

Digital Photography

How to Take and Display
Great Photographs
Lesson 5

Lesson 5

Light and Color

- Review of homework images
- What you can and cannot control
- Direction of light and time of day
- Indoor lighting, natural and artificial
- Color that is given to you
- Color that you can control

Lesson 5 Objectives

- Explain what variables you can and cannot control.
- List how light effects the design elements.
- State how color, and its absents, impacts the design elements.

Homework Review

- Read Wignall 142 – 161.
- Take a “field trip.” The beach works.
- Use the design elements in your images.
- Try to get the one elusive “great shot.”
- Comment on your progress.



Photography, Writing With Light

- Heart of “seeing.”
 - Direction.
 - Color.
 - Quality.
 - Intensity.
- Often comment about the light.
- Time of day.



Controllable vs. Uncontrollable

- | <u>Controllable</u> | <u>Uncontrollable</u> |
|---------------------------|------------------------|
| • Time at which you go. | • Weather. |
| • Camera position. | • Sunlight. |
| • External light sources. | • Natural clutter. |
| • Subject placement. | • Forces of nature. |
| • Composition. | • Unlightable objects. |
| • Speed, focus & f-stop. | |
| • Camera availability. | |

Direction: Front

- Rule: front lighting.
- Note camera position.
- Breaking the rules.
- Where is the sun?
- “Tight” composition.



Direction: Back

- The hardest direction.
- Great for sunsets.
- Get a sun block.
- Fog works well.
- Bounce for portraits.
- Fill flash.



Direction: Side

- This is made for drama.
- I love the late afternoon. Made for Kodachrome.
- Shadows can add texture.
- Easy to do. Fewest errors can be made.



Direction: Top

- Like back, top is hard.
- Find a shadow.
- Accept what you got.
- Extreme close-up.
- Pick color variation.
- Choose abstract.



Color: Daylight

- B & W has its place.
- Love affair with color.
- The "Distant Goal."
- Always changing, always the same.
- Most objects reflect.
- Nature *is* color.
- Hard to pick sample.



The Golden Hour

Search for better

- 1 hour after sunrise & before sunset.
- It is worth it!
- A bit of time.
- Atmosphere clearer.
- Mist & fog, a plus.
- White balance.



Quality of Light

- Hard or soft.
- Size of light source.
- Diffusion softens.
- It is not good or bad.
- Effect on mood.
- Softening flash.



Light Up the Sky

- Dramatic light is often atmospheric.
- Storms, rainbows, sunsets, & the “blue hour.”
- Wignall: Getting lucky.
- Carrying your camera.



Indoors with Available Light

- If you can steady your camera, you can do it.
- Even if you can use flash, try not to use it.
- Often the floor is a good base. Also columns.



Night Photography

- Available since 1939.
- Need steady base.
- Shoot at slow speed
- Cities are colorful.
- Long exposure uses up battery charge.
- Movement can work.



It is a Colorful World

- Being modest, not!
- Point your camera at everything colorful.
- Get close.
- Scavenger hunt.
- Use of hard light.
- Something for noon.



Bold is Beautiful

- Shades of Andy Warhol. Everyday abstraction.
- Did street signs for a direct mail campaign.
- Decoration for a child's room.
- Remember this shot next week in display.



For Next Week

- Read Wignall pages 68 – 101.
- Get more abstract with your pictures.
- Go on a color scavenger hunt. Do at least four shots with each major rainbow color: Red, Orange, Yellow, Green, Blue, Violet.

Did We Meet the Objectives?

- Explain what variables you can and can not control.
- List how light effects the design elements.
- State how color, and its absence, impacts the design elements.
