

CREATION OF "CRUMLIN COLLIERY"

TAKEN ON 26th SEPTEMBER 2011 CANON EOS 1DS MKIII 17MM T&S F4 L

Over the past couple of months I have been experimenting a little more with my Tilt and shift lens and found a fabulous site (www.cambridgeincolour.com) that explains a bit of the theory and practice behind how they work. It really is a stunning lens and now I understand a bit more about it I can appreciate the reason it costs so much! One of the things I learnt suggested it can be used to create panoramas so I tried doing a complex HDR/T&S image of an old Mine building near Crumlin in the Valleys. This was a pretty ambitious experiment and I have to admit to not getting it totally right due to a bit of a flaw in my thinking. Basically, even with the extra wide angle of view offered by the 17mm focal length, the abandoned building was still too wide to fit in the frame. So the idea was to create a panorama using the lenses ability to shift horizontally without changing the camera position. In order to do this movement you have to revolve the lens through 90 degrees and I didn't realise that this would also change the focal plane so that instead of the focus going from front to back it appears to be from bottom to top of the frame – thus the ground and sky are out of focus which has resulted in the blurring of the top of the chimney stack!



To add to the complication, I also took multiple exposures at each point to do a HDR – consequently the resulting image was huge. Add in a silver effects B&W conversion to adjust the colours and you get a pretty complex workflow. As an exercise I loved it and compositionally I like the image – I just wish the focus was right throughout! I'll just have to go back and take it again sometime.

Camera was mounted on a tripod in portrait orientation and placed central to the building,



lens shift set to max left



lens shift set to centred



lens shift set to maximum right

ISO 200 F8 1/640 sec



1/400 sec



1/200 sec



HDR Composite



Each set of 3 images were then tone mapped using Photomatrix Pro to provide a composite image which displays a full dynamic range.



The 3 HDR sections were stitched together using photoshop's Photomerge to create the full panorama.

From here a number of further adjustments were made in photoshop to create the final version:



Further processing:

- The image was cropped to remove the out of focus foreground and to create a letterbox aspect ratio.
- Two black & white layers were created in Nik software's Silver Effects. The first was to provide a warm toned version that would create a muted feel when blended with the full coloured HDR layer. The opacity of this B&W layer was set to 70% which allowed some of the stronger colour to leach through into the final layer.
- The second B&W layer was a contrasty neutral conversion, which provided more detail in the bricked up areas. A mask was applied to this layer so that this conversion was only visible in the windows and doors.

Some localised lightening was performed on the building and stack using a brightness/contrast layer and a small amount of sharpening using the high pass filter completed the process, resulting in the final image that can be seen at the top of the page.

