

The Art of Photography

Learning Log
Continuation

Project 9

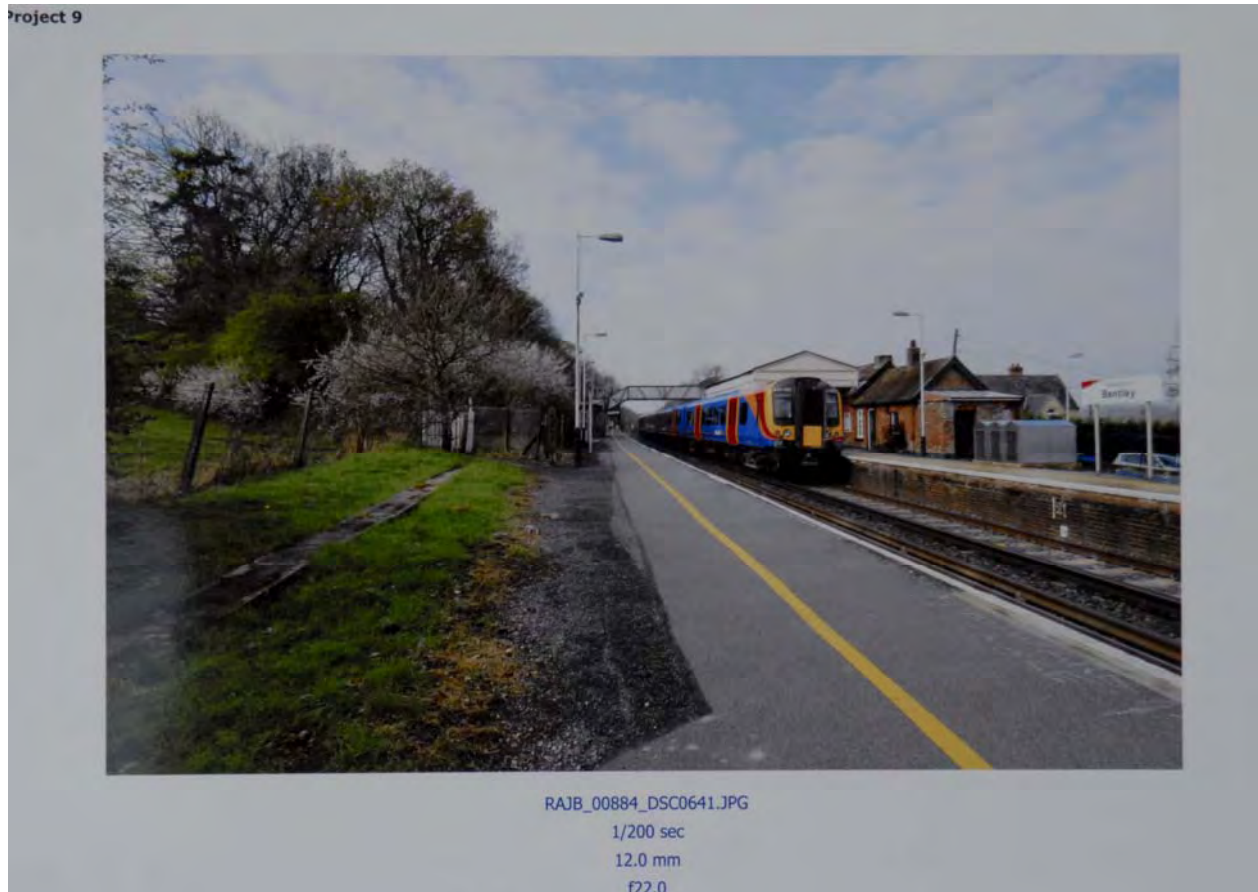
Focal Lengths – for cameras with variable focal lengths (Interchangeable lenses).

12.4.2009

The objective for this project is to fix the camera in one position using a tripod and take a series of 3 to 10 images that shows how interchangeable lenses affect the view. Page 73 in the course notes give examples to compare against.

For this project I decided to use the nearby railway station that has an abundance of subjects, yet alone views that can go into the distance as the railway tracks head off to the horizon.

The following shots were all taken from one view point and shows how as gradually the field of view of the lenses changes from 12mm to 500mm the angle of view reduces dramatically. Each frame has the technical details at the bottom in the grey border.



Project 9

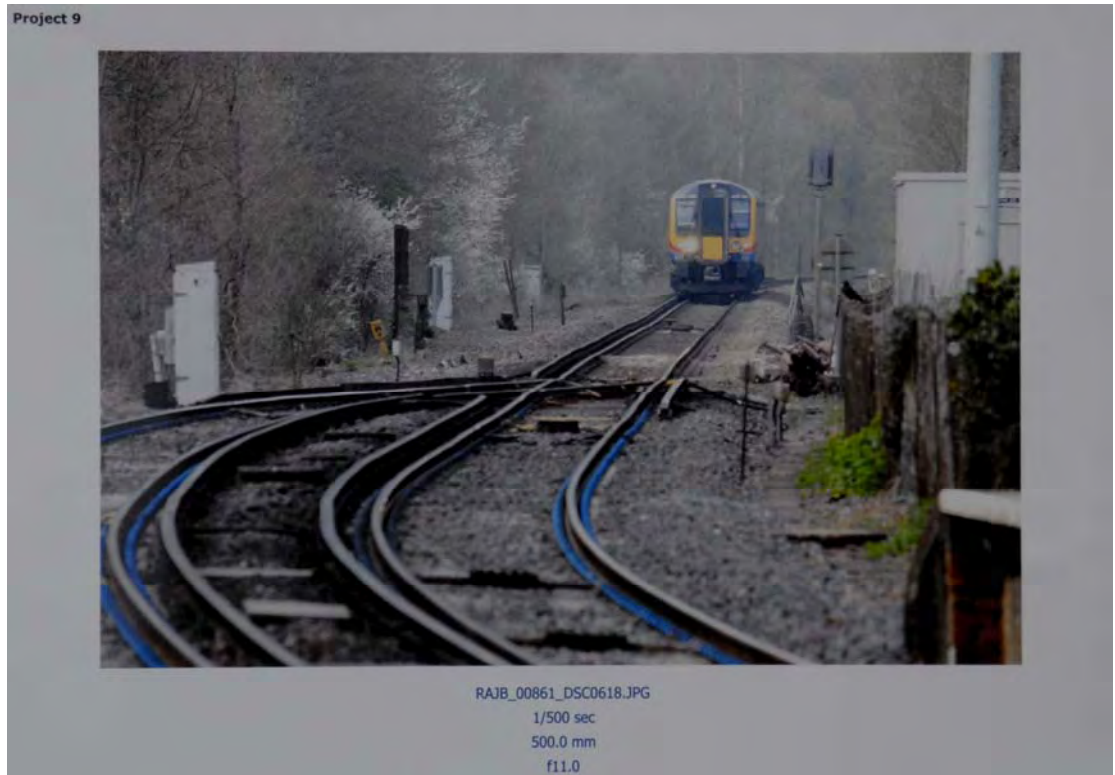


RAJB_00883_DSC0640.JPG
1/180 sec
24.0 mm
f22.0

Project 9



RAJB_00864_DSC0621.JPG
1/500 sec
150.0 mm
f11.0



Findings

This project was straight forward enough. The images taken with the wider angle of view at the 12mm end, allow for much more to be included in the frame/scene. The use of these wide angle lenses forces the photographer to take much more of the scene into consideration. They must place more elements of the scene in relevant parts of the frame to create a balanced picture.

In shot RAJB_0884, the 12mm angle has allowed me to balance the composition from right to left, whilst using leading lines to aid direction and a sense of movement.

The train will depart to the urban side on the right as the rural will depart into open countryside to the left.

Image RAJB_00883 taken at 24mm reduces that field of view and the balance, whilst still there is less evident. The split is more 50/50.

As the lens changes to a 150mm field of view the images and style now changes. There is less for the photographer to choose from for composition. Instead I now have to look much closer at the scene for elements to make a good composition. This is hard when I am only given one fixed place to take my view point from and have to take the images in series! For the image RAJB_00864 I relied on the bridge over the track to give a framing element; however there could be improvements in the picture. For example I should have waited for the train to get into the start of the platform for more impact and detail in the train.

Finally the last image is taken at 500mm the top end of my zoom range in the interchangeable lenses I have.

Image RAJB_00861 was taken from the same view point as per the brief. For the composition I placed the train on the top right rule of thirds, the railway lines draw the eye around to the train and the use of a point in the frame gives the viewer a sense of movement.

The 500mm lens makes the image look flat and gives the overall scene a lack of depth, even though the tracks are leading off into the distance.

Conclusion

The use of interchangeable lenses is very helpful with compositional techniques and styles. The more you incorporate into a scene with a wider lens (12mm) the more physical elements you need to take into consideration. Using narrower fields of view (500mm) the opposite applies and whilst remembering the images appear flat and compressed it will aid a photographer to pick out detail in a subject.

Mid range lenses allow a user to reproduce images that are closer to a 1 to 1 ratio.

This was a useful project that brings more understanding of technique and choices of lens for one scene. It shows how you can create many different images from one place.

It has also added more understanding to my knowledge of photography.

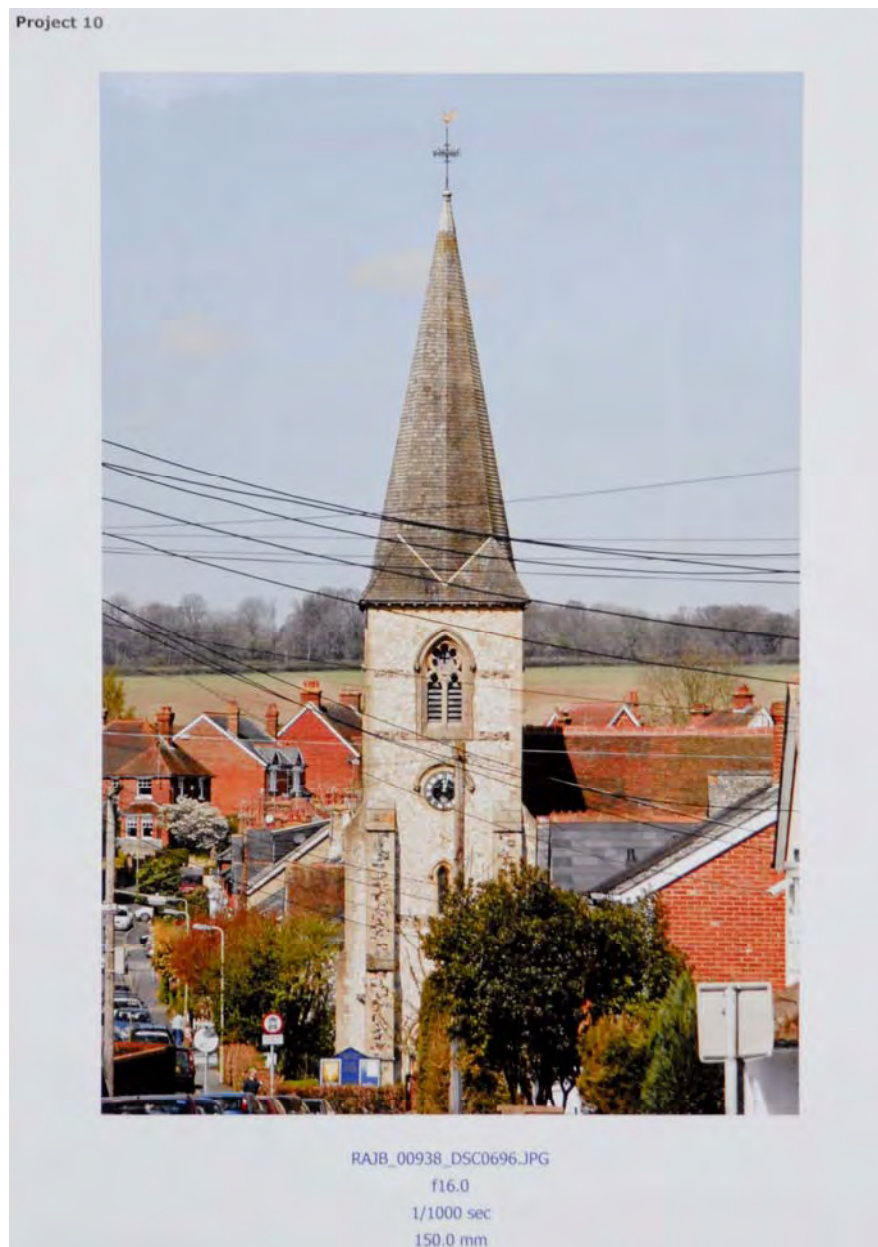
Project 10

Focal lengths and different viewpoints.

12.4.2009

Continuing on the same day with my studies I knew of a place to go for this subject. I also stumbled across a scene on route that I used for Project 12.

The following images were taken in Alton, Hampshire. I knew that the church had a long street opposite and if I could get up there, it would allow me to look back and take a shot filling the frame with the telephoto lens at around zoomed in as far as possible to fill the frame. This was the result taken at 150mm.



I then walked towards the church and took a shot almost at the front door of the church looking up. The wide angle lens now on the camera, set to 12mm.

Project 10



RAJB_00940_DSC0698.JPG

f16.0

1/1000 sec

12.0 mm

Findings

Comparing the two images RAJB_00938 and 00940 above for the same scene show tremendous differences in character. The image 00938, taken at 150mm shows again, as in project 9; how a narrower field of view compresses distance. The image elements of the frame including the car roof's at the bottom left and the crisscross effect of the telegraph wires gives the impression that the church is a long way away. To get the entire subject into the frame was hard. I could not use the zoom lens at 500mm unless I walked into someone's garden at the end of the street behind me.

For the other picture as you can see I have walked in to the front grounds of the church and after changing lenses I have got as close as I can to fill the frame. The distance from the subject to camera is very obvious as opposed to the first picture. The perspective in the shot shows more depth in the subject itself but also shows depth as the church spire rises tall and high above us. It goes away upwards in to the distance.

Conclusion

Following on from Project 9 where I was in a fixed position with different lenses this contrasting project allows me to understand that combined with view point and the ability to move around to alter the viewpoint with different lenses; it all gives masses of flexibility to take images wherever you go. I am now very much aware that there are many images to be had everywhere. These projects are becoming invaluable in my understanding of using the equipment I have and using me to, in other words move around and watch through the lens. Don't just stick with one lens try others and possibly even walk the same route over again with a different lens.