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## TOP 10 photography projects of 2025

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### LOOKING BACK AT THE TOP 10 PHOTOGRAPHY STORIES OF THE YEAR

Moments from 2025 were captured through the lenses of [photographers](#) across the globe, showcasing a diverse range of projects that caught our eye here at designboom. Spanning expansive [volumes](#) and standalone series, artists offered compelling glimpses of the world, from Christopher Herwig's vibrant documentation of South Asia's trucks and tuk-tuks to Romain Jacquet-Lagrèze's daring portraits of [bamboo](#) scaffolding workers navigating the heights of [Hong Kong](#). The year also brought haunting aerial compositions by [Reuben Wu](#), who combined drones, lasers, and long exposures to mesmerizing effect, alongside a collection of unusual [houses](#) around the world, documented in a book published by Hoxton Mini Press.

After revisiting the striking photography projects we covered over the past 12 months, we've curated a selection of [the top 10](#) that continue to inspire us. Read on to explore the full list.

### REUBEN WU'S AERIAL GEOMETRIES ACROSS REMOTE LANDSCAPES

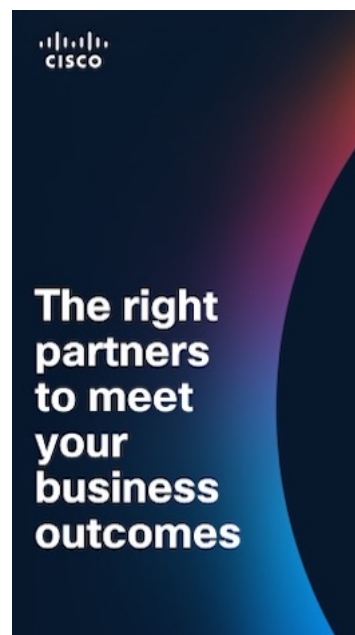


image by [Reuben Wu](#)

In his series *Thin Places*, multidisciplinary visual artist, photographer, and director [Reuben Wu](#) inscribes light onto remote natural environments through experimental photographic interventions. Known for his haunting aerial compositions using drones, lasers, and long exposures, the artist has developed a unique visual language that brings photography, design, and speculative technology together. In *Thin Places*, Wu frames landscapes where artificial light and natural terrain seem to meet halfway. The images are captured entirely on-site, in single exposures, using drones and lasers to trace fleeting geometries into the environment.

One standout work from the series, *Surface Tension*, was photographed at a remote salt lake under a moonless sky. Using a custom aerial laser swept just above the water's surface, Wu renders a floating curtain of light, revealing crystalline salt structures caught between the stars above and their reflections below.

[read more here](#)

## ROMAIN JACQUET-LAGRÈZE'S HONG KONG SCAFFOLDING WORKERS

image by [Romain Jacquet-Lagrez](#)

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continuous steel lo  
forms water sculpt  
reflecting ljubljana  
urban fabric  
**10k views**



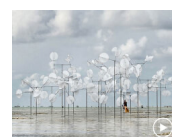
engaging with the  
improves our health  
and helps us live  
longer, scientific  
**11k views**



habitarío board ga  
challenges domestic  
models in mexico  
through women's  
**10k views**



forest of steel pilla  
creates swinging  
installation envelo  
in cloud-like mist i  
**11k views**



dancing installatio  
vincent leroy mirro  
movements of win  
on zanzibar's shore  
**11k views**

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While Reuben Wu illuminates remote landscapes with ethereal light, Romain Jacquet-Lagrèze turns his gaze to human skill and labor within Hong Kong's dense urban fabric. In *Echoing Above*, he documents the extraordinary practice of bamboo scaffolding, focusing on its structural and spatial nuances and the precision required to navigate it safely. Bamboo scaffolding, particularly the Fei Paang (飛棚, or 'flying shed') type, remains a defining feature of renovation work in compact residential areas. Assembled directly onto building exteriors with minimal anchoring, it allows workers to perform targeted maintenance tasks, from air conditioning repairs to facade cleaning. Suspended at dizzying heights, they move along narrow ledges and supports, often holding long bamboo poles in a single hand, showcasing remarkable agility and dexterity.

[read more here](#)

## THE LOUVRE THROUGH FRANCK BOHBOT'S LENS





image © Franck Bohbot


From Hong Kong's soaring scaffolds, the focus shifts to the hushed interiors of one of Europe's most iconic cultural landmarks. Franck Bohbot turns to Paris's Musée du Louvre, capturing a side of the institution rarely seen by its millions of annual visitors. In his series, Bohbot presents an unusually tranquil, architecturally attentive portrait of the museum. Granted rare carte-blanc access, the French-born, New York-based photographer explores the Louvre's interiors with a quiet precision, revealing its structural rhythm and enduring material presence. Part of his broader Parisian Interiors project, the work reframes the Louvre not as a global destination but as what Bohbot calls 'a living architectural organism.' His images distill the museum into a sequence of calm spatial encounters, captured entirely in natural or available light. Daylight subtly gradients across galleries, vanishing lines draw the eye through layered histories, and the textures of stone, wood, and marble anchor each composition in a sense of stillness and permanence.

[read more here](#)

## GAURI GILL PHOTOGRAPHS INDIA'S ADAPTABLE PROTEST SHELTERS



**daily**  
[see sample](#)

**weekly**  
[see sample](#)

[No you shall help](#)







image © Gauri Gill | courtesy of the artist and Vadehra Art Gallery

From the stillness of the Louvre's monumental interiors, the list shifts to a landscape shaped by collective action and improvisation. In *The Village on the Highway*, Gauri Gill documents the improvised shelters built by India's protesting farmers, revealing a terrain defined by resilience and resourcefulness. Exhibited at Vadehra Art Gallery in New Delhi, the series comprises 90 large-format analog photographs tracing how roadside encampments evolved into self-sustaining settlements. Farming vehicles became shelters, tarpaulin and bamboo formed walls and partitions, and fabric enclosures were cut to create makeshift doors, creating spaces adapted for rest, cooking, bathing, and gathering.

Even the road became a site of cultivation, with small vegetable plots providing sustenance. Everyday objects such as pots, coolers, and mosquito nets take on sculptural presence in Gill's images, underscoring the ingenuity of these lived environments and the realities facing India's marginalized farmers.

[read more here](#)

SOUTH ASIA'S TRUCKS AND TUK TUKS BY CHRISTOPHER HERWIG





image by Christopher Herwig

Leaving India's improvised protest structures behind, we move to the bustling streets of South Asia where Christopher Herwig captures a vibrant, often-overlooked form of mobile artistry. Trucks and tuk tuks, ordinary vehicles for daily transport, are transformed by their drivers into moving canvases, adorned with intricate patterns, bold colors, and personal motifs that express identity, pride, and aspiration. Herwig's book *Trucks and Tuks*, published by FUEL, draws on four years and 10,000 kilometers of travel across the region. The series documents not just the visual details of the vehicles themselves, but also the culture, communities, and stories that animate them.

[read more here](#)

'WEIRD BUILDINGS' SNAPSOTS ARCHITECTURE AT ITS STRANGEST





Casa do Penedo | image © Marc-Philipp Keller / Alamy

Weird Buildings, a new photo book from Hoxton Mini Press, gathers some of the most unconventional structures in the world, featuring places where architecture slips into humor, surrealism, or pure creative refusal. From sculptural homes to roadside mascots, the book documents buildings that bend logic, ignore convention, and embrace a sense of play.

The selection spans global oddities: Portugal's Casa do Penedo, wedged between massive boulders; the Inntel Hotel in Zaandam, a 12-story stack of traditional [facade](#); Lebanon's Airplane House shaped like an Airbus A380; New York's iconic Big Duck roadside shop; and Robert Bruno's rust-colored Steel House in Texas, a spaceship-like form welded over three decades. Weird Buildings frames these structures as expressions of personal vision and architectural risk-taking. Some exist as local landmarks, others as private passions or experiments in form and material. Together, they highlight a lineage of designers, from Gaudí to Gehry to contemporary studios like BIG, who stretch architecture into the unexpected.

[read more here](#)

GREG GIRARD DOCUMENTS JAPAN'S FADING SAKURA SNACK BARS





Snacks in Naha, Okinawa | images courtesy of Greg Girard

In *Snack Sakura*, photographer Greg Girard traces a thread running through Japan's nightlife and frames the countless small 'snack' bars of the country, many of which share the same name: Sakura. Shot over six years across all 47 prefectures, the series captures the intimate, low-lit interiors where regulars gather around a counter, guided by a mama or master who anchors the room with conversation, karaoke, and routine.

Originating in the 1960s as bars that skirted midnight curfews by serving food, snacks evolved into hyper-local refuges for older clientele, often hidden from the digital world. Girard's discovery that Sakura is the most common snack name becomes the backbone of the project, sending him to locate, photograph, and sometimes simply record the traces of these elusive establishments, many of which are unlisted, renamed, or demolished. His images reveal a culture defined by soft neon, vinyl stools, quiet rituals, and the small communities that form inside.

[read more here](#)

FOX & KNORR TRACE EVERYDAY AMERICA ALONG ROUTE 1



Karen Knorr and Anna Fox, Biscayne, Blvd 2025

For *Rencontres d'Arles* 2025, Anna Fox and Karen Knorr revisit U.S. Route 1, the 2,400-mile corridor first photographed by Berenice Abbott in 1954, to examine how the cultural landscape of the road has shifted in a fractured political era. Moving from the Florida Keys to Maine, the duo documents motels, diners, storefronts, signage, and small-town detritus, using the highway as a barometer of present-day American identity. Their photographs echo Abbott's original journey but sidestep nostalgia, capturing the subdued, uneasy quiet that lingers along Route 1 today, embodied in shuttered businesses, hyperlocal politics, faded optimism, and the architecture of economic decline. The work blends DSLR, medium format, and iPhone images, reflecting how visual culture now circulates across devices and feeds. That digital reality enters the project directly, with Fox and Knorr incorporating social media, sourced images, including scenes from the January 6th Capitol riot, to underscore how public life is increasingly mediated.

[read more here](#)

RAPHAËLLE PERIA SCULPTS DECAY DIRECTLY INTO HER IMAGES





Cueillir les murmures by Raphaëlle Peria

Raphaëlle Peria debuts *Traversée du fragment manquant* at [BMW's Rencontres d'Arles 2025](#) exhibition, a photographic series curated by Fanny Robin that revisits her childhood images of the Canal du Midi, a landscape now [devastated](#) by canker stain, the fungus that has already killed tens of thousands of its historic plane trees. Working from her father's archives, Peria engraves, scratches, and carves directly onto the photographs, revealing the white substrate beneath or, for the first time, printing on plexiglas to create transparent, sculptural surfaces.

Copper leaf appears throughout the series, echoing the copper-toned discoloration of the infected trees and marking the gradual takeover of the fungus. Seen from one angle, the works read as photographs; from another, they resemble drawings or etched reliefs, bringing together Peria's background in engraving with her photographic practice. The series becomes a meditation on disappearance, the before-and-after of a landscape recorded by chance in childhood images and revisited now through material erasure.

[read more here](#)

[DRUTEL PHOTOGRAPHS METROS AS SERENE MIRRORED SPACES](#)





Stockholm | image by Thibault Drutel



In Symmetric Subway, photographer Thibault Drutel turns Europe's underground networks into precise, meditative compositions. Shot across stations in Munich, Stockholm, Berlin, Hamburg, and Brussels, the series reframes metros, typically fast, crowded, and utilitarian, as quiet architectural environments where symmetry, light, and geometry hold the frame.

Drutel moves through a spectrum of underground design languages, from Eastern Bloc austerity to Scandinavian minimalism and Central European retro futurism. His images isolate mirrored platforms, repeated patterns, and long vanishing points, revealing the intentionality usually lost in the blur of daily commutes. Waiting for rare pockets of stillness, Drutel captures the instant when architecture, illumination, and movement fall into alignment.

[read more here](#)

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myrto katsikopoulou | designboom (1111)

dec 25, 2025

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by Elemental Forces for Peace  
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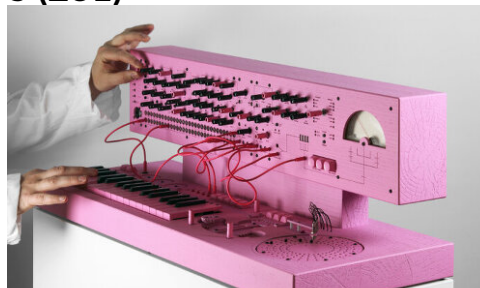


Fondo marino ring inspired by the unknown world of the abyss

**\$ 320**

by Maddalena Bearzi Jewelry  
from US

## DESIGNBOOM BOOK REPORTS (231)





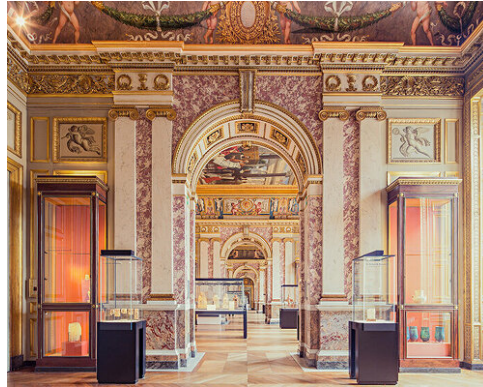
engaging with the arts improves our health and helps us live longer, scientific research proves



guitar with ferrofluid, pink noise machine & biodata synth make up love hultén's second book

neon signs and retro rooms: ellie seymour's book maps mid-century motels across the US

## FRANCK BOHBOT (9)



franck bohbot captures vienna's historic amusement park as gallery of sculptural forms

explore the silent and opulent galleries of the louvre through franck bohbot's lens



franck bohbot captures frank lloyd wright's taliesin west in the arizona desert

## LES RENCONTRES DE LA PHOTOGRAPHIE D'ARLES (8)



anna fox and karen knorr capture 'slice of american life' across route 1 at rencontres d'arles

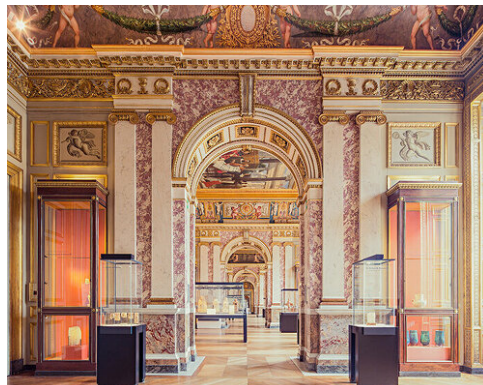


raphaëlle peria carves nature's decay onto photos in BMW's rencontres d'arles exhibition



arles is buzzing this summer: designboom's mini guide to the french city

## MUSÉE DU LOUVRE (22)





SANAA, sou fujimoto, and DS+R among five teams shortlisted for the louvre's transformation

explore the silent and opulent galleries of the louvre through franck bohbot's lens

louvre launches global architecture competition for new entrance and mc lisa gallery

## PHOTOGRAPHY (442)

álvaro siza shapes light and shadow in porto monastery captured by david altrath

gerwyn davies' sculptural costumes reshape the body in dazzling self-portraits

nicolas grosPierre's velvet heliograms made by months of direct sun exposu

## REUBEN WU (6)

reuben wu draws aerial geometries with drones and lasers across remote landscapes

reuben wu uses drones to illuminate utah's erosional landscapes in light storm series

reuben wu uses drone LEDs to illumir bolivia's remote landscapes

## TOP 10 LISTS OF 2025 - BIG STORIES (11)

TOP 10 installations of 2025  
ART

TOP 10 design objects and materials of 2025

TOP 10 personal gadgets of 2025

# NEWS

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explore our monthly round up of must-see art, design, and architecture exhibitions to check out around the world.

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## DRIFT lights up abu dhabi with whispering grass, heartbeat blooms, and 2,000-drone falcon

the works are staged within mangroves, tidal waterways, and open allowing technology and environment to operate as a single system

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## 'I know that art can change the world': paola pivi on freedom, joy, and her AGWA exhibition

designboom speaks with the italian artist about the making of 'I don't like it, I love it', the importance of freedom, and why the 'impossible' is often just the beginning.

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## designboom paris guide: what to see in and out of design miami and art basel 2025

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connections: 27




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