ships of other sketches and the photographs taken at the scene. This type of sketch is not needed when the crime scene consists only of a small, confined area needing only one or two sketches. The layout sketch of smaller areas is similar in concept to the locality sketch except that the area is smaller and an attempt is made to make the sketch closer to the actual proportions of the scene, without actual measurements being taken of the area.

**Detailed sketches (not to scale) with measurements**

The **detailed sketch** (see Figure 4-3) is what the term "sketch" or "diagram" usually refers to when referencing a crime scene sketch. This sketch contains measurements for all evidence item locations and other pertinent objects such as furniture. These sketches are not drawn to scale, but it is

![Diagram of detailed sketch with measurements](image)

**FIGURE 4-3** Detailed Sketch (Bird's-Eye View)
helpful to make the proportions similar to those at the scene, so that the sketch will have a “normal” appearance. This rough sketch is prepared by first drawing the area to be sketched in a roughly proportional fashion. The objects and physical evidence in the area are then drawn in and measurements to each object and evidence item are made and placed on the sketch.

**Blowup sketches for fine details**

The **blowup sketch** (see Figure 4-4) allows for higher accuracy of measurements for blood spatters, bullet trajectories, or other pattern evidence that requires measurements that are more accurate than those in the larger format sketches. Blowup sketches are detailed sketches of small areas inside a larger sketch. The blowup sketch is used where there are a large number of evidence items or where there is a pattern that needs to be documented with very accurate measurements (for example, multiple bullet holes, bloodstain spatter patterns on a floor or a wall). Use the secondary reference points method to establish secondary points for measurement to each item in the detailed area sketch (see Figure 4-12).
Exploded view sketch showing the walls (and occasionally the ceiling) lying flat

Exploded view sketches (see Figure 4-5) are used to illustrate the interrelationships of blood spatters, bullet holes, and trajectories or other patterns of significance. This type of sketch shows the walls flat (folded down) as though there had been an “explosion” that knocked the walls down. This is a finished sketch prepared from the rough sketches made at the scene. Its use is limited to those applications for which it is advantageous to show the spa-
tial relationships of detail on the walls (bullet holes, for example) that need to be seen simultaneously with the layout of the floor plan.

**Elevation sketches**

Elevation sketches (see Figure 4-6) are used to show the slopes present in the scene. The elevation drawings are rough sketches made in order to show the elevation perspective of a crime scene. An elevation drawing is a rough representation of the terrain without elevation measurements and is a supplement to photographs. If accurate elevation drawings are needed, they can be made by a surveying crew or by other professional crews using surveyor's equipment.

**FINISHED SKETCHES**

**Finished sketch (not to scale)**

Finished sketches (see Figure 4-7) are for report purposes, not for courtroom use. Although these sketches are not to scale, the preparer should try to make proportions approximately to scale to help in visualizing the spatial
relationships of the items at the scene. Make sure that all pertinent objects and data appear in the sketch. Label the sketch "NOT TO SCALE" clearly, so that the reader will know that the proportions are only approximate.

**Finished sketch (drawn to scale)**

Use an architect's scale (see Figure 4-8) for accuracy in the drawing. The scale for the drawing should be appropriate for the size of the area drawn and the size of the paper being used. Table 4-1 lists suggested guidelines for appropriate scales to be used in drawing a sketch to scale. The finished sketch drawn to scale should be first drawn with pencil; then when the pencil drawing is finished, the pencil lines can be drawn over using drawing pens designed for finished sketches, and the excess pencil lines can be erased with a white eraser. Legends and other data should be added using letter guides or transfer lettering in order to give the sketch a finished look.