

WINDOWS & DOORS

By Kent DuFault

Windows and doors are a fascinating subject for our cameras. One allows us to 'see through' to a world that we are physically separated from. The other blocks our view, thus creating mystery and intrigue. What's behind the door? Who is that on the other side of that window?

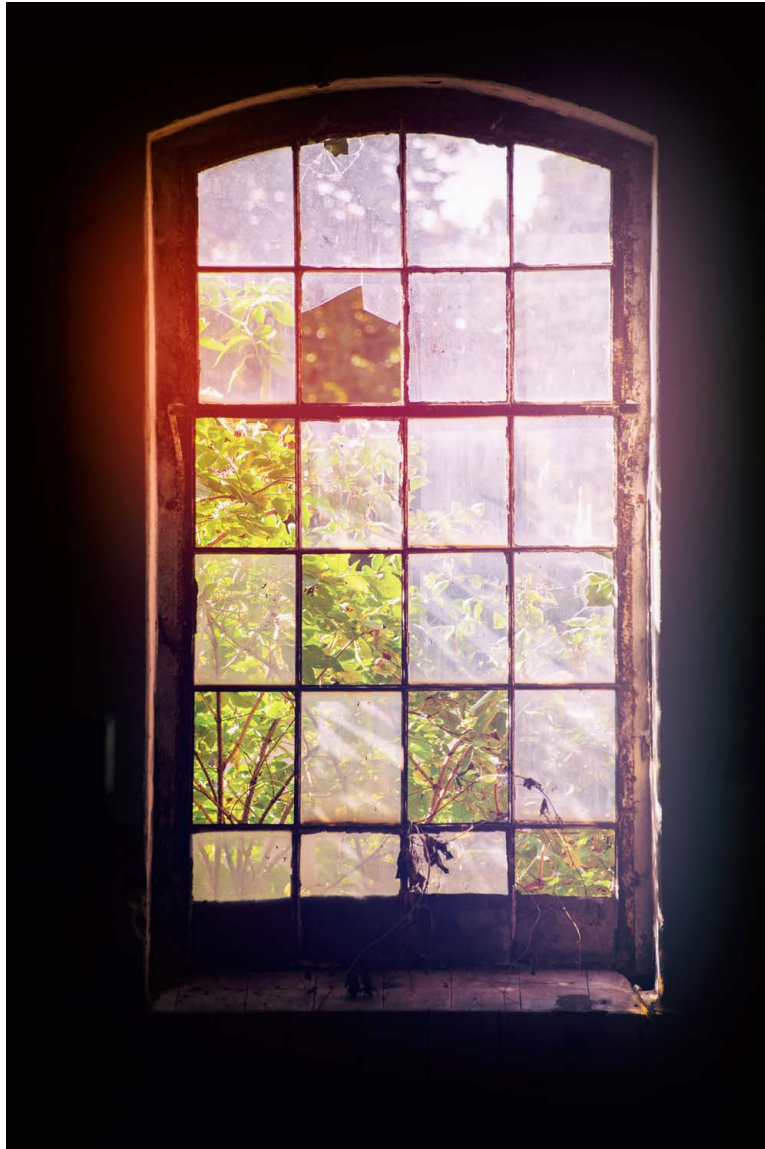
In this Creativity Prompt, I will direct you on focusing on a particular message or detail with windows and doors. This will increase viewer response to your images and provide a lot of fun in the process.



<https://unsplash.com/photos/K4c8RymNeu8>

Vidar Nordli-Mathisen – Sony DSC-RX1, 35mm lens, f/8, 1/200th, ISO 80

Backlighting and Windows



<https://unsplash.com/photos/RBM9k2wlXQg>

Denny Muller – Canon EOS 6D, 154mm focal length on a zoom lens, f/5.6, 1/125th, ISO 125

Backlighting through a window can highlight shapes and create auras that are not possible with other types of lighting.

A clean window will reflect backlighting much differently than a dirty window.

Some types of glass will unusually refract the light. Or perhaps a set of curtains or drapes might add shape and color.



Assignment:

Photograph a multitude of windows that have backlighting. Try to capture as many different moods and stories as you can find. Play with the types of windows, including the glass, the window frame, and window shades or drapes.

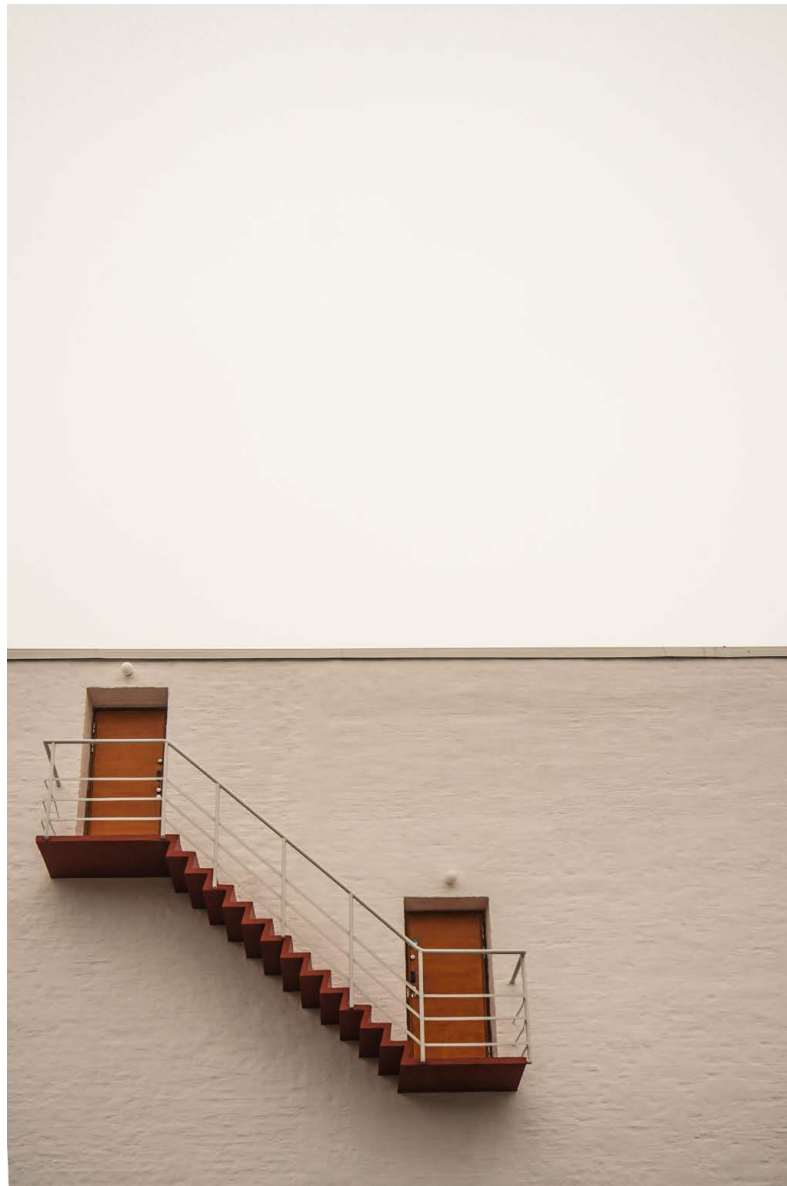
Repetition



<https://unsplash.com/photos/VLaKsTkmVhk>

moren hsu – OnePlus A5000, 4.1mm lens, f/1.7, 1/100th, ISO 250

Repetition can take many forms when photographing windows and doors. This example would be considered symmetrical repetition.



<https://unsplash.com/photos/KnevlsuWxzk>

Nick Chalkiadakis – Sony ILCE-6300, 29mm lens, f/4.5, 1/60th, ISO 100

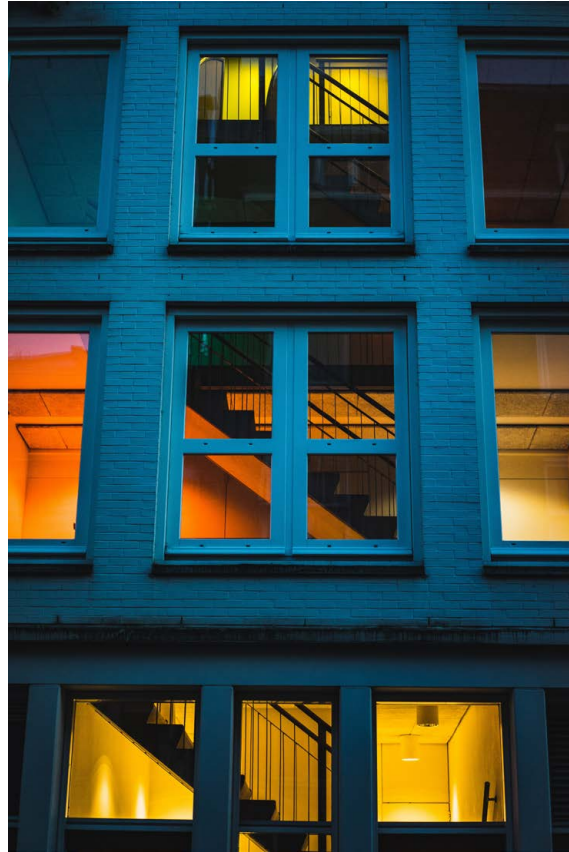
This example would be considered asymmetrical repetition. When using asymmetrical repetition, keep your eyes peeled for odd numbers of doors and windows. It's a proven fact that odd numbers attract more attention than even numbers.



Assignment:

Photograph a multitude of doors and windows while using the repetition technique. Try going symmetrical and asymmetrical. Keep the Rule of Odds in mind while searching for subjects. Try combining this assignment with some of the others that are included in this Creativity Prompt.

Multicolor Lighting in Evenings and at Night



https://unsplash.com/photos/J_MGZtxXdyM

Ehud Neuhaus – No EXIF

This is one of my favorite techniques for photographing windows and doors. The Blue Hour provides ample opportunity. In cities with large buildings, this perfect equation between ambient natural light and colored

artificial light can be extended to almost a good two hours of shooting.

You can also try variations of this by placing a colored glass filter onto your lens. Try blue, yellow, green, and orange.



Assignment:

Photograph some architectural doors and windows while capturing natural ambient light with artificial lighting. Start shooting when the sunshine is no longer hitting the building, but the ambient light remains sufficient to include shadow detail. The learning curve here is balancing your exposure between multiple light sources. Select locations that provide multicolored lighting. Neon signs are a good source for this type of lighting as well as older industrial buildings. If you have some colored glass filters, try altering the effect by placing them onto the lens. You can get even more abstract by shooting through a colored glass object such as a vase or a pair of sunglasses.



<https://unsplash.com/photos/-XmvlG01WG8>

Jiao Shen – Apple iPhone 6, 4.2mm lens, f/2.2, 1/1099th, ISO 32

It can be interesting to add a human element to door and window architectural photos. But use caution on object placement with your humans. Remember, your goal is to highlight the windows and doors.



<https://unsplash.com/photos/-XmvlG01WG8>

Jiao Shen – Apple iPhone 6, 4.2mm lens, f/2.2, 1/1099th, ISO 32

Graphics by Kent DuFault

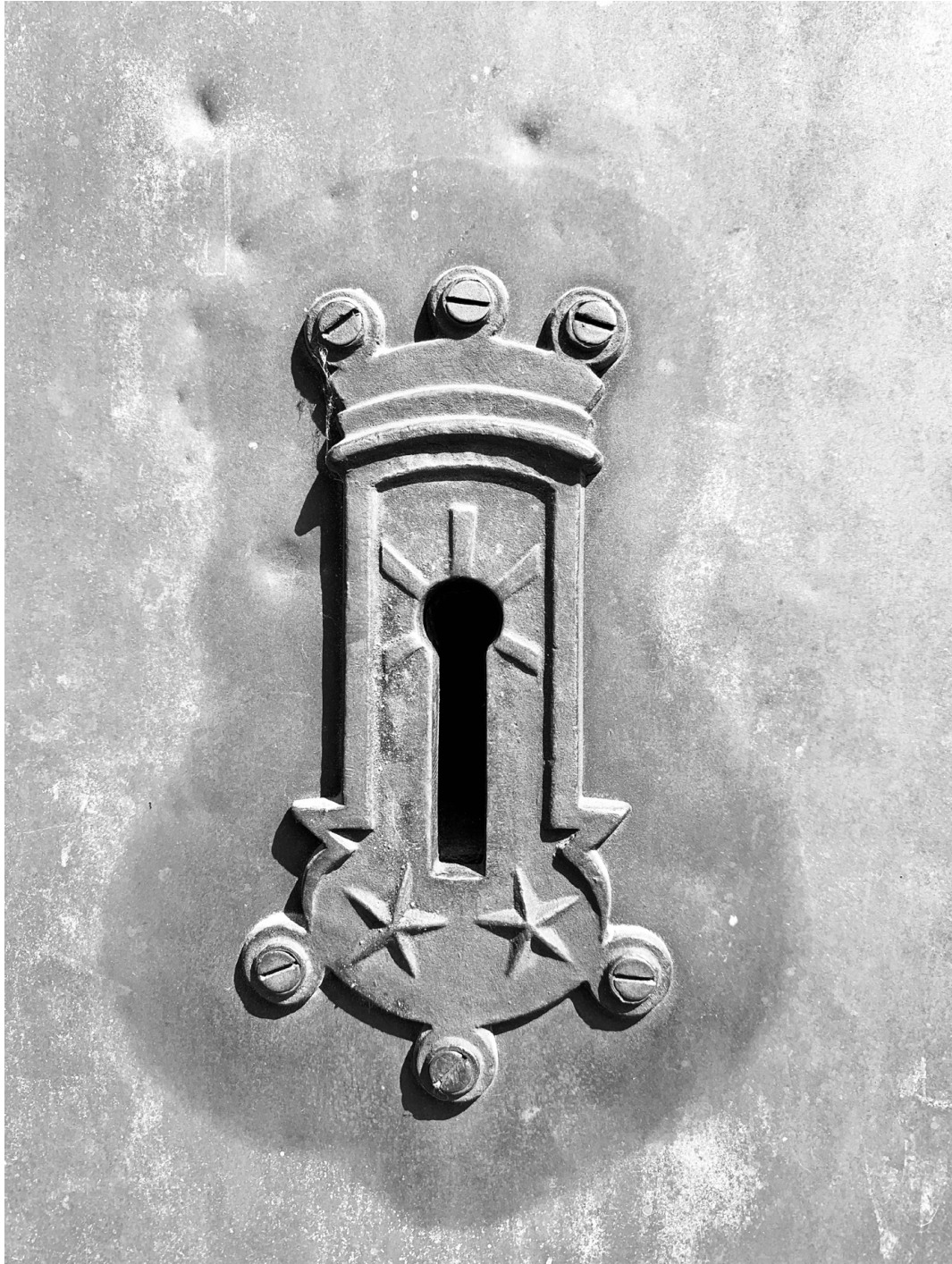
Suppose your goal is to photograph a door as the subject, and you place the human element in an awkward position within the frame. In that case, your viewers will not be looking at your subject. They will be looking at the human.



Assignment:

Photograph windows and doors while including the human element. Concentrate on the placement of the person or persons so that the windows and doors still hold the most visual weight as the subject.

Keyholes and Doorknobs

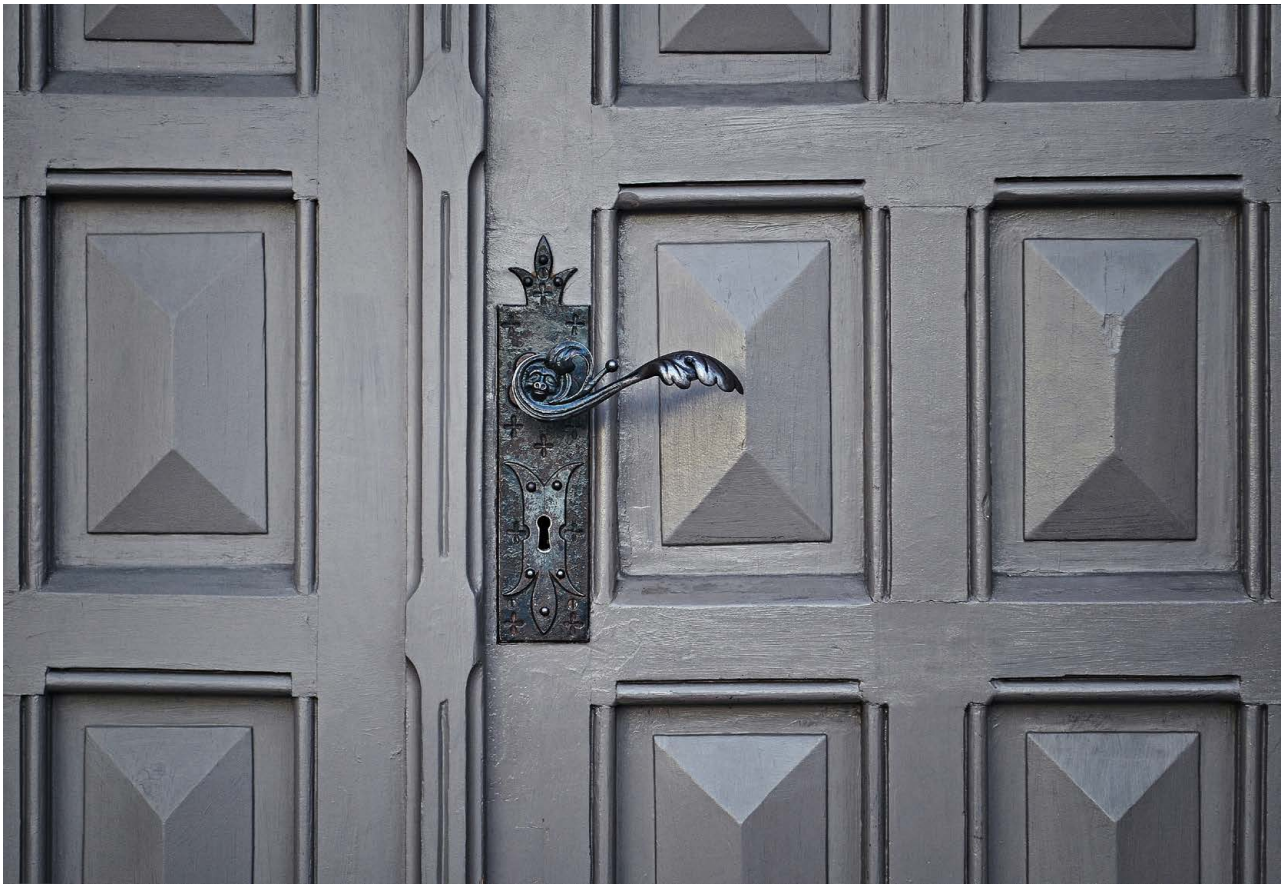


<https://unsplash.com/photos/ger4lNNC6f0>

Drahomir Posteby-Mach – Apple iPhone XR, 4.2mm lens, f/1.8, 1/783th, ISO 25

Keyholes, doorknobs, and other hardware details on windows and doors make great subjects because they often have an artistry all of their own.

This is an excellent time to try alternative techniques like black and white, high contrast, or muted color tones.



<https://unsplash.com/photos/WL8ePvjN75E>

Martin Zemlickis – No EXIF

Ensure that you compose your image close enough so that the intended detail is clearly visible to a viewer.

Notice how the keyhole's high contrast black and white image treatment provides a more artistic interpretation of the subject than the more 'snapshot'-looking photo of the door handle.



Assignment:

Shoot a bunch of doors and windows while focusing your attention on the hardware. Play around with unique lighting or out-of-the-ordinary post-processing. Try to make your chosen hardware visually demanding of your viewer.

Color Schemes and Exotic Colors



<https://unsplash.com/photos/nF66LmjQcII>

LoboStudio Hamburg – No EXIF

You can create some pretty fantastic color images of doors and windows by searching for that one neighbor who likes wild colors.

Keep color schemes in mind while shooting doors and windows, especially if you are on vacation in an exotic location.

The color schemes found in New Orleans will be vastly different from those found in London. The color schemes found in Buenos Aires will look nothing like those found in Charleston, South Carolina.



<https://unsplash.com/photos/WjIB-6UxA5Q>

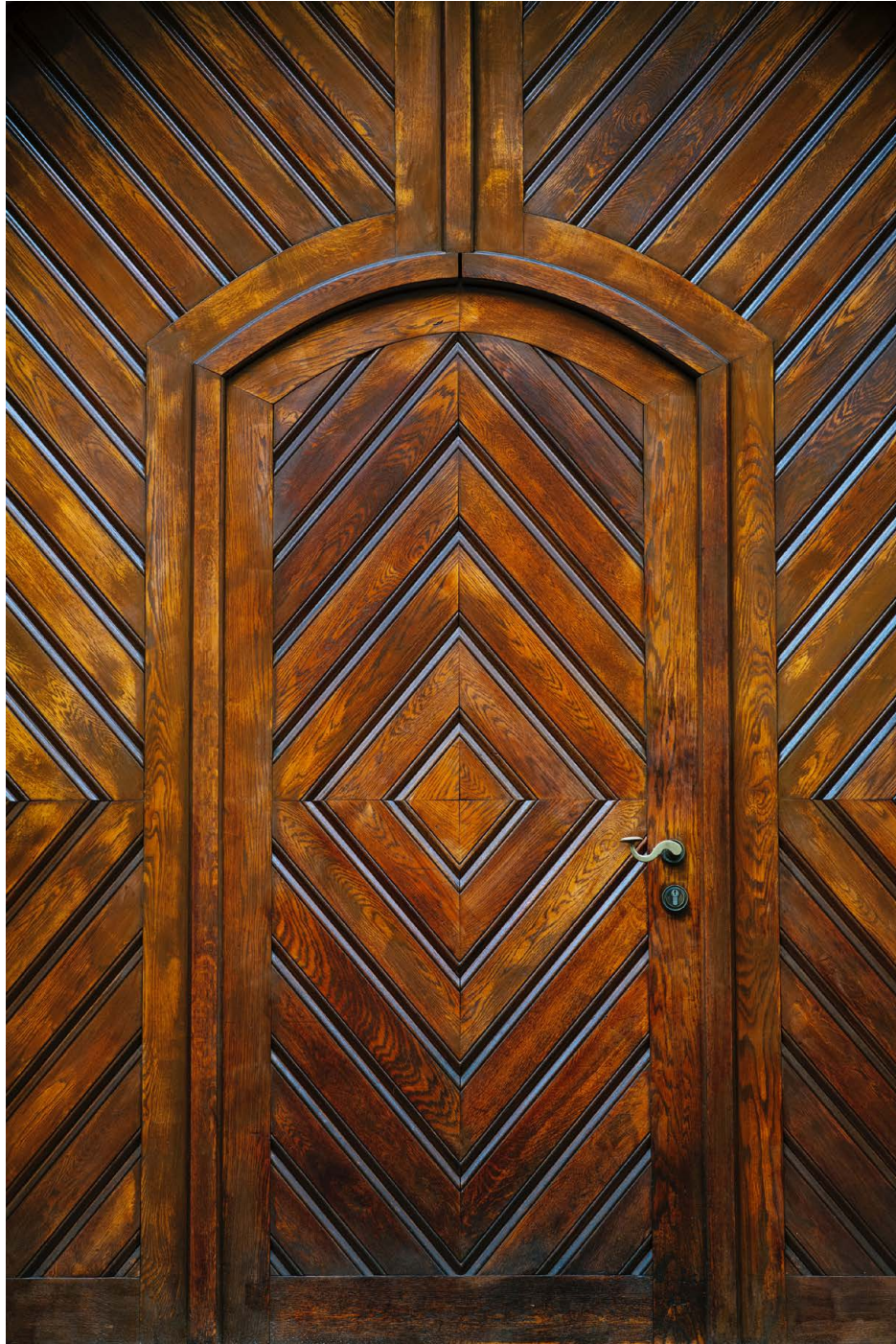
Luis Alfonso Orellana – Canon EOS Rebel SL1, 18mm lens, f/5, 1/400th, ISO 400

Most cities will have an area that is known as the living space for artists and musicians. These locations will often have very unique windows and doors. Before traveling, do a little research to see where there might be such a location on your itinerary.



Assignment:

This Creativity Prompt is all about color. Find those colorful locations and compose your shots so that the subject literally flies off of the page!

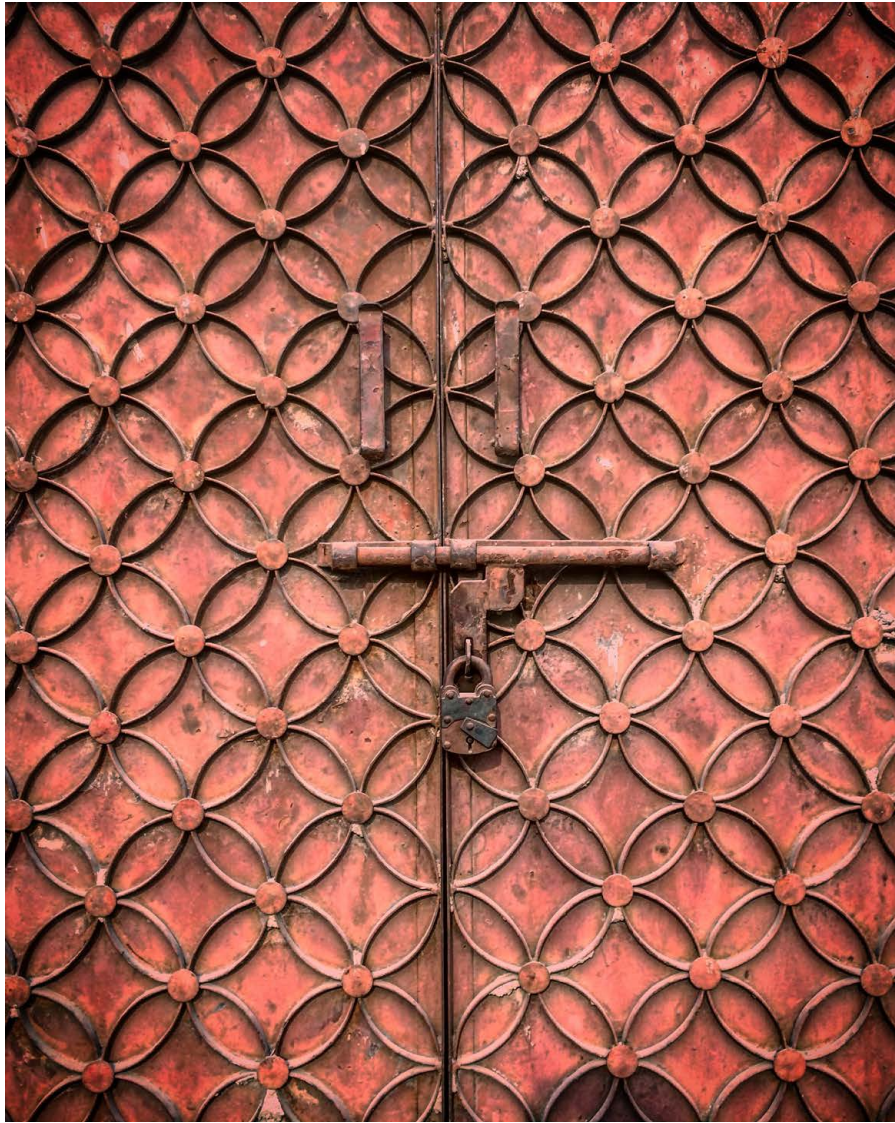


<https://unsplash.com/photos/2GGOT72tkzk>

Markus Spiske – Canon EOS 5D Mark III, 85mm, f/3.2, 1/160th, ISO 160

A strong pattern can quite literally carry a photo all on its own.

For those of us who love photographing doors and windows, we are fortunate because these subjects often incorporate patterns into the design of the architecture.



<https://unsplash.com/photos/UNqUCeCXIkI>

Sharjeel Khalid – No EXIF

A pattern-reliant photo is typically more robust when there is a break in the pattern. Try to keep the break pertinent to your story and mood.



Assignment:

Create a body of work (at least ten images that you feel are portfolio worthy) that capture patterns in doors and windows. Keep an eye on your lighting. Try to highlight texture and form. If possible, include a break in the patterns.

Side Light and Spot Lighting



<https://unsplash.com/photos/mDZct0iTegc>

Zeeshan Wani – Fujifilm X-T20, 35mm lens, f/8, 1/240th, ISO 200

Side lighting accentuates texture. Spot lighting forces the eyes to a particular location. Combine these two elements and you have a powerful photograph!

This type of light is often created early or late in the day. Look for locations where the existing light makes its way through buildings, trees, or other obstructions that are molding the light into a spotlight effect.



Assignment:

Create a body of work with side and spotlighting. Create theatrical images. Look for unusual textures, color schemes, and deep shadows.

Evaluation:

- 1 Did you capture attractive backlighting not only through windows but perhaps a window in a door?
- 2 Did you try windows that were at different levels of cleanliness? Did the clarity of the glass affect the mood?
- 3 Were you able to capture any unusual shapes in a window?
- 4 Did you try including drapes and blinds? Did it affect the lighting and composition?
- 5 What was your favorite form of repetition: symmetrical or asymmetrical?
- 6 Did you utilize the Rule of Odds?
- 7 How did the Multicolor assignment go? Did you try taking pictures through colored glass?
- 8 Were you able to include the human element? Did you have trouble placing the human while keeping the doors or windows as the subject?
- 9 What types of exciting hardware did you find? Did you try some new or unique post-processing techniques? Did you try black and white?
- 10 Were you able to locate an area of artists and musicians? Did you find wild color schemes? How about some muted color schemes?
- 11 Were you able to find pattern breaks?
- 12 Did you locate some spotlighting?
- 13 What was your favorite technique in this Creativity Prompt?