

Photographer Liping Zhang

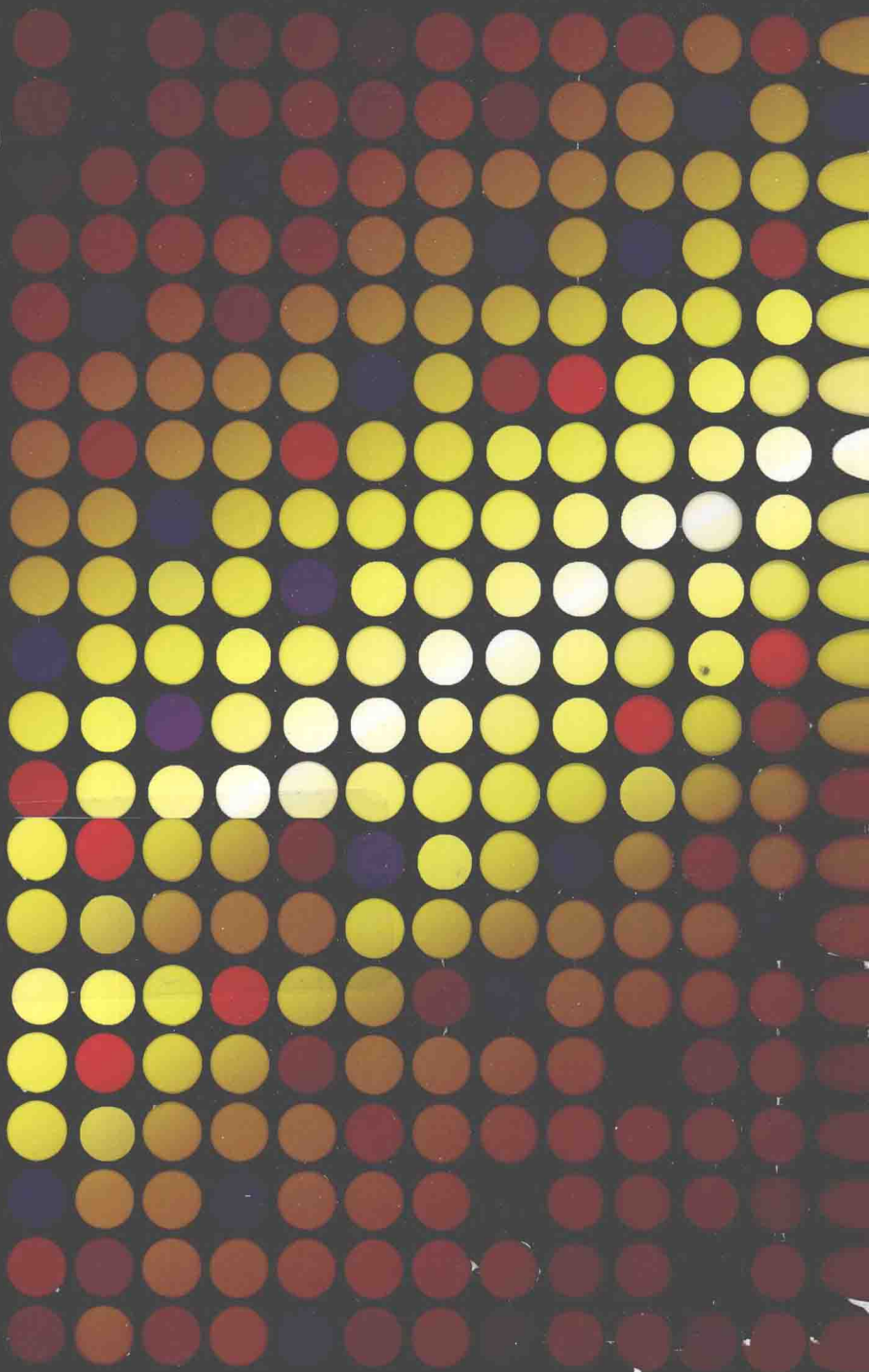
In Search of Highs and Sunlight

Photographs of Various Churches in American Communities

寻找高点 · 追寻阳光

张力平 摄影

美国社区形式多样的教堂建筑摄影



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PREFACE

I have been living in the United States for one year. During the year, I have taken photos of various church buildings. Wherever I go, I will look for the high point. (In USA, there are tall buildings in the center of the city, while, buildings of the rest regions are not tall, including the hotels, shopping mall and government office.) So, when you find out the high point you will find the churches.

Whenever I find a new high point, the sense of excitement will come to me, because that means I find a new different church. There are numerous American church architectures, which are various in forms. There is grand, ornate, modern and legendary church, such as Crystal Cathedral in Los Angeles, California; while, most of the churches are scattered in communities, ordinary, but with distinguishing features and various styles.

Out of question, in any residential area, the church is the most important public place. So the churches I have seen are almost the best architectures with the best location. A majority of churches have been designed by the brilliant architects. As a kind of architecture, the church has sufficiently reflected the complicated architect wisdom among the local people.

I have been astonished with the great power of faith in church. A church may be just a form of beauty. Numerous churches get together, the form has changed into a real content, which is abstract and concrete at the same time. Thousands of people pray together to God "Give my kindness to other people, and bless me with a peaceful afterlife."

Light is the most precious fortune given by the nature, and it's also the essential part of the church architecture photography. Light can be bright, blinking, moving, jumping, or chaotic, gloomy, fading and dim. It is changing and moving, which makes the silent churches change its own face every minute. The believers and spectators can experience the holy, pleasant, sympathy and meditation. If we take fully use of the light, the architecture will become lively and vivid, even the ordinary style can become fabulous and unique in photograph sometimes.

These photographs in the book show my feelings and understandings of American church architectures. Whenever I want to take a photo, I will walk around the church, observing and looking for the best perspective, constantly adjusting the diaphragm until completing the most satisfying photograph.

This year is the 60th anniversary of the founding of my Alma Mater, Guangzhou Academy of Fine Arts. So the following photographs are carefully selected, compiled and published for celebrating the founding of my Alma Mater.

在美国生活的一年里，我拍了许多大小形式多样的教堂，每到一处我都去寻找高点，（美国除城市中心有较高建筑外，其余地区建筑都不高，包括酒店、商场和政府办公场所。）找到高点就找到教堂！

每当我寻找到新的高点，内心就会有一种莫名的激动和兴奋，因为又找到一座不一样的教堂。美国教堂建筑数量不但多且造型雷同的很少，这当中有雄伟、华丽、现代感极强而又充满传奇色彩的教堂，如加利福尼亚州洛杉矶的水晶大教堂。更多的是散落在各社区里的普通却各具特色、风格多样的小教堂。

在任何一個居住区里，教堂毫无疑问是最重要的公共场所，所以我看见社区的教堂几乎都是最好的建筑，所处位置也是最佳的，多数教堂都是由很棒的建筑师来设计。作为一种建筑，教堂最大限度地体现了民间纷繁复杂的建筑智慧。

教堂所负载的信仰的力量让我震惊。一座教堂也许只是一个美的形式，无数座教堂一起，就从形式变成了内容，既抽象又实在，就像看见千万人一起弯腰，祷告，向一个共同敬畏的神灵说：我将与人为善，我渴望安宁的来生。

光是自然界赋予人类最宝贵的财富，同样不言而喻，光也是教堂建筑摄影重要的组成部分。光或者明亮、闪烁、移动、跳跃；或者混沌、阴暗、淡出、模糊，它永远在变化与运动着，于是就使原本静止的教堂时刻随着光的变化而不断改变自身的面貌，让信众和观者从中感慨着神圣、欢愉或悲悯、沉思。由于将光的作用充分调动出来，建筑变得生动活泼，有时甚至可以把平淡的造型拍得精彩绝伦。

画册的图片是我对教堂建筑的感受和解读，每当我拍摄时，我总是围着教堂转，一圈又一圈地观察，或高或低地寻找角度，不断地调整光圈，直至拍出满意的照片为止。

适逢今年我的母校广州美术学院建校60周年，特选出部分照片结集出版以作庆祝。

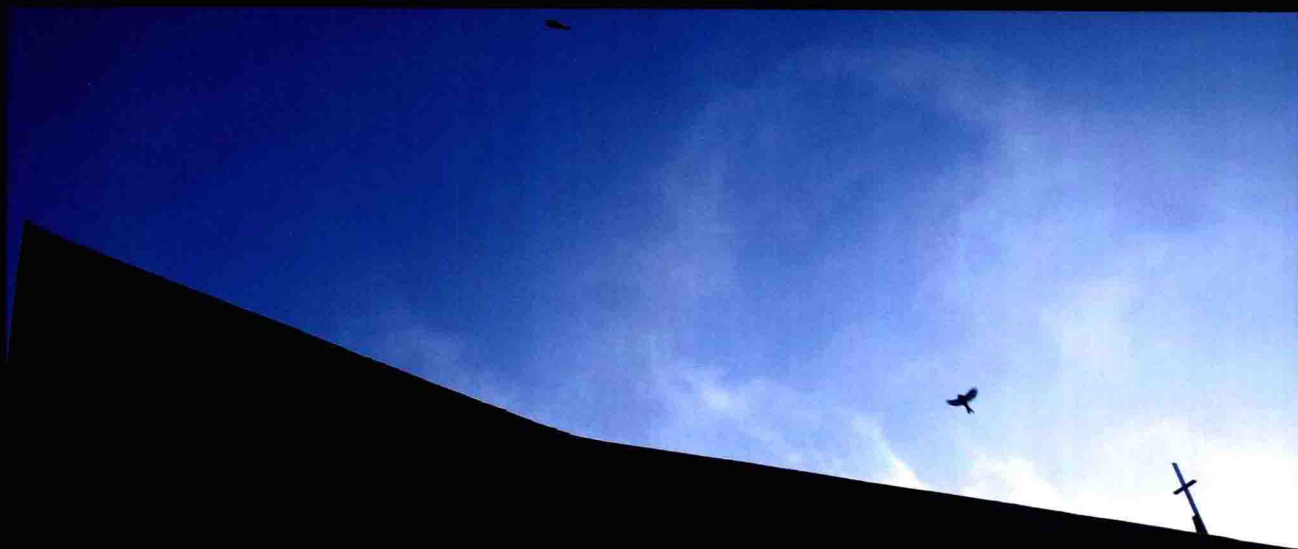
张力平
ZHANG, LIPING

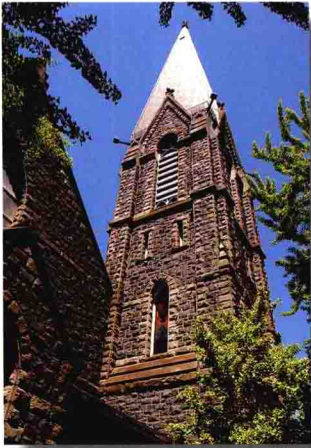
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虽然事物的存在都有理由
但是这让人错愕的小巧
却让无意中的遇见
折射出了极端的震撼
心变得很大很大

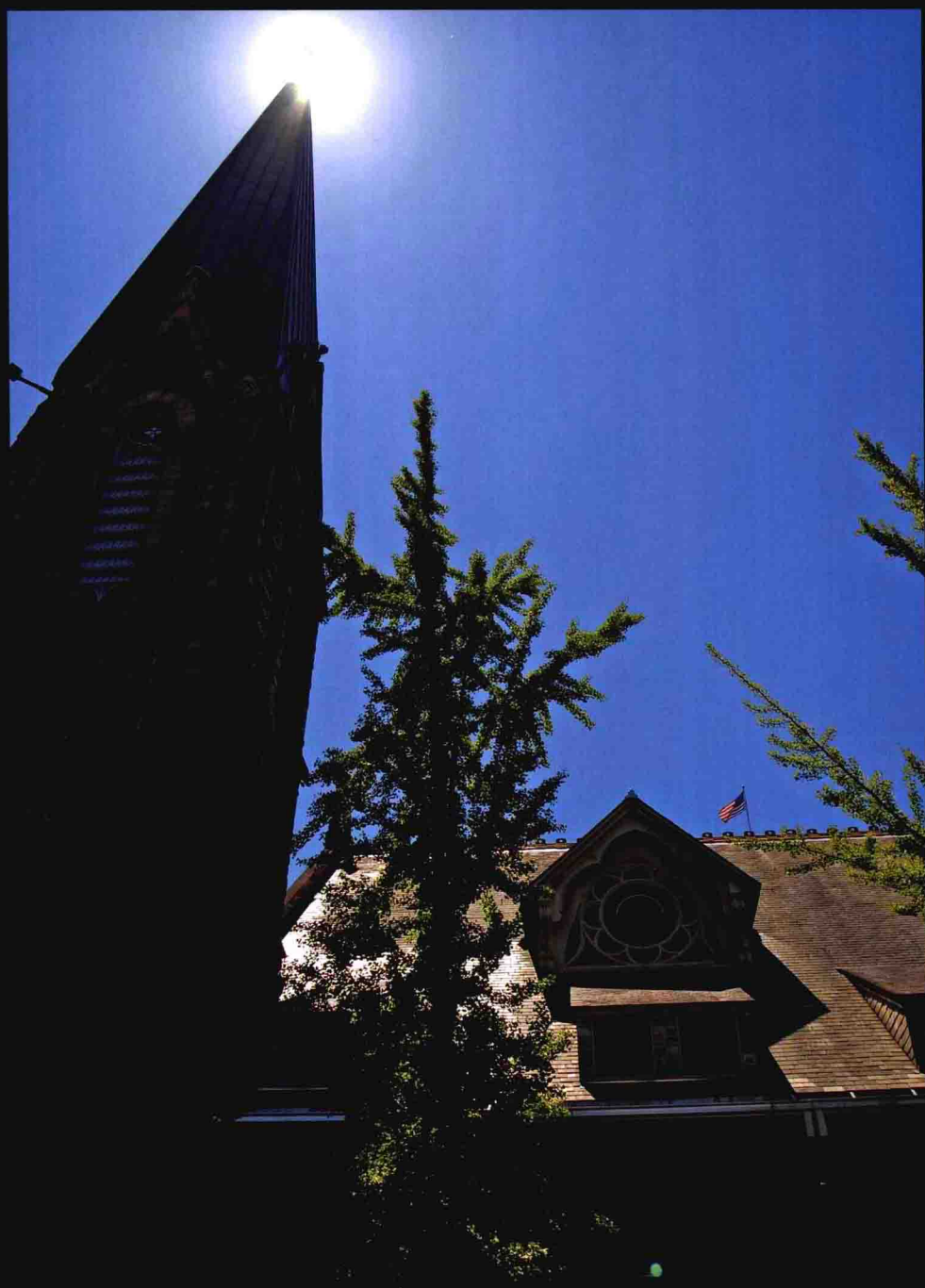
Things on the earth, stand for their cause.
Exquisite as it is, startle from a glance.
Ultimately amazed,
By unexpected encounter,
Enlarged is my heart.





青青的灰
纯纯的白
上面写满了信徒仰视的光华
锐利的塔尖
穿透了尘世
与太阳的光华纠缠
看遍一个个昼日的轮回

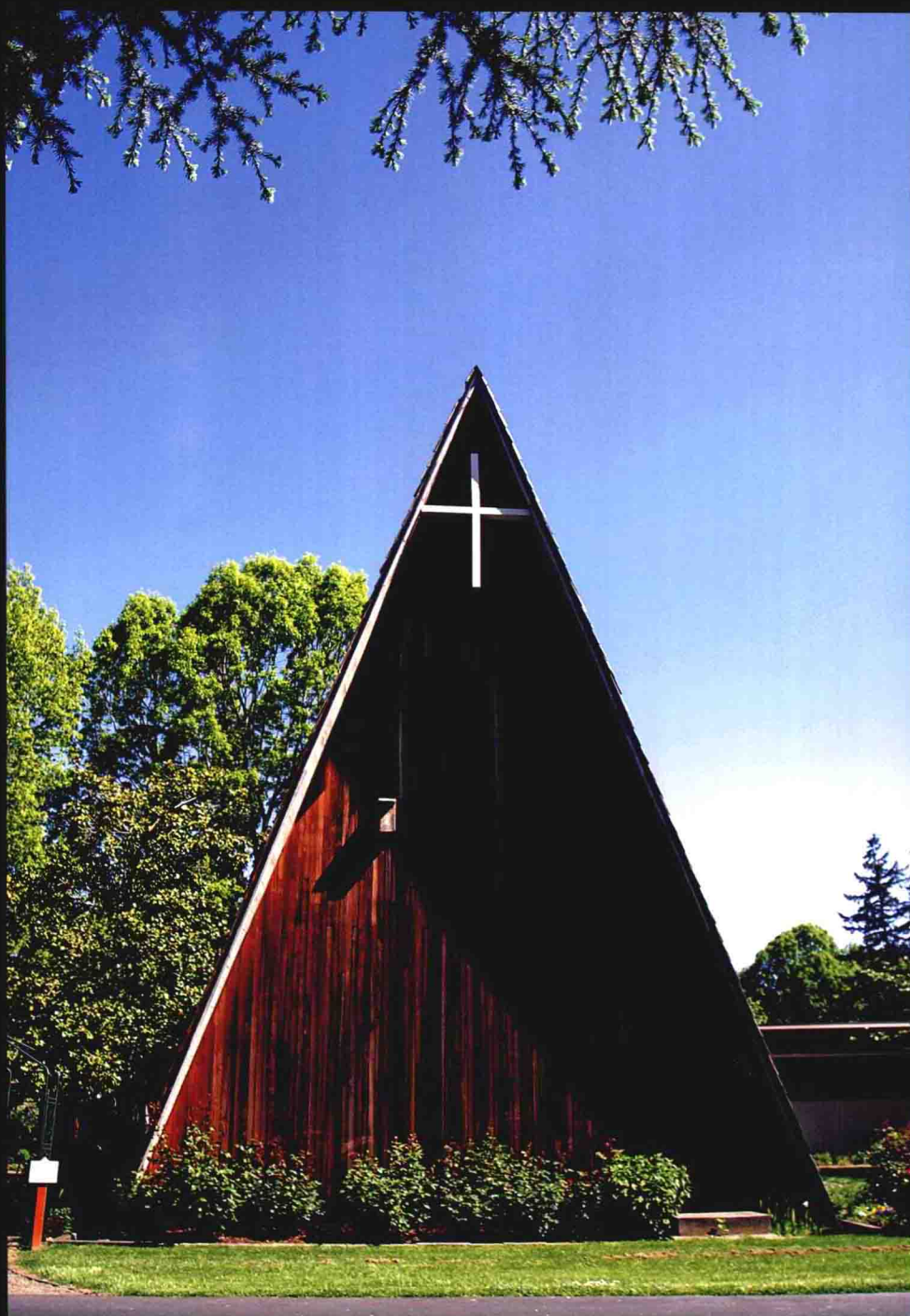
Grey, the age.
White, the purity.
Embroidered with the times of followers' beliefs.
Keen, the spire.
Spears through the world,
Lingers with the sun.
Witnesses the cycle of death and rebirth.

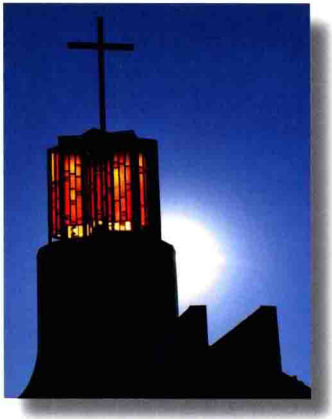




光到这面
光到那面
不变抚慰着的
是内心的虔诚

Here, the sunbeams come.
There ,the sunbeams go.
Wherever they chase after,
Falls on the earnest within you.

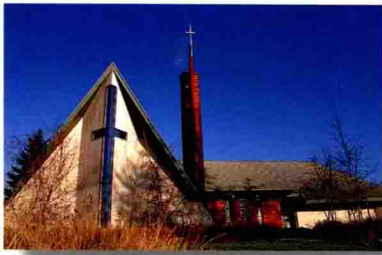




守望遥远
我们的天堂
那种遥远到无可触及的神圣光晕
将七彩琉璃幻化成诗人笔下的魂灵
美到极致的圣洁

Gazing into distance,
We see the heaven,
That far-away halo we can't feel.
Turns the azure stones into phantoms depicted by poets.
Superbly, saintly is the beauty.





玻璃的光
通透的墙
如天神智慧的眼
连接在你我之间

Light reflecting through the glasses.
Concrete standing with transparent body.
Just like the eyes of the God's wisdom.
Connecting you and me.

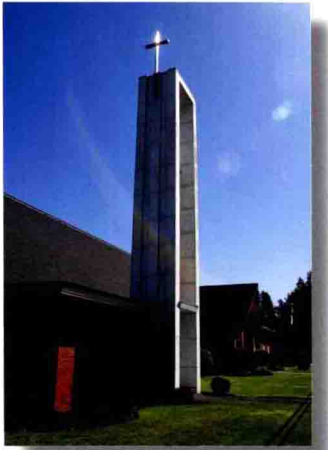




这是座被白色包裹的建筑
在阳光照耀下
白色被染成了一种金色的白
雾霭中
庄严以最原始的方式喷薄而出

This construction is wrapped in white,
Through the sunlight,
The original whiteness is gilded with gold.
In the mist,
The solemnness appeals from the very origin of
what it used to be.





寻找高点
只为了
享受与阳光神圣接触的一刹那
那光晕挥洒的瞬间
永恒地凝于镜头的一端
满目的光华
随快意释放

In search for the highness,
Just to
Enjoy the blinking second in touch with the sun.
Just to
record the moment when the light splashes,
With my camera.
Captured with my eyes,
Released with my joy.