

The Universal Design Photo Workshop

The workshop I have run more times than any other, with students and workshop participants of many kinds.

WHAT IT IS

A photographic field exercise with a one-sentence task: **photograph things that either align with or break with Universal Design**. Then gather and look at what everyone found.

HOW TO RUN IT

1. **Set the frame:** one instruction, no checklist: photograph what aligns with or breaks with Universal Design. Resist the urge to define Universal Design first. The differences in interpretation are part of the material.
2. **Walk, together or spread out:** a shared environment at the workshop, or a few days in your everyday environments: where you live, where you shop, the routes you already know. Enough time to stop photographing the obvious.
3. **Gather and show:** each participant picks a few photographs, tells the group about the fieldwork, and motivates the choices: what made you raise the camera at exactly that moment, and what makes this align with or break with Universal Design?
4. **Close on the experience:** how was it to do the exercise? Was there an aspect you particularly noticed, or one that was hard to work with? **What do you take with you?**

WHY IT WORKS

What you photograph reveals what you are trained to see. Different people walk the same building and return with entirely different pictures. The workshop makes that difference visible and discussable.

Universal design is something you can read off an environment. This is how you learn to read it.