

Don't Lose Focus: Critical Repeat Photography of CSU's Campus

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Capturing the Past

Repeat photography effectively investigates the built and natural environments in terms of time and space. Not only does critical repeat photography allow for historical analysis, it also requires keeping precise records, which can be used in future replication of the photographs and future research.



“The front of the Morgan Library shortly after construction,” 1965
University Historic Photograph Collection, Archives and Special Collections, Colorado State University;
Series 16: Silver gelatin prints from 4x5 negatives, “B” Prints. <http://hdl.handle.net/10217/179472>



The East Side of Morgan Library, Fall 2017
Photographer: Katherine Oldberg



“Students Walking on Plaza Near the Morgan Library,” 1981
University Historic Photograph Collection, Archives and Special Collections, Colorado State University; Series 16: Silver gelatin prints from 4x5 negatives, “B” Prints. <http://hdl.handle.net/10217/179293>



Morgan Library Courtyard (Left) and The Cube (Right), Fall 2017
Photographer: Katherine Oldberg



“Students are relaxing on the west side of the Lory Student Center,” 1989
University Historic Photograph Collection, Archives and Special Collections, Colorado State University;
Series 17: Silver gelatin prints from 2.5x2.5 negatives, “R” Prints. <http://hdl.handle.net/10217/177649>



West side of the Lory Student Center, Fall 2017
Photographer: Katherine Oldberg



“New student center building,” 1963
University Historic Photograph Collection, Archives and Special Collections, Colorado State University;
Series 16: Silver gelatin prints from 4x5 negatives, “B” Prints. <http://hdl.handle.net/10217/170888>



Lory Student Center Theater, Fall 2017
Photographer: Katherine Oldberg



“The Lory Student Center and the plaza with bike racks,” 1984
University Historic Photograph Collection, Archives and Special Collections, Colorado State University;
Series 18: 35mm negatives and contact prints, “T” Prints. <http://hdl.handle.net/10217/177580>



East side of the Lory Student Center, Fall 2017
Photographer: Katherine Oldberg



“Clark building from plaza,” 1969
University Historic Photograph Collection, Archives and Special Collections, Colorado State University;
Series 16: Silver gelatin prints from 4x5 negatives, “B” Prints. <http://hdl.handle.net/10217/170953>



Clark Building, Fall 2017
Photographer: Katherine Oldberg



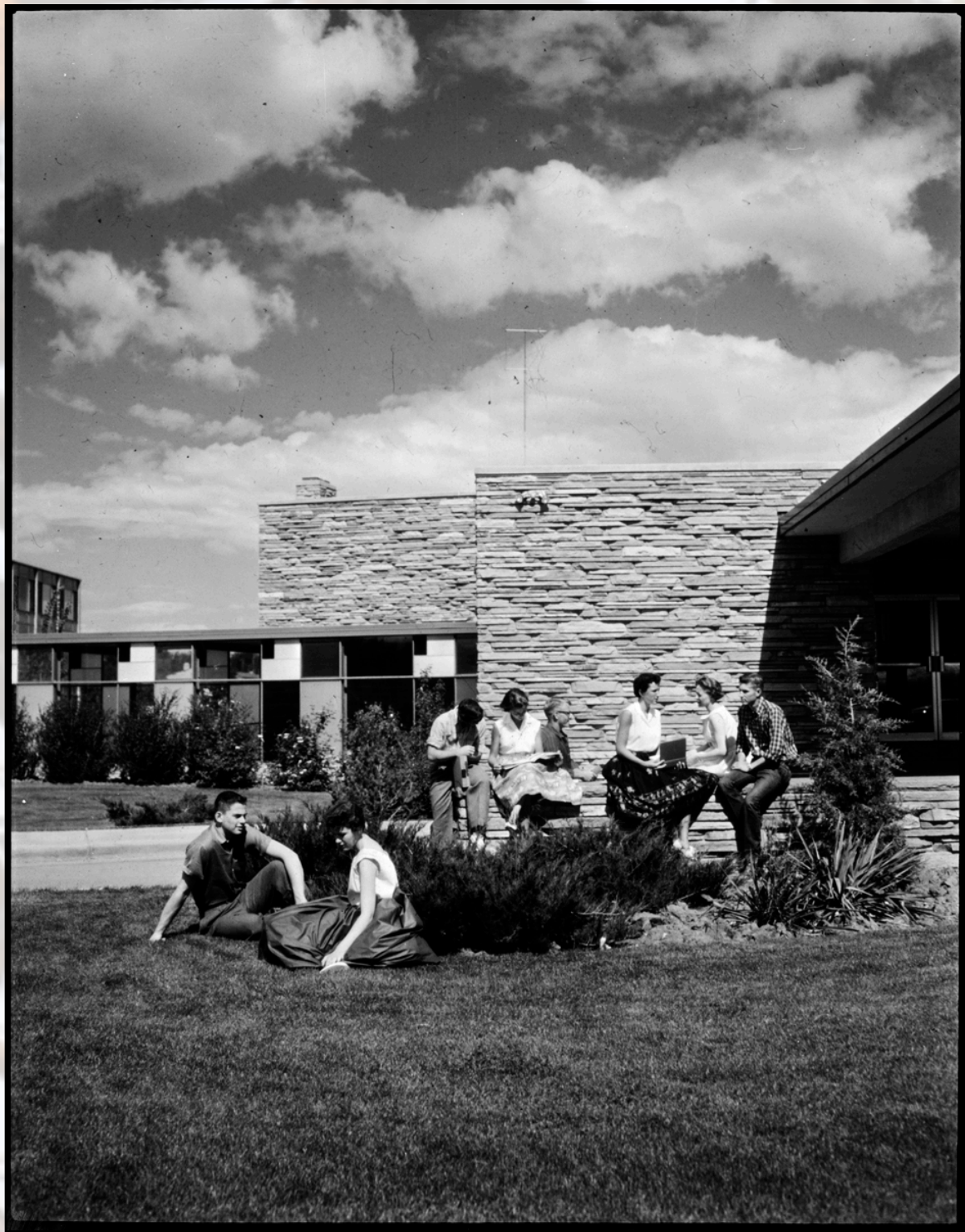
To see the research materials, bibliography, and suggested sources

Composing the Shot

Repeat photography requires meticulous documentation. The process consists of:

- ☐ finding the location the historic photograph
- ☐ determining the exact angle of the camera
- ☐ taking into account the season of the historic photograph vs time of year current photo
- ☐ keeping detailed field records including GPS coordinates, height of camera from the ground, and compass direction for future recorders

Critical repeat photography also helps keep records of these buildings as well as communicate echoes of CSU's history.



“Students sit on lawn of Green Hall,” 1962.
University Historic Photograph Collection, Archives and Special Collections, Colorado State University;
Series 16: Silver gelatin prints from 4x5 negatives, “B” Prints. <http://hdl.handle.net/10217/170876>



East side of Green Hall, Fall 2017
Photographer: Katherine Oldberg

Analyzing the Time Lapse

CSU's renovations of Lory and Morgan and its destruction of Green all demonstrate how CSU is attempting to create a cohesive architecture. The materials used to manipulate the elevations all mesh with the new construction and ongoing construction on campus. CSU has razed many buildings like Green Hall to make room for new buildings or parking lots or has significantly altered the buildings in the past 10 years. CSU is trying to use its architecture to assert its relevance in the state college conversation, but is ultimately ignoring and erasing its post-war boom and its architectural significance in a chapter of Colorado's history. Repeat photography can shed some light on the dialogue between CSU's architecture and its history.



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