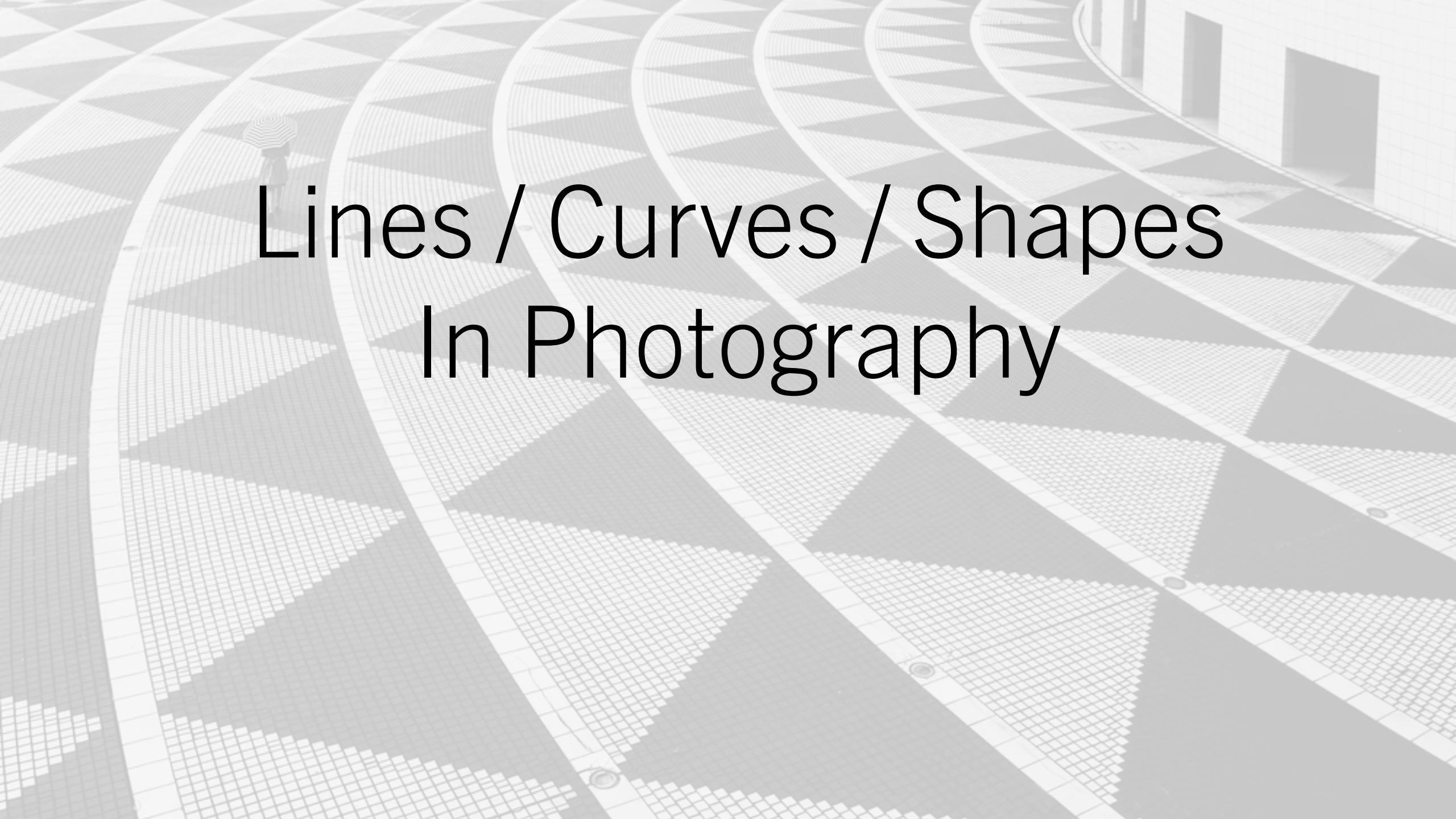


Lines / Curves / Shapes In Photography

Lines



Lines in Photography – What do they do?

- Guide the viewer's eye
- Create depth
- Establish mood
- Organize the composition

How do lines influence perception?

- The eye follows a strong line
- Diagonal lines increase energy
- Horizontal lines reduce visual tension and slow eye movement
- Converging lines increase perceived depth
- Lines that start near a corner increase viewer engagement

Types of lines - How do you use them?

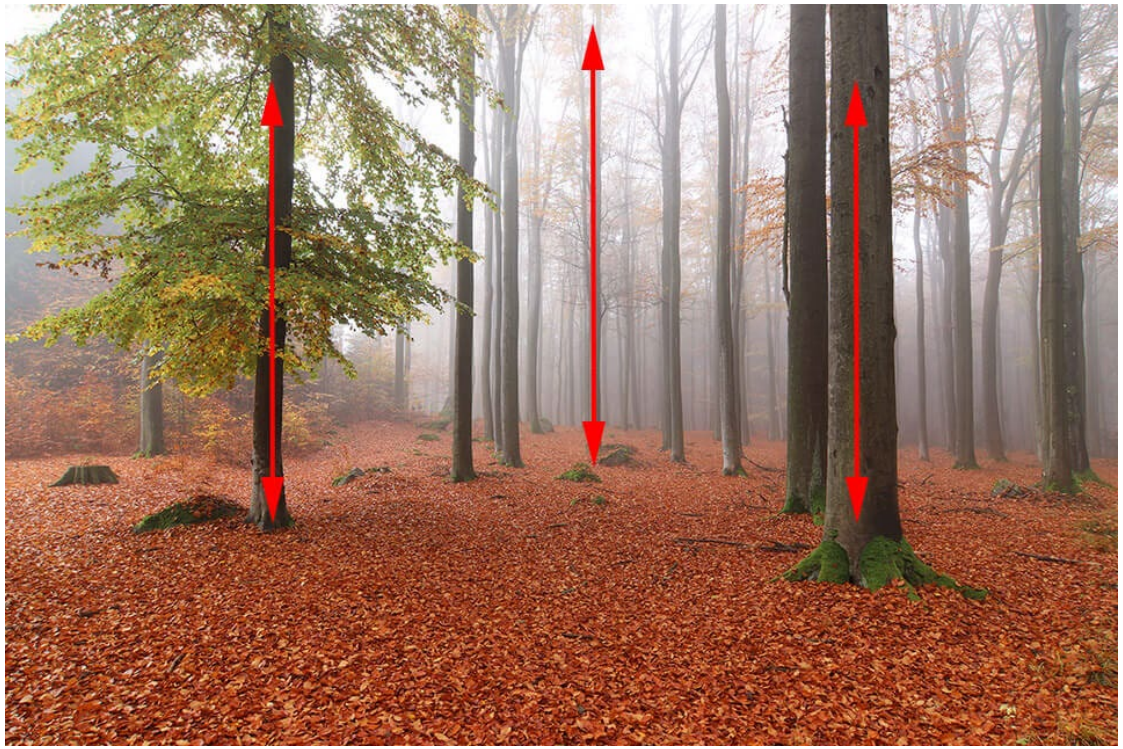
- Horizontal lines – calm, stability, rest
- Vertical lines – strength, structure, confidence
- Diagonal lines – movement, energy, tension
- Leading lines – intentional direction
- Converging lines – depth & perspective
- Curved lines – elegance, softness, exploration
- Implied lines – subtle but powerful





Horizontal Lines

Calm, stability, rest





Vertical Lines

Strength, structure, confidence



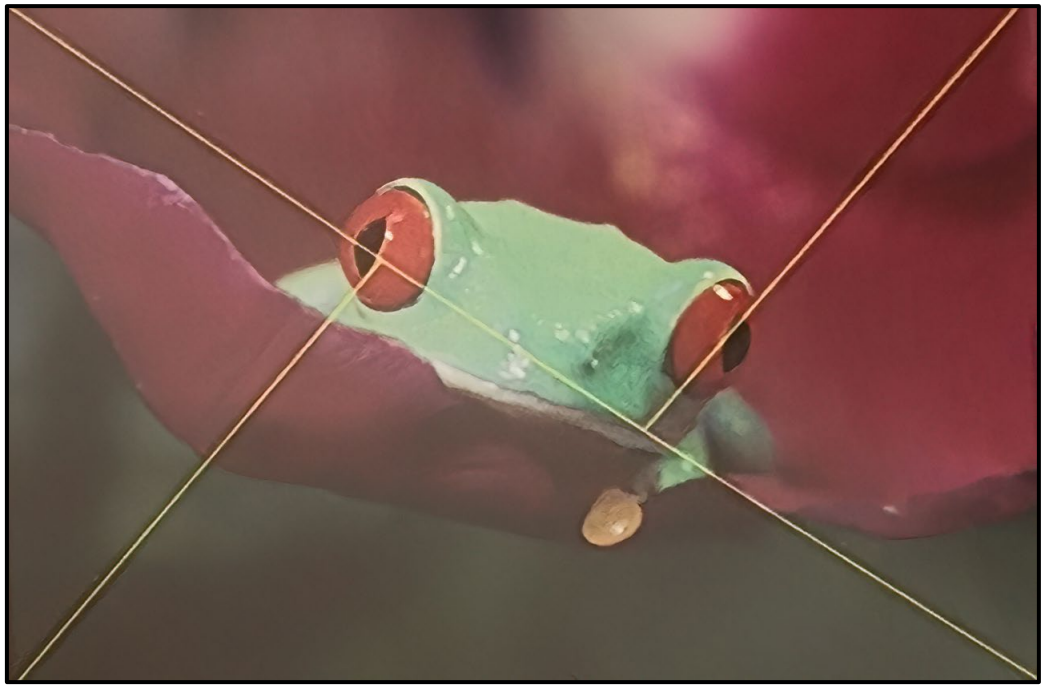


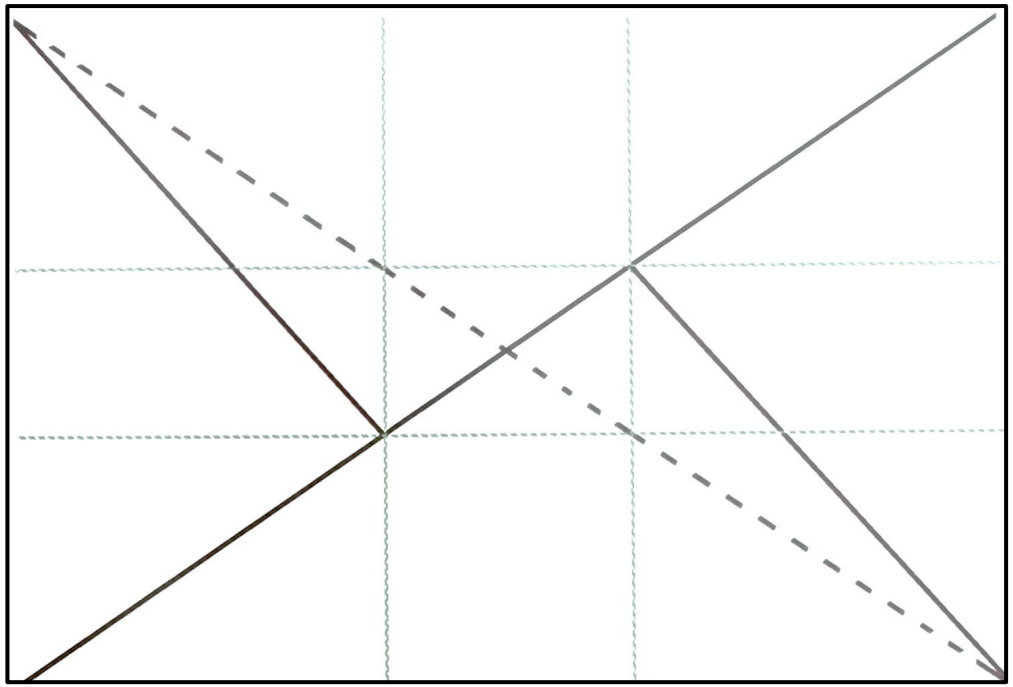
Diagonal Lines

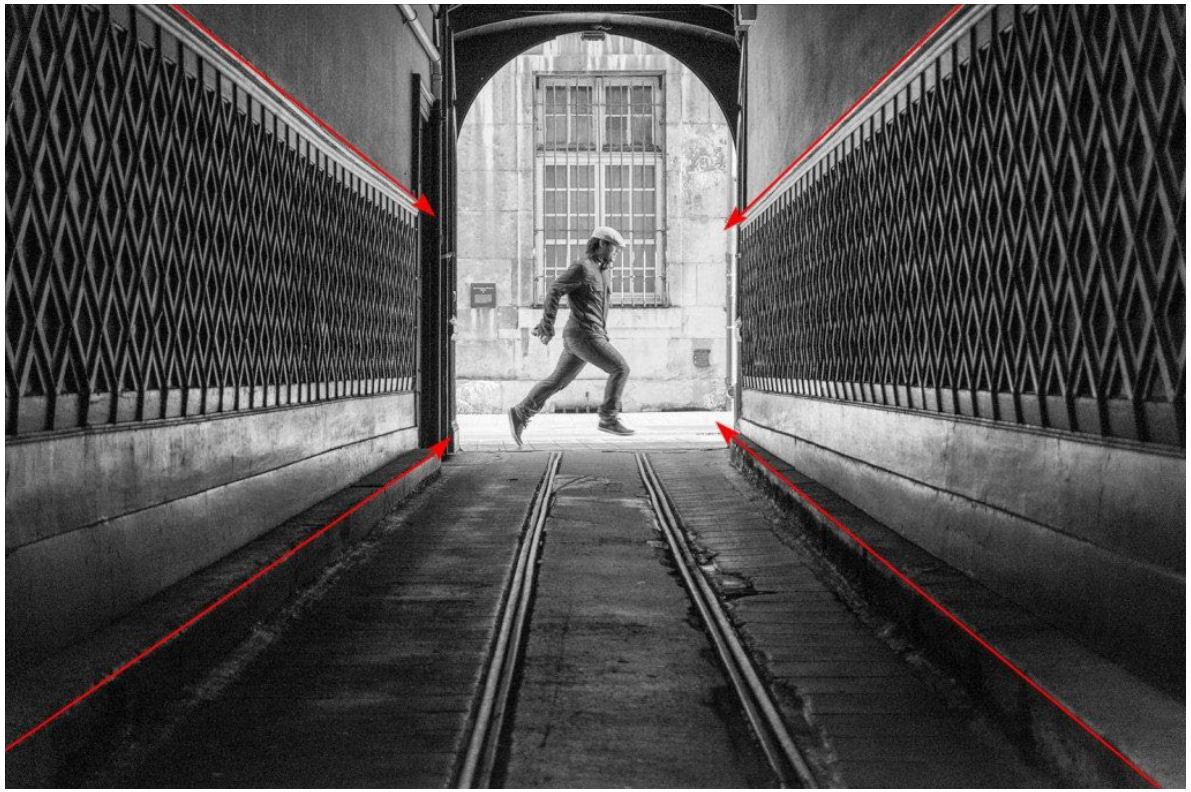
Movement, energy, tension

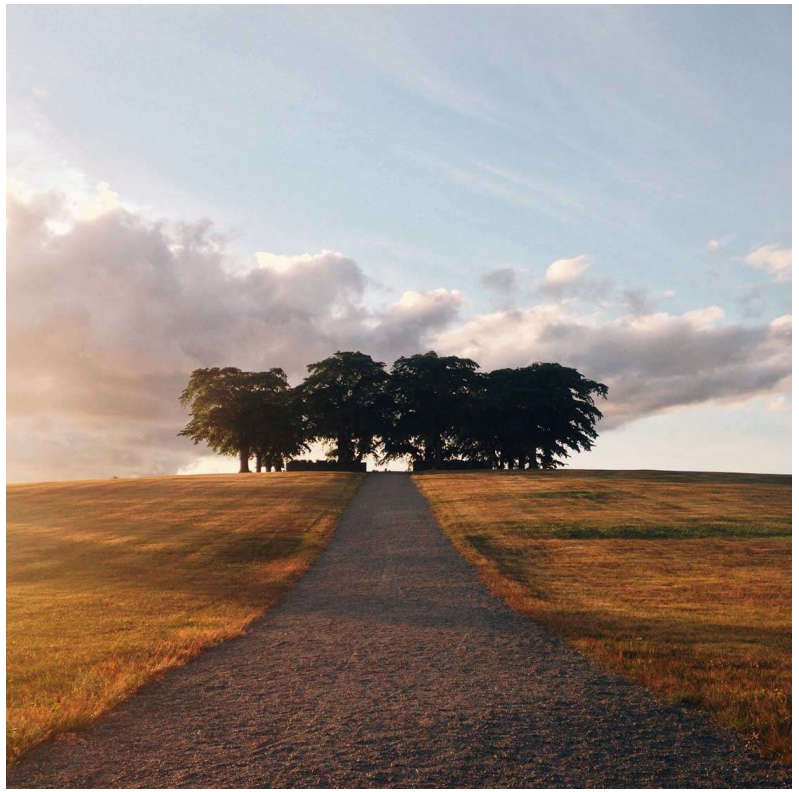
Composition aid for diagonal lines

- Golden Ration









Leading Lines

Intentional direction





Converging Lines

Depth & perspective





Curved Lines

Elegance, softness, exploration





Implied Lines

Guide attention, create flow, add depth

How do you compose with lines?

- Start the line near a corner
- Let the line lead toward your subject
- Use foreground lines to create depth
- Control competing lines
- Combine line types intentionally

Common Mistakes

- Lines leading out of the frame
- Tilted horizon
- Too many competing lines
- Lines intersecting the subject awkwardly
- Weak or subtle lines that don’t guide the eye

Curves



Curves in Photography – What do they do?

- ❖Guide the viewer’s eye
- ❖Create visual flow & movement
- ❖Add elegance, softness & emotional appeal
- ❖Build depth
- ❖Enhance storytelling

How do curves influence perception?

- Visual flow
- Elegance & calm
- Mystery & depth
- Organic realism

Types of curves - How do you use them?

- S-curves - Classic landscape tool; create rhythm & elegance
- C-curves – Circular framing; feel protective or intimate
- Implied curves – Formed by repeated shapes or shadows; adds subtle motion
- Organic curves – Rivers, branches; feel natural & calming
- Architectural curves – Staircases, arches; add sophistication or drama





S Curves

Classic landscape tool, rhythm & elegance





C Curves

Framing, intimate, protective

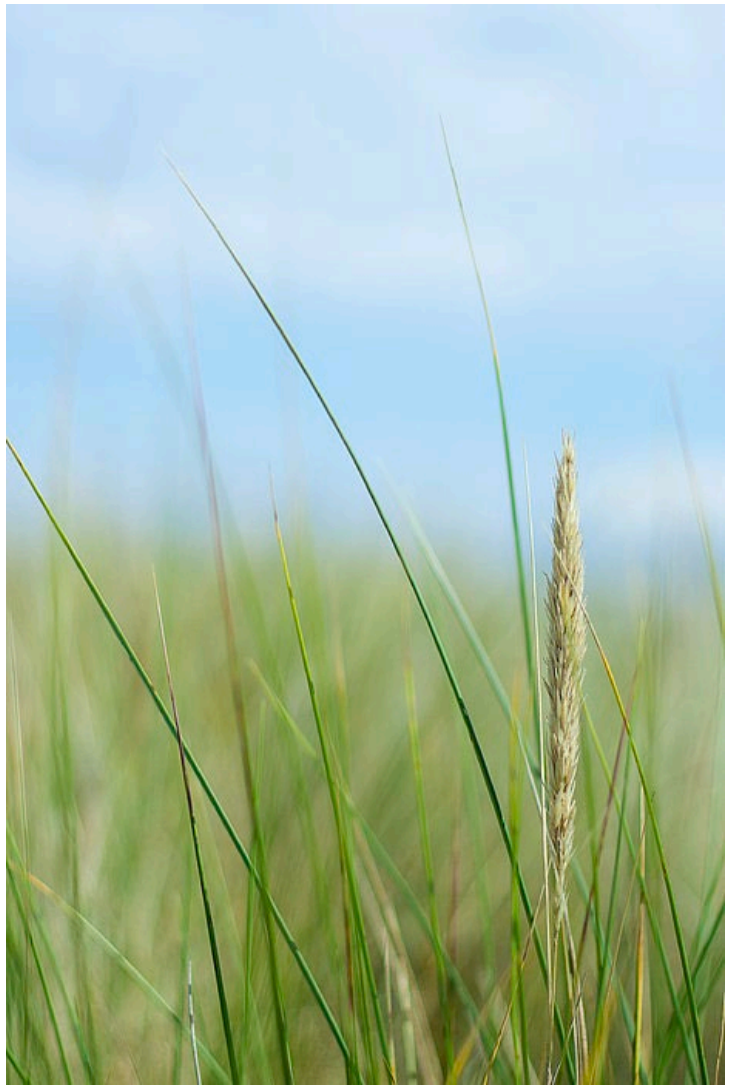


Implied Curves

Movement and cohesion

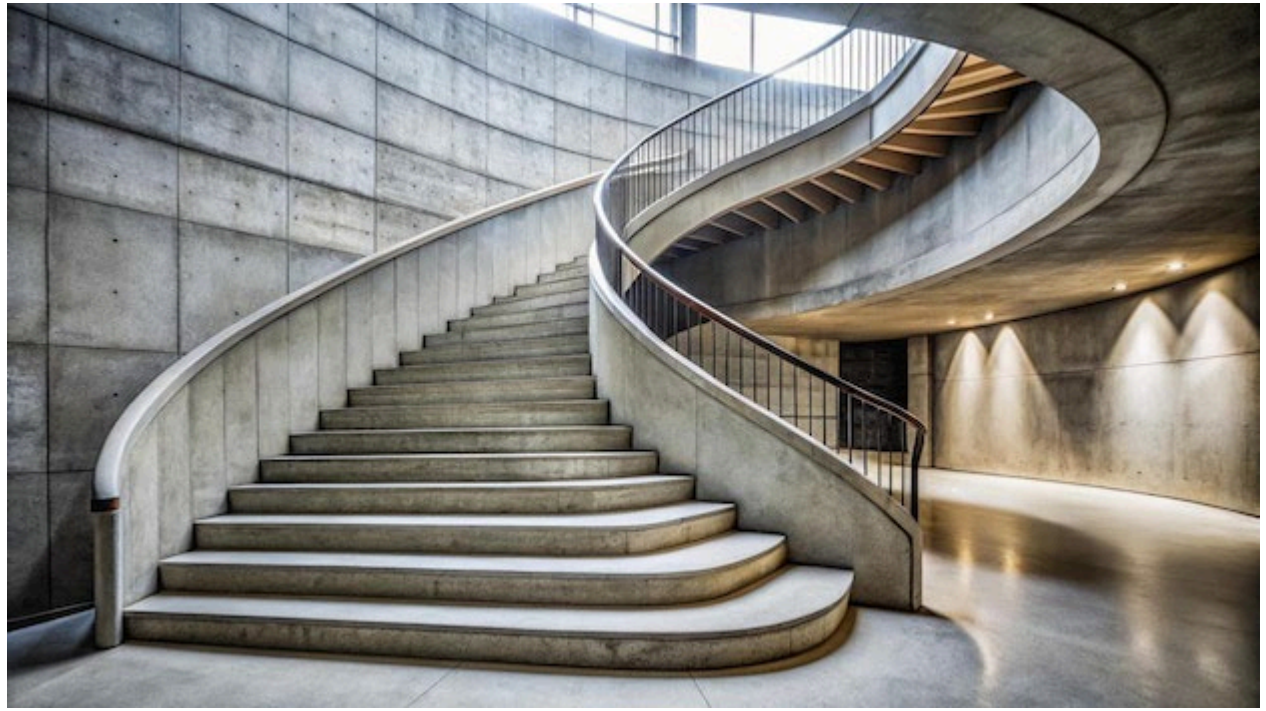






Organic Curves

Calm, comfort, guide eye, add rhythm





Architectural Curves

Sophistication, drama

How to use curves intentionally

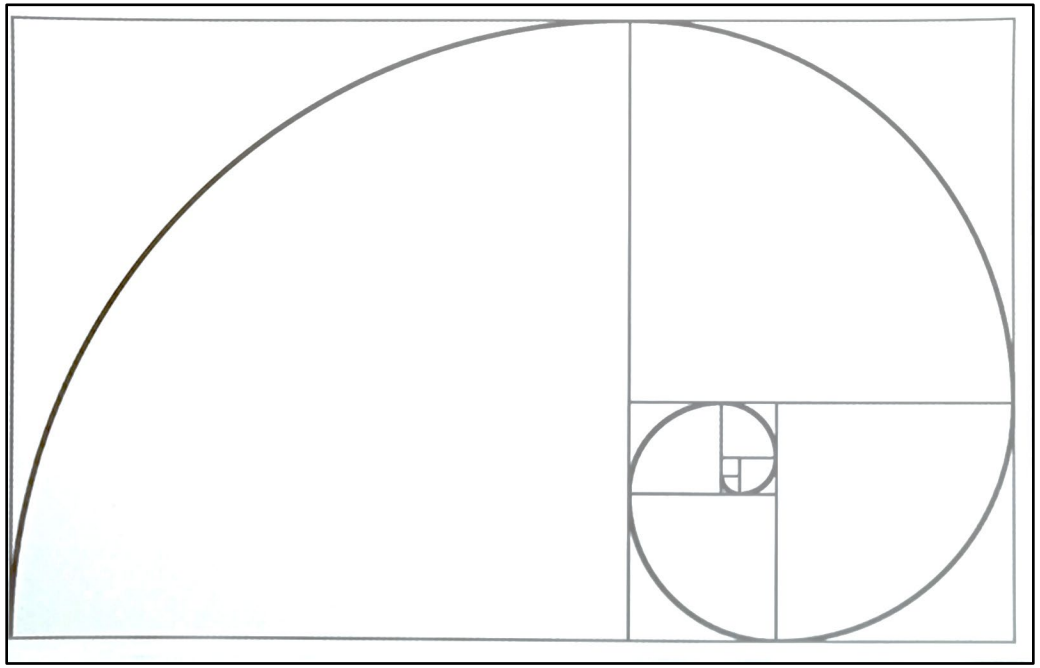
- ❖Start the curve near a corner
- ❖Use focal length strategically
- ❖Control depth of field
- ❖Combine curves with other composition rules
- ❖Use light & shadow to enhance curves

Common Mistakes

- Letting curve lead out of the frame
- Using curves that don’t support the subject
- Too many curves in the frame
- Ignoring light direction
- Shooting from the wrong angle

Composition aid for curves

- Golden spiral



Shapes



Shapes in Photography – What do they do?

- ❖Guide the viewer's eye
- ❖Create structure & order
- ❖Add balance & harmony
- ❖Create depth & dimension
- ❖Evoke emotion & symbolism
- ❖Enhance storytelling
- ❖Simply complex scenes

Types of shapes - How do you use them?

- Geometric shapes – Balance, movement, unity
- Organic shapes – Freedom, softness, movement
- Positive shapes – Focal point, impact, emotion
- Negative shapes – Emphasize subject, simplify, storytelling
- Abstract shapes – Mystery, mood, impact





Geometric Shapes

Balance, movement, unity





Organic Shapes

Freedom, softness, movement





Positive Shapes

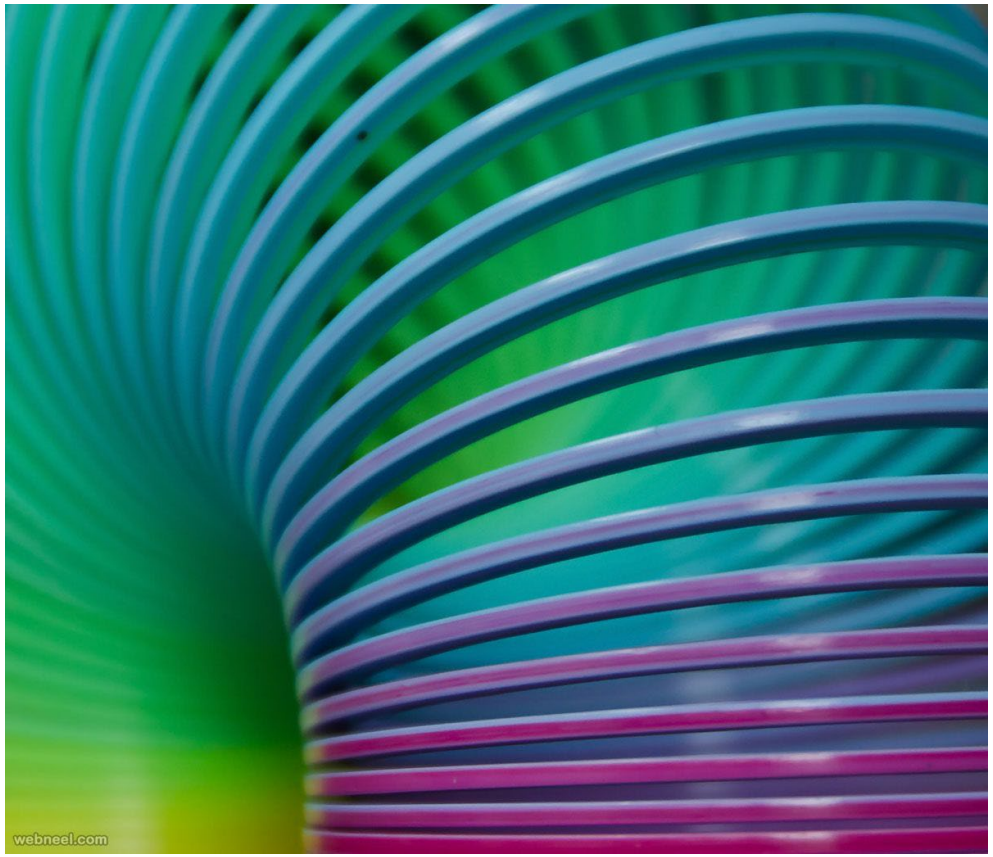
Focal point, impact, emotion



Negative Space

Emphasize subject, simplify, storytelling







Abstract Shapes

Mystery, mood, impact

How do you compose with shapes?

- Start by seeing shapes
- Choose a dominant shape
- Arrange shapes to guide the viewer’s eye
- Balance shapes for harmony
- Use negative space as a shape
- Use shapes to create emotion
- Use overlapping shapes to create depth
- Simply the scene by reducing shapes

Common Mistakes

- No dominant shape
- Too many competing shapes
- Shapes that intersect in awkward ways
- Ignoring negative space
- Shapes that lead the eye out of the frame
- Unclear or weak shapes
- Letting a background shape overpower subject

The End