

Simile – your on CAD** Camera

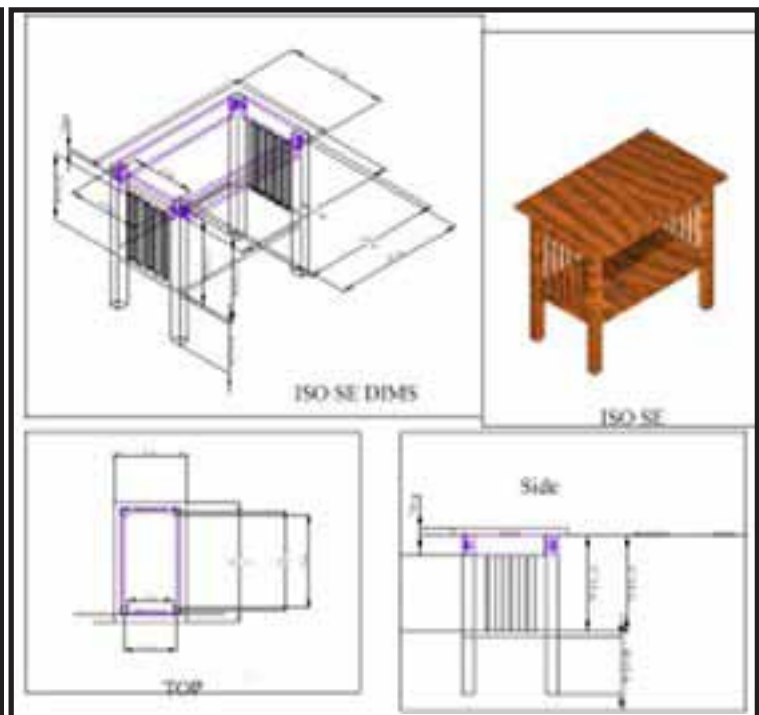
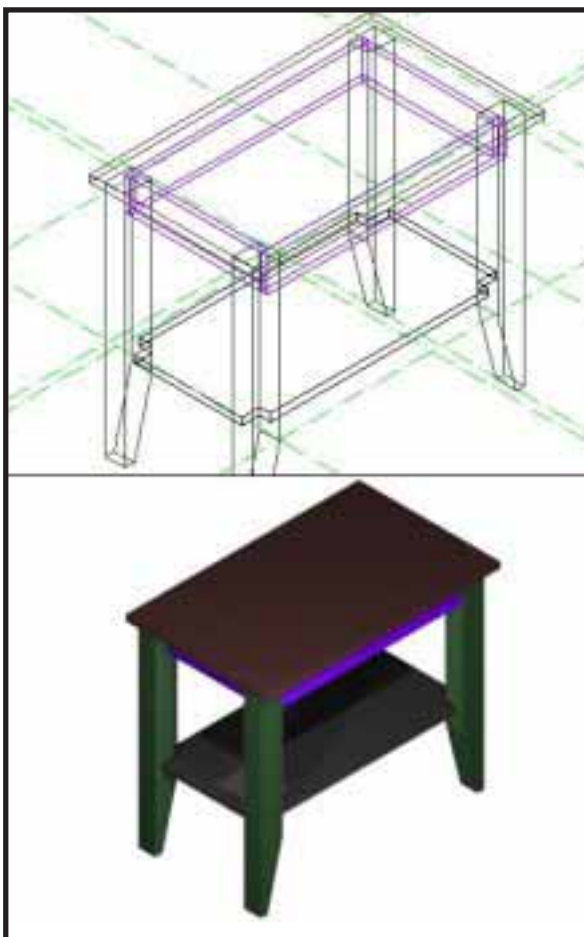
by Walter Meyers

I think that most people use the time-honored method of pencil and paper to lay out their projects. You have to start somewhere. Sometimes, however, it is nice to have a little more information than a simple sketch.

Drafting techniques will give you all the information that you need but there are some drawbacks to using formal drafting. A line drawn incorrectly is easily rectified with an erasure. There could be a real problem, however, if the mistake is noticed after many other lines are drawn that are dependent on that line. Another problem with hand drawing is that a different view must be completely redrawn. With a computer, your initial drawing can be viewed from any perspective you desire. It is as if you had a giant hand that picks up the piece and twists and turns it anyway you want. With today's **CAD** (Computer Assisted Drafting) programs it does not stop there. Your drawing can be "rendered" with the desired material, the light angle and even the background setting of your choice.

The CAD program that I have been using for many years is TurboCad. At the present time I am using Version 11. Every year it gets more powerful. A downside to this is that I have to relearn the program after each iteration. The upside is that these days, TurboCad has some very good interactive teaching aids to help you learn the program. Like anything else, CAD does require a certain amount of time to learn but if you find a computer amusing at all, you might enjoy the learning process.

Let me show you some quick examples of what I am talking about. The picture labeled First TV table shows the table in wire form and partially rendered. It was enough to show that the legs in my design were far too substantial. The second picture (Paper space views) shows the improved version of my table from several different viewpoints with dimensions added. The rendered viewpoint is a little more sophisticated than the first. It is obvious that the grain pattern is not ratioed correctly but it was good enough for me to evaluate my design. The last two pictures show the real table (unvarnished). I am not a skill for TC but those people that are interested might want to check out their website: <http://www.turbocad.com/prodinfo.asp?mcid=281>. At the time of this writing IMSI has a free trial version that can be downloaded and tried.



Paper Space Views, above

First TV Table, left



TV Table, front view



TV Table, sideview