



PhotoMail is an occasional picture newsletter for those with an interest in photography, nature and the environment, travel, Africa, Zambia, Zambian life and happening things
 And especially for those who just like looking at pictures
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The Story Behind the Pictures: A TALE OF FOUR CITIES - BUILDINGS

This time, the first in a series of PhotoMails on shots from four of the big cities of Europe - Amsterdam, Berlin, London & Paris. It's quite startling just how different they are, each with it's own distinctive character. The shots are impressions of each city as created by its people, streets, buildings, cafe-life and art & culture. First up, some of the buildings, their architecture & design and how they are used.



Leica M Summilux 35mm/f2.0 ASPH

The Shard, London (named after a broken, sharp piece of glass), was completed in July this year. At 87-storeys high, it is Europe's tallest building at some 310m (1016ft).

The construction cost was ZambianKwacha 3,424,000,000,000 (apparently, in Zambia, I'm not allowed to quote what that is in dollars or pounds or euros, but it's a lot). The Shard is the centre-piece of the London Bridge development - the construction cost of which is ZambianKwacha 12,000,000,000,000 (is that twelve ZILLION?)

It has 306 flights of stairs and 44 lifts (elevators) and if you are a family of 4 and want to enjoy the spectacular view from the observation deck some 244m (800ft) up, the ear-popping ride will cost you ZambianKwacha 696,000. Now you know.



Leica M Summilux 35mm/f2.0 ASPH

The somewhat wacky Lloyds Building (it seems to have all its plumbing on the outside...) reflected in the grand Willis building in the City of London's square mile. Obviously there's a lot of money to be made selling insurance.



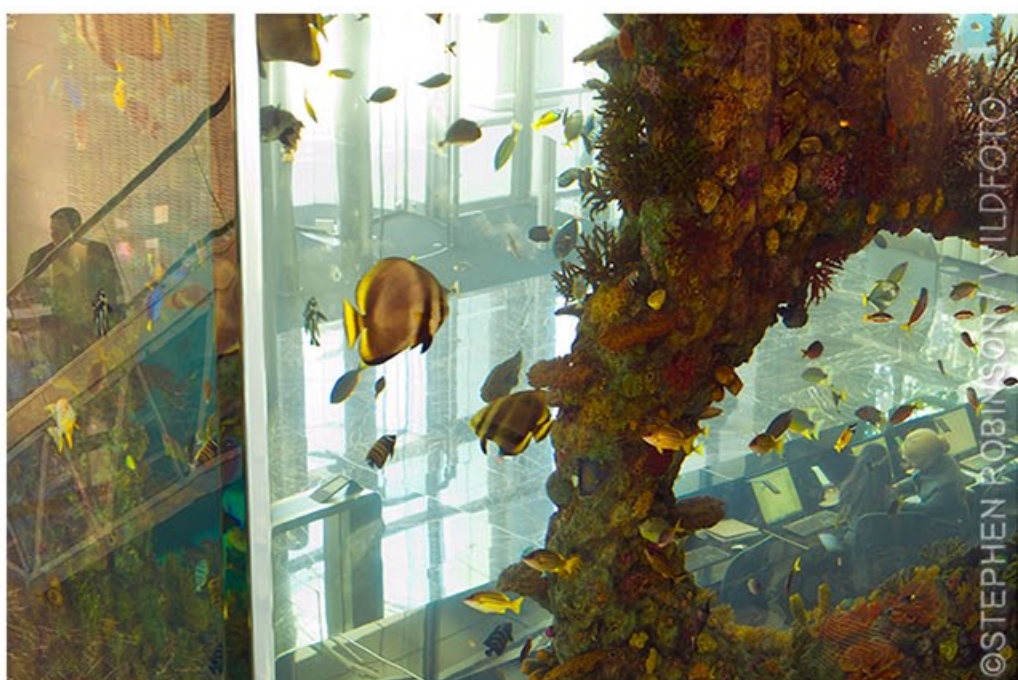
Leica M Summilux 50mm/f1.4 ASPH

The grand splendour of Paris - the beautiful Basilica of the Sacred Heart of Jesus of Paris (Sacre Coeur) atop Montmartre. A "tortured history" meant that it took some 39 years to build, reaching completion only in 1914.



Leica M Summilux 35mm/f2.0 ASPH

Apple Store, Amsterdam



Leica M Summilux 50mm/f1.4 ASPH

Always keep your camera dry. The Heron Tower, London - with the UK's largest private aquarium.



Leica M Summilux 50mm/f1.4 ASPH

You have to queue to get a shot of this. The clock tower in the Musee D'Orsay, Paris. The Montmartre hill and the Sacre Coeur church (pictured above) can be seen in the distance.



Leica M Summilux 35mm/f2.0 ASPH

Amsterdam, the interior of one of its hotels dedicated to modern design.



Leica M Summilux 50mm/f1.4 ASPH

Berlin's Brandenburg Gate. The bicycle is the most photogenic machine of all time. Do it in black & white, and it's timeless.



Leica M Summilux 50mm/f1.4 ASPH

Berlin. The Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe (a.k.a. The Holocaust Memorial). A powerful and moving memorial to the six million Jews in Europe slaughtered by Hitler's Nazi regime during World War II. It consists of 2,711 grey concrete blocks (or "stelae") laid out in an area of 19,000 sq m in central Berlin. Each block is just 95cm distant from its neighbour, such that you walk between them alone. This large scale sculpture, by architect Peter Eisenman, was intended to create "an uneasy and confusing atmosphere aimed at representing a supposedly ordered system that has lost touch with human reason".

PHOTOGRAPHER FOR HIRE

Stephen Robison is a photographer operating from his Zambia base. He undertakes photo assignment work in the corporate, industrial, mining, donor-aid project and environmental fields, including the production of photo based communications, advertising and promotional media.

This commercial work supports his nature photography speciality, including landscape, environment, conservation and wildlife work - and including his well-known panoramic photography project and exhibitions on the remote landscape, peoples and environment of Zambia.

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Leica M Summilux 35mm/f2.0 ASPH

Some fun on a London Bus at Tower Bridge.

NEXT PhotoMail ISSUE
 More impressions from these four big cities, and the stories behind the pictures

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