

CHAPTER 2

PRINCIPAL TYPES OF PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPOSITIONS

The basic elements of the photographic composition include of the relationship of objects, the relationship between foreground and background, and the total balance of object's arrangement in the photo [16]. Based on these elements, the principal types of photographic compositions can be classified into 8 classes.

2.1 Sun-like Composition (SC)

For emphasizing the main subject, it will be arranged in the center of the photo where is easily to be watched by the viewer. On the other hand, the other parts in the photo will be blurred or the background is uniform (refer to Fig. 1). The type of the photo often appears in portrait, advertisement, and artistic creation.

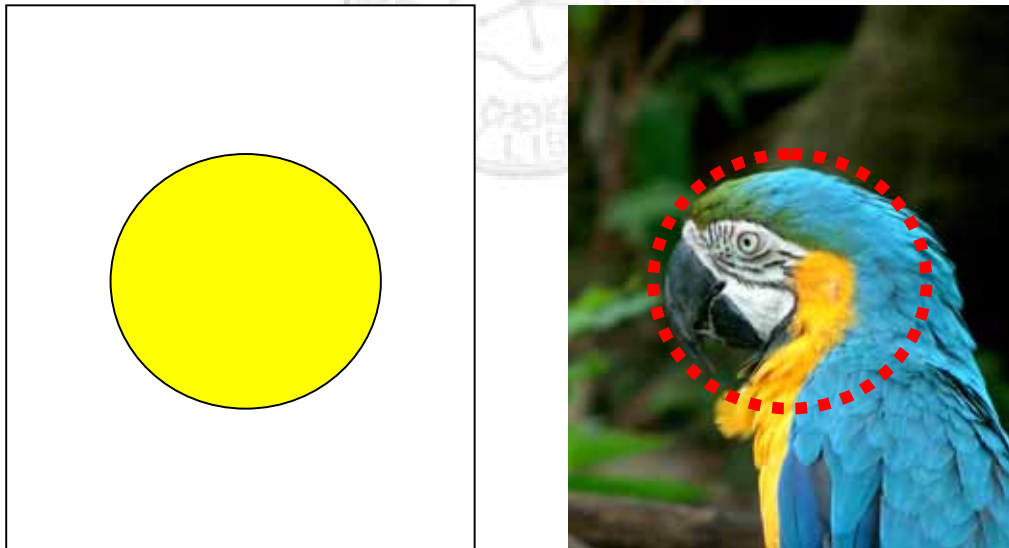


Fig. 1. The sun-like photographic composition.

2.2 Golden-section-like Composition (GC)

This is the most popular photographic composition that is the basic composition's prompt in the advance digital camera. The compositional rule says to place the main subject at one of the four places: at $1/3$ or $2/3$ of the photo width from left boundary, and $1/3$ or $2/3$ of the photo height from the top boundary [17]. Since the ratio of sectional regions near the golden section ratio (1:0.618), the compositional rule is called golden section, well character, or rule of thirds (see Fig. 2). The intersections formed by two pairs of parallel lines at $1/3$ or $2/3$ are named the points of golden section (*PGS*). In thus composition, the main subject is placed at one of the *PGS*'s and the main lines are as far as possible pass through *PGS*'s.

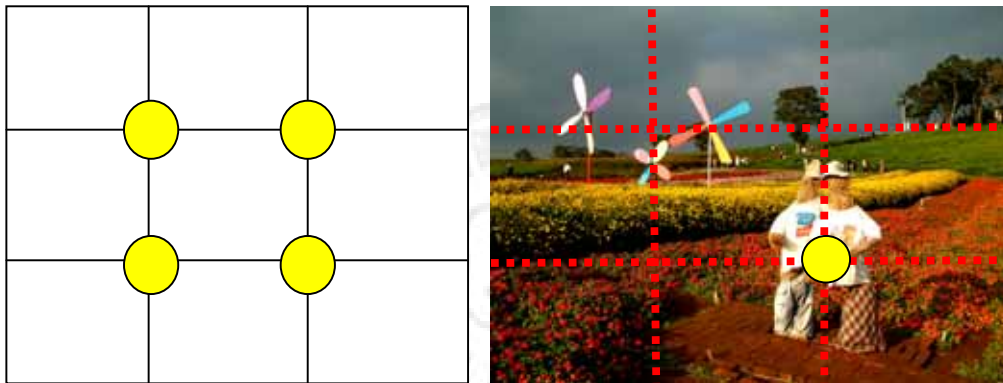


Fig. 2. The golden-section-like photographic composition.

2.3 Diagonal-like Composition (DC)

An upward line from bottom to top in the photo, i.e., a diagonal line, can make the effect for generating the tension and the feeling of liveliness or unstable to the viewer. Thus there is the visual motion effect to the main subject along the diagonal; for still subject, the esthetic sensibilities from unstable and huge (see Fig. 3).

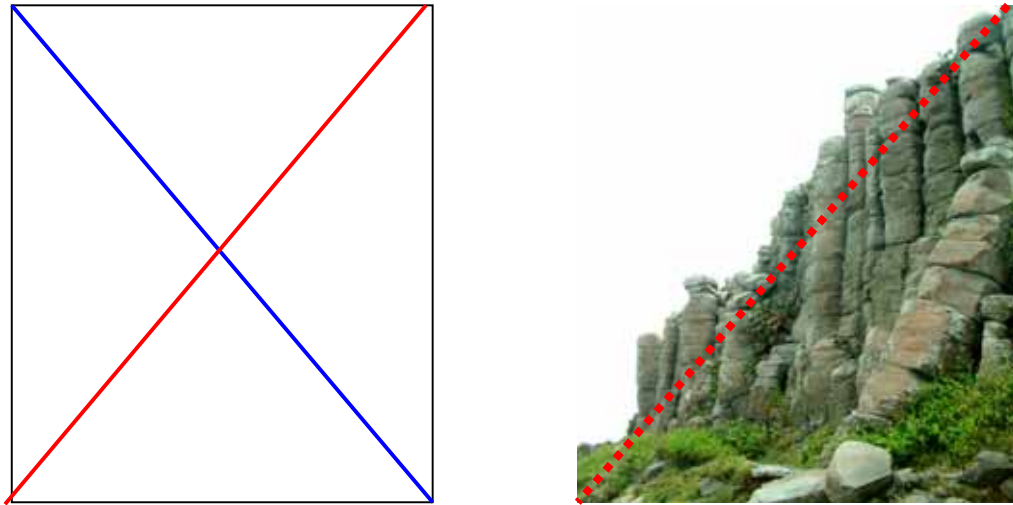


Fig. 3. The diagonal-like photographic composition.

2.4 Frame-like Composition (FC)

The composition method use an outside surrounding subject, i.e., window, door, or cave, to enclose the main subject that can be emphasized and generate a reality watching effect from outside to inside for the viewer. When the photographer locates in outside position and takes picture from outdoor to indoor, he faces the problem that the indoor subjects compared with outdoor subjects has a big lighting difference (refer to Fig. 4). The professional photographer will sacrifice the light of the outside subject as a frame to increase the visual effect about the space and the inside main subject.

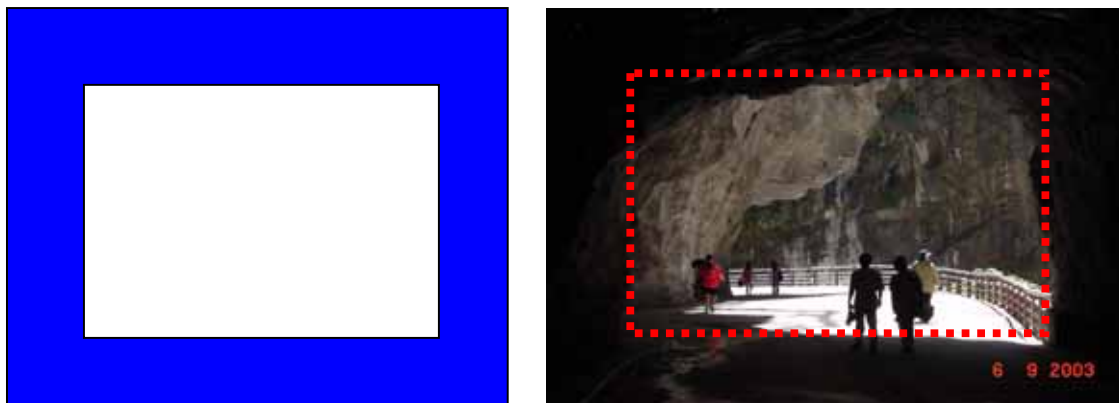


Fig. 4. The frame-like photographic composition.

2.5 Symmetry-like Composition (SMC)

As a horizontal or vertical line bisect the photo, the visual effect of symmetry and balance can be watched from two symmetric half images. In general, the professional photographer uses the mirror effect to generate the reflected image in the water, glass, or metal material thus that the main subject can be emphasized with the dramatic effect (see Fig. 5)

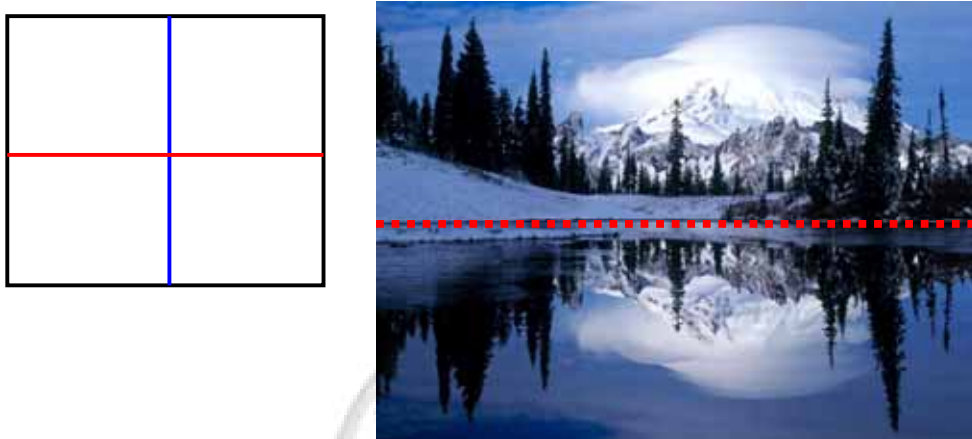


Fig. 5. The symmetry-like photographic composition.

2.6 Triangle-like Composition (TC)

The main lines and subjects are arranged with a right triangle shape in this composition that can make the visual effect of stable and harmonious (refer to Fig. 6). Thus composition often appears in the painting for describing the western mythic and religious stories. On the contrary, the main subject arranged with an opposite triangle shape has a feeling of unstable.

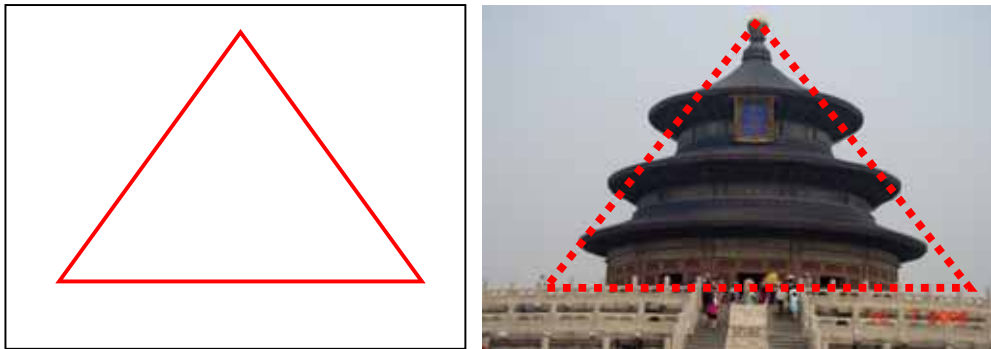


Fig. 6. The triangle-like photographic composition.

2.7 Vanishing-point-like Composition (VC)

A vanishing point, in general, is that the point in a photo at which two parallel in the scene appear to meet. The photographer locates the main subject at the vanishing point that can guide the viewer's eyes to focus on the main subject (see Fig. 7). Because this composition can make a strong perspective effect, it is adopted for lots of artificial structures, i.e., the cloister or the street.

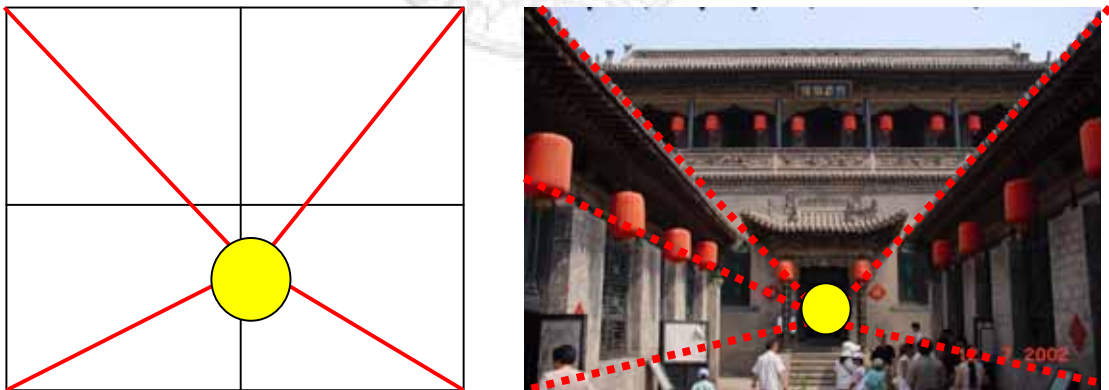


Fig. 7. The vanishing-point-like photographic composition.

2.8 Horizontal/vertical-line-like Composition (HVC)

In general, the horizontal line implies the meaning of steady that frequently appear in scenic photos for making the feeling of steady and peaceful; the vertical line implies of domination that generates the huge appearance for the tower or the tree (refer to Fig. 8).

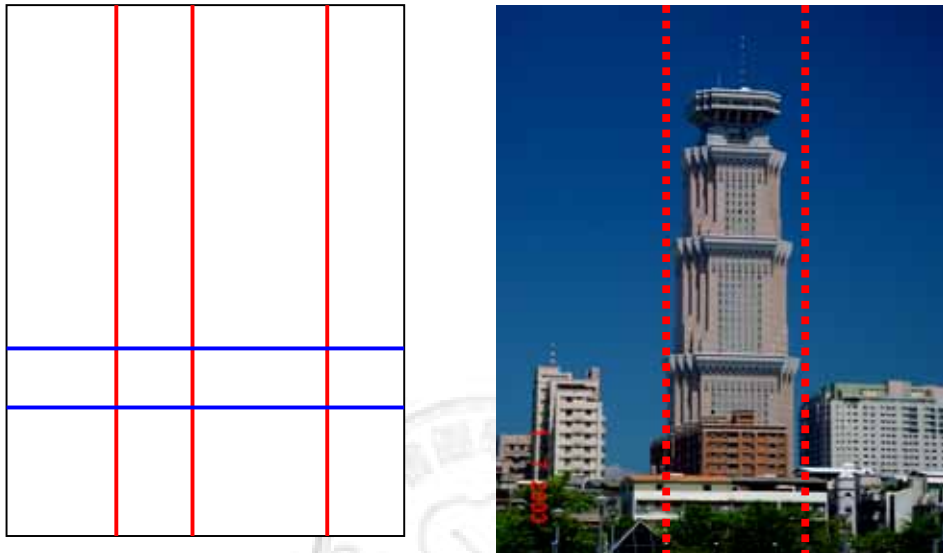


Fig. 8. The horizontal/vertical-like photographic composition.