

the journey i was able to embark on thanks to the owhc young travelling scholarship took me through five cities that could hardly be more different: porto, regensburg, philadelphia, new york city, and amsterdam. each of these cities brought its own atmosphere, history, and architecture, yet they shared a common thread: the fascinating interplay between the city, its architecture, and the people who bring it to life.

### **the city as a stage, the people as actors**

**porto** was the starting point of my journey. the hilly city, with its winding alleys and impressive blend of traditional and modern architecture, felt like a living theater. i was particularly struck by the contrast between the old houses adorned with azulejos and the bold designs of álvaro siza or the contemporary rem koolhaas. here, the city itself became a stage where daily life played out in all its authenticity.

**regensburg**, a medieval city with an impressive historic fabric, provided a stark contrast. the old town seemed almost like a frozen moment in time, yet the flow of people breathed new life into its centuries-old streets. it was fascinating to observe how modern life and historical settings coexisted harmoniously – a dance between tradition and the present.

**philadelphia** and **new york city** opened an entirely different chapter: the pulsating metropolises of the usa were overflowing with dynamism, diversity, and contradictions. in philadelphia, the “cradle of democracy,” i admired the balance between historical landmarks like independence hall and modern skyscrapers. new york, on the other hand, was pure spectacle. here, the city became a stage for the most diverse people and scenarios. the architectural variety was breathtaking: from the iconic skyscrapers of manhattan to unique neighborhoods like brooklyn – every corner had its own story and energy.

**amsterdam** marked the end of my journey and surprised me with its human scale. the compact city, crisscrossed by canals, exuded calm and openness. the combination of traditional brickwork, modern architecture, and innovative urban planning – such as in ijborg – offered a perfect conclusion to my travels.

### **unforeseen moments and the role of architecture**

what touched me most about this journey were the unexpected situations that constantly arose. a chance encounter with a local, a spontaneous detour into a side street, or an unanticipated perspective on a building – all these moments felt like improvised scenes in a play. the architecture served as the backdrop, sometimes dominating, sometimes subtle, but always present.

each city had its own way of bringing people together and enabling interaction. whether it was a square acting as a meeting point or an inconspicuous alley suddenly becoming a lively gathering place, this versatility of the city and its architecture left a lasting impression on me.

### **photography with an analog camera – preserving the moment**

a special aspect of my journey was the decision to capture impressions with an analog camera. in an era where digital photography and smartphones are readily available, analog photography holds a unique value. it forces you to perceive the moment more consciously and compose each shot carefully. every frame was deliberate – a process that made me engage more deeply with the subject.

the analog camera also gave me a sense of patience and surprise. the results were not immediately visible, and that was where the magic lay. when i later held the developed pictures in my hands, it felt like reliving the journey – the images told stories that went beyond the purely visual.

the photos now displayed in the exhibition are not just memories of the cities i visited, but also of the countless encounters and moments that shaped me on this journey.

### **conclusion**

the journey with the owhc young travelling scholarship was far more than a geographical discovery tour for me. it was an intense engagement with architecture, people, and the myriad unexpected scenarios that define urban life. every city had its own story to tell, and i was privileged to be a part of it – through exploring streets, observing life, or capturing these fleeting moments on film.

it was a journey that enriched me not only academically as an architecture student but also personally, and one i will always cherish.



*up the hill  
porto*





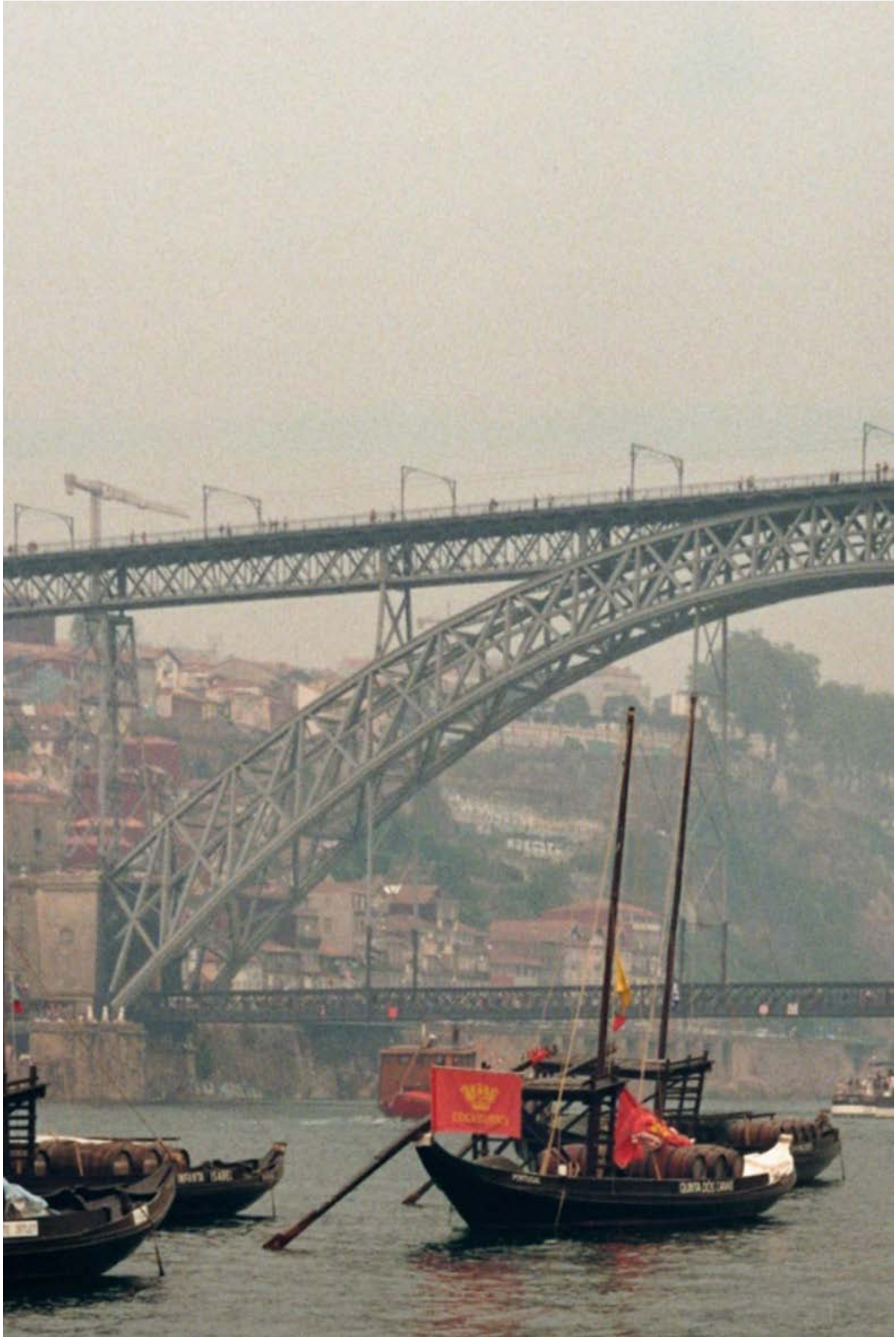
from sea to shuck  
porto





*rising ash, sinking city  
porto*





*from the perspective of a port wine  
porto*





*perch on the stone  
porto*





*audience on the ascent  
porto*





*banners and bloom  
porto*





*architectural heart  
porto*





*majestic watchover  
porto*





*house, sun, bird  
porto*





*harmonies under the stars  
porto*





*vintage wheels  
porto*





*tiled treasures  
porto*





*music whispering  
porto*





*illuminated by the sun  
regensburg*





*paddling along the danube  
regensburg*





*the river's dance with the city  
regensburg*





*island refuge  
regensburg*





*with the city in the back  
regensburg*





*sacred glow  
regensburg*





*majestiv by the river  
regensburg*





*stone and water  
regensburg*





*half past five  
regensburg*





*split perspective  
regensburg*





*narrow streets whispering  
regensburg*





*bite of history  
regensburg*





*american history  
philadelphia*





*towering presence  
philadelphia*





*growing out  
philadelphia*





*blurred motion  
philadelphia*





*historic landmark  
philadelphia*





*opinion poll  
philadelphia*





*flavorful glow  
philadelphia*





*backpack full of parsley  
philadelphia*





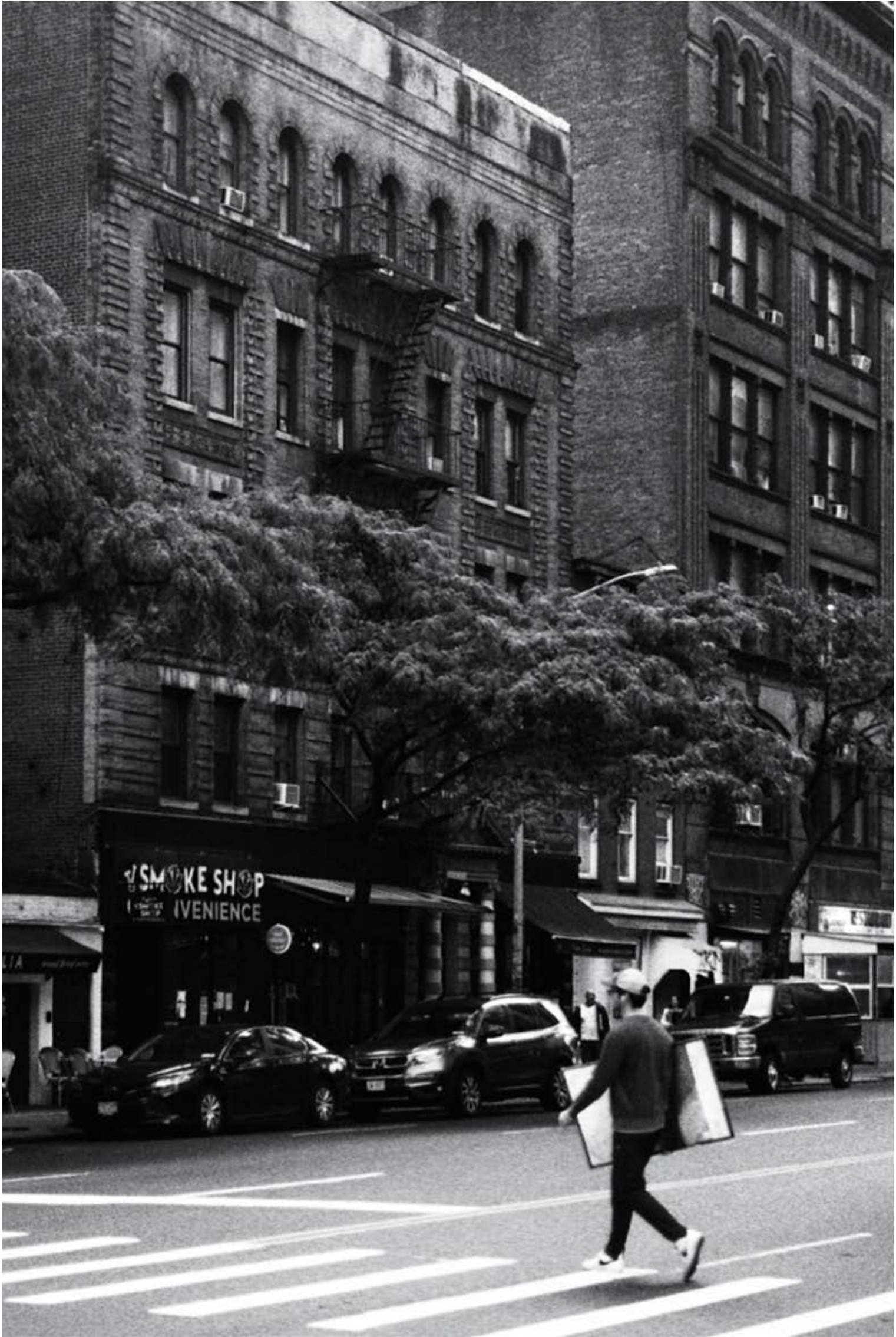
*natures brush  
philadelphia*





*city walk, man and dog  
new york city*





*the canvas bearer  
new york city*





*pause at the guggenheim  
new york city*





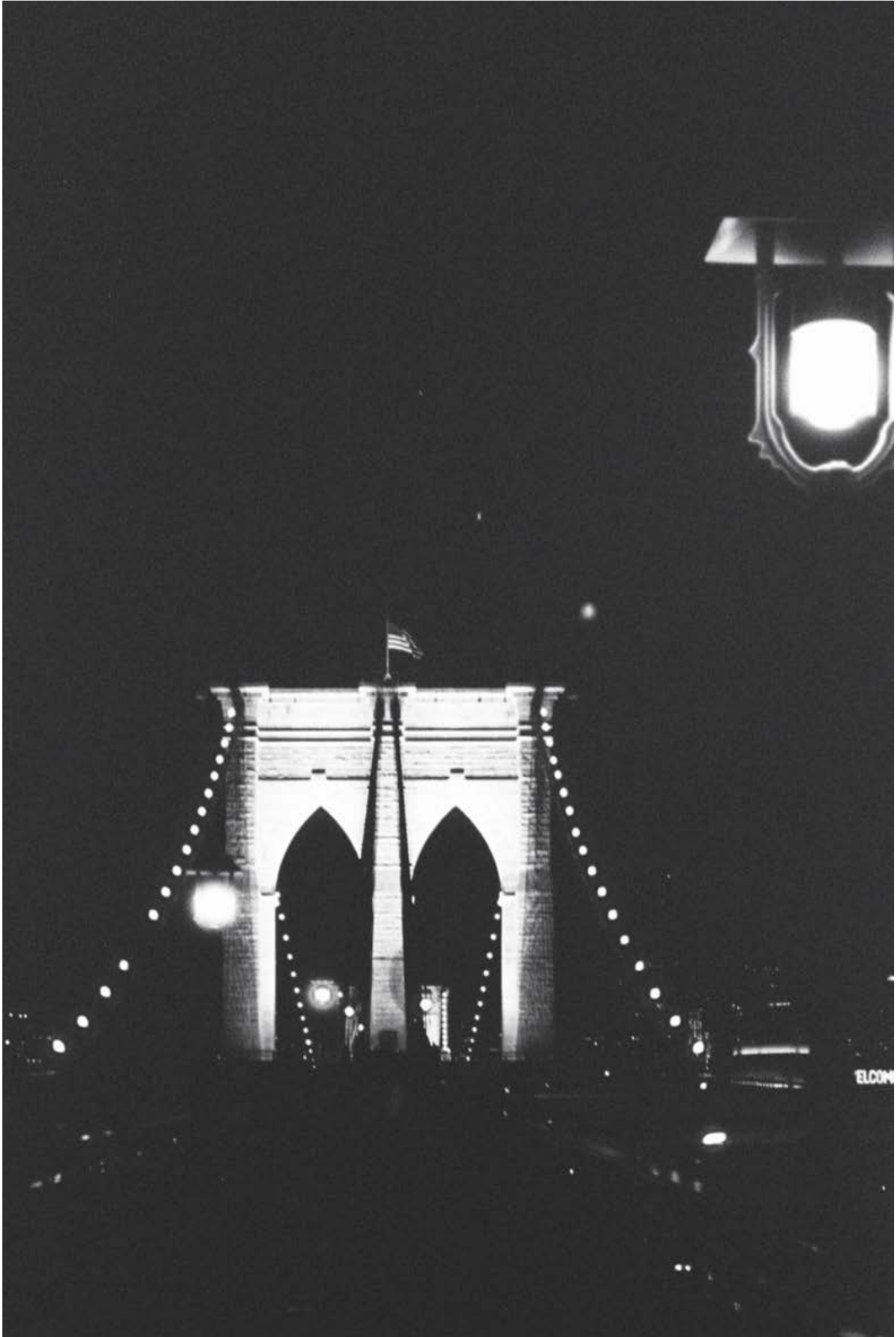
*streetside conversations  
new york city*





*blurred lights  
new york city*





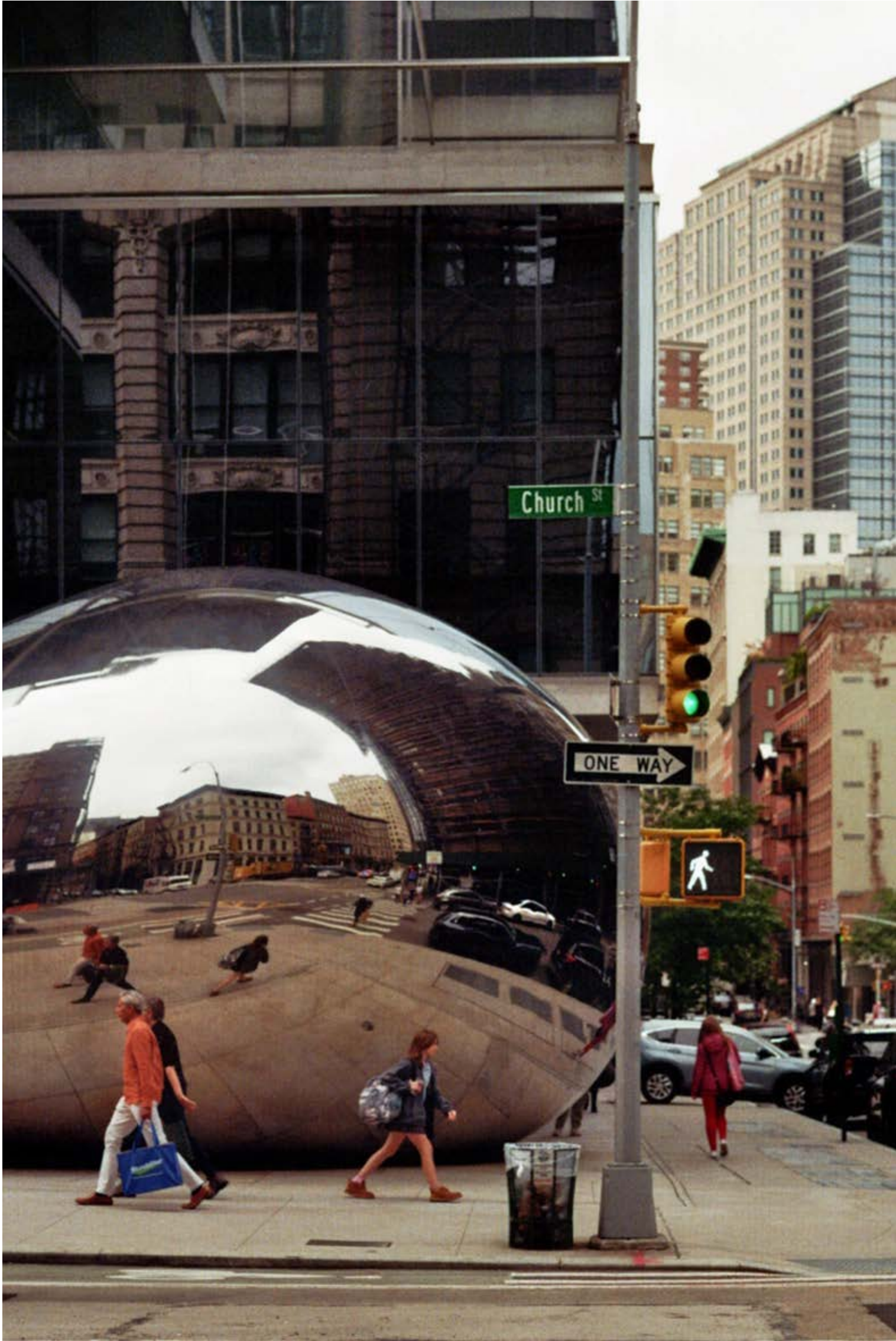
*light up the dark  
new york city*





*stirred by the winds  
new york city*





*mirror, mirror on the wall  
new york city*





*we sure do fly good, don't we dumbo?  
new york city*





*light and night symphony  
new york city*





*hide and seek  
new york city*





*passing connection  
new york city*





*empire state of mind  
new york city*





street-side fix  
new york city





*shades of red  
new york city*





*if these wings could fly  
new york city*





*a coffee sign  
amsterdam*





*sunny spot  
amsterdam*





waffles await  
amsterdam





*sunshine and shutters  
amsterdam*





*floating streets  
amsterdam*





*the twins behind  
amsterdam*





*high above  
amsterdam*





*across the water  
amsterdam*





*dutch stripes  
amsterdam*





water guardians  
amsterdam





*peeking flowers  
amsterdam*





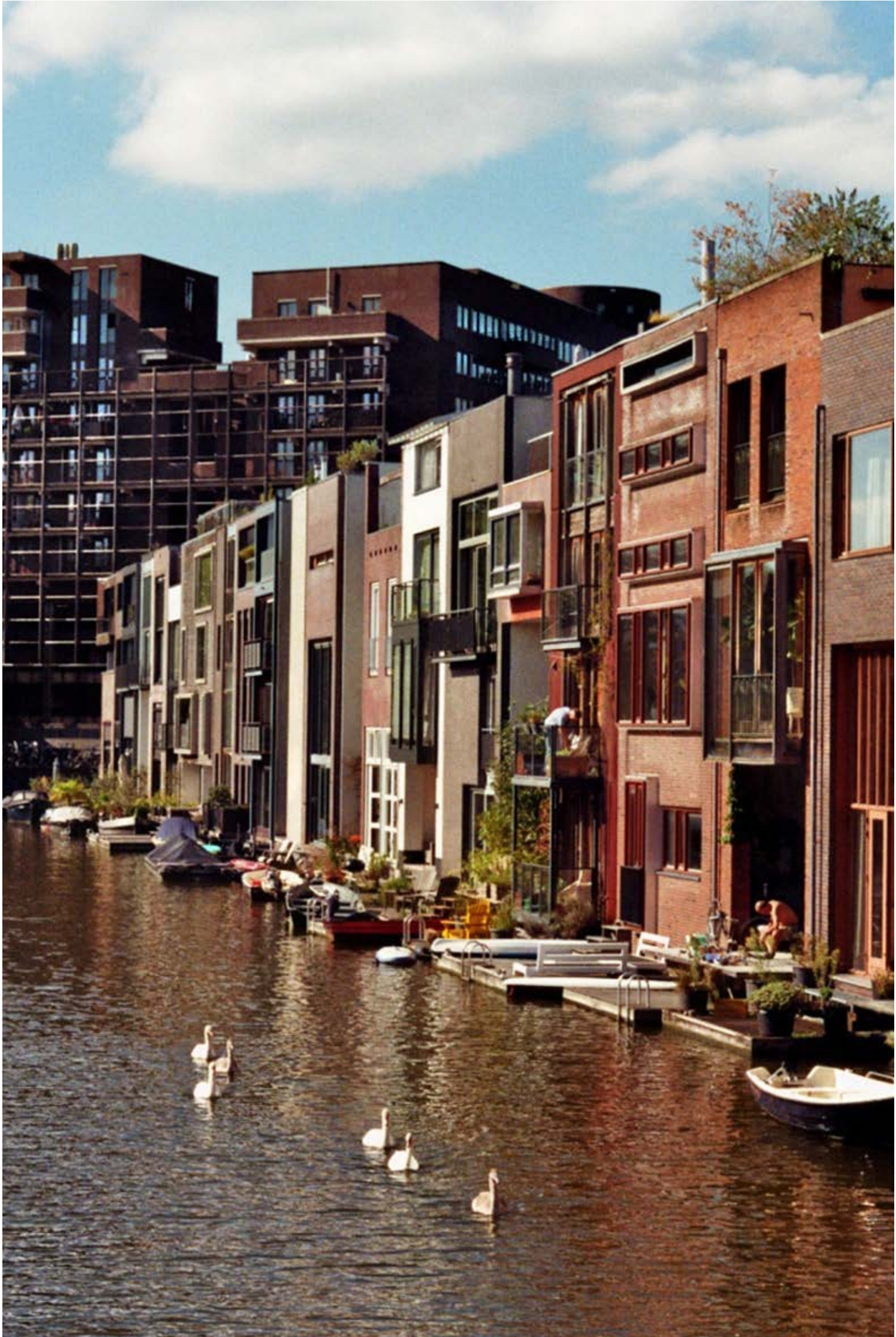
*telling mom what i drew  
amsterdam*





*sunkissed  
amsterdam*





*canal neighbors  
amsterdam*





*quite moments with the boat  
amsterdam*