

Top tips for photographing buildings



1. Think about **why** you are taking photos. **What story do you want to tell?**
2. **Before you go**
 - a. **check** if you need **permission** to **access or photograph the building**.
 - b. make sure your camera or phone **battery is fully charged**.
 - c. **practise** with your camera or phone camera. Tripods can be helpful but are not essential.
 - d. **dress for the weather** and let someone know where you are going.
3. **On arrival take time to explore your building, inside and out. The more you stare, the more you see!**
 - a. what is the **character of the building**?
 - b. what are its **significant features**? **What do you like**?
 - c. **how does light change the look of the building**? Think about time of the day and the year, the weather, outside v. inside.
 - d. what **shapes and lines** can you see in the building? What **materials** are used?
4. **Think about composition**
 - a. is the **subject** of your photo **vertical or horizontal**?
 - b. how could you **frame** your shot?
 - c. **move your body** to find different viewpoints.
5. **Start with the big picture and finish with the details, both outside and inside.**
 - a. the big picture could be one side of a street, a group of buildings or an overall view of one building.
 - b. for each building take straight-on views of each exterior elevation (side) and room inside.
 - c. details could include structure, materials, decoration, fittings and furniture.
6. **Keep a record of your photography.** You could use a photo register to do this (see over).
7. **Get photographing! Outside first, then inside. Mind where you are standing; be safe!**
8. **Review your photos before you leave. Have you got everything you want?**
9. **Upload your digital photos. Check the size and quality. Label and save them! Don't forget to back them up.**
10. **Share!** Add your photos to Canmore via SUP's Urban Detectives.

