**What would you say is your greatest talent or skill? How have you developed and demonstrated that talent over time?**

I often question myself during my time in college. I’ve had moments of burning out through my self doubt that’s infused from my rigorous courses and social awkwardness. But one thing that often brings me back to who I am is photography.

Photography reminds me of the steps I’ve taken to grow and explore beyond taking pictures of landmarks like the Sydney Opera House. At a certain point, I realized that I’ve fallen in love with architectural photography. This realization did not come easy though. With electric cables blocking natural light, air pollution smogging focal interest, and little to no pavement limiting tripod placement, I felt really challenged hunting in Jakarta, especially as a beginner. Though after enduring Jakarta’s tropical weather and coming home to my parent’s routine questioning of my body odor caused by Jakarta’s tropical weather, I found indescribable joy in finding those hidden gems: a rare, perfect combination of infrastructure and nature compacted in a single snap.

After moving into college, I knew I wanted to pursue this hobby even further. I took a photography class and met some incredible people along the way. For some reason, all of the doubts I’ve had about myself would literally be muted when I’m having conversations about where to hunt next and what objects we would shoot. I decided to take advantage of that confidence and create a relationship with my peers and TA. I learned a ton of photography styles through weekly hunting sessions with friends and was exposed to photography projects outside of class, one that would never be available if I had not encouraged myself to build a relationship with my TA. Through those blocks of confidence, I’ve taken myself even further in my photography career in pursuing photography competitions, where my love for urban design is challenged, and mentoring people that had just entered the field, an activity that is currently unavailable as a program on campus and one that I would like to create someday.

Dear Ravi:

It’s great that you have found your passion in photography!

You have showcased your journey in discovering photography through the years, but perhaps you can highlight the challenges and how you have developed that talent. I think the reader would also be interested in knowing what you learned and how you plan to develop your photography skills in college or after college.

All the best!

Thalia