2026. An architectural exclamation mark

If we look around, whether in the city or in crowded places outside the city, we are mostly surrounded by non-iconic architecture. That “casual architecture” is the background for those which, by the size, scale, volume, structure, style or other reason, are more visible and somehow just are unusual.

Since this distinctive structure is, in a sense, embedded within the surrounding buildings, which far outnumber it, it can be regarded as a landmark, a point of reference, and a spatial marker for the area in which it is located.

It may appear or disappear, but seeing it helps us figure out where we are.

TASK

Recall a place where a particular object stands out against the “casual architecture” - modest, perhaps lacking in distinctive character, but precisely because of this, not competing with the one architecturally unique building in the complex.

On two sheets of A3 paper in landscape orientation, create two monochromatic sketches - views seen from the observer's eye level:

> The first sketch should be dominated by the surrounding buildings, which serve as the context for the landmark object, which appears only in the background.
>
> In the second drawing, present the building that stands out from its surroundings in all its glory. Make it clear that it is unique, perhaps more interesting than the others, even if it is difficult to consider it as a masterpiece or an architectural icon. Show that its role as an architectural and urban landmark is enhanced when set against buildings that do not pose overly aggressive or unfavourable competition.

Except for the guidelines given above, you may express yourself by your own approach to the topic and graphic expression using only a pencil.

Time: 75 minutes for both drawings