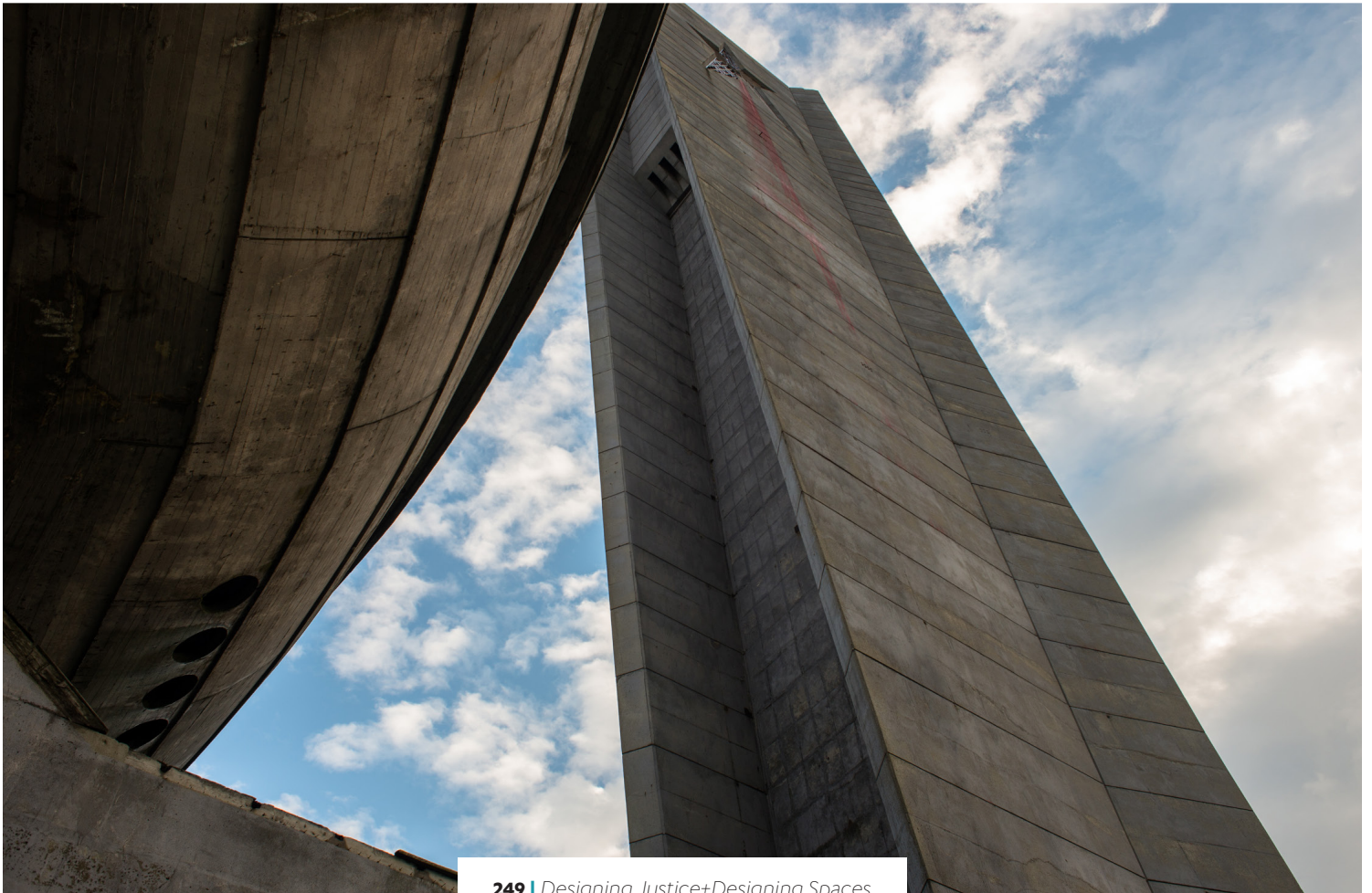


Tool
9



Photo Analysis





Description

Photo Analysis

We are surrounded by visual stimuli and images every day and, even if we do not pay attention, the visual world impacts how we feel, act, and relate. Photo analysis invites us to pay close attention to what we see and explore the meaning, characteristics, and impact of the images of our world. By analyzing an image's content, we can learn about the design of spaces we enjoy and those that we avoid. Because each viewer sees the world differently, each person analyzing an image will offer important and unique insight about the image.



SAMPLE EXERCISE

Select an image that you have taken or one from a magazine. Make enough copies for each participant. Using the handout in the Make and Build section, ask participants to analyze the image. They may choose to mark up the photo itself or write notes on the paper. After they have finished their analyses, facilitate a large group discussion. Possible questions include:

1. What are recurring themes that surface in the analysis?
2. What new insight did you gain about an image because of the analysis?
3. In what ways do analyses of the same image differ from each other?





Plan and Process

Use this tool to:

- Facilitate reflection and design during sessions.
- Plan for individual and group design projects.
- Explore different viewpoints on polarizing topics.
- Encourage participation from those who may be less confident in their verbal communication skills.
- Engage students who may not feel confident in their writing skills.
- Facilitate learning on topics other than restorative justice.

Modify the sample exercise

Exercise 1: Analyze an image of your choice

Invite participants to select their own image for analysis by making available a wide selection of images to pick from in response to a prompt. For example, you could offer one of the following prompts:

- Select an image that represents a space, or characteristic of a space, in which you could face the worst thing you have ever done.
- Select an image that represents a space, or characteristic of a space, in which you could work through an experience with victimization.
- Select an image that represents a space, or characteristic of a space, that represents restoration (or love, accountability, etc.)

Exercise 2: Analyze an image selected by another participant

As in Exercise 1 above, participants select their own images in response to a prompt. Rather than analyze the image they selected, however, they analyze that of a fellow participant.

Present and debrief the design tool

Invite students to share their analysis with the class, using discussion questions such as:

1. What are recurring themes that surface in the analysis?
2. What new insight did you gain about an image because of the analysis?
3. In what ways do analyses of the same image differ from each other?



Make and Build

Image analysis requires few supplies, simply images, and instructions.

Images

Images may come from a variety of sources—magazines, facilitator’s photographs, or ones participants bring with them.

Instructions

The handout, adapted from a worksheet created by the National Archives (Washington, D.C.), offers instructions, categories, and reflection questions for analysis.



Tool
9



Photo Analysis

Participant Handout

Photo Analysis

We are surrounded by visual stimuli and images every day and, even if we do not pay attention, the visual world impacts how we feel, act, and relate. Photo analysis invites us to pay close attention to what we see and explore the meaning, characteristics, and impact of the images of our world. By analyzing an image's content, we can learn about the design of spaces we enjoy and those that we avoid. Because each viewer sees the world differently, each person analyzing an image will offer important and unique insight about the image.



Photo Analysis exercise

Use the worksheet and instructions on the back of this page, analyze the assigned photo. You may choose to mark up the photo itself or write notes on the handout or a separate sheet of paper to complete this exercise. After you have finished your analysis, respond to the questions at the bottom of the page.

After everyone has completed their individual analysis, you will participate in a large group discussion.

Architecture/ Interior Design	
Culture/Religion	
People/ Relationships	
Activities	
Objects	
Atmosphere	

1. If you gave this image a title, what would it be?
2. What characteristics are most prominent or recurring in this image?
3. What emotions does the image elicit in you?
4. How would you use the space in this image?
5. What metaphors come to mind when you consider the meaning of this image? For instance, images in which one feels held and comforted may bring the notion of being “nested.”