What is drafting?

Drafting is the creation of a drawing or other graphical representation of a building, mechanical device or other structure for the purposes of determining how the device should be created. Drafting is used as a part of the design and fabrication processes.

Drafting is essentially drawing a picture, whether in 2D or 3D, and providing dimensions and notes. A drafter may do some "catalog engineering," (selecting parts such as bearings, seals, etc. from a catalog), but drafters do not use any truly advanced mathematics (as a rule).

Design, on the other hand, may be making a sketch, but it is also providing the analysis to justify the selection of component sizes (based on stress, deflection, fatigue, etc.), determination of system dynamic response and assuring that criteria are met, etc. Design goes much, much further than drafting.





Manual and AutoCAD Drafting

Computer aided drafting uses tools such as Auto CAD to make the drawings. Manual Drafting can be done in 2D but Computer aided drafting can be done in 3D as well. Compuer Aided drafting is usually used for concept modelling, virtual prototyping, fit-function testing etc.





