



Piero di Cosimo (Italian, 1462 - 1521), *Building of a Palace*, ca. late 1480s. Oil on wood, 32 1/2 x 77 1/2 in.  
Bequest of John Ringling, 1936. SN22

In this painting, an impressive building rises up out of the flat ground surrounding it. Every aspect of the building process is detailed in the foreground, beginning with the delivery of materials, followed by those materials being shaped by masons and architects, and finally the finished materials being assembled into a building. Today, we are using careful looking to find all the different shapes and forms that make up this painting.

A **shape** is a flat area surrounded by edges or an outline. Shapes are two dimensional, meaning they have a height and width.

A **form** has depth in addition to height and width. A three-dimensional form can be seen from more than one side. When forms are represented in art, artists often use value and additional lines to make them appear three-dimensional even when they are not.

## SHAPE VS. FORM

We selected this painting due to the contrast between the many shapes and forms that can be found in the scene.



This window is a shape, it has height and width.



The building around this window is a form, complete with height, width, and depth.

### STANDARDS:

VA.3.S.2.1

VA.68.S.2.1

VA.912.S.1.7

# ACTIVITY

## SHAPE TO FORM

**MATERIALS:**  
CHART BELOW, PENCIL OR COLORED PENCILS

**DIFFICULTY LEVEL:**  
SIMPLE

Artists can add extra lines and use value to transform the look of two-dimensional shapes into three-dimensional forms. Try adding your own values to the shapes below to match the examples then name the form you created.

SHAPE	FORM	YOU TRY IT!	NAME IT
			
			
			
			