Interior/Exterior Exercise, due Sept 18

Materials: compressed charcoal or Conté crayon, sheet of drawing paper at least 16” x 20”

The purpose of this exercise is to capture an everyday situation that presents a particularly dramatic light: a view framed by a window, doorway, or arch. Keeping in mind the examples below, spend at least 3 hours on such a drawing. The key is to convey with tones the meeting of worlds of light and shadow. (Alternately, you can draw a view seen in a mirror and including a portion of the surrounding wall.) More examples of master drawings of interior/exterior scenes on Moodle.

- Consider first the overall geometry of the scene, looking for the large pattern of tones. Use sighting methods to get the correct angles and proportions, and squint occasionally to confirm the relationships of tones.

- Look for the lightest light and darkest dark, using these as reference points for all other tones. A white wall framing a bright window may be surprisingly dark!

- Think now and then: What is this drawing about? Is it a portrait of an interior space which happens to include a window view? Or is it a panoramic landscape that happens to be framed by a window? Try to get one of the two spaces to lead to the other, rather than the two competing as equals.