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Senior Lighting Artist

LIGHTING THE CITY OF GLASS

GDC 2016





MIRROR'S EDGE (2008)



- Gorgeous futuristic office spaces and rooftops
- Lighting was a big part of the art direction

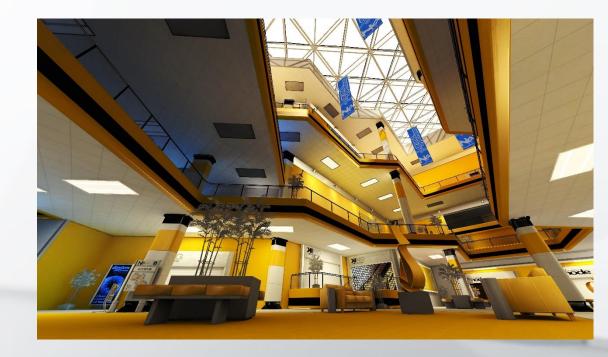




MIRROR'S EDGE (2008)



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MIRROR'S EDGE (2008) LIGHTING TECH



- Lighting is Static
- Using Beast inside Unreal Engine 3
 - Baked Direct and Indirect Lighting
 - High Resolution lightmaps
 - 1 pixel per cm
 - Directional irradiance
 - 25 hours to render 1 level







MIRROR'S EDGE: CATALYST

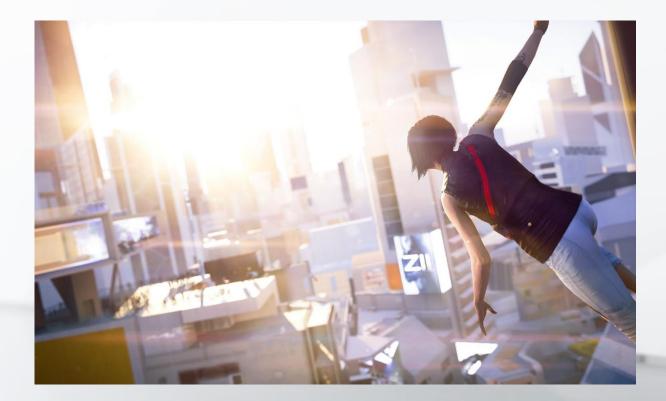


MIRROR'S EDGE

MIRROR'S EDGE: CATALYST

GAME DESIGN

- Large city as a playground
 - Free roaming
 - Exploration





MIRROR'S EDGE"

MIRROR'S EDGE: CATALYST GAME DESIGN

- Living world
 - Day cycle
 - Vibrant world
 - Immersion

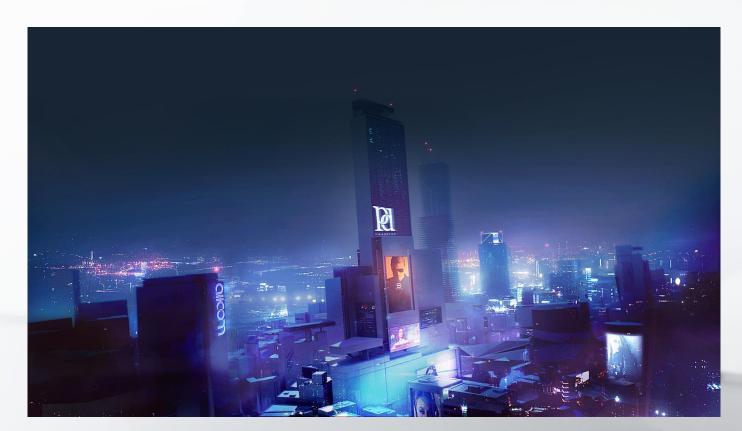




MIRROR'S EDGE"

MIRROR'S EDGE: CATALYST GAME DESIGN

- Living world
 - Day cycle
 - Vibrant world
 - Immersion





MIRROR'S EDGE: CATALYST

MIRROR'S EDGE"

GAME DESIGN

- Strong narration
 - City of Glass history
 - Rise of Faith





MIRROR'S EDGE"

MIRROR'S EDGE: CATALYST CHALLENGES

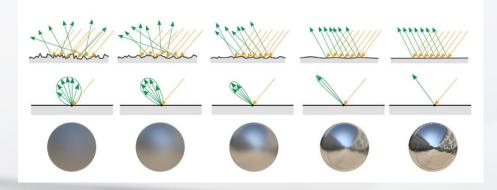
- Creating a Time of Day system
- Can we even make Mirror's Edge with dynamic lighting?
- Making beliveable characters for cinematics
- Creating stylized images with Physically Based rendering

MIRROR'S EDGE

SHADING FUNDAMENTALS

PHYSICALLY BASED RENDERING

- Frostbite transitioned to PRR
 http://www.frostbite.com/2014/11/moving-frostbite-to-pbr/
- Specular: Microfacet model with GGX normal distribution function
- Diffuse: Disney Diffuse with energy renormalization



- Now industry standard
 - Easier to author textures with other softwares

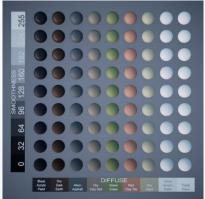


MIRROR

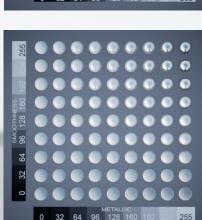
SHADING FUNDAMENTALS

PHYSICALLY BASED RENDERING

- Base Color
 - sRGB 40 230
- Smoothness
 - Artist driven
- Reflectance
 - Controls fresnel curve of reflections
 - Physically correct values to follow
- Metal mask









SHADING FUNDAMENTALS

MIRROR'S EDGE"

PHYSICALLY BASED RENDERING

- Dynamic Time of Day loves PBR
 - Shading for every lighting conditions
 - Accurate reflections of the environment
- Game camera is a physical camera
 - Accurate Exposure values: Shutter Speed, Aperture, ISO
 - Realistic Depth of Field





GATHERING REFERENCES IN TOKYO



BUILDINGS ARCHITECTURE





MIRROR'S EDGE

GATHERING REFERENCES FACADE PROPS AND BILLBOARDS



MIRROR'S EDGE"

ROOFTOPS





MIRROR'S EDGE"

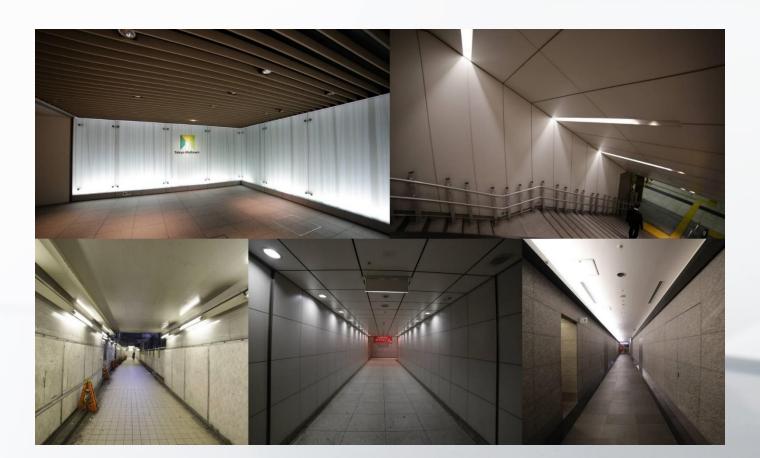
WHITE VALUES





MIRROR'S EDGE

GATHERING REFERENCES LIGHTING



MIRROR'S EDGE"

TIMELAPSE

- Useful EXIF data
 - White Balance
 - Exposure





MIRROR'S EDGE

HDR PROBES

- Capturing HDR probes as references
 - 16k * 8k using a 14mm rectilinear lens
 - 14 camera positions
 - Up to 22 EV
 - Absolute HDR
 - HDR timelapses of sunrise and sunset





MIRROR'S EDGE"

HDR PROBES

Object previewing





CREATING THE SKIES OBSTACLES



HDR skies couldn't be used in the game

- Dynamic time of day would require many skies
- Needs a lot of memory / fast streaming
- Blending between HDR skies was obvious
- Clouds requires high resolution
- Want to relight the clouds



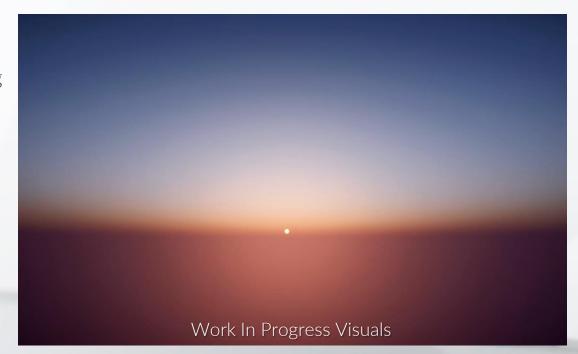


PHYSICALLY BASED SKY





- Precomputed atmospheric scattering
 - Rayleigh coefficients multiplier
 - Rayleigh height







- Precomputed atmospheric scattering
 - Mie Scattering coefficients multiplier
 - Mie Scattering height







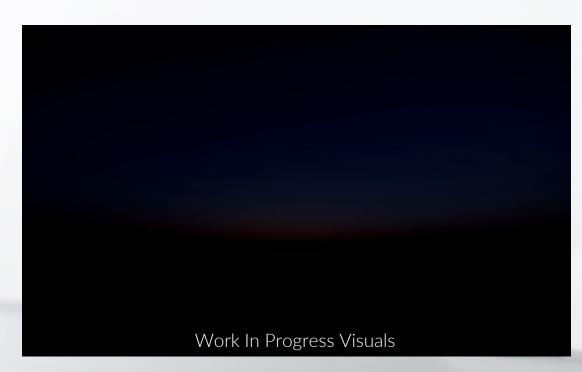
- Precomputed atmospheric scattering
 - Ozone percentage







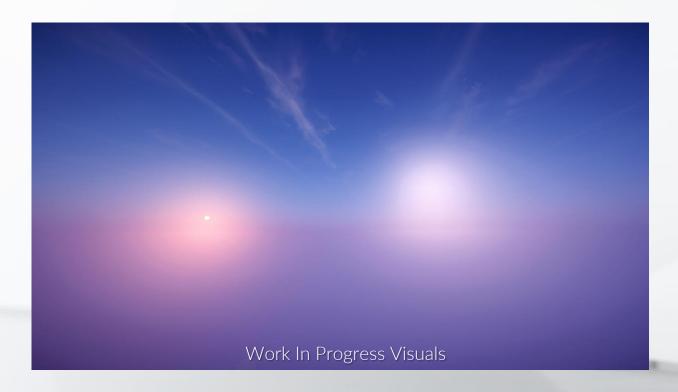
- Lights sources
 - Sun Intensity illuminates the sky
 On a sunny day: Sun = 100 000 lux
 - Sun elevation does all the work







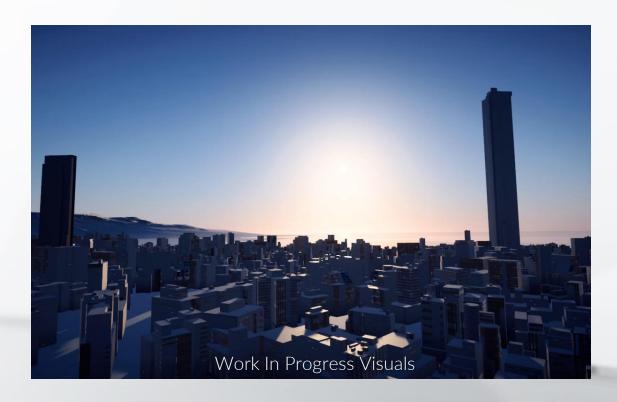
- Lights Sources
 - Using 2 light sources
 - Sun
 - Moon







- Aerial Perspective
 - Scale and intensity controls



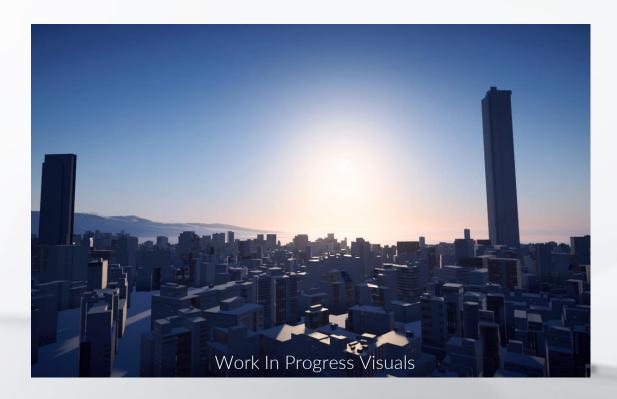


CREATING THE SKIES

PHYSICALLY BASED SKY



- Height fog
 - Altitude
 - Density





CREATING THE SKIES

PHYSICALLY BASED SKY



- Height fog
 - Clamp density
 - Color add or multiplier





MIRROR'S EDGE"

- 2 Cloud planes lit by the sky
 - Alpha texture
 - Absorbtion and thickness values.

- Sky and Clouds cost:
 - Around 0.75 ms on consoles (+ 0.35 ms compared to static sky)







- Always want more control
 - Wanted deeper blues





CREATING THE SKIES

PHYSICALLY BASED SKY

MIRROR'S EDGE"

- Physically correct
- But not deep enough



MIRROR'S EDGE"

PHYSICALLY BASED SKY

• Circular Polarizing Filter OFF





CREATING THE SKIES PHYSICALLY BASED SKY

MIRROR'S EDGE"

• Circular Polarizing Filter ON





PHYSICALLY BASED SKY



- Solution
 - Add Rayleigh Scattering Multiplier





PHYSICALLY BASED SKY

MIRROR'S EDGE

• Not deep enough





PHYSICALLY BASED SKY

MIRROR'S EDGE"

- Rayleigh scattering / 2
- More dramatic





MIRROR'S EDGE"

PHYSICALLY BASED SKY

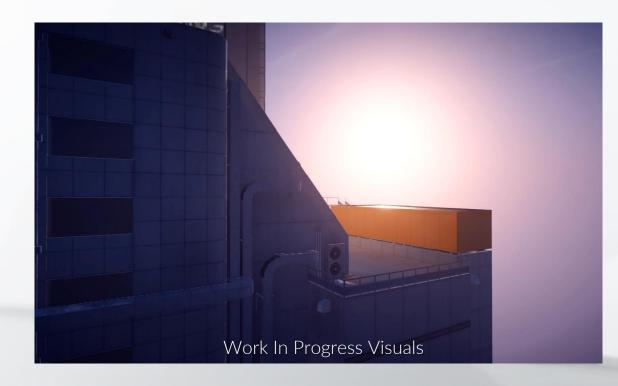




PHYSICALLY BASED SKY

MIRROR'S EDGE

 Aerial perspective leaking through geometry



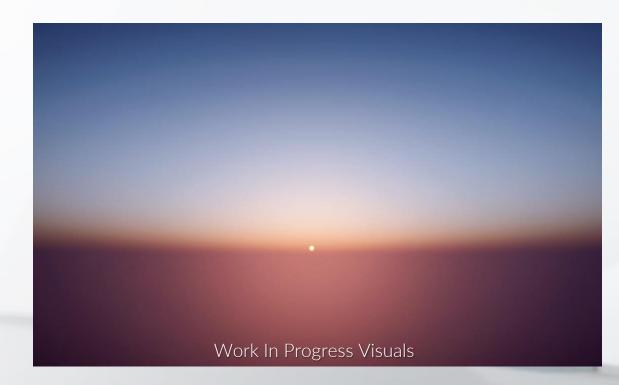


CREATING THE SKIES PHYSICALLY BASED SKY

MIRROR'S EDGE"

Solution

Added Mie Scattering multiplier

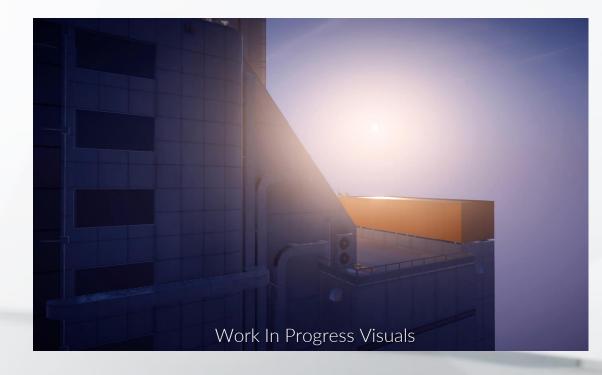






PHYSICALLY BASED SKY

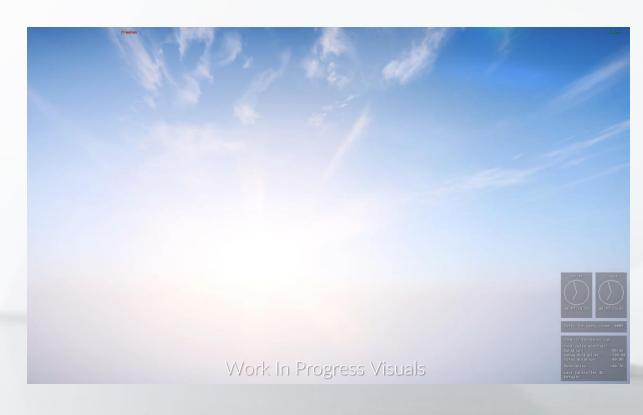
- Solution
 - Replaced with Forward Scattering lightshafts



CREATING THE SKIES CREATING A DAY CYCLE



- Celestials rotation
 - Sun, moon and stars
- Time of Day Clock
 - 48 min cycle
 - Sunrise at 06:00 AM
 - Sunset at 06:00 PM
 - Curve to control the speed
- Sun Flare
- Animated values
 - Camera exposure
 - Bloom
 - Sun disk size
 - ...





CREATING THE SKIES CREATING A DAY CYCLE

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 - ...





CREATING THE SKIES CREATING A DAY CYCLE



CREATING THE SKIES CONTROLLING THE CLOCK



- Constrain the Time Of Day for Critical Path missions
 - Want to follow a color script

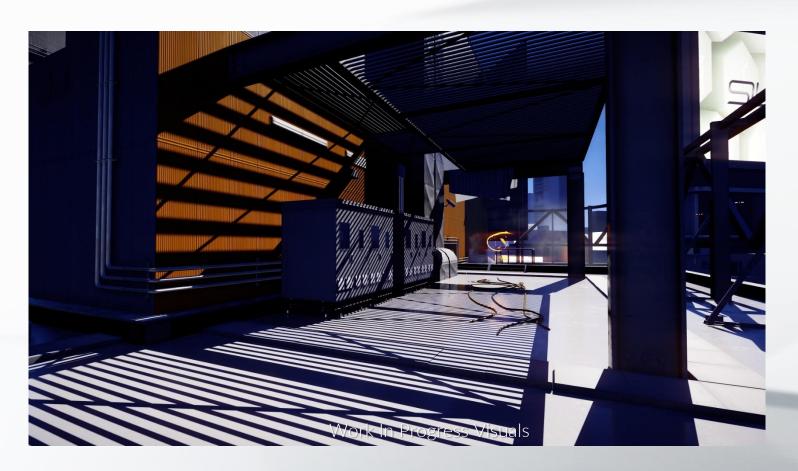
- Sun shadows
 - Connected to the player movement to hide jittery shadows



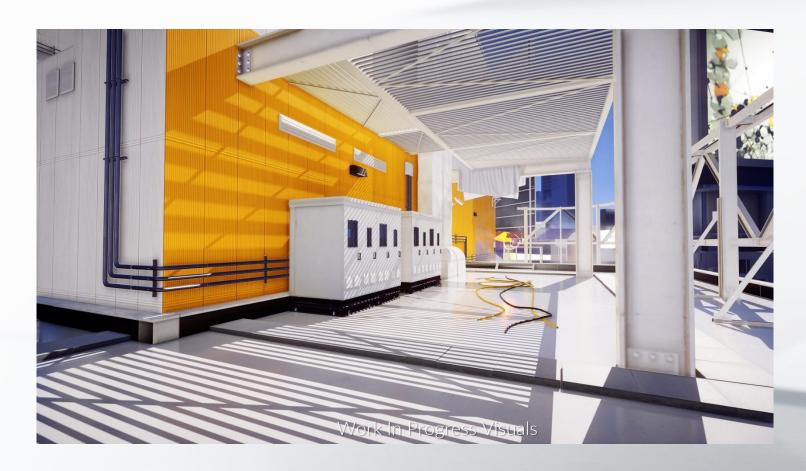












GLOBAL ILLUMINATION ENLIGHTEN



- Real-time indirect lighting solution by Geomerics
- Used in Frostbite since Battlefield 3
 - However only static lightmaps
 - Only used dynamically in Need for Speed Rivals

MIRROR'S EDGE

• Rather fast precompute

ENLIGHTEN

- 7 hours for the whole city
- Interactive relighting
 - Gives a lot of creative freedom





GLOBAL ILLUMINATION ENLIGHTEN

MIRROR'S EDGE"

- · City divided in hierarchized zones for streaming
 - 17 Ground level zones
 - 83 Buildings zones
 - 391 Props zones





ENLIGHTEN

MIRROR'S EDGE

- Each streaming zone has it own Enlighten database
 - 1 Lightmap (Atlas up to 2048*2048)
 - For large static objects
 - Lightprobes (L2 spherical harmonics)
 - For dynamic and small objects
 - Gl data for relighting
 - Between 5 and 15 MB

Around 30 databases loaded simultaneously





GLOBAL ILLUMINATION ENLIGHTEN



- Runtime update on CPU
 - Budget of 3 ms per frame
 - Small visual pop when Time Of Day progresses

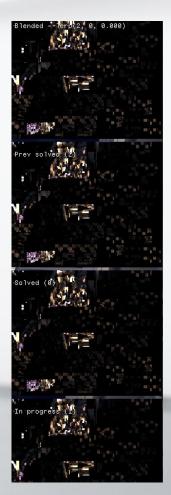




GLOBAL ILLUMINATION BLENDING UPDATES

- Always render Enlighten 4 minutes ahead of TimeOfDay time (8 seconds in real life)
- 3 lightmaps for each database
 - Current one
 - Next one ready to blend
 - Next one getting solved
- Possibility to switch back to instant update







BLENDING UPDATES





GLOBAL ILLUMINATION ARTISTIC CONTROLS

MIRROR'S EDGE

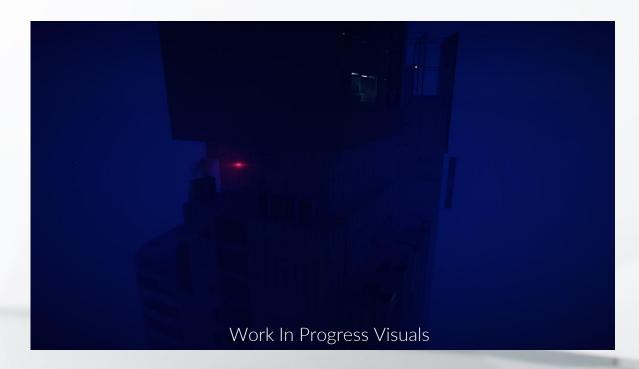
- Enlighten uses sky convolution to a 32*32 cubemap
 - Overall intensity slider
 - Multiply / Add colors



GLOBAL ILLUMINATION ARTISTIC CONTROLS

• Default sky from Physical Sky

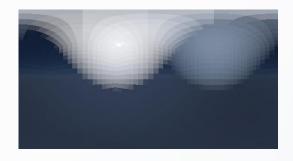


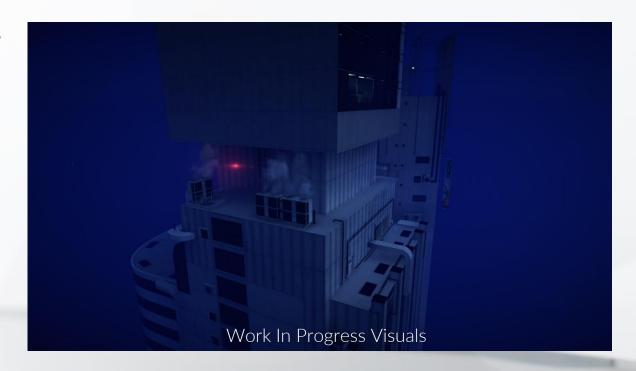




GLOBAL ILLUMINATION MORE ARTISTIC CONTROLS

Adding color from moon angle
+ 60 degrees light







GLOBAL ILLUMINATION MORE ARTISTIC CONTROLS

- Sun bounces
 - Intensity set to 75%





GLOBAL ILLUMINATION MORE ARTISTIC CONTROLS

- Sun bounces
 - Intensity set to 75%



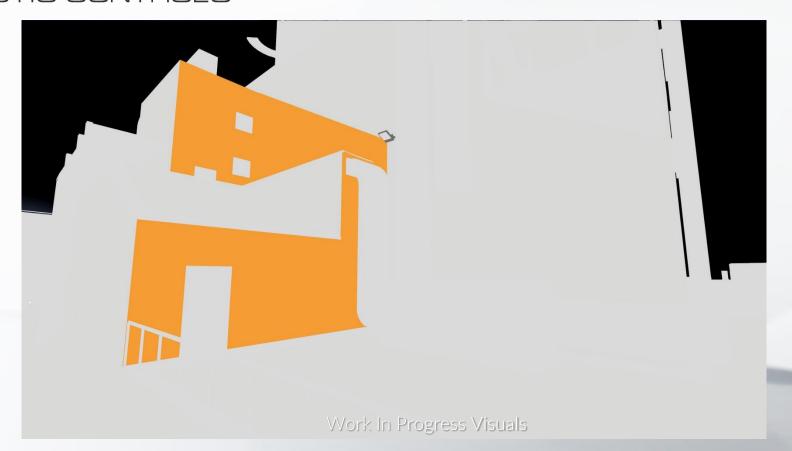


GLOBAL ILLUMINATION ARTISTIC CONTROLS



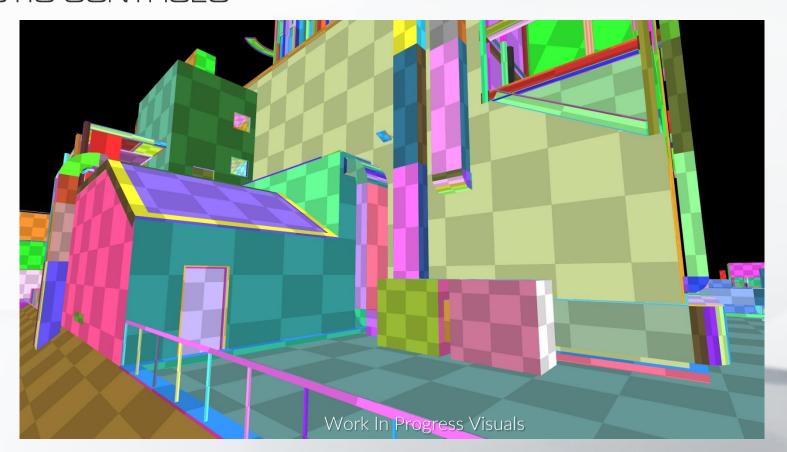


GLOBAL ILLUMINATION ARTISTIC CONTROLS





GLOBAL ILLUMINATION ARTISTIC CONTROLS





GLOBAL ILLUMINATION LIMITATIONS



- Indirect lighting solution only
 - Not really made for baking direct lighting
- Low frequency radiosity
 - Low resolution lightmaps
 - Missing accurate ambient occlusion from objects
- Inaccurate lightprobe lighting
 - Per-object lighting, not per-pixel





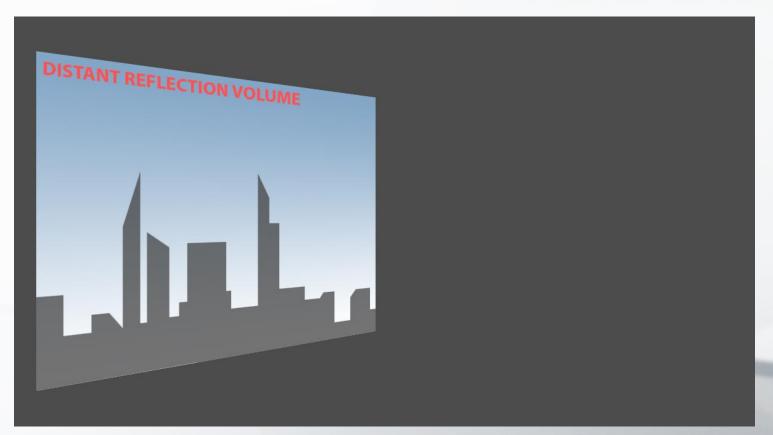
REFLECTIONS



REFLECTIONS

MIRROR'S EDGE"

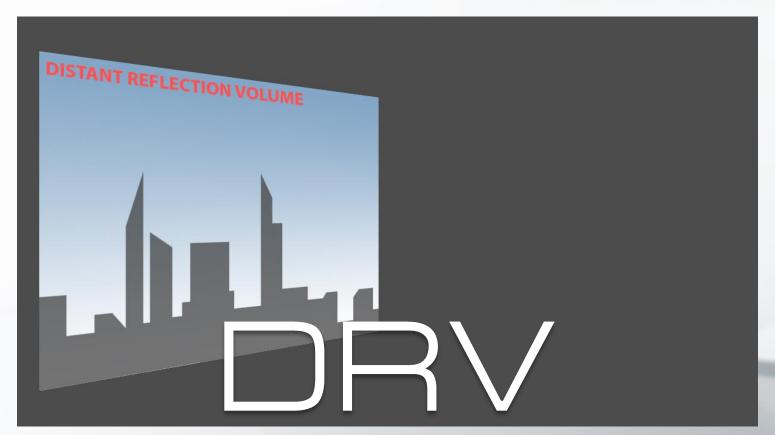
DISTANT REFLECTION VOLUME



REFLECTIONS

MIRROR'S EDGE"

DISTANT REFLECTION VOLUME





REFLECTIONS DISTANT REFLECTION VOLUME



- Old-style cubemap
 - Moving with the player
 - 256*256*6
 - Updated with the Time of Day
 - Cheap





DISTANT REFLECTION VOLUME

MIRROR'S EDGE

- But not accurate
 - Reflections of the cityscape where there shouldn't be any





DISTANT REFLECTION VOLUME

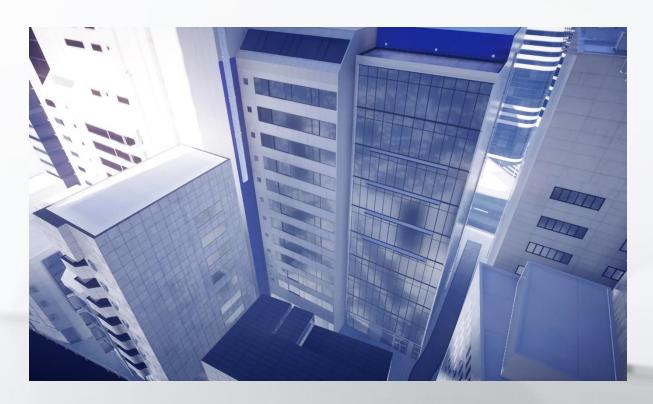
- Sky Visibility mask from Enlighten
 - Occludes reflections in small streets and interiors
 - Works for the day
 - Lowered contrasts at night





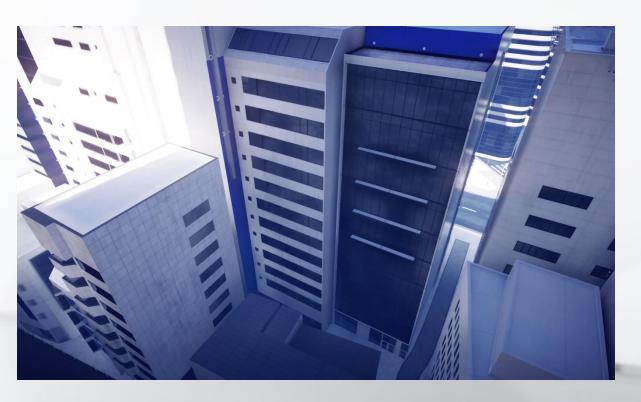
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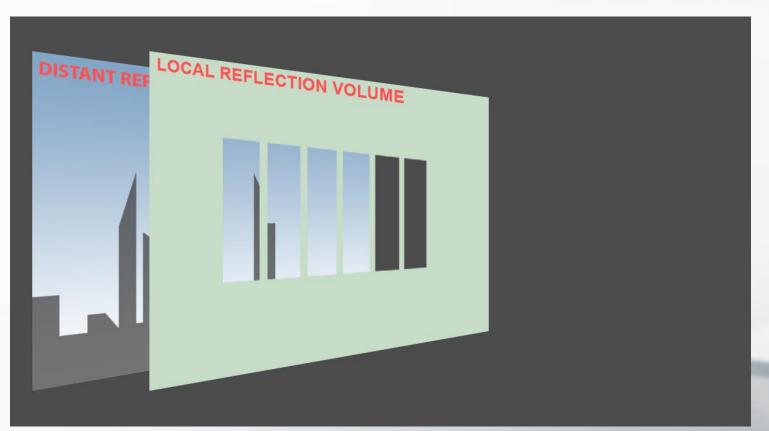


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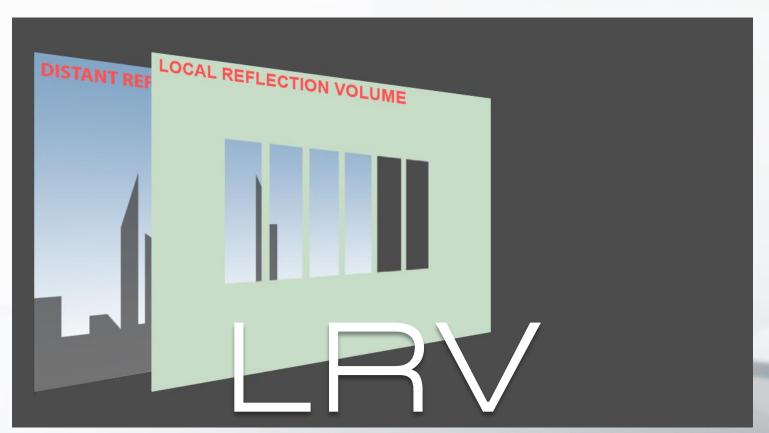


MIRROR'S EDGE"





MIRROR'S EDGE"





- Parallax-corrected cubemap
 - Box or Sphere
 - 256*256*6
- Capture point can be moved

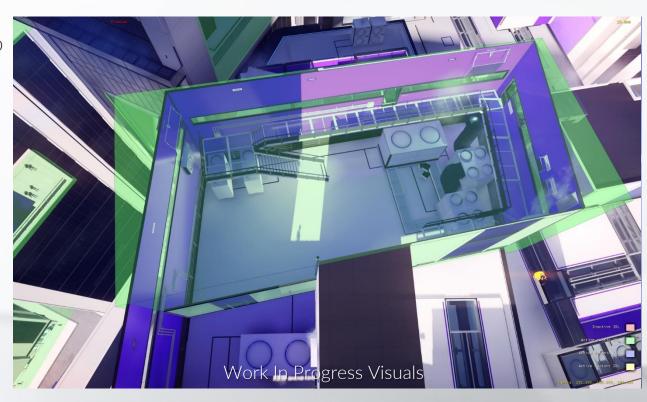




LOCAL REFLECTION VOLUME

MIRROR'S EDGE"

- Parallax-corrected cubemap
 - Box or Sphere
 - 256*256*6
- Capture point can be moved
- Tricky to place them
 - Normal fade
 - Faces fade
 - Expanded influences
- Cost of 1 light on the surface

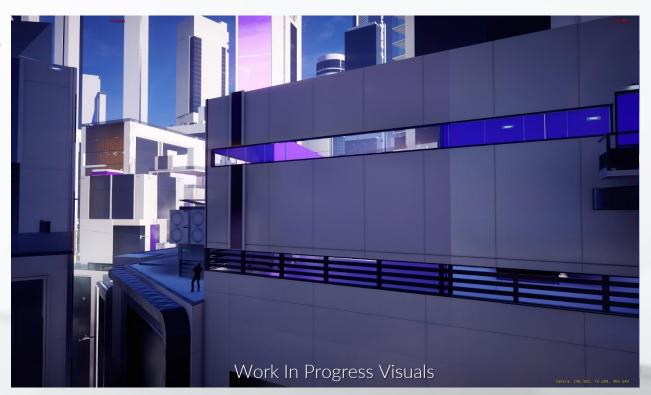




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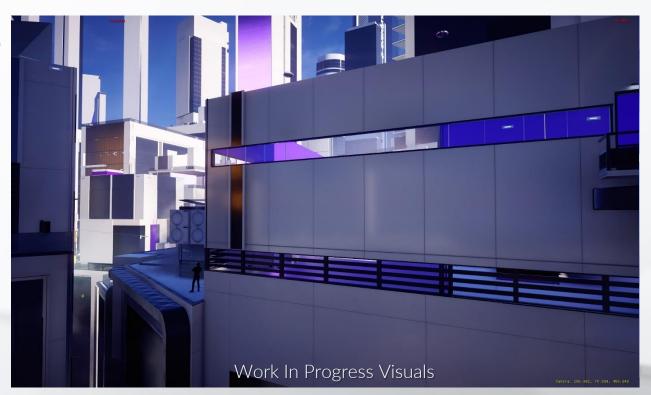




LOCAL REFLECTION VOLUME

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- Updated with the Time of Day
 - Pool of 32 LRVs active
 - Priority system based on distance and camera frustum
 - Update 1 face per frame

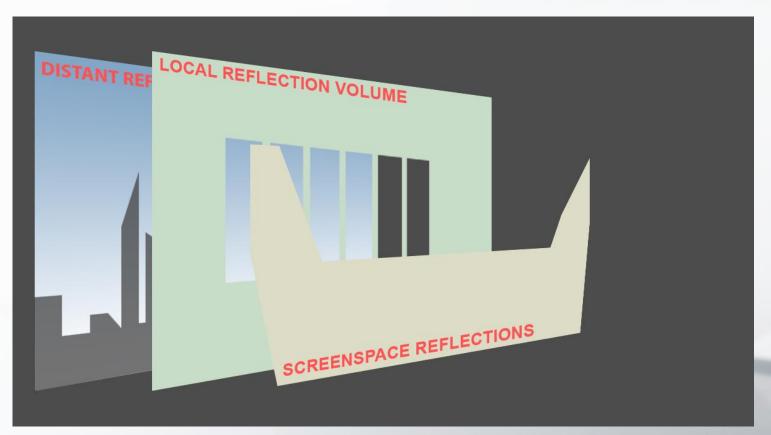


			Prio		
	ID	Dist.	Pred	Update	Total
围一	4	0.995	0.000	opaacc	1,0001
圓 .	143	1.000	0.000	0.010	1,000
樋	14	1.000	0.000	0.008	1.000
	15	1.000	0.000	0.007	1,000
	161	0.788	0.000	0.005	0.788
	16	0.761	0.000	0.004	0.781
GPU	11	0.725	0.000	0.003	0.725
	114	0.686	0.000	0.002	0.333
	116	0.673	0.000	0.001	9.878
	142	0.563	0.000	0.000	9.533
	115	9,531	0,000	0,020	0.591
	28	0.287	0.000	0.010	0.287
	25	0.277	0.000	0.010	0.277
	151	0.231	0.000	0.008	0.231
	95	0.169	0.000	0.006	0.138
	26	0.154	0.000	0.005	0.154
	144	0.152	0.000	0.005	9.152
	108	0.118	0.000	0.003	9.118
	12	0.117	0.000	0.003	9.117
	91	0.113	0.000	0.003	0.118
Ш	49	0.108	0.000	0.003	0.108
	55	0.108	0.000	0.003	9.198
	109	0.108	0.000	0.003	9.198
	90	0.104	0.000	0.002	0.104
	118	0.096	0.000	0.002	9.956
	32	0.090	0.000	0.002	0.050
	47	0.084	0.000	0.001	0.084
	102	0.084	0.000	0.002	0.084
	94	0.083	0.000	0.001	9.988
	30	0.081	0.000	0.001	0.931
	117	0.077	0.000	0.001	0.977
	57	0.075	0.000	0.001	0.075
	99	0.073	0.000	0.122	9.978
	51	0.072	0.000		0.072
	29	0.070	0.000		0.070
Н	122	0.070	0.000		0.070
ш	54	0.070	0.000		0.070
	13	0.055	0.000		0.055
2	31	0.055	0.000		0.055
60	58	0.055	0.000	<u> </u>	0.055
	50	0.048	0.000		0.048
	171	0.035	0.000		0.035



MIRROR'S EDGE"

SCREEN SPACE REFLECTIONS





MIRROR'S EDGE

SCREEN SPACE REFLECTIONS





SCREEN SPACE REFLECTIONS



- Raytrace reflections of what is visible on screen, using the depth buffer
- Adaptive Sampling based on surface roughness

• Rough: 3 samples

• Smooth: 1 sample

Clamped to avoid fireflies





SCREEN SPACE REFLECTIONS

MIRROR'S EDGE"

- Raytrace reflections of what is visible on screen, using the depth buffer
- Adaptive Sampling based on surface roughness

• Rough: 3 samples

• Smooth: 1 sample

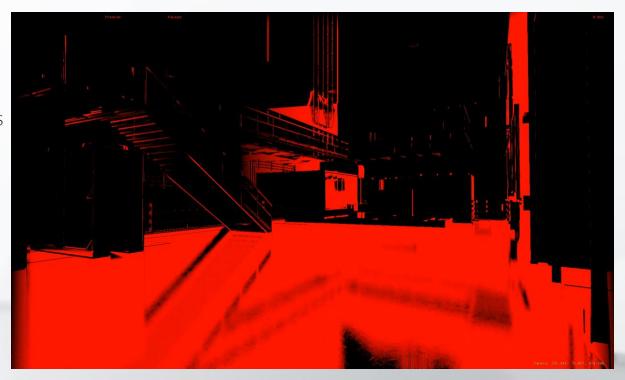
• Clamped to avoid fireflies





SCREEN SPACE REFLECTIONS

- Optimization by roughness threshold
- Optimization by world normals
 - No reflections on ceilings
- Asynchronous SSR render with shadows
 - Budget of 4.2 ms for both
- Refined by Temporal Anti Aliasing





MIRROR'S EDGE"

SCREEN SPACE REFLECTIONS LIMITATIONS

- Only reflects what is on screen
 - Fallback to LRVs
- Opaque lines cut the SSR rays
 - Fix issues by turning off depth writing when possible
- Doesn't apply on Transparent objects

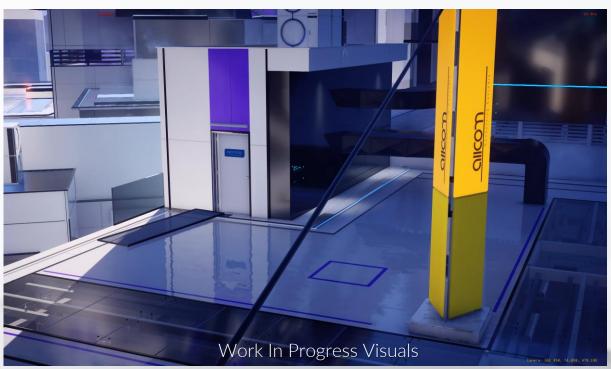






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- Only reflects what is on screen
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MIRROR'S EDGE"

LOCAL PLANAR REFLECTIONS

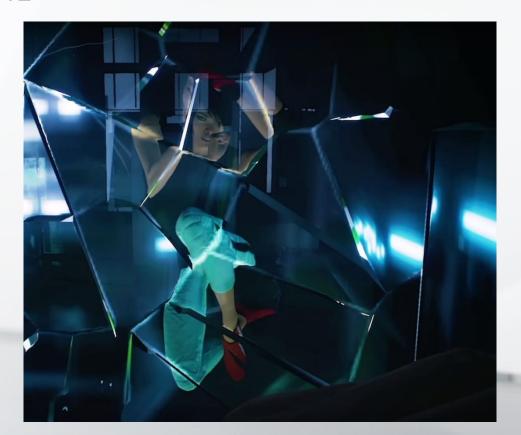




LOCAL PLANAR REFLECTIONS



- Mirror reflections for characters
- Forward Rendering
 - Light probe lighting
 - Directionnal Light without shadows
- Override lighting intensity and direction









MIRROR'S EDGE

- Sun: 100 000 lux
- 11:00
- EV 14.4
- White is underexposed





MIRROR'S EDGE"

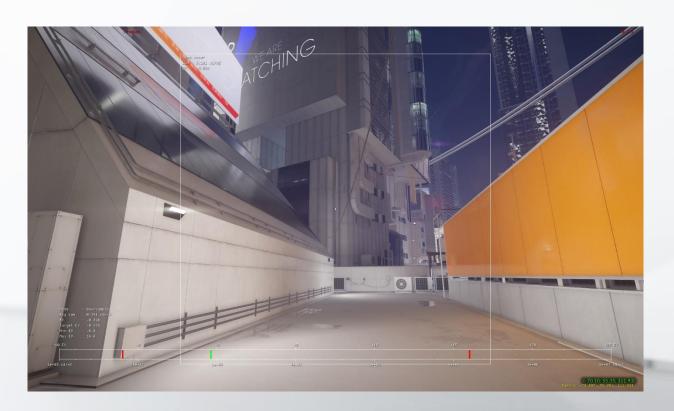
- Sun: 100 000 lux
- 11:00
- EV 12.6
 - Overexposed by 1.8 EV
- White properly exposed
 - Added threshold to avoid overexposing non-white materials





MIRROR'S EDGE"

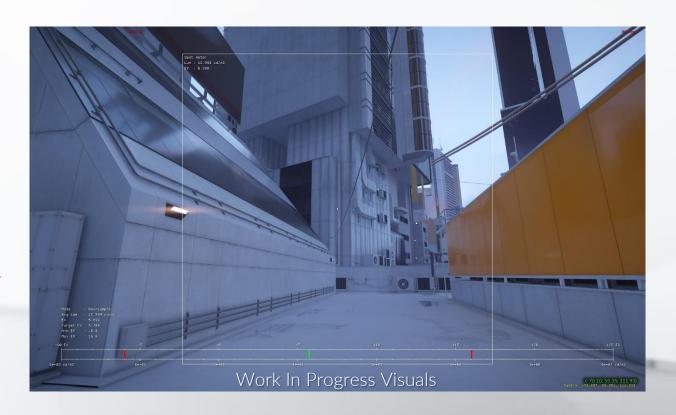
- Sun: 100 000 lux
- 00:00
- EV -0.35
 - Overexposed by 1.5 EV





MIRROR'S EDGE

- Sun: 100 000 lux
- 18:00
- EV 5.7
 - Overexposed by 1.8 EV
- Local lights contribution is very low around sunset







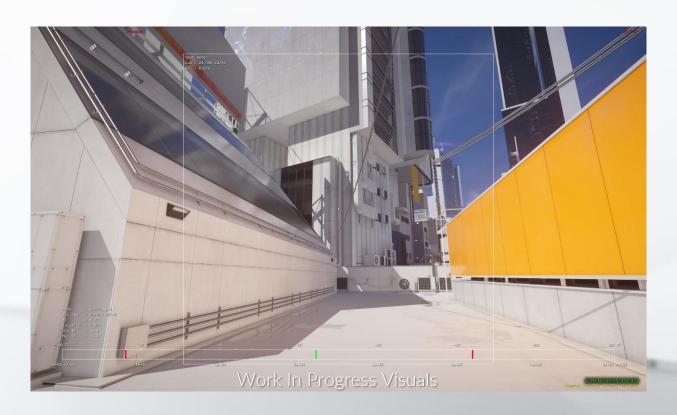
- Sun: 1000 lux
- 18:00
- EV 0.45
 - Overexposed by 1.8 EV
- Better ratio between local lights and sky







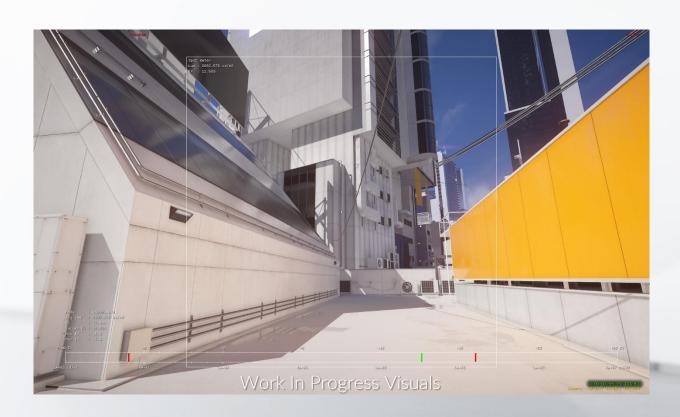
- Sun: 1000 lux
- 11:00
- EV 6
 - Overexposed by 1.8 EV





MIRROR'S EDGE

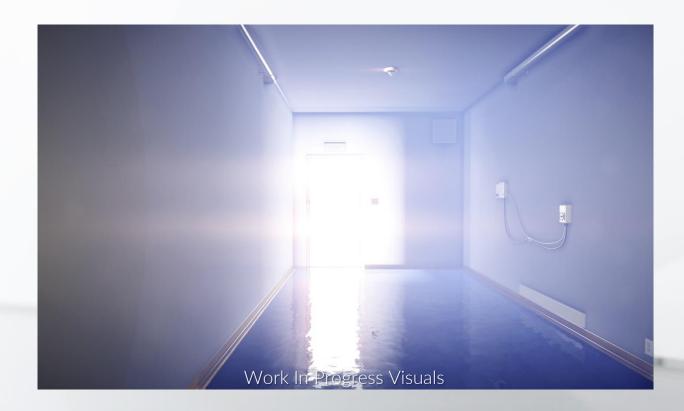
- Sun: 100 000 lux
- 11:00
- EV 12.6
 - Overexposed by 1.8 EV
- No visual difference between 100 000 lux and 1 000 lux during the day





MIRROR'S EDGE"

- Sun: 100 000 lux
- Overblown exteriors
- Enlighten light leaks



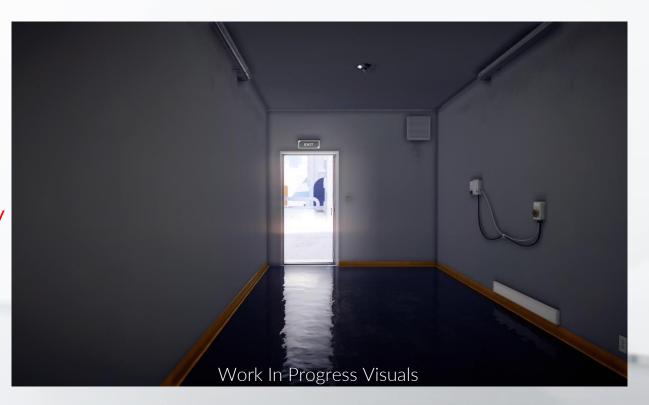


MIRROR'S EDGE"

CAMERA EXPOSURE

- Sun: 1 000 lux
- Prefer Eye dynamic range to camera dynamic range

So we divided sun intensity by 100







TONEMAPPING CURVE

• Linear > sRGB







TONEMAPPING CURVE

• Linear > Filmic







TONEMAPPING CURVE

• Filmic







TONEMAPPING CURVE

- Filmic modified
 - White clipping
 - Adjusted toe

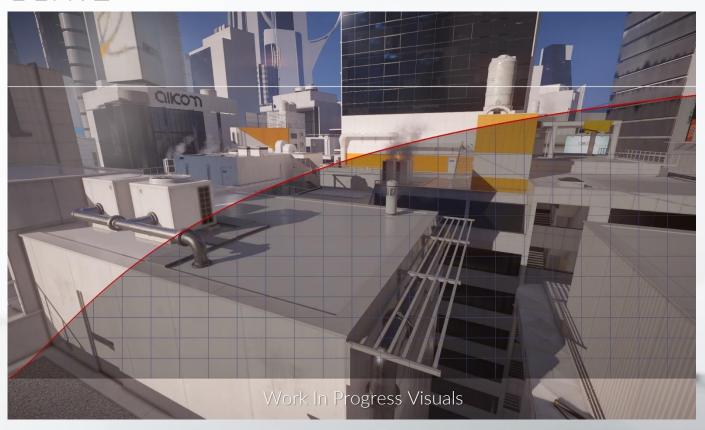






TONEMAPPING CURVE

- Filmic modified
 - White clipping
 - Adjusted toe







TONEMAPPING CURVE

- Filmic modified
 - White clipping
 - Adjusted toe







GRADING

• Graded









MIRROR'S EDGE







MIRROR'S EDGE"



MIRROR'S EDGE



MIRROR'S EDGE





LOCAL LIGHTING





- · Physically based
 - Units in Lumens or Candelas
 - Realistic decay rate
- Color temperature in Kelvin, or RGB
- IES photometric
 - Real intensities or as masks
- Area lights
 - Rectangular
 - Disk
 - Sphere
 - Tube





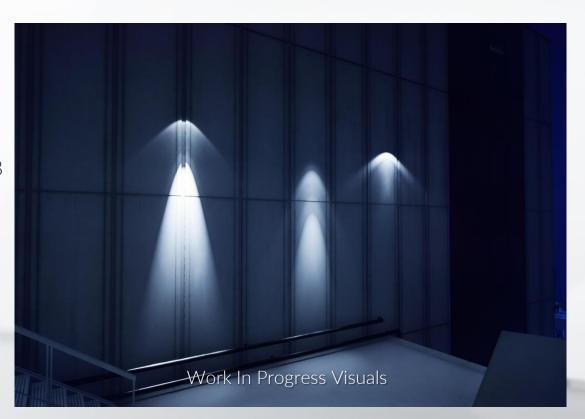


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MIRROR'S EDGE"

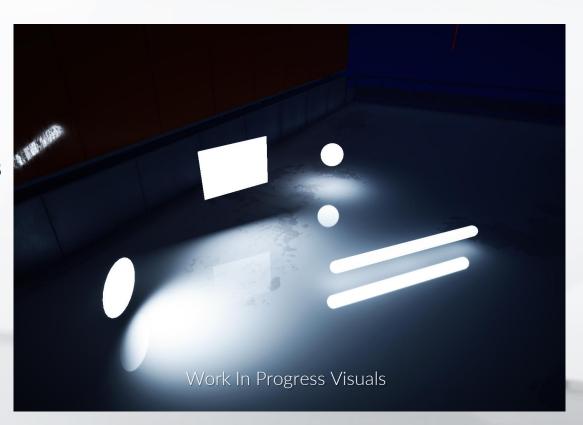
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MIRROR'S EDGE

- Physically based
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LOCAL LIGHTING INTENSITIES ISSUES



- Hard to use real light intensities
 - Only works for point lights
 - Realtime lights are not infinite, have small cones, miss bounce lighting...
- First set up your camera exposure, then adjust intensities so it looks good



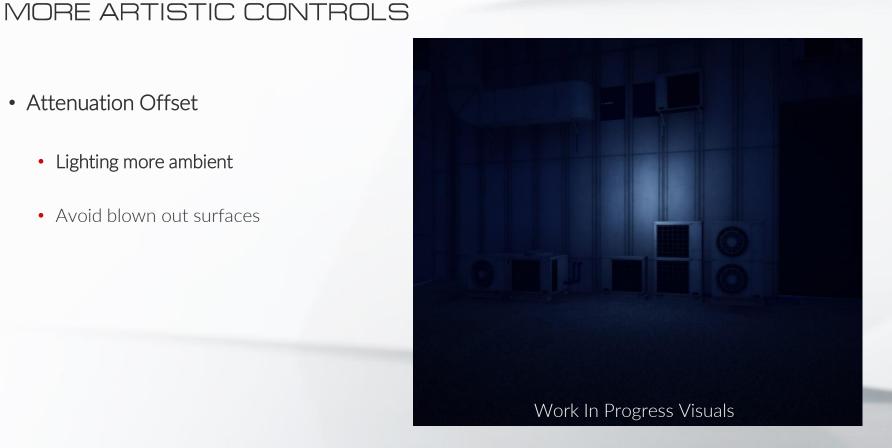




Attenuation Offset

- Lighting more ambient
- Avoid blown out surfaces

LOCAL LIGHTING





MIRROR'S EDGE

LOCAL LIGHTING MORE ARTISTIC CONTROLS

- Attenuation Offset
 - Lighting more ambient
 - Avoid blown out surfaces





LOCAL LIGHTING MORE ARTISTIC CONTROLS



- Attenuation Offset
 - Lighting more ambient
 - Avoid blown out surfaces





LOCAL LIGHTING MORE ARTISTIC CONTROLS

MIRROR'S EDGE"

- Attenuation Offset
 - Lighting more ambient
 - Avoid blown out surfaces





LOCAL LIGHTING RADIOSITY

MIRROR'S EDGE

- Placement can be tricky as sampling is sparse
 - Make lights biggers
 - Use radiosity-only lights
- Radiosity Color ScaleScale
 - RGB for color shift

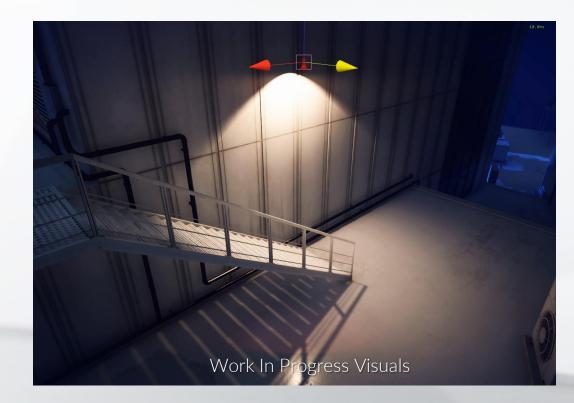




LOCAL LIGHTING RADIOSITY

MIRROR'S EDGE

- Placement can be tricky as sampling is sparse
 - Make lights biggers
 - Use radiosity-only lights
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LOCAL LIGHTING

PERFORMANCE

- Tiled Deferred Lighting
 - 8*8 tiles
 - Can afford many lights if they don't overlap

• Budget of 3.3 ms





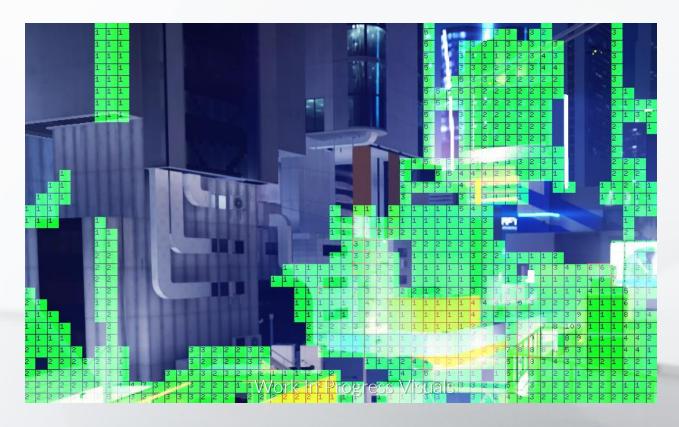
LOCAL LIGHTING

PERFORMANCE

MIRROR'S EDGE"

- Tiled Deferred Lighting
 - 8*8 tiles
 - Can afford many lights if they don't overlap

• Budget of 3.5 ms





LOCAL LIGHTING SHADOWS

MIRROR'S EDGE"

- 8 shadow casting lights simultaneously
- Budget shared with SSR: 4.2 ms
- Cached shadows
 - Only update them when a character enters the light bounding box
- Fade distance setting
 - Manually tweaked for each light







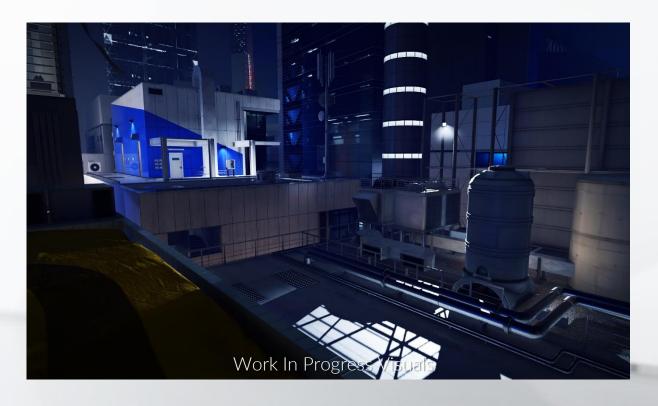
IMAGE STYLIZATION



IMAGE STYLIZATION

POST EFFECTS

• "Raw" image



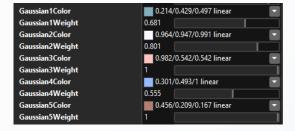


MIRROR'S EDGE

IMAGE STYLIZATION POST EFFECTS



- Gaussian Bloom
 - Custom color for each pyramid level



- Vertical /Horizontal stretch
- Multiplied by a lens dirt texture
- Lens reflection
 - Transposed and distorted bloom

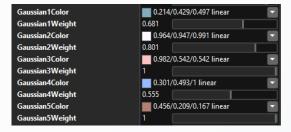




IMAGE STYLIZATION



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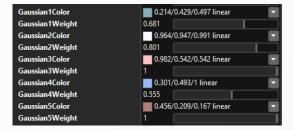




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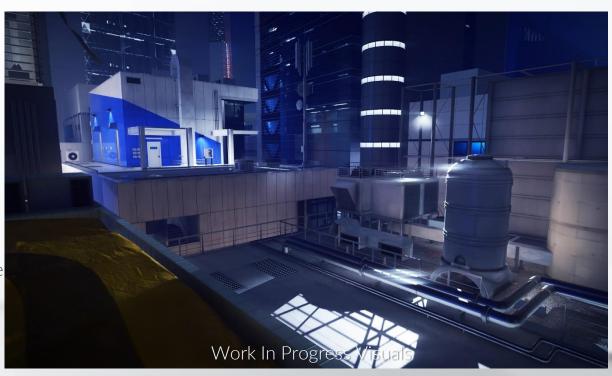
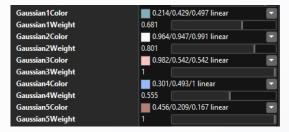




IMAGE STYLIZATION POST EFFECTS



- Gaussian Bloom
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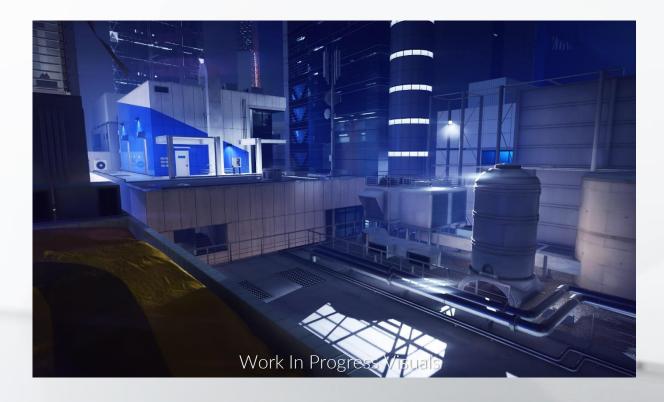


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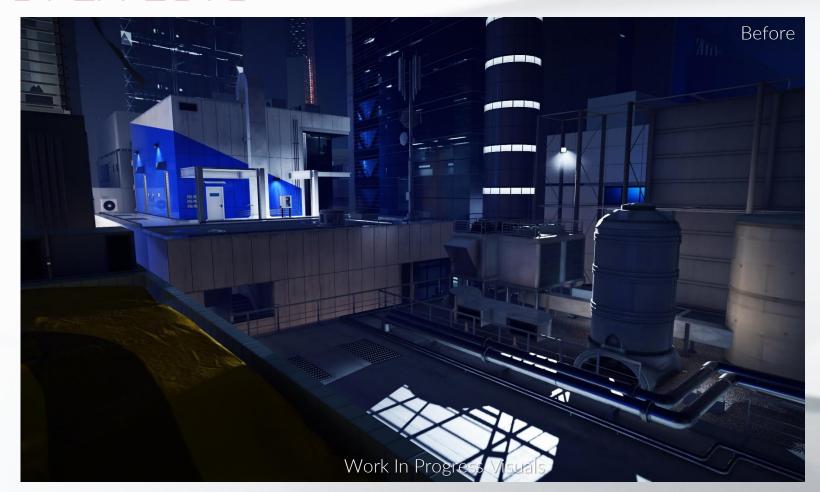
IMAGE STYLIZATION

- Simple Volumetrics
 - Additive Spheres
 - Adds depth separation
 - Creates color shift

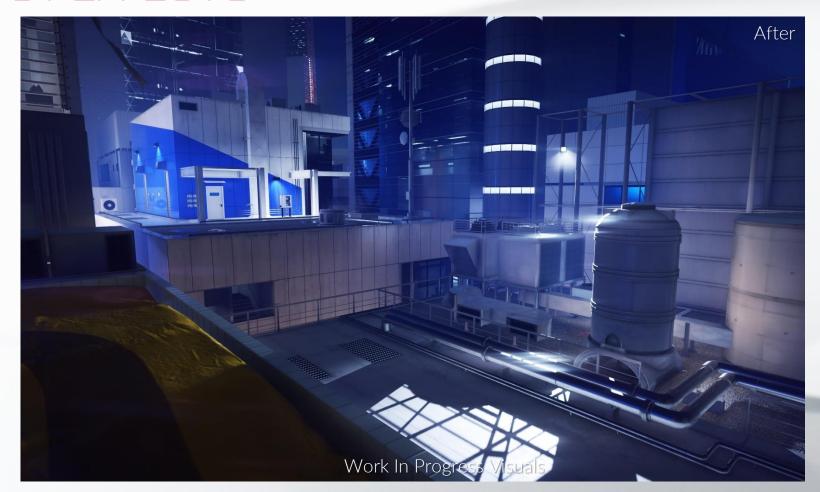








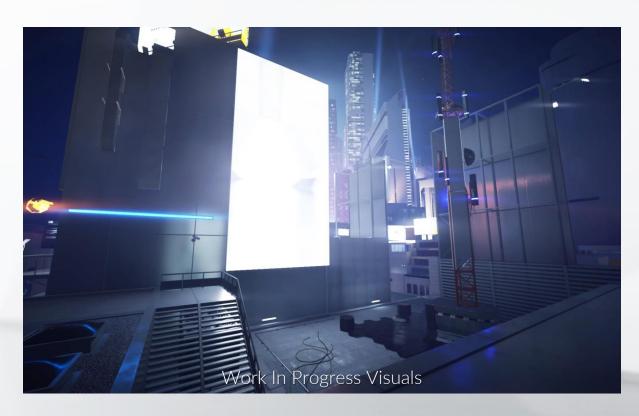




LIVING WORLDS

LINEAR MEDIA STREAMING

- Commercial billboards
- Newscasts
- Average color output
 - Drive Simple Volumetrics and Light color
- Exposure Compensated







CINEMATICS



MIRROR'S EDGE

CINEMATICS BELIEVABLE CHARACTERS

- Model face scan
 - Extract mesh and diffuse texture
 - Different face poses scanned for wrinkle maps

- But we modified all the faces.
 - Stylized Characters
- Missing reflection information from capture























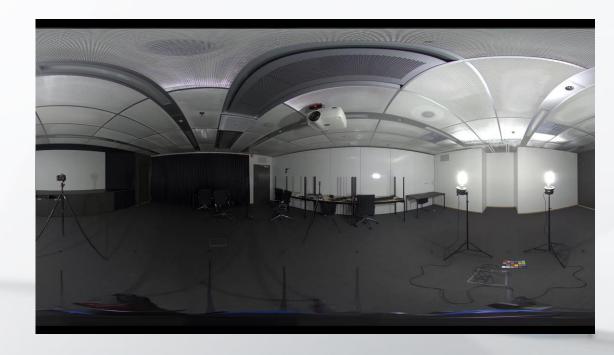




CINEMATICS BELIEVABLE CHARACTERS



- Studio lighting test
- Recreate scene inside Frostbite
 - HDR capture
 - Identical lights
 - Lights rotating around subject

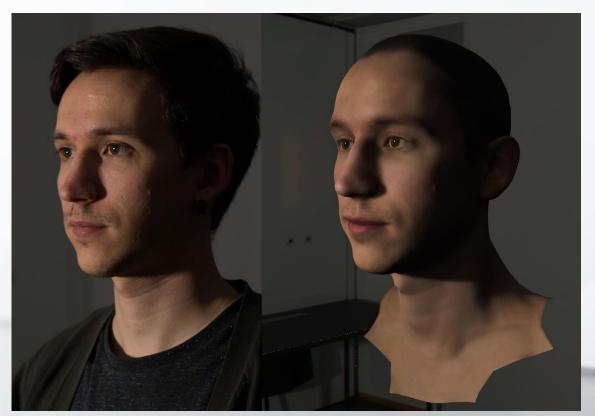




MIRROR'S EDGE

CINEMATICS BELIEVABLE CHARACTERS

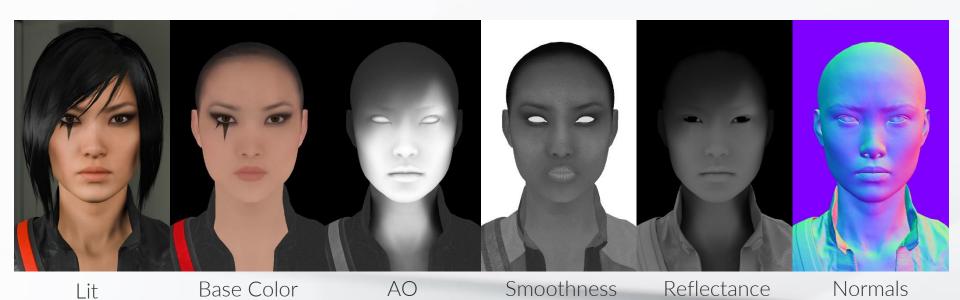
- Compare reference pictures to imported face scan
- Findings:
 - Skin Saturation was too high
 - Reflectance was too high
 - Skin reflectance = 2.8 %
 - Smoothness was too high
 - Emissive intensities of some light fixtures were too strong





CINEMATICS BELIEVABLE CHARACTERS

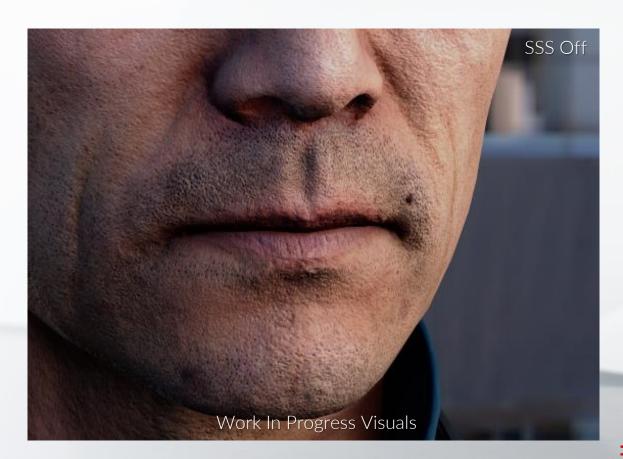




CINEMATICS CHARACTERS

MIRROR'S EDGE

• Subsurface scattering

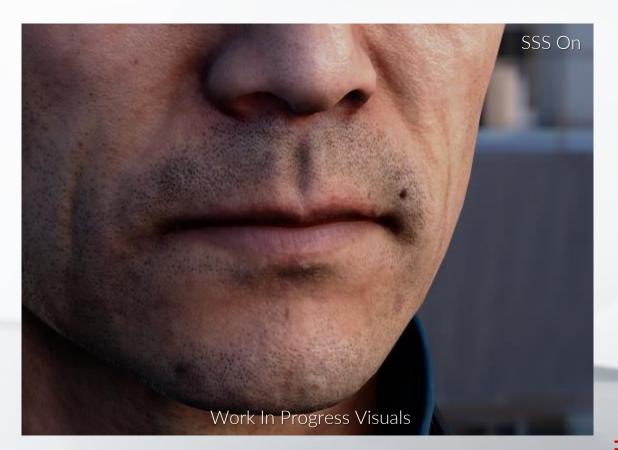




CINEMATICS CHARACTERS

MIRROR'S EDGE"

Subsurface scattering





BELIEVABLE CHARACTERS

- Eye shader
 - Parallax for refraction
 - Normal map for iris concavity
- Anisotropic Hair Shader







MIRROR'S EDGE

CINEMATICS BELIEVABLE CHARACTERS

- Eye shader
 - Parallax for refraction
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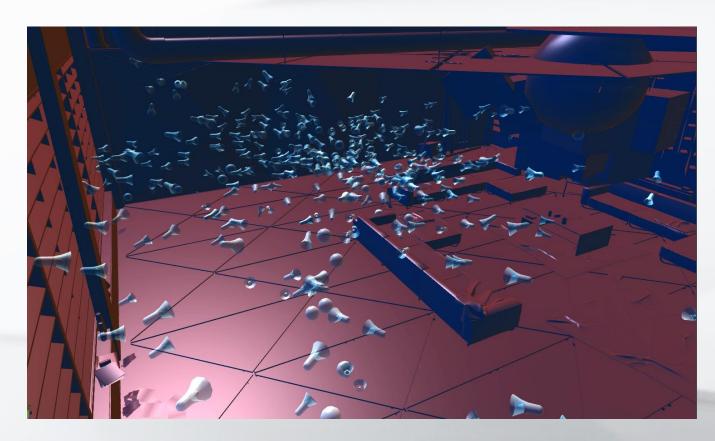
MIRROR'S EDGE"

LIGHTING

• Used a lot of lights



- Used a lot of lights
 - 472 for this scene





CINEMATICS LIGHTING

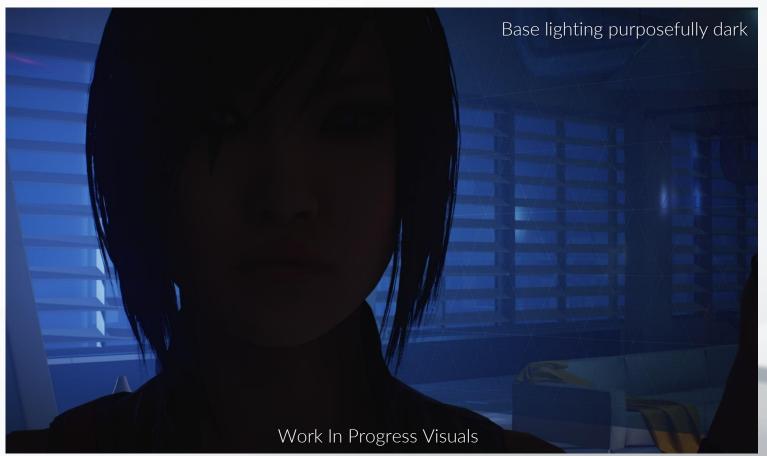


Attached lights to camera track











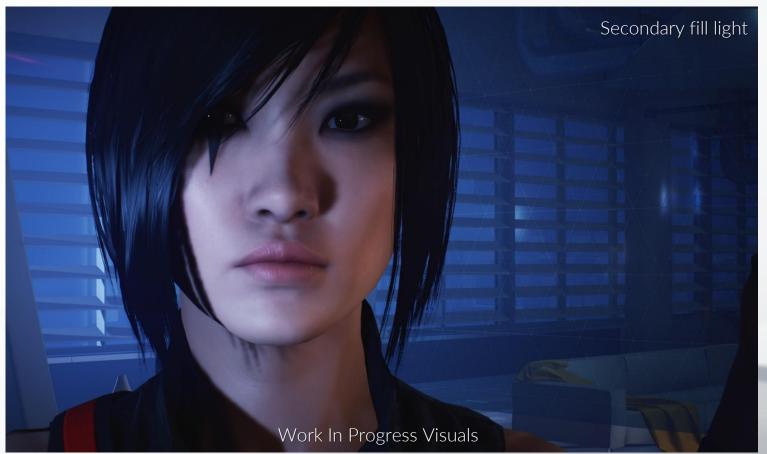








V CATALYS





MIRROR'S EDGE





MIRROR'S EDGE"





MIRROR'S EDGE"

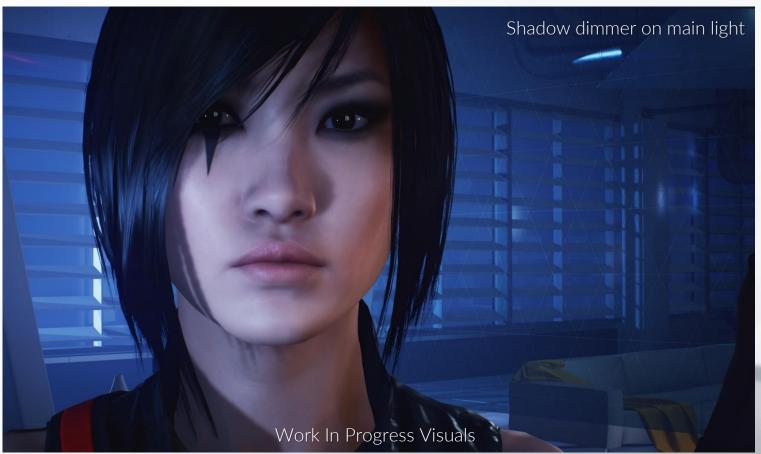


MIRROR'S EDGE





MIRROR'S EDGE

















CONCLUSION



- Know your PBR
 - Work with references
 - Respect the ground rules: Dynamic Lighting doesn't forgive
- Break your PBR
 - Make up for inaccuracies
 - Enhance the visuals
- Stay in control!
 - Do not use the wrong fix for the wrong problem
- The result is what matters

THANKS



- The entire Mirror's Edge team
 - Anton Palmqvist / Lighting Artist
 - Karl Stjernberg / Lighting Artist
 - Ben Hutchings / Cutscene Lighting Artist
 - Hus Zekayi / Cutscene Lighting Artist
 - Jhony Ljungstedt / Art Director
 - Mikael Linderholm / Technical Art Director
 - Yasin Uludag / Graphics Programmer
 - Mikael Uddholm / Graphics Programmer
 - Mark Scheurwater / Software Engineer
 - Michael Lidgren / Software Engineer
- Frostbite Rendering team
- Gustav Bodare and Edvard Sandberg for the Physical Sky







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