

## CREATIVE LIVING

# Use setting, light to create mood in your photographs

### FOCUS ON PHOTOGRAPHY



MONTE NAGLER

The appearance of a photographic subject will change significantly according to the light, weather, time of day, etc. An old castle photographed against a gathering storm will more readily evoke feelings of a medieval landscape than if it were photographed on a sunny afternoon. The important thing is to learn to become sensitive to how to create mood from the subject's locale and setting. All photographs possess mood to some degree. But you, as a photographer, have the ability to add drama and mystery to the

most ordinary subjects by balancing light, weather and point of view.

Rather than your photograph saying, "This is what I saw," try to get it to say, "This is what I felt."

Sometimes a building will look uninspiring until a particular light falls upon it. A row of trees may not excite until lit by emerging sunbeams against the dark backdrop of a receding storm cloud. Early morning mist will enhance a cityscape with an almost monotonous of subtle color while the buildings tend to lose their sharp outlines, lending an air of romance to your shot.

Direction of light is of utmost importance. The best light often falls from the side or back so that textures and shadows are intensified.

Even the effects of a heavy rain can be used to good advantage. Become responsive to light reflected off a wet roof or reflect-

tions in a newly formed puddle. You'll get creative, mood-filled photos if you do.

In the photograph shown here of the Twin Pavilions in Sydney, Australia, I took advantage of the strong rock shapes in the foreground. You can see that I composed the picture so that the lower left rock would "point" to the Pavilions in the upper right of the composition.

Including some of the pond along with the weeping willow branches finishes off this pleasing photograph.

Develop your creativity by becoming more receptive to the elements that make up your picture. Be patient—you may have to wait for the right conditions.

Monte Nagler is a fine art photographer based in Farmington Hills. You can leave him a message by dialing (734) 953-2047 on a touch-tone phone. His fax number is (248) 644-1314.



Setting in Sydney: Careful composition and good lighting resulted in this pleasing photograph by Monte Nagler of the Twin Pavilions of Sydney, Australia.

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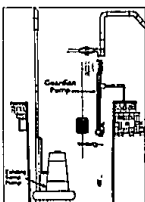


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Jeffrey Moss is vice-president of Advance Plumbing Supply Co. in Wall Lake and Detroit. Call (800) 568-7474 toll free. Have a plumbing question? Write to Jeffrey at Advance Plumbing Supply Co., 1977 E.W. Maple Rd., Wall Lake, MI 48390.

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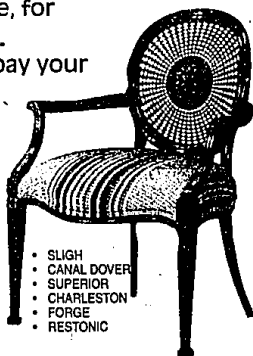
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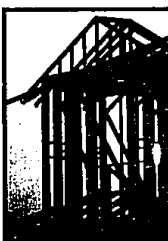
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### Pond tour scheduled

The Michigan Koi & Pond Club will present its fourth annual Pond and Garden Tour 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, July 7, in Grosse Pointe.

This year's event will feature nine outstanding ponds and gardens. They are in close proximity to each other, allowing less travel time and easier accessibility. Their attractions include waterfalls, streams, unusual statuary and, of course, the "local residents" (fish and frogs).

The ticket sale site is the Neighborhood Club, 17150 Waterloo in Grosse Pointe: (313) 882-9600.



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