

COMPOSITION TIPS: SHAPES

TRIANGLES

Good photographers learn to see the subject in terms of shape, line and pattern. For example, in scenes with three distinct focal points you can often arrange the points of interest in a triangle that pulls the eye around the frame.



CIRCLES

Man-made objects tend to have strong geometric shapes. The Chinese baoding balls in the photo below are spheres. They are framed by the squares and rectangle made by the box. The result is a composition of shapes within shapes.



SQUARES & RECTANGLES

Here's an example of shape formed by negative space. The dark interior of the home creates a black rectangle that frames the hanging plant. The shape of the photo itself, created with a 35mm digital camera, is another rectangle.



IRREGULAR SHAPES

In nature, shapes tend to be organic and irregular rather than geometric. You can make the most of shapes that occur in nature by using simplified compositions that provide space around the subject, as in the landscape photo below.

