




Orleans House Gallery

Photographing Orleans House Gallery: a basic introduction to taking architectural photographs with Sophie Corben Griffin

This activity involves looking through your camera viewfinder at the building and making decisions on what you want to shoot. We are thinking about using an adult's smart phone camera, but you can use a camera too.

Share your creations with us  @orleanshousegallery #OrleansHouseGallery.

Things to consider in your decision making:

COMPOSITION

Composition means the way things are put together and arranged. You can't move the objects in a building, but you can choose what is in the centre of your image, and where the different parts of the building are within the frame.



MESSAGE

Consider how the building was built and how it's been used. All this information can give direction to your photos and help you decide the style of images you want to achieve. For example, for the older areas of the building, you might want to experiment with black and white photography. For the new areas of the building you could focus on the graphic lines and shapes.



This is a painting of Orleans House from around 1750 by Dietzsch. Most of the building is no longer here after the main house was knocked down in 1926, but we still have some reminders of the building in the woods, the Octagon Room and connecting building and the Stables Block.

EXPLORE

Walk around the outside of the building and explore the inside (if possible). Get a feel for the site. What parts of the building really stick out to you? Stand back from the building and try to look at the simple outline of the structure and take in some of the pivotal areas such as annexes (a building joined to the main building), doors, windows and shapes that stand out.



LIGHTING

Most buildings will have their own lighting system; you need to avoid double shadows created by the competition between the electric and natural light sources. Orleans House Gallery is not lit in the daytime. You want to avoid shadows and darkened areas.



LINES

To create guiding lines, architectural photographers use expensive cameras and a wider lens, however, you can achieve some of these effects if you play around with your smart phone camera to find a different angle and composition.



Try to imagine the building as if it were a drawing made up of lines. Move your camera around trying to find lines that lead the viewer's eye from one part of the building to another or towards any striking elements you see. Try changing the composition/angle to see what you can see in the frame of the camera.



DETAILS

What areas of detail can you see that you like? You can also take photos of details such as the patterns and textures of the building or architectural features.



