

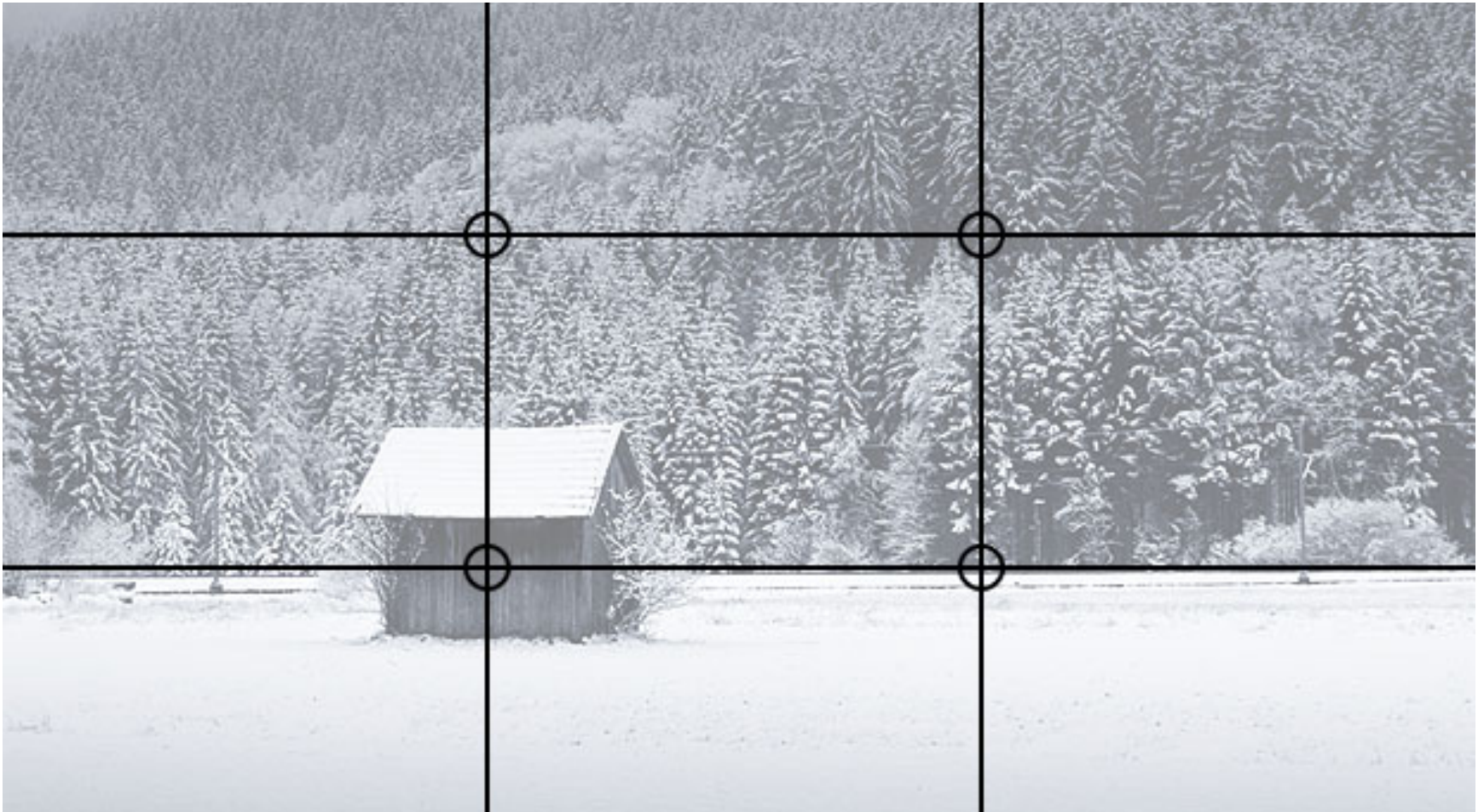
Photography Composition Basics



The Rule of Thirds

The Rule of Thirds

The rule of thirds involves mentally dividing up your image using **2 horizontal lines** and **2 vertical lines**, as shown below. You then position **the important elements in your scene along those lines, or at the points where they meet.**



Doing so will add balance and interest to your photo.



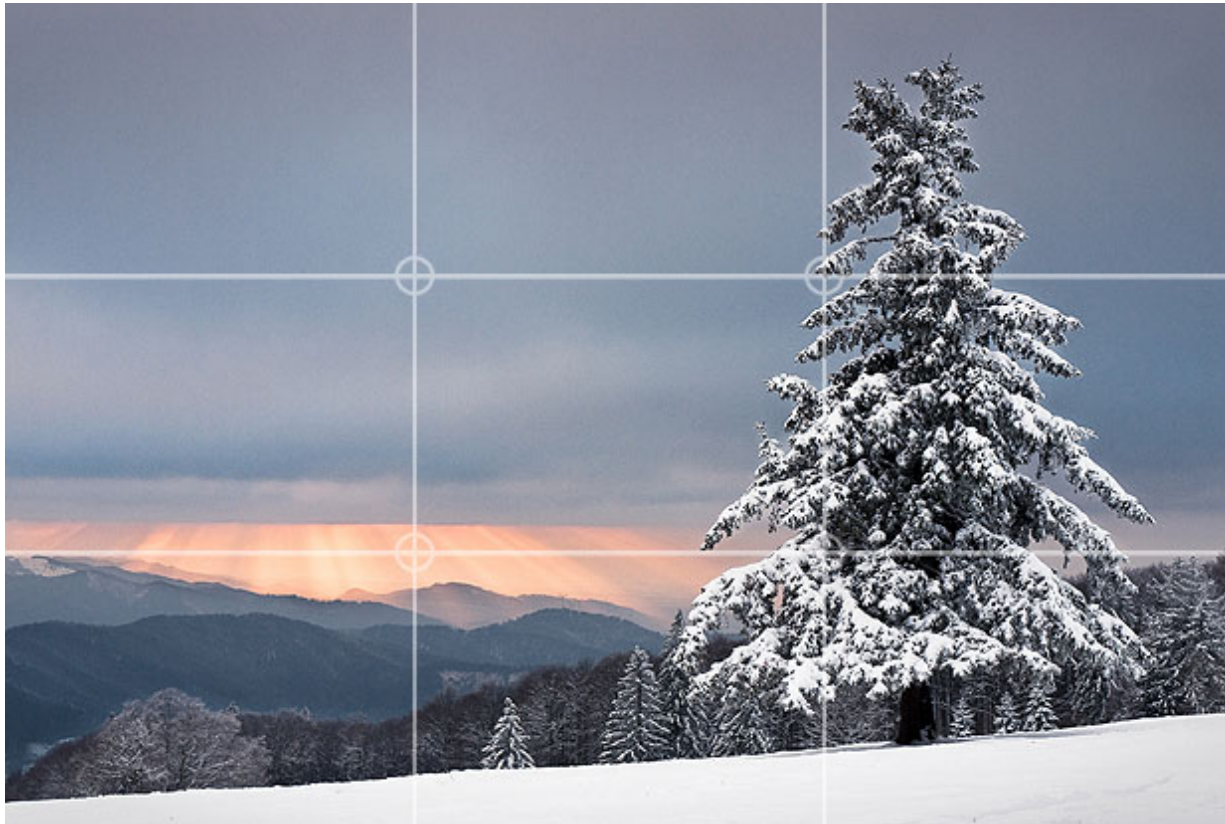
Try to position them at or near the lines and intersections of the grid. **They don't have to be perfectly lined up as long as they're close.**



The horizon and main subject in this photo have been positioned near lines or intersections for maximum impact

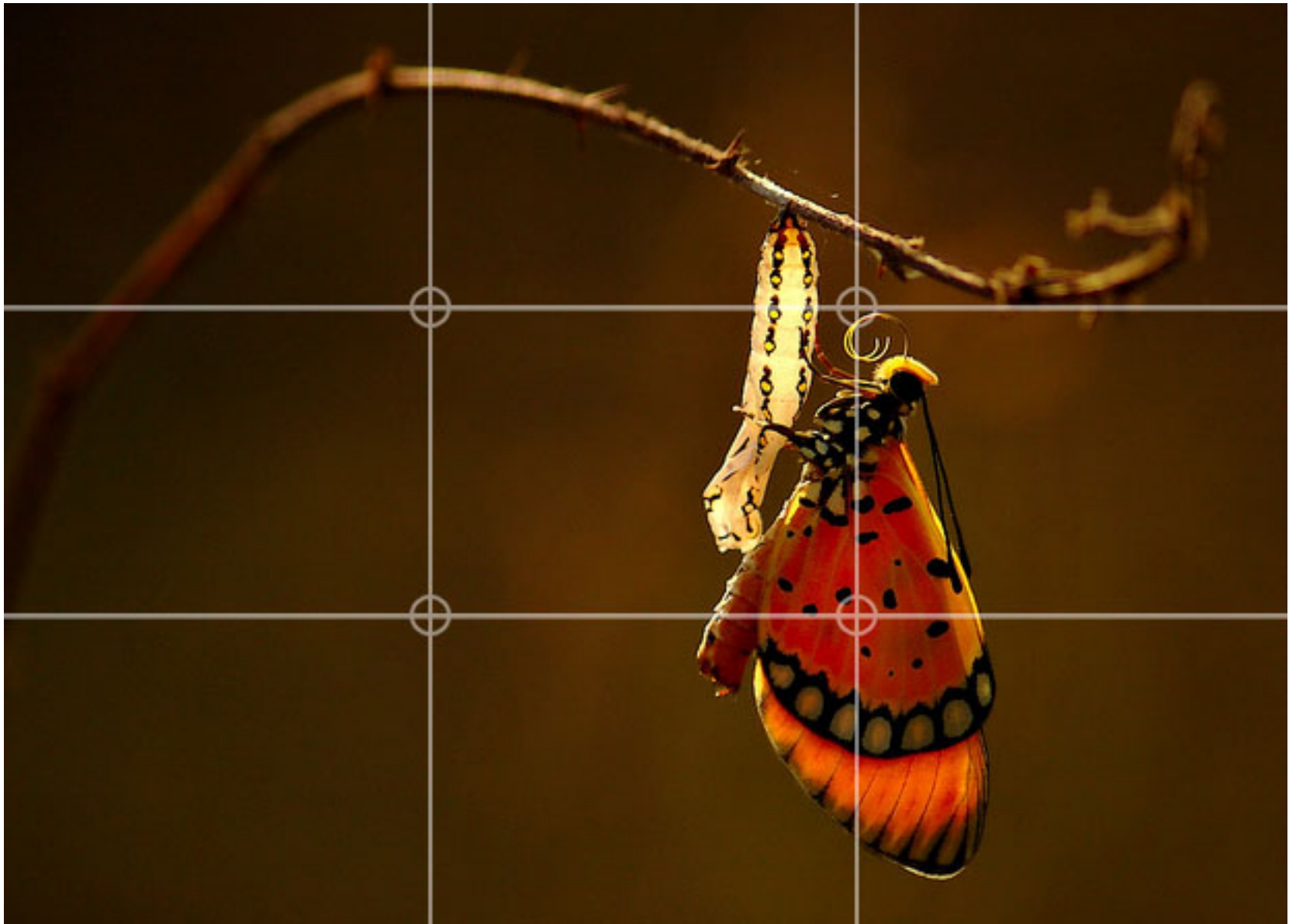
Place the horizon along one of the horizontal lines.

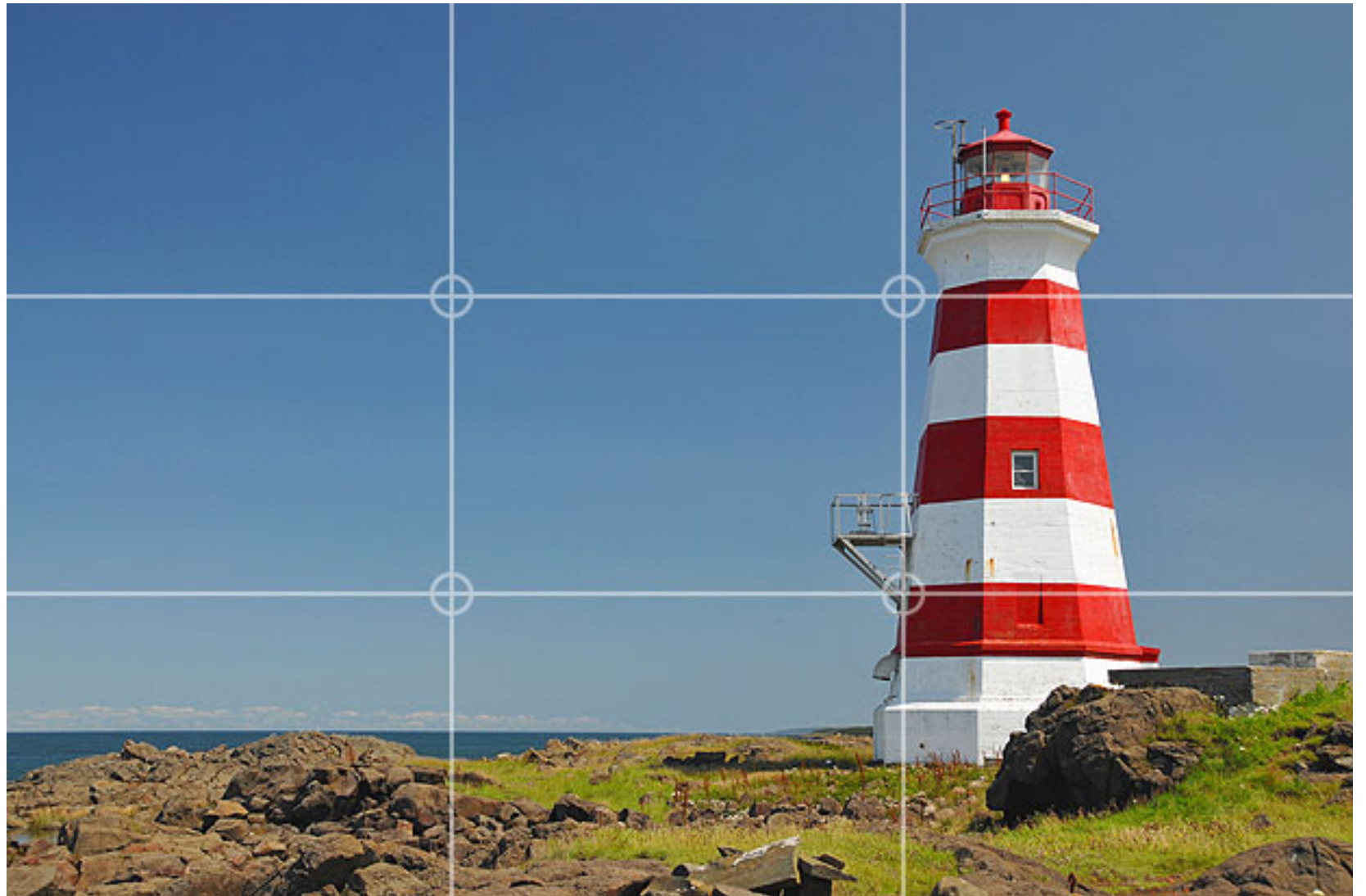
Try to include another interesting object, such as the tree in the photo above, and position it according to the rule of thirds. This provides an "anchor", a natural **focal point** for the scene.



It's a good idea to **position people off to one side of the frame**. This provides some **"breathing space"**, shows the subject's environment, **and stops the photo from looking like a mugshot**. We are naturally drawn to people's eyes. Place them at one of the intersections on the rule of thirds grid to give the shot a clear focal point.







As a general rule you should **leave more space in front of them than behind, to show where they're going.**



You can easily apply the rule of thirds to existing photos by cropping them. This allows you to reposition the important subjects in your image, moving them into more pleasing positions.



Leading Lines

When we look at a photo **our eye is naturally drawn along lines.**

By thinking about how **you place lines in your composition, you can affect the way we view the image**, pulling us into the picture, towards the subject, or on a **journey "through" the scene.**

There are many different types of line - straight, diagonal, curvy, zigzag, radial etc - and each can be used to **enhance our photo's composition.**

















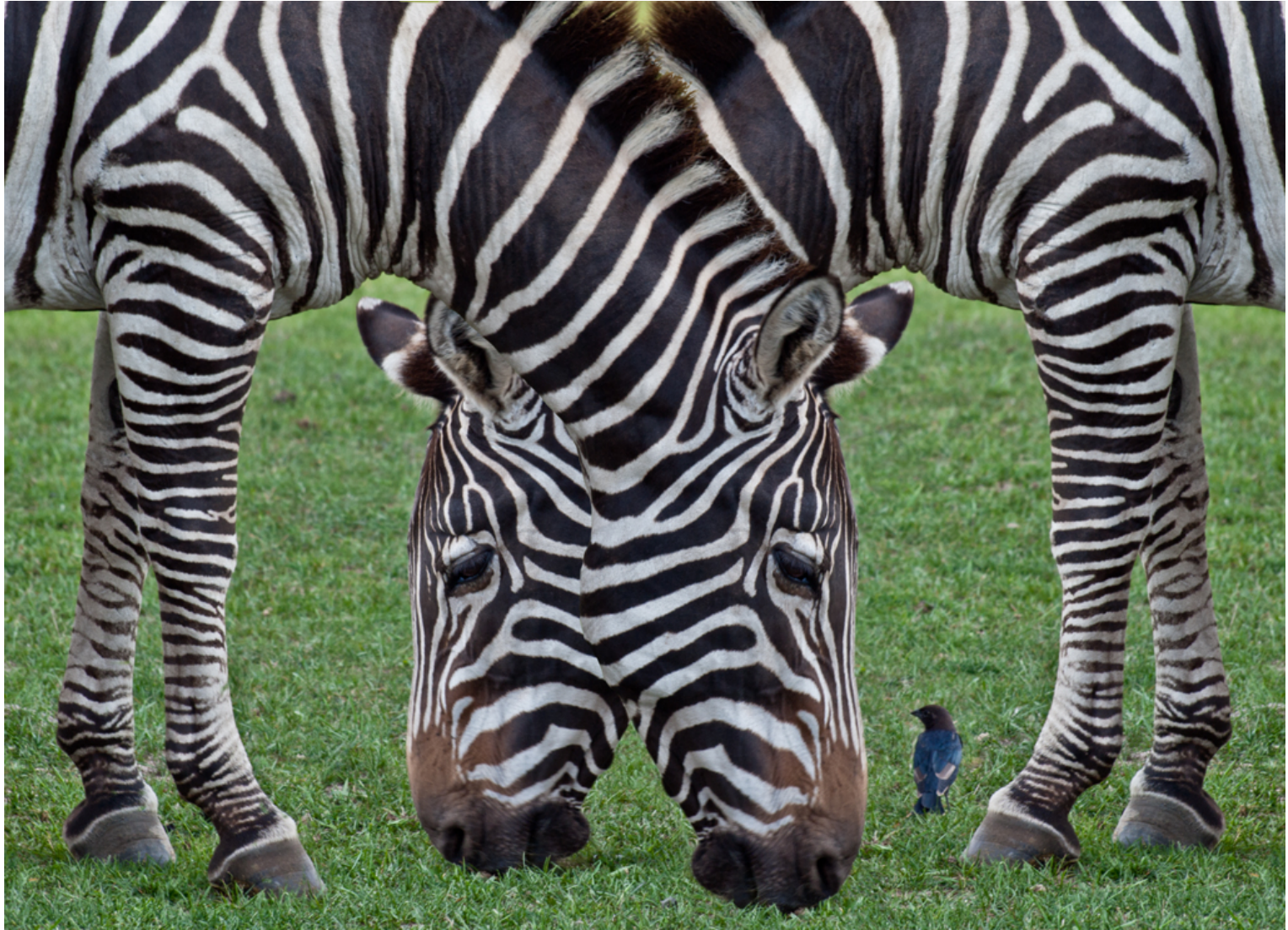


Symmetry and Patterns

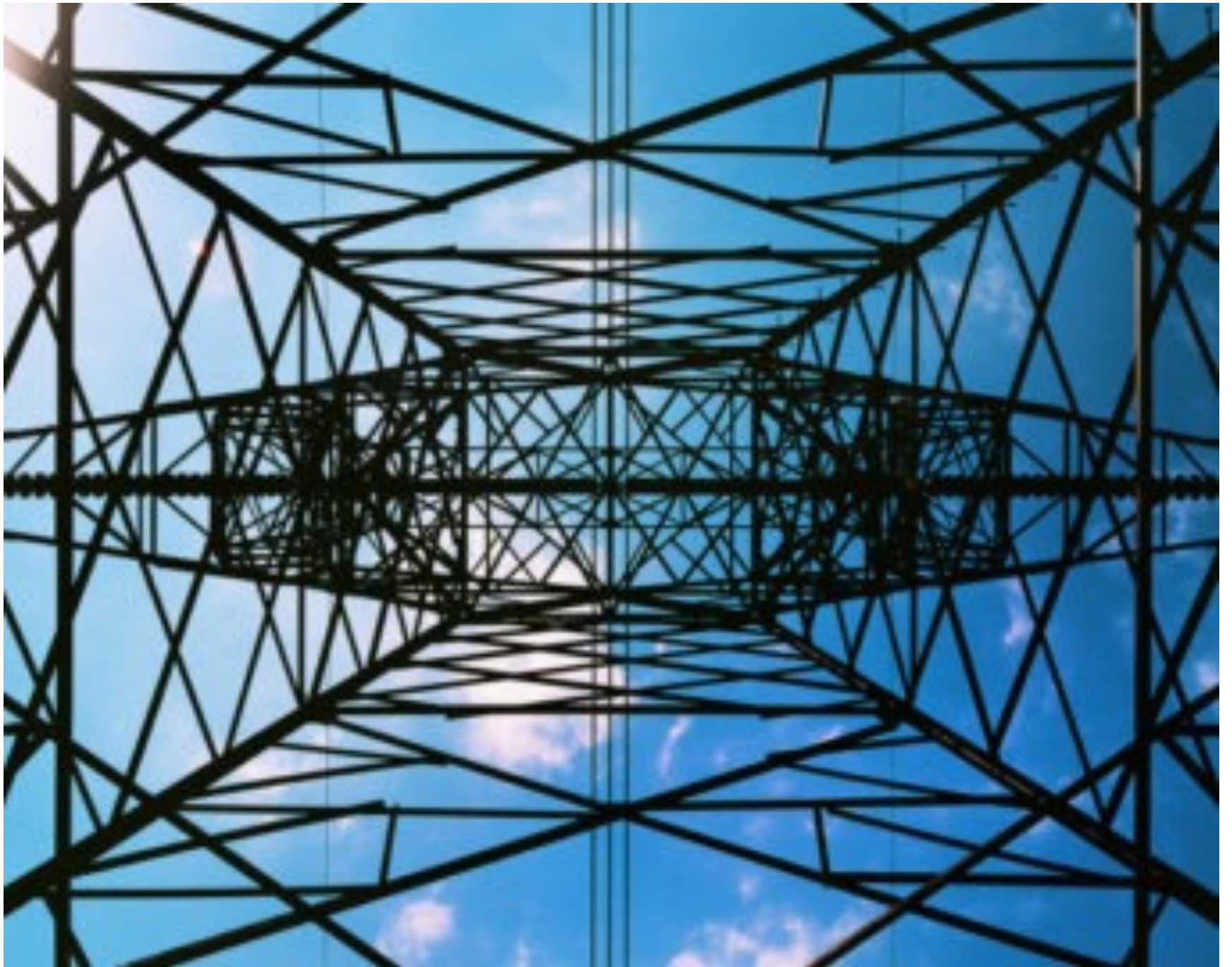
We are surrounded by symmetry and patterns, both natural and man-made.,

They can make for **very eye-catching compositions**, particularly in situations where they are **not expected**.





















Depth of Field

Because photography is a two-dimensional medium, we have to choose our composition carefully to convey the **sense of depth** that was present in the actual scene.

How much is in focus from the photographer through the farthest point away from the photographer

Limited depth of field allows a clear **focal point**...one thing is in focus, everything else is not in focus

Full depth of field: photographer has everything in focus near to far of the photographer

You can **create depth in a photo by including objects in the foreground, middle ground and background.**

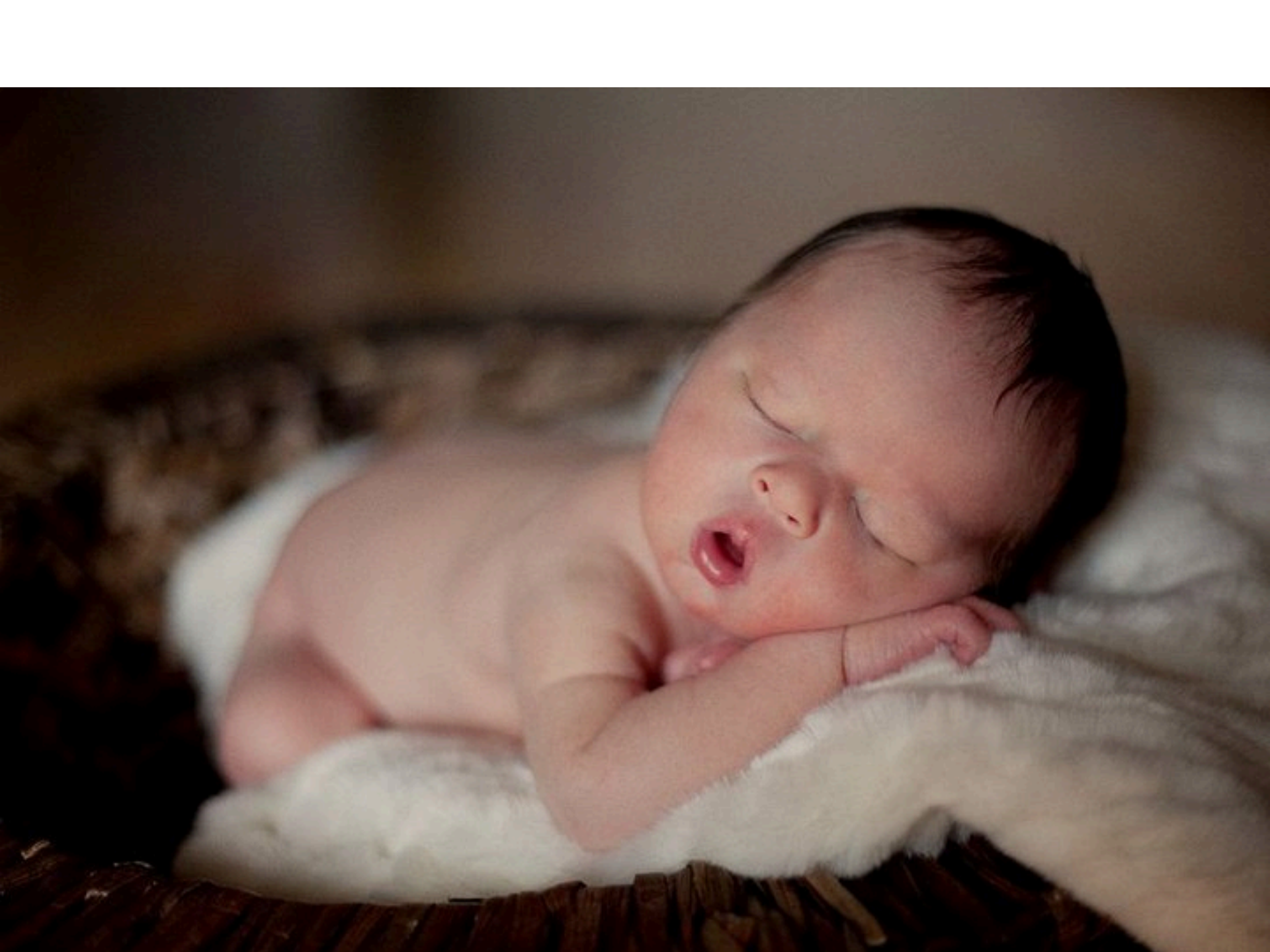


























Framing

The world is full of objects, which make perfect **natural frames, such as trees, archways holes and even light and shadows.**

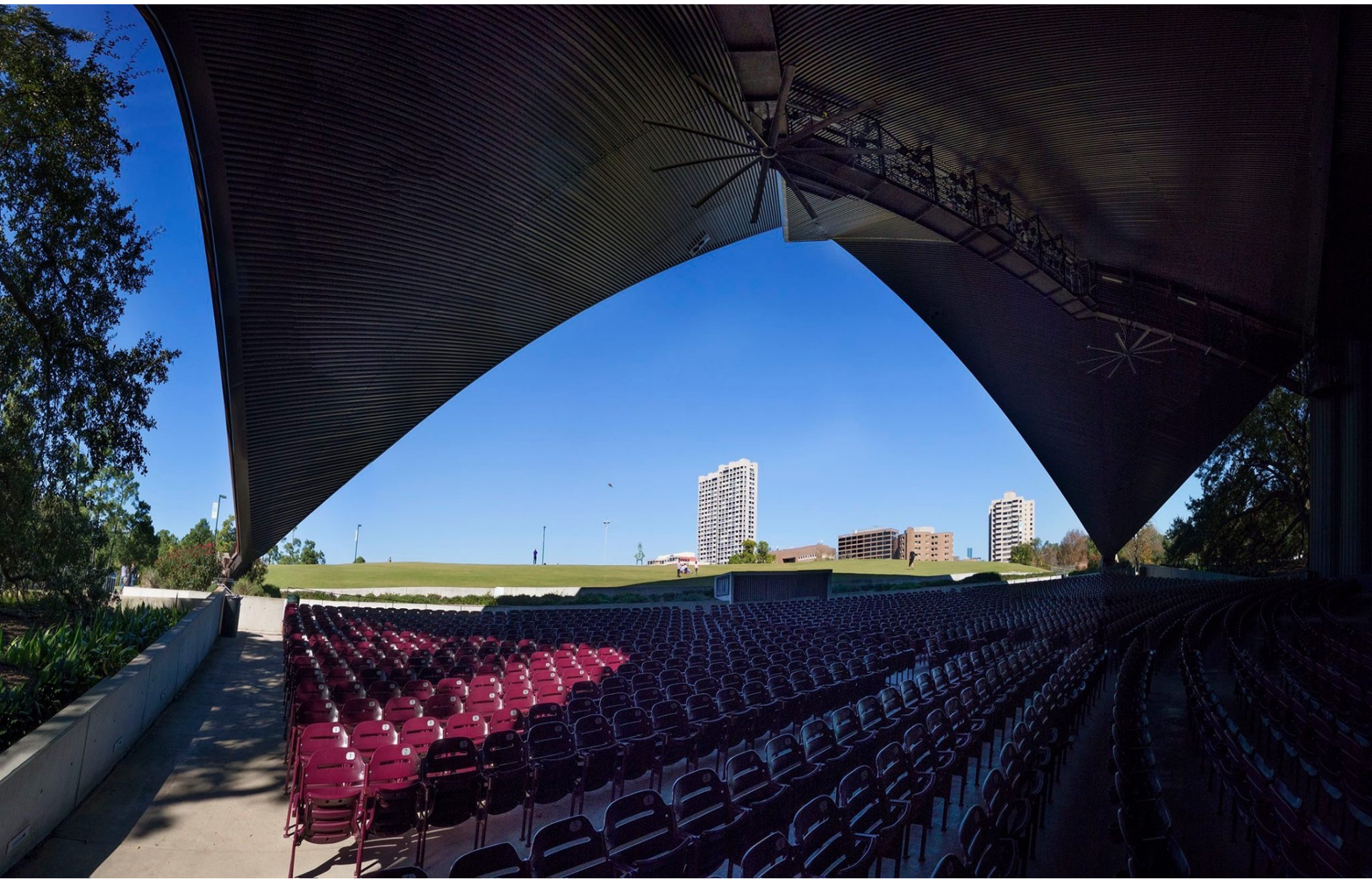
By placing these around the edge of the composition you help to **isolate the main subject from the outside world.**

The result is a **more focused image,** which draws your eye naturally to the **main point of interest.**













Viewpoint

Before photographing your subject, take time to **think about where you will shoot it from.**

Our viewpoint has a massive impact on the composition of our photo, and as a result it can greatly effect the message of the photo.

Rather than just shooting from eye level, consider photographing from **high above, down at ground level, from the side, from the back, from a long way away, from very close up, and so on.**

Bird's Eye View:

The viewer is looking DOWN on the subject

















Worm's Eye View:
Viewer is looking UP at the subject











