

# PERSPECTIVE

AMBER CAMERA CLUB

APRIL 2025



Hunters Moon 2024

Susie Crossman



# CHAIRMAN'S CHATTER

The committee is endeavouring to get interesting speakers. Rose Douglas organized the January speaker to be Tim Driman, an experienced wildlife photographer.

In February, Leon van der Merwe shared his passion with us, this being flying helicopters and taking wildlife photos from them.

In March, Jill Sneesby, a long-time member of the PSSA organizing committee will judge for us but will also show her photos from her recent trip to China. Both these 2 latter activities, us ordinary folk are unlikely to ever experience.

We need to organize speakers for April to October so if any members have ideas, please let the committee know.

If we are stuck for speakers we may ask one of the judges to show some of their own pictures before tea. This was standard procedure before ZOOM in the pre-digital Dark Ages!

Jenny Kruger reports that there were 3493 entries into the Amber Camera Club salon. We will use salon money towards buying a new laptop. The current one is 12 years old, cannot update to windows 11 and soon we will not be able to update ZOOM or other software.

Jenny is recording the club evening's proceedings and judging and these large files will be put on the ACC Google Drive for two weeks. A link will be sent to members allowing you to view or listen to the judge's comments. The recording will be removed from the Google Drive after two weeks as we do not have enough space.

We have learnt from the Westville club who have stopped sending out ZOOM meeting links to members as they found that people simply stopped coming to the meeting.

We will only send out ZOOM links to country members plus those people who advise Jenny that they cannot attend.

We do prefer members to attend club evening to ensure that there is some social interaction and cross fertilization of ideas between members. I will learn to handle ZOOM meetings as soon as we are passed stage 6 load shedding! This will allow individual training and communication with members living overseas. We value these members.

My finding in obtaining experienced judges for the 6 months up to June is that none were prepared to write comments but were happy to judge via Zoom. We must just get used to this new reality although the occasional judge may still be prepared to write comments.

The Technical Interest Group kicked off on Saturday afternoon, 22 February 2025 with a PowerPoint presentation on Photo Composition for cellphone and ordinary cameras. There were 7 people present, which included ordinary ACC members with one apology for sickness.

The training went well with new members saying that they had definitely learnt something. Some members asked searching technical questions which will be handled in greater detail when moving on from the "arty" aspects of photo composition. The presentation will be repeated on Thursday morning, 27 February at 10:00 for those who prefer week day meetings. It was interesting to note at the presentation that at least 3 members get out of focus photos with a long lens, especially old, large heavy lens. The solution is that your camera speed must be at LEAST the same or greater than your telephoto setting.

For example if you are using a 400mm lens, then your speed must be at least 1/400 of a second or preferable greater. Long lenses magnify camera shake, especially at a lower speed. (This is advice from the dark ages!)

The presentation will be panel beaten into a better shape and ultimately put onto the ACC Google Drive for members to access for their own training.

I am concerned that we only have Jenny Kruger officially capable of handling the Competition Steward Job. If she is not available the club will come to a crashing halt. I ask for somebody to come forward to learn the job. It will not be necessary to actually do the job but to be trained as an insurance back up.



Happy Snapping  
Mark Preston-Whyte

# ABOUT THE CLUB

Amber Camera Club was established in 2011 by a group of passionate photographers. It has grown from strength to strength in the time it has been running thanks to a hard-working committee.

We welcome photographers of all ages and all levels to join our club in the hopes of helping them grow and creating an environment for likeminded people to meet and socialize.

There is a meeting every month - on the 3rd Tuesday of the month in the evening at the Amber Valley Auditorium at 6:30pm. Everyone and anyone are welcome to join. We also host an outing on the Saturday following the meeting to practice some photography.

If you would like to find out more information – please contact us on [ambercameraclub@gmail.com](mailto:ambercameraclub@gmail.com) or contact one of our dedicated committee members, details, of which, are below.

**Chairperson:** Mark Preston-Whyte 082 564 0729

**Secretary:** Sue Grills 073 571 4971

**Competition Steward:** Jenny Kruger 082 871 1782

**Treasurer:** Biddy Jung 072 259 3809

**Membership:** Helga Holst 076 816 6454

**Editor:** Rose Douglas 076 402 6020

**Tea:** Gill Ainslie 083 789 2642/Penny Shaw 082 564 3144

**E-mail:** [ambercameraclub@gmail.com](mailto:ambercameraclub@gmail.com)



The Amber Camera Club is proudly affiliated with the

**Photographic  
Society of South Africa**

[www.pssa.co.za](http://www.pssa.co.za)

## PROMOTIONS

Robert Forrester - 4 Star to 5 Star

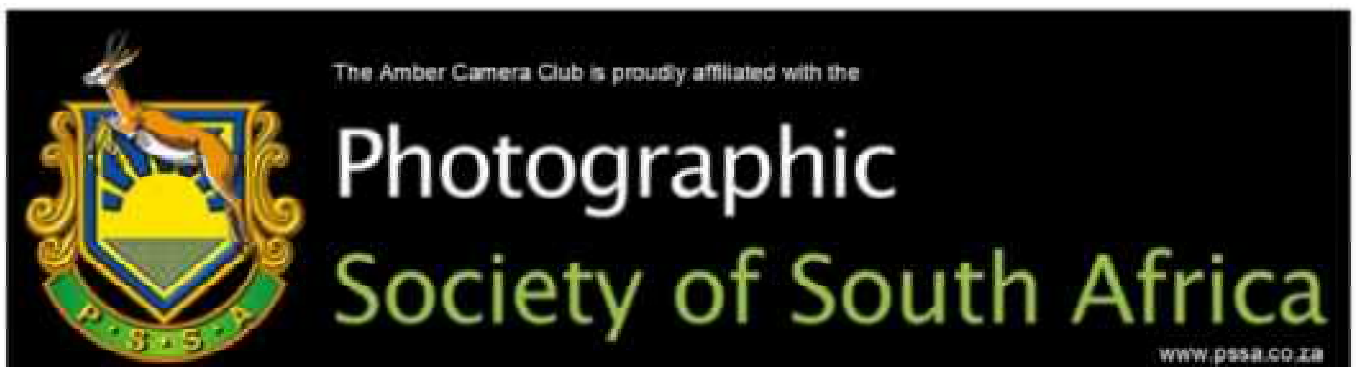
## MEMBERS WEBSITES/VLOGS/ BLOGS/UTUBE CHANNELS

Paul Bartho: [www.bartho.blog](http://www.bartho.blog)

Mark Preston-Whyte: [www.markpw6.wixsite.com/website-copy](http://www.markpw6.wixsite.com/website-copy)

Rose Douglas: U-Tube channel — Rose Douglas Explore Africa

IF YOU WOULD LIKE YOUR OWN SITE LISTED, PLEASE SEND YOUR DETAILS TO THE EDITOR.



# MARCH CLUB COMPETITION

## This month's JUDGES

Jill Sneesby - Port Elizabeth Camera Club

Charmaine Joubert - Port Elizabeth Camera Club



Junior  
Bridge Structure  
Sue Grills



Senior  
Hunters Moon 2024  
Susie Crossman



# MARCH CLUB COMPETITION

Judges Choice - Set Subject



Junior  
Through the Trees  
Julie Johnston



Senior  
Owl Framed in Tree  
Margaret Parker

# **2025 CLUB COMPETITIONS**

## **SET SUBJECTS**

JANUARY - MIST/FOG closes 1ST JANUARY  
FEBRUARY - SMOKIN' HOT closes 1st February  
MARCH - NATURALLY FRAMED closes 1st March

**APRIL - LOOKING DOWN closes 1st April**

**MAY - REFLECTIONS**

**JUNE - SERENITY**

**JULY - EYES**

**AUGUST - OLD (PEOPLE, THINGS, ANIMALS)**

**SEPTEMBER - PET PORTRAIT**

**OCTOBER - WINTER WONDERLAND**

**JANUARY 26 - MOUNTAINS**

At least 1 of your 4 entries should be entered in our Set Subject for this month, the balance may be entered in this category or across any of the remaining 5 categories on PhotoVault. If you are unable to enter anything in the set subject, you forfeit that image and enter only 3 in other categories.

NOTE: Remember to size correctly: at least one of the image dimensions must be exactly 1920px wide or 1080px high and sized up to 2Mb



# SALON CALENDAR 2025

## Calendar for year ending June 2025

No	Club	Salon Name	Closing Date
1	Nelspruit Photographic Society	Nelspruit Salon	06/07/2024
2	Edenvale Photographic Club	8th Danube Summer Circuit 2024	15/07/2024
3	Benoni Camera Club	3rd Benoni Camera Club Digital Salon	20/07/2024
4	Witzenberg Photographic Society	4th Witzenberg Photographic Society National Salon 2024	03/08/2024
5	Durban Camera Club	2nd Durban Camera Club Digital Salon	17/08/2024
6	PSSA Youth	5th PSSA YOUTH National Salon 2024	24/08/2024
7	Centurion Camera Club	8th Centurion Camera Club Digital Salon	31/08/2024
8	AV Makers South Africa	AV Makers National AV Salon 2024	08/09/2024
9	Randburg Photo Club	6th Randburg National Digital Salon	14/09/2024
10	Hibiscus Coast Photographic Society	6th HCPS National Digital Salon -2025	28/09/2024
11	Tygerberg Photographic Society	9th Tygerberg Digital Salon	12/10/2024
12	PSSA Up and Coming	PSSA 26th Up and Coming	19/10/2024
13	Krugersdorp Kamera Klub Camera Club	Krugersdorp Camera Club 19th National Digital Salon	26/10/2024
14	Springes Photographic Club	3rd SPC National Digital Salon	09/11/2024
15	Bethal Camera Club	4th Bethal National Salon	11/01/2025
16	Western Cape Photographic Forum	WCPF Salon for Projected Images	25/01/2025
17	AFO Fotografielklub	13th National AFO salon 2A25	08/02/2025
18	Amber Camera Club	ACC 3rd Digital Salon	22/02/2025
19	PSSA International Salon	PSSA National Salon of Photography 2025	08/03/2025
20	Bosveld Fotografielklub	8th Bosveld Fotografielklub Salon	15/03/2025
21	Hillcrest Camera Club	15T Hillcrest Camera Club Digital Salon	22/03/2025
22	Paarl Photographic Club	7th Paarl National Salon of Photography	05/04/2025
23	Magalies Foto Fun Club	9th MFFC DPI Salon 2025	19/04/2025
24	Southern Suburbs Camera Club	SSCC 8th National PDI Salon	03/05/2025
25	Port Elizabeth Camera Club	PECC National Salon	17/05/2025
26	Kriel Foto Club	3rd Kriel Foto Club Salon	31/05/2025
27	Bellito Photo Club	15T Bellito Photo Club National Salon	07/06/2025
28	Tafelberg Fotografie Klub	TAF 14th Print & PDI Salon	14/06/2025
29	PSSA Up and Coming	PSSA 27th Up and Coming	21/06/2025



# MIDLANDS MEANDER CATEGORIES

**Please note that we have changed the submission dates  
to allow more time to enter.  
2025**

January - Inside the Shop - Closes Mid January  
February - Working Outside - Closes Mid February  
March - Kids in Action - Closes Mid March

**April - Delicate flower - Closes Mid April**

May - Artistic Hands

June - Frozen

July - Sport

August - Pathways in Forests

September - Lost in Time

October - Natures Power

Remember 3 entries per month and the same  
guidelines  
apply with regards to sizing.

# REFLECTIONS

Reflection photography, also known as mirror photography, uses reflective surfaces to create images. The reflective surface can be natural or man-made.

How it works

- **Find a reflective surface:** Look for still water, shiny surfaces, or other reflective surfaces
- **Consider the weather:** For mirror-like reflections, choose a calm, still day with little wind
- **Experiment with angles:** Try placing mirrors at different angles or in unexpected places
- **Use different lighting:** Reflected light can improve lighting quality and create diffused light

Examples of reflection photography

- A mountain reflected in a lake
- A city skyline reflected in a skyscraper or puddle
- A self-portrait in a store window
- A reflection of a flash or LED light in someone's glasses

Tips for reflection photography

- Look for reflections in everyday objects like walls, doorknobs, and cars
- Look for reflections in nature, such as in ponds, lakes, ice, dew, or animal eyes
- Consider using a macro lens to capture reflections in dew

## 4 Tips for Achieving Beautiful Reflection Photos

### 1. Scout the Right Location

A spot with a body of water is often the go-to location for a stunning reflection image. However, if this idea feels limiting, you just have to plan ahead! Grab a mirror and set out to your desired location, or take a look around your location and search for shiny surfaces like buildings windows, or marble tiles. Even a puddle can create a mind-bending reflection image!



# REFLECTIONS

Be sure to arrive at the location early enough to check out cloud coverage and keep an eye on the sun's position in the sky and how it interacts with your shiny surface. Reflection photography is primarily about the light reflecting off objects, so these are important aspects to consider before starting to shoot. Start snapping some images of your reflective surface, and if you don't like how the light is hitting, start again in a few hours. Photographing the same location at different times of the day will yield vastly different results, and it may help you determine your favourite time to shoot!

## **2. Use the Best Equipment**

A DSLR (digital single-lens reflex) camera and a wide-angle lens are going to be your best friends when it comes to shooting reflection photos. Here is a list of top suggestions for using a DSLR camera for reflection photography:

- DSLR Camera
- Wide-Angle Lens
- Tripod
- Shutter Release Cable
- Preferred Props

A tripod will offer you stability, and the shutter release cable will allow you to maintain the focus of your image without having to click a button on the camera. Technically, any type of lens can work for reflection photography but a wide-angle lens will offer you the ability to capture the most amount of area without sacrificing the quality. Props are a great way to enhance the artistry in an image as we mentioned earlier with the mirror.

If you don't have a DSLR camera, there is no need to worry. All of this can also be done on your phone. Camera phones have made so many advancements in camera quality in a short amount of time, that you can get super high-quality images at the touch of your fingertips. Most phones now have the option to take images with a wide-angle setting as well, so you can get just as creative as you would with a DSLR with what you already have in your pocket.

## **3. Master Your Camera's Settings**

Water-based reflection can often distort images because of wind ripples on the water. Playing around with your camera settings beforehand is going to give you a leg up on the time it takes to learn them in the moment of shooting. When working with these water-based reflections, you want the landscape to be in focus, even though the reflection should be the focal point. Switch your camera into aperture priority mode with a small aperture of f/14 or even smaller if your camera allows it. Use the lowest ISO settings that will still allow for a shutter speed of 1/50 or faster, and perform fine-tuning adjustments until the desired result is achieved.

When snapping on a phone, you are able to adjust the settings by touching different focal points on the screen, and sliding your finger down to adjust the exposure settings. Take a look at your phone's camera settings and get to know what each one does ahead of time, this will allow you to know exactly what will happen if you do

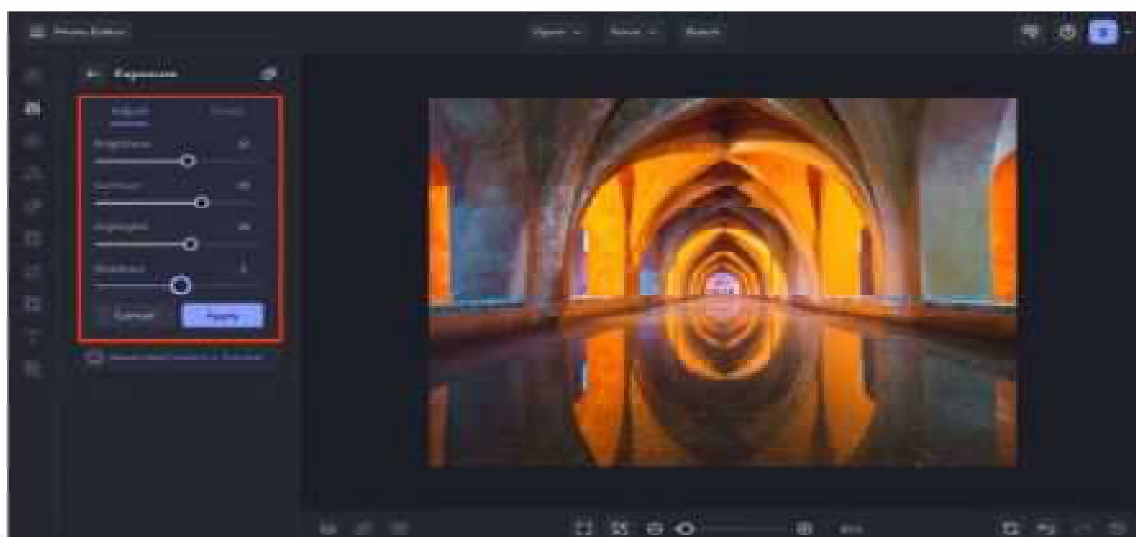
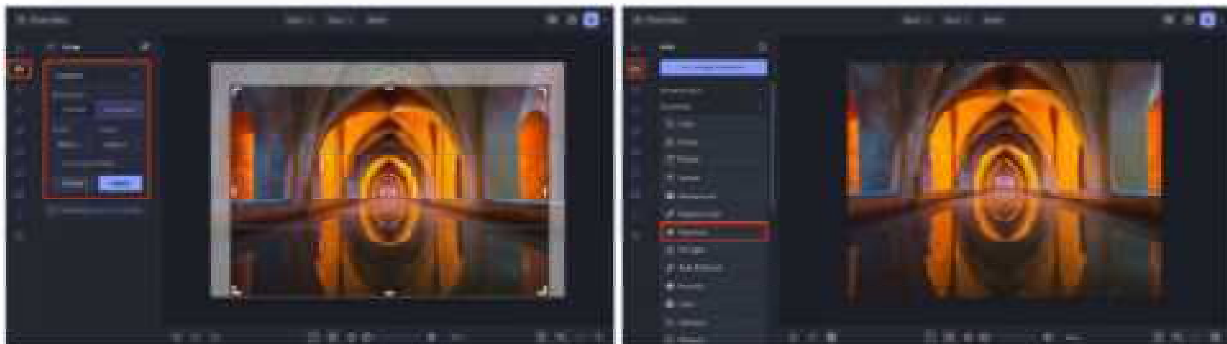
# REFLECTIONS

different things ahead of time instead of having to learn how it works while you are shooting.

## 4. Compose and Edit Your Images

The most important thing about the composition of reflection photography is that when it is done with a body of water, you want to make sure that the horizon is at the centre of the image. This will allow you to achieve the echo effect flawlessly and in accordance with the principles of design. (I will cover that in another monthly article if you like?) You can accomplish this using crop tool. Click on the **Edit** tab on the left side of your canvas and then select **Crop**. You can select the crop size from the drop-down menu, or use the Freeform option and adjust it with the guides. When you do have the desired size and composition, click the **Apply** button.

For images that don't have the lustre you remember them having when you captured them, you can adjust them with the help of adjusting the exposure. It is something that is easily adjusted and makes a huge impact on the final product of your image. Under the **Edit** tab, select exposure. This will take you to a menu of options for adjusting the settings of your exposure. When you are adjusting the settings, remember that small adjustments will make your final image one that is similar to how you recalled it at the moment. Once you have achieved the perfect balance of exposure, click **Apply**.





# TUTORIALS

## 5 Design Principles to Make Your Projects Stand Out

### What Are the 5 Principles of Design?

Depending on who you ask, there are up to twelve basic principles of design. These principles apply whether you're designing a website, an Instagram story, or a T-shirt. But the rules often overlap and can be difficult to keep track of. This applies very strongly to Photography as well.

The five basic principles of visual design are:

1. Alignment
2. Balance
3. Contrast
4. Repetition
5. Movement

You might not know the terms, but if you have an eye for design, you may find that you're already familiar with these concepts. That's because the human eye is naturally drawn to visuals that implement these five basic principles!

### **1. Alignment**

**Alignment** is one of the simplest and most straightforward principles of design. Essentially, you should align all your design elements with each other for the most cohesive look! In graphic and web design, this could mean aligning the edge of your text with the edge of an image, aligning your images with each other, or aligning everything on the centre of the page.

This principle comes naturally to most people, to the point where it can be easy to overlook. You wouldn't spare a second glance at a graphic design that's in alignment, but you *will* notice if a design is out of alignment by even a few pixels.

In this Twitter header, the images are placed diagonally, but it doesn't feel messy or disorganized. This is because the images are still completely aligned with each other.



Typically, graphic and text elements will be either left-aligned (along the left side of the page), centre-aligned (directly in the middle), or right-aligned (along the right side of the page).

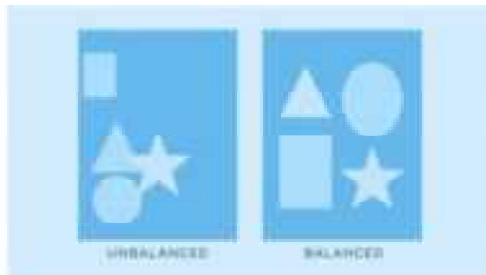


# TUTORIALS

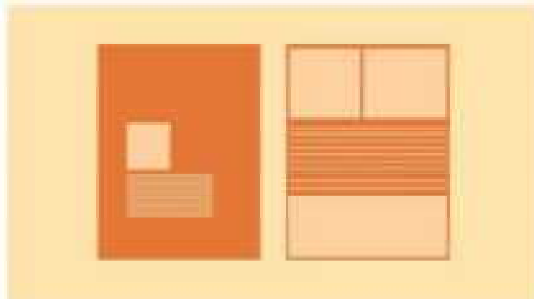
As you can see from this flyer, you can always use a combination of alignments to create a perfectly balanced design — which brings us to our next principle.

## 2. Balance

**Balance** in design means distributing visual weight evenly. A design with all its elements placed in one spot will look uncomfortable and claustrophobic. A design that is correctly balanced will have elements spread out across the page, making it easy to look at.



Balance is related to the secondary design principle of **negative space**, also known as white space. This is any area in your design where there are no elements at all. There should be a good balance of positive and negative space in your design. Too much negative space and your design will look barren, like in the design on the left. Too much positive space and it will look overcrowded, like the one on the right.



You can visualize the principle of balance easily in fashion design. Everyday clothes like pants and shirts typically have **symmetrical** balance. On the runway and red carpet, designers experiment with **asymmetry**, but their finished designs must still have both visual and physical balance. Any weight placed on one side is matched somewhere on the other side.

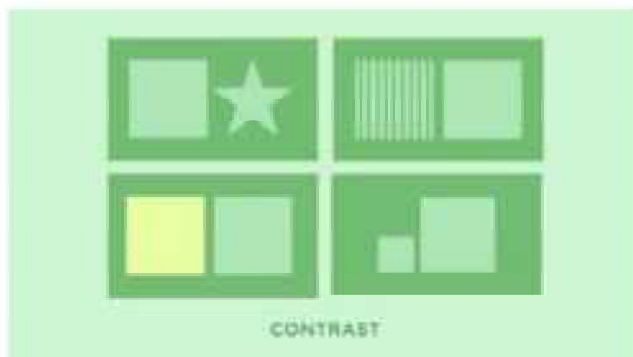


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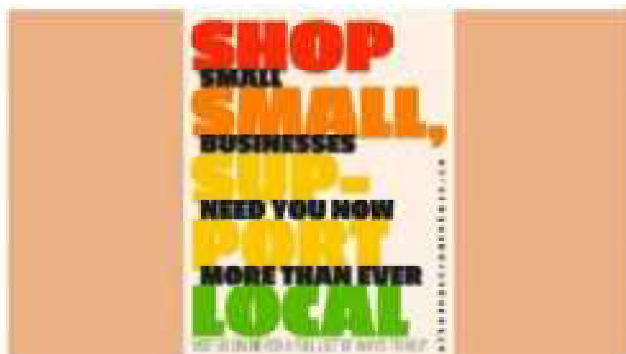
When it comes to graphic design, symmetrical balance looks neat and orderly. It can give your design a sense of competency, and should be used in professional settings or when there are large amounts of text. Asymmetrical balance comes across as more natural and organic. When utilizing asymmetrical balance, make sure you're not just haphazardly throwing elements on the page; rather, keep some elements aligned with each other.

## 3. Contrast

If you want your design to stand out and grab attention, you'll need to use **contrast**. This can be contrast between colours, shapes, textures, and more. Contrast between sizes is also known as the design principle of **proportion**.



Contrast will make your design visually stimulating. It will also help your viewer differentiate your design elements. You can use contrast to emphasize the most important parts of your design, like in this poster where size and colour are used to highlight the "Shop Small, Support Local" Text.



Contrast is also vital when it comes to accessibility. Any text in your design won't be legible unless it contrasts enough with its background. If you're having difficulty making the text visible in your designs, try using a different blend mode or adding a colour overlay to the background.

Don't forget that your design should still look cohesive. If there are too many different things going on in your design, your viewer will get overstimulated and won't be able to process what they're looking at. So, use only a few different types of contrast at a time!

# TUTORIALS

## 4. Repetition

The design principle of **repetition** is exactly what it sounds like: Repeating visual elements throughout one or more designs. This creates visual consistency and leaves an impression on the viewer.



Repetition is particularly important in brand design, where you want your audience to be able to recognize your brand at a glance. By repeating specific fonts, colours, and graphics, your audience will always be able to link that aesthetic back to your brand. Just think of Apple's iconic minimalist look or the famous McDonald's arches.

This is why successful brands curate their social media posts very carefully, including having a consistent colour palette, and why influencers are so obsessed with having an "aesthetic" Instagram Grid. It's not just about looking pretty, it's about having a strong visual identity that will be remembered and recognized instantly.

Creating a strong visual identity is also important in event design and planning. That's why you can get these wedding pieces in matching sets!



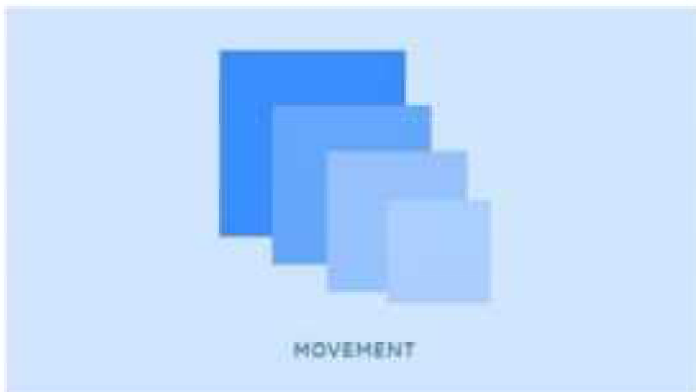
More practically, repetition helps to avoid confusion. It's important to repeat the same general page layout on a website — headers, footers, buttons, and navigation — so that your user always knows where to click. Inconsistency in fonts, graphics, and other design elements will throw your audience off track and leave them feeling dissatisfied.

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## 5. Movement

The **movement** of your design dictates where and how your viewer's eyes should travel. You can purposefully direct your viewer's eye in a particular direction using repetition, alignment, contrast, and **rhythm**, which is the spacing between design elements. You can use just one of these design principles to indicate movement, or a combination.



In English, we naturally read from left to right and top to bottom. This means that if you're designing a menu, you'll probably want to put your appetizers in the top left corner, while dessert goes in the bottom right. This natural flow should be followed in other text-heavy designs like magazine spreads and book layouts.

However, in designs that allow for more negative space, you can redirect the natural path of the eye without confusing your viewer. When it comes to infographics, slides, and other designs where there's a lot of information being presented, placing elements along a curve creates movement while simplifying flow.

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Because there are many ways to affect the movement of a design, this principle is fairly advanced. But once you get the hang of it, you'll be able to direct your viewer's eye wherever you choose!

## Elevate Your Work Instantly with These 5 Design Principles

By implementing these tried-and-true design fundamentals, you'll be able to simplify your thinking process and design with intention. You'll also instinctively know what's wrong with an off-putting design, and be able to fix it quickly instead of using trial and error. Following these principles is the simplest way to create a successful design every time!

Now I know this isn't strictly for Photography but if you have read through the 5 principles you will see that there are a lot of parallels that work in photography as well!

I hope you enjoyed this article!!



# THIS N THAT

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## Photography Cheat Sheet

ISO- Is the Sun On?  
it's like a light switch  
turn down in bright light- up in low light  
\*TRIPOD LETS YOU USE A LOW ISO IN LOW LIGHT

APERTURE- What do you want  
in Focus?  
small f stop = fuzzy background  
big f stop = more in focus background

SS- How fast do I want to  
(shutter speed) snap this picture?  
slowly because I want to let in as much light as  
possible or fast because I already have enough light  
\*TRIPOD LETS YOU USE A SUPER SLOW SS

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**LET'S NOT FORGET!!**

**MONTHLY MEETING - 15th April @1830**

Our speaker - Matt Jackson  
will be talking on Wedding Photography

**ACC WORKSHOP - 19th April @ 1400**

Mark will be talking on MONO Photography

**MIDLANDS MEANDER COMPETITION**

**Closing date Mid April**

**DELICATE FLOWER**

**MONTHLY COMPETITION**

**Closing date 1st April**

**SET SUBJECT: LOOKING DOWN**

**KZN INTERCLUB COMPETITION**

**Closing date 23rd May**

**SET SUBJECT: OUR AFRICA**

