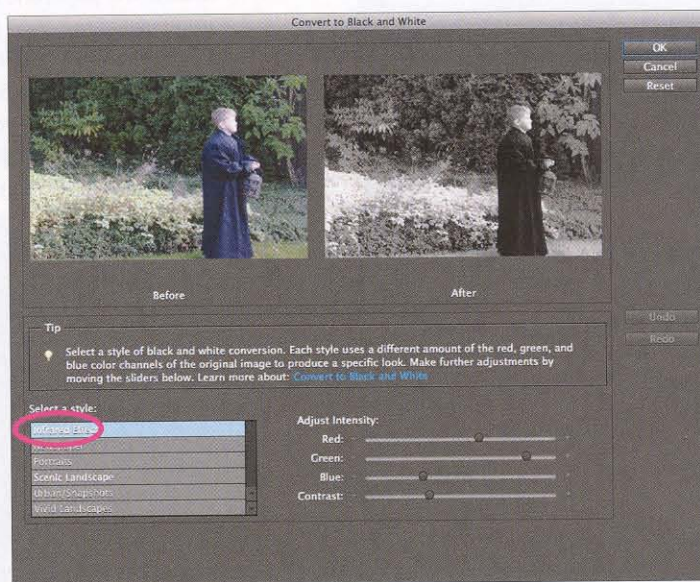


Ghostly Apparitions

Want to really give the neighborhood kids a treat? Offer them proof that a friendly ghost is haunting your garden. Thanks to the Content-Aware Healing Brush in Elements 9, you can turn old snapshots into evidence of an other-worldly presence with just a few steps.



1 One of the trickiest parts of this project is finding an image that works well. Because we'll be using the Healing Brush tool to erase the subject, you'll get the best results from an image where the subject is relatively small in relation to the rest of the photo and is set against a fairly repetitive background, such as these bushes and trees.

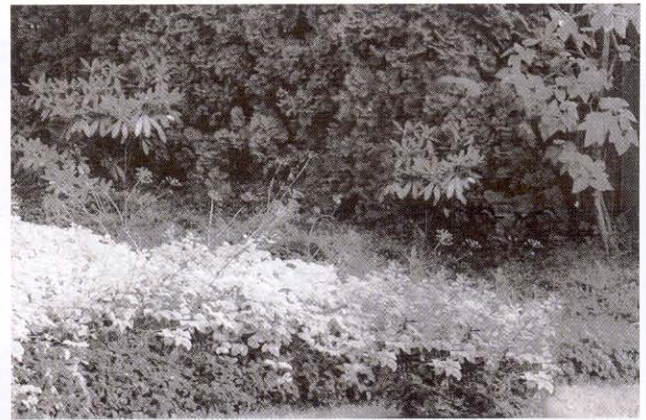


2 To add a bit of drama, select **Enhance > Convert To Black And White**, and choose the **Infrared** option.

3 Create a new layer (**Layer>New>Layer**) and name it "Healing Brush." Select the **Spot Healing Brush tool (J)** and choose the **Soft Round 300 Pixels brush** via the Brush Picker. Increase the size of the brush so it's larger than the subject. In this example, my brush size was 1100 px. Next, make sure that the **Content Aware** and **Sample All Layers** options are selected.



Spot Healing Brush

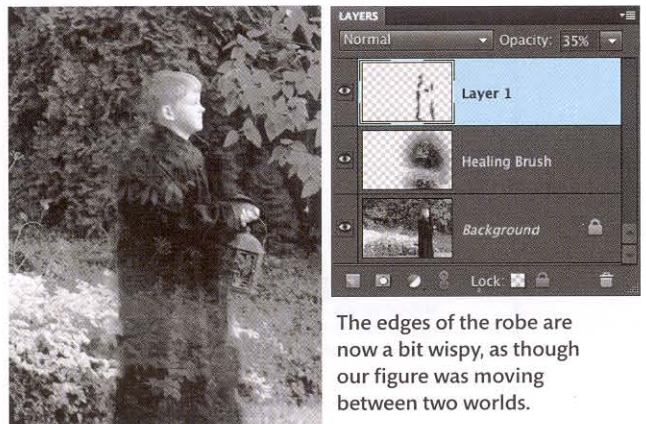


4 To make your subject disappear, brush from top to bottom then from bottom to top in one stroke over your subject's body. The healing process may take some time, so be patient. The Spot Healing Brush will replace your subject with Elements' best guess at what the background should look like. Don't worry if it's not perfect or if some parts of the subject are still visible; these variations can add to the ghostly effect.

5 In the Layers palette, set the Healing Brush layer's blend mode to **Lighter Color** and lower the opacity of the layer as desired. For the example, I set the Opacity slider to 40%.



6 At this point, you should be able to see through parts of the figure while still making out the full form. We'll now soften the edges to create the impression that our subject is fading in and out. Create a new layer (**Layer>New>Layer**) and decrease the size of the **Spot Healing Brush tool (J)**. You want the brush just big enough to smooth out the edges, without cutting into the image too much. For example, I adjusted my brush to 100 px. Brush along the edges of your subject, avoiding any details that you'd like to preserve (such as the face). Then adjust the opacity of this layer so that the edges are just slightly blurry (I lowered the opacity to 35%).



The edges of the robe are now a bit wispy, as though our figure was moving between two worlds.