

Better Black and  
White

# A Real Challenge

- Black and white is a much tougher discipline
  - There is no colour
  - Not a path for a colour image that failed

# Digital B&W

- Can confuse former film shooters because it works more like a transparency than a negative
- In film, a yellow filter was used to reduce blue light
- In digital, a blue filter is used to reduce blue light

# Digital B&W

- Your RAW original contains all the colours of the image
- Use filters, tone curves and exposure management tools to manipulate the colours in a black and white image

# Camera Settings

- Shoot in RAW
- Select Monochrome picture style
- Use LCD to get a sense of what the scene will look like in B&W
- Not all scenes translate well

# What Works?

- Wide dynamic range
- Plenty of tonal variance
- Textures
- Shapes
- Strong compositional elements

# Processing

- Import the images
  - The picture style suggests B&W on import - probably
- Manipulate dynamic range
- Manipulate tone curve
- Manipulate HSL sliders
- Sharpen

# Plugins Can Help

- Plugins can help but aren't needed
- Most post processors have all the tools you need if you are prepared to experiment
- Avoid unnatural looks unless you want that sort of thing, eg black skies