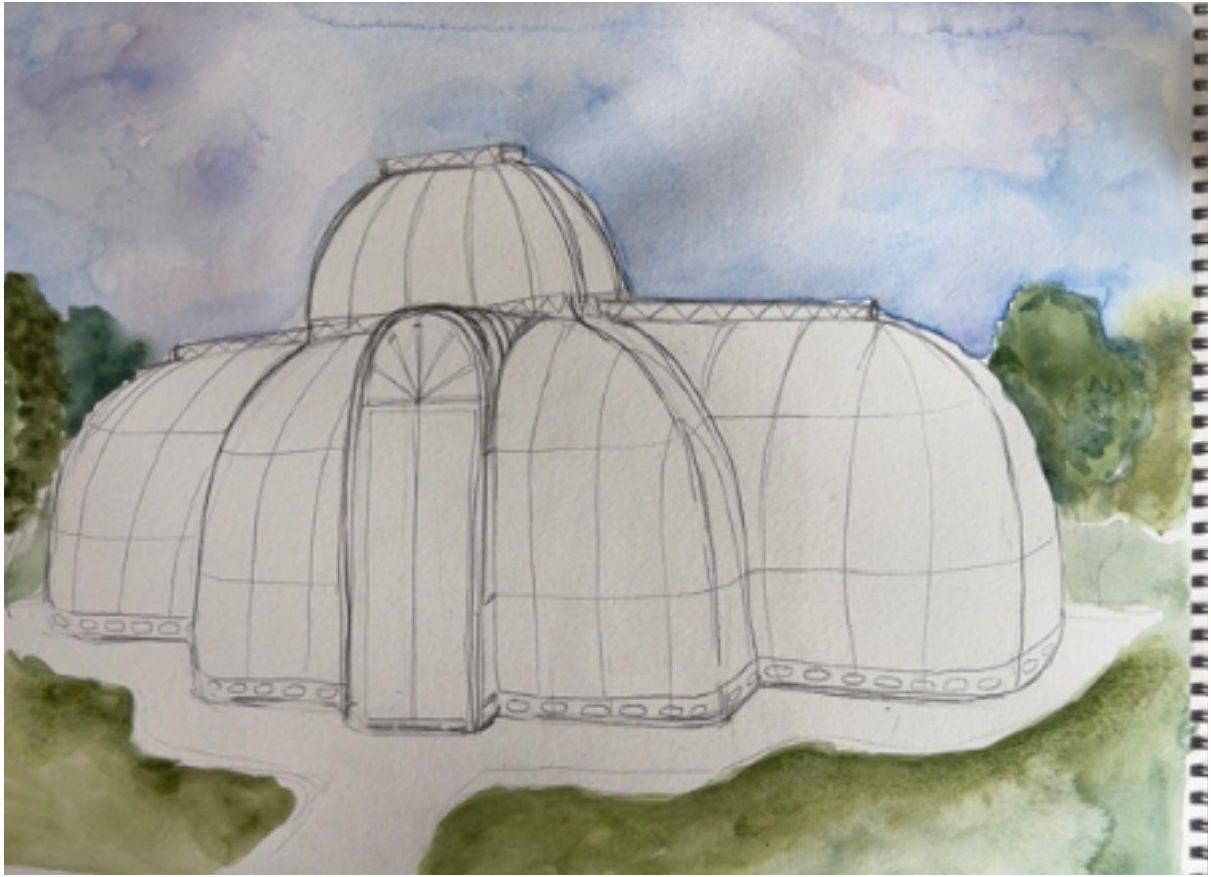


We start with blue for the sky, we also mix some purple.



Next, we add the green of the garden (we use different nuances of green- some with more yellow, others with more blue):





We use beige for the pavilion framing footpath.





Time to paint the glass, perhaps the trickiest part. We use a mixture of blue (85%), green (10%) and a tiny bit of brown (5%), all very-very watered down.



We apply it with generous amounts of water. To suggest the shadows of plants inside, we use a wet on dry technique, where we let the paints dry but keep their fluid outlines. If the paints are too translucent, we can layer this glass colour for a more intense effect.



Finally, we use brown to add the tree trunks and some branches to the trees in the background.



And with that our painting is complete!

I hope you enjoyed this tutorial and had fun with it!

Let me know your thoughts, any feedback, or suggestions!

I am looking forward to our next session together!

Kind regards,

Ioana