Although it is still under construction, I didn't resist the urge to go late night hacking through the biology department's new house, building 68.

I showed up late one night, camera in hand, scouting for a way inside. Wouldn't you know? The door to the new building was left unlocked, making for easy entry through the basement of Building 66 and the Institute's west subterranean tunnel.

To keep the chances of discovery to a minimum, I eschewed the flash, using Kodak Tri-X pushed to ASA 800 instead. At 3 a.m. on a Sunday morning I wasn't really expecting much in the way of trouble — or discovery, for that matter — but I wore my most agile running sneakers just in case. You just never know when a person passing by will spy your silhouette through a well-lit window and make a "friendly" call to Campus Police.

Thankfully, the photo shoot was mostly uneventful, with the exception of a radio that some workman left blaring in a semi-finished, fifth-floor office. As with the basement, few of the inside doors were locked. Many of the doors didn't even have their locks installed.

I didn't find a single "Keep Out!" or "No Trespassing" sign until I found the stairway to the roof. By then, I had what I had come for: four rolls shot, wound, and back in my bag.

Being a law-abiding hacker, I eschewed the pleasures of the roof, walked back down the unfinished south staircase, and headed home to my darkroom. The fog closed in as I left.

Elapsed time: 1 hour, 27 minutes.

Editor's note: Simson L. Garfinkel '87, a former contributing editor of The Tech, is a freelance writer living in Cambridge.

Although it is still under construction, I couldn't resist the urge to go late night hacking through the biology department's new house, building 68.

The basement of Building 68 has a massive dual intake ventilation system, redundant pipes, electrical systems, and water lines. The upstairs laboratories are already well apportioned with cold rooms and autoclaves. This place is a biologist's dream come true.

Most of the basement was a utilitarian mix of ventilation equipment, electrical service boxes, and trash left from construction ... except for this piece of artwork I discovered.

Up a stairway from the basement, behind a locked door, in a hidden chamber, the hackers have already started to sign in.