

Cultural Daily

Independent Voices, New Perspectives

Accidentally Wes Anderson

Elisa Leonelli · Thursday, June 6th, 2024

I visited the unusual exhibit “[Accidentally Wes Anderson](#)” at the [Santa Monica Art Museum](#) on the Promenade, on view until August 18.



MLC Building. 1936. Sydney, Australia

The photographs on display were taken by people all over the world, after creators, Wally and Amanda Koval, started an Instagram account in 2017 soliciting contributions of images inspired by [Wes Anderson](#)’s unique aesthetic sensibility in movies like *The Royal Tenenbaums* (2001), *The Darjeeling Limited* (2007), *The Grand Budapest Hotel* (2014), *The French Dispatch* (2021), and others.



Wes Anderson on set of ASTEROID CITY (c) Focus Features

As a film critic, I appreciate Wes Anderson's work, and [wrote an article](#) about his latest movie, *Asteroid City*, for the Italian film monthly Best Movie.

As a photographer and world traveler, I loved the photographs and learnt fascinating stories about far away places, from the lengthy descriptions.

I admired the streamlined Art Deco design of the 1936 [Mutual Life & Citizens Building](#) in Sydney, Australia.



Surakarta Hadiningrat Royal Palace. 1744. Central Java

Going back three centuries to 1744, see the guards at the doors of [Surakarta Royal Palace](#) in Central Java.



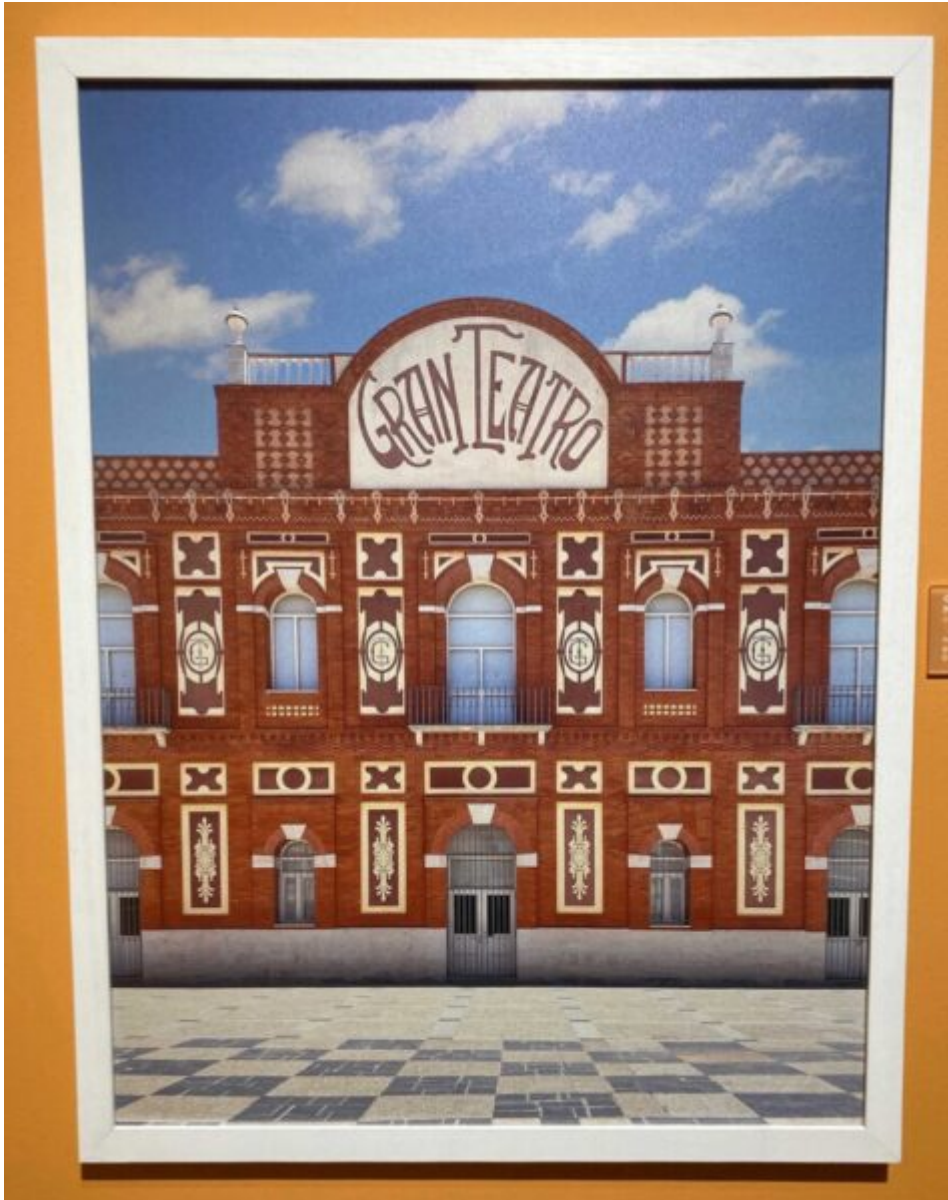
Ishtar Gate. 575, Hillah, Babil, Iraq

Further back to 575, a replica of the [Ishtar Gate](#) to ancient Babylon was rebuilt in Iraq, while the reconstruction from archival materials excavated in 1914 is at the Pergamon Museum in Berlin.



Gran Teatro Falla. 1905. Cadiz, Spain

Look at more doors to the 1905 [Gran Teatro Falla](#) in Cádiz, Andalusia, Spain, in the Neo-Mudéjar style.



Gran Teatro de Manzanares. 1912. Spain

The façade of the 1912 [Gran Teatro de Manzanares](#) in Spain, rebuilt in 1995.



Hotel Sacher. 1876. Vienna, Austria

The elegant dining room of the 1876 [Sacher Hotel](#) in Vienna, built by Eduard, son of Franz Sacher, who concocted the chocolate dessert called Sacher torte, a favorite of Italian director Nanni Moretti.



Hotel Opera. 1890. Prague, Czech Republic

Hotel Opera, Prague, built in 1890 in Bohemian Neo-Renaissance style.



Hotel Moskva. 1908. Belgrade, Serbia

Hotel Moscow, Belgrade, Serbia, built tin 1908 as Palace Rossiya.



Hotel Belvedere. 1783. Furka Pass, Switzerland

Hotel Belvedere, 1783 in Switzerland was chosen for the book cover of *Accidentally Wes Anderson*.



Amalienbad. 1926. Vienna, Austria

[Amalienbad](#) 1926, in Vienna, Austria, was named after Amalie Pölzer, the first woman elected to the municipal council of Vienna for the Social Democrats party, who advocated for public baths to be built to encourage personal hygiene and physical fitness at a time when few Viennese residents had their own bathrooms.



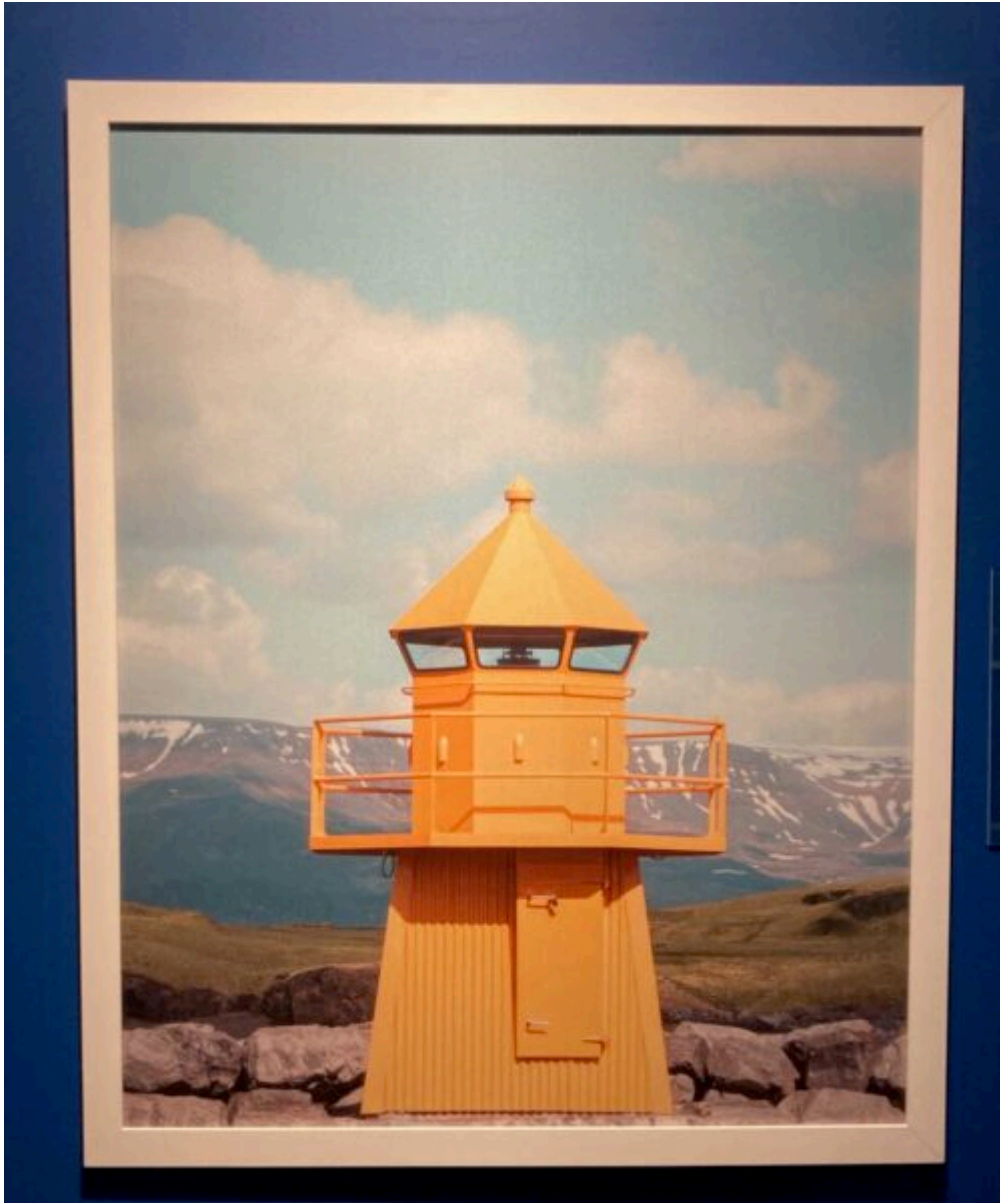
Warrender Baths. 1887. Edinburgh, Scotland

A similar goal was behind the establishment of the [Warrender Baths](#) in Edinburgh, Scotland in 1887, except this one was a private club for the upper class.



Klein Lighthouse. 1879. Willemstad, Curaçao

Lighthouses, described as “mystical beacons that have been saving sailors and enticing explorers for centuries,” reminded me of the movie written and directed by Derek Cianfrance *The Light Between the Oceans* (2016) with Michael Fassbender and Alicia Vikander.



Skarfagardur Lighthouse. Reykjavik, Iceland

Visitors are encouraged to take photos of this exhibition and post them on Instagram. As I photojournalist, I chose to write this article. Another one will follow, about Los Angeles landmarks.

This entry was posted on Thursday, June 6th, 2024 at 7:48 pm and is filed under [Photography](#). You can follow any responses to this entry through the [Comments \(RSS\)](#) feed. You can leave a response, or [trackback](#) from your own site.