



THE LIPKA JOURNAL
PHOTOGRAPHS / STORIES / OBSERVATIONS

JOE LIPKA

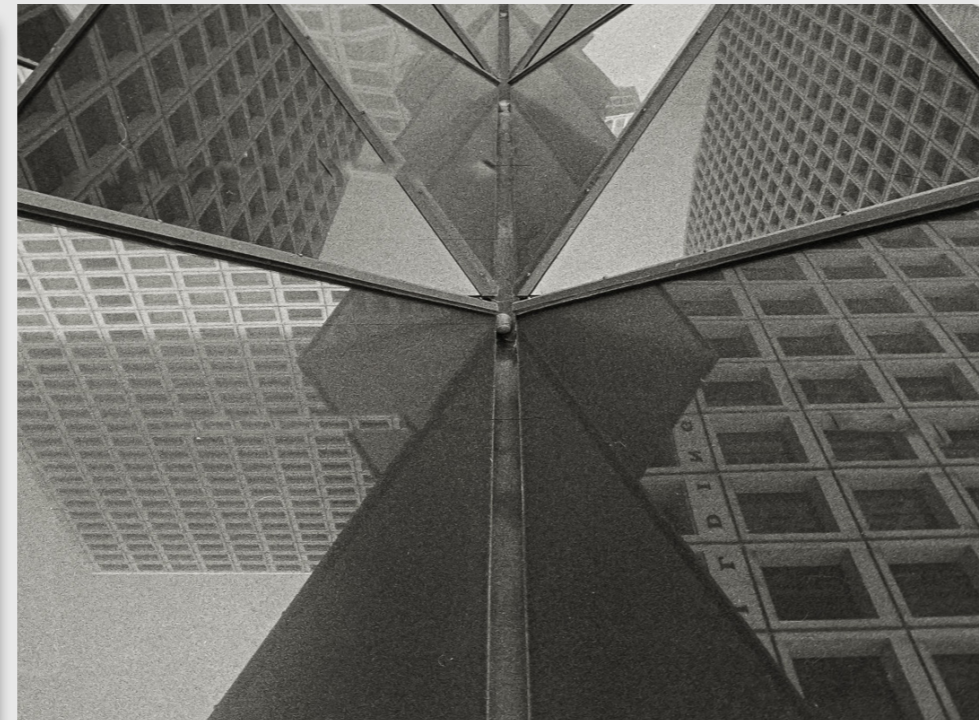
MAY 2022

WELCOME TO THE JOURNAL

MAY 2022



Cinder Cone Hills



Geometry Games



Ascending Steens Mountain



Memorial Day

This Month's Journal:

This is the beginning of the third year of the Journal and it's time to shake things up a little bit. Instead of a single image on this page, there are preview images for each of this issues projects.

In addition to these projects I'm continuing with a Six Word Project. The Six Word Project is an image that is essential to the accompanying Six Word Story.

A new feature is the Single Image Story, again, an image with a longer story. Sometimes a story needs more than six words.

All the content is bookmarked to make it easy to navigate this issue when you read it with the Adobe Reader.

Cinder Cone Hills





Cinder Cone Hills

We enjoy the peace and stillness of a landscape photograph. The serenity, balance and proportion of the compositional elements put us at ease. At least that's what we see today. The cinders came from volcanic eruptions. Today's pleasant and serene landscape was born in some of the most violent geologic events possible. The vegetation and animal life that survived the trauma began to build back the pre-eruption life. They have slowly succeeded in re-establishing their environment. At least, until the next eruption.



















Sven and the Shipyard

I asked Grandma Greta about that old photo leaning against the wall. She said my Great Great Grandpa Sven worked in the Tacoma shipyards during the First World War. They had just started building ships when Mr. Schwab visited. Sven was one of the men selected to spell out "Schwab" on the dock. Sven is at the base of the "W" with a hand on his hip. Sven said only the big shots at the shipyard got a photograph because they were so expensive during in the War Years. When Grandma Greta asked Sven how he got the photograph, Old Sven never answered her; he just smiled. It's one of those family mysteries.

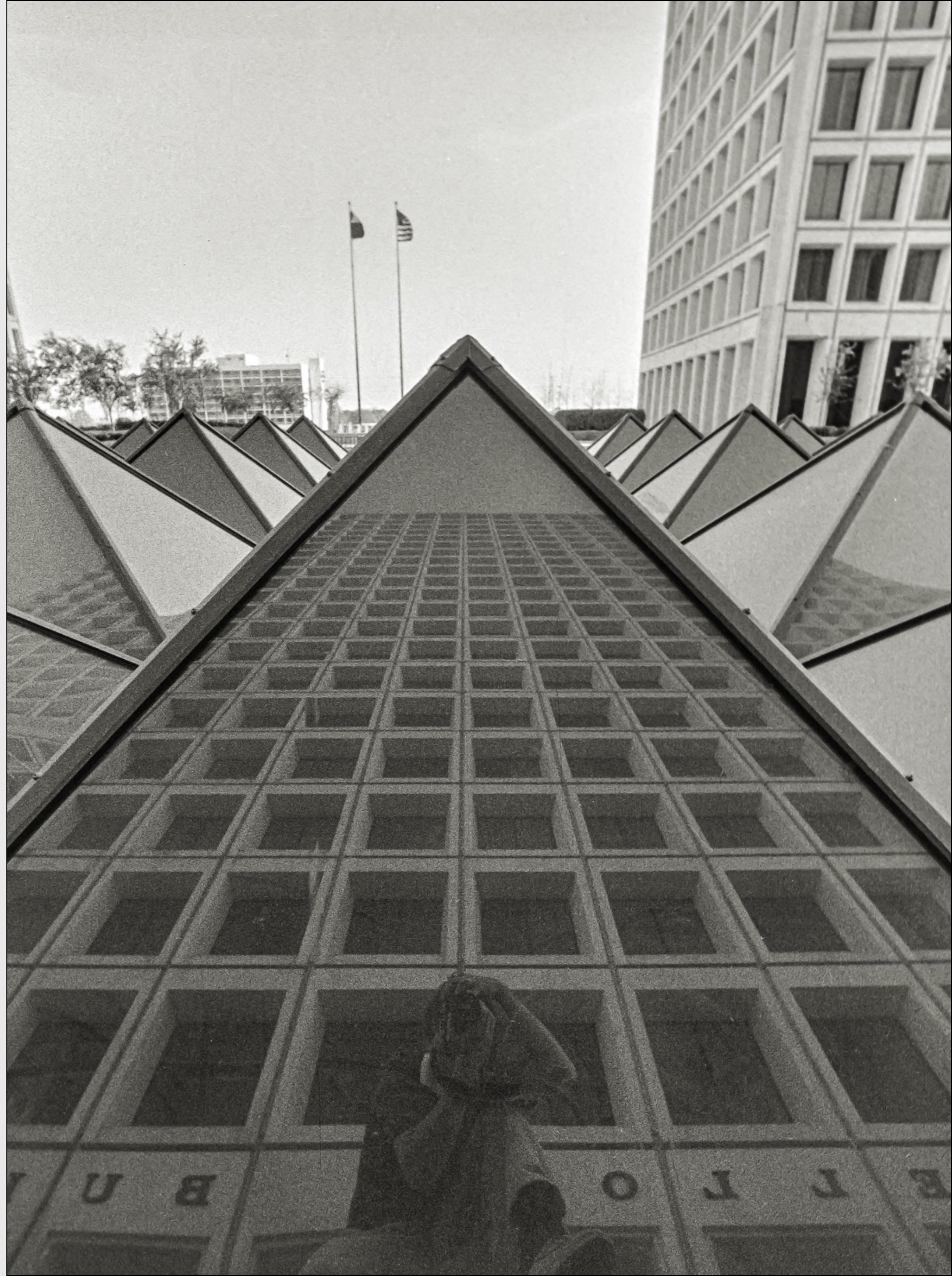


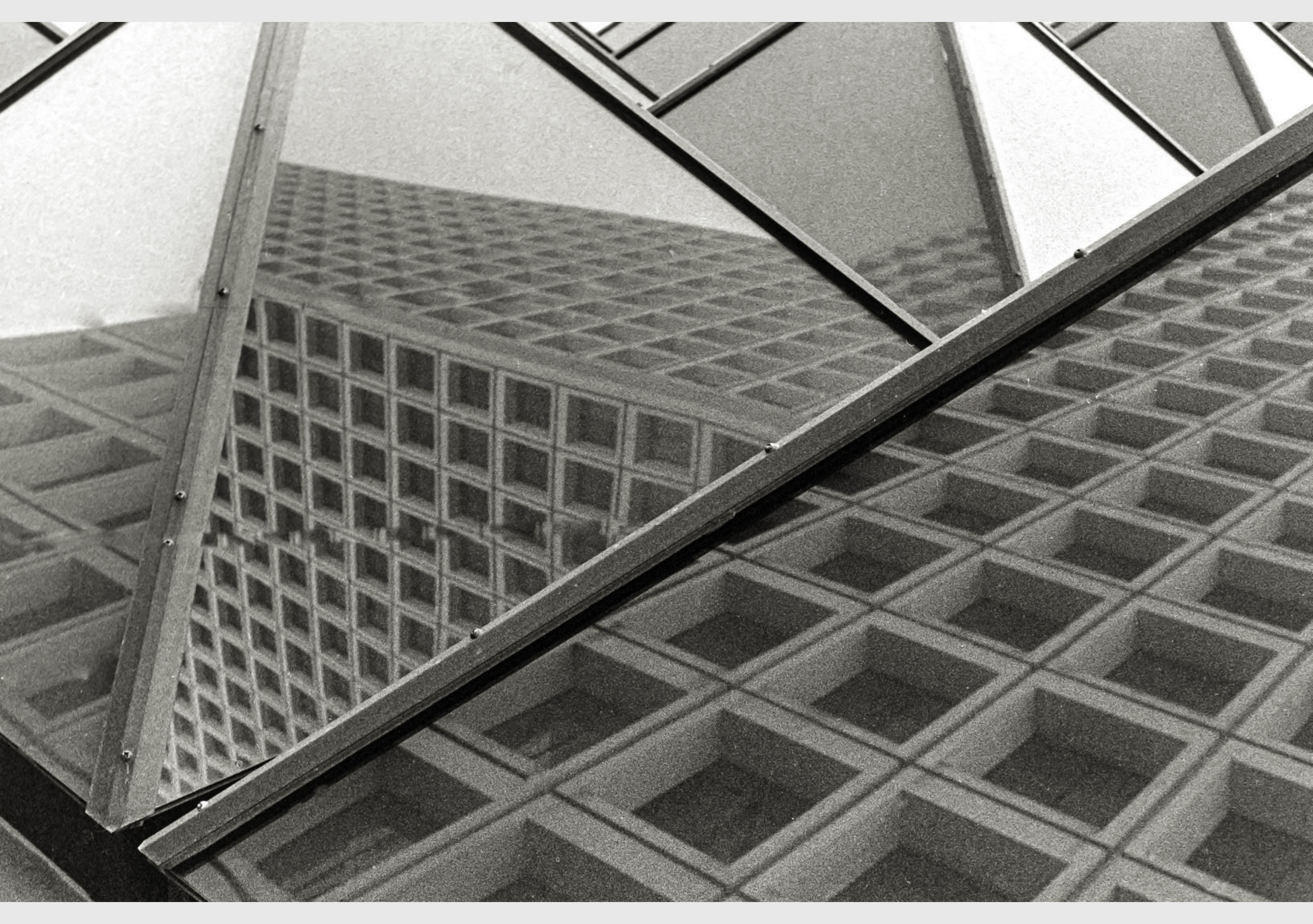
Geometry Games

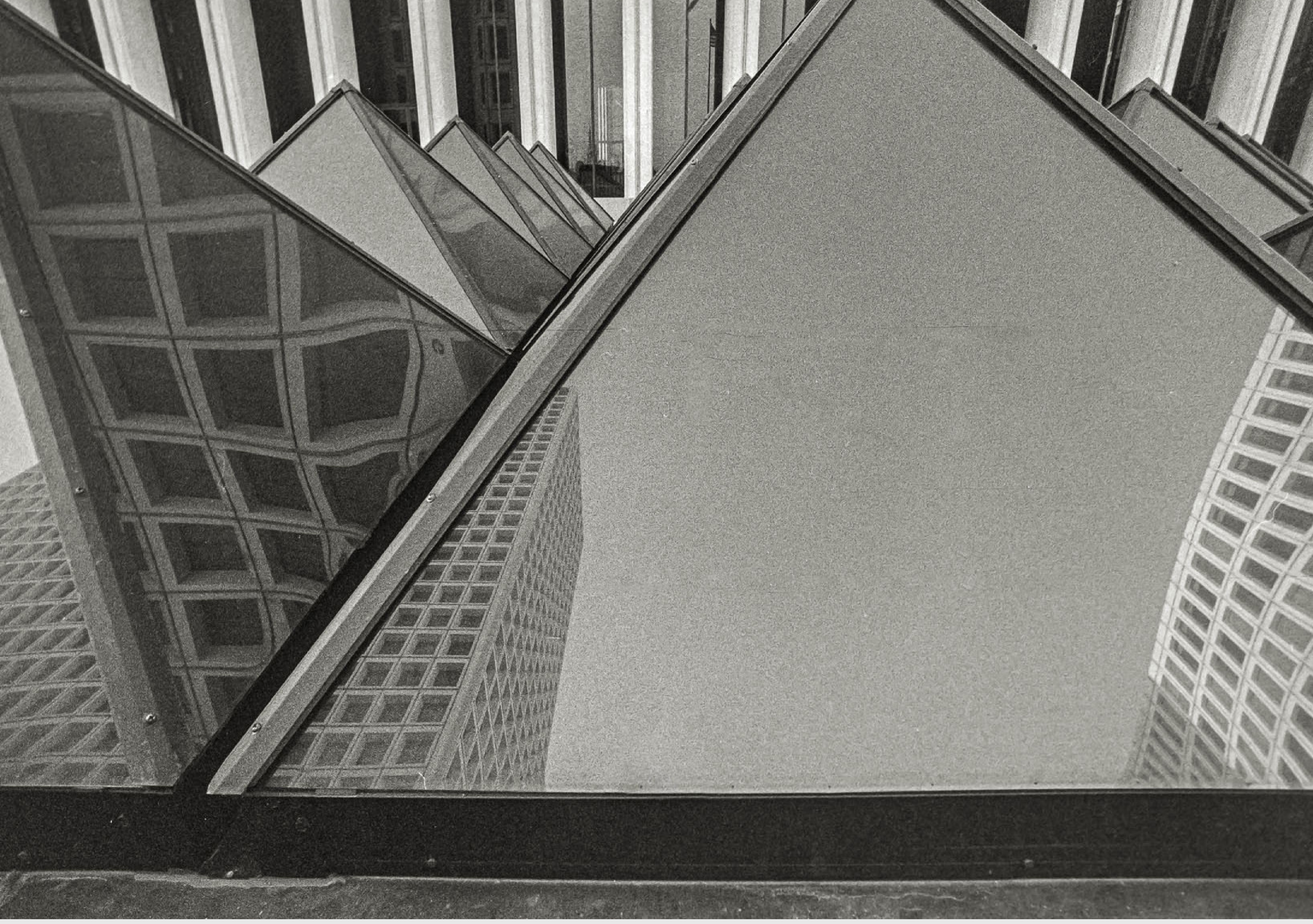
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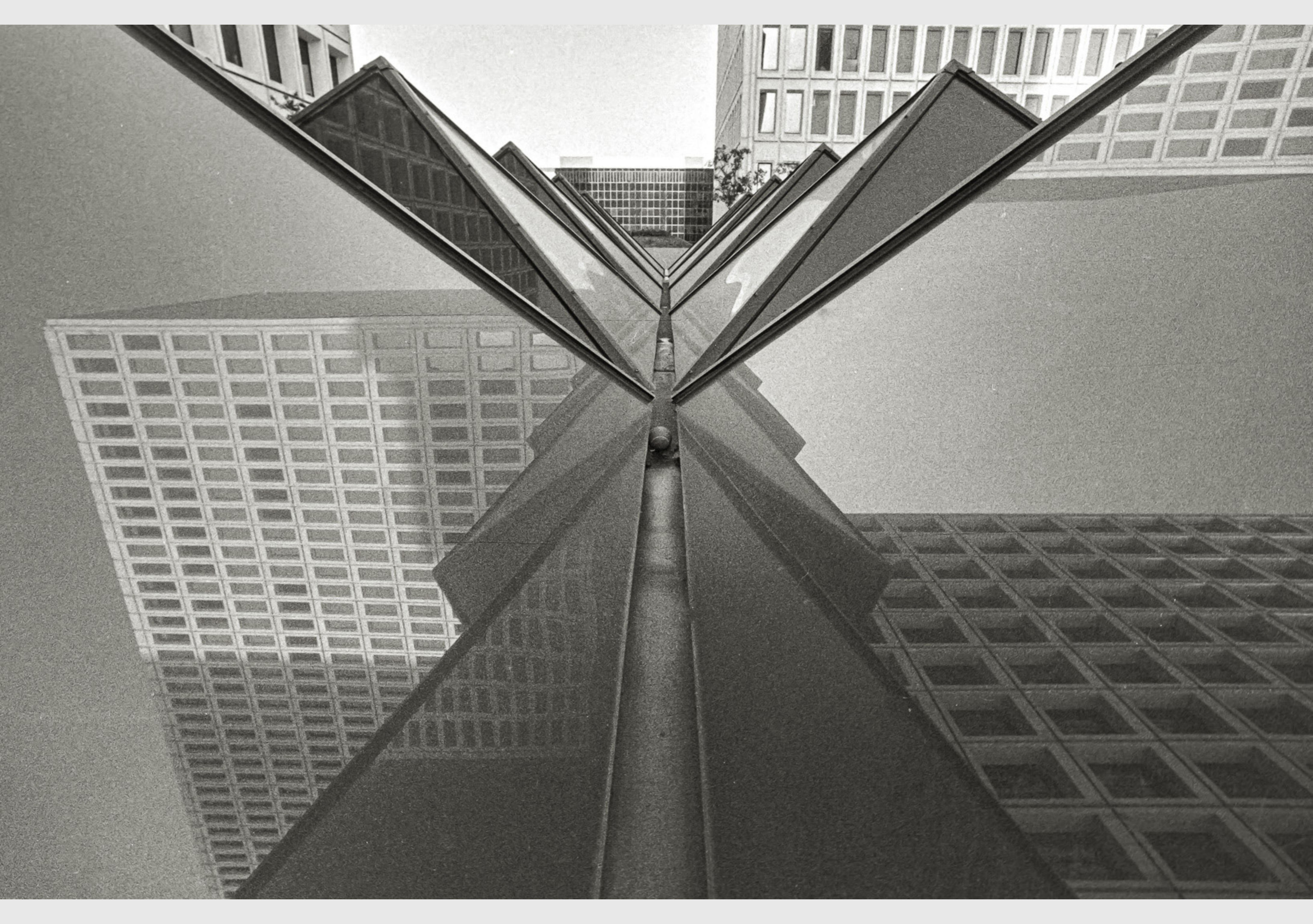
The obvious way to learn something is to do it. Lessons and education are necessary steps in the learning process, but there is no substitute for putting those lessons into practice. Early in my photo life I was looking for every opportunity to use my camera and make photographs. I walked through the office park every day without noticing what was around me. Once I took notice of my surroundings, I saw the opportunity to make images.

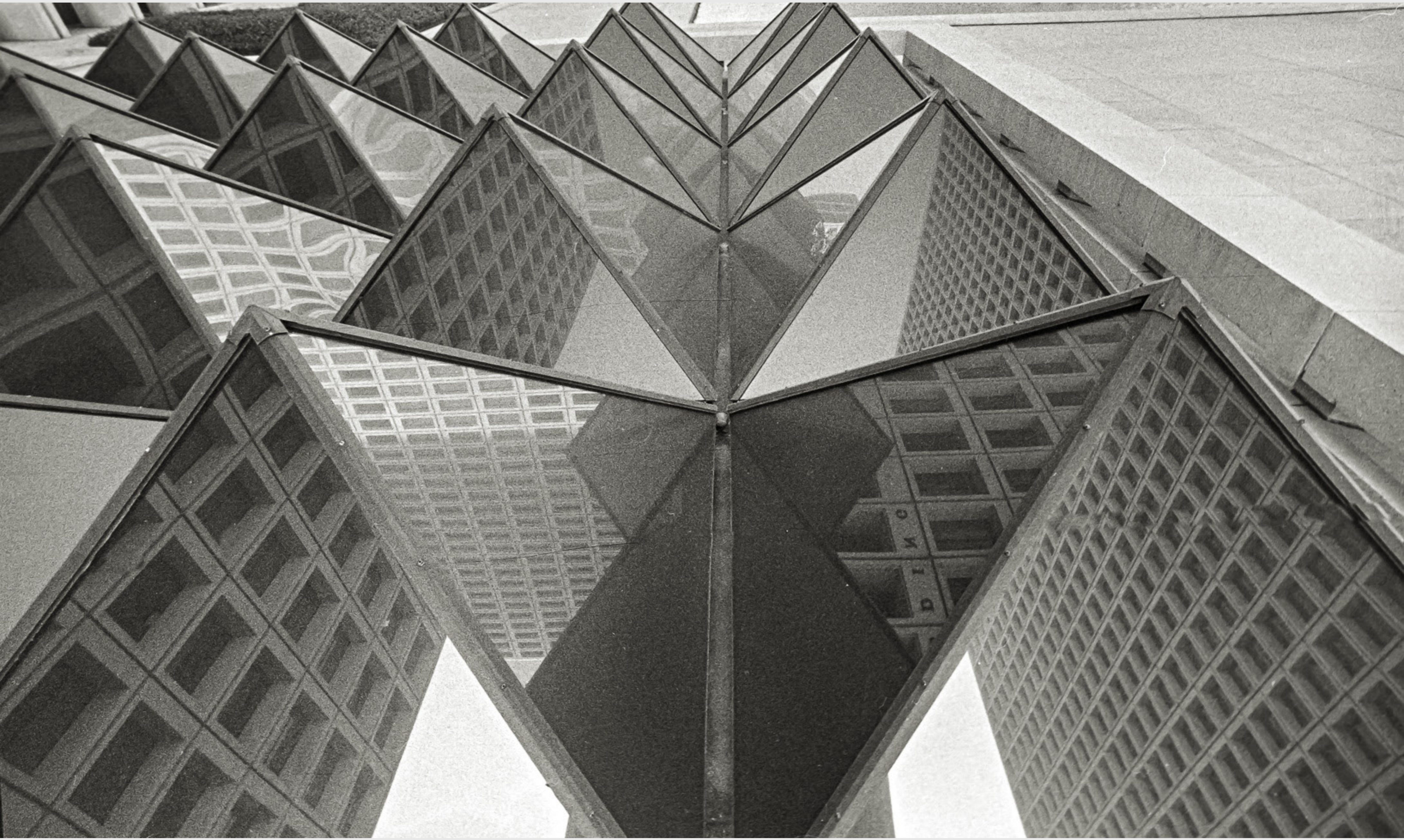
The lesson was two-fold. Seeing the photographic opportunities around you is one learning activity and the second is taking the camera off the shelf to make images.

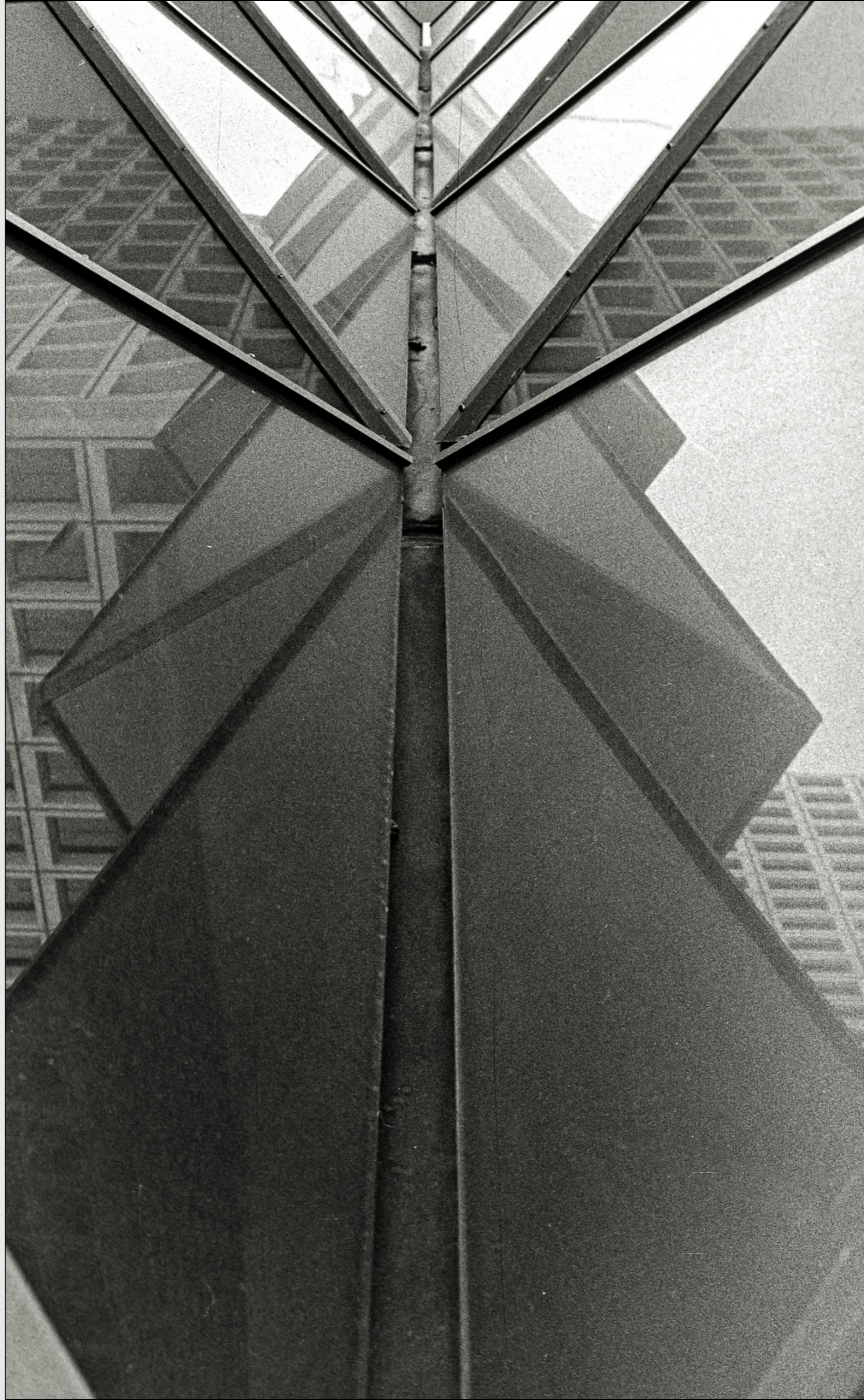












Ascending Steens Mountain





Ascending Steens Mountain

Climbing a mountain is high on the list of things I would not do. The litany of roadblocks to ascending a mountain begins with a significant investment in equipment, physical conditioning and continues almost to infinity.

I thought about this as we were driving up a nice hill. When the land finally leveled out, we stopped at a convenient parking lot. After sitting the truck for quite a while, I walked to the edge of the parking lot to stretch my legs. With the Alvord Desert about a mile underneath me, I figured out we were on top of Steens Mountain.

Suddenly, mountaineering seemed quite genteel.











Rafting the River was his refuge.



Memorial Day

Memorial Day

At the end of May Americans celebrate Memorial Day, the Day when we remember our fellow Citizens who gave their lives in defense of our Country. These servicemen died on foreign soil. Some have never come home. Nine thousand three hundred and eighty-seven of these brave souls lie buried at Collville-sur-Mer in France.

They are in formation, perfectly aligned, a testament to the cost in human lives to free Europe from a madman.





THOMAS ROSSSETT JR
REGIMENTAL SIGNAL, U.S. ARMY
NEW YORK JULY 2, 1944
MEDAL OF HONOR



3447924

34477996



Postcards from the Creative Journey

August 12, 2018

Lightning and Lightning Bugs

Tom Kite once said the difference between professional and amateur golfers is the difference between lightning and lightning bugs. The difference is in the attention to details, dedication and the willingness to never stop working. As photographers we should never stop seeing, observing and wondering about what we see in the world in front of us. We should also be ready to act on those observations when we are in the right place at the right time.

The amateur stops practicing when he does it right once; the professional stops practicing when he can't do it wrong. In reality, the professional never stops practicing. They expect to perform at the highest level all the time because they have constantly practiced their craft. Shouldn't it be the same for you and me when we have a camera in hand? Photography can happen any time and any place where we are. We need to be ready to react when we are in that situation.

Exercise your photographic muscles every day. Don't stop looking at the world around you. Your smart phone makes a dandy camera to capture those scenes of your life if you left your "big camera" at home.



This photograph is a great example of thinking photographically on a daily basis and being ready to photograph when the moment presents itself. This lovely landscape was made right behind the eighteenth green at Carolina Trace Golf Course in Sanford, North Carolina. I had just finished my round of golf, was closing down rangefinder golf app on my smartphone. Then I looked up. I went to my camera app and created this lovely photograph. Look at that. Golf and photography included in both text and pictures

A Few Closing Words

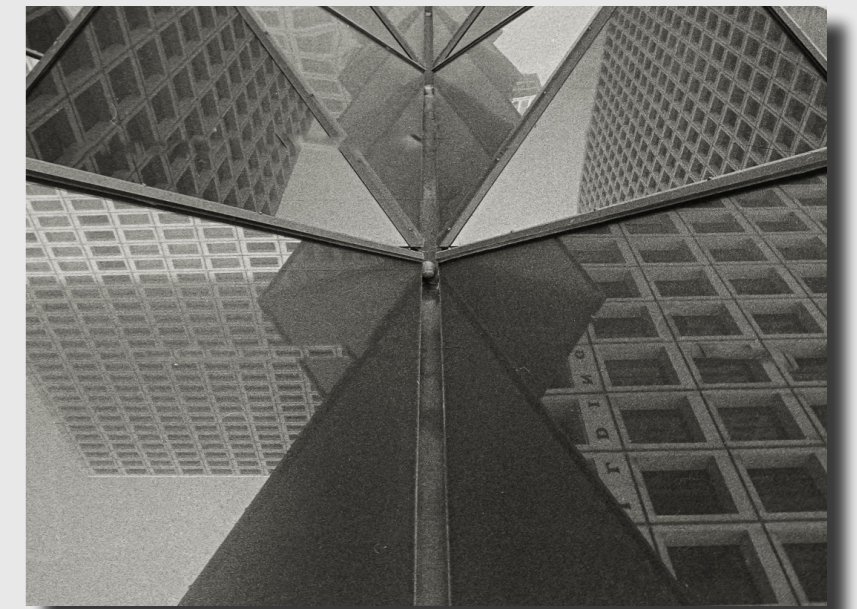
Cinder Cone Hills

We set up base camp last year near Flagstaff, Arizona as a convenient location to explore Northern Arizona. We spent several days in and around the Sunset Crater National Monument photographing because we were blessed with great photographic weather.



Geometry Games

When starting out in photography the quest is to figure out how to make a photograph. I decided the best approach to this area was to make a game of playing with the geometric forms and the geometry of reflections to “fill in the blanks.” The ultra wide angle 17 millimeter lens on my 35 millimeter camera made the geometric games possible.



Ascending Steens Mountain

I've been to Steens Mountain a couple of times over the years and it is a stealth mountain. The ascent via nice roads is gentle and not noticeable. Until you get to the top and get to see the Alvord Desert. Only then do you realize just how high you are. On the way back down, the change in elevation becomes obvious because going down hill you can see where you've been



Memorial Day

We toured the American Cemetery at Collville sur Mer as part of a vacation in 2021. We've seen *Saving Private Ryan* and *Band of Brothers* and thought of them in cinematic terms. Until you see the actual places and marvel and the young men that risked much and gave all during the invasion of Normandy. There will be other photographs from this tour in future issues of the Journal.





Joe Lipka has shared his vision since he began photographing.

In the last thirty years, his photographs have appeared in over one hundred juried exhibitions, more than twenty solo exhibitions and has been printed in *LensWork*, *Black & White Photography* (UK) and *F-Stop* Magazines.

His website www.joelipkaphoto.com has continuously evolved since it was launched in 2004. His blog *Postcards from the Creative Journey*, published weekly since 2010, feature a photograph and a little bit of writing.

His newest blog, *The Daily Photograph*, is simply that. A new and interesting image posted every morning at 8:00 AM.

COLOPHON

The Lipka Journal, May, 2022

Joe Lipka

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Web site: www.joelipkaphoto.com

Blog: <http://blog.joelipkaphoto.com/>

Blog: https://joelipkaphoto.typepad.com/the_daily_photograph/

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