

# ARTEFI ARCHITECTURE



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## -----ARTFUL ARCHITECTURE

Architects, have impeccable organizational skills and attention to detail, architects, at heart, are creative artists. Instead of creating art for the sake of aesthetics, architects create art with beauty, functionality, and sustainability in mind.

When looking at a photograph of any building or city, there is a perplexity about it. Should you be more concerned with the photograph's composition and message or the building that resides within the photograph?

It's like looking at a photograph of the Mona Lisa in the Louvre. Almost everyone would agree that the photograph is about the painting, not how the photograph was taken, unless it was a poor rendition. There is no conversation about the lighting or the positioning. The conversation is about Da Vinci's ingenuity.

If a building is art as well, why don't we talk about the building? Sometimes we do. Sometimes it's obvious that the building's design is the focal point of an image. But in conversation with architects about a photograph of a building, and their focal point of conversation relates to the beauty of the building during a particular time of day and how the structure fits into its surroundings.

This debate is something that's been thrown around by art historians and architects for ages. With little knowledge on the subject prompt you to take photographs of buildings that are more concerned about the principles of composition rather than the structure of the building. The structure becomes an element that wields to create a masterpiece.

Is a photograph of the Duomo in Florence, Italy beautiful because the building is beautiful or because the photographer's choices are aesthetically pleasing?

The precise light reflecting off of particular beam, or how to capture the most interesting angles of a room.

These photographic elements happen because of architectural choices, but are perfected by a photographer's eye.

What you will gain from this article is how to look at buildings in general, and then how to photograph them so that they stand out in your portfolio.

## **Architectural vantage points**

The most beautiful buildings and cities are also the most photographed. There are plenty of tricks to capture moments, even of static buildings, that can set your work apart.

**perspective**, or “the architectural vantage point.”

Where your camera is in relation to the building that you’re photographing.

There is no optimal place literally almost every structure, and its surrounding area, is different.

There are five different vantage points from which you might take a photograph of a building.

Before running through these vantage points, you need to understand that picking a vantage point is as much about your choice

Here are the five different ways you might photograph a building.. You get to pick the photograph that you want to create; you get to pick the vantage point.

### **Advanced Composition**

Going back to the architect, their job is to create a building that looks good from either a certain point of view or all points of view.

As a photographer, you’re choosing what point of view to photograph the building out of all the points of view that the architect has provided for you. You’re picking the vantage point.

The five vantage points include three street views.

### **Street View**

The first vantage point, street view is of the building while standing farther back.

Unless you’re using a telephoto or longer zoom lens, this vantage point allows you to take a photograph of the entire building You might get more of the city or the area framing the structure than what you’re focusing on.

## **Worms' Eye View**

The second point of view is from the base of the structure looking up, known as , the worm's eye view.

These photographs tend to be epic because you're losing site of the top of the building. It's so tall that the structure becomes mysterious.

Architects may not like this view because it distorts the building.

The edges of the building will become slanted inward because the vanishing point is now the sky.

Generally, tall buildings are set parallel to our vantage point's vanishing point, and so buildings get a bit morphed the closer we get to them while photographing in an upward direction!

## **Multiple Buildings**

The third point of view is another street view and it is similar to the second point of view.

Multiple buildings are now included in the image.

This view shows height. The shorter buildings provide a gauge for the photograph's view so that the viewer can relate to how tall the taller building really is.

## **Bird's Eye**

The fourth vantage point is from above the structure itself.

This point of view is currently trending right now, especially in big cities, as aerial photography has become easier. Photographers have taken to the sky both in helicopters and with drones to capture views of buildings from the top down.

The bird's eye view, will show motion throughout the city because it captures buildings and streets. If you're handy with a drone (or willing to pay for a helicopter ride), achieving this vantage point will help improve your architectural photography.

## **Straight On**

The fifth vantage point is to photograph one structure from another structure.

This is an important vantage point because it can possibly get you close to the middle of the structure, in the vertical sense. It could allow you to capture the entirety of the building from top to bottom, and depending on how close you are or the lens that you're using, the space around the building might be included too.

Hopefully, you didn't forget about the notation that you can choose your vantage point. In other situations, you may not have the chance to! You might be limited by time or accessibility to your "ideal" vantage point. That's okay, because you're still in charge of so many other aspects of your architectural photograph the perfect spot to create a picture of a structure in the moments that you have.

Use the light settings in your camera's menu and your photographer's instinct to help you achieve the best architectural photograph possible.

## **Shooting pointers**

Here is a list of things to think about as you're taking artful architecture photographs.

- Play with the lighting. Time of day is one choice that is generally available and can radically alter the look of a structure. Nighttime photographs capitalize on the lights and shadows cast onto the building to play up, or downplay, different aspects of any structure.

- Change your shutter speed. Structures don't move, but the world around them does!

Think about photographing the bridge above. The water is smooth because of a long shutter speed. A faster shutter speed would completely alter the image.

- Use the building to your advantage. Reflections are a great tool to make your images pop!

- Mix up your equipment choices. Most structures are naturally wide or tall, so that means that your choice of the lens is key. A telephoto lens could allow you to be further away from the building. A fixed lens will allow you to take those great long exposures. A super wide lens will allow you to photograph most of the expanse of the structure. As you get closer to using a fish eye lens, say 10mm or 12mm, the straight lines of your structure may start to bend. Choosing alternative tools like tilt-shift lenses and 360-degree cameras can also lend a hand in capturing structures as never seen before!

## Lighting

If you are only able to photograph a building, such as the Duomo in Florence, Italy from a street or worm's eye view, something you can control is the lighting (time of day) and the post processing wait until sundown to take your image. The Duomo is a massive building that's a total of 89,340 square feet. It is 502 feet in length, 125 feet wide, and over 300 feet tall. Most photographs, of the Duomo are taken more from a bird's eye view because the dome is the most iconic aspect of the building.

The intricate windows and crevices remain lit near the upper part of the building. include part of the building further to the left of the Duomo, to demonstrate the height of the building and help provide an interesting convergence of points near the bottom-left side of the photograph.

Final touch up in post-processing

Convert the image to black and white, and then bump up the contrast.

## Architectural interiors

Great architectural photography happens inside structures as often as outside of them.

For the most part, the vantage points discussed earlier are still viable.

## 360-Degree photographs

Your tools are quintessential to your success in architectural photography. One amazing tool is the 360-degree camera.

The staircase. Stand below the staircase, photograph everything around you in 360 degrees

. a swirling staircase where you think the photograph is taking you up, but it's actually taking you down the stairs as evident by the people walking around and around.

Experiment on special equipment, like a 360-degree camera, to add flair to your architecture shots

## Summary

Hopefully you have some inspiration on how to photograph the structures in your life and the structures that you will pass on your adventures. Understanding the vantage points available to you is a critical step in photographing architecture, but, the most important skill is to always channel your inner photographer.

Use the tools that you possess about photography and composition and apply them in an artistic way. The architect designed the building, but your choices are going to tell your story about the structure.

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## Bio

My name is David Wright.

I have many years experience writing procedures on how to test high tech electronic equipment. Re wrote technical manuals so that the average person could understand them.

Set up numerous training programs to train Junior techs.

My documenting skills are excellent paying attention to details satisfying the toughest ISO auditors.

I have enhanced my writing skills by successfully completing a course in Writing for Children's literature.

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I have had a Camera in my Hand since 1965 Gone pro In 1999

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I am now at a point in life I would like to share my knowledge with the world and the best way I know how is by Print either electronically or Hard copy paper.

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