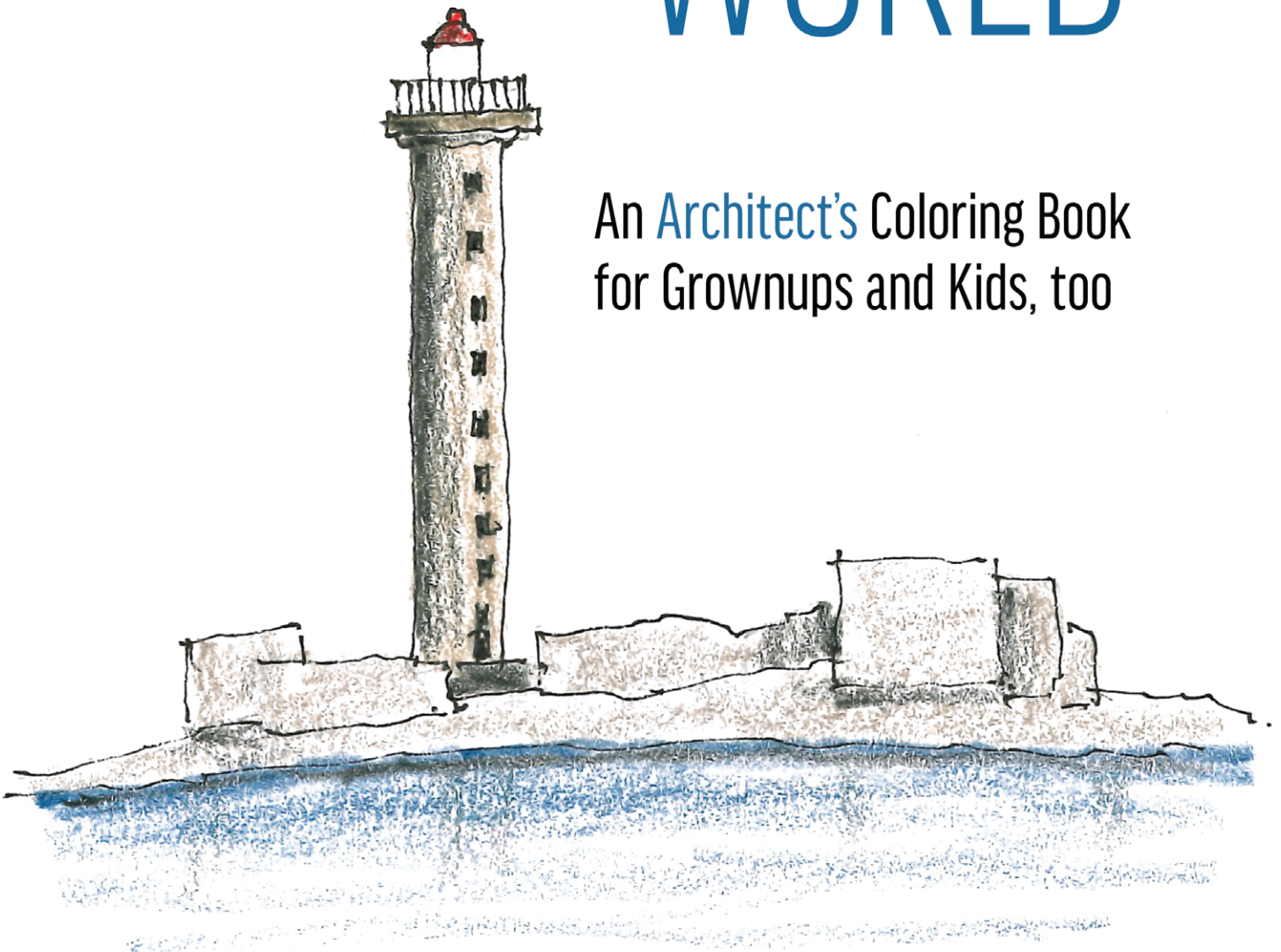


The Tallest
LIGHTHOUSES
OF THE WORLD

The Tallest LIGHTHOUSES OF THE WORLD

An Architect's Coloring Book
for Grownups and Kids, too



JIM LAMMERS, FAIA

FPS LLC

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Introduction

Everyone loves lighthouses—tall structures defying not only gravity but also wind and storms, and crashing waves. Their guiding lights bring ships safely into harbors and protect them from reefs, shoals and other hazards. Lighthouses have saved countless lives and cargoes.

I've set forth in this book the 28 tallest lighthouses in the world. The number 28 is arbitrary but readily available with the help of AI or in a Google search.

What's the fascination with lighthouses? Is it just their distinctive form towering above the landscape or their uniqueness? They seem to ride the crest of our fascination with the sea.

Many lighthouses are no longer active, no longer necessary as aids to navigation. But frequently they've been preserved by lighthouse aficionados and are often open to the public.

Enjoy this book and put lighthouses on your travel list.

Disclaimer

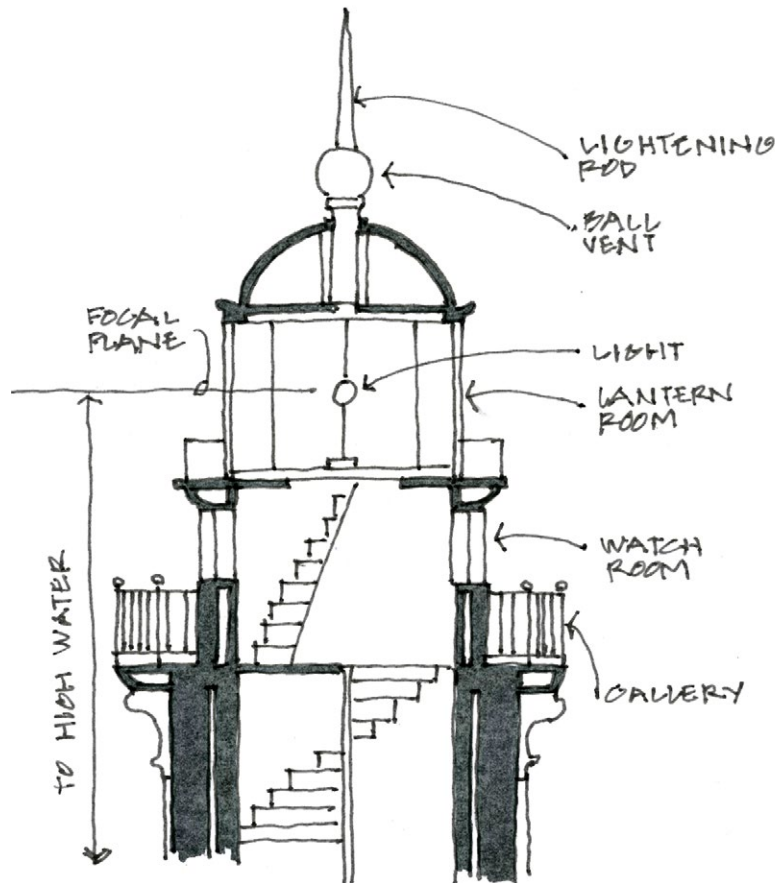
Proponents of various lighthouses sometimes tend to exaggerate their height. For example, Cape Hatteras: One source claims a height of 193' another 198'. Yet another 220' which is in fact the focal plane—the distance from the light source or lamp to mean high water level. Therefore, my ranking of these lighthouses may be nebulous.

In this book the term 'lighthouse' has been applied to 'traditional' lighthouses and not to towers such as the 436' Jeddah Light or the 305' Statue of Liberty.

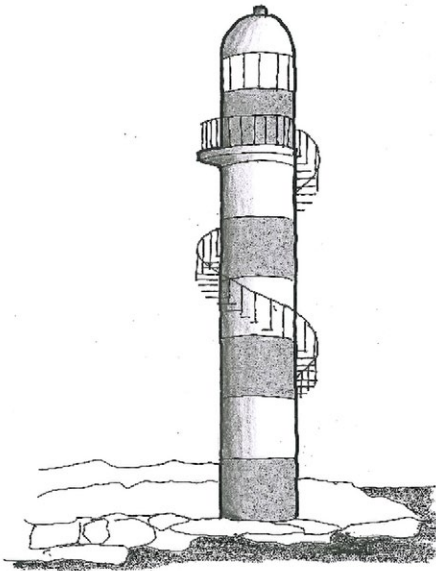
Styles of Lighthouses

The taxonomy of lighthouses is sometimes helpful in viewing and identifying. Knowing the types of lighthouses may also give you a little more understanding. Truth is, lighthouses are all quite individual—with the exception of some twins—and they each have their own character. Nonetheless they mostly fit into these categories. There are outliers which don't fit into the arbitrary styles shown, but they all have the identifying lantern room up top.

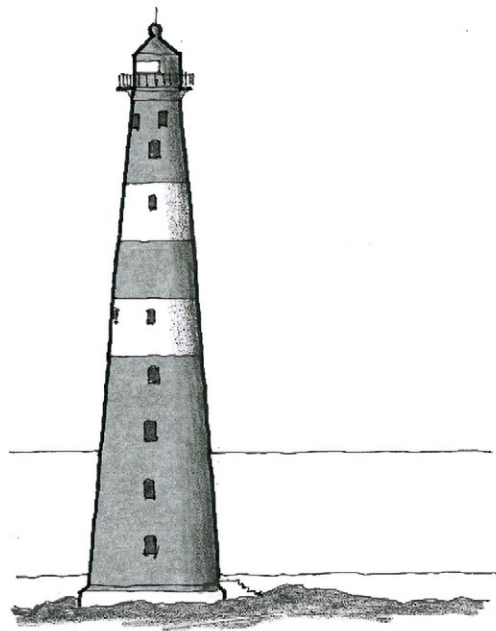
But first here's a diagram of the lantern room—which sits atop the lighthouse—as it was built in the latter half of the 18th century.



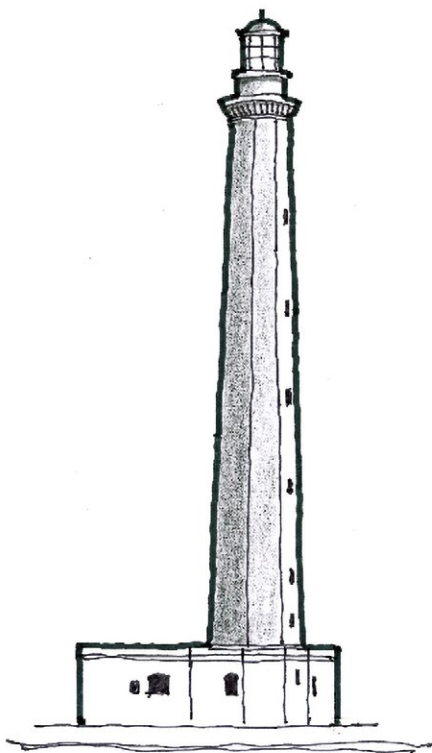
Now that you have the lantern room well in hand, let's look at the styles:



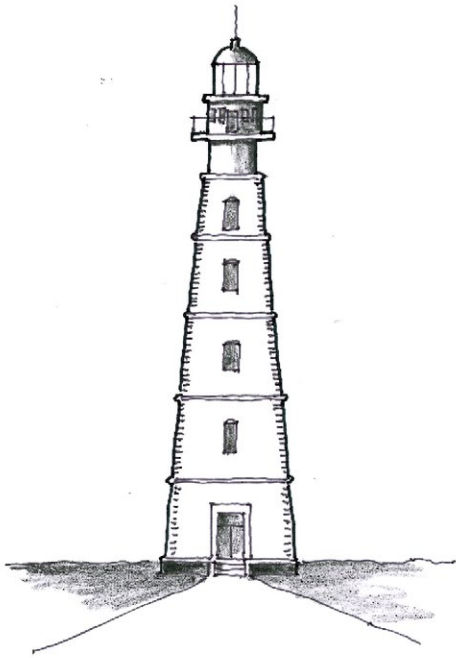
Cylindrical or Drum Style Lighthouse: sides of light tower parallel to each other. **Faro de Punta Cancun, Mexico.**



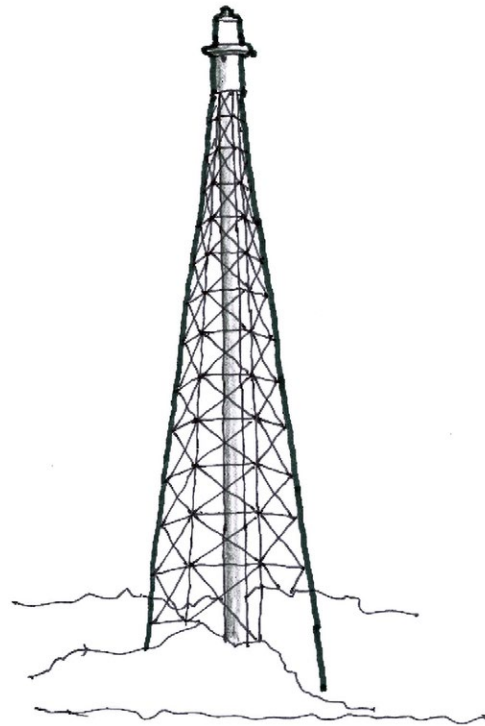
Classic Style Lighthouse: a simple tapered, truncated cone. It's what comes to mind when we think 'lighthouse.' **Slettens Lighthouse, Gamvik, Norway.**



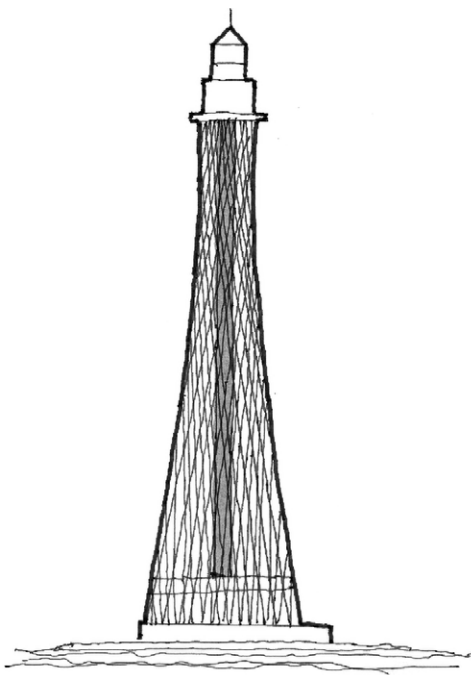
Polygonal Style Lighthouse: Classic or Drum Style Lighthouse towers that are pentagonal, hexagonal or octagonal in plan view. **Faro di Punta San Cataldo di Bari, Bari, Italy.**



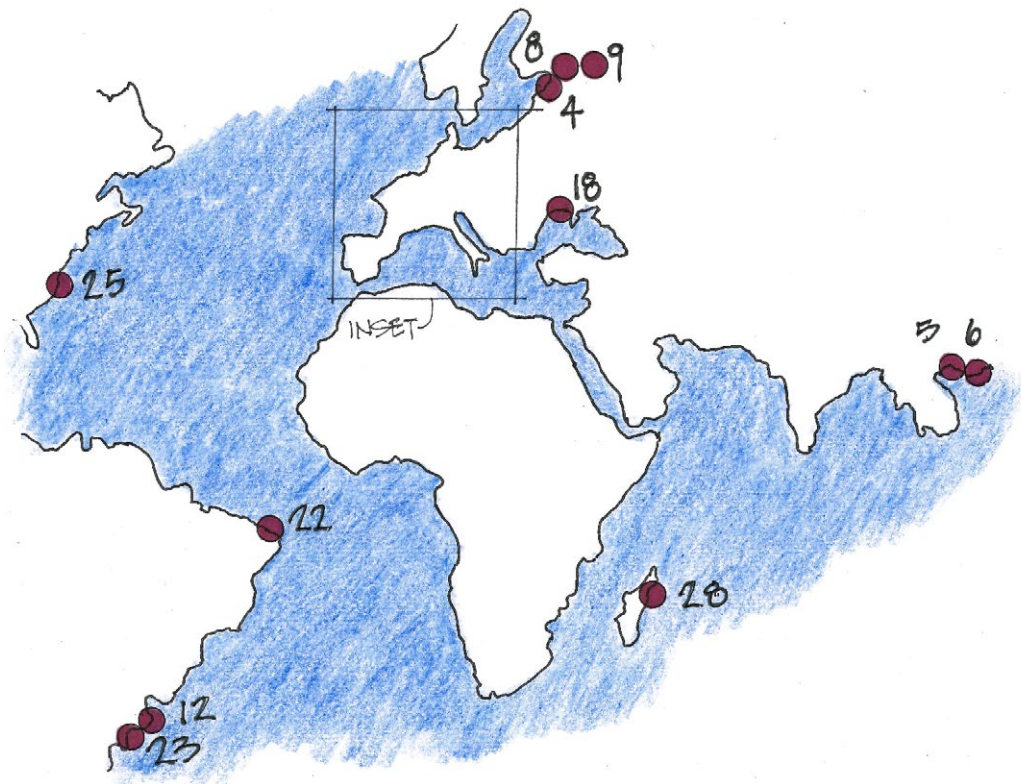
Pyramidal Style Lighthouse: four sides sloping and tapered as a pyramid. **Point Venus Lighthouse**, Tahiti.



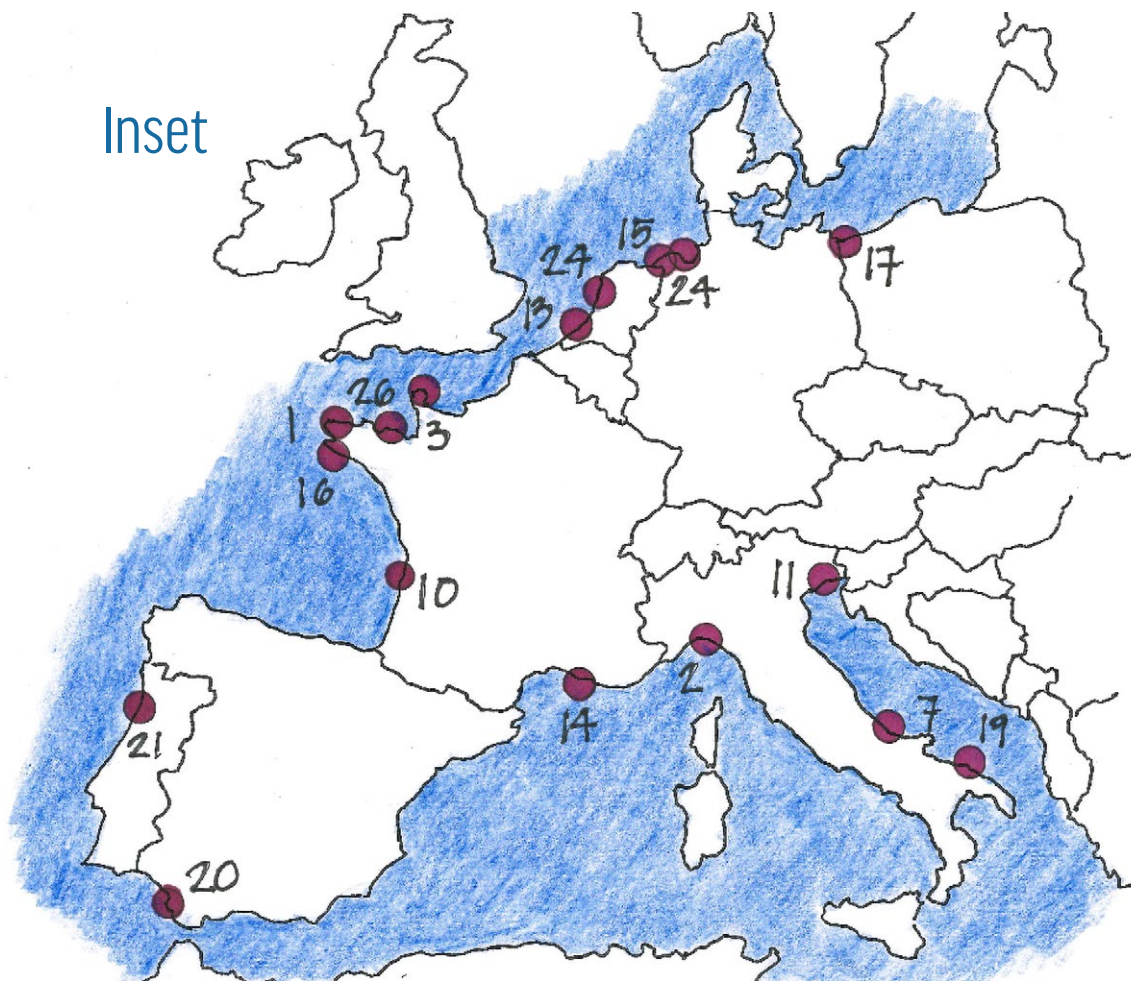
Skeleton Frame Style Lighthouse: structural steel framework less prone to wind damage supporting the light. **Recalada a Bahía Blanca Light**, Mount Hermoso, Argentina.

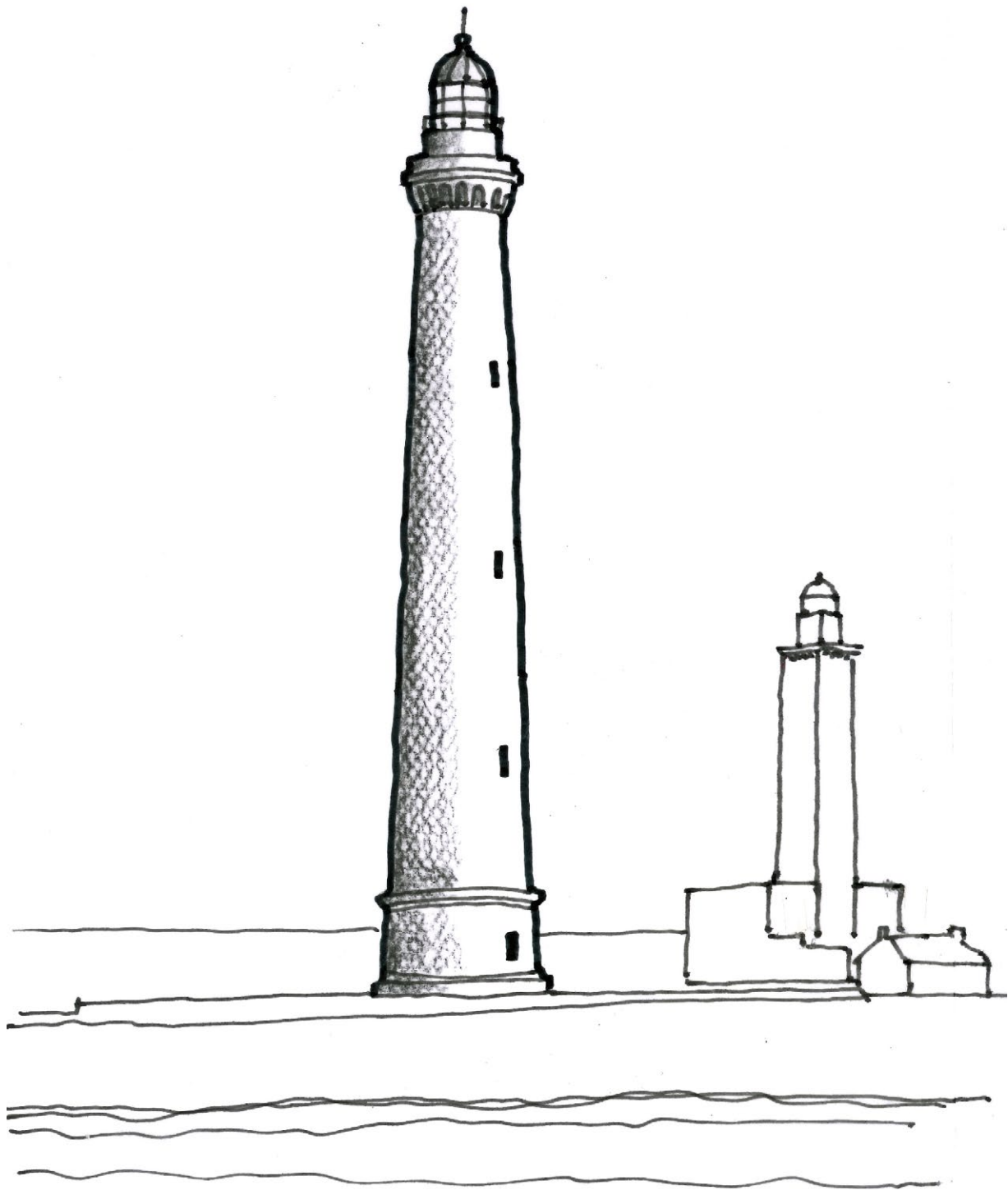


Vase Style Lighthouse: a classic or polygonal style Lighthouse with a slight artistic curve. **Adziogol Lighthouse**, Kherson, Ukraine.

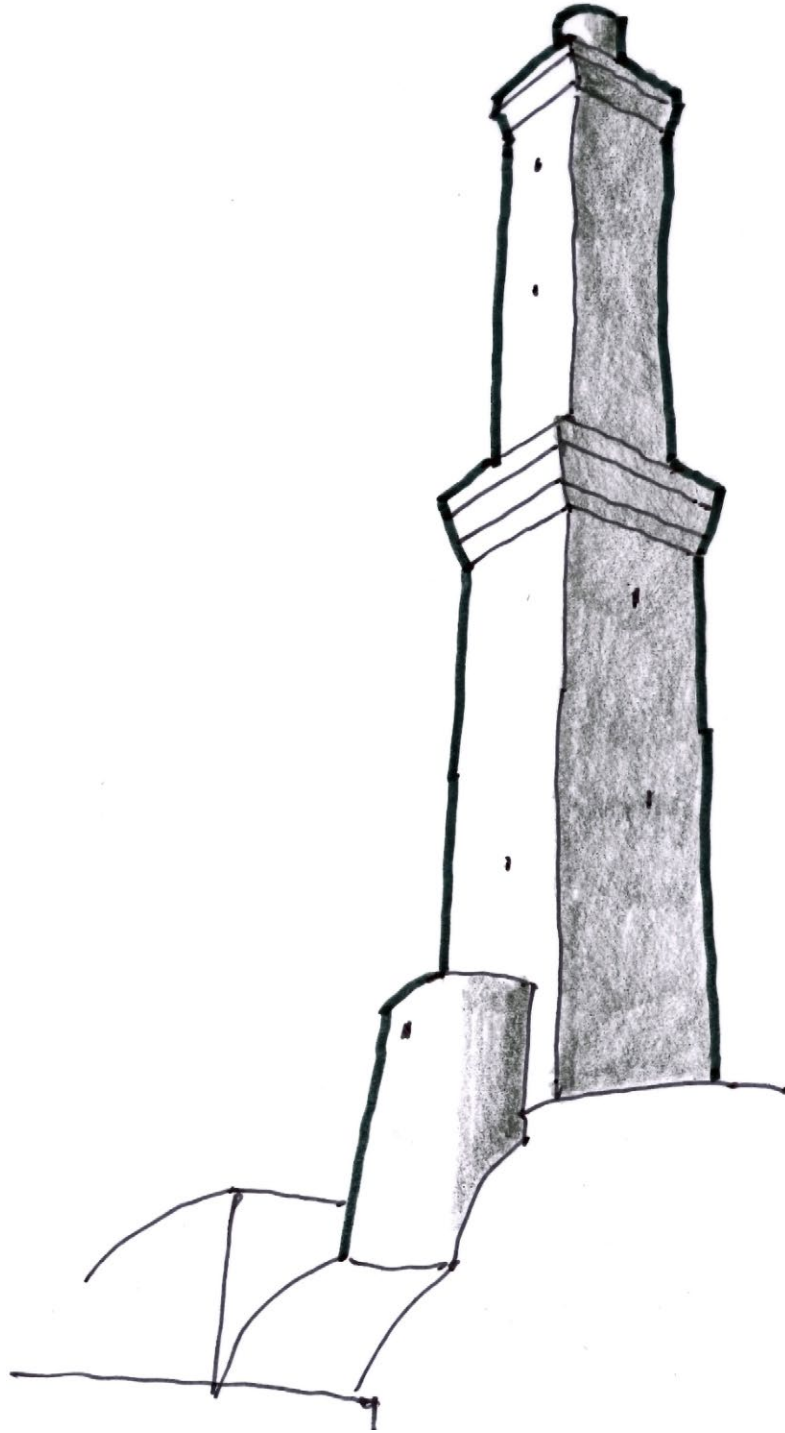


Map of the World



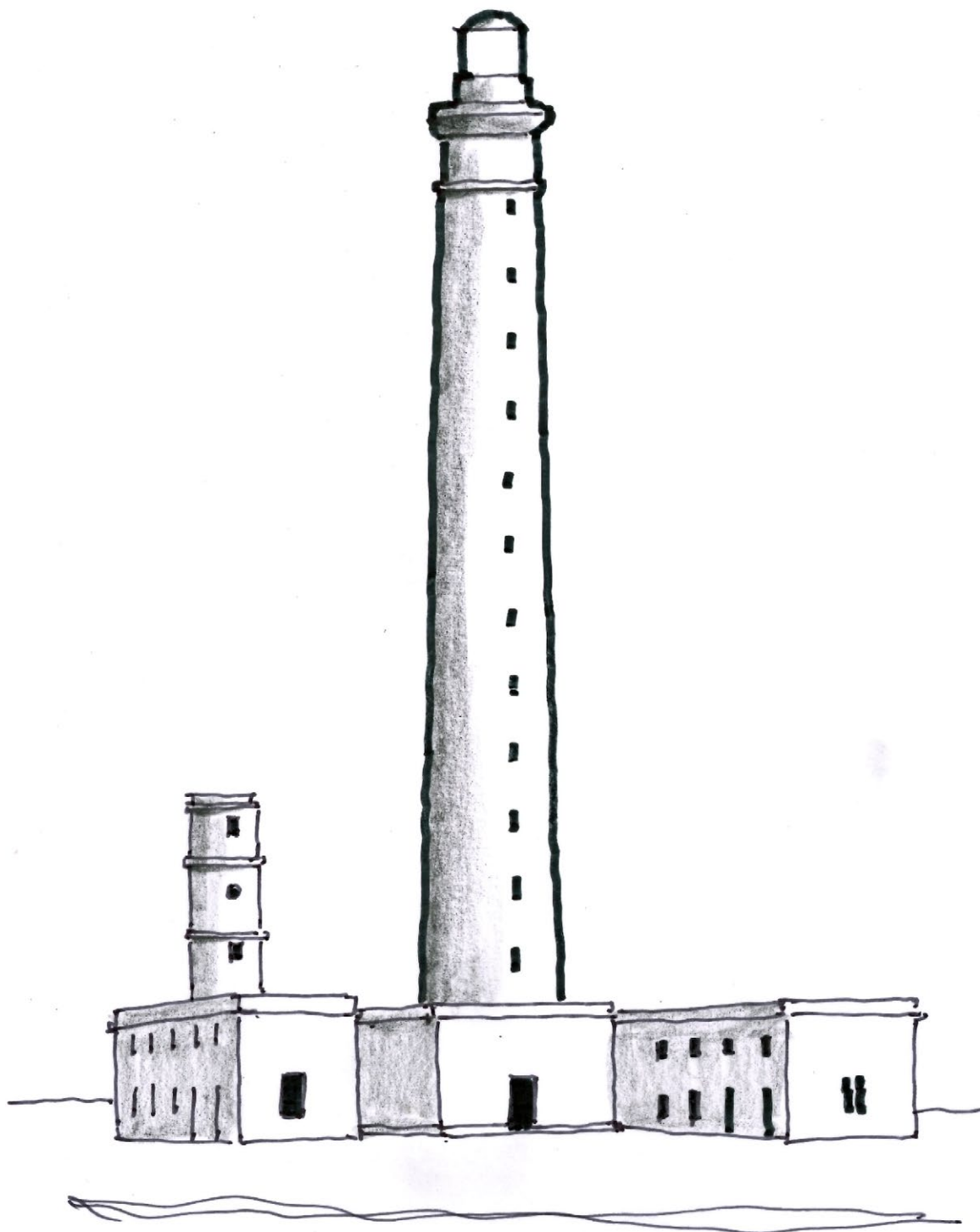


#1 Phare de Île Vierge (*Virgin Island lighthouse*) is not the farthest west in France. That honor goes to Phare de Nividic. But Île Vierge at 271' is the tallest in France, in Europe, and in the world! In 1902 it replaced the first lighthouse—at the right in this drawing—which was first lit in 1845 and stood at 108'.



#2 The **Faro Linterna de Génova** is considered to be the symbol of the city. It sits at the port, practically in the city, and the view from the top—where a considerable museum resides—overlooks all of Genoa. It's amazing that its base construction goes back to 1128...and the actual lighthouse on top of that base was in use in 1543.

At 249' it was the world's tallest lighthouse for 360 years, slipping to second place when the French Île Vierge was built in 1902. It is still the tallest lighthouse on the Mediterranean Sea.



#3 The 247' **Phare de Gatteville** was illuminated by a coal fire in 1775, and in 1780 the switch was made to oil lamps using vegetable oil at first and then mineral oil. Originally known as **Pointe de Barfleur**, it is situated on the English Channel in Normandy, France.

Architect Charles-Félix Morice de la Rue drew plans for the 1835 replacement we see today. The old tower at the left became a signal station used to scan the horizon for ships and signaling back inland.