
EXPERT TIPS

BY THE BOOK

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HOW DOES YOUR GARDEN GROW?

Whether you're photographing flowers in your backyard or professionally designed plantings at a public botanical garden, light plays a huge role in the outcome of your images. Here are a few ways to use light and color to your advantage.

- Walk around the garden to see the ways the relationship between flowers and foliage changes with the direction of the sunlight. When the sun is behind you in a frontlit situation, there are few shadows and the garden may seem flat and two-dimensional.

- Try to alter your position so that sunlight comes from the side, adding texture and three-dimensionality to your subjects.

- Small areas of bright flowers will easily overwhelm and dominate large areas of dark vegetation. Look for color contrasts and see how different framing affects their relationships.


ADAPTED FROM *CAPTURE THE LIGHT: A GUIDE FOR BEGINNING DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHERS* BY STEVE MELTZER (LARK BOOKS, 2008; \$15)

MOODY LANDSCAPES

Good landscape photos convey more than just the look of a place. To go beyond the postcard shot, a picture has to show the character and personality of the location. Here are a few ways to add some emotion to your landscapes.

- If the place feels moody and brooding, try waiting for dark and dramatic clouds.

- At the edge of a storm, you can get beautifully glowing beams of light set against a dark, cloud-filled background.

- At the edge of a fog bank, look for interesting foreground subjects that stand apart from the misty, distraction-free background. 

ADAPTED FROM *THE BETTERPHOTO GUIDE TO DIGITAL NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY* BY JIM MIOTKE (AMPHOTO BOOKS, 2007; \$25)
