

LINES

Camera



ELEMENTS OF
COMPOSITION
IN PHOTOGRAPHY

LINES IN PHOTOGRAPHY

The lines that can be found in images are very powerful elements that with a little practice can add dynamic impact to a photograph in terms of mood as well as how they lead an image's viewer into a photo.



HORIZONTAL LINES

There's something about a horizontal line in an image that gives a message of 'stability' or even 'rest'.

Horizons, fallen trees, oceans, sleeping people – all of these subjects have something about them that speaks either of permanency and endlessness or rest.



HORIZONTAL LINES

Horizons are the most common horizontal line to be found in photographs and they often act as a dividing point in a photograph.



Horizons should generally not be placed in the middle of your frame. This leaves an image feeling unsettled compositionally. A much more effective technique is to place them in the upper or lower third of your frame.

HORIZONTAL LINES

Layers of horizontal lines can create rhythm or patterns in an image that can become the focus of an image in and of itself.



HORIZONTAL LINES



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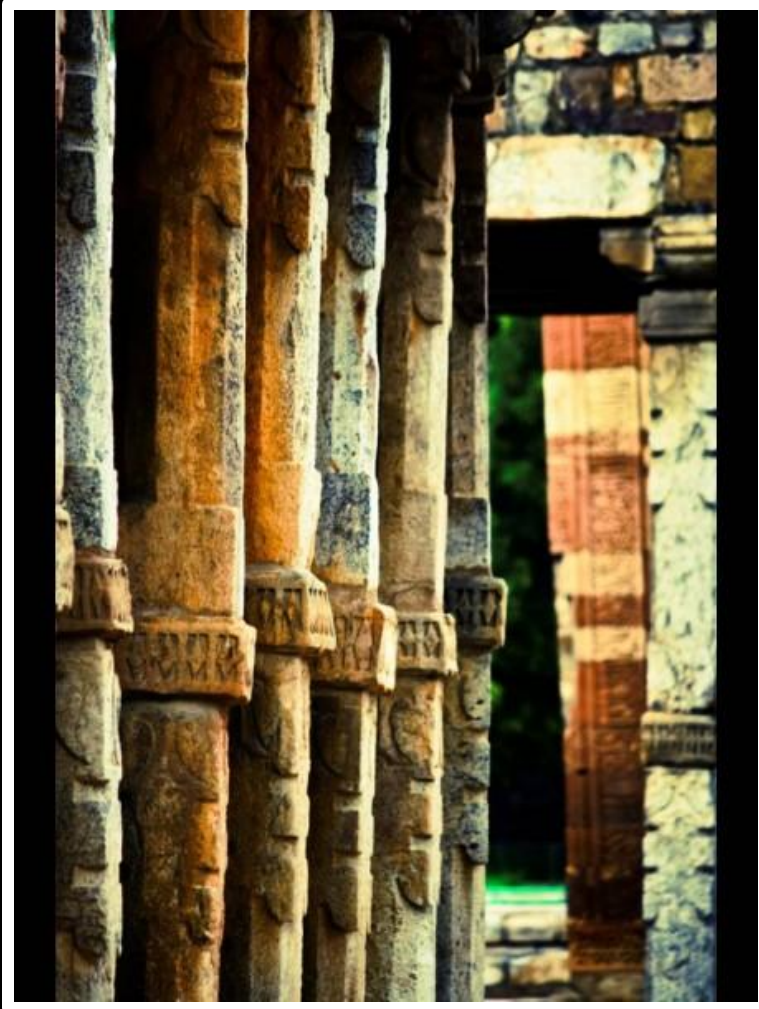


VERTICAL LINES

Vertical lines have the ability to convey a variety of different moods in a photograph ranging from power and strength (think of skyscrapers) to growth (think of trees).



VERTICAL LINES

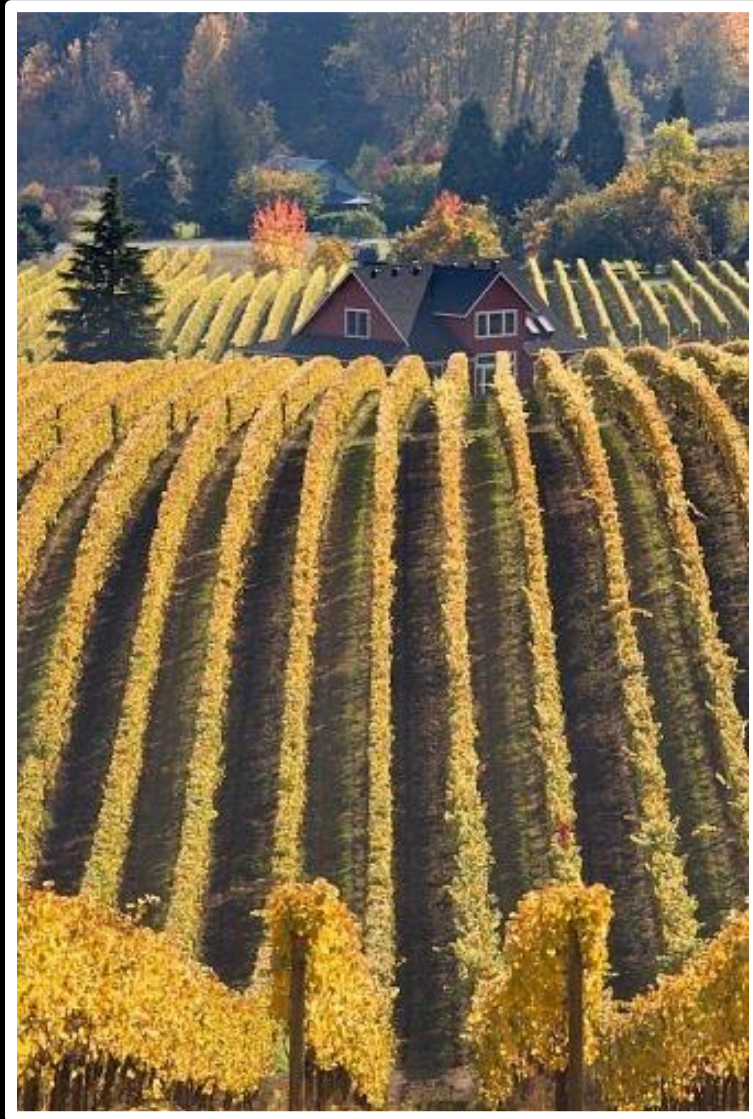


As horizontal lines can be emphasized by shooting in horizontal format, vertical lines can be used very effectively by swapping the way you hold your camera into a vertical framing. This lengthens the vertical subject further which can emphasize it's height.

VERTICAL LINES



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DIAGONAL LINES

Diagonal lines generally work well to draw the eye of an image's viewer through the photograph.

They create points of interest as they intersect with other lines and often give images depth by suggesting perspective.



They can also add a sense of action to an image and add a dynamic look and feel.

DIAGONAL LINES



Different studies have been done into how people view images and many of them say that a natural way into an image is by traveling left to right and so a diagonal line starting at the bottom left and moving to the top right of an image can be quite useful and natural.

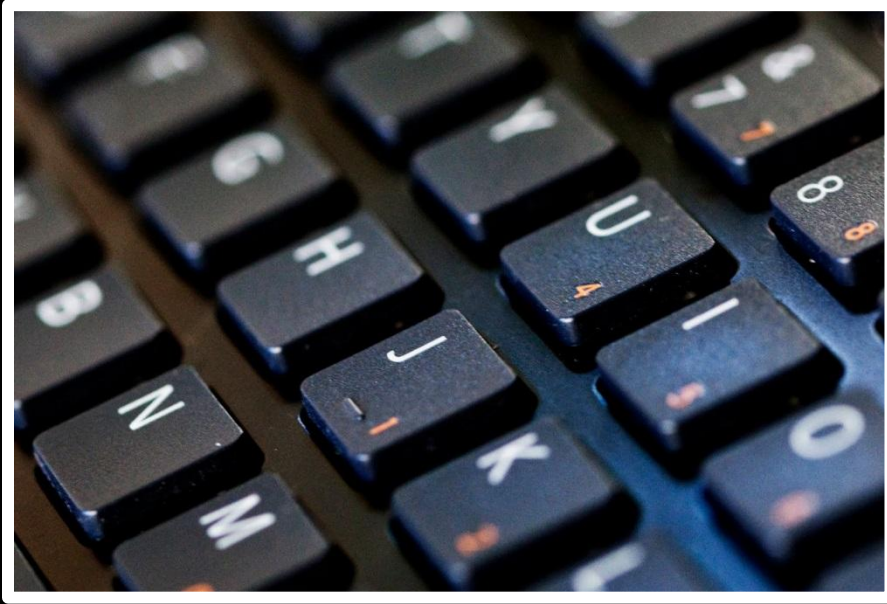
DIAGONAL LINES

Of course you wouldn't want to split your image into two with a harsh line from corner to corner – rather look for patterns and curves between shapes that might do this naturally.

Also rather than making a line go from the very corner to the opposite corner it's often good to make them off centre and go to either side of corners.



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CONVERGING LINES

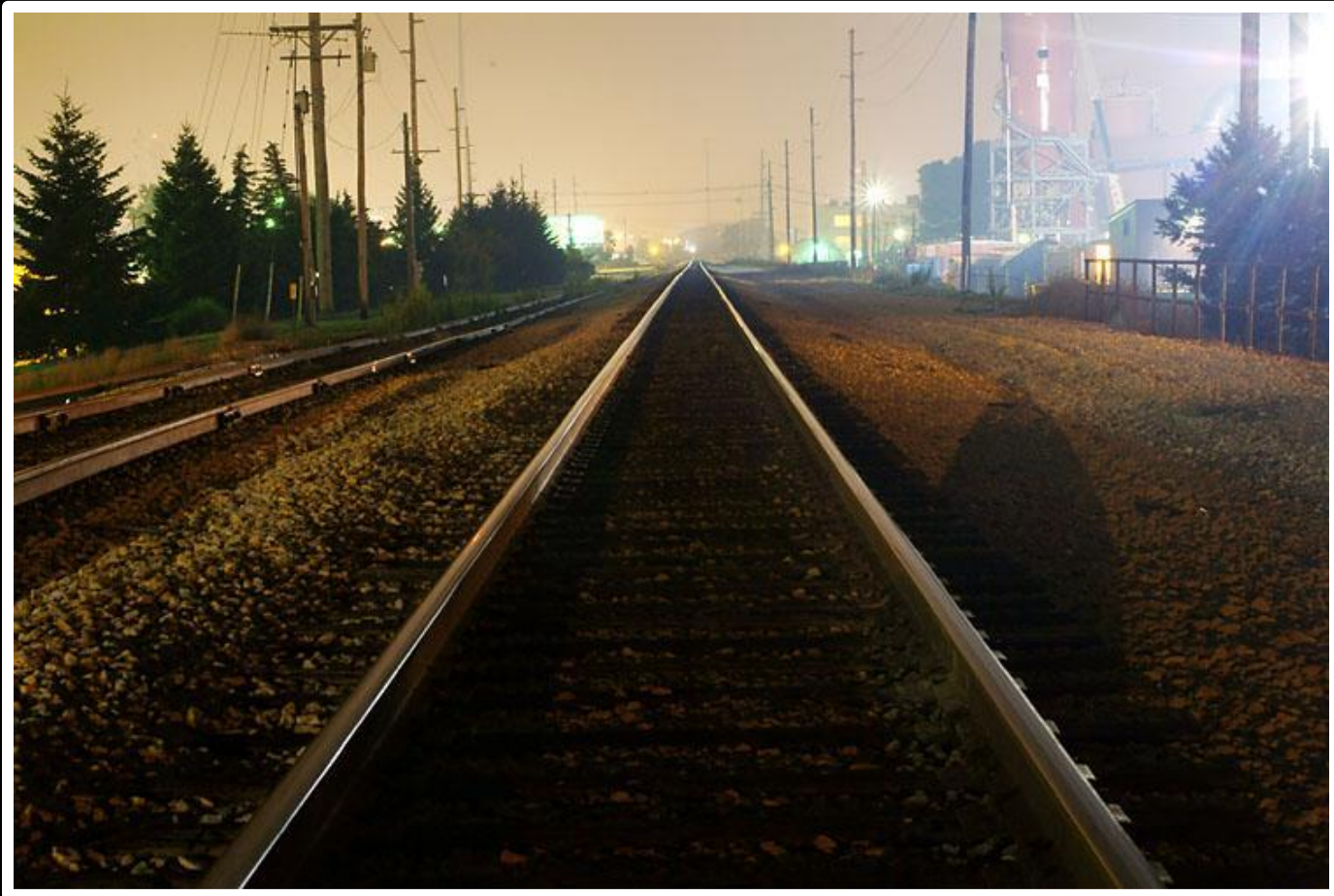
One of the features that many photographers look for and like to incorporate in their shots is converging lines.

Multiple lines that converge together (or come close to one another) can be a great technique to lead your viewers eye into a shot.

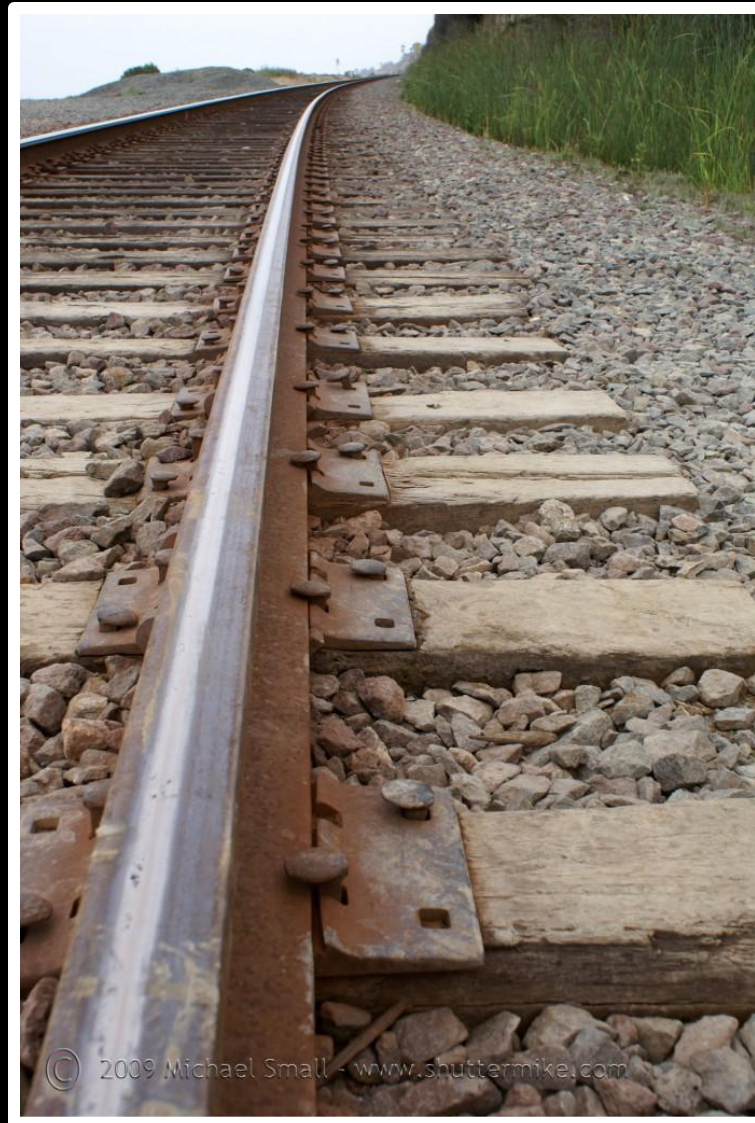


CONVERGING LINES

The classic example of converging lines are railway tracks.

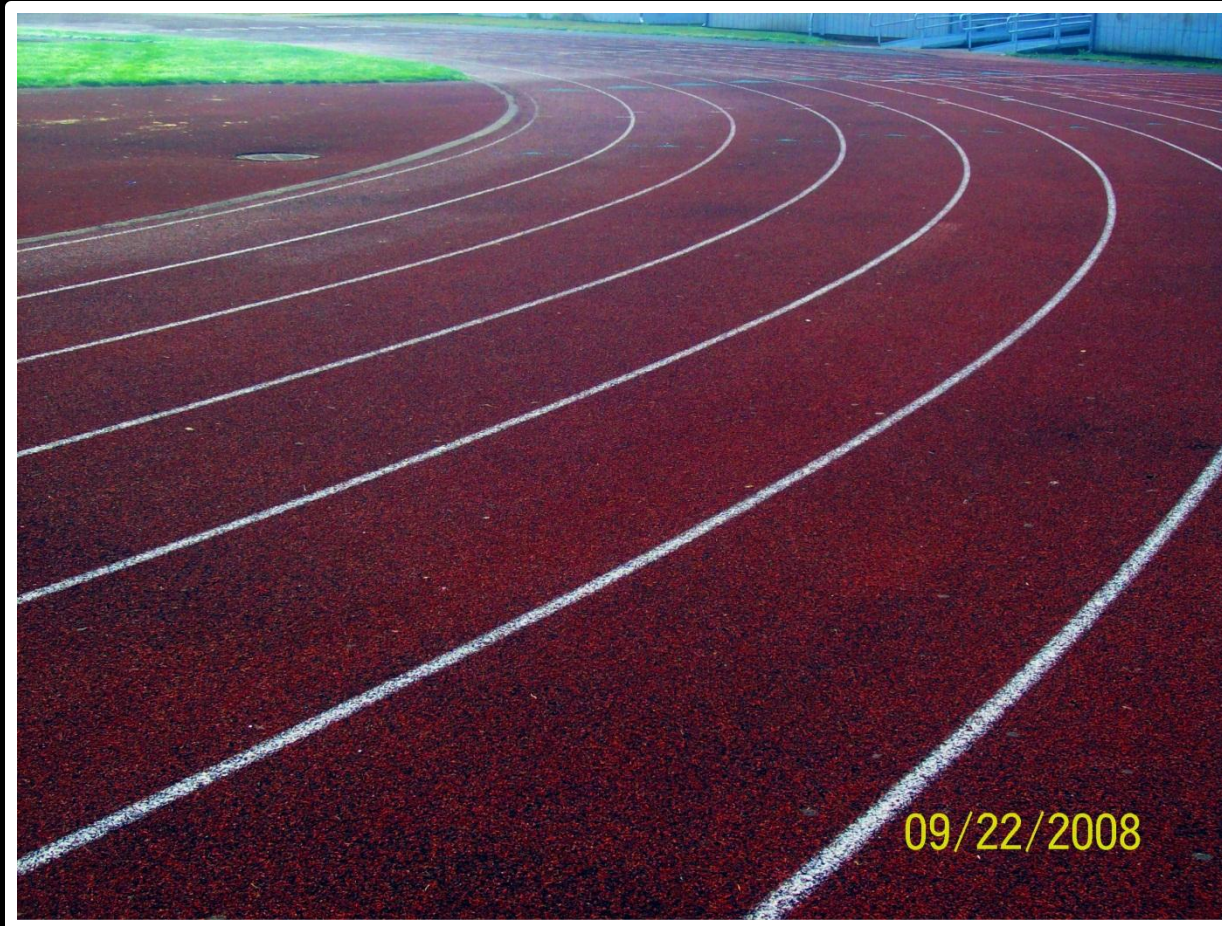


CONVERGING LINES



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