

Siddharth Sirohi
Photography has been with Siddharth Sirohi since his childhood. After working with CNN-IBN as a video journalist for 4 years, he joined Light & Life Academy to further hone his photography skills. He has been a freelancer since.

Tools used
Any good camera.
Understanding of perspective.
Eye for details.

StructureStories

The architecture photographer shares tricks and techniques of architecture photography.

Architectures, over the course of history, have been known to create space. Capturing the aesthetics of this space is the job of architectural photography. The right perception and presentation strikes off a tale that has been with the structure since its inception. The acclaimed architecture photographer shares few techniques and insights that help in better storytelling.

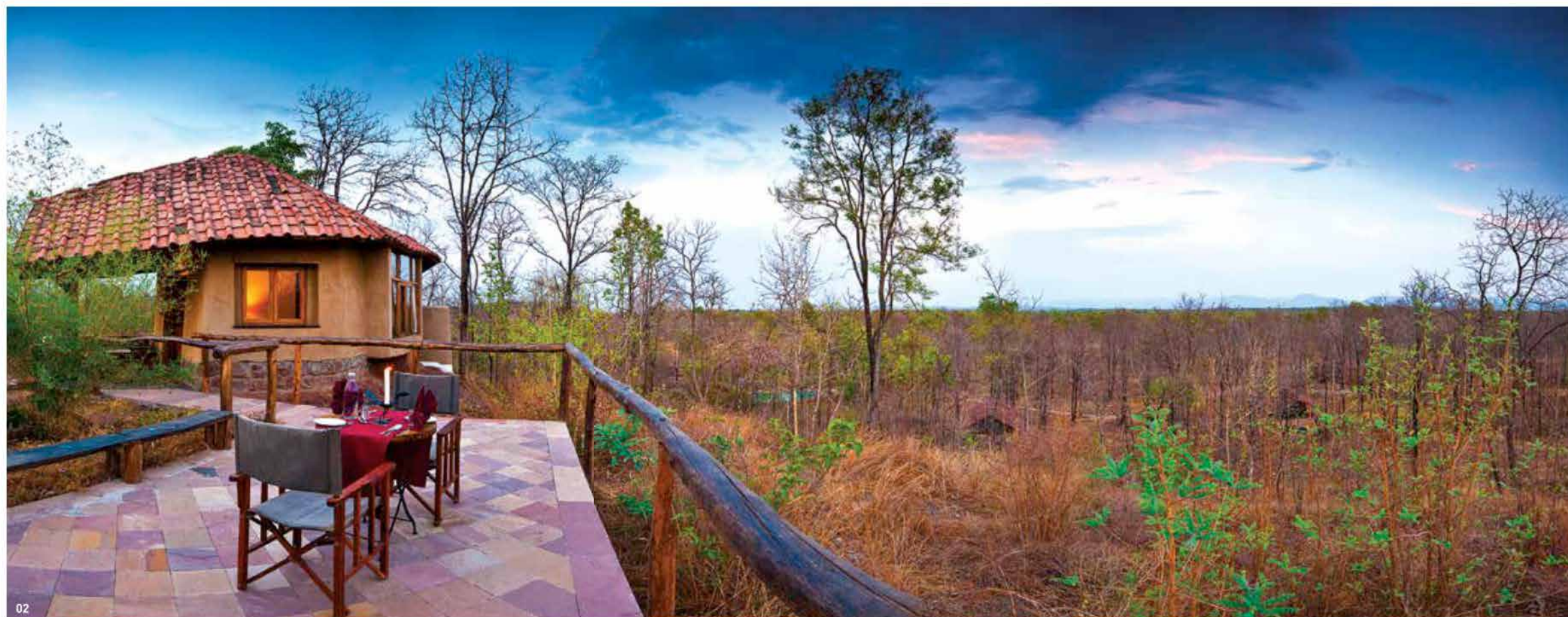
01 Theatre in silhouette. Although backlighting is not the most favourable situation for architecture photography, it is very effective in creating silhouettes. A structure against a sky can get some great results especially if it is famous and easily recognizable.

02 Planning the plot. To show or not to show the building's surrounding areas mainly depends on the situation and the message you want to convey. If the sight of the surrounding compliments your subject or adds a certain mood to your image, shoot on a wide lens or even go for a panoramic shot. If it does not add, you are better off by not including them in your shot.

03 Reading between the lights. Usually, one has a pre-conceived frame of a subject. The challenge is to interpret that visualization to an actual frame, creating a certain mood. This can be done by either modifying the existing available lights or by adding or subtracting light sources. Many a times you may highlight few elements in the frame using artificial sources, while manipulating the natural source.

04 Twist in the tale. Converging lines are best avoided. Vertical lines must look like what they are. To achieve this, one may use a large format camera, a tilt-shift lens on a 35mm DSLR or alternatively use Photoshop or other similar software to correct the distortion. Moving back or using a longer focal length lens can avoid distortion sometimes. You may also concentrate on a certain part of the façade that can bring out the details of the architecture.

05 Story under the sky. At times, on a commercial architectural shoot, you will be required to shoot an activity or a location showcasing some unique feature of the property like outdoor catering etc. Depending on whether it's a breakfast, high-tea or dinner setup, your lighting and mood of the image have to change. For example, in an outdoor dinner setup, nice balance of tungsten light sources with the late evening blue sky can create a different aura.





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06 Setting the time context.

Like most other forms of photography, dusk and dawn are the best times to shoot architecture. A bit of fill flash from the camera angle can light up vital details of the building making the well-exposed sky add another dimension to the image.

07 Taking the natural flow.

Many locations are cleaned immaculately before the final shot, but sometimes, you may just leave it as is to evoke a feeling of being out there. In both the cases, you must know what you are doing. Many a times, the natural elements of the frame are not manicured to retain the original charm. The story of your frame decides the look ←



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