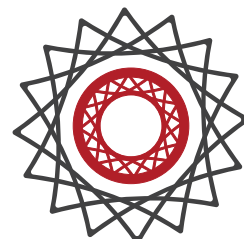


FOCAL POINT



THE MALTA INSTITUTE
OF PROFESSIONAL PHOTOGRAPHY



Photography by COVER BY CHARLES PAUL AZZOPARDI

ISSUE 95

The Official
MIPP Newsletter

www.mipp-malta.com

2021
JULY|AUGUST



PRESIDENT'S VIEWPOINT

Dear Members,

The time has come for me to step down from President and Committee of the MIPP. It has been a long eventful journey of over 25 years with naturally its challenges, successes, failures, its ups and downs. It is a decision that I assure you has not been taken lightly and, in fact, to guarantee continuity I am remaining on the committee up to the next Annual General Meeting of 2022. Thus the hand-over of my duties can be gradual and structured. I sincerely hope that you will all continue supporting the MIPP and, eventually, the new President and Committee.

The Institute has had many successes and achieved things that were never considered possible when it started. However, the main three things that I am proud of is the many members who have passed through its ranks and have considerably improved their photography; the second is the achievement of having our own premises and thirdly, our status as a recognised academic Further Learning Institution. All this has been achieved through hard work, persistence, vision and the many individuals and companies who have given their help and support. In line with this decision, this will be the last newsletter I will be editing and taking care of. I really wish to thank the editorial group of Sita Azzopardi, Edward Sant Fournier, Therese Debono and Charles Paul Azzopardi for working on this with me for so many years. I am happy that Charles Paul Azzopardi has accepted to take over as editor as from the next issue, as well as being voted unanimously as the next President of MIPP.

Finally, I wish to sincerely thank all those who, like me, have believed in this journey and wish the forthcoming MIPP President and Committee the highest success for the Malta Institute of Professional Photography.

President MIPP

Kevin Casha

Editor:
Kevin Casha

Design:
Sita Azzopardi

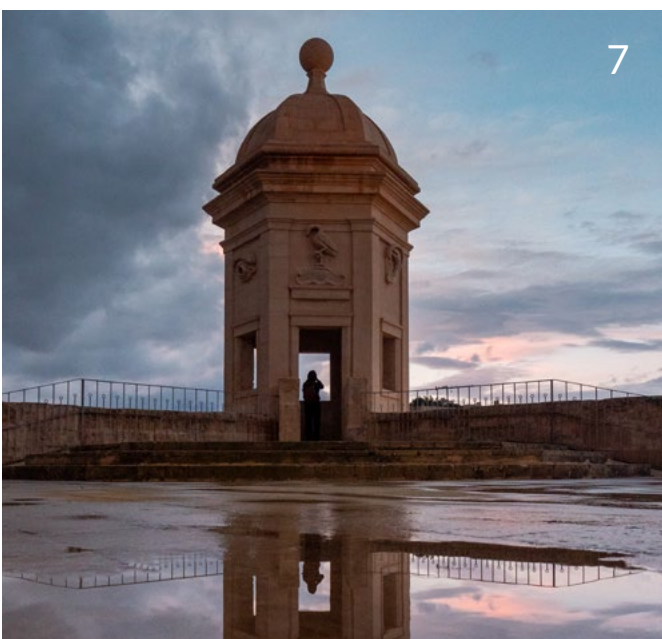
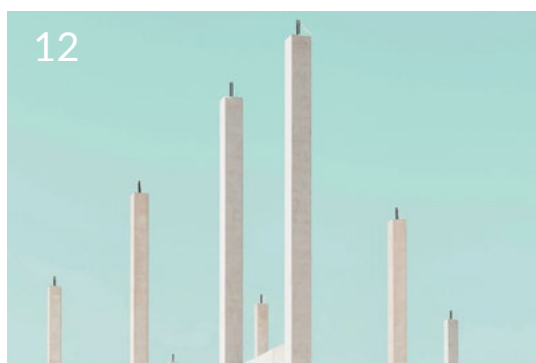
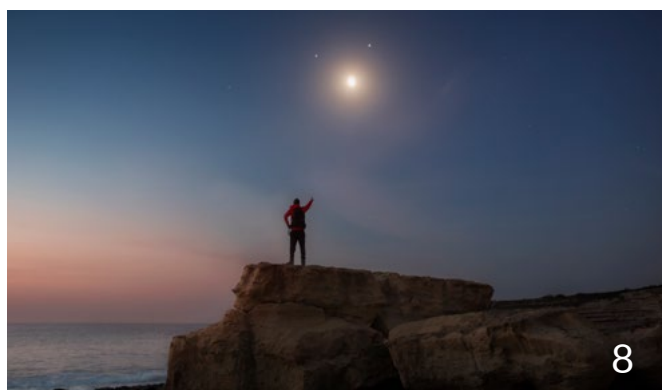
Articles:
Various contributors

Proof Reading:
Charles Paul Azzopardi

If you want your photographs featured on the newsletter's front page just send the images to: courses@mipp-malta.com
Your contributions are always welcome

CONTENTS

INTERVIEW ALEX ATTARD BY CHARLES PAUL AZZOPARDI	pg 12
CALENDAR	pg 15
BENEFITS OF BEING A MEMBER	pg 18
THE MIPP SPONSORS	pg 23



LET'S TRY AND HELP OUR SPONSORS!





Dear Members and friends,

In these difficult times, our thoughts should go to those who are facing problems with their income due to the complete or partial closure of their businesses. We are all in some way or other affected, but some are feeling the brunt more than others and I feel we should all try and come together and help in whatever manner possible. As you well know, the MIPP is attempting to tide over the time in the best way possible, with our resources.





My second appeal and thought goes out to the MIPP's main sponsors, most of whom have employees and large bills to meet. In this dire time, why don't we all go through our images and work and try and print that travel album, that family picture etc? That way, in our own little way, we can try to help our sponsors by giving them some work, however small, in a period where they have none? This quiet period will also help us get over our backlog and things which we have been procrastinating. What better way than to look at our past memories and immortalise them in a photobook? Again, this appeal goes to those who can, as for those who are hard up charity, naturally, begins at home.

Just to remind you of our main sponsors, (who can still be contacted online), they are the following:





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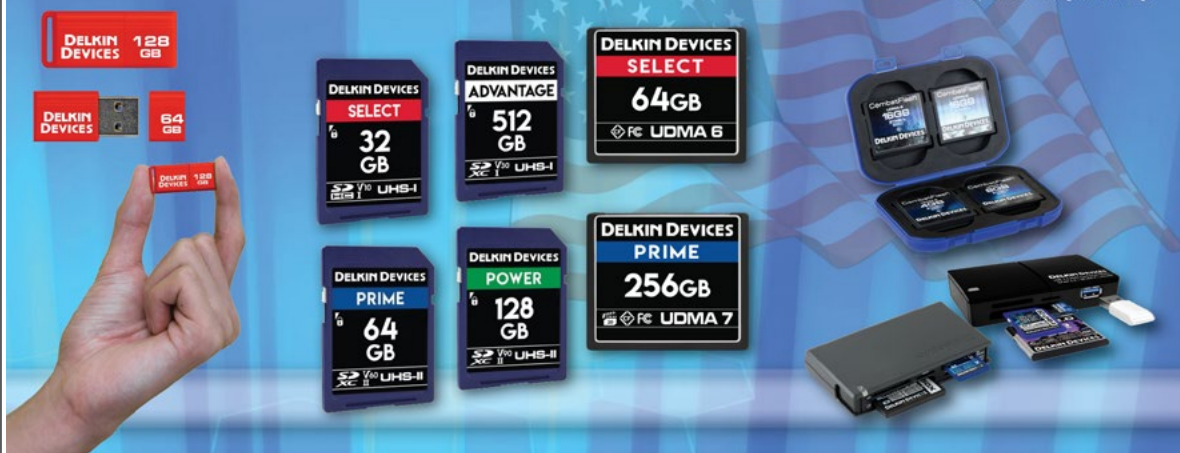
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TUESDAYS AT 7PM



MIPP MEMBER ONLINE MEETING

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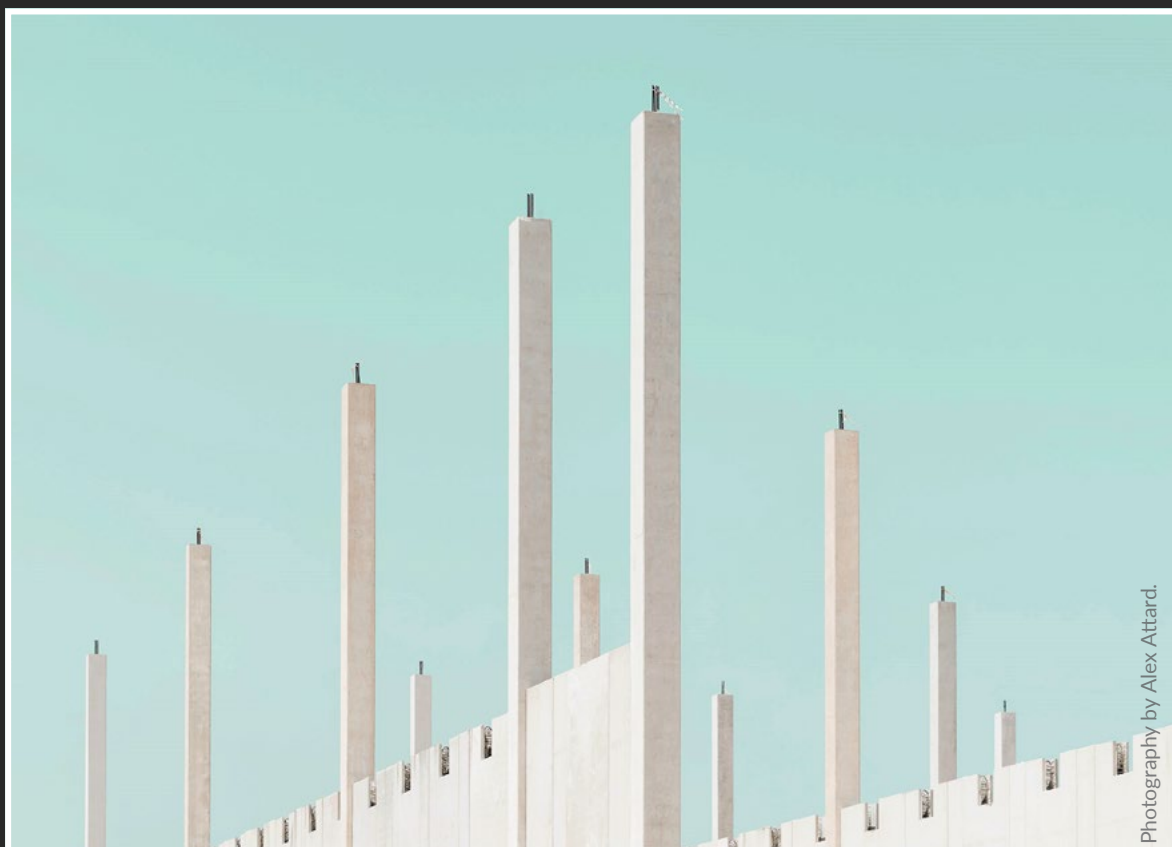


ALEX ATTARD

By Dr Charles Paul Azzopardi

Alex Attard is 65 years old, married to Krista, father to one boy and grandfather to two grand-daughters. He is currently retired, having had a long history of employment in the PR, design and catering industries. Besides photography, his interests and pastimes include reading, travelling and, especially, architecture, having had the privilege of meeting world-famous self-taught Japanese boxer turned architect Tadao Ando whilst in Paris! This passion for architecture arose unexpectedly when he was asked to convert an old property in Mosta in 1989, and he discovered his affinity for this most captivating of subjects. Although he regrets never formally studying architecture academically, he researched it avidly and read architecture books extensively, owning a large library of books related to architecture. When he restarted his path in photography in 2006, it was only natural that he would gravitate towards incorporating architecture as one of his favourite genres and themes to shoot for his imagery.

Although Alex ventured officially into the world of photography in 2006, he admits that his interest in photography is lifelong, having been exposed to it from a young age, due to coming from a family with a longstanding history in photography in Malta, the Ciancio family. His grandfather, the photographer John Ciancio, gifted Alex his first ever camera, a Fuji, aged 12, during a family event celebrating Ciancio's golden wedding anniversary. His first SLR was a Minolta SR-T 101 with just a 50 mm lens, and he followed this up by purchasing an enlarger from his photographer friend Joe Attard, with the purpose of setting up a small makeshift dark room at home back



Photography by Alex Attard.

" Urban Minarets " – A study of a factory under construction

in the late seventies. Unfortunately, photography fell by the wayside and played second fiddle to his full time employment in the catering business in the eighties... until 2006.

The interest was rekindled when his own son bought his first camera on a joint trip to Asia as he was interested in taking up photography, and this triggered memories in Alex about his past affection with the art; he bought a Nikon D200 and a couple of lenses from Hong Kong during the trip, and he was captivated. Times had changed from his previous analogue days twenty years previously though, and digital photography proved to be a completely different brute, with Alex initially struggling to emulate the visual properties of analogue film he was familiar with, in particular as regards to monochrome, a style which he loves. He thus decided to take a course in digital editing to understand the digital darkroom better in order to produce constant quality work and prints.

Seeing his multitude of ties to architecture, this genre is his staple favourite when it comes to photographic subjects, although when it comes to personal projects, he works with any genre which stimulates his artistic and creative interests. He prefers working in a series of images to have the facility to scrutinise and explore a subject as extensively as possible. One of his favourite images is "Urban Oasis", an image portraying the Falzon Service Station in Birkirkara. Despite being one of his earliest images when he was still studying and finding his way with monochrome imagery, he adores it for the feeling of timelessness it exudes. His absolute favourite image, though, is of course an image of his grand-daughter Lily.



Photography by Alex Attard.

The advice he proffers is that spending time with one's subjects is crucial, looking at different angles under various light conditions being important to discern how to portray it. Seeing the subject in front of your lens with the eyes and enthusiasm of a child excited at experiencing something for the first

time is the basis for virtuous photography, as well as being simultaneously detached and absorbed with your immediate surroundings. On a more personal level, his grandfather photographer John Ciancio taught Alex to be technically meticulous during his photography, both at the capture and the post-processing phases.

His inspirations in photography are myriad – Irving Penn for his vision and technical excellence, Julius Shulman's mastery of architectural photography, David La Chappelle for his amazing creativity and hyper-realistic images, Hiroshi Sugimoto for his "Theatres" series and Robert Mapplethorpe for his audacious independence and his inspiring flower images. Alex admits to spending hours captivated perusing a masterful palladium print.

Alex first joined MIPP in 2008, and he agrees that it provides an opportunity to meet with like-minded photographers to discuss various photography related topics and to share experiences and ideas. He currently works in commercial architectural photography and personal art photography projects, and although he admits to currently being in a sort of artistic hiatus, he has multiple ideas germinating and still needing to be researched, which will surely lead to fruitful results in the future.



Photography by Alex Attard.

Detail from "Three Plus One" an apartment block by Valentino Architects



Photography by Alex Attard.

Staircase detail of Boutique Hotel in Valletta by Demicoli & Associates

CALENDAR

July | August



NB: DUE TO COVID PANDEMIC, ALL THOSE ATTENDING MEETINGS, WORKSHOPS ETC. ARE ADVISED TO WEAR A MASK & FOLLOW OUR RECOMMENDATIONS.



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MIPP MEMBERS' MEETING

*A Personalised View of the
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by JOSEF N. GRECH*

Tuesday 6th July | 19:00

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MIPP MEMBERS' MEETING

*UNDERWATER PHOTOGRAPHY
by PETE BULLEN*

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*ARCHITECTURE OF
ARCHITECTURE PHOTOGRAPHY
by ALEX ATTARD*

Tuesday 13th July | 19:00

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MIPP MEMBERS' MEETING

*MOTHER - A Tribute to Mother
Earth By Marsel van Oosten*

Tuesday 27th July | 19:00

March /2021

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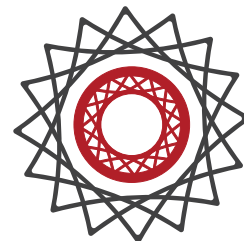
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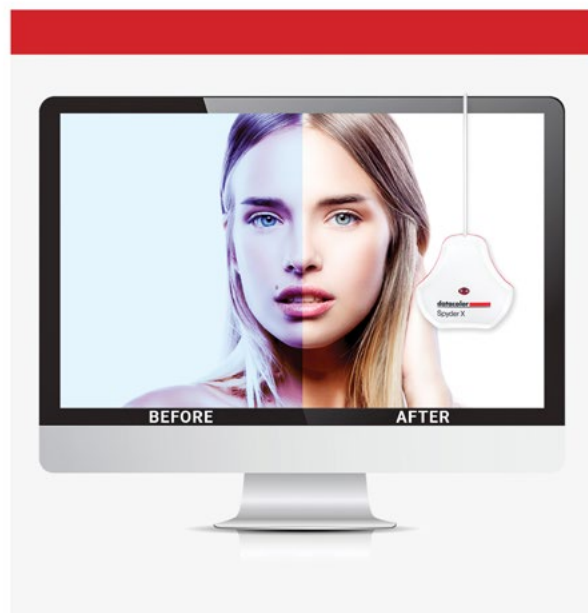
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The MIPP feels it is vital to stimulate joint events and initiatives together with our sponsors. This policy helps our members to be constantly aware of products and services that our sponsors market thus not only encouraging an increase in business but also benefitting our members through special occasional offers and deals.

This co-operation and belief by our sponsors, most of who have been with us since the MIPP's inception, has helped in no small way in making the Institute what it is today. It is one of the MIPP's main objectives to help to keep this co-operation improving. We urge our members to truly support our sponsors by making use of their services and products whenever possible.


The main sponsors of MIPP are AVANTECH (CANON); ILAB Photo, PHOTOCIANCIO (FUJI), PHOTOIMAGES, INTERVISIONS, PHOTOINK, MIDSEA.


Our sponsors show faith in the MIPP so it is only fair that our members should reciprocate. Give your custom to the companies and entities who help us.




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