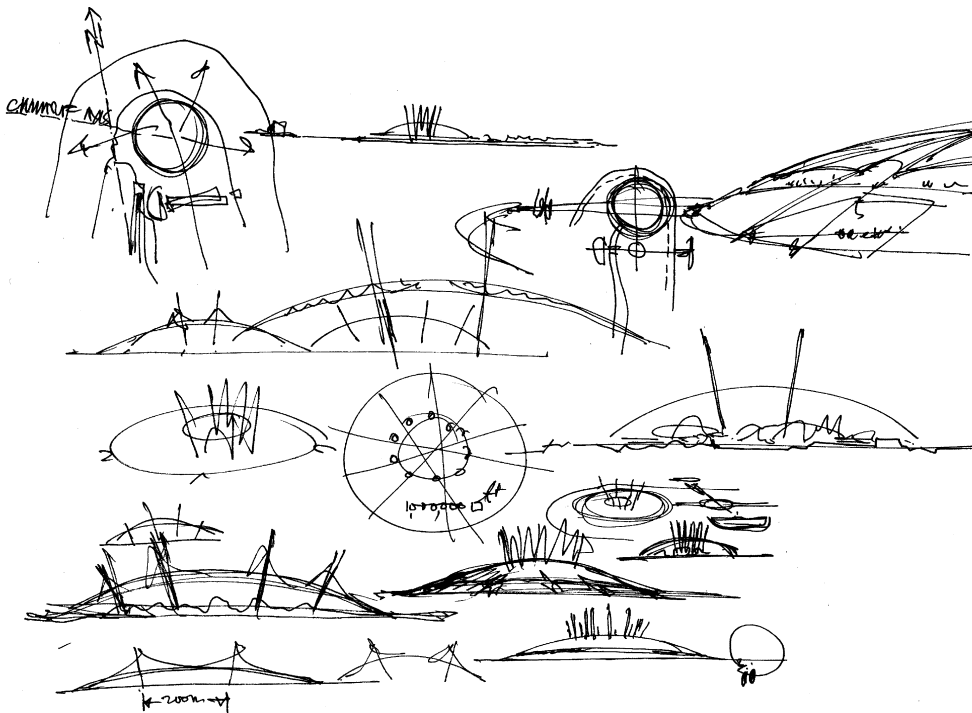


Drawings issued to a builder or manufacturer, unlike sketches, need to be precise and unambiguous. This is often achieved by drawing details full-size or even, as sometimes in the case of aluminium extrusions, twice full-size. This is very much in the tradition of mediæval architects who drew up plans

'... in the tracing house which was a room set aside for the purpose. The tracing-house floor was covered in plaster on which the architect drew in life size part of a vault or of some other feature of the church, indicating every possible aspect of it. The carpenters were then called for, and they, using special planks, cut out templates from which the stone was then shaped.'

(Gimpel, 1983, p115)

Below
**Richard Rogers
 Partnership, The
 Millennium Dome,**
 London 1999; early con-
 cept drawing by Mike
 Davies, May 1996



The drawings we show to users and clients raise particular difficulties. Mendelsohn's bold soft pencil marks meant something to him which was unlikely to correspond to what the scientists who would work in the building could imagine. Different expectant eyes are at work. Are we to present meticulously detailed perspectives of the project or should we in some other manner convey the atmosphere of the building and its spaces? Neither computer visualisation nor three-dimensional models resolve that dilemma. The disparity in size is always a serious and insurmountable obstacle. Quite apart from form, colour and texture are also very size-dependent.

Other non-verbal media have similar, if not even greater, difficulties. There is, for instance, in music no aural connection between black marks on lines and the sounds we hear performed; the convention of musical notation is more abstract. Dance has equal problems of finding ways of recording the movements imagined by the choreographer.

Models made of unpainted wood or some white sheet are often preferred by architects because they distance themselves from the toy-like qualities of miniature buildings. Models may on occasion be built for very specific and limited purposes:

Right
Erich Mendelsohn, pencil
sketch of tower at
Potsdam, 1920

