

# SYMMETRY IN PHOTOGRAPHY

## BLUEPRINT

Even though symmetry doesn't sound like a photographic technique, it can certainly make your photos much stronger in terms of composition.

Symmetry is created when either the top and bottom, left, right or diagonals are mirror images of each other. Symmetry by its very definition requires you to think outside of the "rule of thirds". Even to a seasoned photographer, it can feel unnatural to use a center-point to define the composition.

Although symmetry occurs in nature (such as reflection of landscapes in the stillness of water), it is much more visible in the man-made world.

Symmetry doesn't have to be confined to the physical. Things like light and shade can also display symmetry!



Examples of symmetry in photography

## 1 VERTICAL SYMMETRY

Buildings and roads naturally make good subjects for vertical symmetry. If a road is placed centrally in the composition, the line down the middle already splits the image in two.



If you're photographing architecture, vertical symmetry in composition is quite clean cut and obvious, but when you're photographing people it can be less so. Because of this, it's much more challenging to use symmetry in portraiture or street photography.

### TIP:

Besides roads, columns and mountains are also great examples of vertical symmetry.

## 2 HORIZONTAL SYMMETRY

Reflections are a great example of horizontal symmetry. When using reflections it is very easy to combine symmetry with the rule of thirds, which otherwise seems to be a contradiction.



If your main point of interest is at the cross section of the rule of thirds and the scene is reflected in water, you will naturally combine these two rules and create a truly strong image!

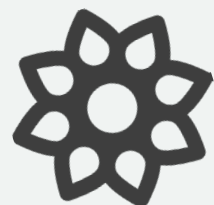
### TIP:

You can find examples of horizontal symmetry in man-made world as well - just pay attention to stairs and windows!

## THE ESSENTIALS

## 3 RADIAL SYMMETRY

Radial symmetry is a form of symmetry in which identical parts are arranged in a circular fashion around a central axis.



Images that radiate from a central point, such as spokes on a bicycle wheel, the petals on a daisy, or the circular water ripples have radial symmetry.

### TIP:

The body plans of most multi-cellular organisms exhibit some form of symmetry, whether radial, bilateral, or spherical.