

PATTERNS

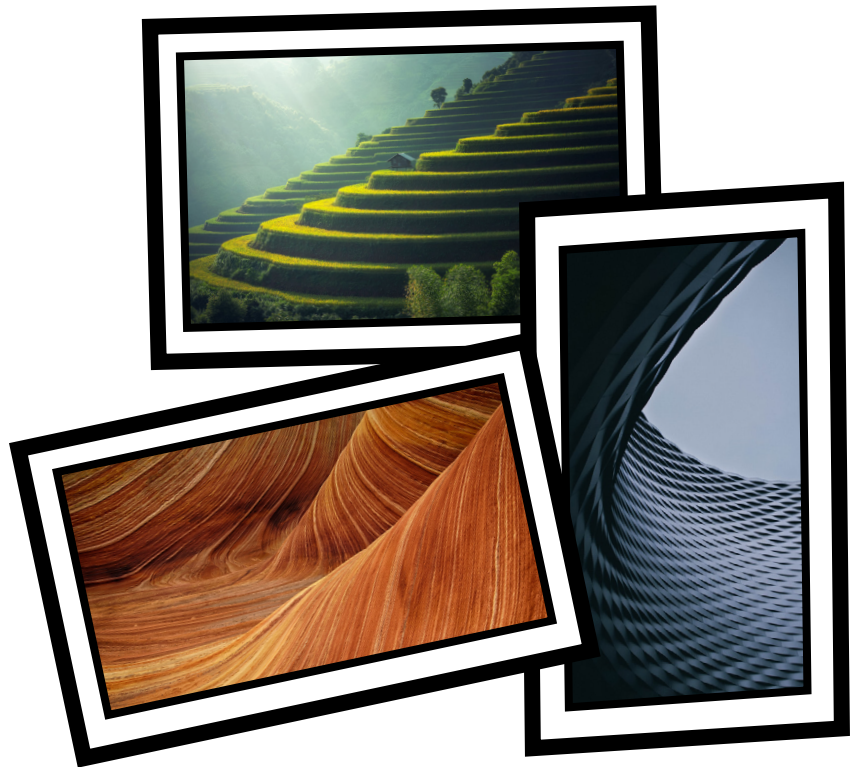
BLUEPRINT

Patterns are found wherever strong graphic elements repeat themselves, for example, lines, geometric shapes, forms and colors. The repetition doesn't have to be absolutely precise or uniform - it can be loose and organic, which works equally well.

Capturing repetition and patterns in your photography can create images with real impact. When it comes to capturing repetition a few techniques come to mind - you can either emphasize it or break it.

Filling your frame with a repetitive pattern can give the impression of size and large numbers. The key to this is to attempt to zoom in close enough to the pattern that it fills the frame and makes the repetition seem as though it's bursting out.

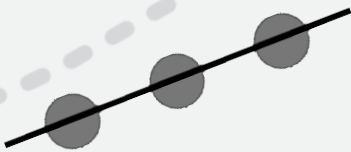
The other common use of repetition in photography is to capture the interruption of the flow of a pattern. Broken repetition might include adding a contrasting object (color, shape, texture) or removing one of the repeating objects. It's also great to combine repetition and patterns with clever and intentional use of colors!



Examples of patterns in photography

1 REPETITION

Repetition helps your eye dance from point to point - if you use it correctly, it can greatly increase the emotional impact of your images.



Patterns and repetition can be found all around us: a row of trees, a field of sunflowers, or a line of people waiting for a bus. Repetition gives us order in an otherwise chaotic world. In most cases, it is a great tool used to calm the viewers, making them feel comfortable and at peace while enjoying the scene.

TIP:

You don't have to stick to using one pattern. You can use two or more patterns in order to express unity or clash between certain elements.

2 BREAKING PATTERNS

You might need to manipulate the situation a little and interrupt a pattern yourself if you want to create something eye-catching.



The most common way to keep repetition from becoming boring is to deliberately break the pattern. You should create a spot with different color or shape and this spot is nothing more than the deliberate use of opposition to force the viewer to look again and again. Changing a single element in your shot can often make it much more powerful.

TIP:

Pay attention to where in your frame to place the break in the pattern. It might be that the rule of thirds comes into play here!

THE ESSENTIALS

3 RHYTHM

Keep rhythm in mind when you line up a number of subjects - try to place them in a visually pleasing pattern!



Imagine your eyes moving through an image like you're reading notes from a score of music. The more your eyes move, the more dynamic and interesting the composition will be. Just like in music, repeating a few notes in the same way isn't really exciting.

TIP:

For instance, you can align different colors in interesting ways and create a playful sense of rhythm.