



The Office

a field guide

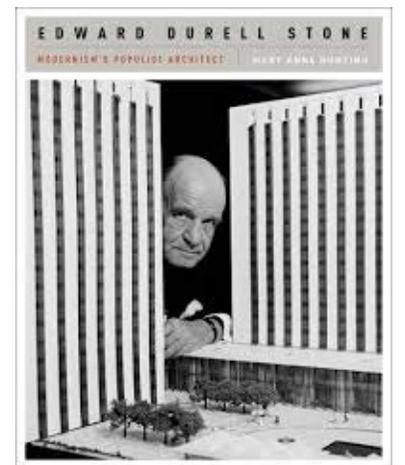
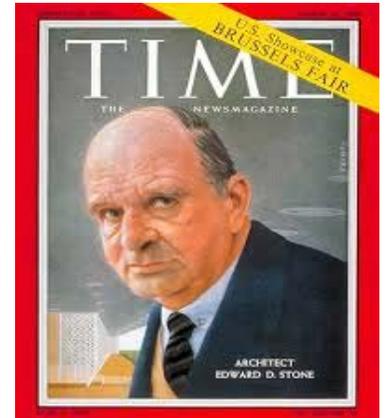
"This is an Ed Stone building, isn't it?"

Those were the first words I said when I walked into Seaside City Hall the first time. I couldn't believe they hadn't put a picture of it in the recruitment brochure, or hadn't said a word about their City Hall being designed by a giant of mid-century modern architecture.

The outside needed some paint, but was still gorgeous. The inside? Ugg. The building was full of awful, worn, miss-matched 1980's or 90's furniture from Office Max or someplace. The walls were painted beige. What was once a public art gallery was a maze of cubicles. And the brilliant red carpeting it had on opening day was long gone, replaced by something that looked like grape Kool-Aid vomit.

Using my own funds, I set about reclaiming the interior design of the City Manager's Office with period correct pieces – and the idea spread through City Hall. Today, the cubicles are gone. The art gallery, and the brilliant white walls and red carpet, are back. Seaside City Hall is back to being an inspiring showplace, and one of the best works of public architecture on the central California coast.

It's a pretty sweet place to work.





Name: Door (laxo ostium)

Description: 80" tall, 32" wide slab of wood, stainless steel hinges, nickel knob

Habitat: Generally, in walls. Sometimes, in minds.

Range: Formerly closed. Now open.

Notes: "Open door policy" works best with door actually open.



Name: Door (laxo ostium)

what's with the
semaphore?

"W" flags indicate
the Cubs (blue) and
/ or Spartans (red)
won their most
recent games

best with door actually open.



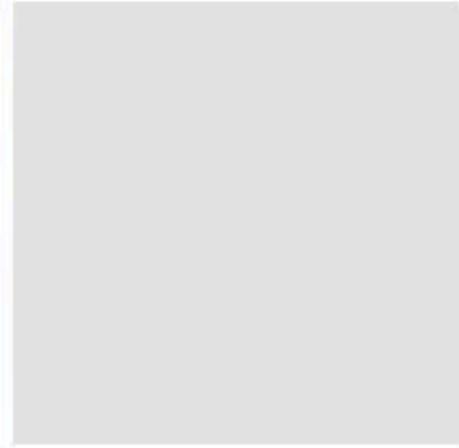
Name: Desk (workus platformia)

Description: 84" long, 29" high, five drawers, walnut, glass and chrome

Habitat: Mid-century offices and tragically misguided landfills.

Range: Original office desk. Has not moved.

Notes: Original Seaside inventory tag (A 1202) in upper left drawer.



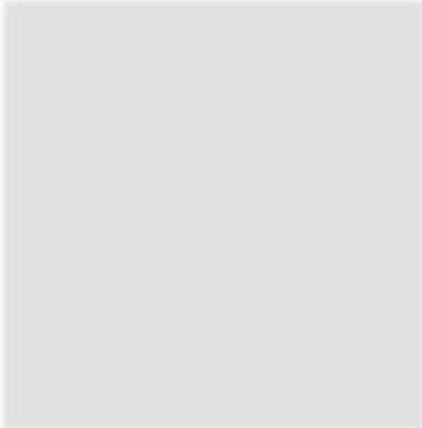
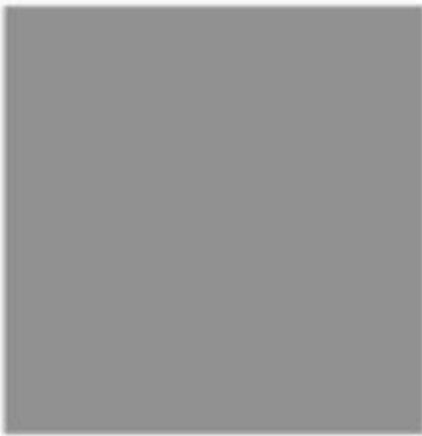
Name: Credenza (storage de elegance)

Description: 84" long, 29" high, four drawers, two doors, walnut, glass and chrome

Habitat: Mid-century offices and living rooms.

Range: 44" from desk.

Notes: Keys to locking drawers non-existent = even more open government !



Name: Conference Table (knockoffus saarinenes)

Description: 41" diameter table, 30" high, white

Habitat: Starter apartments, Mad Men sets.

Range: Doesn't stray far from southwest corner of office.

Notes: Four chairs standard. Pull "He Said / She Said" chairs over if extra seating necessary. Go to conference room if unruly mob descends upon office.



Name: Candy dish (gluba habititous)

Description: *Dark Chocolate or GTFO*

Habitat: Welcoming conference tables, the world over.

Range: Mayor Gluba's Office, 226 W. 4th Street, Davenport, Iowa to 440 Harcourt Ave., Seaside, California

Notes: Have a chocolate. Mellow out. Think clearly.



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Chocolate Reduces Stress, Study Finds

By [Clara Moskowitz](#) November 11, 2009

Results: Mean stress scores compared between the groups by ANOVA revealed statistically not significant differences before ($F = 0.505$; $P = 0.606$) and after chocolate consumption ($F = 0.188$; $P = 0.829$). Paired 't' test compared stress scores means before and after chocolate supplementation within the same group and exhibited statistically significant decrease in DC ($t = 2.341$; p value = 0.03) and MC ($t = 3.302$; p value = 0.004) groups. Mean stress scores decreased, on average, by approximately 2 and 3 points in DC and MC groups, respectively, at 95% Confidence Interval. The difference was more evident and statistically significant in female students as compared to the males.



Name: Diplomas (student loanes biggus)

Description: Small collection of Masters Degrees.

Habitat: Sometimes boxes in the basement. Sometimes walls.
Range: Champaign, Urbana, Chicago

Notes: High school guidance counselors certain they are fake.



Name: Newton's Three Laws of Motion (wallus decorus)

Description: Graphics depicting Newton's Three Laws of Motion.

Habitat: White walls are best (you go, Ed Stone!).

Range: From pool tables to organizational improvement, mind your Newtonian physics.

Notes: From Chicago graphic artist Justin Van Genderen.



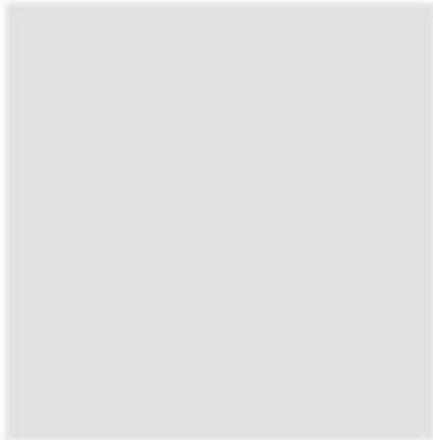
Name: Daughter and Son Photos (quadium meminisse)

Description: pictures of progeny = pervasive sense of happiness.

Habitat: Desk top.

Range: Wherever I go.

Notes: I'm incredibly lucky, blessed beyond words that Marcia took some note of the doofus on the loading dock.



Name: He Said / She Said Chairs (taka loadoff)

Description: Five-legged, two-armed devices for resting, whilst spilling your soul or advancing your agenda (not that those are different).

Range: From each other? Tells most of what you need to know about how those seated in them feel about each other.

Notes: Spin at own risk.

Name: Malinator 3000

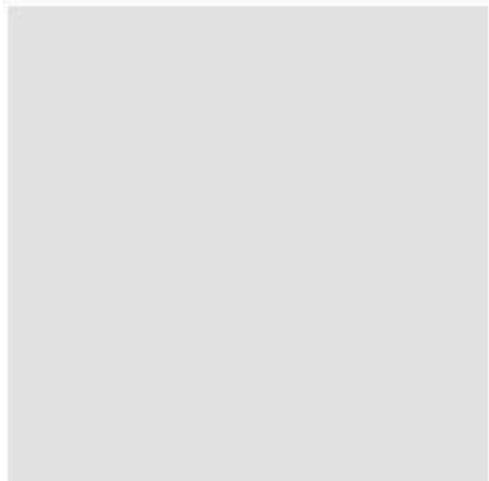
Description: Wood-framed e-bike

Habitat: Anywhere within 15 miles of City Hall (current battery range)

Notes: Built it myself

Malinator "3000"
because it's from
the future



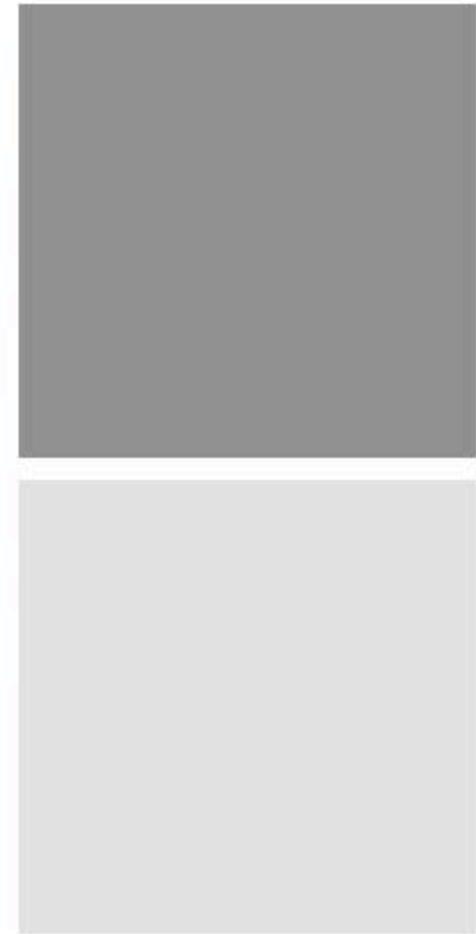


Name: Stereo (tunage)

Description: Yamaha

Habitat: Corner table, formerly sagging under the weight of stacks of paper dating back to the Paleozoic era.

Range: From college to casket.



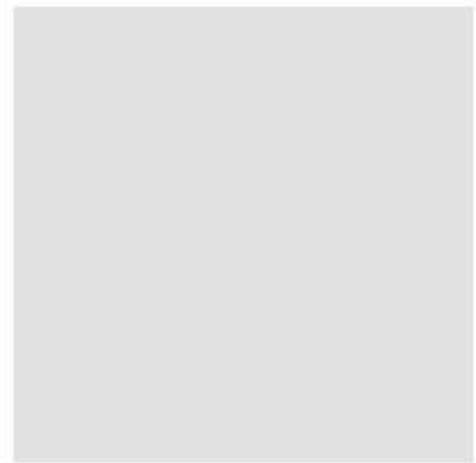
Name: Ash Tray (cancero stickus trayus)

Description: 2 cigarette, 1 cigar ash receptacle, chrome

Habitat: Wherever death is served.

Range: Dwindling. Because ... you know ... death.

Notes: Adaptive re-use as breath mint corral.



Name: Apple (*malus domestica*)

Description: One a day health insurance plan.

Habitat: Tarts, pies, salads

Range: Stone's Apple Barn my favorite. But produce sections will do in a pinch.

Notes: Red Delicious uber alles.



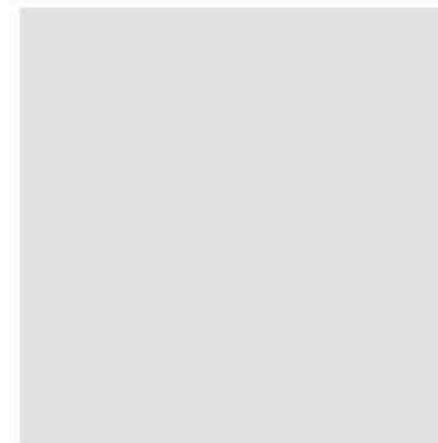
Name: Landscapes (quadium meminisse)

Description: Fond remembrances of west collegiate tours with the kids.

Habitat: Jeep Wrangler / Dodge Challenger.

Range: Tetons / Big Sur

Notes: They ended up in Iowa / Wisconsin, but the tours were huge fun.



Name: Books, etc. (papyrus mortalia)

Description: Book lernin

Habitat: Randomly firing synapses responding to tests of all manner.

Range: The "Harvard of Macomb, Illinois" to the ... well ... Harvard.

Notes: The flag's dad's. The spray paint was from Tanisha. The pop tarts are just in case.



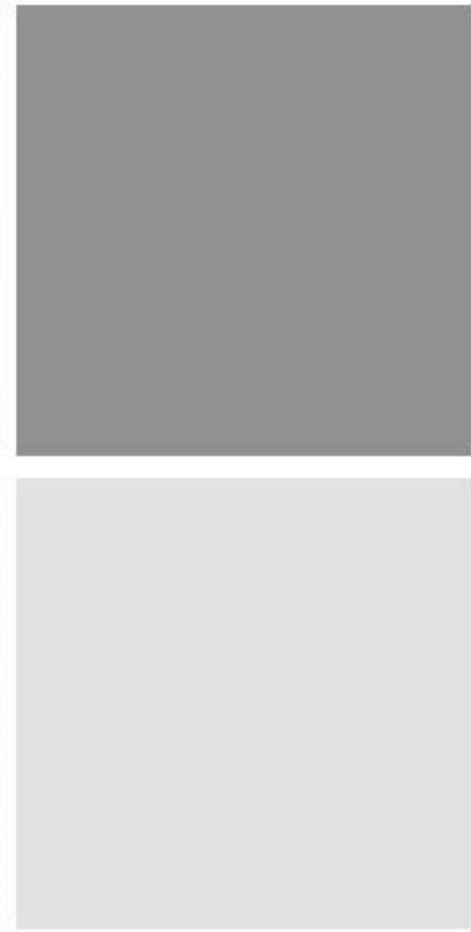
Name: Mercury / Gemini / Apollo tritypte (wallus decorus)

Description: What kind of government do you want? Cool, daring, impactful?

Lame, impotent, useless? It's not a rhetorical question.

Habitat: Big, beautiful walnut wall behind me.

Notes: Again, from Chicago graphic artist Justin Van Genderen.



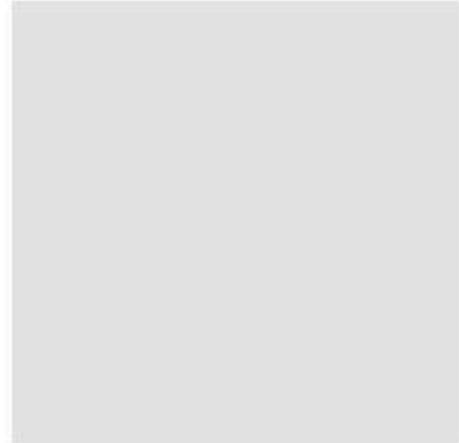
Name: Accent Table (sparea tableau)

Description: Oval glass and chrome, carpet stain concealment device.

Habitat: Typically, in between sofas and the rest of the room.

Range: It'll stay put until something better comes along.

Notes: Handy place to stow the Vernon Hills and Davenport city keys.



Name: Coffee Mug (caffeine containento)

Description: 11 oz. cup, from Quad City Times photo archives.

Habitat: Any place you need a good laugh. Cuz I don't drink coffee.

Range: Would you like to have \$15 - \$20 million a year in revenue to cut taxes, fix roads, hire cops, send kids to college, etc.?

Notes: No? Ok ... good luck, then.



Name: Skateboard (Longboardus road rashus)

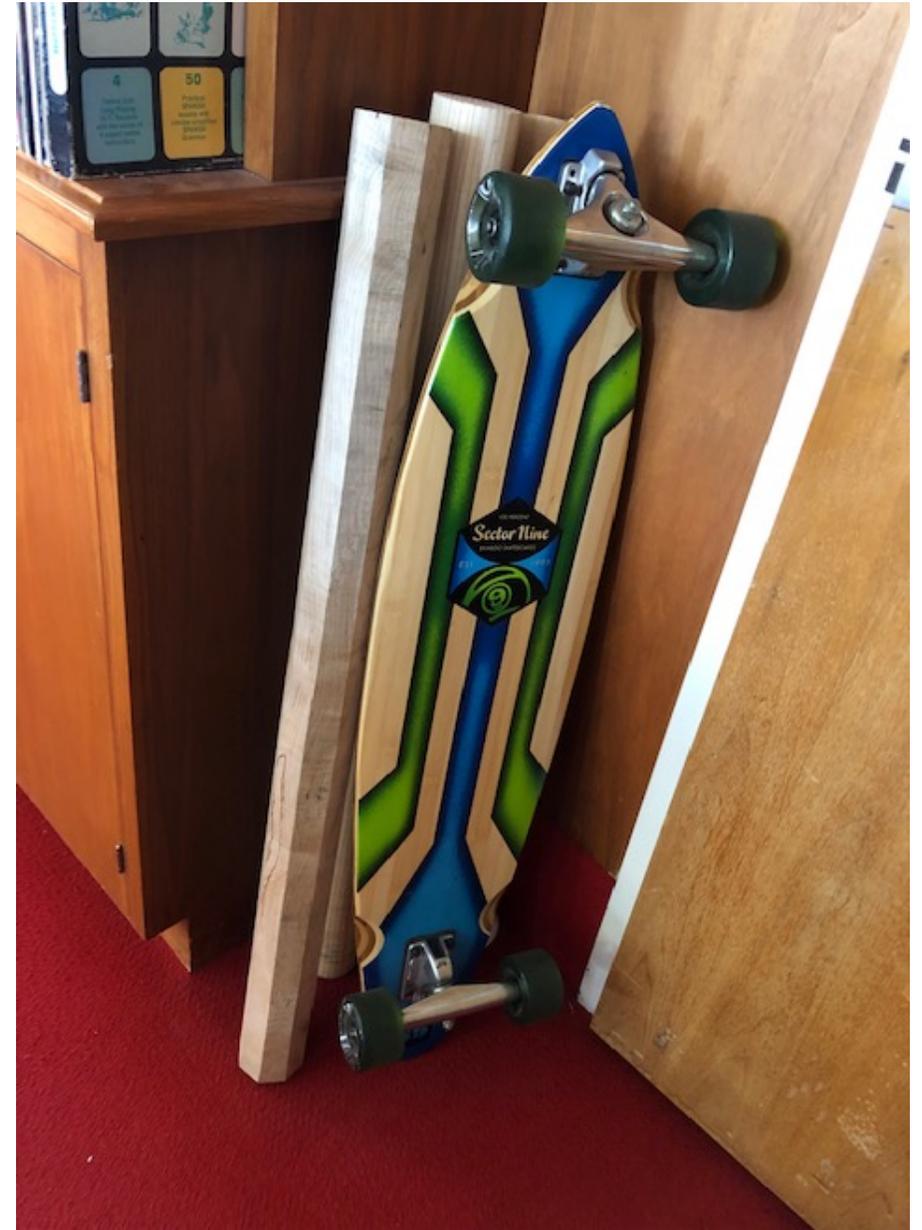
Description: 36" laminated wood emergency room entry device

Habitat: Sidewalks, streets, bike paths

Range: 0 to 15% slopes

Notes: Tricks limited to being my age and still skating

Background: Spanish speaking album and wood in progress of becoming ...





Name: Bats (thwacknamia factorious)

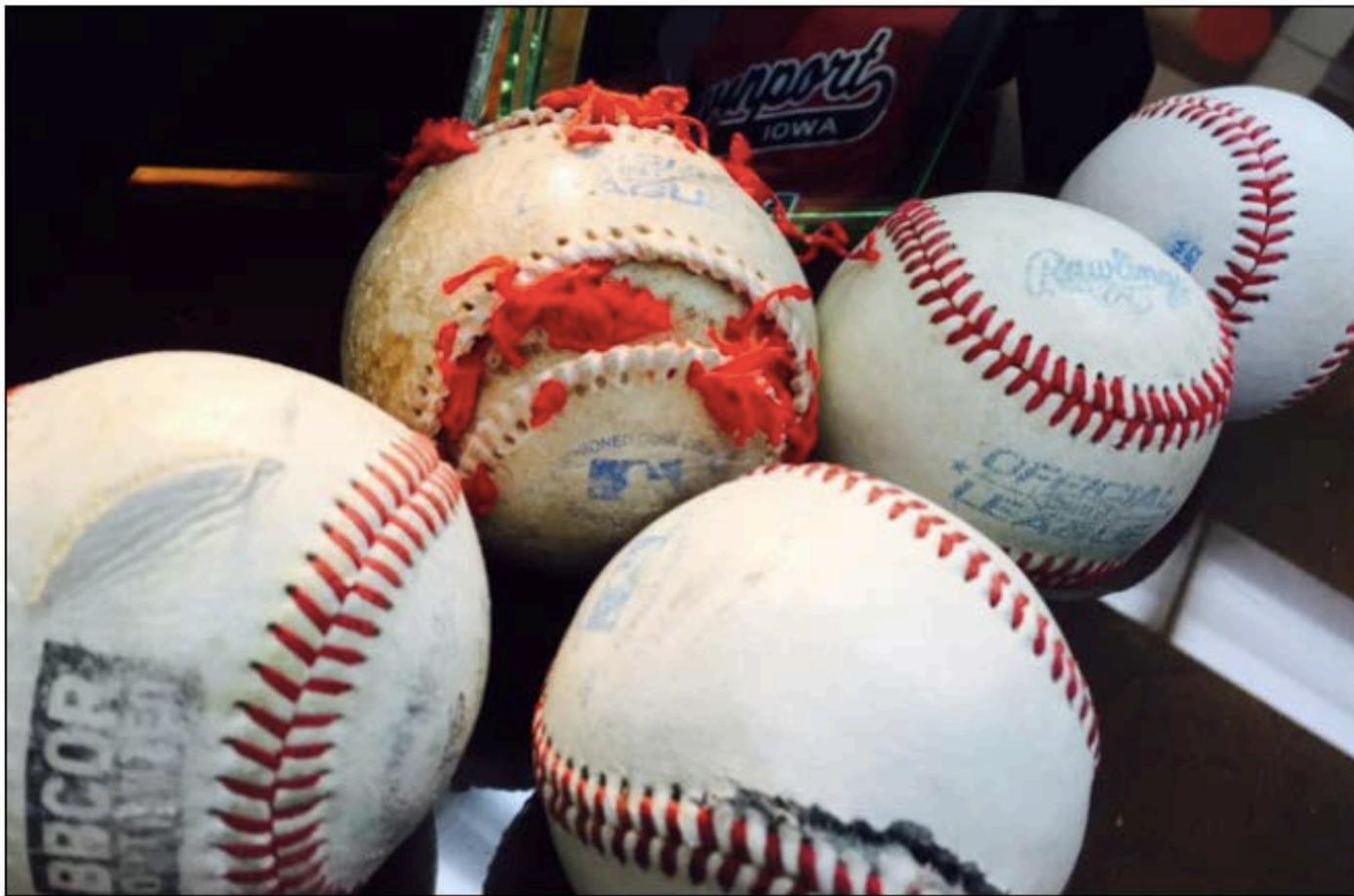
Description: Hand-made wood bats

Habitat: Batting cages, ball diamonds

Range: Little League to D1

Notes: Sometimes you win. Sometimes you lose. Sometimes it rains.





Name: Baseballs (orbis destructus)

Description: Baseballs Colin destroyed with one swing of the bat.

Habitat: Desk corner

Range: Little League, Pony League, High School ball diamonds

Notes: You have a home run ball your son / daughter hit? That's cute.

Name: Closet (Hidden Storage)

Description: Tie o'rama, spare diploma,
Harvard parting gifts

Habitat: Behind that door

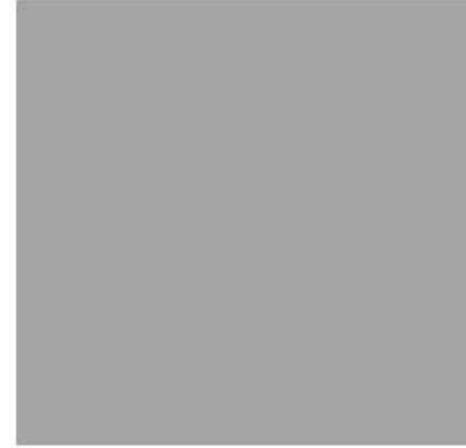
Range: 0 to 2% slopes

Notes: Mustard stains optional





& Two Clocks?



Because some other city
might be gaining on us

So let's get to it.