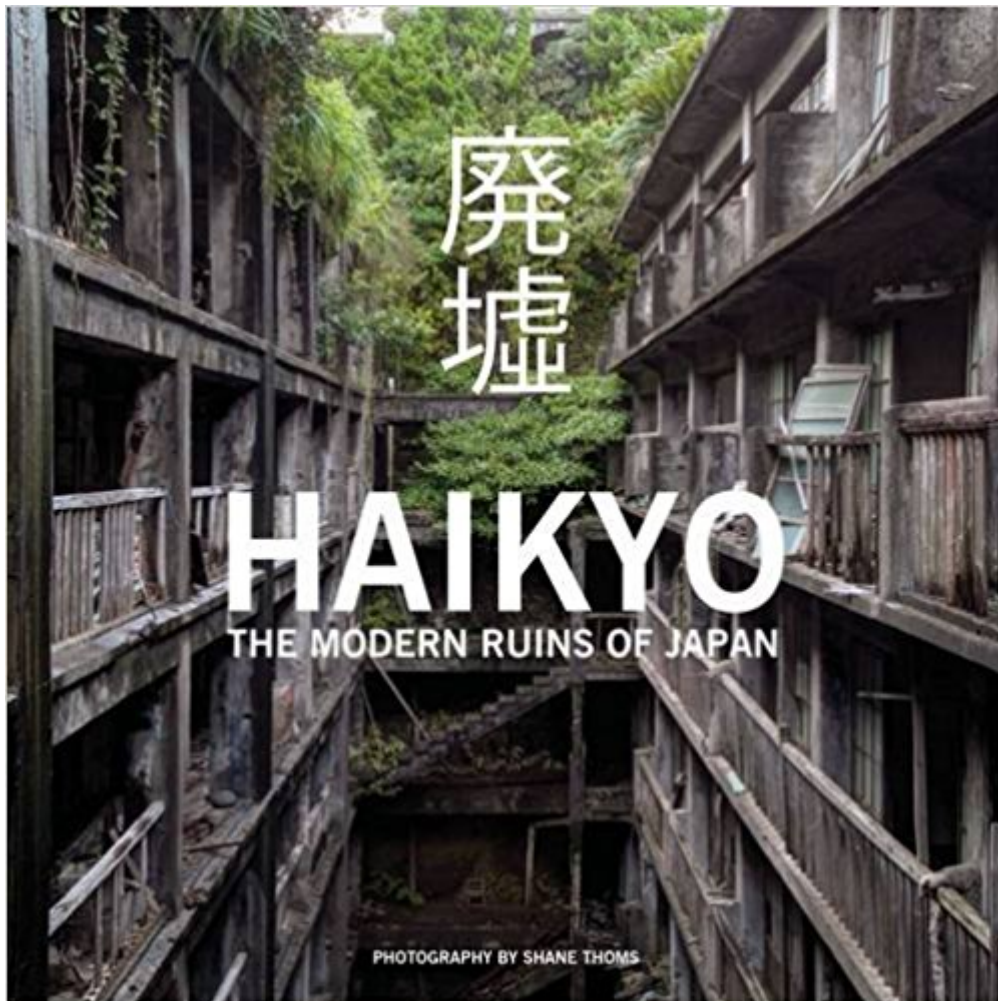




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# Haikyo: The Modern Ruins Of Japan



## Synopsis

Stepping away from the lights and into the shadows, one adventurous photographer embarks on an underground voyeuristic journey, documenting a curious collection of images that provide a rare and intimate glimpse into a secret, mysterious and sometimes bizarre world. Miniature jungles sprout and thrive in the rooms of a discarded beachside resort. Filled with curiosities and eccentric furniture, a long forgotten love hotel crumbles away on the outskirts of a small country town. Inside a large snow covered building, a giant taxidermy walrus sits wedged in the corner of a darkened, dust filled room. After years of abandonment, vines and foliage take over from past crowds to engulf roller coasters, carousels and water slides in a swampy amusement park. Rows of stools await more customers as the years pass by in a dilapidated strip club filled with retro treasures. Each with its own unique story to tell, the end result is the presentation of a fascinating realm where one can contemplate Japan's hidden journey from permanence to disposability, composition to decomposition and construction to deconstruction.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Believing there is a strong cultural value in the documentation of the past, Shane Thoms focus solely on the abandoned space, visually capturing the remaining traces of human emotion that linger before the process of urban evolution erases them completely. Shooting within a carefully considered landscape format, Shane Thoms's photographic style presents a fictionalized, cinematic stage-like realm by which the observer can contemplate ideas on the constructed human

world. More than just visuals of decayed environments, these images become thought provoking mediums that raise questions not only regarding our past, but also our present and future states. Through these photographs, ideas on population, space, economy, infrastructure and environment are pushed forward via a narrative that speaks volumes regarding the human condition. Along with this, the observer also has the opportunity to embark on a voyeuristic journey into the shadows of the forgotten urban environment, gaining an intimate glimpse into a secret, mysterious and sometimes bizarre world. As featured on CNN, The Business Insider, Huffington Post, Daily Mail, Messy Nussy Chic, So Bad So Good, Aplus, la repubblica, Viral Nova, Daily Best , The Weather Channel etc, this work is a visual documentation of the inevitable human destiny. \*Exhibits: 'Prypiat', January to February 2013, 'Cesium 137', August 2013 \*Awards: 2014 Best Architectural Image, Centre for Contemporary Photography Salon for White Found in Haikyo \*\*Bachelor of Design, Vis Comm, (photography major), Monash University, Melbourne, Australia

I am thrilled with the purchase of this book. Shane Thoms' work is exceptional. He certainly has an incredible eye for photography. Absolutely stunning, haunting and beautiful images that keep you staring at every page at length absorbing more and more each time. Each picture transports you to the incredible places presented. The quality of the book is amazing. From the hardcover to the quality feel of the pages. Very proud to have this in my house and it has already been highly commented on by visitors. I highly recommend this to any one with an interest in photography and art. Would make a lovely gift or present.

The photos in this book feel like the photographer has a real sensitivity and understanding of the places he documents. It lends a real magical feel to the book. The text gives the reader brief histories of the locations and stories surrounding both the places themselves and the photographer's experience in them. It's easy to imagine being there with him. The book is divided into themes based on functions of the locations such as hospitals, schools and mines and various locations shot within these themes give a real insight into Japanese life of times past. I found it intriguing that many everyday items as well as bizarre ones were left within the spaces when they were abandoned (and have not been pillaged since) and there is endless detail in the images to explore. The book itself is a square format with a heavy weight and solid feel. It has a luxurious cover with heavy paper stock - it feel likes a substantial book!

I bought this book because of my love for photography of abandoned places. I don't anticipate ever

being able to see Japan, so this was a bit of a vicarious vacation. The photos in this book are haunting! I know that word is often used in this genre of photography, but wow! Shane has beautifully captured the decaying elegance of Japan. The photos are masterful, crisp, and gorgeous. I know I will revisit this book again and again.

Haikyo is a collection of haunting pictures beautifully and thoughtfully put together. Shane Thoms does a great job of capturing these derelict places and forgotten worlds. The focus on Japan makes this book even more interesting (as an American who has only visited the very populated areas of the country). Its a wonderful glimpse into another side of modern excess and "progress" left behind. I have been a fan of abandon space photography for a while and had even seen some of Shane's work on blogs and websites, it was nice to get a complete collection of very high quality prints in an overall great book.

I bought this book because of my love for photography and abandoned buildings. Shane Thoms has captured the haunting abandoned buildings beautifully and with lots of talent. You get transported to the locations with his photos and descriptions. It is refreshing to see an abandoned building book that doesn't rely on over processed HDR photos to convey their story like other books in this genre. I highly recommend this book.

My new favourite photography book. A rich and detailed insight into a rarely seen aspect of modern Japan. Gorgeous, thoughtful photos in a beautifully printed large format book featuring hundreds of photos. Stunning work.

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