

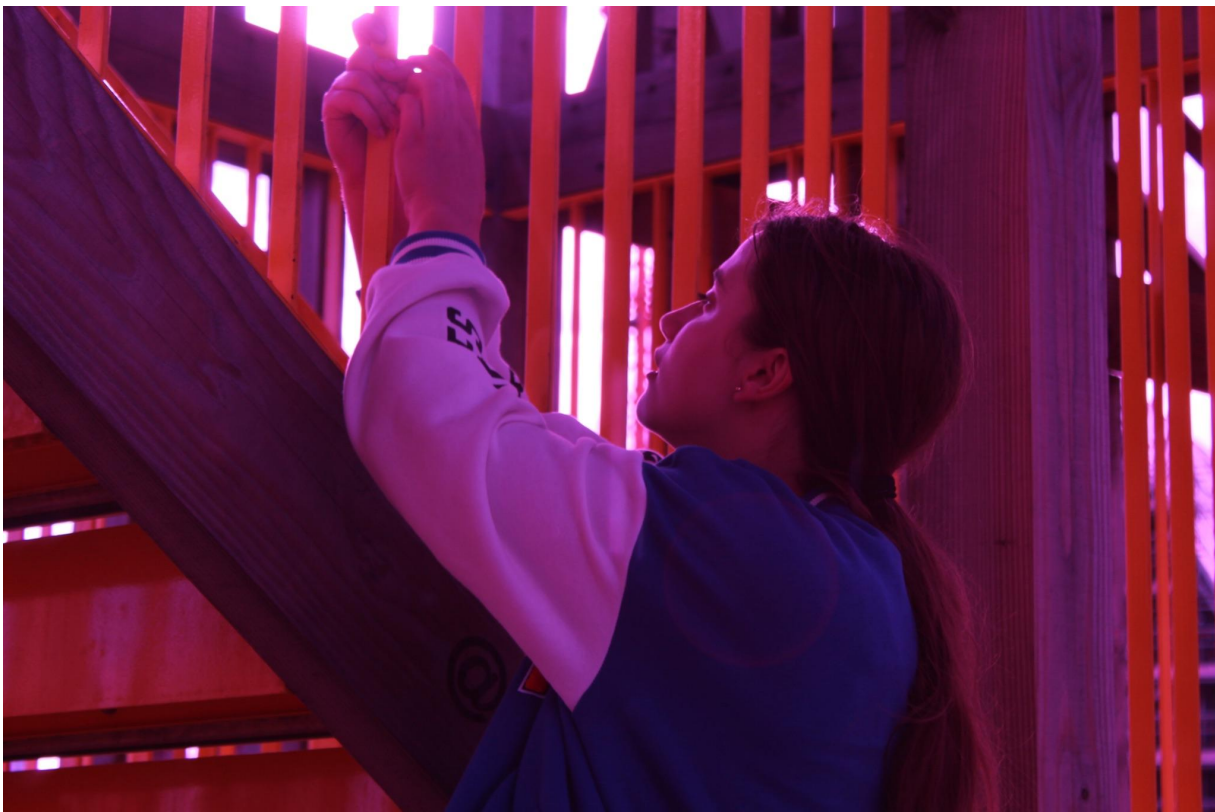
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Architecture



Olivia Fratzak
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At the start of the course I found myself taking pictures of the ways that people interacted with the environment around them, a lot of those photos where people interacting with inanimate objects such as buildings or cars, which can be seen in one of my photo books where I went around poland and took photos of what my eye caught out from the environment around me. I now find that throughout the year and a half i still tend to focus a lot on photographing buildings, especially architecture and the symmetry of it. I believe that I'm drawn to it as I always grew up with my dad who worked in construction. Everywhere we always went he'd always point out the small details of buildings or the way that people were working. Although a lot of the time it was him criticising them, I believe this is why, now my eye is more attracted to the structures around me and the small details on them, allowing me to see things in structures other people wouldn't usually point out or see. Over the time of the course I lost a bit of my passion, however now I feel confident on what I want my topic to be for this. After running through many ideas I found the common factor in all of my photos which was a mixture of architecture, light and people. From the start of year 12 all up until now, although I wasn't aware of it, my photos almost included infrastructures and architecture as well as the way that light either falls or reflects from them and I only noticed this after looking at images together each from different photoshoots.



Fg.1

This is one of my first photographs that I really liked from my first photoshoot. When I first saw it I was shocked that I had taken a photo like that, it proved to me that I can take good quality photos. which are well put together with good lighting and framing and it motivated me to continue to do so. I enjoyed the coloured filter that I put onto my camera and the lighting wasn't bad either. One of the things I enjoy the most about this image is the relationship between the girl and the stairs she's touching. Although there shouldn't be an actual bond between them, in the photo there's an unnatural bond which the viewers can question. The only thing that I would have changed about

this photo is the framing, I would want it to be as a portrait and not landscape, this is because I believe that it will bring more attention to the subject in the photo, which in this case is the girl, instead of the surrounding areas in the photo.

In year 12, I focused a lot on people and how they interact with the architecture around them. I also took many pictures abroad and my photo book was focused on the people and structures or lack of them in Poland. The name of my photobook was the coordinates of Poland and the pictures had their own coordinates attached to them, showing viewers exactly where the photos were taken.



Fig. 2

This is one of my favourite photos from the photos I took when I was there. I like the pop off colours from the photo and it makes the ruined mural feel more lively. My original project was going to be a collection of murals that I found when I was walking around the city of Łódź, the walking around turned into a scavenger hunt for all these murals. However when I started putting the book together, I quickly realised that it felt more like a blog post or a documentary more than a photobook therefore I resorted to using the heaps of other photos I took from Poland and put them into a photobook which I hand made.

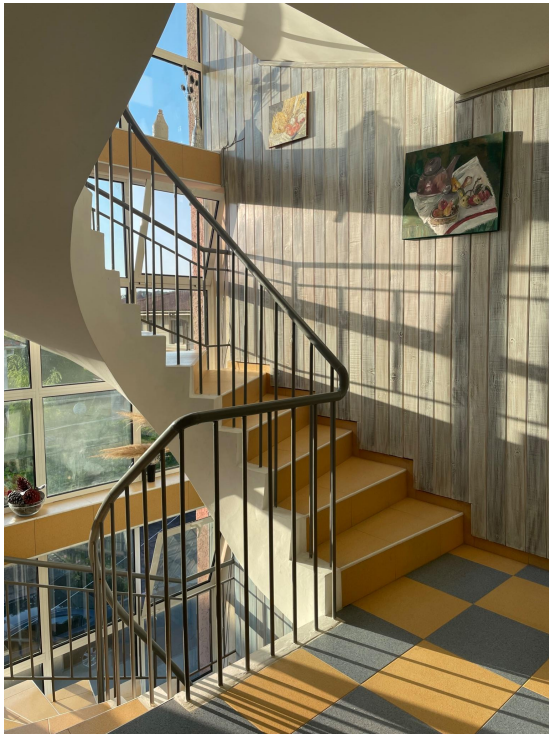


Fig 3.



Fig 4.

These two photos are one of my favourite, most recent photos. The way the stairs look as the sun is shining through the window to light the space in the room gives it a homey feel. The sun that is shining through the window leaves interesting and intriguing shadows in the space which makes the photos more lively. I've paired the two together because I believe that together they give a viewer a sense of realism, as if they are in the moment and are walking through the space themselves. I believe that these may be featured in my final project because not only did I enjoy taking the photo, I also really liked the outcome. These are the two photos that make me want to broaden my topic from 'architecture' to light in architecture in general. These two photos are pushing me to create more photos based on architecture and the layouts of buildings on the inside as well as their outside looks. The combination of these also makes me want to create more portrait pictures that are taken slightly apart from each other, to give the viewer a feel as if they are walking through the space.

Matt emmet

I really enjoy the work of the photographer Matt Emmett, it's clearly visible that through his photos he wants to tell a story to the viewer about the places and structures in the photographs. Photographing architecture and discovering the beauty of old abandoned buildings. His work inspires me and makes me want to produce similar products, revealing the true beauty of forgotten and abandoned buildings whilst simultaneously documenting a small-scale history which may soon be demolished and never seen again. Because of the lack of such buildings in my area, I decided to focus on a separate area that Matt Emmet also incorporates in his work. This is light, in almost all of his photos, light is the subject that brightens the image and sets the mood of the photo, whether it be eerie and dark or happy and bright.



Fig. 5 Ruined Chateau | Photo: Matt Emmett

This photo shows something that we can only presume was once a living room. It is framed so that the three chairs are in the centre of the room; like most of his other work, lighting plays a big part in the way the images are perceived. Here, the light beams shining through the windows also draw the viewer's attention to the couch and two arm chairs. The two light beams act like spotlights, as if this was a play and the image was telling a story to the audience. At first glance it could be considered to be a livable living room, however as soon as your attention is drawn away from the centre, we see that everything in the photo is destroyed and has been abandoned. The photo contains neutral colours with no massive pops of colour, which at first glance may make the image feel dull and miserable, however at a closer look the light that shines through the windows completely transforms the image for the viewers and makes the image feel more modern and inviting, despite the condition that the place is in. The two windows in the background make the room look and feel more free and spacious, which gives the image a sense of freedom, as if the place is finally relieved from the constant use and abuse it faced over the years from the people who have been there and used it. Finally the empty picture frames on the walls and on the floor make me wonder why they're empty and what they were filled with, bringing mystery and question into the picture.

This photo inspires me because of the lighting, particularly the spotlights, that are illuminating into the room, and it makes the viewers feel waves of emotions, this is something that I aspire my photos to do. I used my images to make the viewers have to think and look carefully before then coming up with a backstory and for them to ask questions like 'how...?', 'what...?' and 'why...?'. I also would like my photos to have a sense of mystery and wonder, at the same time capturing history because you never know when these places will become boarded up and demolished.

Matt Emmet photographed these abandoned and lost places as the living places they once were. He captures the beauty of the places within them, framing his images in ways that capture the destruction the places have experienced, simultaneously capturing what they were like before the abuse and neglect they faced. His photos make his viewers think about the history of these places and what they were to look like if they were still inhabited as well as why and when they were forgotten.

Recently I have been taking photos of anything 'abandoned' or 'forgotten' by people, whether it was forgotten for a moment or forever. This was to experiment and the goal was to try to make photos that resemble Matt Emmet's photos, giving the viewers a similar feeling when they look at mine in comparison to his.



fg.6

This image is one of my favourite recent images that I have taken whilst trying to further photograph like Matt emmett. It shows an old tennis court. This image was taken when I went to take photos of an abandoned building nearby. The building had been knocked down, only rubble remaining but once I turned around I was faced with being taken over by nature's tennis court. The picture is very open and does not contain a subject that the viewers are automatically drawn to when they look at it. They have to take a moment to think and look about what the picture is showing before making a verdict about what it is in the picture that is the subject. In this photo I find the building in the background and interesting contrast between what is in the foreground, it's modern and looks fairly new, whilst the foreground is the opposite.

Some other photos I've taken were also of lost or abandoned things, it included benches in the middle of forests and barbed wire on places that havent been visited in a while. I enjoyed taking the photos and keeping an eye out for them as most of these places blend into the surrounding and go unseen if you're not looking for them. Shortly I discovered that it wasn't just abandoned architecture I was interested in, it was architecture in general, especially the way that light can change architecture or enhance its features and symmetry. Therefore I went out and I decided to take more photos of architecture and the light that lays on them, is reflected off of them or is incorporated in the architecture. I've spent the last 2-3 weeks doing that and I really enjoyed myself as well as the outcome of the photos.



Fg.7

This is one during those three weeks I took a wide variation of different photos which were focused all on architecture. The one shown above is my favourite from all the ones I have taken. I like it because it is symmetrical and it stands out from the dark sky yet at the same time the part in the centre of the building that is also the centre of symmetry is the same colour to the sky, making it seem like the building is fading into it. This gives the viewer an illusion of the building fading into the sky, which makes the building seem bigger and longer than it really is.

When taking photographs and looking for things to photograph, I tend to move my body around a lot so that I can achieve the photo that I want when I look at the scene in real life. I tend to crouch down or kneel onto my knee, sometimes even lie down to get a good worm's eye view angle. Most commonly however, I take my photos when I'm on the move, if I see something, I pause for a couple of seconds to take a bulk of photos both in landscape and portrait before moving on and walking away until I find something else to take photos of, repeating the process again.

Most commonly, I use either an iPhone camera or a Canon camera. I believe that these are my most handy pieces of equipment because they don't take up much room and produce good quality photos. I don't use tripods or things like that unless I am doing long exposure light photos, such as cars driving in the night or people playing with sparklers.



Fig. 8

This is a recent picture of mine, I believe that although there is a clear difference between my old photos and my new in the way that they are photographed, I still like to keep a pop of colour in the photos, so much so that I sometimes catch myself during editing, ranking up the vibrancy of certain colours in the photos to make them pop and stand out. Another similarity in the photos is that I am continuing to photograph structures/architecture as well as light.

For my final project I decided to accentuate the common factor in all of my photos, inspired by Gregory halper's "19 winters / 7 springs" Exhibition, where he displays his photos on three, floor standing sculptures which all are made to look like halperns hometown of Buffalo, NY. I myself created 3D houses with three sides both on the insides and the outside of the houses which allowed me to display a variety of my photos on the inside of one house, whereas the outside of the houses contain one picture that lays over all three sides. I also cut out windows in some of the structures so that when they are photographed all together, they will have light shining through the windows to further add to what my project is all about.



Fig. 9

Fig. 9 shows one of the houses from Halpers exhibition as well as his surrounding artwork on the walls. I find this as an interesting and interactive way for people to view the photographer's work, instead of the usual photobook or online set up.



Fig. 10

Fig.10 shows my interpretation of Halpers exhibition. I created the houses and I then stuck the images onto the houses, setting them up in a variety of different positions to inspire the viewers to look differently at things around them. Then taking photos and videos of the exhibition, which I then edited together and posted online so that other audiences could view the exhibition as if they were viewing them in real life. The pink lighting has no meaning, but only to draw attention to the harsh shadows and lines that it leaves on the other houses and the rest of the display. I believe that my exhibitions turned out well and that I not only enjoyed the process of making it, but also creating and piecing together all the elements that made my exhibition what it is.

In my investigation I learned that as a photographer it is important to be acceptent to change. If one thing is not working out the way you would like it, changing it is not always a bad thing. When I first started writing this essay I was very adamant on writing and photographing only old/abandoned buildings and infrastructures but I quickly realised that it was not easy to find such locations around london and travelling up to Manchester (where a lot of these are) was simply too much of a hassle for something that may not even be standing anymore. I changed my research because when looking at my photos through the year all together, it was clear that infrastructure and the way people interact with it, was not the only prominent factor in my photos. But light was also a huge aspect in them, one that I didn't realise that I looked out for and took photos of so often.

I also learnt that a photographer doesn't have to have a good camera to take amazing and well composed photos. These can be also done from a simple phone camera. Throughout my investigation I wouldn't always have my camera around when I saw a good picture opportunity so Instead I just took my phone out and snapped the photo I had in mind. In fact, most of the photos in this project are taken on my phone, except for the rare couple which I planned to take photos of in advance, such as the pictures of the ruined buildings. Overall, I have really enjoyed this path of self discovery and I am eager to create more works of art in the near future as well as exploring more about my own personal style of photography.

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