CLASS 35
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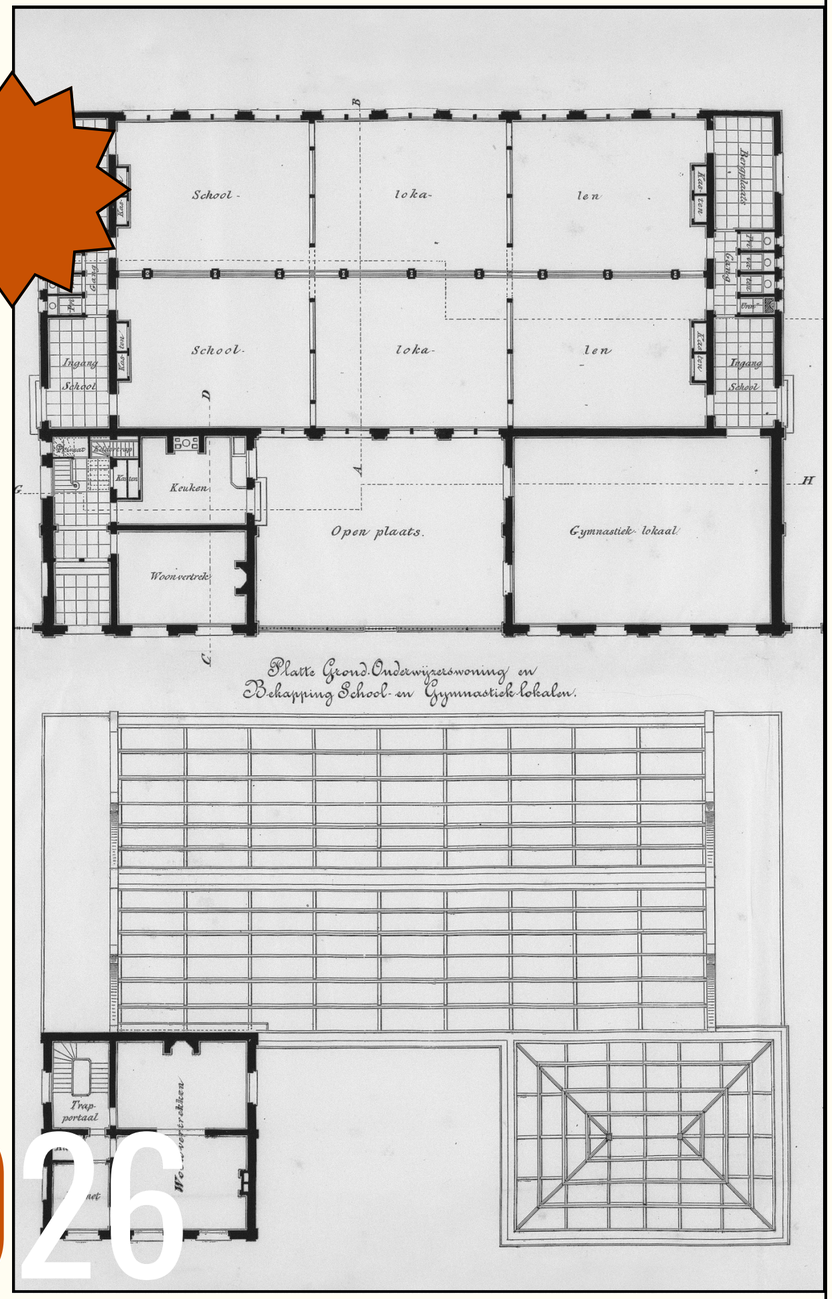

INTERPRETING WORKING DRAWINGS

2026

CLASS 35
Academic Learning Network

WORKING DRAWINGS

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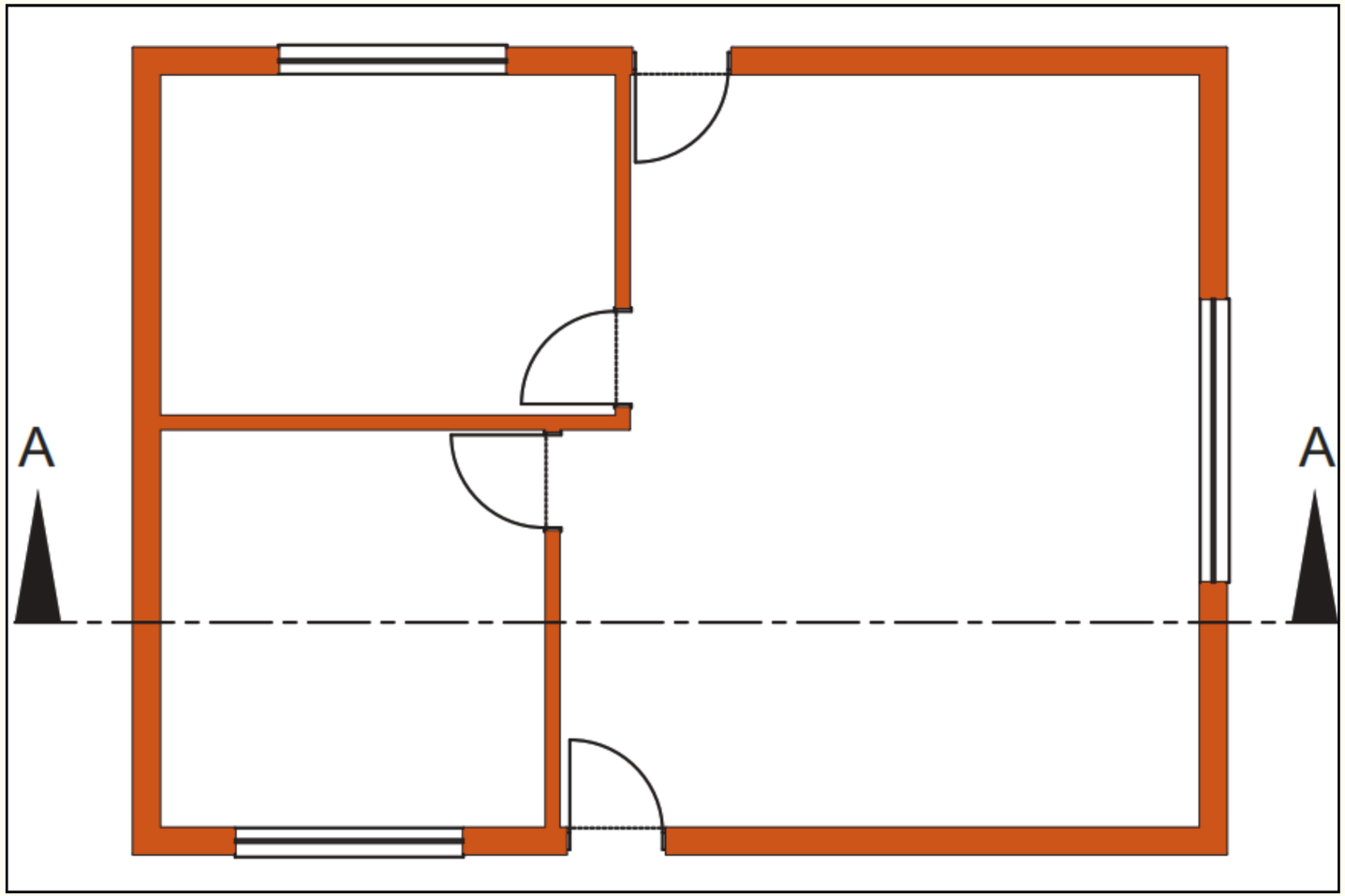
INTRODUCTION

Welcome back to Class35. We've discussed tools and materials, but today we focus on the builder's legal and technical map: The Working Drawing.
A project doesn't start with a shovel; it starts with a sketch. The owner's ideas are transformed into professional plans that dictate the size of every room, the materials required, and the total cost.
Today, we break down the three primary views you'll find on a site: The Plan, the Section, and the Elevation.

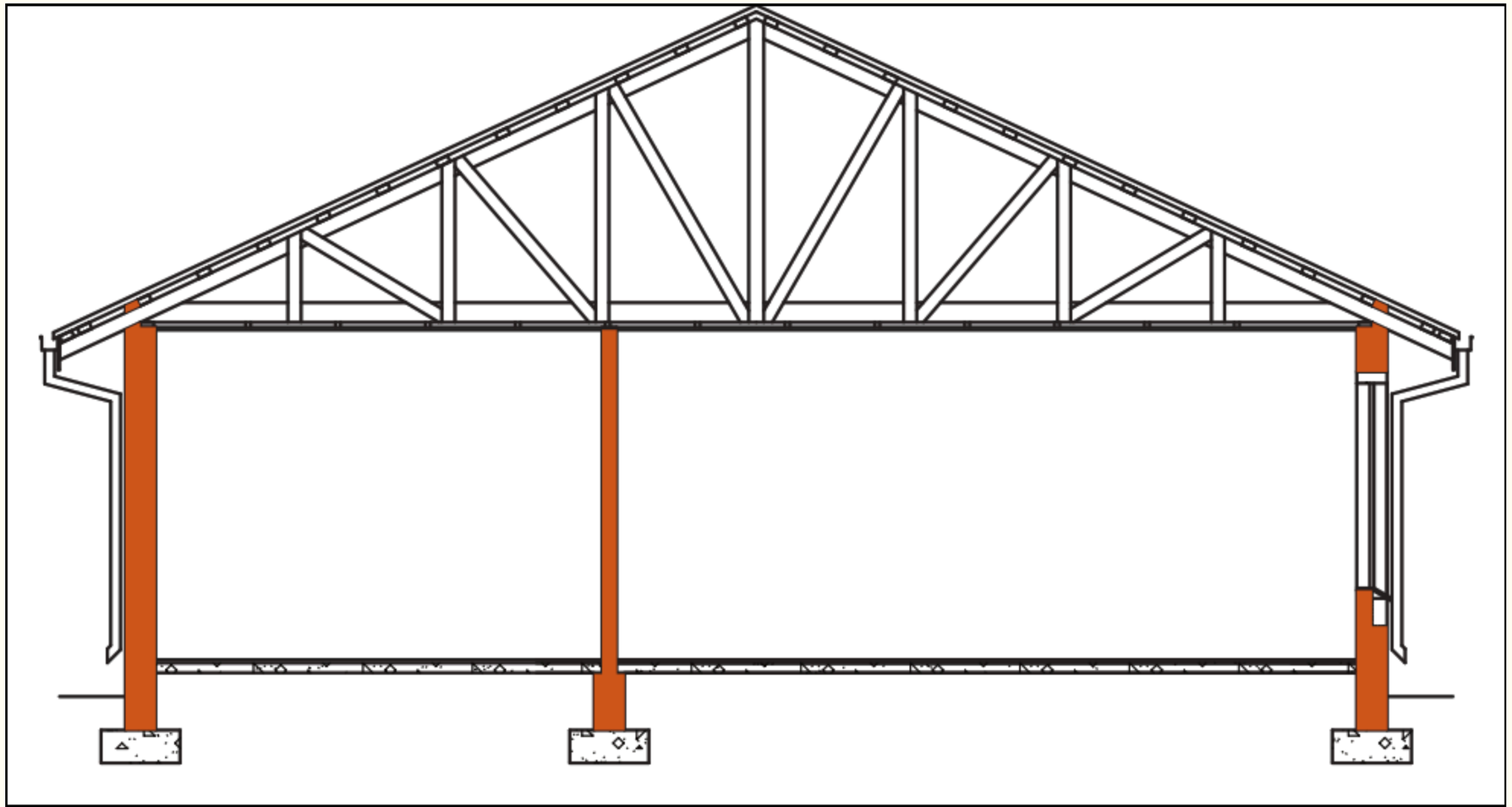
THE PLAN

First, The Plan. As seen in Figure 4.1, this is a bird’s-eye view. Imagine looking down at the house with the roof removed. This shows us the horizontal layout—where the walls sit and how the rooms connect.



THE SECTION.

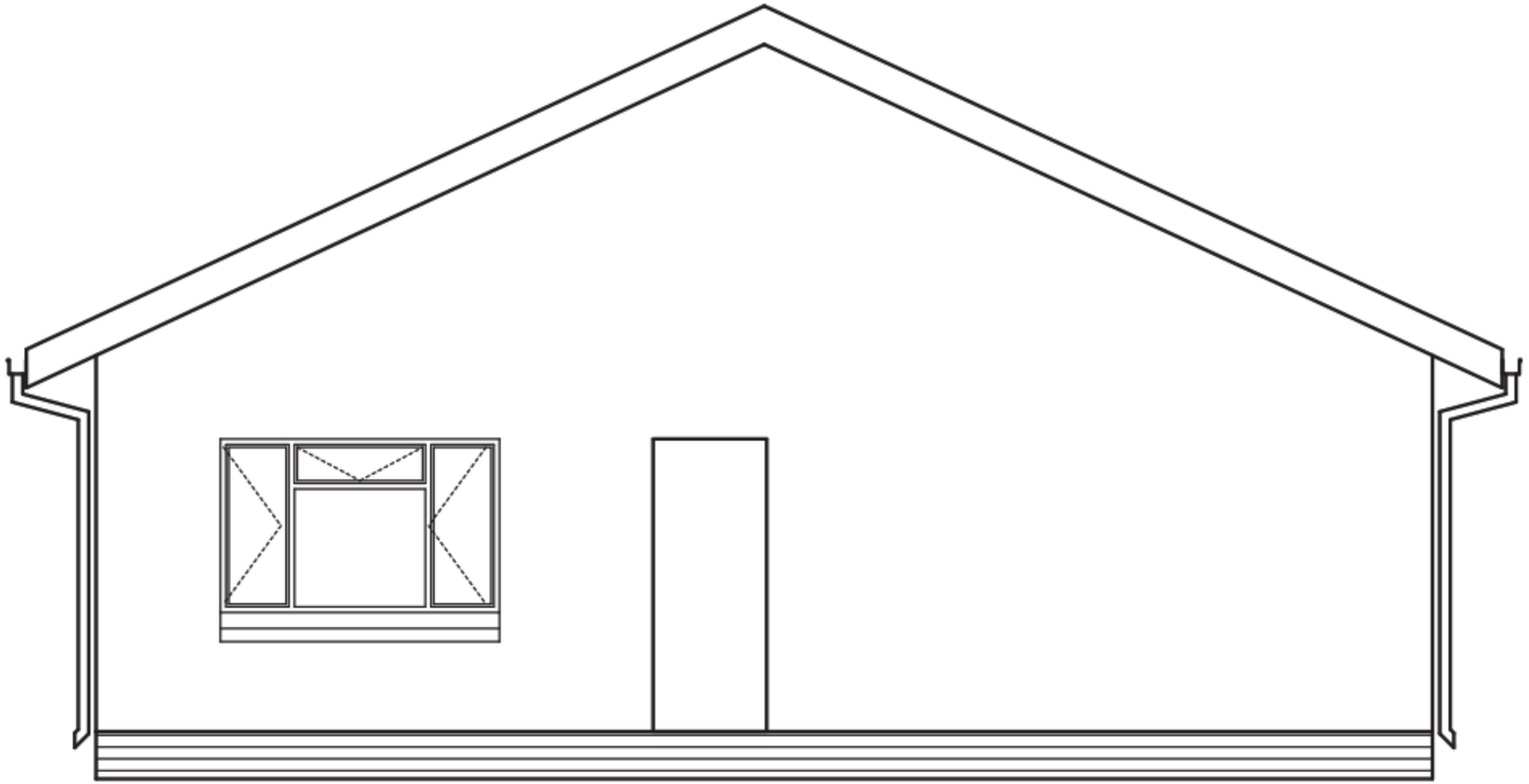
As shown in Figure 4.2, think of this as a vertical 'x-ray.' Imagine cutting through the building with a giant saw from roof to foundation. This view is critical because it tells you exactly how high the walls and doors should be, the size of the foundations, and the internal construction of the roof. connect.



Look for the 'Section Marks' on your plan they tell you exactly where that cut was made and which way to look, where the walls sit and how the rooms

ELEVATIONS: THE EXTERNAL VIEW

Then we have the Elevation, illustrated in Figure 4.3. While the plan and section show the 'guts' of the building, the elevation shows the face.



Most houses have four elevations: the front, the back, and the two ends. These drawings show you exactly what the building will look like from the outside. They help you place windows and doors aesthetically and understand the exterior finish of the superstructure.

SCALE AND DIMENSIONS

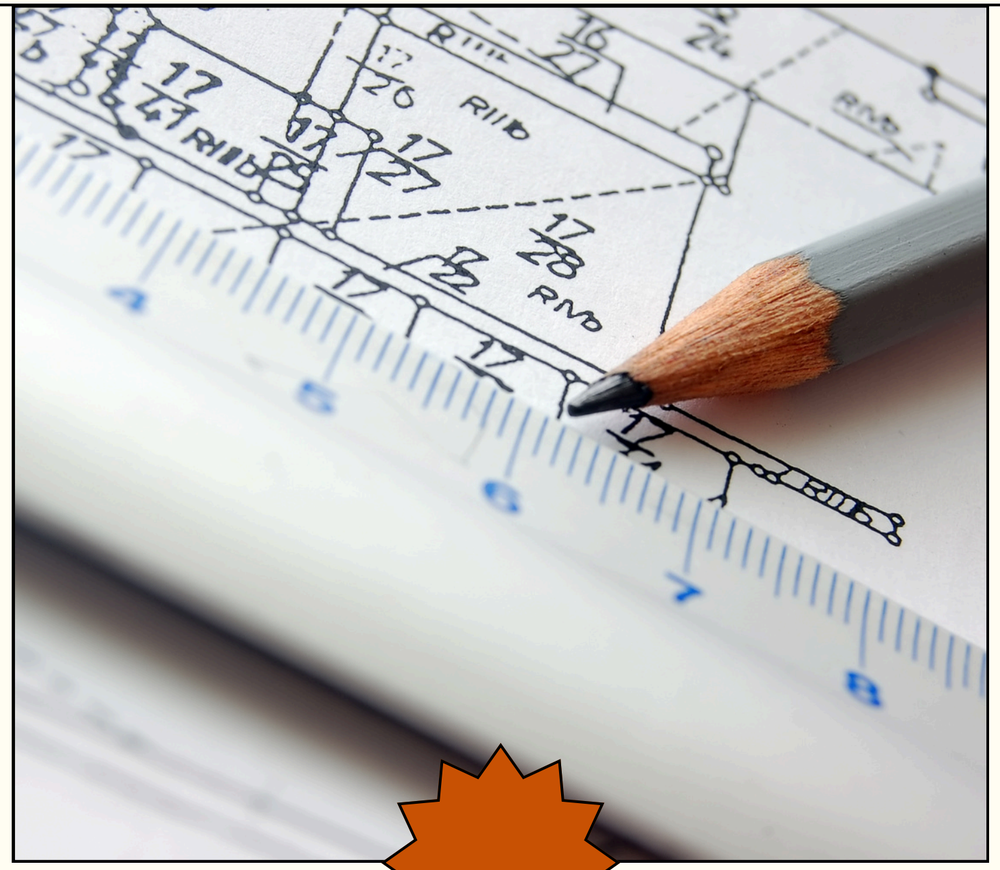
Now, let’s talk about accuracy. Since we can’t carry life-sized drawings on-site, we use Scale. This means every meter of the real building is represented by a much shorter, proportional length on paper.

While you can use a scale rule to measure a drawing, I do not recommend it. Paper can shrink or stretch, leading to errors. To be a professional, you must rely on the Dimensions written directly on the plan. Read the numbers—don't guess the lengths. In construction, a 5mm error at the foundation can become a 50mm disaster at the roof.

LEGAL REQUIREMENTS: SACAP

Finally, a critical legal note for all Class35 students. By law in South Africa, all building plans must be drawn up by a registered architectural professional.

They must be registered with SACAP—the South African Council for the Architectural Profession. Never work off 'illegal' drawings. Working with a SACAP-registered professional ensures that the structure is safe, legal, and compliant with National Building Regulations.



INTERPRETING WORKING DRAWINGS

Understanding these drawings is the difference between a laborer and a builder.

Head over to your student portal and review the sample elevations and sections.

Make sure you can identify the difference between a written dimension and a scaled measurement. In our next session, we finally step onto the site for Chapter 5, where we turn these drawings into reality.