



# Brush Strokes



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## **PLAN BEFORE YOU PAINT!**

If you take a trip, you have to plan it in advance: airline reservations, motel reservations, packing, animal care, and many other things have to be done. The same consideration should be given to a picture you wish to paint.

Begin with a subject that excites you. I've selected subjects to paint that have made my hands tremble with the enthusiasm I feel for the subject. But don't let it end there—you have to realize that the subject may be great but only until you paint it will you feel like you've achieved what you started. Additionally you must lay the framework for the planning. Do you have all the colors you need and do you know how and where to use them? Do you have your paper prepared? Now comes the drawing. Are you willing to spend the proper amount of time to make the drawing and then transfer it to your art paper? Below is a painting done by Terri Parsons who is one of my Saturday students.



The name of this painting is “No Place Like Home” and you can tell by looking that it was well planned, well painted and a great memory of the home she and her husband built together. This painting didn't happen in one sitting, but took an enormous amount of drawing and hours of painting to make it hers. This was certainly a fine lesson on trees as well, and just looking at the tree line, the stones in the house and the dappled shadows on the lawn and roof show many many hours of work and struggles to get it just right. It's all transparent watercolor, and she considers this painting her major undertaking for 2010.