

Architectural Photography

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For the Historic Districts Council

Two Most Important Things

The sun. Where's the sun?



You. Where are you?



Ooh!



Ahhh!

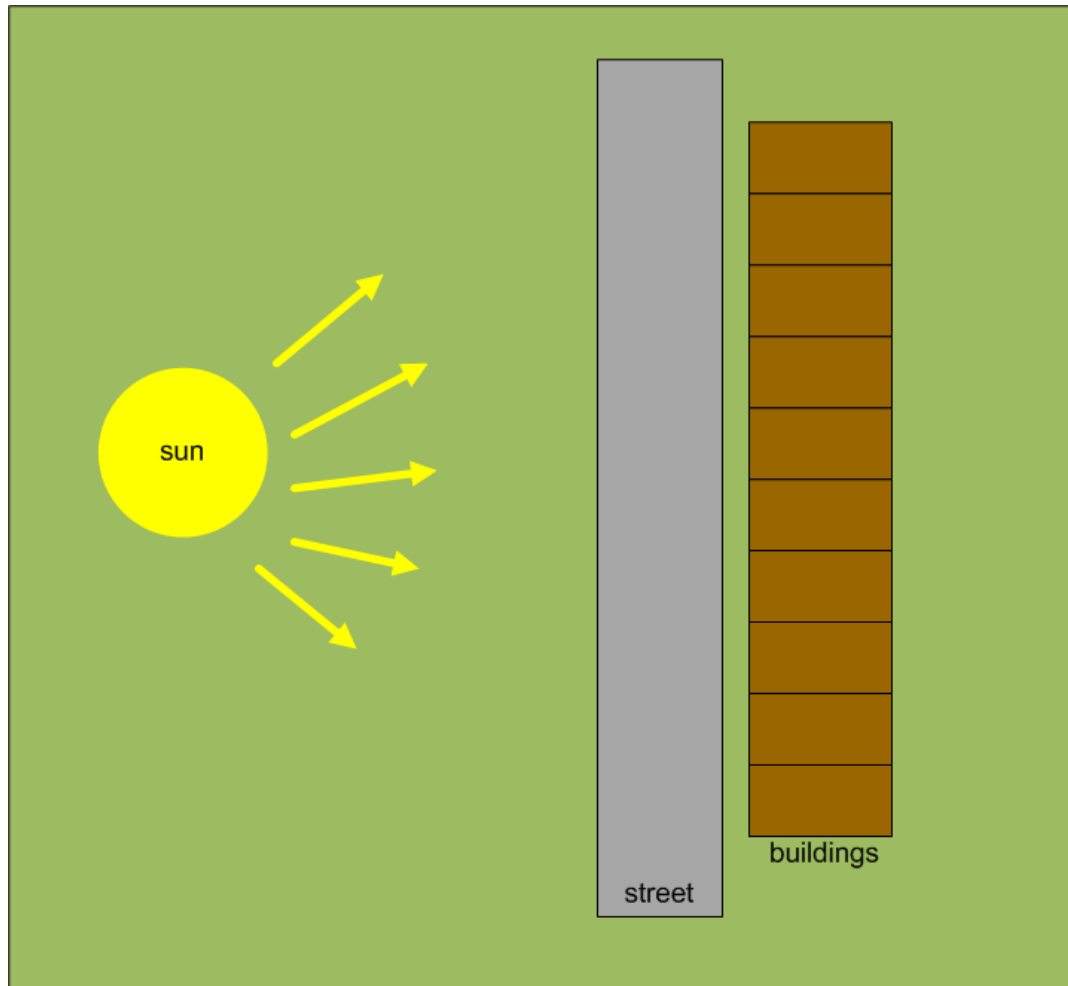


Ooooh!



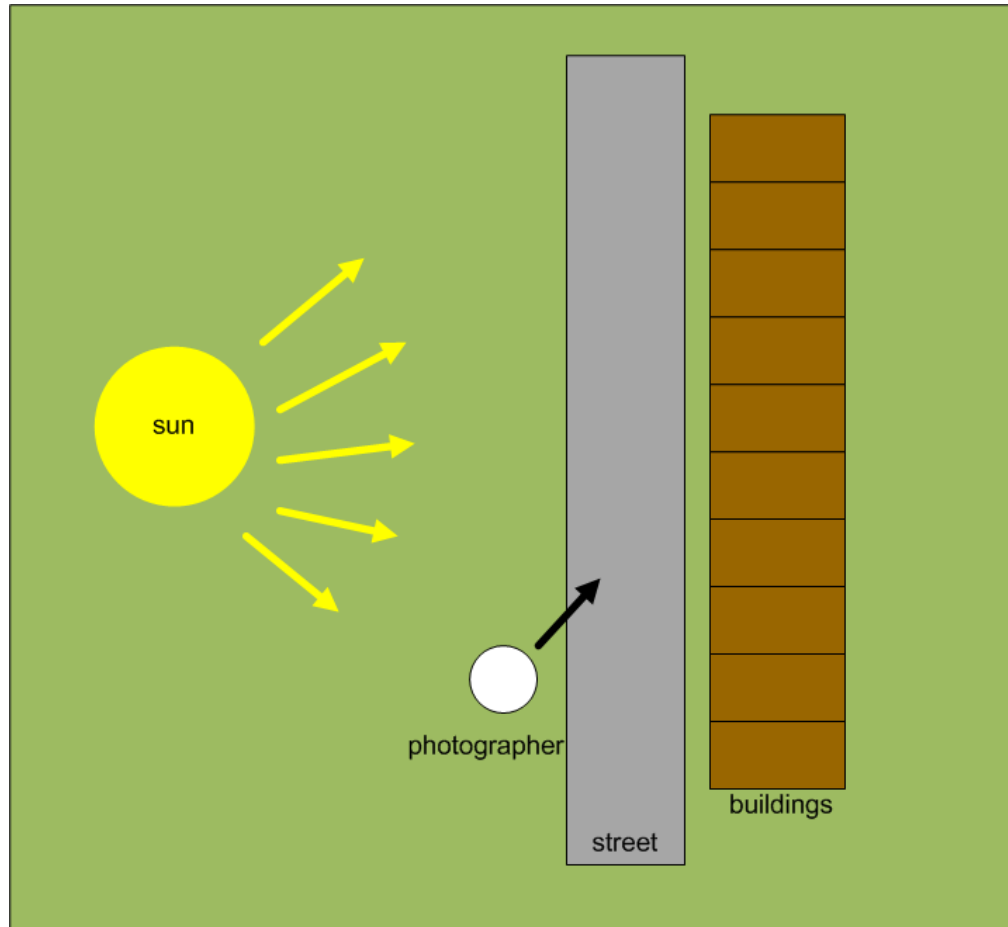
Where Is The Sun?

- Sunlight falling onto the face of the buildings



Where Are You?

- Positioned with sun at your back. Sun is a little off to the side and behind you.



Sun Behind You



Alternative: Sun Coming From Side



Scouting!

- Good photos don't just happen
- Go scouting and observe where the sun falls on the buildings at different times of the day
- Based on that, plan when to come back and shoot
- Shoot when the sun looks good, not when it's convenient for you



Sometimes Cloudy Is Better

Distracting shadows



Overcast = no shadows



Don't Look At The Sun



Don't Look At The Sun

Sun behind the building and you're shooting into the sun.



Sun from side. You are not shooting into the sun.



Sun Behind The Buildings

- Typical example of shooting into the sun.
- Lens flare, low contrast, general lackluster



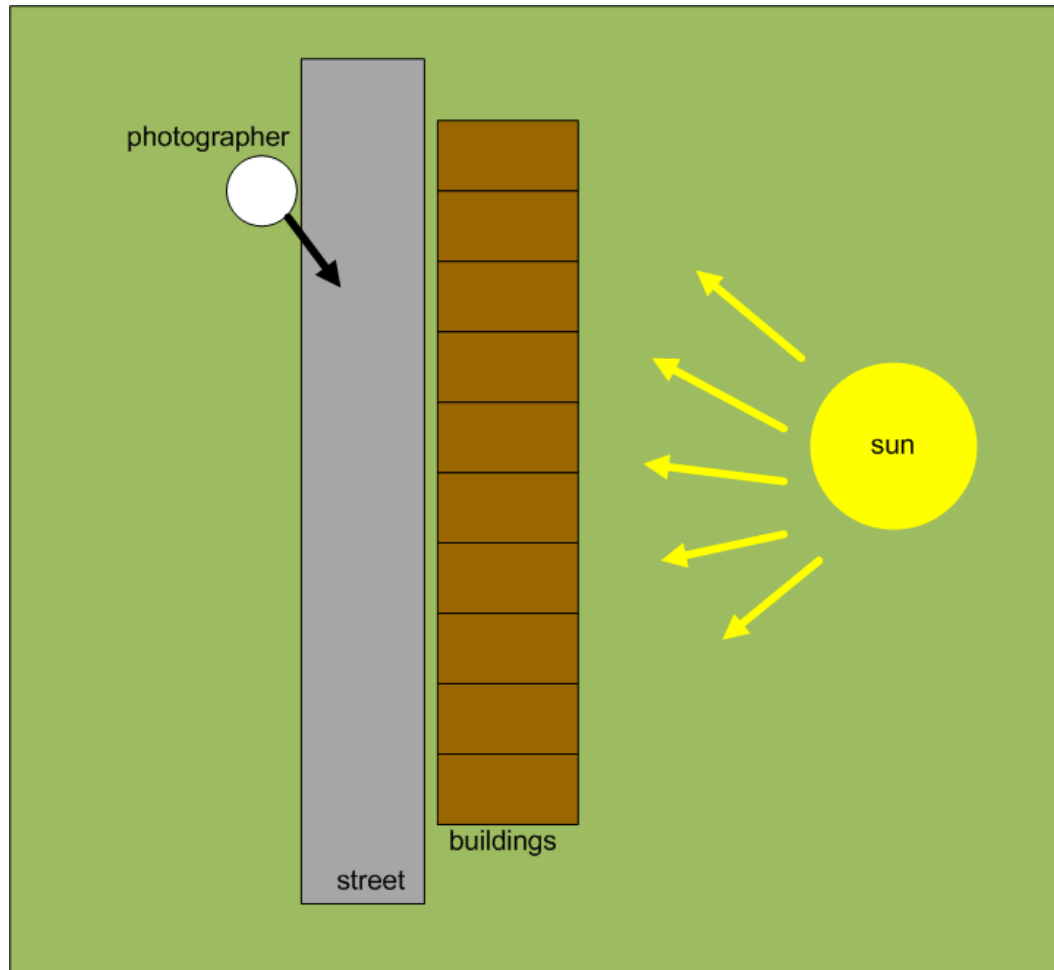
Sometimes Sun Behind The Buildings Is OK

- Sun behind the buildings is bad when you shoot into it
- But your position can make all the difference



Sometimes Sun Behind The Buildings Is OK

- The sun is behind the buildings
- But the camera isn't pointed directly into the sun



Where Are You?

Standing too close. Camera pointed up. Wide angle lens.



Standing across the street on a stoop (elevated). Zoomed in.



Tried From The Left And The Right

Shadows too dark and distracting. Thumbs down.



Tree branches causing visual chaos. Thumbs down.



Sometimes You Gotta Go With It

- Standing too close, with camera pointed up, using wide angle zoom was the “best” option in this case.



Obstacles!

Look, it's a yellow taxi!



Oh, wait, there's a house.



So Many Cars In The City

A full car is distracting



Just the top of a car is better



So Many Trees In The City

Trees can be distracting, especially when the sun lights them up.



Change position to avoid tree and change time of day to get different lighting.



The Leaves

- You can't see the buildings through the leaves.
- Shoot in March to early April.
- Shoot in fall after the leaves are down.



Don't Scalp The Building

Bad composition.



Good composition.



Think Like A Misanthrope

- Avoid people in your photos. They're a distraction.



Reshoots Are Necessary

First shot



Tried another angle



Reshoots Are Necessary

Then another



Then from across the street



Reshoots Are Necessary

- Got it. Finally. After a few reshoots.



The Good, The Bad, And The Ugly

- Work the “rules” to capture the bad stuff, too



Big Buildings

- Get far away. Get elevated if possible.



Post Production Corrections

Convergence

(looks like it's tipping backward)



Fixed in computer



What's Wrong?



What's Wrong?

- Resolved by shooting on overcast day and changing position



What's Wrong?



What's Wrong?



What's Wrong?



What's Wrong?



What's Wrong?



Questions?

