



Leica M9-P · Leica Summicron-M 2.0/35 · 35mm · 1/30s · f/4.8 · ISO160

Book Temple III

Tutorial by Hans Martin Doelz

The Stuttgart City Library in Germany is frequently visited by photographers. The building was designed by the German-based Korean architect Eun Young Yi. The opening ceremony of the library took place on October 21, 2011, and countless photographs had already been taken of both the interior and the exterior. I visited the library in September 2013 for the first time and was really surprised to see the complex structures, which are a challenge for any photographer.

In February 2014 I saw an image that was short-listed in the Open Competition of the 2014 Sony World Photography Awards. The image displayed a motif featuring the interior of this library. So I decided to visit the library again to have a look at it from the position that the image was taken. To get familiar with my new camera I walked around and took a few shots, but I failed to capture the motif of the short-listed image with my 35mm lens. (Later I read that the photo from the Sony WPO Awards was taken with a 12mm lens, which immediately explained things.)

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That's why I concentrated on a motif with a frontal view of one of the four nearly equal looking walls of this cubic structure. I chose the one with the cafeteria on the 8th floor because of the lively activity there. Also, in the cafeteria there are many windows, so there is more natural light coming from outside, whereas on the 6th and 7th floors there is warmer light created by artificial lighting and much less natural light. I paid great attention to these different types of lighting conditions so that I could capture both of them in my image.

"I waited patiently until the arrangement of those few people was appealing and balanced in the composition."

On 6th and 7th floors there were only a few people walking around. I waited patiently until the arrangement of those few people was appealing and balanced in the composition. I took about 10 different shots, and in my opinion this one is the most attractive because there is one person exactly in the middle of the stairs and, at the same time, in the center of the photo.

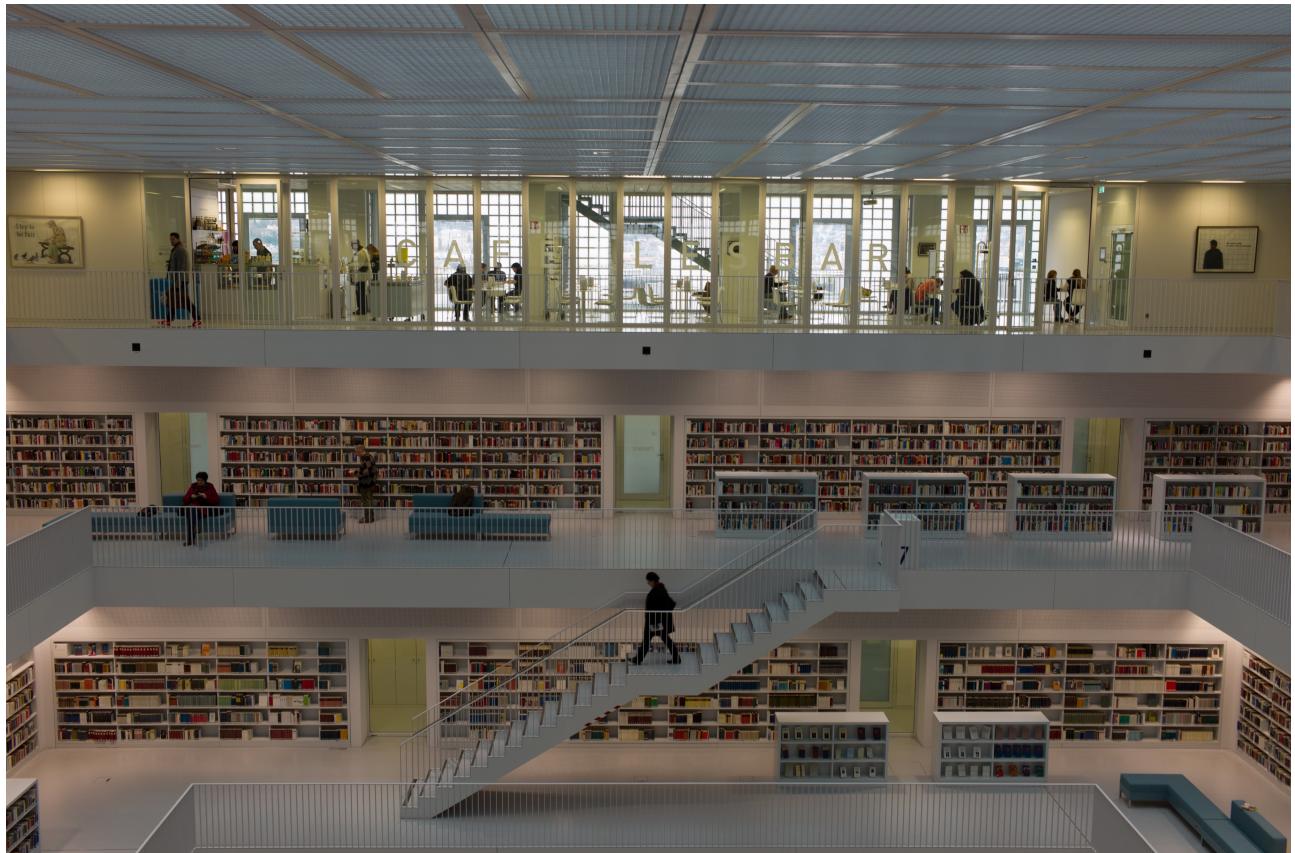
There are many elements in this image that combine to create a strong, dynamic composition: all of those people amidst the impressive bookshelves in this library; the sitting woman who is busy on her mobile phone; the standing old man reading a book, his jacket lying on the stool; the woman on the stairs who has chosen a book to borrow; and, not to forget, the walking man on the 8th floor (on the left side) with his wonderful red sneakers.

POST PROCESSING

The image was processed in Lightroom 5.7.

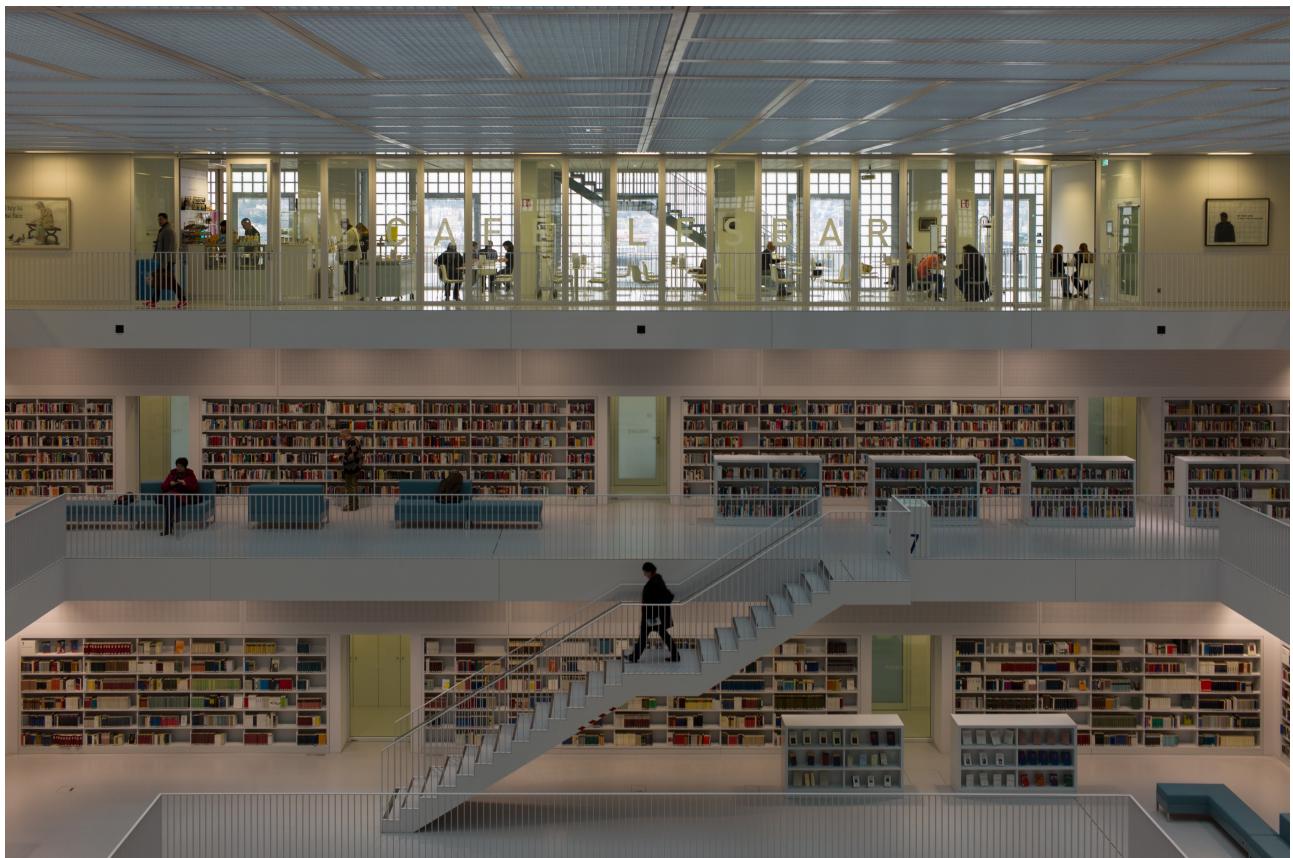
The original DNG file was underexposed, and a slight correction of converging lines was necessary. Furthermore, I wanted to create an overall attractive appearance as far as color was concerned to emphasize the beauty of the bookshelves.

This is the original image.



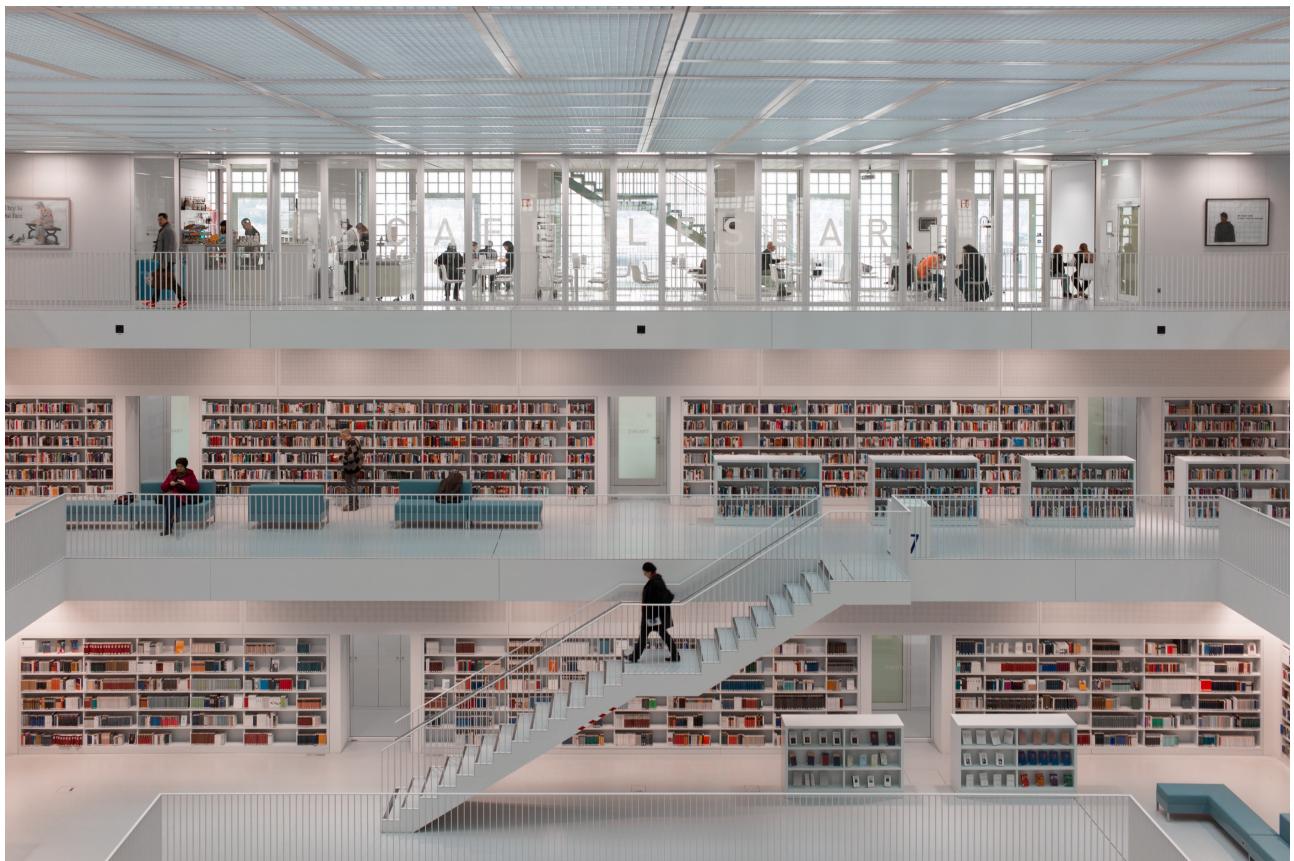
Original image

1) I first applied an automatic correction of the converging lines in the Lens Corrections panel, which instantly improved the photo. You can compare the image below to the original image above to see the difference. Notice also that the edges of the photo were cropped a bit after performing Lens Corrections.



After automatic correction of converging lines

- 2) In the Basic panel, I increased Exposure to +1.14. This was a first attempt at brightening the overall image; later the Exposure setting was increased again.
- 3) In the HSL/Color panel, I reduced Yellow Saturation to -100 to remove the yellowish effect produced by the artificial lighting.



After increasing Exposure and reducing Yellow Saturation

- 4) Back in the Basic panel, I increased Contrast to +23.
- 5) At this point I realized the photo still needed more brightening, so I set Exposure to +2.4.
- 6) At the end of post-processing, I cropped a bit off the top and right side, producing the final image.



Final image

TIPS

- 1) Before you visit any new area, take some time to look at images of the place, and taking into consideration your particular genre of photography, see if anything catches your eye. Then do some research online to find out more about the location, such as opening times, where and when you are allowed to photograph, and so on.
- 2) When you are taking architectural images, if you want a straight view of a facade and you don't have a tilt-shift lens, include as much of the elevation as possible in the frame. This way you will give yourself more opportunity to adjust converging vertical lines in post-processing since there is most often some cropping involved in the process.
- 3) While a tripod is a useful tool, you can travel without one and still take successful images using other methods to stabilize yourself and/or your camera.

BIOGRAPHY

Born in Lüdenscheid, I now live and work near Stuttgart, Germany. I'm a self-taught photographer. Many of my images are inspired by lines, patterns and shapes that are found in both man-made and natural environments. My images are often created based on photography and on computer algorithms as well. After retiring from my job as a financial controller in the automotive industry, I fell in love with creating art and photography.

Check out my homepage: <http://www.hansmartindoelz.co> <http://www.hansmartindoelz.pixu.com>

LOCATION



Stuttgart, Germany