

**WHITEWASH**  
**By Nicholas Alan Cope**

Published by



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WHITEWASH **NICHOLAS ALAN COPE**  
LOS ANGELES ARCHITECTURE



MY WORK AS A PHOTOGRAPHER BEGAN BY FOCUSING ON THE ESSENTIAL COMPONENTS OF LOS ANGELES ARCHITECTURE. I SPENT TWO YEARS WORKING TO CREATE A SET OF PARAMETERS FOR PHOTOGRAPHING THE CITY. MY SECOND PROJECT WAS CREATED AS A COMPANION TO THAT PROJECT. I PHOTOGRAPHED THE LANDSCAPE OF LOS ANGELES. THESE TWO BODIES OF WORK EVENTUALLY FORMED A SORT OF IDEALIZED SURVEY OF THE CITY. SUBSEQUENT PROJECTS HAVE TAKEN THE VISUAL LANGUAGE ESTABLISHED IN THOSE SERIES AND EITHER EXPANDED UPON THEM OR REACTED IN OPPOSITION TO THEM. WHILE SOME OF THE MORE STRUCTURAL PROJECTS LIVE WITHIN A SIMILAR VISUAL SPACE TO THE LOS ANGELES SERIES, OTHER PROJECTS WORK OFF OF AN OPPOSING SET OF VISUAL CONCEPTS. FOR EXAMPLE, A SERIES OF ABSTRACTIONS SERVES TO VIOLATE ALL OF THE COMPOSITIONAL AND STRUCTURAL GUIDELINES ESTABLISHED IN PREVIOUS WORKS.

AS TIME PASSED, I RETURNED TO MY LOS ANGELES SERIES, HOPING TO FINISH IT AND THOROUGHLY COVER THE CITY. AS I SHOT, I WORKED BACK THROUGH EACH COMPOSITIONAL PHASE THAT I HAD BEGUN YEARS BEFORE. FOR ME THIS VALIDATED THAT MY DECISIONS HAD BEEN DELIBERATE AND THAT MY IDEAS HAD ENDURED MY CHANGING TASTES. THE PROJECT HAS BEEN CYCLICAL, THE FIRST IMAGES, WHICH WERE THE MOST STARK, ARE VERY SIMILAR TO THE MOST RECENT. *WHITEWASH* IS LOS ANGELES AT ITS MOST STRIPPED DOWN AND HONEST.

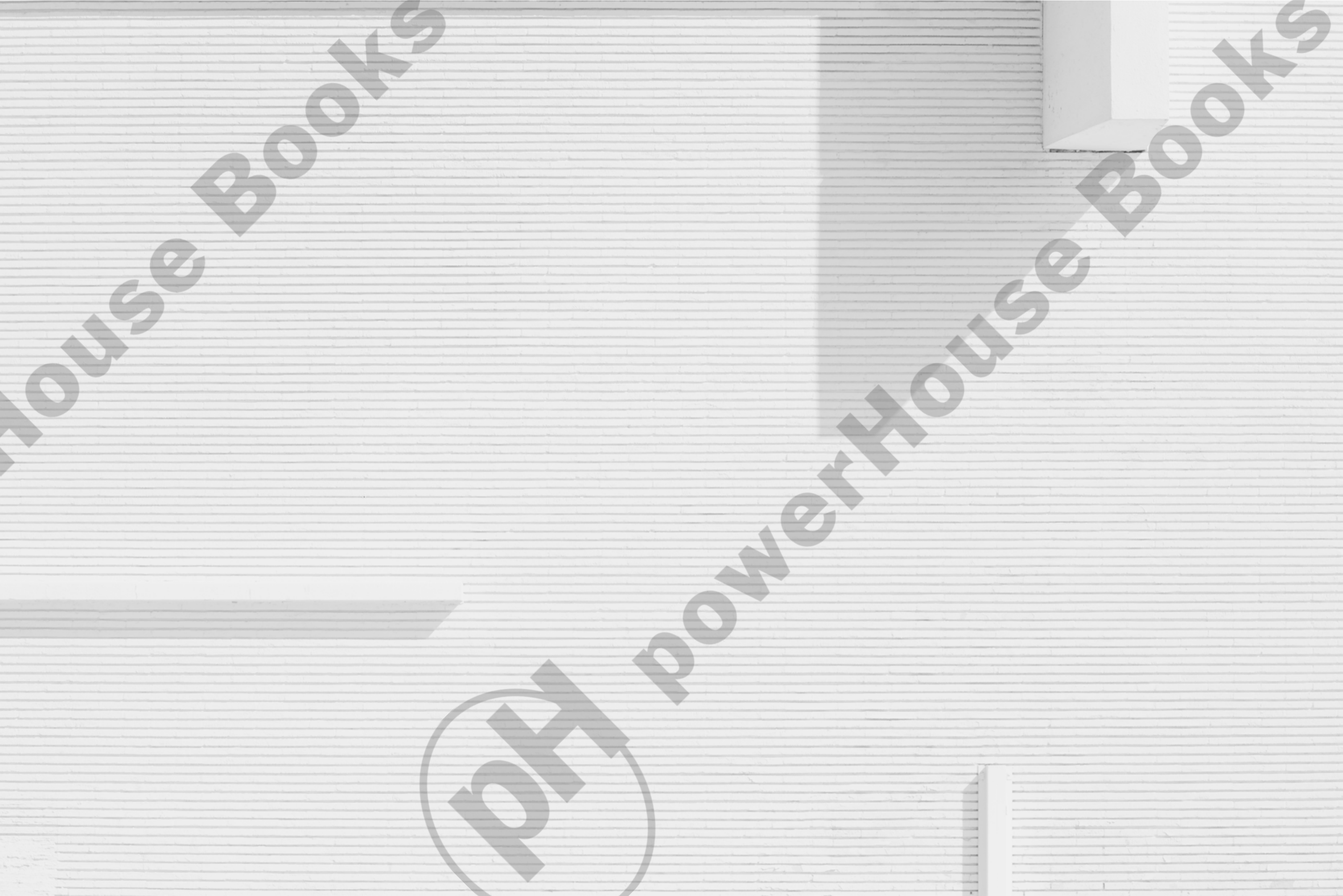




I MOVED TO PARIS FROM LOS ANGELES 10 YEARS AGO AND HAVEN'T BEEN BACK SINCE. BUT THIS IS EXACTLY HOW I REMEMBER IT. BRIGHT HOT INCESSANT CLEAR LIGHT, CASTING BLACKETY-BLACK SHADOWS FROM BRUTALIST BLOCKS THAT TAKE THE HISTORY OF ARCHITECTURE AND SILENTLY REDUCE AND CONTAIN IT LIKE LUNAR TOMBS. OR AZTEC TEMPLES MORPHED INTO FOAM-CORE CARTOONS.

THIS KIND OF LIGHT MAKES DECISIONS EASIER, MORE BLACK AND WHITE. GOOD VS BAD, PURE VS IMPURE, ASPIRATION VS COLLAPSE. DETERMINED GRIM OPTIMISM VS SELF INDULGENT DESPAIR. THE SUGGESTION OF AN OLD HOLLYWOOD MONOLITHIC BLACK AND WHITE MOVIE SET ENCOURAGES SELF INVENTION AND SELF CONSCIOUSNESS AS YOU MAKE YOUR WAY DOWN AN IMAGINARY LONG WHITE STAIRCASE. THERE'S NOT ANOTHER LIVING SOUL ON THE SET AND THE SPOTLIGHT IS ON YOU, WIPING OUT ANY FLAW OR IMPERFECTION, HALLUCINATING YOURSELF INTO WHO YOU WANNA BE.....

EXACTLY HOW I REMEMBER IT .....

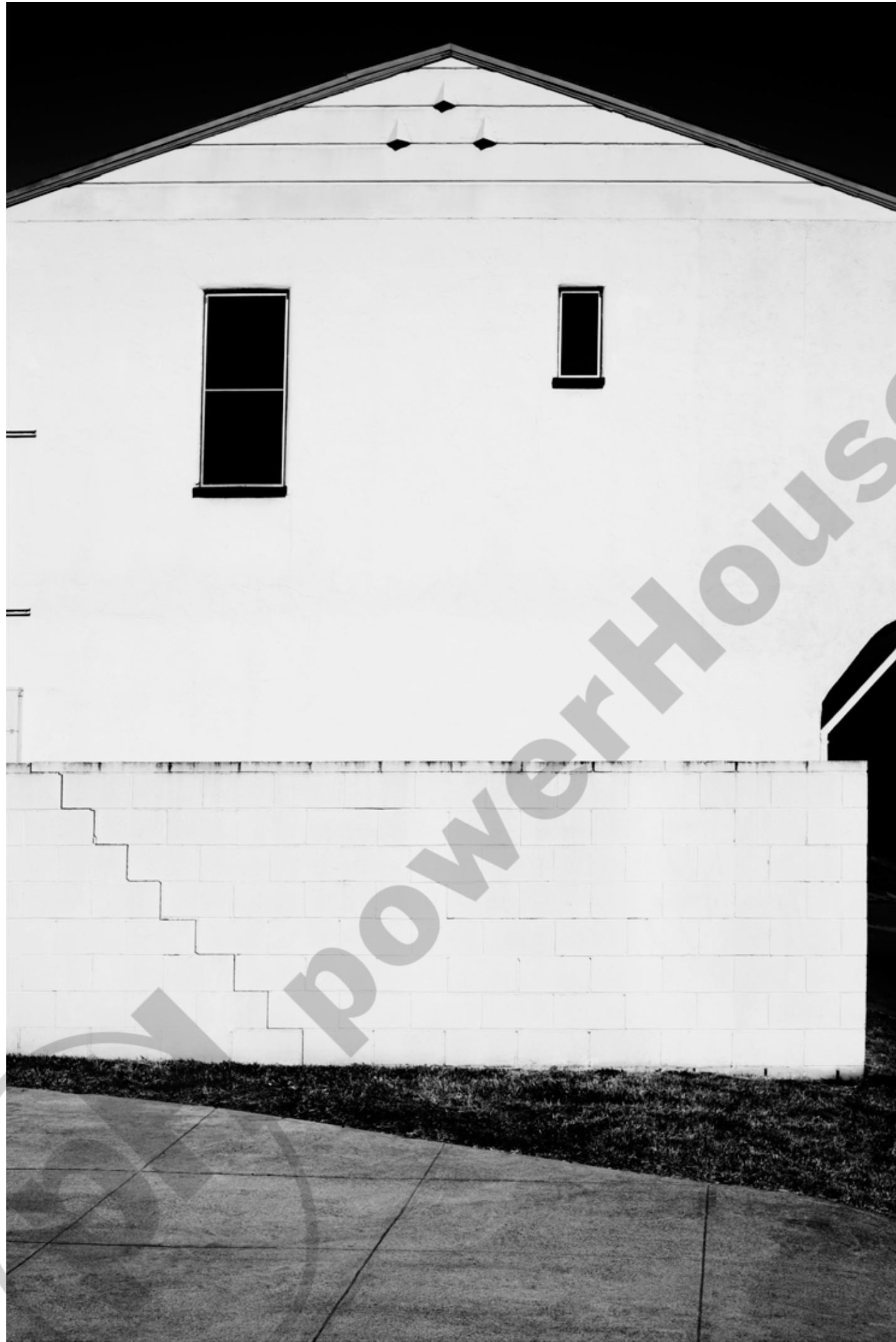




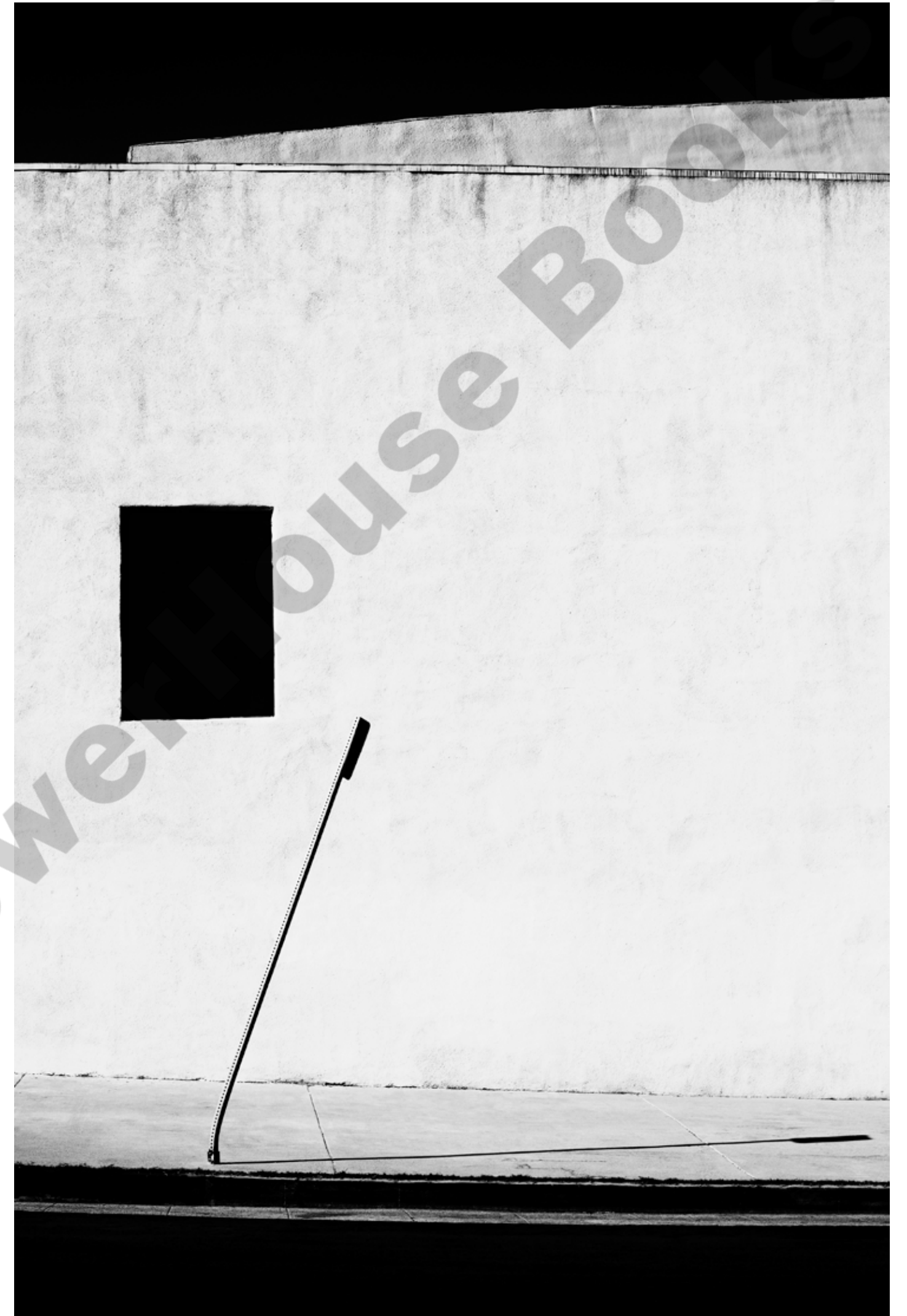


(LEFT) GLENDALE, FEBRUARY 2008  
SILVER LAKE, SEPTEMBER 2009





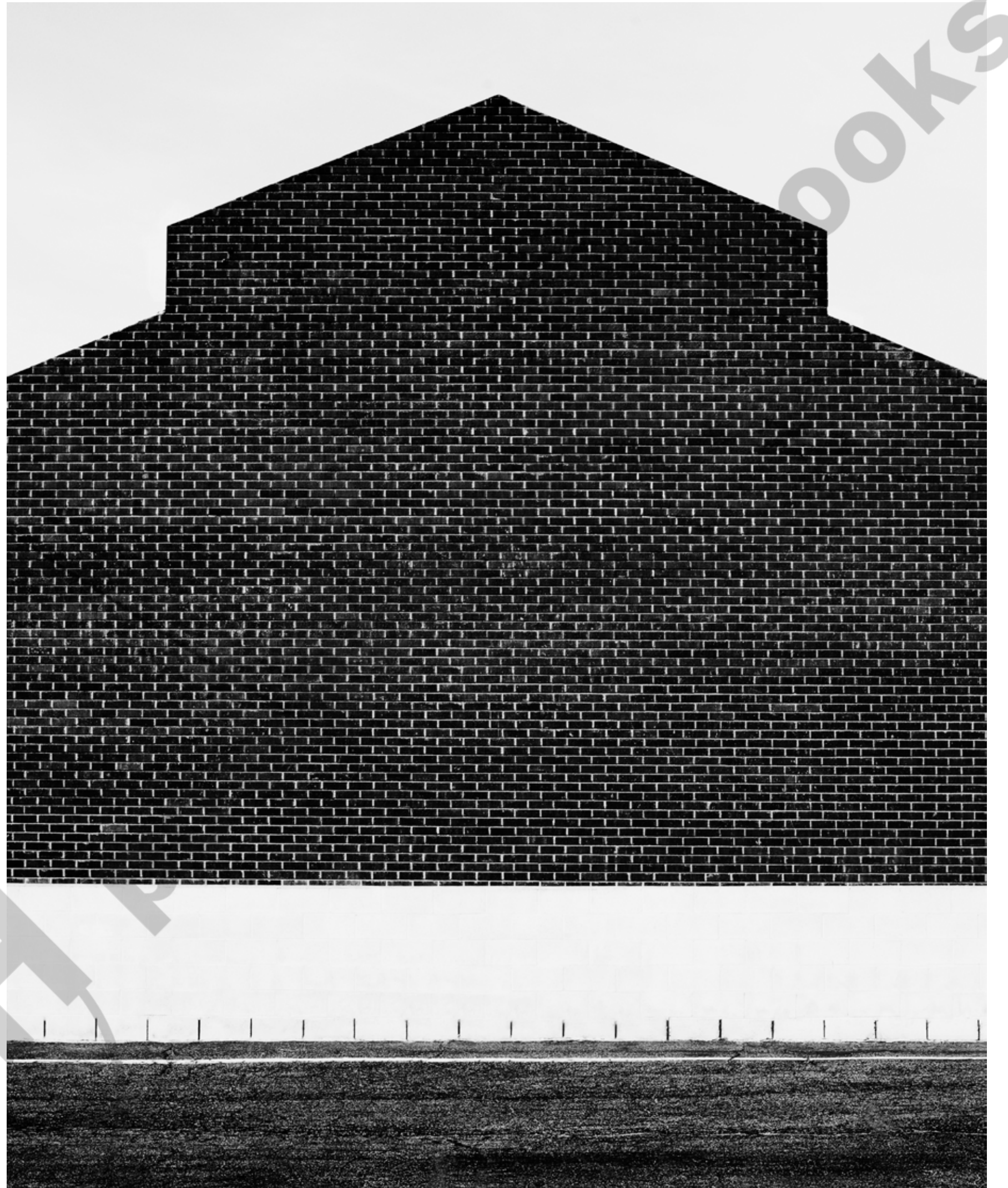
(LEFT) MID-CITY, JULY 2011  
SILVER LAKE, JULY 2006



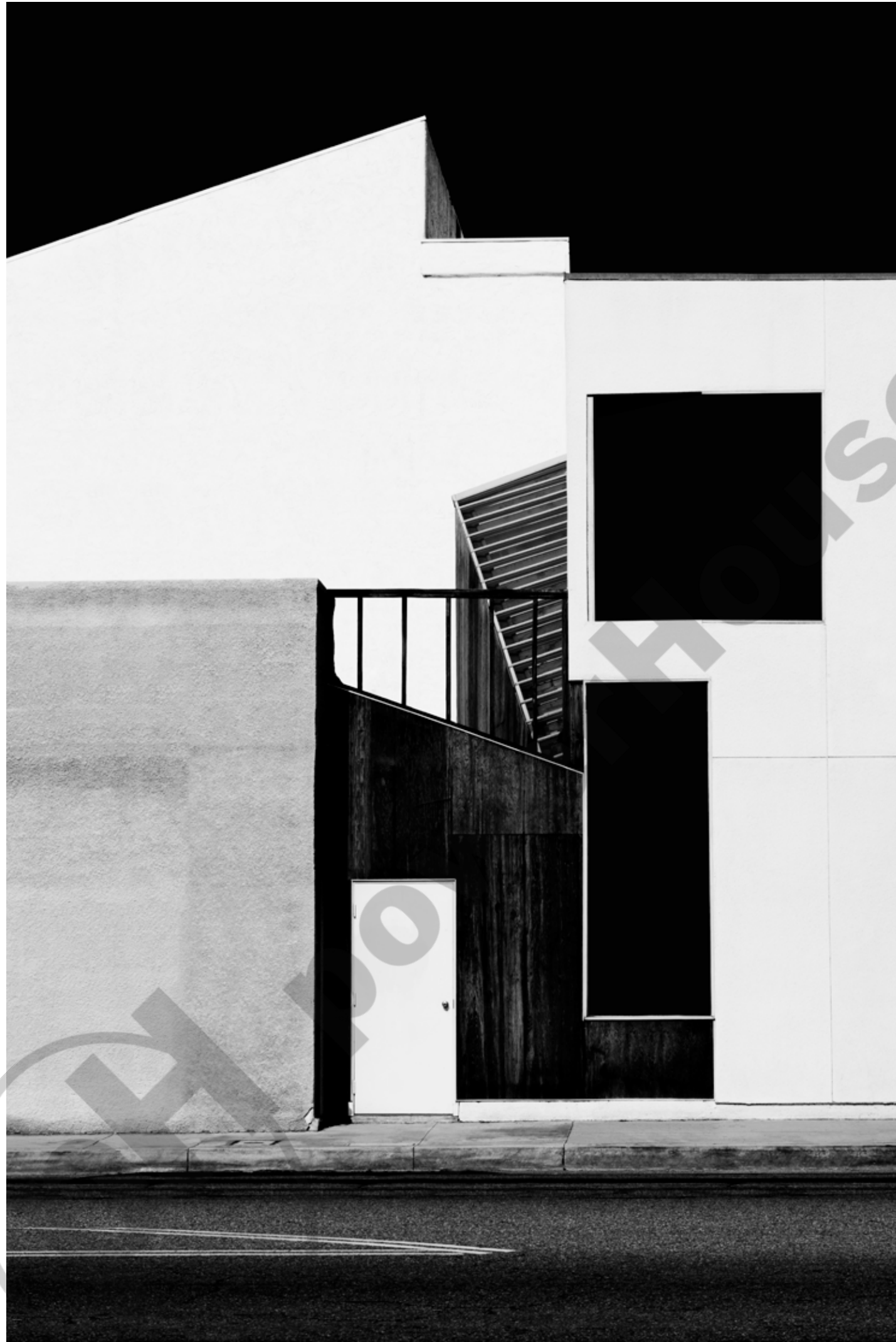




WEST COVINA, FEBRUARY 2007  
(RIGHT) VAN NUYS, JANUARY 2007







(LEFT) WEST HOLLYWOOD, NOVEMBER 2011  
WEST HOLLYWOOD, JANUARY 2012











(LEFT) SAN FERNANDO VALLEY, FEBRUARY 2008  
BEVERLYWOOD, JULY 2011







SPECIAL THANKS TO:

MOM, DAD, NEETA, DUSTIN, WES, AND  
DELPHINE. I COULDN'T HAVE MADE THIS  
BOOK WITHOUT YOUR HELP AND SUPPORT.

WHITEWASH

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