

Back to Basics:
PHOTOGRAPHY
AFTER DARK

Orleans Photo Club
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WHAT WILL WE TALK ABOUT?

Will:

- Photography from around sunset into the night

Will Not:

- Use of flash
 - Indoor photos
- 
- A decorative graphic consisting of several parallel white lines of varying lengths, slanted diagonally from the bottom right towards the top right, located in the lower right quadrant of the slide.

SO, WHEN DOES IT GET DARK?

Lots of terms:

Golden Hour

Sunset

Blu Hour

Nautical Twilight

Astronomical Twilight

Night Time

Also:

- Alpenglow
- Belt of Venus
- Earth's Shadow
- Green Flash

AS THE SUN SETS AND AFTERWARD, THE COLOUR OF THE LIGHT CHANGES



Daytime

TERMS

Golden Hour

- More indirect light; Blue light scattered; light appears redder; longer shadows

Civil Twilight or Dusk

- Begins at sunset; Ends when centre of sun is 6 degrees below horizon

Blue Hour or Blu Hour

- More like 20-30 minutes; Blue wavelengths dominate; scattered in atmosphere; Redder wavelengths pass to space

TERMS

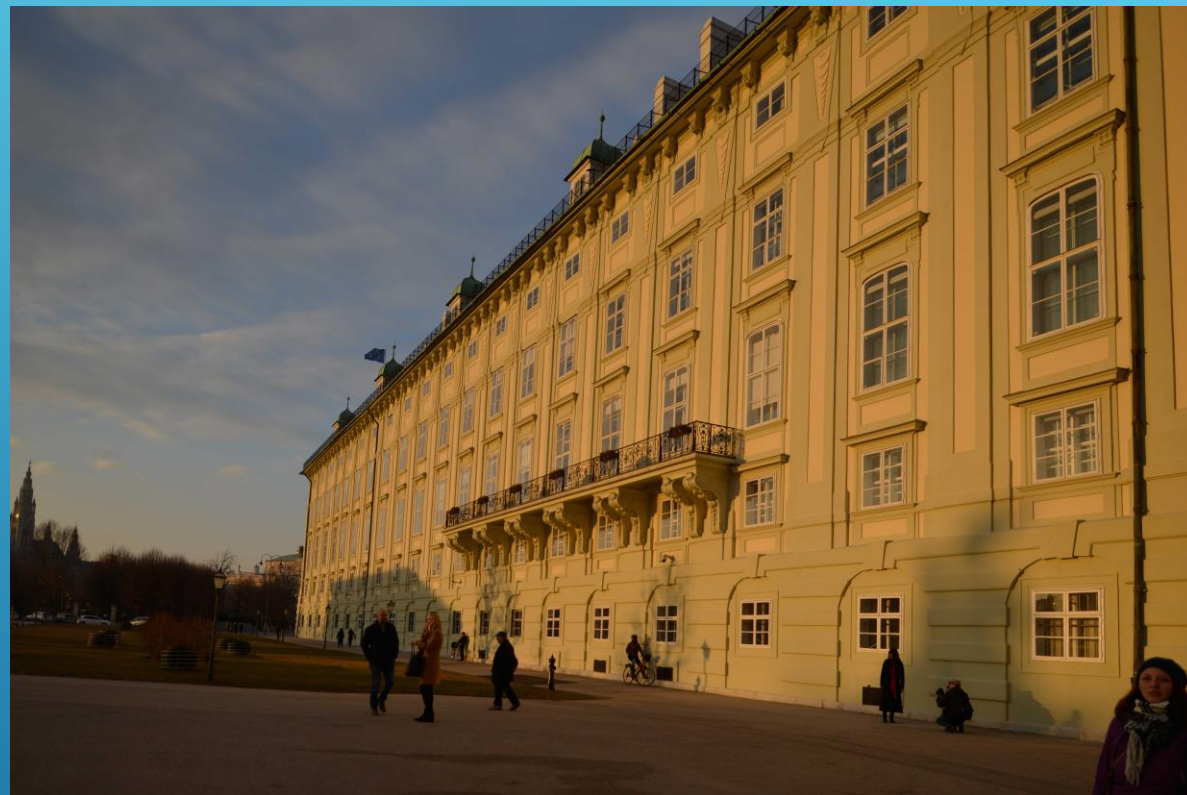
Nautical Twilight

- Can see stars and still see the horizon for navigation; Ends when centre of sun is 12 degrees below horizon

Astronomical Twilight

- To casual observers, the sky is dark in urban areas; Stars are visible but nebulae and galaxies are not; Ends when sun is 18 degrees below horizon

PHOTOGRAPHS IN THE GOLDEN HOUR



Pleasing shadows and
colour of light

PHOTOGRAPHS IN THE BLUE HOUR



Contrast warm artificial lights with cool sky colour

WHY TAKE PHOTOGRAPHS AFTER DARK?

For the:

- Sunsets
- Buildings
- Events
- People
- Features

Take advantage of:

- the nature of the light
- the changing colours of the light, or
- the absence of background light

Photographs can be completely different from daytime and much more interesting

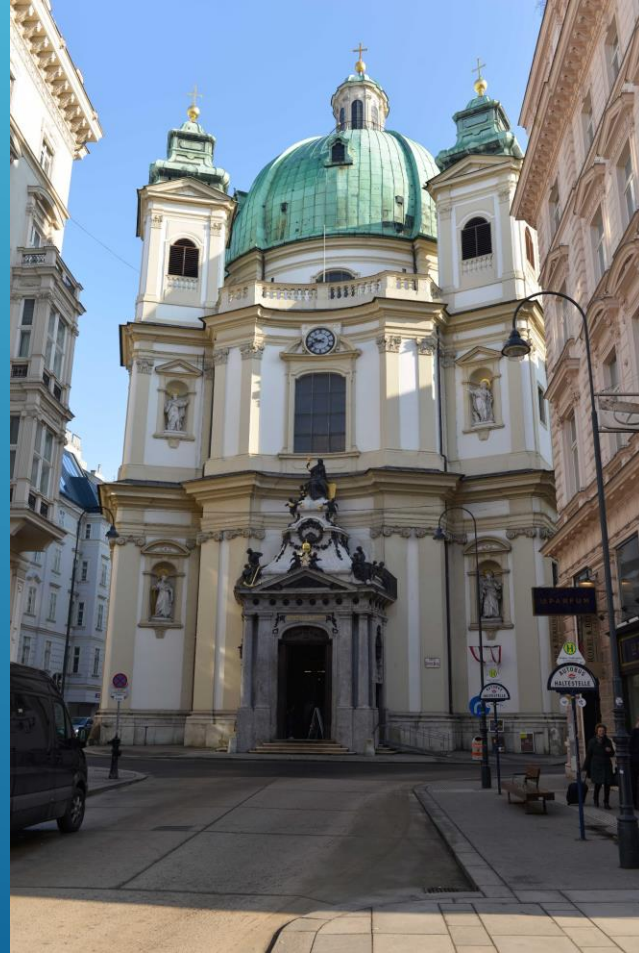
BUILDINGS CAN LOOK BETTER



Fewer distracting elements, more focus on the building structure

CONSISTENT LIGHTING, MORE DIRECTIONAL

And you
can take
your
time...



BUILDINGS CAN BE QUITE COLOURFUL!

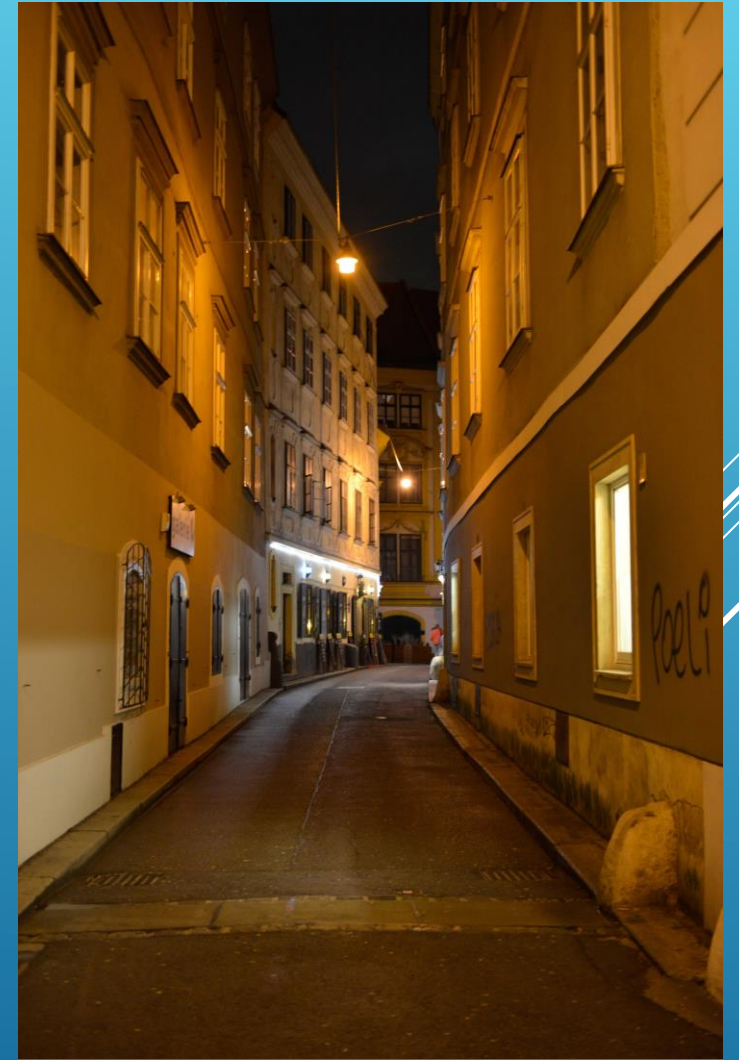




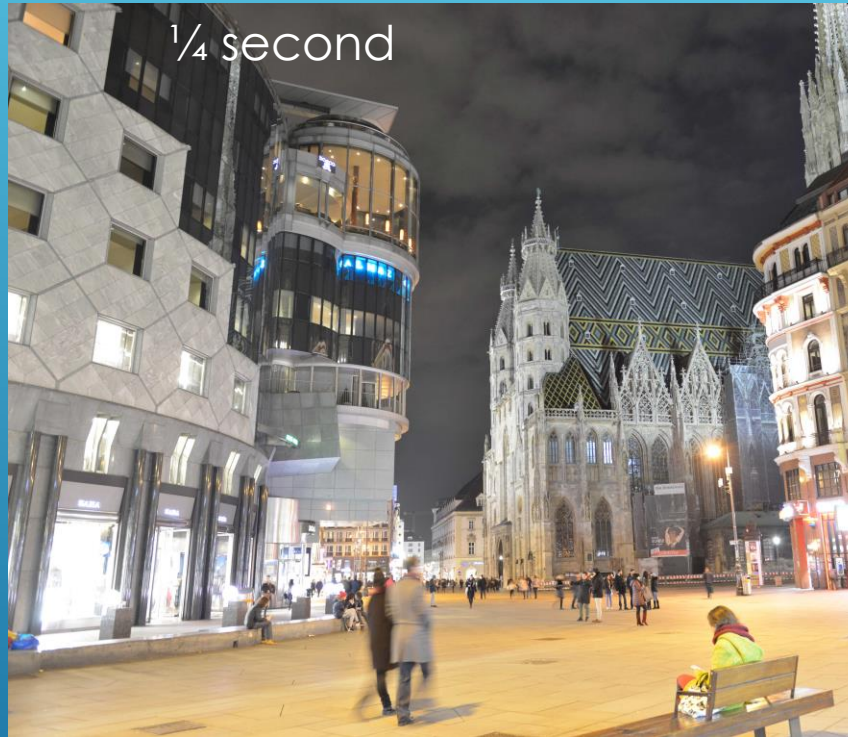
COMBINE ARTIFICIAL AND NATURAL LIGHT FOR DRAMATIC LIGHTING



THERE ARE USUALLY FEWER PEOPLE



...OR YOU CAN REMOVE THEM!



Use ND filter and small aperture to lengthen exposure time.



STREET PHOTOGRAPHY



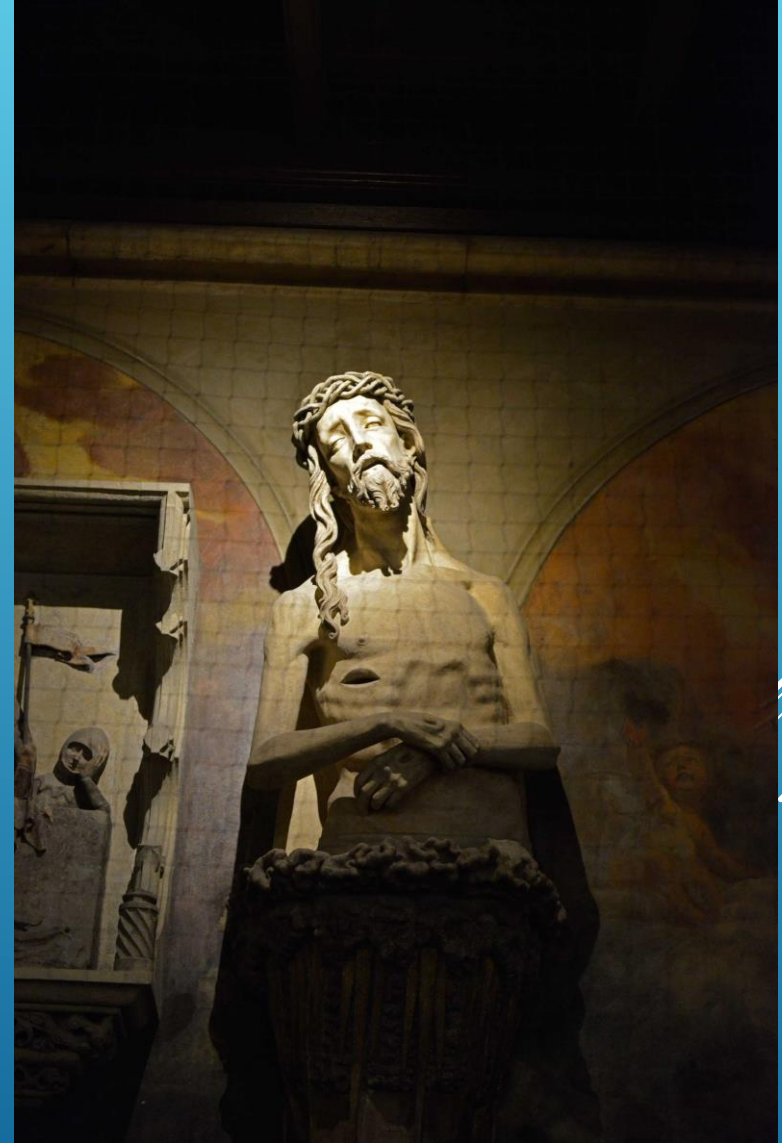
CAPTURE LOCAL CRAFTS



STATUES CAN LOOK BETTER AFTER DARK



Directional lighting and spot-lighting can enhance the emotion associated with an image



ISOLATE THE STATUE FROM THE BACKGROUND



ISOLATE PARTS OF THE STATUE OR FOUNTAIN



Often, there is the time to focus on specific part for interest

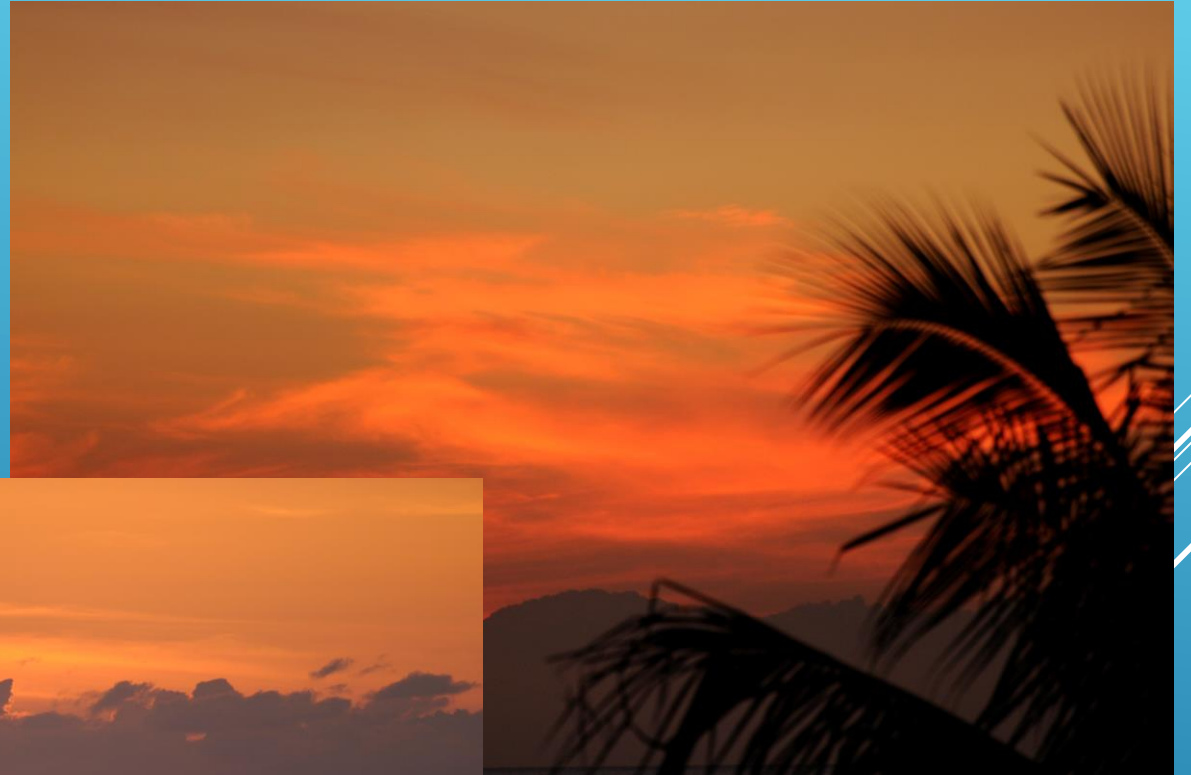
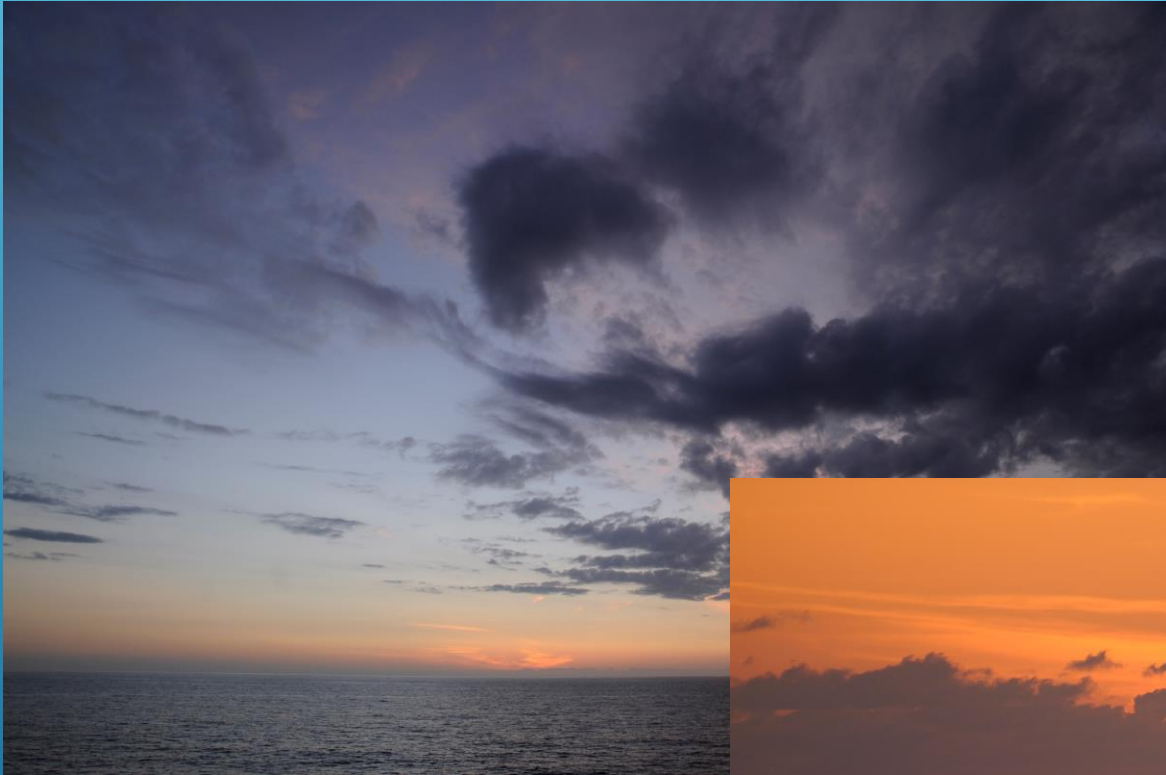
EASIER JUXTAPOSITION



More dramatic
views



SUNSETS ARE ALWAYS A CROWD FAVOURITE



Even when the sun is completely gone from the sky

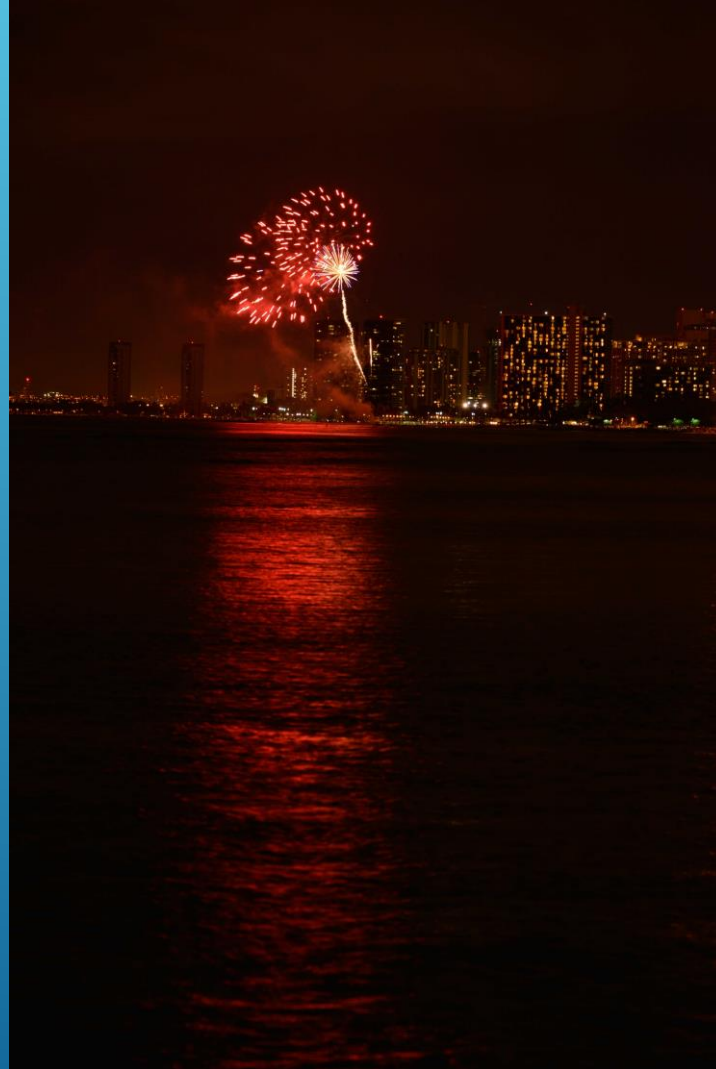
TRY CAPTURING THE GREEN FLASH



Right at the moment of sunset

WHAT FLASHES BETTER THAN FIREWORKS...

- Include water for reflections
- Time bursts to capture maximum firework
- Slow shutter speed to record full firework



...OR LIGHTNING?

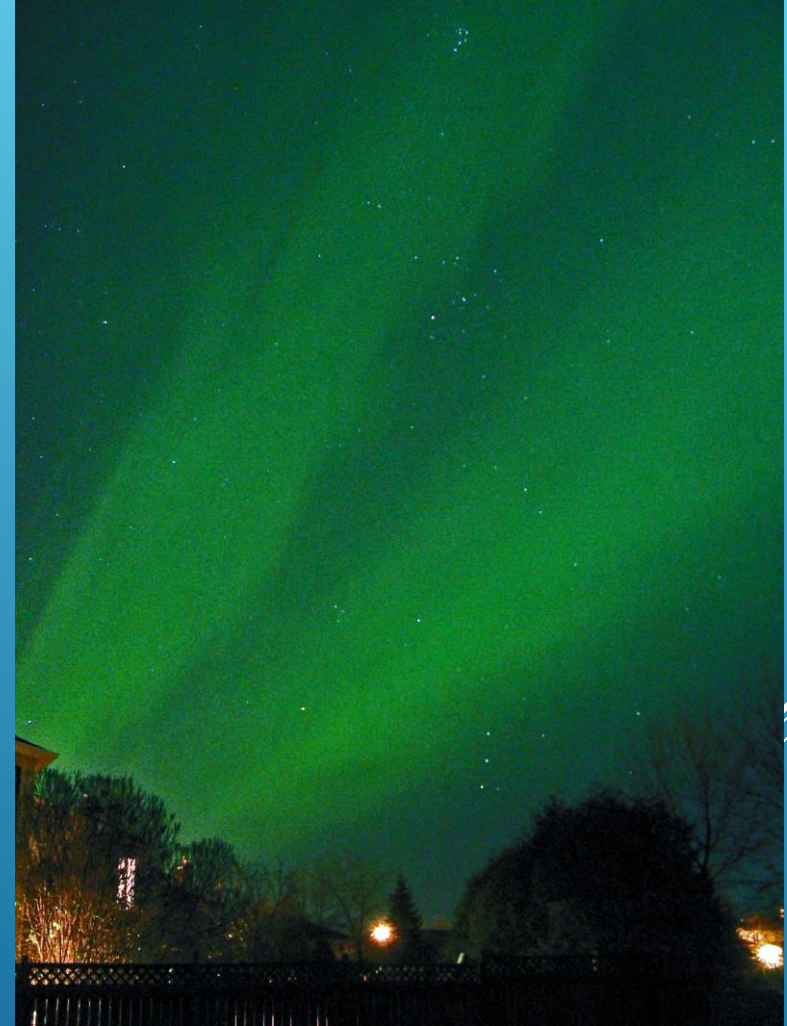


Anticipate strikes or use lightning trigger on camera

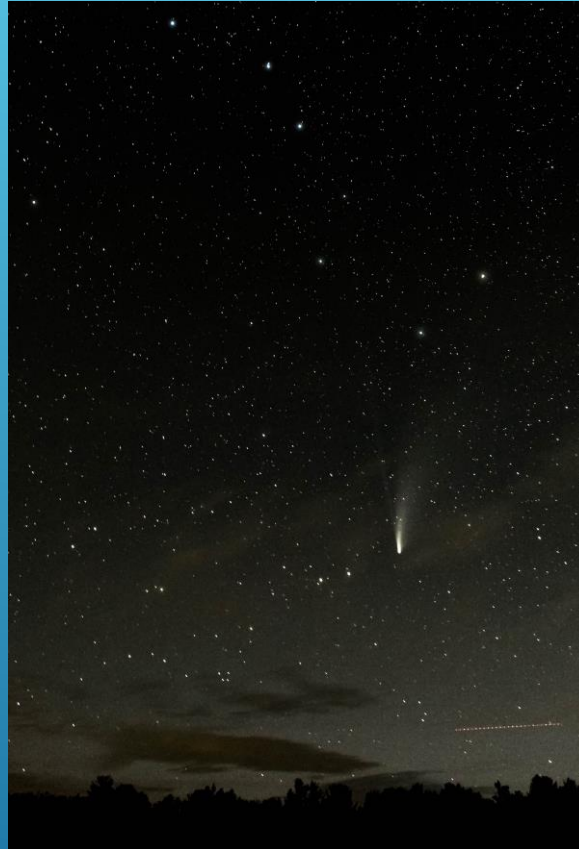
OR PULSES OF LIGHTS IN THE SKY?



Longer exposures capture it best



CAPTURE CELESTIAL BODIES AS THEY WHEEL IN THE SKY



Remember, these are sunlit objects and shorter shutter speeds are best

OR THE WHOLE SKY



Use the '500 rule' or a sky tracker

BRING HOME THE MOON – ON IT'S OWN



Use the “sunny 16”
rule to start



Even if
it's going
through
a phase!



OR AS PART OF A SCENE

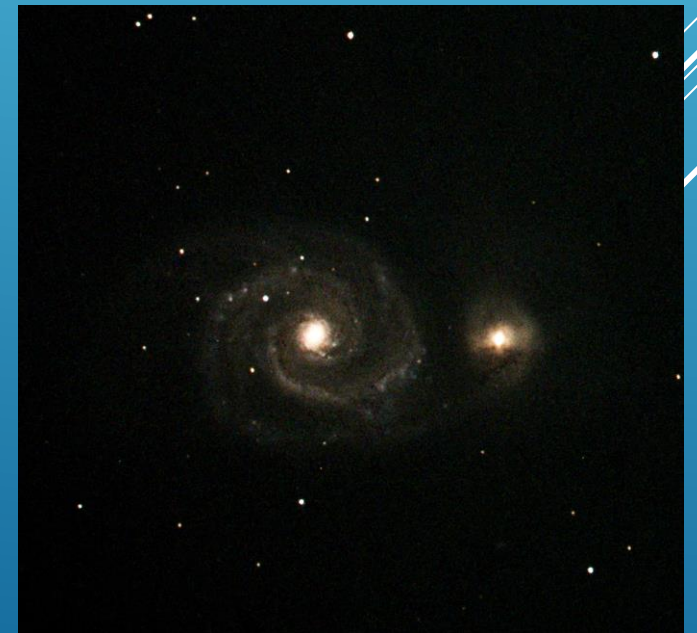


Blue hour is best so there is light in the sky – less contrast with bright moon

ASTROPHOTOGRAPHY



May require more
specialized
equipment



CHALLENGES OF PHOTOGRAPHY AFTER DARK

General:

- Exposure
- Camera movement
- Colour balance

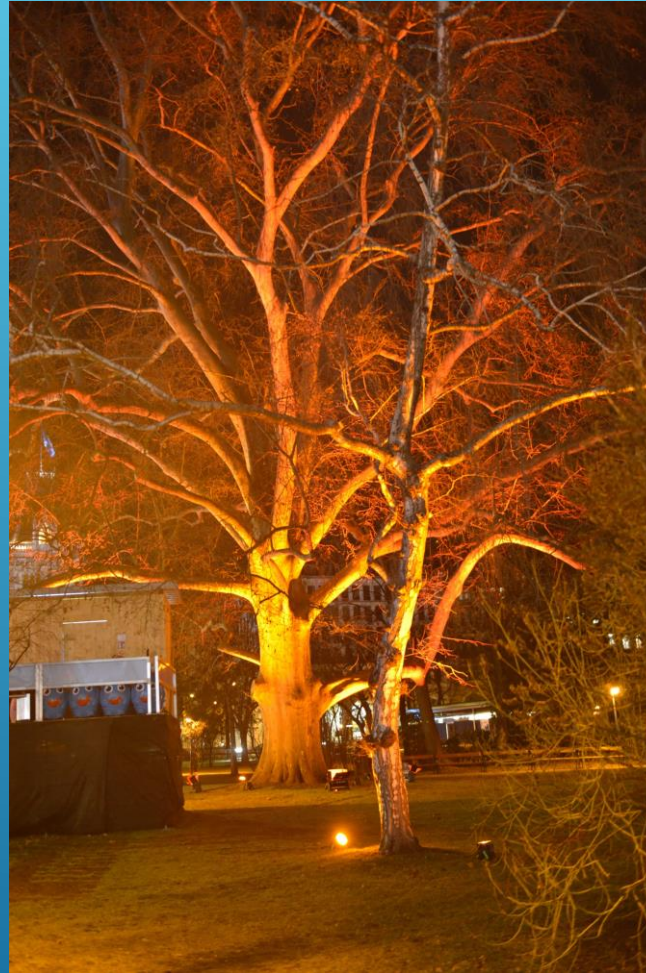
Specific:

- Noise (digital)
 - Reciprocity failure (film)
- 
- A decorative graphic consisting of several parallel white lines of varying lengths, slanted diagonally from the bottom right towards the top right, located in the lower right quadrant of the slide.

MEETING THE CHALLENGES

Exposure:

- Bracketing
- Use histogram function
- Start with recommendations
- Experiment (digital)



MEETING THE CHALLENGES

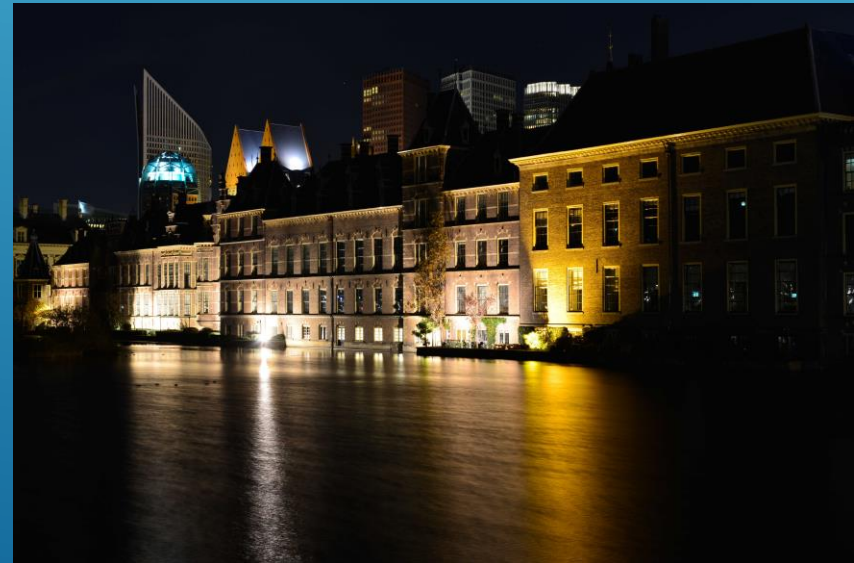
Camera movement:

- Tripod
- Beanbag
- Rest on nearby surface or ground
- Increase ISO

Use remote release or self-timer



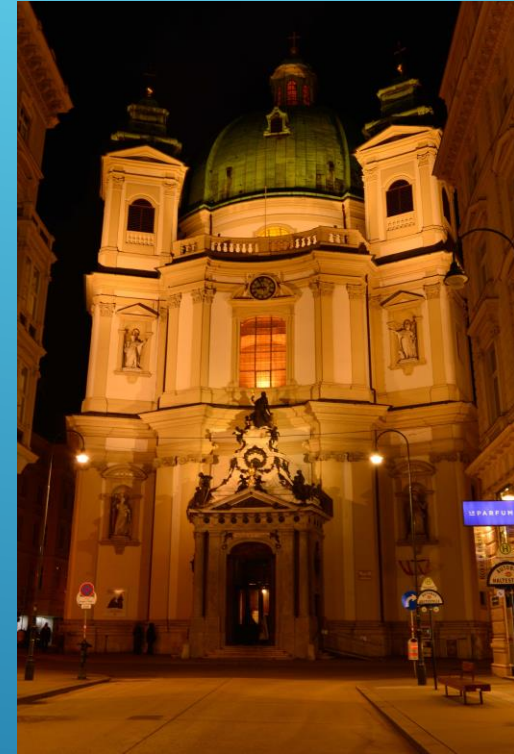
Use a long exposure to smooth the water; enhancing the reflections



MEETING THE CHALLENGES

Colour balance:

- Shoot RAW
- Use main light source as white level
- Custom white balance
- Use filters, if necessary

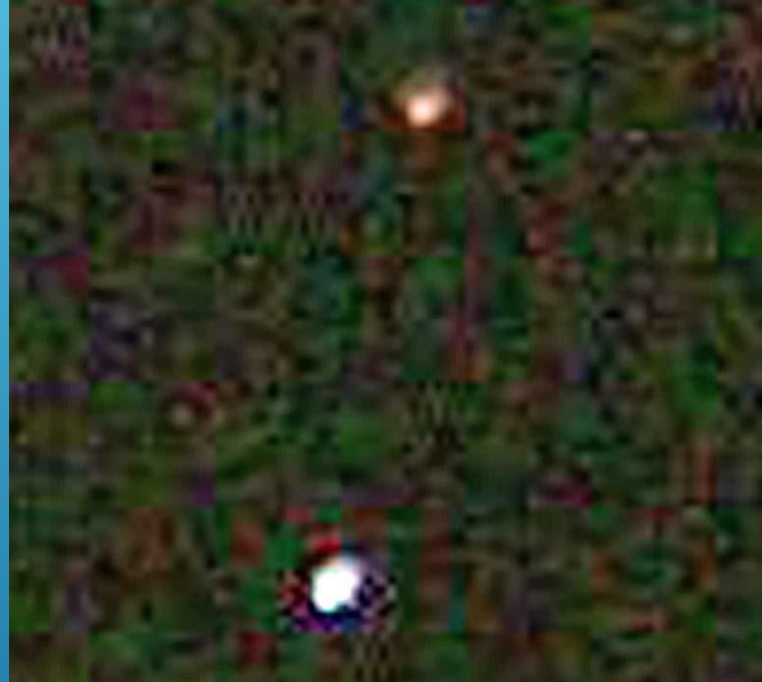


Experiment – sometimes different can be good!

MEETING THE CHALLENGES

Noise:

- Digital camera issue
- Hot pixels or amplifier noise
- Use lowest ISO
- Minimize exposure time
- Use noise reduction feature on camera



MEETING THE CHALLENGES

Reciprocity failure:

- Film camera issue
- Film exposure does not behave in linear fashion
- Use published tables
- Compensate – exposure time, aperture or both
- Use slide film – handles underexposure better

Table 1
Exposure and Development Adjustments
for Most Black-and-White Films

If Indicated Exposure Time Is (Seconds)	Use This Lens-Aperture Adjustment	OR	This Adjusted Exposure Time (Seconds)	AND Use This Development Adjustment
1/1000,000*†	+1 stop		Change aperture	+20%
1/10,000*†	+½ stop		Change aperture	+15%
1/1,000	None		None	+10%‡
1/100	None		None	None
1/10	None		None	None
1	+1 stop		2	-10%
10	+2 stops		50	-20%
100	+3 stops		1200	-30%

* Not applicable to EKTAPAN Film.

† Not recommended for TRI-X Pan Professional Film.

‡ EKTAPAN Film does not require an adjusted development time at 1/1000 second.

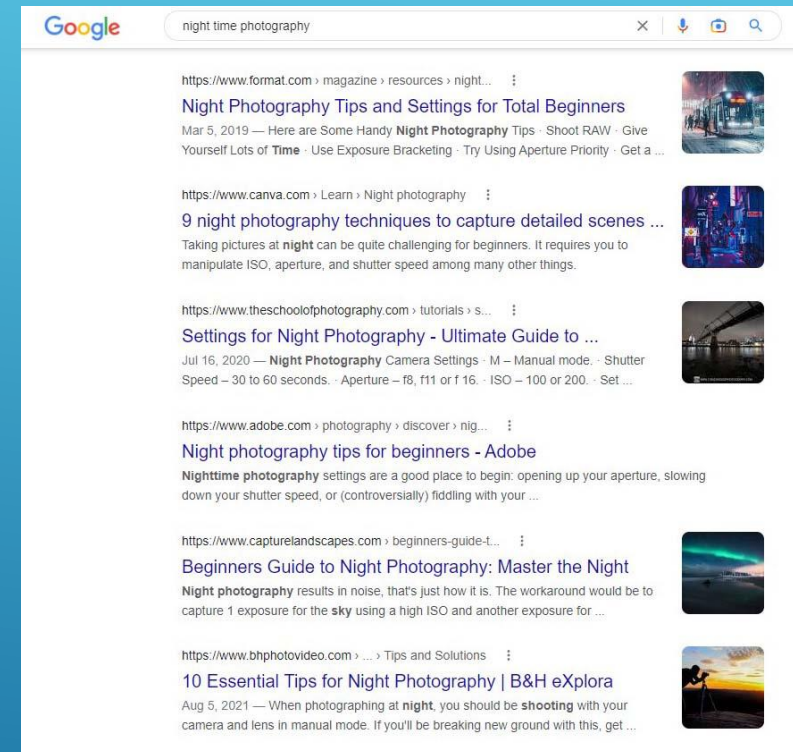
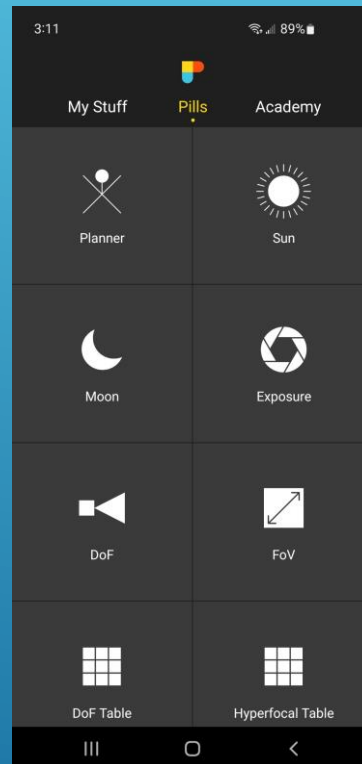
LEARN AND EXPERIMENT

Resources:

➤ Web sites

➤ Apps

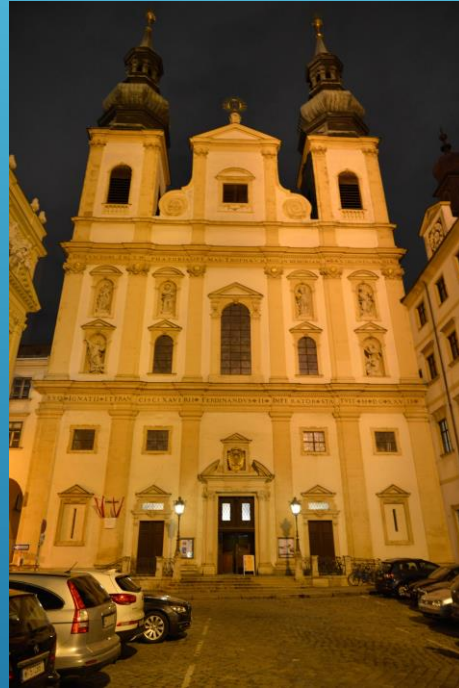
➤ Books



Seek out information specific to the type of after-dark photography that you want to try

THE BEST TEACHER IS EXPERIENCE

Don't always wait for the right day to photograph something



Instead, why not make a **night** of it?

QUESTIONS?



Got a suggestion for
the next
Back-to-Basics?



Let me know:

fun_photography@hotmail.com

