

5-10



PROJECT 52

Lee Yi Kai 4P2 (16), Zachary Lee 4P2 (17),
Lin En 4P2 (19), Ryan Ng 4P2 (25)

Contents

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Rationale
- 1.2 Objective
- 1.3 Ideation

2. Research

- 2.1 Project 365
- 2.2 Technique-based

3. Process

- 3.1 Planning
- 3.2 Phototaking
- 3.3 Equipment
- 3.4 Post-production

4. Final Product

5. Conclusion

6. Reflections

7. References

1. Introduction

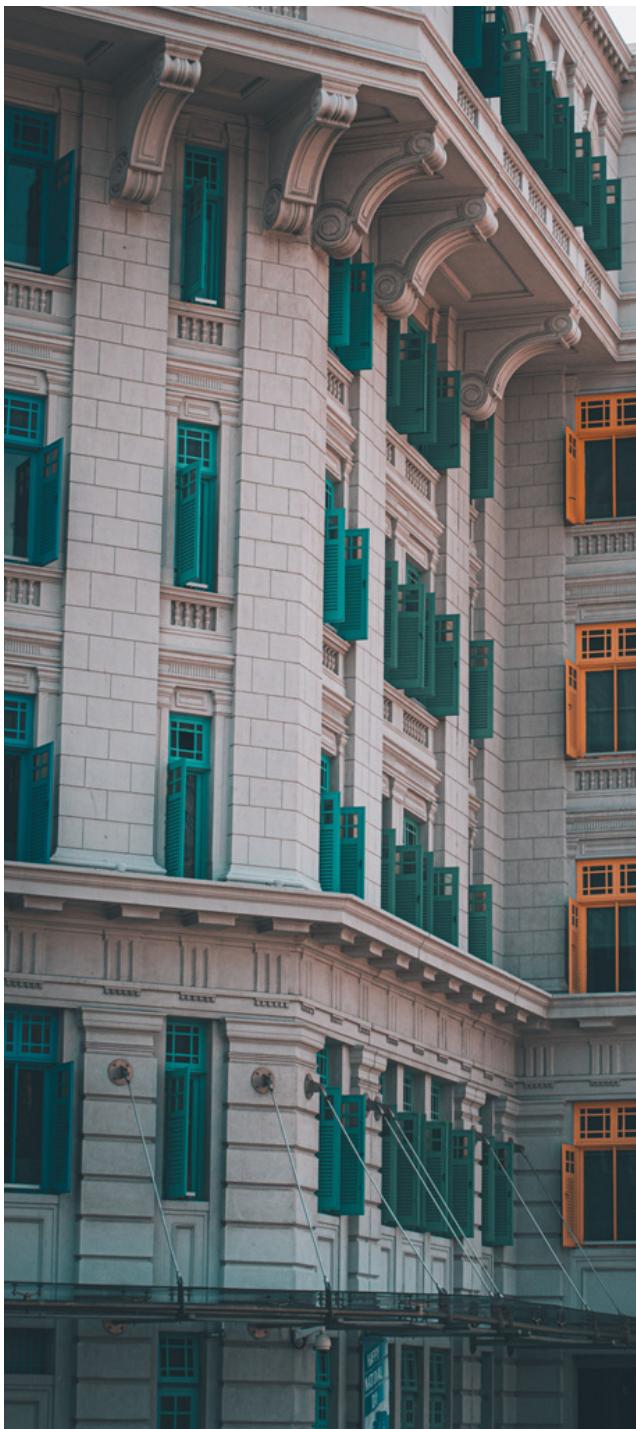




1.1 Rationale:

There is a certain complexity in the different aspects of photography that often goes unnoticed, from different techniques to the editing process. There is simply so much more to photography than the simple click of a button, and that layer of intricacy is what we hope to explore through this project.

Furthermore, we were all interested in photography, but faced a common issue of not having the time to pursue it. Thus, the concept of project 52, where we set clear standards to hit, which holds us accountable. We thus ensure that photography is either intentionally planned for, or organically integrated into our daily lives.



1.2 Objectives

The whole concept of Project 52 holds us accountable to set aside time for photography, no matter how busy we may be throughout the year. Pursuing such a passion takes a very conscious effort, to integrate it into our daily lives, and into the way we look at the environment around us, thus, this accountability ultimately puts us in a position to grow in this area of photography. This project also serves to consolidate the knowledge, skills and experiences we have and gained throughout the whole project.

1.3 Ideation

Initially, we planned to cover 14 “themes” in our photographs for the 14 fortnights. However, after receiving feedback from the judges during proposal evaluation that our project was too broad with a lack of clear definition, we decided to narrow our focus down to street photography, through which we will express the different techniques and ideas involved in photography.

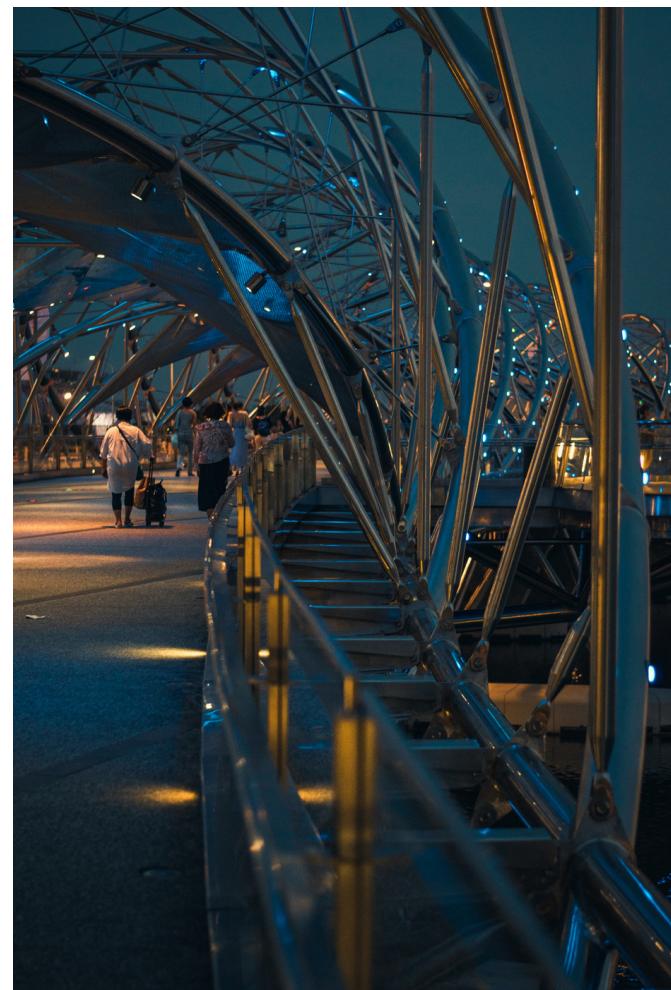




2. Research



Before embarking on this project, we did some research on a few photographers, to get a brief idea of the quality of photos that we should produce as there have been other photographers who have done similar projects.



1.1 Project 365

Our project is quite similar to a photography project named Project 365, where photographers take and post a photo everyday about their daily lives while our project is a fortnightly photoshoot instead.

The first photographer that we researched was Rebecca Hunnicutt Farren, a family photographer based in Portland, Oregon. She completed Project 365 in 2019, and has a blog which mentions how managing the preparation process for the project is important to boost efficiency alongside quality of the project. From her, we realised that we needed to come up with a detailed plan and schedule to cope with both commitments, even during stressful test periods.



(Hunnicutt, 2019)



(Hunnicutt, 2019)



1.2 Technique-based photographers

As our project revolves around street photography, we researched on prominent photographers skilled in this area, from whom we learnt different techniques and tips that helped our journey.



("About - Lee Yik Keat", 2017)

Yik Keat, a 24 year old photographer based in Singapore, specializes in street photography. We mainly picked up on his style of edit, and made our own adjustments to find our style of editing. As he personally mentioned, the real magic is found in post-production.

Michael McIlvaney is a UK-based street photographer. He shows the interactions and relationships between people and their environment. Most of his photos show a prominent contrast between the two, and we were inspired by his ability to find beauty in everyday things around us.



(McIlvaney, 2020)

3. Process

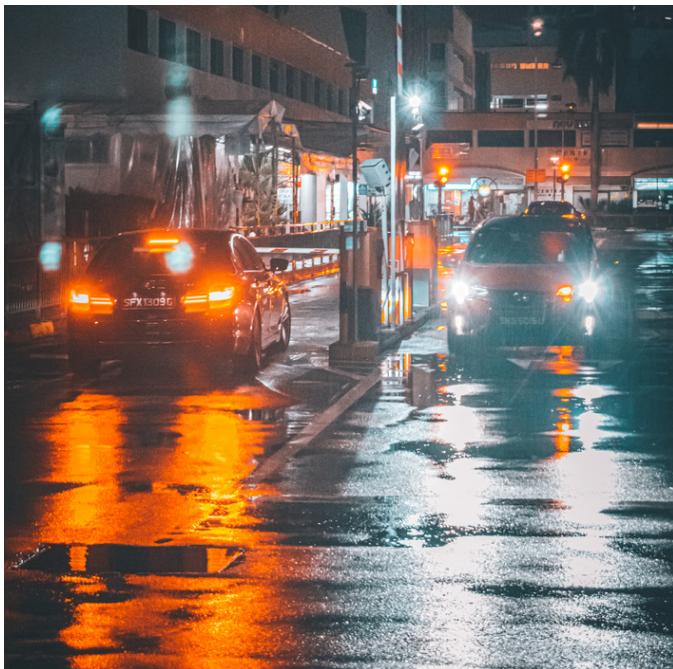




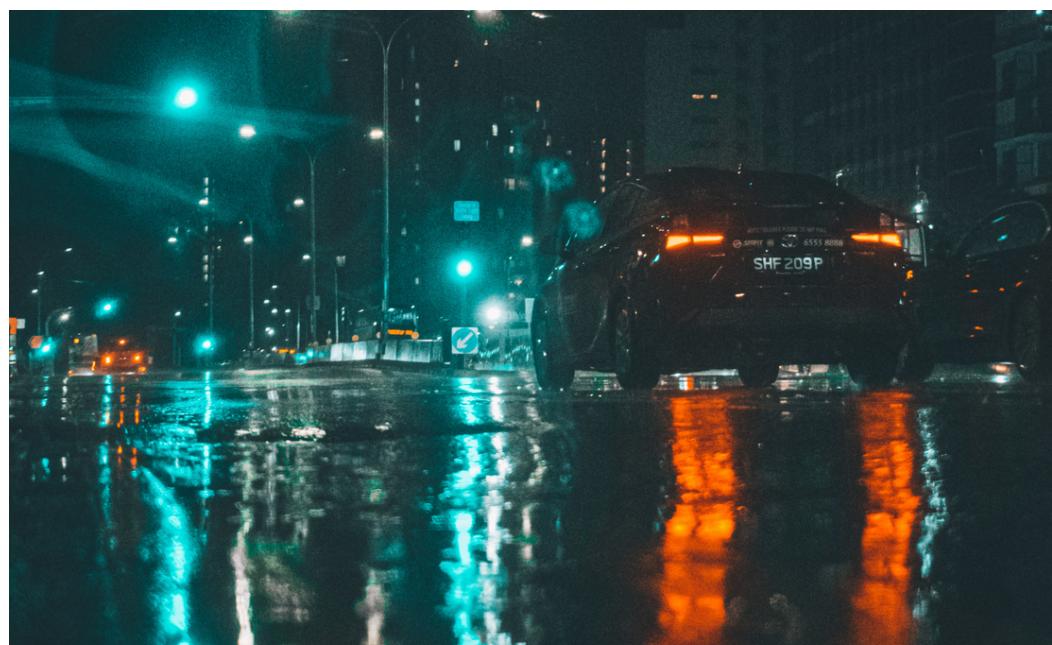
3.1 Planning

Since we have one photoshoot every 2 weeks, we initially utilised the first of two weeks to plan out the details of the shoot, which includes the location and timing. On Instagram, we searched through photos taken at the specific location to get a basic sense of the environment. From which, we planned our shoots. We would have a rough idea of some potential shots we could take, with these ideas mainly generated from inspiration from other photographers. Thus, the photos we took for our first few weeks were much more intentional and planned for.

However, as the Covid-19 restrictions worsened yet again, we were unable to head out for such planned shoots. Our photography style transitioned to one more spontaneous, which required us to be creative in a slightly different manner, as we had to draw inspiration from our immediate surroundings.



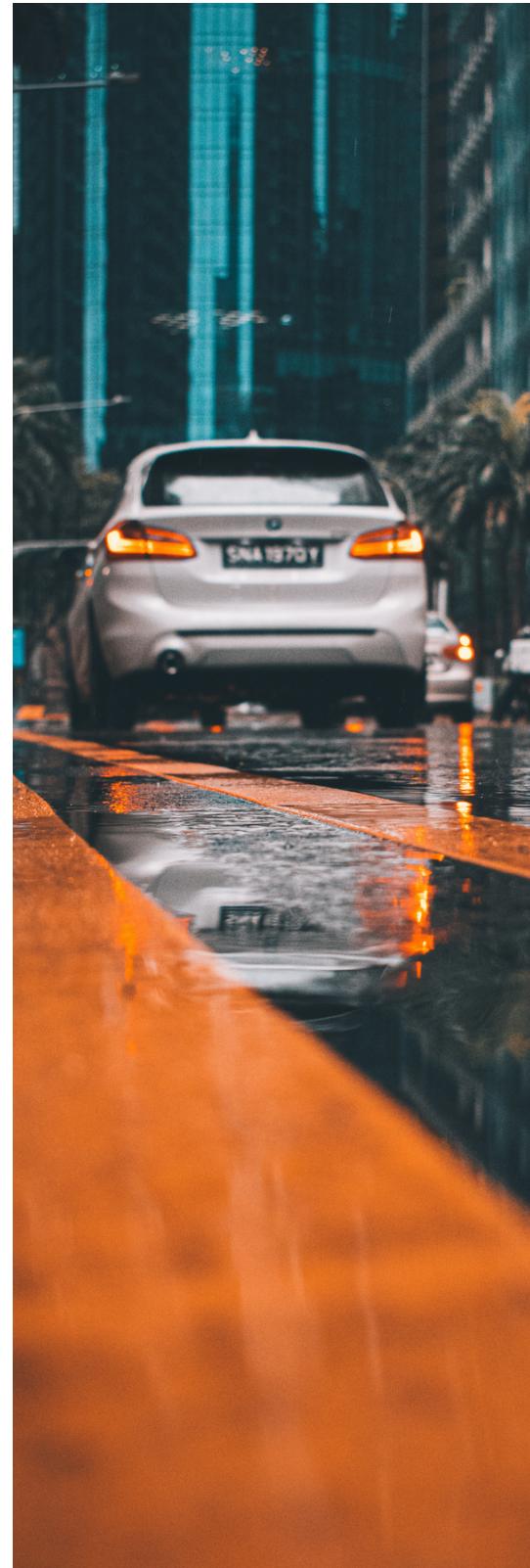
Although very different, both approaches provided value in their own ways. While a pre-planned photoshoot taught us to research and ideate based on a vast array of readily accessible resources, a spontaneous approach taught us to look at our surroundings from a different perspective, to find the beauty in everyday life that we often take for granted. If anything, these restrictions were a blessing in disguise. In alignment with the objective of this project, we were able to explore the different aspects of photography, learning both to plan and be spontaneous.



3.2 Photo Taking

From weeks 1 to 14, our photoshoots involved all four group members. However, as the pandemic situation worsened in week 16, we were unable to continue with our arrangement. Nonetheless, throughout these weeks, each photoshoot was mainly conducted around the same locations, which have been listed in the table below.

| | |
|----------------|-------------------------|
| Week 1 and 2 | Raffles Place |
| Week 3 and 4 | Esplanade Walk |
| Week 5 and 6 | Merlion Park |
| Week 7 and 8 | Clarke Quay |
| Week 9 and 10 | River Valley Road |
| Week 11 and 12 | Youth Olympic Park |
| Week 13 and 14 | Suntec City |
| Week 15 and 16 | South Beach |
| Week 17 and 18 | Chinatown |
| Week 19 and 20 | Benjamin Sheares Bridge |
| Week 21 and 22 | South Bridge Road |
| Week 23 and 24 | Gardens By the Bay |
| Week 25 and 26 | Marine Parade |
| Week 27 and 28 | Robinson Road |



3.3 Equipment



(Nikon,2021)

For our camera, we used a Nikon D3500. This camera is a budget model perfect for amateur photographers. Although lacking in many advanced capabilities, it is a solid camera that was able to serve us well. After all, we believe that the body, while important, only affects a photo to a certain extent, the beauty behind a photo is largely drawn out by the photographer in the many techniques and skills involved in taking a photo. The difference between a photo taken by a more professional camera compared to this camera is minimal, and can often be bridged by good photo editing.



For our lenses, we had two options. Firstly, we had the 18-55mm f/3.5-5.6 kit lens that came with the D3500 body. This is a very versatile zoom lens, which could be adjusted for different focal lengths to take both wide angle and close up shots. However, some limitations for this lens were that it had quite a high minimum f-stop. This meant that the aperture rings could only open so much, and we often had to resort to increasing the ISO on our camera for the correct exposure. On our D3500, our photos often became grainy due to the high ISO. Thus, one of our biggest challenges in photo taking was to find sufficient amounts of light.



(Nikon,2021)



(Nikon,2021)

Midway through our project, we bought a second lens that alleviated the aforementioned issues. The 50mm f/1.8 lens is a very popular option among most photographers for street photography. With its low f-stop value, we were less concerned with finding sufficient light for our photos. Furthermore, it had the added benefit of producing shots with bokeh, that really added depth to our shots. The 50mm focal length also provided optimal compression for our shots that were very ideal in street photography.

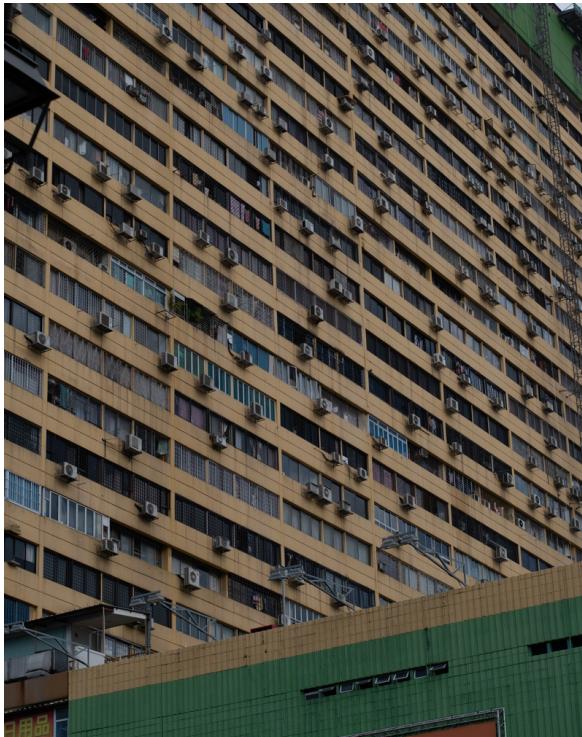


Overall, both lenses had their use in different situations to produce different shots. In their own ways, they provided value. Thus, having both lenses was essential to our project as it allowed us to truly achieve versatility in our shots, which aligned with the objective of this project, to explore the various aspects and types of photography.

3.4 Post-production

For our editing works, we mainly utilised Adobe Photoshop and Lightroom, which are two essential tools for any photographer, be it professional or amateur. Our whole workflow was organised and efficient, with shared google drive folders to store our photos. The bulk of the photo edits were handled by Lin En, as he had access to the editing software. Below, we will showcase a few examples of the edits we made to our raw photos. As a general workflow, we edited the first photo for every week and saved it as a preset to be used on the subsequent photos of the same week. That acted as a base, from which we made further adjustments such that the mood of the photos matched.





This is an example of a photo that was highly edited. Firstly, we colour graded it by increasing the warmth and orange saturation on the HSL slider. We then cropped the photo and put it into Adobe Photoshop, where we straightened it and utilised both the clone stamp and content aware fill tool to stretch out its borders.



From the raw photo on the left, we wanted to bring out the duality in the subtle orange and blue tones. With rainwater both falling down and on the floor, it further reflected the colours, which inspired us to go for a more neon look. Thus, in the final photo, there is a very aggressive contrast between the two tones, which was achieved by adjusting the highlights and the midtones of the photo. We also made minor adjustments, using the HSL slider to fine tune the colours and decreasing the highlights to restore some detail in the sign at the back.



4. Final Product



Our final product is an online gallery with our photos arranged by their respective weeks, accompanied with a brief description. The main objective of our website is to showcase our progress through this whole project and to display the various techniques we utilised. In essence, we wish for it to be an organised culmination of our photography journey.

<https://zaclbr05.wixsite.com/my-site>

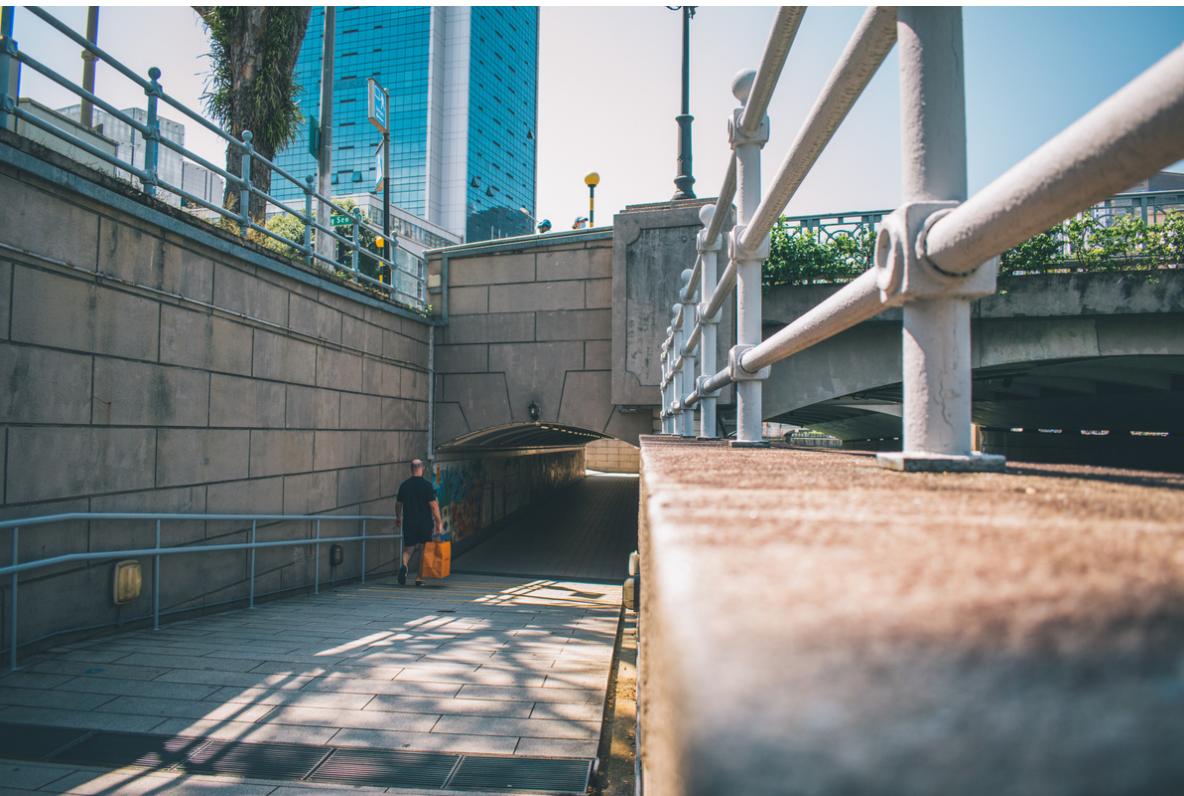


5. Conclusion

This project has fueled our passion for photography, to an extent where it has become more than just an interest. Throughout this process of making an intentional effort to set aside time for photography, it has seamlessly integrated itself to be part and parcel of our lives.

Due to this pandemic, we've had the hidden blessing of being exposed to variety in photography. Initially, our efforts were much more structured, with specific plans for certain photos at certain locations. However, we have also experienced the other end of the spectrum, where we were forced to be spontaneous, to find inspiration from our immediate surroundings. While there is not one greater than the other, such exposure to both extremes really made us more experienced as photographers, and ultimately helped us appreciate photography more.





6. Reflections

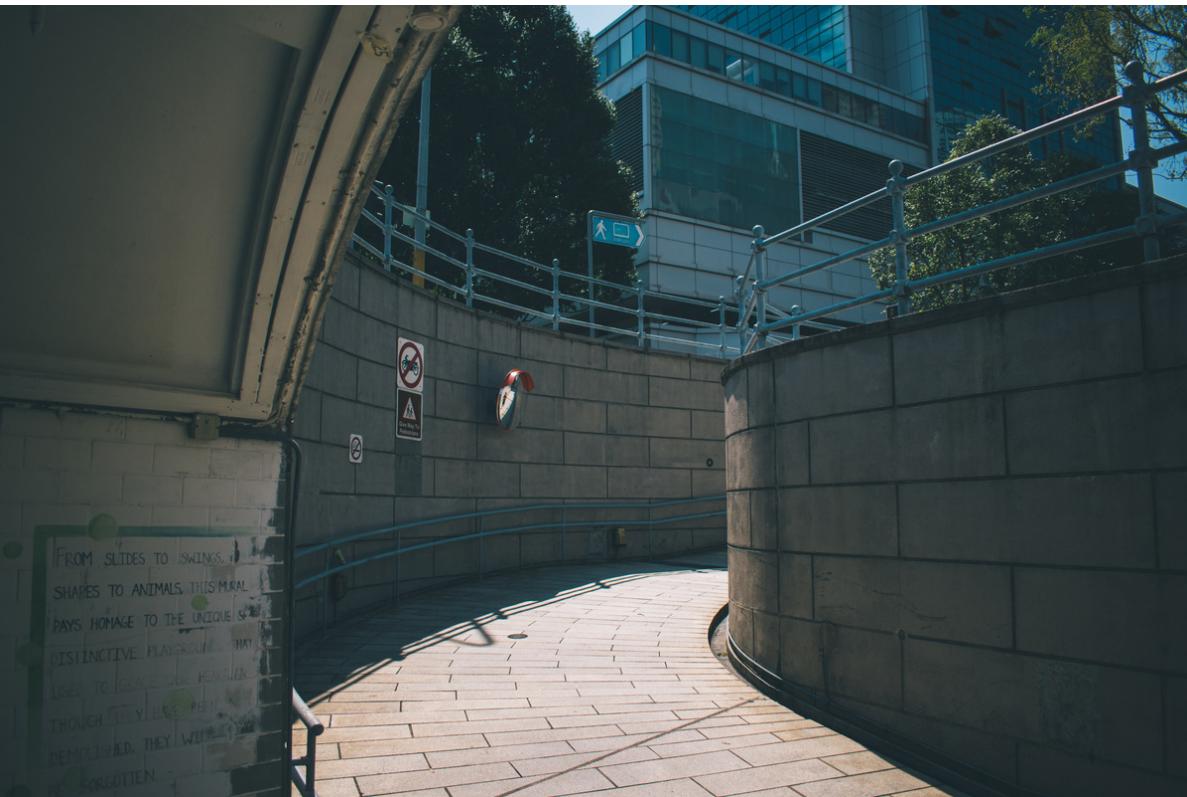
Jason

This project has impacted my walk in photography in a multitude of ways. Committing to this project has really pushed me to pursue photography in a more serious manner. From merely just a point of interest, it has now developed into a passion that I will continue to pursue in the future, and actively look for opportunities to potentially turn this into a source of side income. Towards the later weeks of the project, we learnt to find beauty in our everyday lives, and this new perspective has truly opened my eyes. Working with others has also taught me that everybody brings their own set of unique contributions to the group to build towards something greater. I mainly focused on the actual photography aspect, while the others contributed more in other areas such as the planning, and presentation. While we each had our own specialisations, we learnt from one another, and each became more complete as a contributor.



Ryan

I feel that this project has really helped me to appreciate the many photographs that I see online or even in person. Through this project, I could recognise and experience such meticulous planning which was not helped by the Covid-19 situation as we were forced to split up into 2 groups for various photoshoots which affected our schedule. However, we capitalised on our individual strengths and focused on certain aspects to the project such as editing, while still giving opportunities to partake in the actual photoshoot. Moreover, I am also an amateur at photo taking, so it was an eye opening experience to witness the other processes behind a photograph and I am extremely thankful for my teammates who guided me even if they were not that experienced themselves.



Yi Kai

Before the project, I always looked up to photographers and admired the beautiful pictures that they took. Despite the interest in photography, I did not have the time and money to commit to it. However, this project has allowed me to explore the art of photography along with my friends who acted as my mentors. This project also taught me how to be disciplined in what I do and to follow my schedules as the project forced us to keep to the schedule of taking several pictures a week. Overall, the project has been a wholesome and meaningful experience and I am leaving it with as little regrets as possible, despite the setbacks due to the restrictions.



Zachary

Overall, this project has benefitted in many aspects. While it has increased my knowledge of photography techniques etc, this project impacted me most on the more personal aspect of my life. This project has caused me to become a better person; specifically in planning my time. In previous projects, I was able to rush all the work on the final week with my ex-group mates. On the other hand, the nature of this project caused me to take part in the photo taking fortnightly and this has helped me to be able to plan my time and use it more wisely since I cannot push it aside for some weeks; even on those weeks when I have exams.

Besides that, while taking pictures with my group mates, it allowed us to be more bonded and developed our friendship. Overall, it was an enriching and fun experience.



7. References

1. Sisters-reading-blurb-365-photobook-rebecca-farren. Retrieved April 03, 2021, from <https://www.myclickmagazine.com/365-photo-project/sisters-reading-blurb-365-photobook-rebecca-farren/>
2. Portland Oregon's FUN modern children & Family Photographer. (n.d.). Retrieved April 03, 2021, from <https://www.hunnicuttphotography.com/>
3. Inspired by lines, :, F., 2, A., 21, A., 2, E., . . . 20, D. (2017, May 13). How to successfully complete a 365 photo project. Retrieved April 03, 2021, from <https://www.myclickmagazine.com/365-photo-project/>
4. Nurjuwita, D., & Nurjuwita, D. (n.d.). These urban photographers show us a different side of Singapore. Retrieved April 03, 2021, from <https://www.timeout.com/singapore/art/the-best-local-photographers-you-should-follow-in-singapore>
5. Lee Yit Keat About. (n.d.). Retrieved April 03, 2021, from <https://www.leeyikkeat.com/about>
6. Facebook Lee Yit Keat Photos. (n.d.). Retrieved April 03, 2021, from <https://www.facebook.com/305612003159073/photos/pb.100044071074244.-2207520000..668465073540429/?type=3>
7. LensCulture, M. M. I. (n.d.). Michael McIlvaney. LensCulture. Retrieved August 1, 2021, from <https://www.lensculture.com/michael-mcilvaney>
8. AF-P DX NIKKOR 18-55MM f/3.5-5.6g vr. – Nikkor Lenses - Nikon Singapore Pte Ltd. (n.d.). http://www.nikon.com.sg/en_SG/product/nikkor-lenses/f-mount/dx-format/zoom/af-p-dx-nikkor-18-55mm-f-3-5-5-6g-vr.
9. AF-S NIKKOR 50mm f/1.8G. – Nikkor Lenses - Nikon Singapore Pte Ltd. (n.d.). http://www.nikon.com.sg/en_SG/product/nikkor-lenses/f-mount/fx-format/single-focal-length/af-s-nikkor-50mm-f-1-8g.

5-10

PROJECT 52