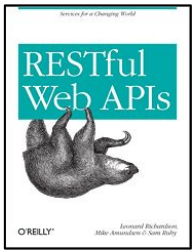
Sketching

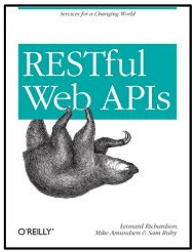
Mike Amundsen
@mamund

Designing and Building Great APIs

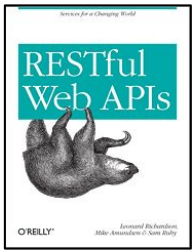


Sketching Great APIs

- Three-Phase Implementation
- Frank Gehry
- Sketching APIs



Three-Phase Implementation



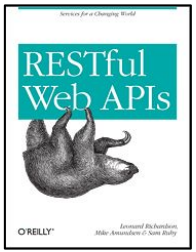
Three-Phase API Implementation

- To reduce cost and risk, take a three-phase approach
- **Sketching** - disposable experiments
- **Prototyping** - testable examples
- **Building** - production implementation

Reduce Cost and Risk in API Implementation

- Implementation can be costly
- Mistakes may be uncovered along the way
- Uncover mistakes early when they are inexpensive to fix
- Put off writing code for as long as possible.

Frank Gehry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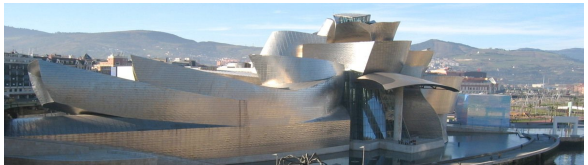
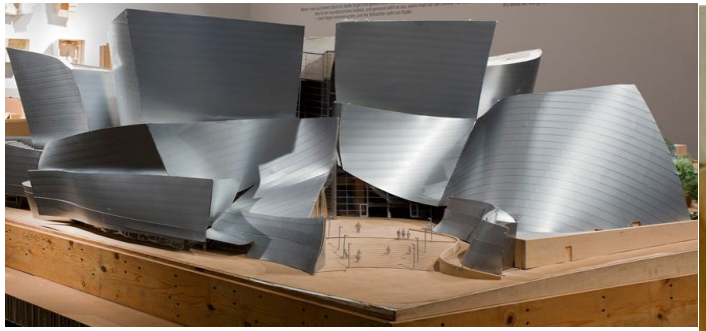
Frank Gehry

An architect is given a program, budget, place, and schedule. Sometimes the end product rises to art



Frank Gehry

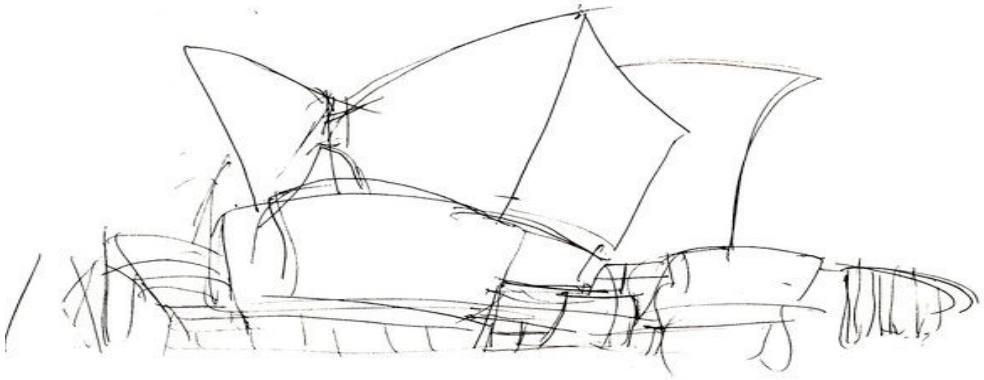


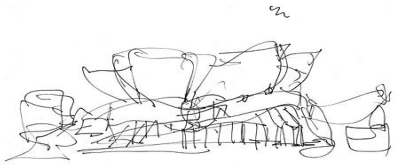
sketch

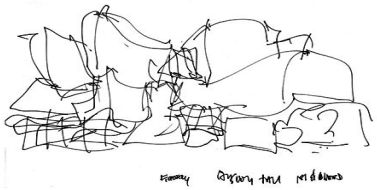
/skeCH/

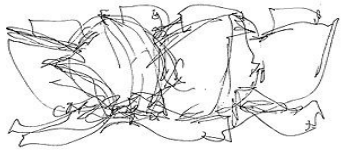
noun

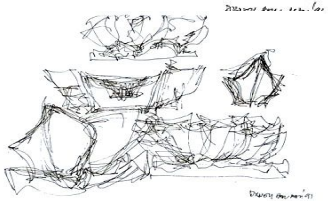
1. a rough or unfinished drawing or painting, often made to assist in making a more finished picture.
   "a charcoal sketch"
   synonyms: (preliminary) drawing, outline; More











Sketching APIs

Sketching APIs

- Sketches are terse, rough drawings
- They give the general idea of a thing
  but lack important details.
- Usually, one can glean the basics from a sketch but
- Sketches usually are just explorations of ideas,
  not fully-formed items.

Sketching APIs

- Start with an ALPS description
- Convert `type="semantic"` blocks into resources/responses
- Convert `type="safe/idempotent"` blocks into links/forms

Apiary Blueprint

Sketching APIs

- Use tools like Apiary Editor to create a sketch.
- Show it to others (devs, stakeholders) and
  get their feedback.
- If possible use simple API consumer tools
  (curl, NodeJS, etc.) to test.
- Continue to modify the simple sketches as needed

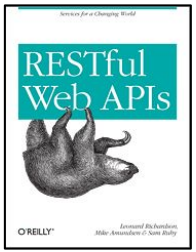
Sketches are made to be thrown away.

So...

#mcaTravels

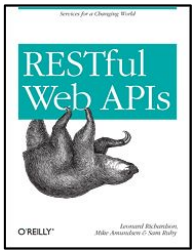
@mamund

#perth2018

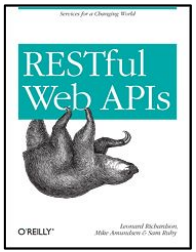


Sketching Great APIs

- Reducing Risk
- Gehry's Approach
- Sketching with API Blueprint



Exercise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To-Do API
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Documentation Inspector Editor Tests

Branch: A

Valid document Preview On Save Push

```
1  HOST: http://amundsen.com/
2
3  --- To-Do API ---
4  ---
5  Welcome to the our API. Comments support [Markdown](http://daringfir
6  ---
7
8  -- Get a list of todo items --
9  GET /todo/
10 > Accept: application/json
11 > Authorization: Basic xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx
12 < 200
13 < Content-Type: application/json
14 [
15   {id:0,text:'this is some item'};
16   {id:1,text:'this is another item'};
17   {id:2,text:'this is one more item'};
18   {id:3,text:'this is possibly an item'};
19 ]
20
21
22 -- Filter the list of todo items --
23 GET /todo/?text={id}
```

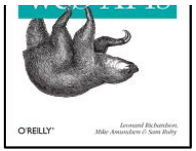
Reference > Get a list of todo items

To-Do API

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the our API. Comments support Markdown syntax

REFERENCE



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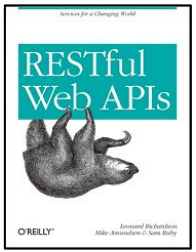
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