

## FOCUS ON PHOTOGRAPHY

# Zoom in on small details for telling photographs



MONTE  
NAGLER

Often times a small area of a building such as an ornate doorknob or ivy-covered window ledge will create a photographic composition much stronger than the whole. The intimacy of a flower petal or the patterns of a breaking wave on the beach are often missed in our desire to concentrate on the totality of the subject.

Details of pattern, form and texture can tell us much about our subjects without the need to show their entirety. Isolating detail will give a new perspective and impact to your pictures not obtained by shooting the whole.

Any environment contains an inexhaustible supply of fascinating detail waiting for your camera. For example, in nature photography, try moving in close to isolate the texture of bark instead of shooting the whole cluster of trees. Photographing the lake in its entirety will give you a nice scenic picture, but don't overlook the delicate reeds and lilies at water's edge. Overall winter scenes are dramatic, but isolating that one unusual icicle will give you that special shot not obtainable in the

whole.

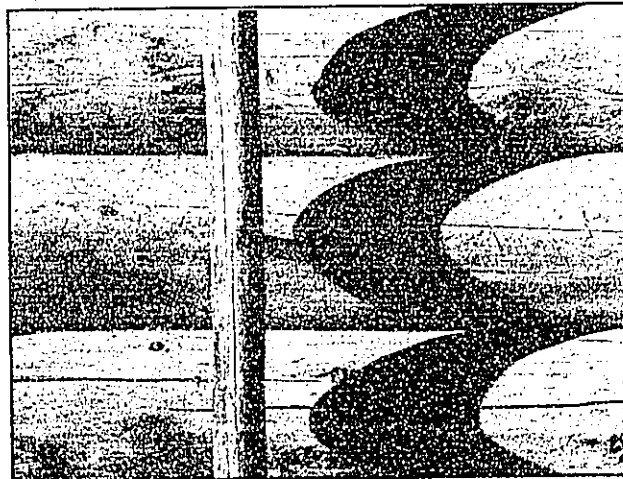
In architecture, the supply of detail is endless. Isolate a pattern of unusual brickwork or look for colorful window shutters. Move in close on a section of peeling paint. Churches offer details in statues as well as the many colors and patterns of stained glass.

Can you isolate parts of people? Of course! The hands of the elderly or the foot of an infant will produce photographs of special, personal impact.

Other than a keen eye, no elaborate equipment is needed to isolate detail although a viewing mask will prove invaluable as an aid in composing your shot. At times, closeup filters will help you to move in close and a tripod should be used to maximize sharpness and depth-of-field.

But the important ingredients in isolating detail are your vision and insight. Your aim in photographing detail should be to obtain a complete picture in itself while at the same time maintaining the flavor and essence of the whole.

Monte Nagler is a fine art photographer based in Farmington, Hills. You can leave him a message by dialing (313) 953-2047 on a touch-tone phone, then his mailbox number, 1873. His fax number is (310) 644-1314.



Detail work: Cunningham Cabin in Grand Teton National Park offered many good possibilities for detail photographs. This Monte Nagler shot shows a closeup of shadows on a small section of logs caused by an early morning sun.

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