



courtesy Library of Congress

Moundville, Alabama, 1938, WPA photograph by Walker Evans.

C O N T E X T

*J. Pittman McGehee*

Corrugated tin forms,  
like cardboard turned in-  
side out hiding light in  
gray waves, were the  
ubiquitous buildings of my youth,  
leaving no more impression  
than bald mesquite or  
barbed wire.

In 1969, I saw this  
Walker Evans image. Like a  
Masai warrior seeing a  
Serengeti lion on  
Broadway, I saw my life on the  
MOMA wall.

Something rose, while the  
tin lion yawned, and I  
fell prey.