# REVISITING FILM PHOTOGRAPHY AS A TECHNIQUE TO REVEAL AND ARTICULATE LANDSCAPE PHENOMENA

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## 1      ABSTRACT

*This paper presents work from a paired, undergraduate design studio and digital representation class in landscape architecture conducted in fall 2018 at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, in which students experimented with a film camera to explore representation and visualization techniques as part of the early stages of the design process. Film photography was used to capture landscape qualities, and to contrast and highlight traditional photographic methods with the current, widespread use of the smartphone, for photographic documentation. This paper interprets student work and identifies successes and challenges of using the film method, both for students and for studio instructors. Results make the case for the relevance of film photography during the site analysis phase and identify ways of seeing and framing the landscape that have been replaced and substituted by the prevalence of digital photography, in particular smartphone photography. The authors also found that while photography is a valuable observation and recording tool, its use as a strategy has radically changed smartphone photography. Photos are no longer solely associated with the purely visual or fine arts, and the camera and the image become extensions of the memory and thinking processes, as we rely more on captured images to recall key information, details, data and moments. Future discussion points include: what are future opportunities for photography in landscape architecture then? what are the opportunities for photography in landscape architecture education? how should smartphone photography be used in design studios?*

### 1.1      Keywords
Photography, film photography, smartphone, smartphone photography, site analysis.