

BUILD

CHRISTINA MEDEIROS

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INTRO- DUCTION

Introduction Statement

For this project, the main theme of my work surrounded the comparison of old and new urban architecture / cityscape in Boston. Before we submitted the project proposals, I took a walk and was thinking about what I wanted to do for this assignment when I came across one of the new hotels in Seaport. When I saw the construction, I noticed the difference between the structure and energy of the new hotel versus an 80-year old restaurant across the street. This became the drive behind my entire project which I started by making a few lists with locations I thought I would eventually like to shoot at. However, I realized that during the “New Work” presentations over the past 3 weeks, my peers responded to the photos I took spontaneously, more than the ones I had preplanned. Keeping in mind that I also thought of this project on a walk, I knew that in order to make my final project successful, I would need to keep that sense of unprompted exploration. When it came time to take the photos, the only plan I had made (if any) was the general location I was heading as well as an aim to shoot with a small aperture. In total, I did about seven to ten sessions in different locations with varying architecture around Boston such as Copley, Seaport, the North End, Fenway, Chinatown, Government Center, and the Boston Commons. Before this project, I had never taken the opportunity to experiment with black and white photography, so I knew that this was an aspect I wanted to use at least in the editing and post-production process. I did consider the inclusion of color for a while, but still found in class that I got the most constructive and positive feedback on the black and white images.

Structurally, I wanted to vary the perspective of the photos a bit, so about halfway through the project, I started to shoot from different vantage points to capture images like the one on page 18 of my portfolio. As for the sequencing, I really enjoyed the example portfolios we looked at that were double-paged E-books / E-publications since I thought they did an incredible job at naturally highlighting the differences between the images on a spread. Choosing which images to pair with which was difficult at points, but came quite easily when creating certain sets like “Down the Line” (pages 16-17) and “Look Up” (pages 10-11). These, along with “That Way” (pages 12-13), were paired considering perspective while the others were paired considering form and the composition of surrounding buildings or signage (“Structure” has very poignant straight/hard lines). Using the statement made by that comparison of dated and urban development to my advantage, I also highly relied on the way that each site and photo made me feel. Deciding the sequence of these sets was difficult, but I knew that I wanted to make it clear to the viewer that the “main attraction” is the contrast, which is ultimately why I placed “Look Up” first. Then, I wanted to also allow the viewer to realize that the pure structure is not what drives the similarities but rather can be expressed through perspective. I think “Structure” is visually the most contrasting of the series, but I really enjoy this set because of the sharp lines that connect them. Placing “Down the Line” fourth was an intentional signal back to the main theme, while I put “Empty Space” last since I felt the obvious contrast and that feeling of nostalgia while being excited for the future due to the similar grid-like form.

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"When we build, let us
think we build forever"
- John Ruskin

A series by Christina Medeiros .