

Defining the workflow

Executive summary

- We used an inward-facing orbit at multiple heights with 70–80% overlap, then added ceiling/floor and corner shots.
- High overlap and convergent geometry delivered stable alignment with fewer non-estimated cameras and fewer holes.
- Uniform walls needed reference markers; reflections and mixed lighting were controlled.
- Camera was run fully manual (f/8–f/11, ISO 100–200, 1/60s+, WB fixed, RAW).
- For a 2×1 m room, ~120–140 photos covered the scene cleanly.

Why the inward-facing orbit worked

- High overlap and multi-angle coverage improved feature matching and reduced non-estimated cameras.
- Convergent geometry (camera aimed slightly inward) increased parallax on walls/corners and improved vertical reconstruction.
- Systematic path at consistent heights and lens settings produced uniform, alignable data.
- Full perimeter passes plus ceiling/floor minimized blind spots and mesh holes.

Marker points (what we used and why)

- Purpose: add distinct, high-contrast features so alignment stays stable on uniform surfaces (white walls, smooth floors).
- Type: simple bold black “X” or dot on A4; optionally coded circles if using software that supports auto-target detection.
- Placement principles:
- Walls: 3–4 per wall, spread horizontally and vertically; eye/mid/near-floor; avoid perfect grids.
- Corners: offset 20–30 cm from edges so they’re visible from multiple angles.
- Floor/near ceiling: a few for 3D reference.

- Glass: avoid sticking to glass; place near it on floor/ceiling or use matte tape if necessary.
- No duplicates: rotate/label to avoid identical targets.

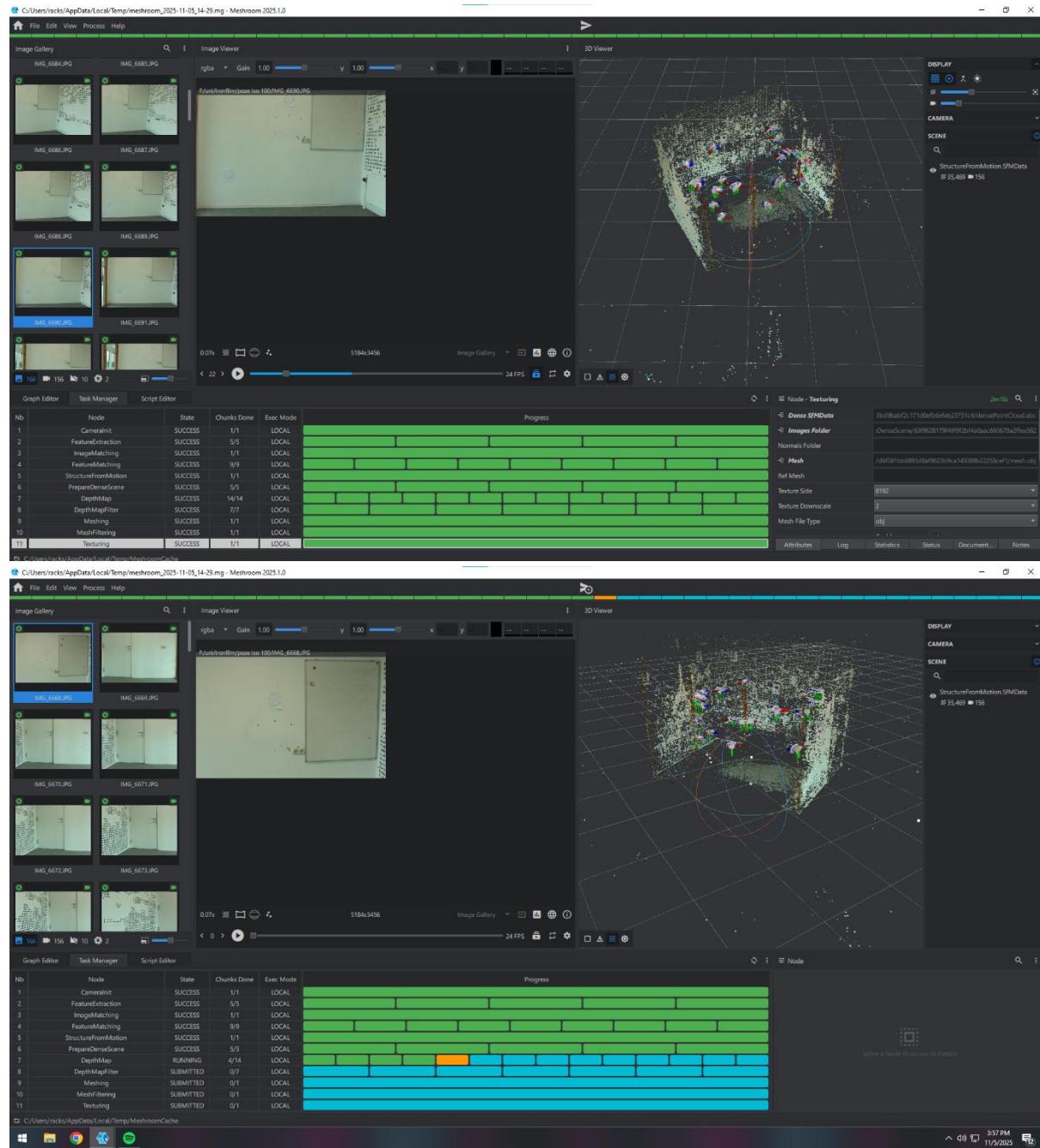
Camera and capture settings (Canon EOS 650D)

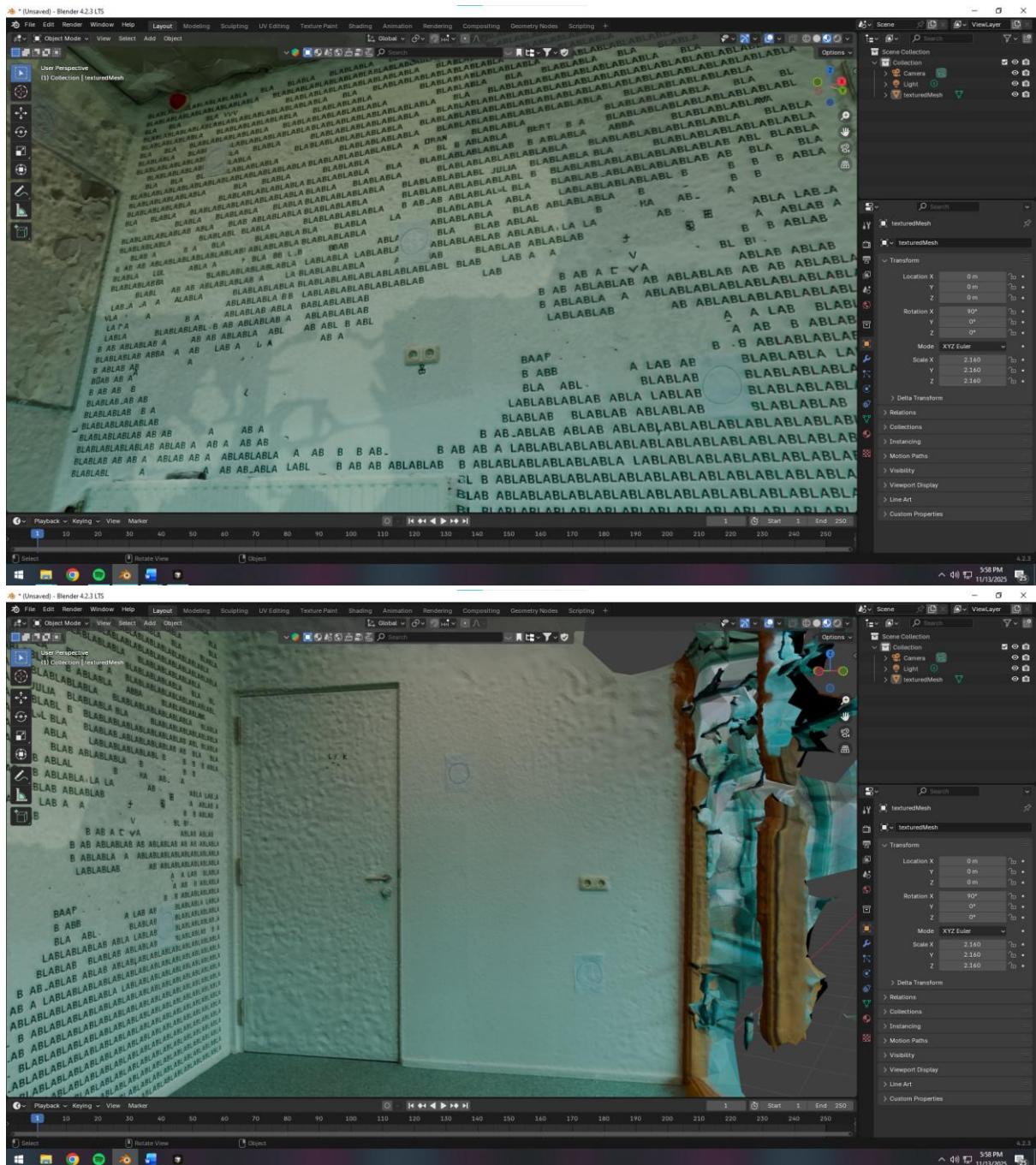
- Mode: Manual.
- Aperture: f/8–f/11 for depth of field.
- Shutter: 1/60s or faster (avoid blur).
- ISO: 100–200 (keep noise low).
- White balance: fixed (not Auto).
- Focus: manual (prevent focus shifts).
- Format: RAW (CR2), convert later for processing; JPEG acceptable for quick tests.
- Stabilization: off when on tripod.

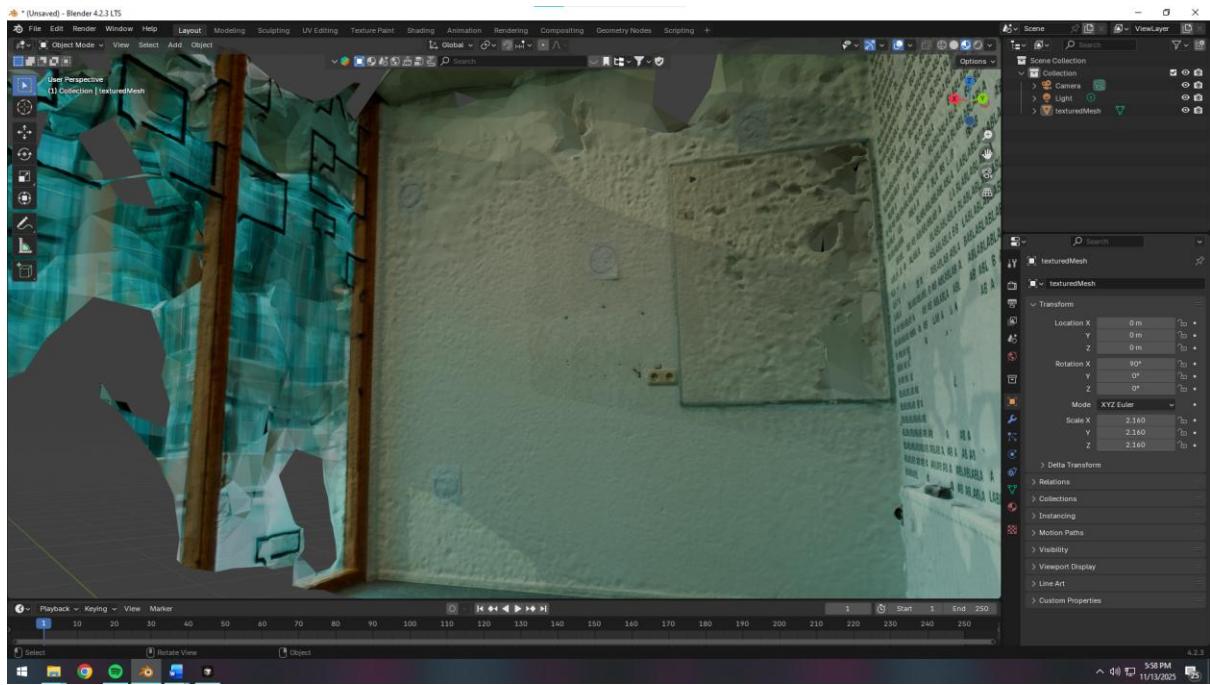
Shooting plan used

- Three orbits around the room, camera slightly inward:
- Low: ~0.5–0.7 m
- Mid: ~1.3 m
- High: ~1.8 m
- Take a shot every 20–30 cm; maintain ~70–80% overlap.
- Ceiling and floor:
- From centre, 4–6 upward shots toward corners; repeat angled down for floor; include some wall in frame for context.
- Corner reinforcement:
- 2–3 angled shots per corner from ~1 m, with small variations in tilt/distance.

ISO 100

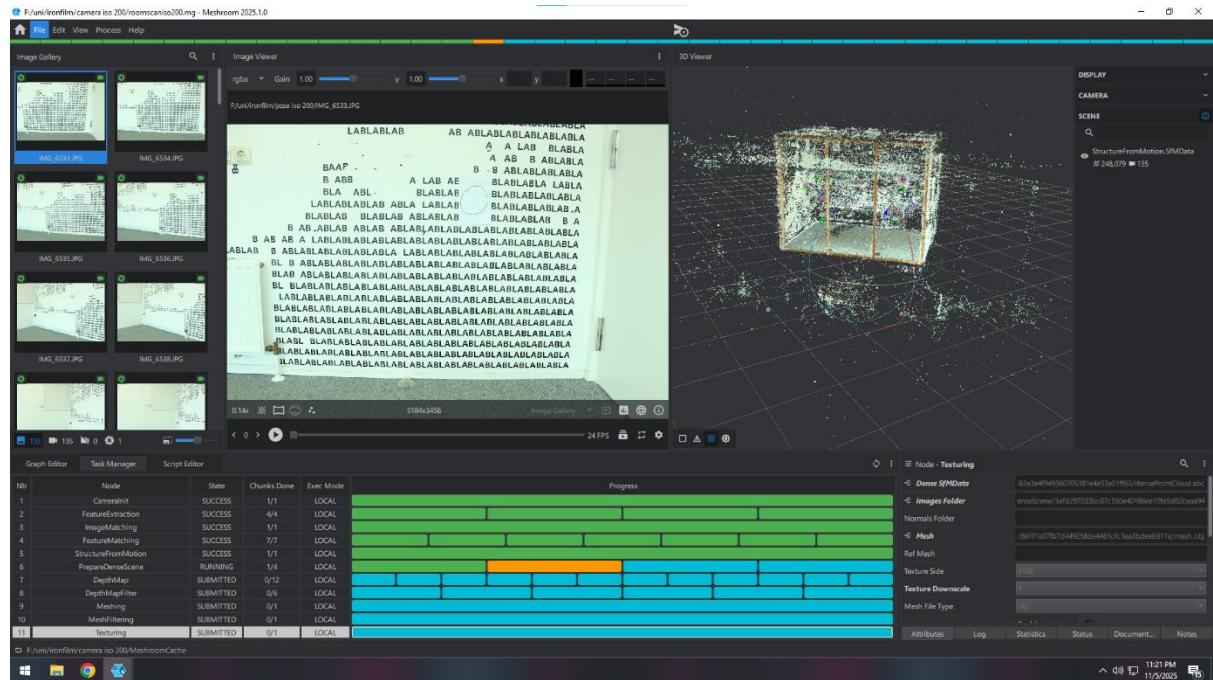


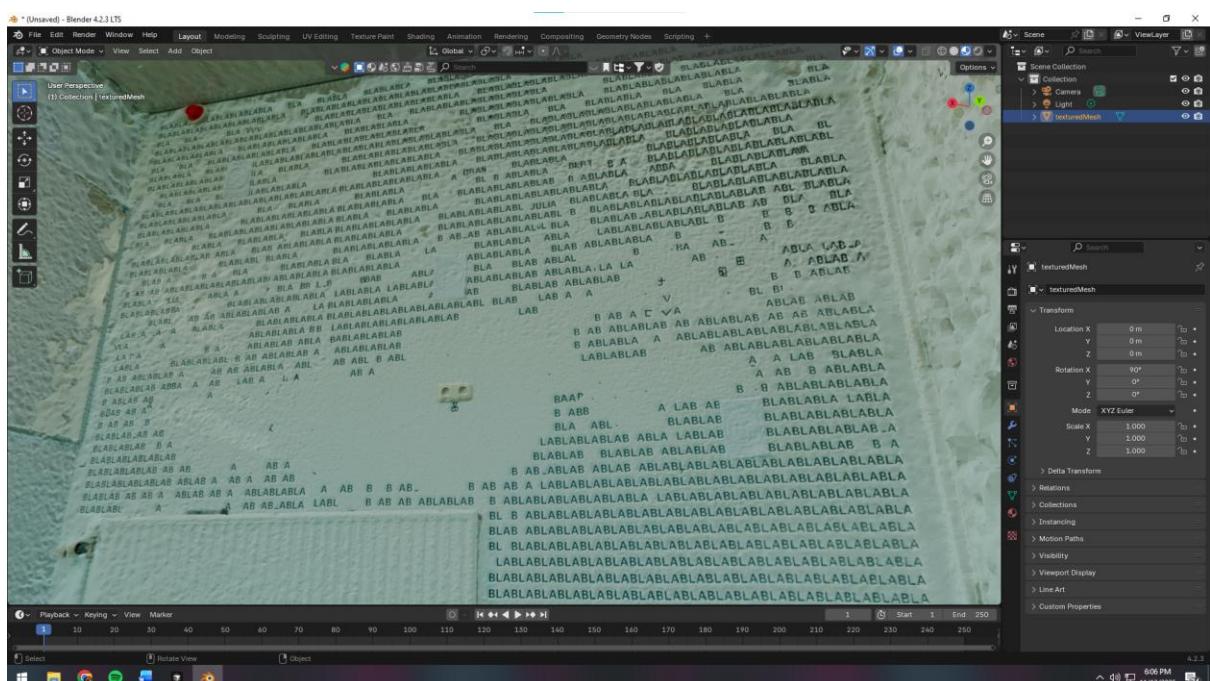
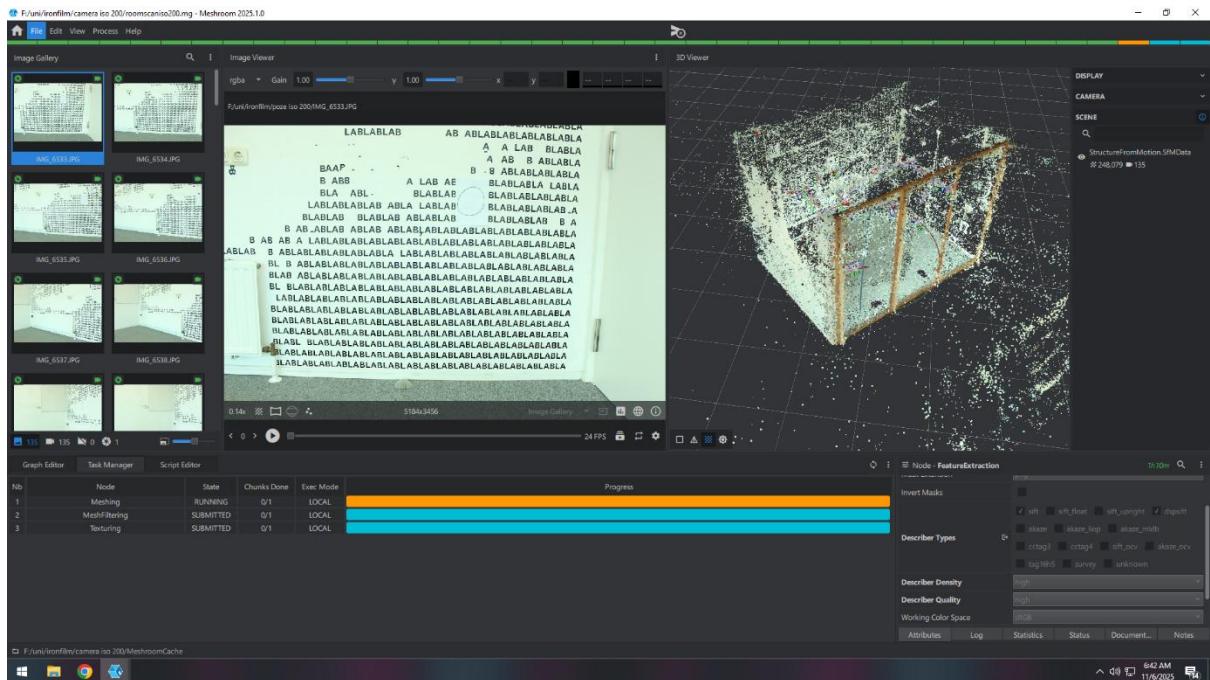


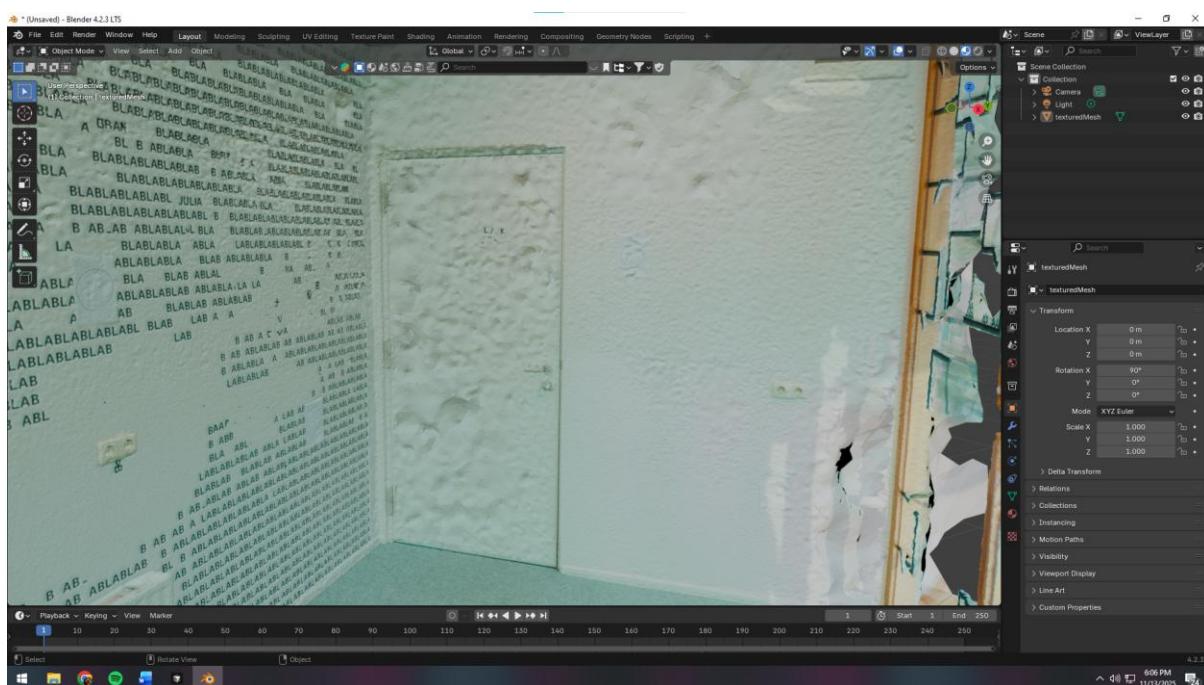
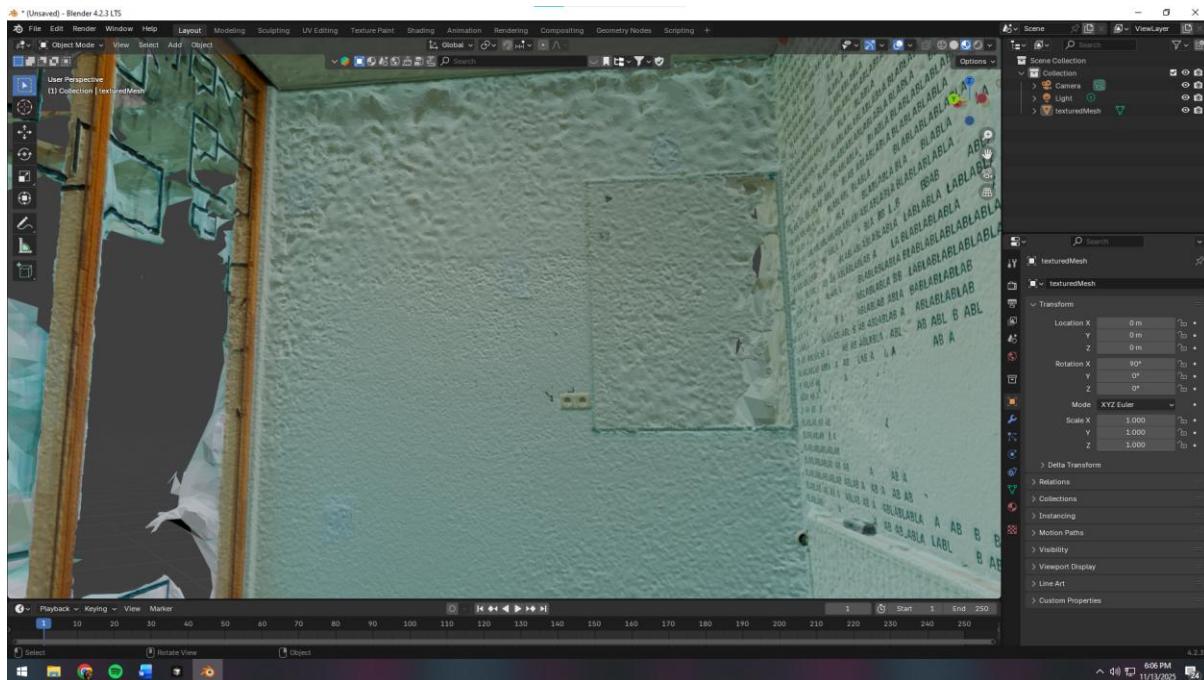


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ISO 200







ISO 100 vs ISO 200 — comparison (completed)

Outcome

- ISO 200 produced slightly brighter, higher-contrast images, which increased SIFT feature detections and improved alignment in darker corners.
 - ISO 100 was cleaner (lower noise) but too flat in some areas; corners underexposed → fewer matches.

Processing choices that helped

- **SIFT only: more stable, cleaner matches for a structured interior.**
- **DepthMap Downscale = 1: maximum geometric detail (longer runtime, acceptable for finals).**
- **Max Neighbour Cameras = 14: smoother, more continuous surfaces indoors.**
- **Texture 8K (8192): crisp textures given high-res inputs.**

What worked well

- **Consistent lighting and exposure across the set.**
- **High overlap with systematic paths.**
- **Printed A4 markers materially improved correspondences on uniform walls.**

Further gains (next runs)

- **Add lamps/reflectors to lift corners and reduce shadow variance.**
- **If ceiling/floor are sparse, add a dedicated pass to reach ~140–200 photos.**
- **Mitigate reflections (cover glass, block window views).**
- **Validate poses in Meshroom (show cameras; delete obvious misalignments) before meshing.**
- **In Blender: Decimate if heavy; smooth shading and normal-map bake for presentation.**