On the Lookout for Tonal Structures

Interesting structures are everywhere you go but most of us do not take the time to notice them. Over the weekend I was in St. Louis and I was looking for anything that I thought would be of interest to our class. I was fortunate enough to discover some cool structures and here are the images that I took with my handy dandy digital camera.

Use your camera to capture ideas, designs, patterns or anything that inspires you. Bring your pictures to class and share them with everyone.

Structural Ideas: I like the complexity and the variety of shapes in these structures.
Structural Ideas cont. There is contrast with the flowing loops against the linear ball and joints.

Would you mind repeating that?

This cool planetarium corridor looked straight out of “The Incredibles” movie but this housing complex is a good example of what you get when you use too much repetition... You get boring compositions.
Over the weekend while at a gallery exhibit I came across a poster showing an Anatomical Theater. When I saw it I was instantly awed at its structure. The design was powerful. First I was hypnotized by the repetition of the spindles along the railways. The focal power of the concentric rings put all the emphasis on the floor where a public autopsy would have been taking place. I imagined how I would attempt to model something like this and better yet, how I would light it. This will be a modeling project I will work on because I found it so interesting and beautiful. So you see, inspiration can come from anywhere!! Run with your inspirations and see what happens!!
Tonal Structures

When thinking about your structure look at non-“Skyscraper” ideas. Try to find a structure that has an interesting form or has features that you want to explore. There are so many different structural forms to choose from. Look for objects that are fun to look at and something you can photograph and light in interesting ways. Take a look at some of these alternative to “skyscraper” ideas:

Classic styled towers:
Tonal Structures

Clock Towers. Look how the artist used simple shapes to create a strong structure. These objects have strength and weight just by the sturdiness of their design.

Modern organic towers: These objects almost do not look real and it is hard to tell their scale. They could be very big or they could be very small. Not with out some reference objects do we know their size. Sometimes it may be necessary to add a reference object so your viewer knows how to properly interpret your structures scale.
Tonal Structures

Temples and Palaces: Look at ancient temples and palaces for inspiration: Incorporate the use of symmetry or asymmetric designs into your work. Use scale to help distinguish depth and add variety to the composition.

Blend complex geometry with organic curves to make your image have contrast. Create other secondary objects into your scene to help create an environment and establish a setting or context.
Tonal Structures

Bridges: Look how powerful a structure is on its own. It may be a work of art based on the beauty and simplicity of its fundamental design. Notice the perspective and the contrasting tones. The interplay between the vertical lines and the diagonal lines, not to mention the fan-like suspension cables. Also note the use of repetition and depth.

Modern Architecture: Modern Architecture is another great place to find interesting designs and inspiring use of simple shapes with visual appeal.
Tonal Structures

Thinking outside the Polygonal Cube:
Look for the unconventional and have fun with this. Let your personality guide you to find new and unexplored areas of this idea of tonal structures. You are the artists and it is up to you to let your soul speak. Let the world hear your voice. Do not be satisfied with the ordinary! Go out and find the extraordinary!!