



Unraveling the mesh

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There are different ways to read a city, especially a thriving one as London. This photographic series investigates the relationships between different buildings, on diverse levels. London's skyline shifts and grows rapidly. Observing the capital from an aerial point of view, one can easily count the historic landmarks and modern icons. From this point of view one can have an understanding of the scale and complexity of this sprawling city. Looking down, the infrastructure seems complex, as the big offices are crammed together in irregular spaces. Other buildings are twisted into a variety of strange forms to maximize the limited domain they can occupy. These buildings are not located on a regular grid, but on a street arrangement that hasn't changed in a thousand years. Going back to Celtic times, this plan forms an ancient delicate spiders web in a rapidly changing world. Regardless of the mediaeval street plan, the City of London still functions, though not in the same way of course. On ground level, the level of the pedestrian, one isn't immediately conscious of the intriguing street pattern, nevertheless there are certain compositions to be found when we explore the interaction between buildings. Various older buildings are embracing or rejecting contemporary ones, a classic case of 'age-value', as Alois Riegl would label this situation. Depending on the composition between old and new, one building can give the impression that the other is out of the ordinary, but therefore not necessarily a misfit. In between bold high rise buildings one can find a 19th century church and it is exactly this experience what makes London such a stimulating place to wander around. But there are also new built sites in the city, where wasteland was a blank canvas for architects to emerge millions of square feet of office spaces. These areas are being developed with one main material, glass. *Old* and *NEW*, textures and silhouettes, past and future are being combined. In this complex network, various layers of connections are revealed, as they are being made in different ways and by diverse means. On the one hand this can be literal: by the use of bridges or through passages and narrow alleyways of the mediaeval street pattern. On the other hand the connection can be less obvious and can contain another meaning. Through perspectives and outlooks we can once again notice the interaction between new and old edifices.