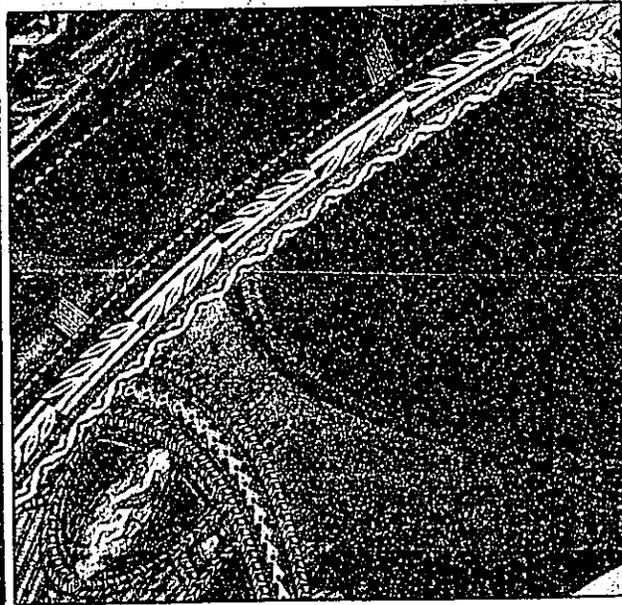


### FOCUS ON PHOTOGRAPHY



Great indoors: Detroit's Fisher Building has perhaps the most striking and dramatic interiors of any building in the city. Shown here is one of the many painted panels in this grand building.

## The great indoors offers fine photo opportunities



MONTY NAGLER

Photography is so often regarded as an outdoor activity that many amateurs overlook the photographic possibilities to be found indoors. The world contains many rooms, new and old, humble and grand, that may reveal a little of the way people live or provide a scene as attractive as a landscape.

Begin by analyzing the character of the room and selecting its most important features. In a house, it may be a curved staircase or a vaulted ceiling with dramatic beams. In a public building, look for a row of columns, a marble statue or perhaps a painted fresco.

Select a vantage point that best shows the interior. Maybe it's from the bottom of the stairs looking up at an unusual angle or looking down from an upper balcony.

Most often, a wide angle lens between 17mm and 28mm is in order. They not only enable you to get more of the interior in the viewfinder, but they give you the all-important advantage of tremendous depth-of-field. This way, you can place foreground subjects such as a vase of flowers or figurine in the foreground to add extra interest to your shot and fill the empty space at the bottom of the

viewfinder. You'll need a small aperture that will require a longer shutter speed, but so what? Nothing's moving — just get out the trusty tripod.

Make sure if shooting across a room that the camera angle is perpendicular to the walls. This way, vertical lines won't converge, they'll be straight up and down.

The best lighting for dramatic interiors is natural light coming in from windows and skylights. Be sure to use daylight balanced color film in your choice of slides or prints.

If there is no window light to illuminate your interior, artificial light is required. Use either flash or tungsten lights and make sure you're using the right film for proper color balance — daylight with flash and tungsten film with tungsten lighting.

The keys to effective interior photography are composition and selecting the best-camera position. As in all good photography, you want to produce a meaningful photograph with impact. Try to capture the essence and personality of the interior you are photographing.

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, 1875. His fax number is (313) 844-1314.

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