



Gansbaai

Photography Club

Gates Doors and Doorways **by Len Cooper**

Theme March 2021

The Brief

This theme creates opportunity for the photographer to be creative in either capturing the full image or zoom in on an aspect of the theme.

For Gates and fences - Consider the use of leading lines, and the impact of the fore and background.

For doors, doorways and arches be mindful of the aspect ratio, this is a great opportunity to frame a secondary subject, maybe zoom in on textures.

Most importantly the themed subject should be identifiable.

Post editing is encouraged to enhance the textures, to correct any tilting aspect ratios.
No AR

Why These Objects ?

- Doors , windows and Gates Can reflect the architectural fashions of a past time.
- Furnish an insight into the heritage of a region
- Provide a compositional framework for a better picture
- Or just produce a literal window into other people's lives.

Composition and Subject Matter

Doors, windows and Gates are great compositional aides. Shooting through either presents a perfect way to crop out stuff that you don't like for the purpose of making the subject simpler (i.e. less cluttered) and therefore stronger.

Use door frames and archways to hide uninteresting skies, buildings, or other visual complexities that might dilute the strength of the subject.



The distance you stand from a window frame works a bit like a zoom lens; the further back you are from the opening, the less you see of the view.

Consider standing inside the doorway and shooting outwards, if there is interesting detail.

If you have the space to, stand back, use this as an additional and variable framing device to make tighter compositions.



Consider symmetry, such as two doors side by side in a perfect symmetry or the total lack of it.



Consider using HDR to bring out the textural detail of an image.

Look for crusty doors, or blocked-in windows – basically anything that has seen better days.



Consider shooting in the middle of the day. At times you'll find overhead sun produces amazing three dimensional lighting, emphasizing the textures in a wooden door or wall for example, or just blasting it with sunshine to bring out the best color and definition



If the dynamic range of the scene is too much for a single shot set up a tripod and shoot three or five frames at different exposures. Process this as an HDR or if your Camera has built in HDR give it a try.



If there is not enough room to get the shot with a single image try using your panorama and stitch several images together.



Record the details in the doors or windows themselves. Not macro, just close-ups – paint surfaces and the locks, handles and hinges.



Acknowledgments:

Photzy

Robin Nichols

iStock