12 COMPOSITION

Four Methods of Framing

The Camera Club

When learning composition there are four different techniques that use different elements to create a frame within your shots and hold the viewers attention: these four are architectural, geometric, natural, and light/shadow.

Architectural



Doorways, arches, and windows create openings through which we can shoot another subject. Architectural framing doesn't have to be entirely around the outside of a subject and can be just two or three sides of the final image

Natural



Anything in nature from trees, rocks, hills or clouds can frame an image, even nature weather elements like rain or fog can work. Subjects can be either natural or non natural, and often work nicely when contrasted

Geometric



Any patterns that drives your eye to one area of a photo can be considered geometric framing. Because they occur so much in large buildings they are often similar to architectural framing, however geometric framing tends to contain entirely geometrically shaped objects and subjects

Light / shadow



Light and shadow framing works best in more extreme light conditions or where harsh contrasts occur. Very common in black and white photography, shadow framing is one of the hardest types of framing to truly master