

No.

02

A+MAGAZINE

contextual matter



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Hello again.

Many of us have thought that this was going to be over within a few months. Then there was the second, third, fourth wave and endless numbers of reporting cases, lockdowns and unlocked. It seems that one would have to learn to live with it for the next few years, like the old saying if you can't beat it, learn to live with it. We ought to. We distracted ourselves in the new norm. We reviewed, explored, contemplated about ourselves, what we have and needs to be done.

This edition of A+Magazine is an attempt to illustrate what we have been up to during this norm. It is a collection of visual articles aiming to recollect the course of our thoughts during this norm, specifically contextualised, focusing in the context of architectural palette, lights, shadows, materiality and mood.

Admittedly we are shaped by our immediate context. Travelling, going out and embracing nature would freshen up and declutter our minds and body. Places we've been to, or have not been to. Colors that enriched, surfaces that we touched and touched us, atmosphere and mood that wow-ed us are all the essence of self exploration.

It is perhaps not critically important to interpret and elaborate but more importantly is to gather and show. Only through this process, it allows us to review, recollect and sets the foundation thoughts.

Often we failed to appreciate the "leggiadria" of things in our surrounding yet constantly striving to create uncertainties, aspiring differences and special are better and more superior in status, perhaps over engineering is simply the path leading to banal and superficialities.

We hope these interest you in some way.

disentangle

irony

plausible

IMMUNE

misfit

DELTA

rebel

The Pandemic



The total in the world recorded to have died with coronavirus reached 3,468,339 by the beginning of the week, an increase of 91,750 from the week before. Hungary had seen more than 3,000 per million die. The United Kingdom, with 1,873 per million, fell back to the 16th worst-affected country, just ahead of the United States. India, with more than 300,000 dead, had as yet only reached a mortality rate of 218 per million. Brazil had lost 450,000 people. Hong Kong possessed two million doses of vaccine that would be useless in three months, but could not persuade residents to be inoculated. In China, 21 runners died during a 60-mile ultra-marathon, when the weather broke.

excerpt from *THE SPECTATOR*, 29 May 2021

Located in Lantau Island, Tai Tung Shan is the third highest peak in Hong Kong. Though it is well known as its stunning sunset views, the great thing never come easily. With a height of 869 metres above the sea level, visitors have to walk uphill for thousand steps in order to arrive the peak.



Texture

A number of concrete block houses erected on the peak between Tai Tung Shan and Yi Tung Shan on the Wong Lung Hang Country Trail on Lantau Island. It is believed that these houses were built by a group of foreign missionaries for the purpose of summer retreat in 1920s.

The texture on the external wall are the signs of weathering through time.

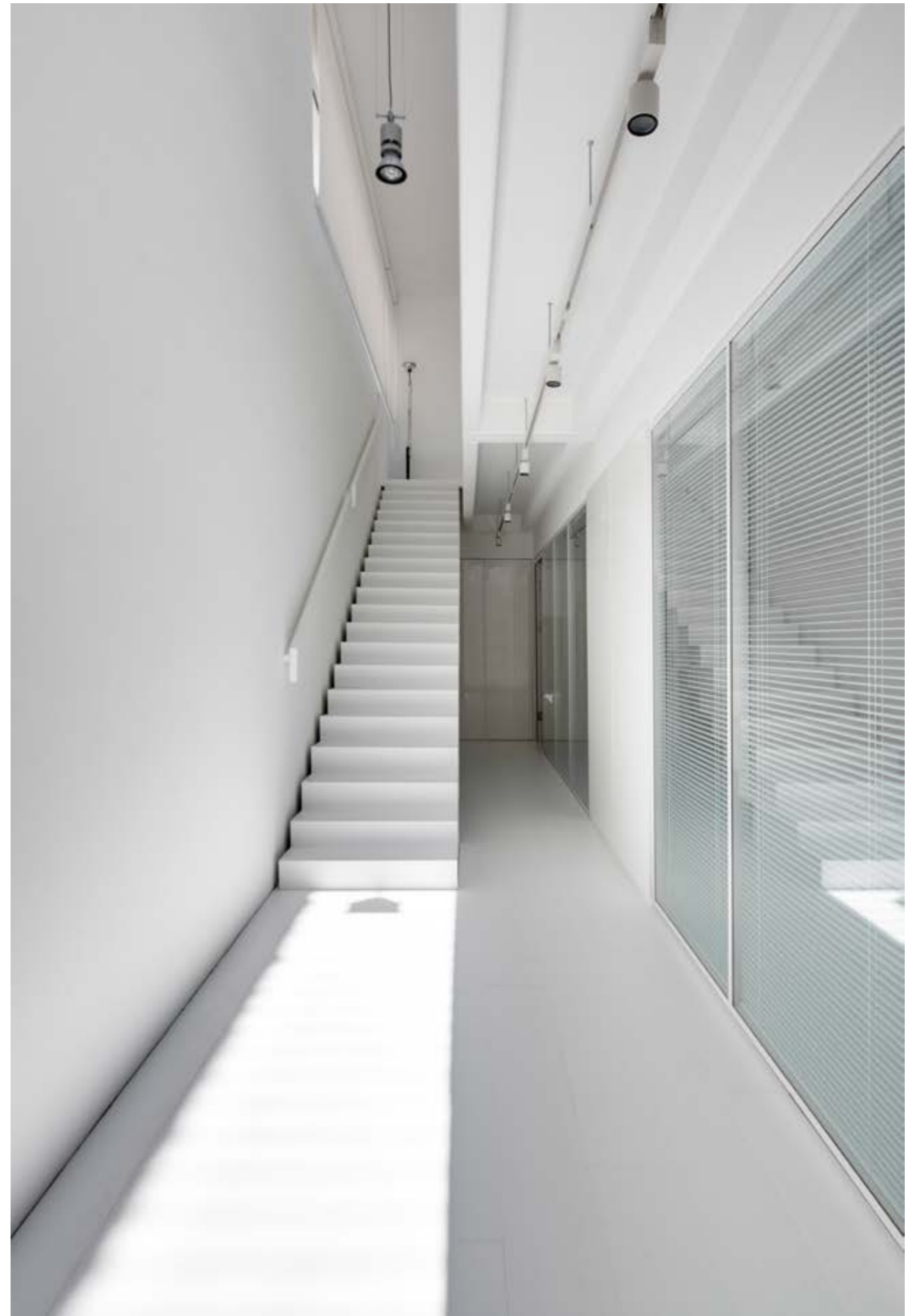


Light & shadows

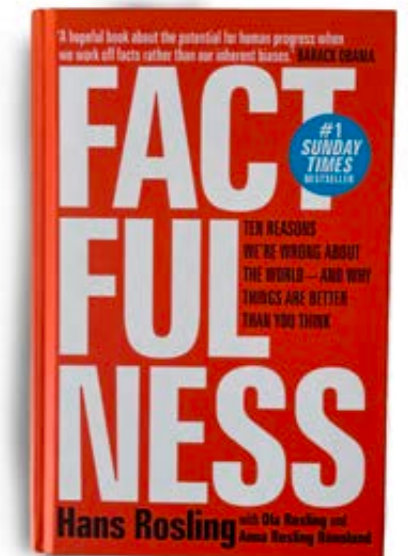
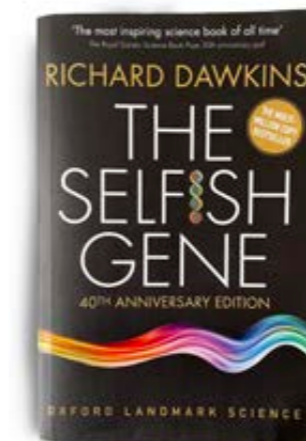
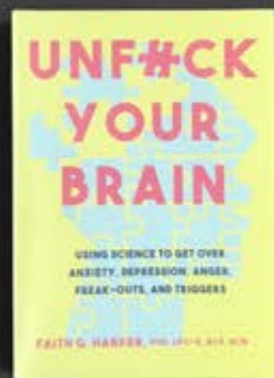
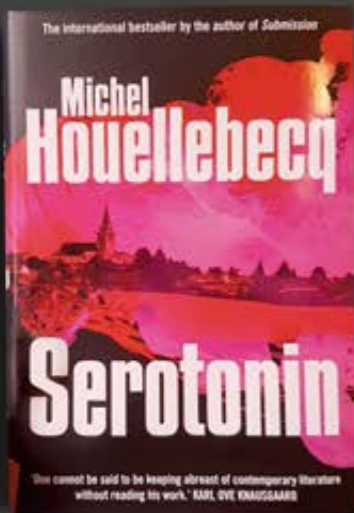
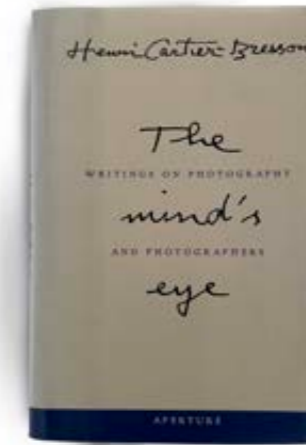
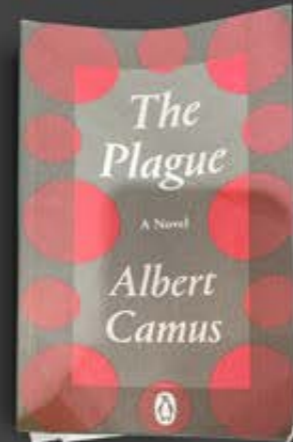
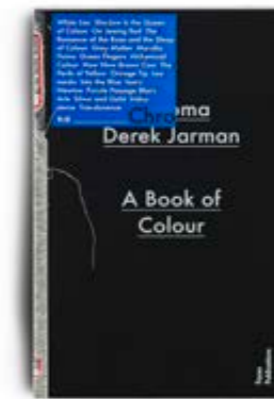
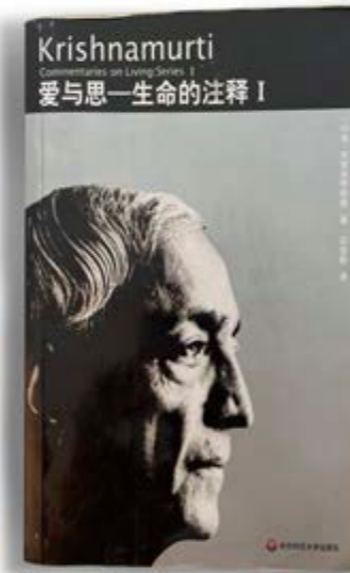
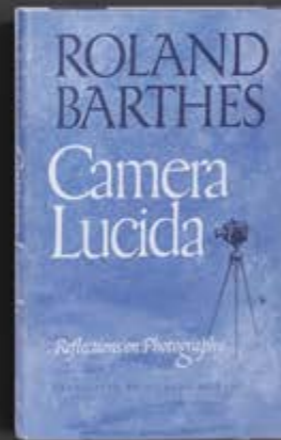
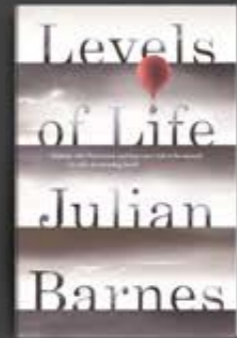
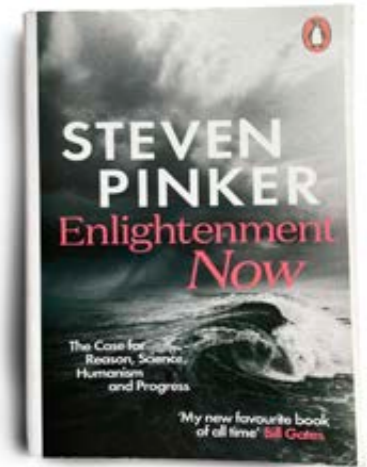
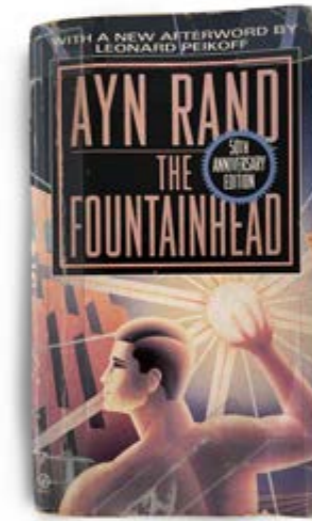
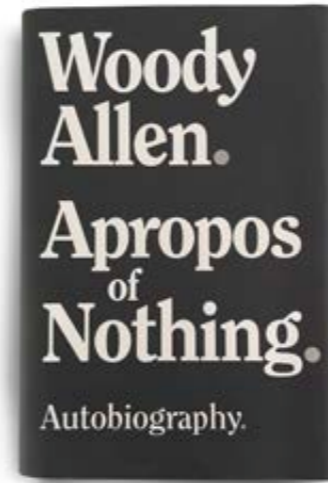
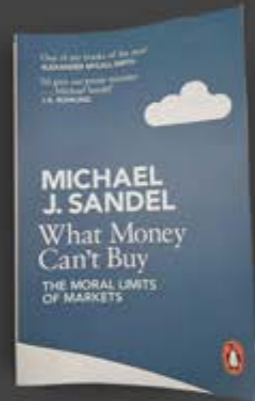
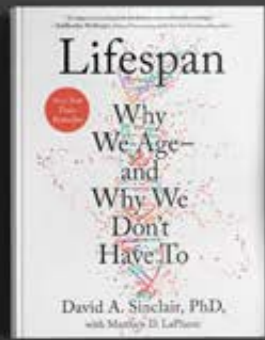
It has always been the ideal poetic setting seeing lights casting shadows into the personal space. Perhaps it was the romantic aspect of how I was brought up.

At childhood, there was no tech, no tv, iPad, iPhone or even CDs - remember those years of shiny discs and the Discman? None of that. What kept me amused was the most accessible source of joy - observation. I am always the observant type, quiet, introvert. Watching the world goes by amused me including shadows casted into the house through the limited fenestration.

Henry shot through this image via WhatsApp on Sunday morning. The first impression that I had was if the shadow moves across the stairs, because that would be phenomenal!. It is as if it highlights the stairs almost like highlighting the path of the performer on the stage. Ceremonial, play & present.



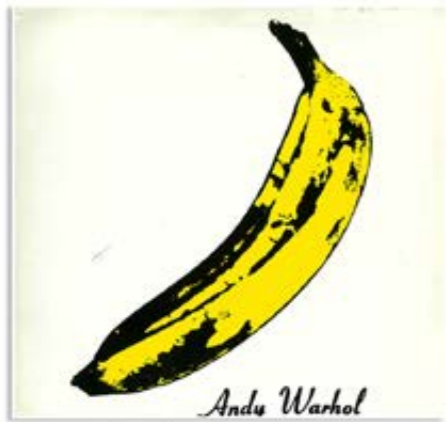
#consumption



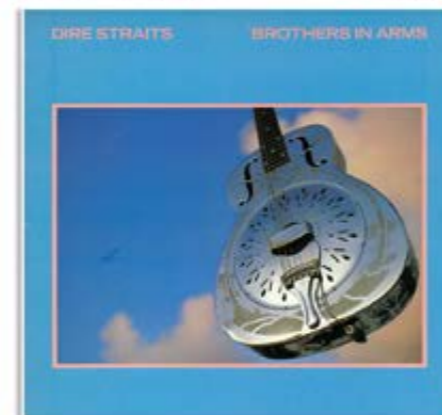
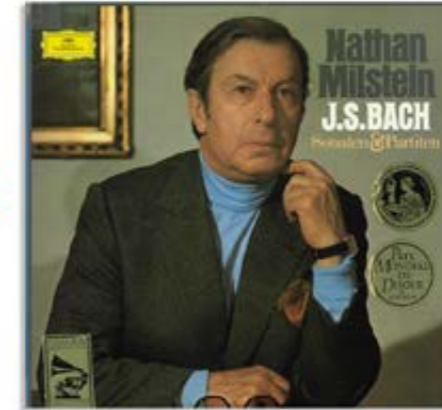


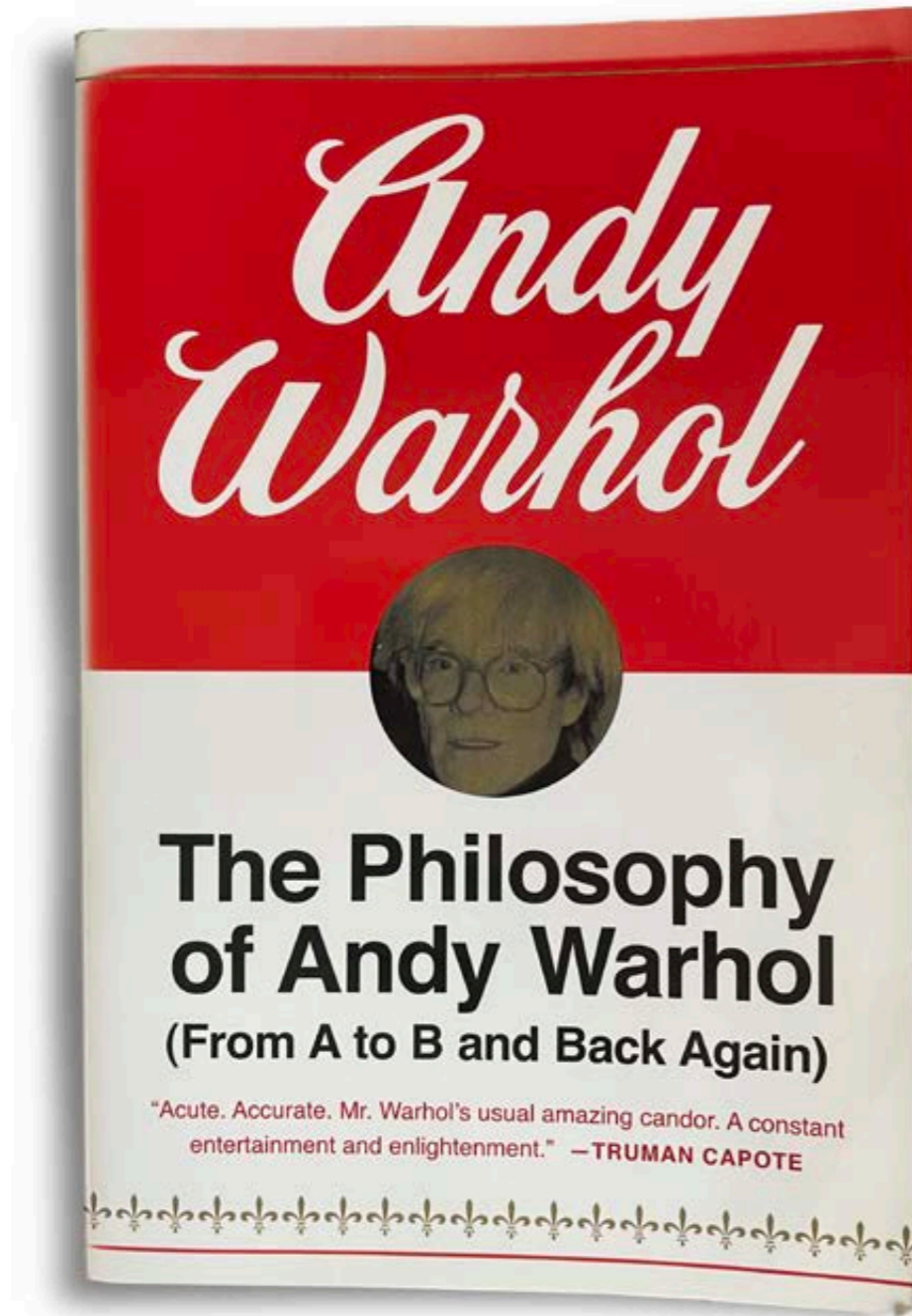
#pandemicreads

#mindfood



#nospotify
#noyoutube
#analogue
#raw
#vinyl





regular basis, a lot of what you might call free-lancers who worked on specific projects, and a lot of "superstars" or "hyperstars" or whatever you can call all the people who are very talented, but whose talents are hard to define and almost impossible to market. That was the "staff" of Andy Warhol Enterprises in those days. An interviewer asked me a lot of questions about how I ran my office and I tried to explain to him that I don't really run it, it runs me. I used a lot of phrases like "bring home the bacon" so he didn't really understand what I was talking about.

The whole time I was in the hospital, the "staff" kept on doing things, so I realized I really did have a kinetic business, because it was going on without me. I liked realizing that, because I had by that time decided that "business" was the best art.

Business art is the step that comes after Art. I started as a commercial artist, and I want to finish as a business artist. After I did the thing called "art" or whatever it's called, I went into business art. I wanted to be an Art Businessman or a Business Artist. Being good in business is the most fascinating kind of art. During the hippie era people put down the idea of business—they'd say, "Money is bad," and "Working is bad," but making money is art and working is art and good business is the best art.

In the beginning not everything in Andy Warhol Enterprises was organized too well. We went from art right into business when we made an agreement to provide a certain theater with one movie a week. This made our movie-making commercial, and led us from short movies into long movies into feature movies. We learned a little bit about distribution and soon we started trying to distribute the movies ourselves, but we found out that that was just too hard. I didn't expect the movies we were doing to be commercial. It was enough that the art had gone into the stream of commerce, out into the real world. It was very heady to be able to look and see our movie out there in the real world on a marquee instead of in there in the art world. Business art. Art business. The Business Art Business.



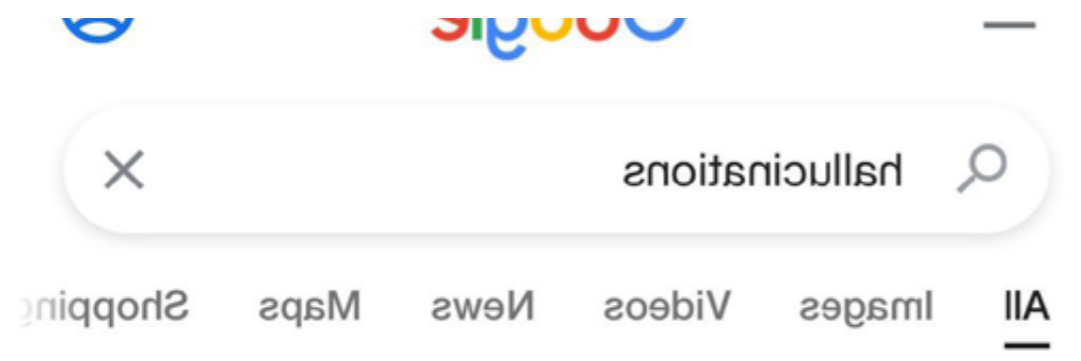
Quarantine



Fog



#wsb

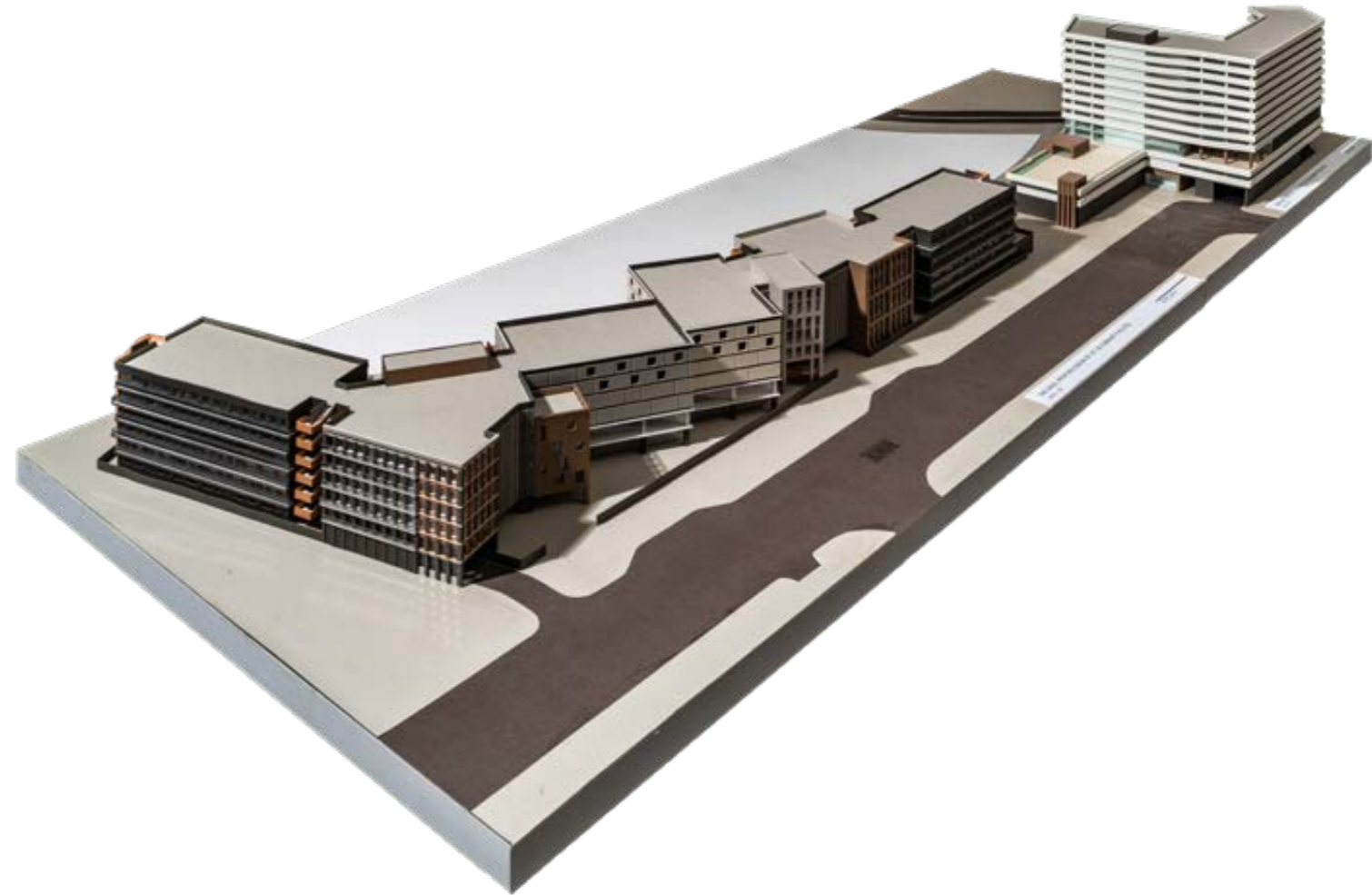


Hallucinations are where someone sees, hears, smells, tastes or feels things that don't exist outside their mind. They're common in people with schizophrenia, and are usually experienced as hearing voices. Hallucinations can be frightening, but there's usually an identifiable cause.

#struggle



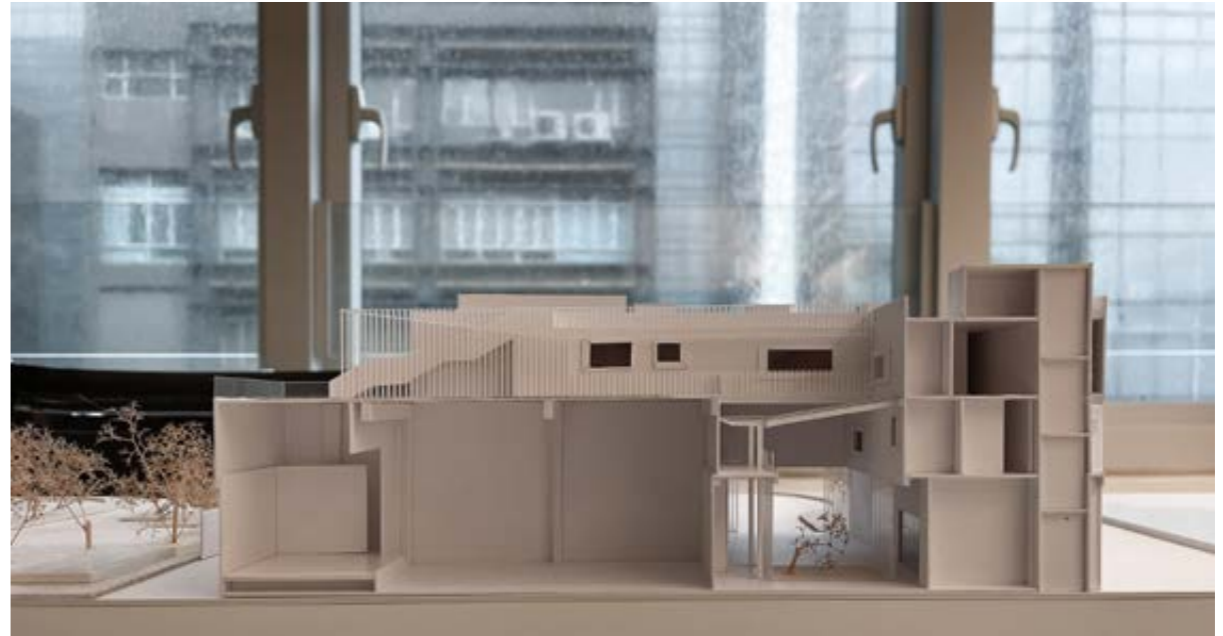
#STMICHEL



#study



cut



reveal



hyde park
kowloon, hong kong

chargold





Escape

It is a bi-annual activity. along the eastern coast.

June to August - northwards.

September to April - southwards.

Where are you heading to ?



REFLECTION

it is an act of revision, contemplating what was being done and questioning if any of the decision made was even good enough or meeting certain level of expectation. It is also a self assessment, checking, reviewing the effort, the result.



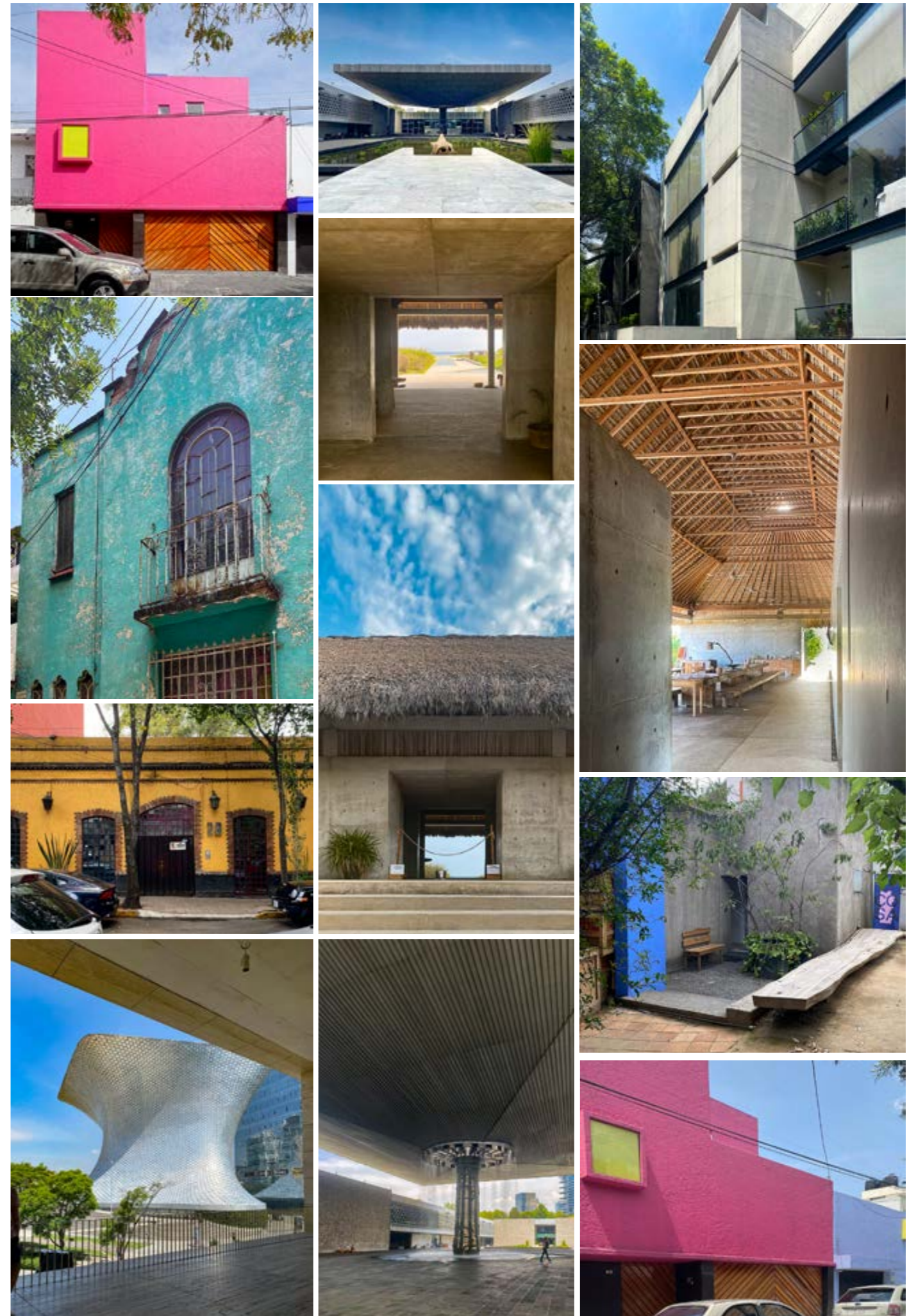
Postcard from Mexico

Mexico. Known for its vibrant culture and its deep-rooted gastronomic history, it is rarely associated as an architectural "hub". Prior to my trip, I had little to no expectation of the wealth and flair of design that would be presented in front of me. How quickly did I realise I was far from the truth...

Tadao Ando's famous concrete facade cannot be spotted by the average tourist in Puerto Escondido. 40 mins from the main town, Casa Wabi is situated in a completely secluded location, next to the luxurious **Hotel Escondido**. Along a long, winding dirt path, no one would know that you would arrive at such a sight, not even our taxi driver. Here, you get true disconnectedness to the modern world yet a strong sense of connectedness to nature and to the environment around you. The warm, humid air plagues your surroundings and the heat can almost become unbearable. However, coming from rainy and cold Europe, this was welcomed gladly by us. Luckily, the pool that looks into the distance, right in the centre of the house makes it easy to cool off while still being able to enjoy time with other house guests. Unfortunately, this is a private accommodation so I was unable to enter and appreciate the inner workings of the house but just the view, the setting and the exterior alone has without a doubt sparked my desire to one day return and stay at **Casa Wabi**. Ando also has other projects in the area, such as **Casa Tiny** which are both available to be booked and stayed in.

Luis Barragan, a formally trained engineer is one of the most, if not the most significant Mexican architect. His works remain relatively secretive and discreet. This is maintained by the difficult entries to **Casa Estudio Luis Barragan** and the costly price to take photographs within the house. However, no photograph will be able to translate the **aesthetic** of the house. Barragan, a devout Catholic and an avid lover of nature, merges symbols of religion, architecture and landscape into one piece of art. The use of **light, texture, colour** and angles create an emotional ambience and sense of pleasure every corner you turn. Everything in the house was carefully and precisely calculated, reflecting Barragan's **functional and pragmatic** nature. The lack of division between pockets of space demonstrate how Barragan truly saw this as his personal refuge, his haven within the bustling atmosphere of **Mexico City**. As you take a journey through the house, you almost live through the years with Barragan as you see changes made to his surroundings across the years as a result of his old age and illness. It almost feels too personal at times.

I have just scratched the surface of Mexico's dynamic and overflowing architectural culture. Almost every building along the street seems significant, distinct and picture-worthy. A country like no other presents architecture like no other.







refuge

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