

The Time and Space of



Orange County

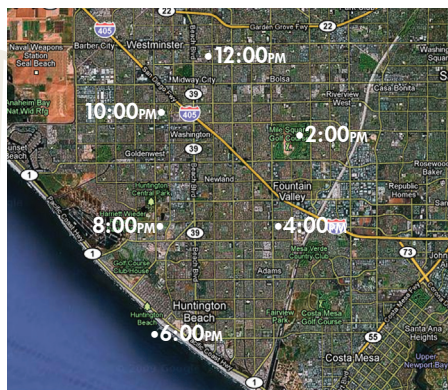
by Steven Hendren



“My focus for this photo project was to demonstrate how time and space are part of all of our everyday lives.”

Take a moment to reflect upon the events of your day. What stands out to you? Was it the good things that happened to you or the bad? Do you remember where you were at the time a particular event happened? Do you search for beauty in your circumstances or do you just move from one day to the next without noticing what is going on around you? These thoughts, along with many others, were on my mind as I put together this photography project entitled “The Time and Space of Orange County.”

My focus for this photo project was to demonstrate how time and space are part of our everyday lives. I chose various locations in different parts of Orange County, most of which I often drive by but rarely visit. I took a picture of each location at a different time of the day, starting at noon and taking images at each of the even hours until 10:00PM. To drive the time theme even further home, I included a transparent clock to add some consistency (and beauty) to each shot.



I also chose to show the flow of time through the sites I chose. Their locations, when plotted on a map, correspond roughly to the hour hand position for the time that the image was taken. For instance, my 12:00PM picture was taken at the northmost location, while my 6:00PM shot was farthest in the south.

All in all, I hope that you are both enlightened and inspired by this photographic study of space and time. Be sure to stop and look around you the next time that you feel lost in the business of your day.

12:00PM at Sid Goldstein Freedom Park

Probably the best aspect of this particular photograph is the strong sense of direction in the composition. Both the soldiers and the clock are alligned towards a common perspective, almost as if looking towards the future. I had to get very creative with the angles since there weren't a whole lot of convenient places to put the clock relative to the statues. In the end I chose a post about 15-20 feet from the statues and oriented the perspective very carefully. Quite frankly, I think this is an amazing sculpture. It's a shame that it is tucked away in a park behind Westminster Court House. Chances are you won't see it unless you have jury duty or a parking ticket, in which case you probably won't stick around for long.



2:00PM at Mile Square Park

Because of the fact that live animals were involved, this was one of the more tricky photos to take. I used a fast shutter speed to capture the ducks' quick actions with as little blur as possible. I also needed a quick shutter speed since I had to hold my camera by hand. This was due to the fact that the position of the clock relative to the ground made it impossible to use a tripod and get the composition I was looking for. Since I used a quick shutter speed, I decided to keep the depth of field shallow. Even though it was difficult to anticipate the actions of the individual animals, it was fairly easy to follow the flock since they went to whoever had food.

4:00PM at Chateau Blanc

This photo was taken inside of my house at the Chateau Blanc town home complex in Fountain Valley. This seemed like an appropriate place to take this picture seeing as the clock has effectively “lived” on top of the piano in my house for several years. Since the outside light coming through the window was fairly weak due to cloud cover and rain, I felt that it would be fitting to provide my own lighting with the candle. I really like how the candlelight brings out the personality in both the clock and the wooden bear sculptures. Since they were a souvenir that my parents picked up early in their marriage, they've always been at my house.



6:00PM at The Huntington Beach Pier

Since this was a night shot, I needed to use long exposures of up to ten seconds or more. This made composing it tricky, since I did not want anyone to accidentally cross the field of view. With exposures that long, any person walking along the pier would simply appear as an amorphous blur in the shot. I really appreciated how the streetlights at the pier were reflected and refracted through the crystalline structure of the clock. This interaction provided this shot with a strong sense of brilliance. I further brightened and added sharpness in Photoshop to highten this affect, with special attention paid to the highlights and the clock face.

8:00PM at Huntington Beach Library

Even though I've been to the Huntington Beach Library a great many times in the past, I've rarely looked up as I've entered the main entrance. Had I done this more often, I would have probably noticed the photographic potential of this eye-catching architecture sooner. It took me a while to figure out just the right angle to capture both the clock and the building. I really like how all of the lines of all the different structures interact with each other in a variety of different ways. Honestly, I would have to say that this is my favorite picture in terms of lighting, seeing as the clock captures even more dynamics than any of the other photographs I took.



10:00PM at Golden West College

The mine cart seen here is located just outside of the Golden West College library. It is yet another example of an interesting piece of scenery that is easily missed if one is not looking for it. The rocks and the track manage to really complete the scenery and give it an “old-timey” feel. The only thing that manages to make this photo out of this feel (besides the obvious use of the clock) is the butterfly design spray-painted on the side of the mine cart wall. However, I thought that it managed to add enough personality to the shot for me to leave it in. It also felt fitting for me that I would use the college I am currently attending as the photo to bring “The Time and Space of Orange County” project to a close.

The Time and Space of Orange County

12:00PM noon at Sid Goldstein Freedom Park



10:00PM at Golden West College



2:00PM at Mile Square Park



8:00PM at Huntington Beach Library



4:00PM at Chateau Blanc



6:00PM at Huntington Beach Pier

