

LIGHT THROUGH A WINDOW

A Photographic Portfolio

by

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The Ark. A student's nickname that has lasted three generations. The genesis of the name is that there was (and still is) only enough room for two students to walk abreast around the upper floor of the building. It is one of the oldest buildings at Duke University in Durham North Carolina. Originally a gymnasium, The Ark now serves as a dance studio. Simple in design and classic in proportion, the building maximizes the use of available light. The building has continued to call me back over and over. I have heeded its siren song. For a building that is seemingly empty, it has yielded many photographs. The quality of light coming through the windows makes this building a wonderful place to photograph.

Photography in this space has been made possible because of unlocked doors and the kindness of dancers who could understand why someone would want to make photographs of an empty space. One time a dancer asked me why I wanted to photograph in the Ark. In attempting to answer their question in a manner better grasped, I answered with a question, "Have you ever heard some music that forced you to dance? Well, the light coming through the windows in this building is my music." He understood and let me into the building.

Even though the Ark is a beautiful space, the eternal question of what to photograph must be answered. Some photographs are not made at first sight. Sometimes you can walk by something many times and not see what needs to be photographed. Eventually, seeing becomes vision and a photograph appears in your mind. Then, comes the sometimes difficult task of transforming the vision to a photograph. These images are of places and things that required a second look. These are not photographs that will grab you by the lapels to get your attention. They quietly invite you to observe and experience a small portion of the world. By choice, this small portion of the world is illuminated by light through a window. Window light does something special to objects it strikes. Form, detail, surface and texture come alive and become integral in creating the mood of the photograph.

THE PHOTOGRAPHS

THE BACK WALL

CHAIRS (HORIZONTAL)

CHAIRS (VERTICAL)

RAILING DETAIL

REFLECTIONS, WINDOWS AND CHAIRS

HANGING ROPE AND PANEL

WINDOWS AND STAIRS

THE BARRE

MIRRORS AND DRAPES

ENTRY TO THE DRESSING AREA

DRESSING AREA, LOOKING OUT

CHAIR AND RAILING

STORAGE ROOM

LEFT BEHIND

A DOOR OPENED

TWO DOORS

DRESSING ROOM, MIRROR AND WINDOWS

LAVATORY WINDOW AND MIRROR





































Afterword

For those interested in technical notes, the negatives were made on Kodak, Tri-X or T-Max sheet film. The Camera used to expose the negatives was a Conley 5 x 7 of indeterminate age and uncertain pedigree. While the camera is long gone, it continues to live as part of the composition of Chairs (Horizontal) and Two Doors. The entire Camera (and yours truly) appears in Reflections, Windows and Chairs. All three instances were a pleasant surprise to me.

The original platinum/palladium prints were printed on paper manufactured by the Palladio Company.

Silver gelatin prints were scanned for use in this digital portfolio.