

Architectural Photography

Heritage Ohio Annual Meeting
October 6, 2015

Dick Burry

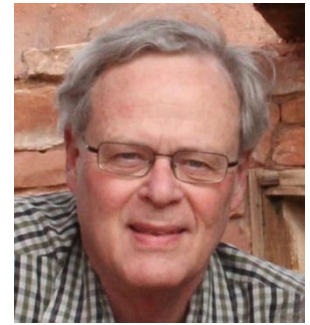
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Dick Burry email burry.1@osu.edu website
<http://burry.zenfolio.com>

Dick's Biosketch

Film photographer starting at age 12

Emeritus OSU Professor and Former Director of the Biomedical
Microscopy and Imaging Center at OSU

Exhibited in many galleries, and had a photo on front page of
Columbus Dispatch, also has three photos on permanent exhibit
in the Ohio Statehouse

Presented lectures and talks on all aspects of photography

Founder of the Volunteer Photography Group

Photography interest: architecture, landscapes, cityscapes, UrbEx

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Architectural Photography

Architectural photography should be dynamic and capture the lines, color and movement of a building to emphasize its uniqueness.

Architectural photography requires visual examination and thought.

Architectural photography is not real estate photography.

Plan for today:

Focus on taking photos. Cameras, lenses, filters, software cannot be discussed.

Talk (45 minutes)

- Examine architectural photographs

- Talk about aspects of a good architectural photograph

- Examples of the good and bad photos

Architectural Photography Walk (up to 1 ½ hours)

East High School in Denver, Colorado by Dick Burry. Built to resemble Independence Hall.



“Seeing” Architectural Photography

1. Good **composition** is putting a frame around the subject; depth is added with background and foreground to balance the building.
2. Focuses on emphasizing the interesting elements of the **building design**.
The photo should highlight design features or details and does not need to show the entire building
Show features such as patterns, lines that help define the buildings impact.
3. **Light** interacts with a building giving it color, depth and contrast.
Pay attention to the quality of light. Always observe where is the sun, what is in shadows, how is the sky looks behind the building.
4. Architecture photography must be clean and **uncluttered**; no wires, signs or distractions.

Brad Feinknopf is an award winning, nationally recognized architectural photographer living in Columbus.

<http://www.feinknopf.com/>

His photos as examples of great architectural photography.



Science and Computation
Center, Bard College
by Brad Feinknopf

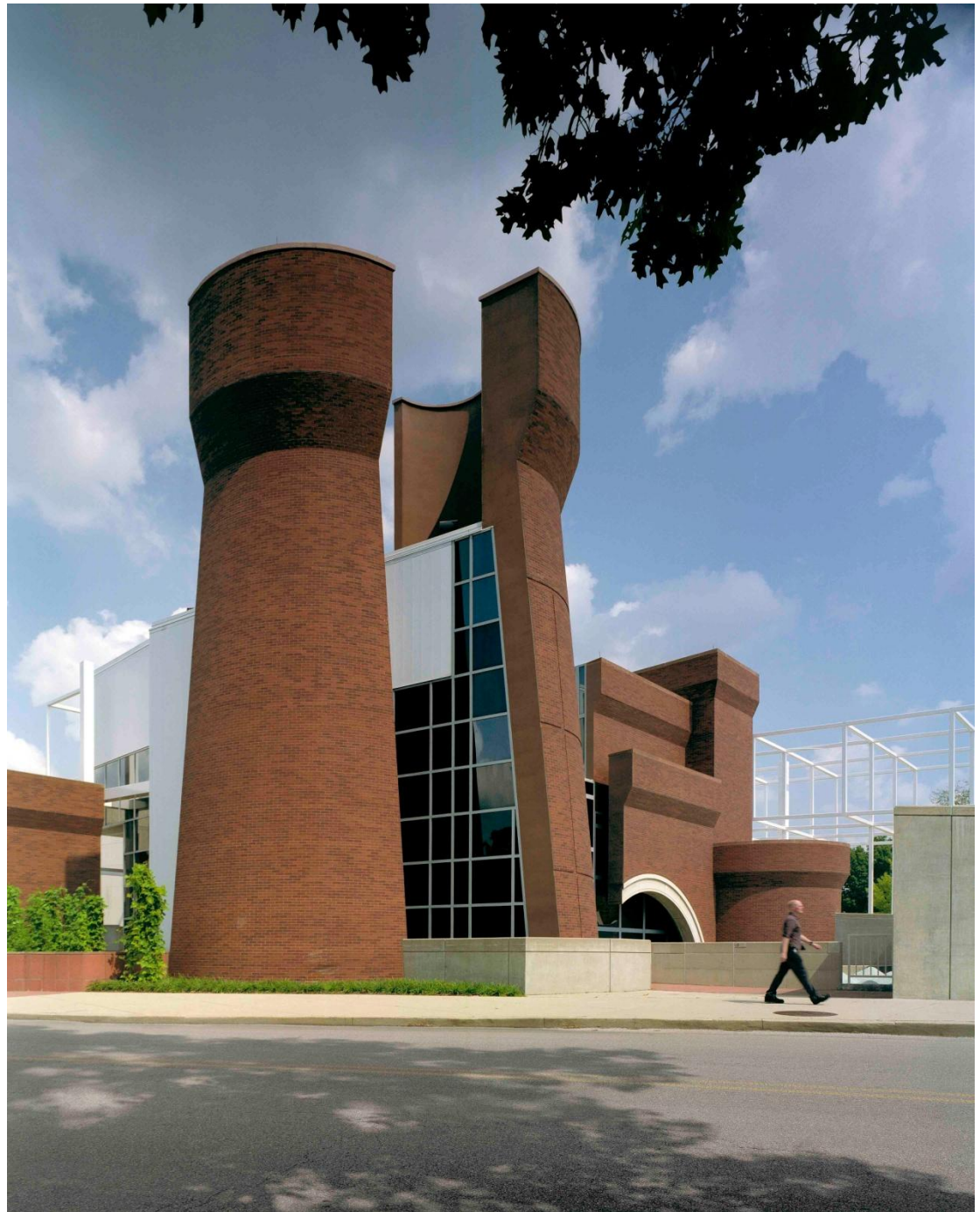
© Brad Feinknopf



John & Frances Angelos
Law Center at the
University of Baltimore,
Baltimore, Maryland
by Brad Feinknopf



Wexner Center for the Arts,
The Ohio State University
by Brad Feinknopf



Kenyon College Gund Gallery, Gambier, Ohio by Brad Feinknopf



Macy's at Kingsdale Center before closing in March 2015 by Dick Burry



Toledo & Ohio Central Railroad Station, 379 W. Broad St. Columbus, OH 43215
Built in 1895 and currently home of Columbus Professional Firefighters, Local 67.



Toledo & Ohio Central Railroad Station, 379 W. Broad St. Columbus, OH 43215
Built in 1895 and currently home of Columbus Professional Firefighters, Local 67.



Take Home List for Architectural Photos

Composition

Good position for shooting; framing the subject, lines, angles, textures, colors; depth with foreground and background to balance the building

Building Design

Unique aspects of the building; interesting building features; building history; function of the building, do not need to show the entire building

Light

Sun is the light source giving it depth and contrast; angle of shadows; best sun light is right or left of the photograph

Uncluttered

Obstructions or distractions; adjacent buildings or structures; trees; wires; people; traffic; reflections.

This is another photo that we need to analyze. What is wrong with it?

Composition
Building Design
Light
Uncluttered



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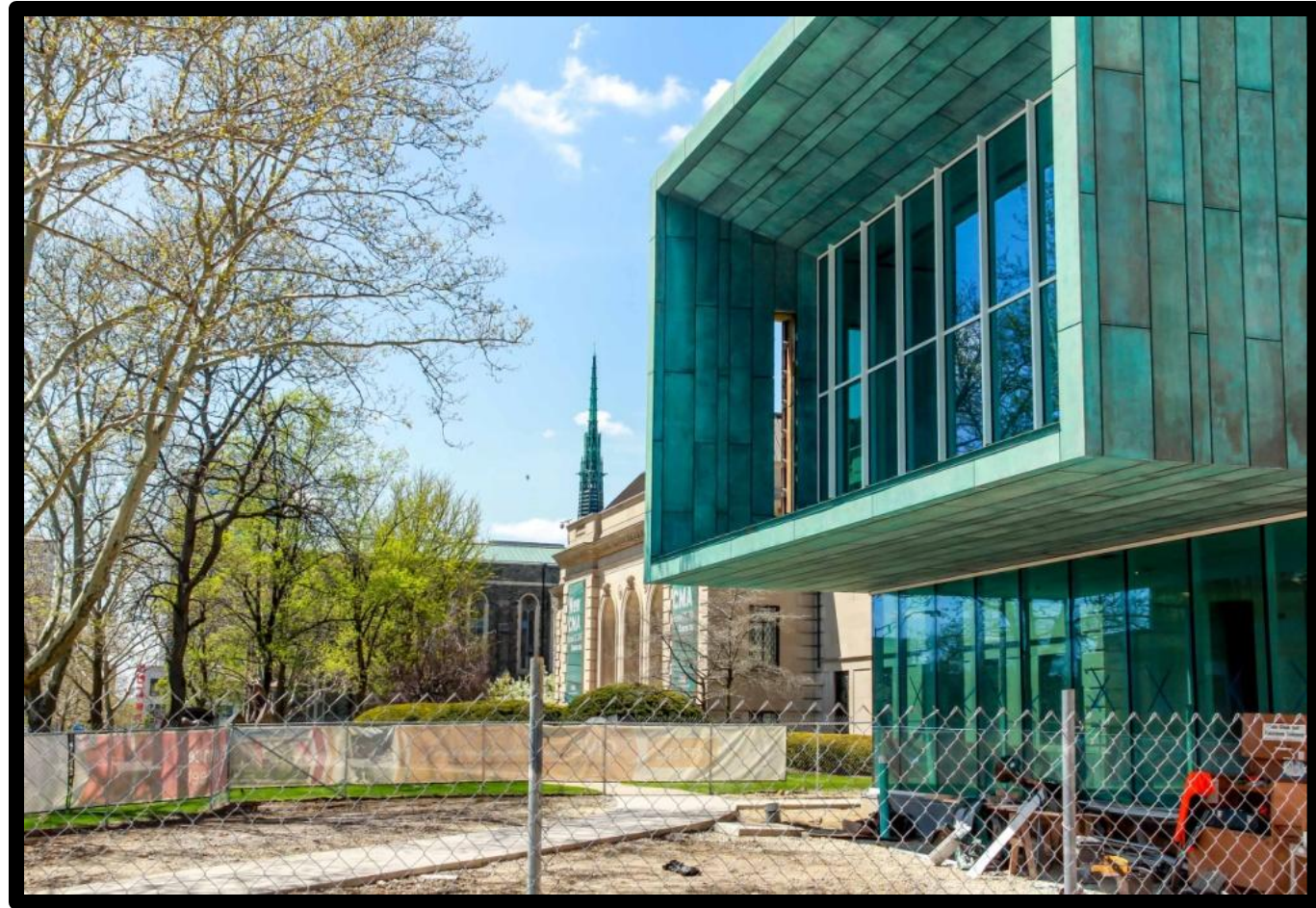
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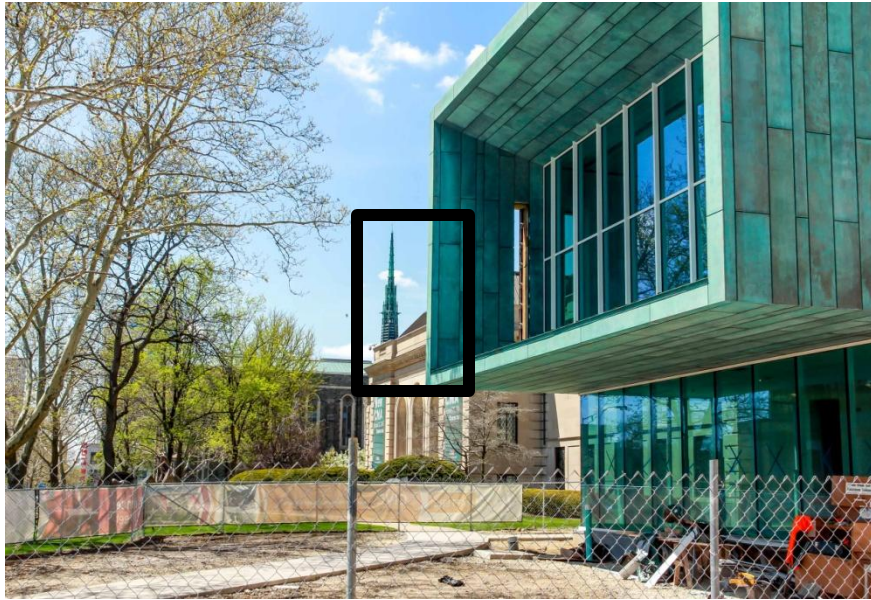
Composition

Move around until the frame shows just what you want

How to put a frame around this building?
Above the copper expansion of the Columbus Museum of Art with the copper church tower in the background. Still under construction with obstruction this is an impossible shot.



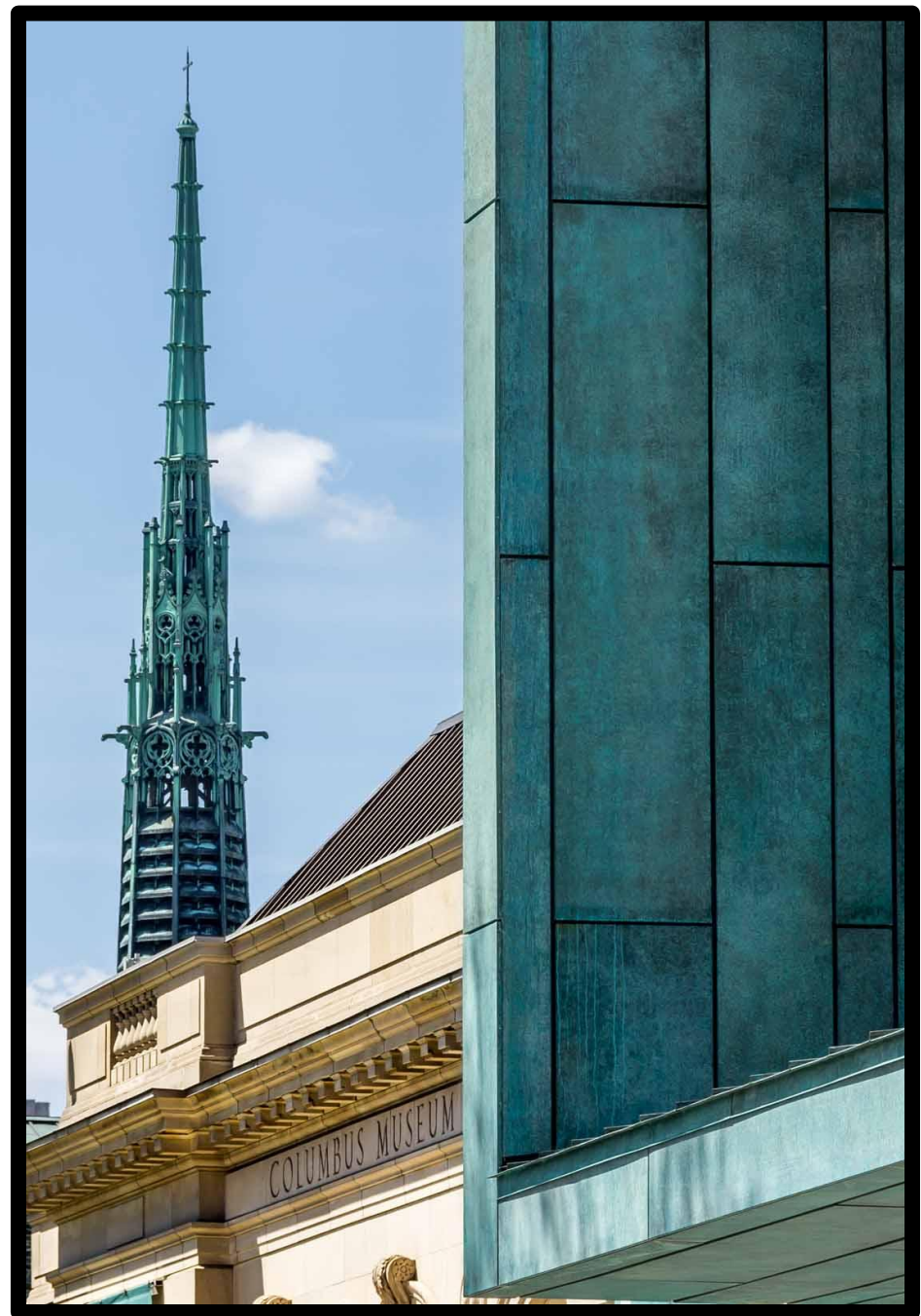
Composition



© Richard W. Burry

How to put a frame around this building?
The copper expansion of the Columbus Museum of Art picked up the colors of the copper church tower in the background. Taking another photo (right) that eliminated all of the construction forced me into a great shot.

Framing the photo is most important

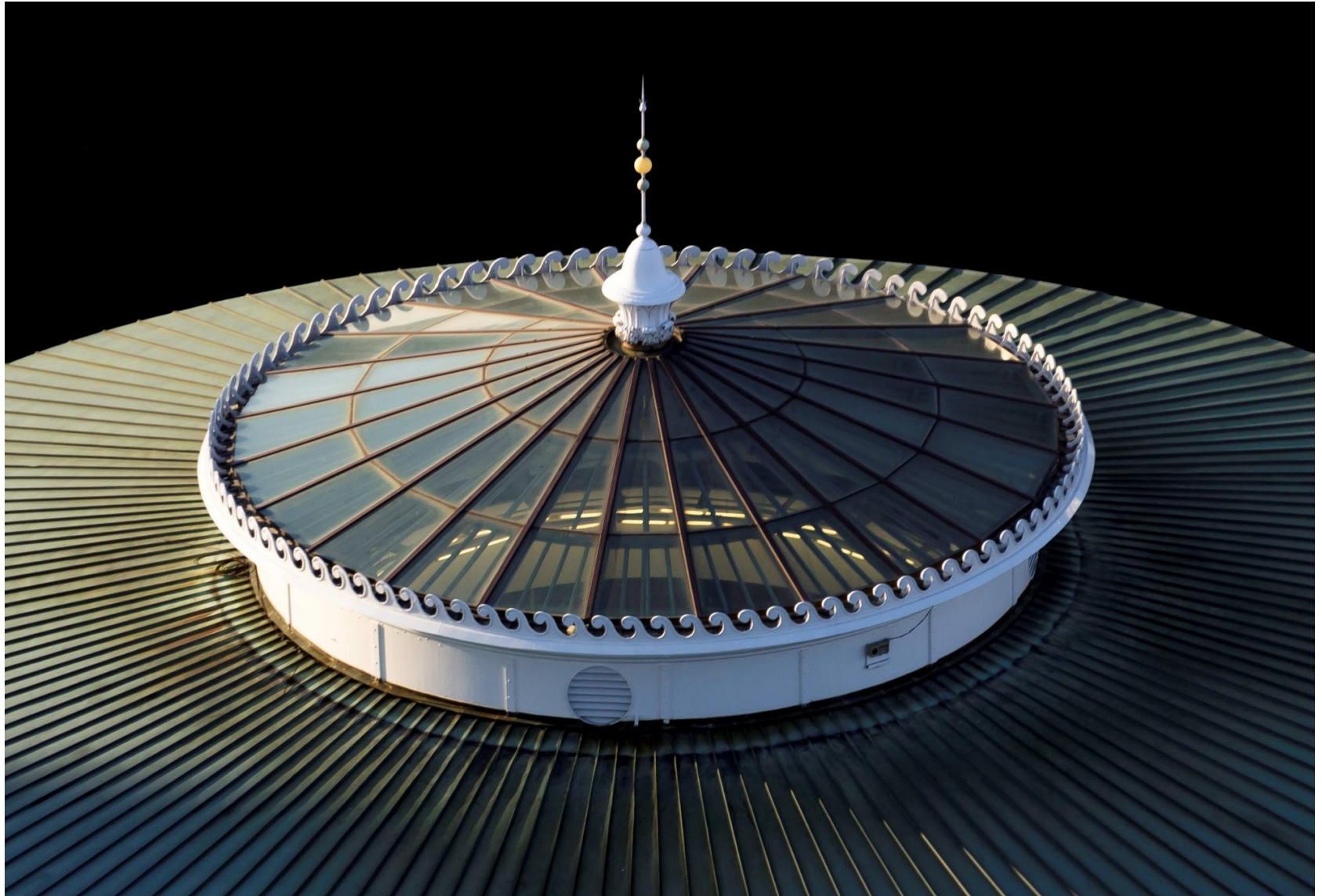


© Richard W. Burry

Composition

The top of the cupola of the Ohio Statehouse with circles and radial lines.

Look for lines, textures and colors to add interest



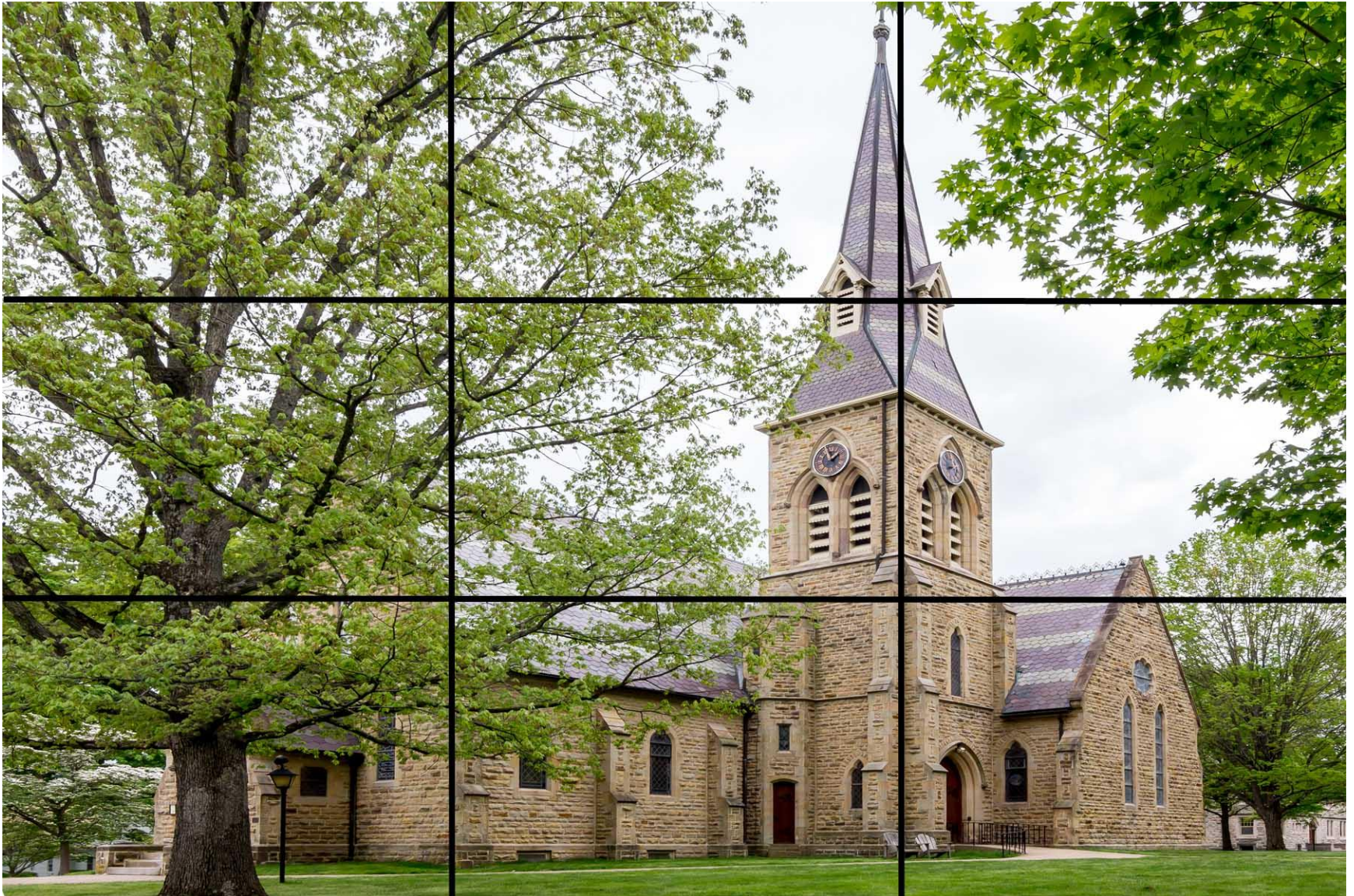
Composition

Church of the Holy Spirit, Kenyon College. *Use the Rule of Thirds*



Composition

Church of the Holy Spirit, Kenyon College. *Use the Rule of Thirds*



Building Design

Search for the most interesting part of the building

Mast House in Springfield, Ohio presents problems.

The view from the side (top photo) is clear of trees but is not interesting.

The circular tower with the great roof is lost in the rest of the house.



© Richard W. Burry



The view from the front (bottom photo) is more interesting but has too many trees and their shadows. The towers are dominate, but the lovely entry way is lost in the shadows.

© Richard W. Burry

Building Design

Use foreground elements to connect the viewer to the subject

Asa Bushnell House (Ohio Governor 1896-1900), Springfield, Ohio.

Top photo shows the “S” curving driveway and brings the viewer into the house.



© Richard W. Burry



Bottom photo shows more of the front of the house. While showing more of the house, this photo lacks the draw into the house of the top photo. This is an example of visual elements in the foreground that will make a big difference in architectural photos.

© Richard W. Burry

Light

Take photos on sunny days

The advantage of direct sun
(Photo on the right >).

A great sense of depth

Strong saturated colors

Great intensity and contrast

Blue sky with lovely clouds



© Richard W. Burry



The disadvantage of no direct sun
(Photo on the left <).

Building seems flat

Colors seem muted

Little contrast within the building

Sky has no interest

Plan to shoot only on sunny days.

© Richard W. Burry

Light

Keep the sun at right angles to the line of shooting

Sun is the light source giving it depth and contrast; angle of shadows.

This building, Robbins-Hunter Museum, Granville, OH, is north facing and will never have the sun shining on its front. These photos were taken in early morning; top photo looking to the west, and bottom photo looking to the east.

In the bottom the sun is behind the building. The top photo taken at right angles to the sun has contrast, shadows and depth.

Rule: have the sun to your right or left but not in front of you or behind you.



Uncluttered

Distraction draws the viewers gaze

Great shot of Shelter Island Heights, NY except for the utility wires.



Uncluttered

Frame unique elements to remove distractions

Cars in front of this building to be remodeled distract from the before shot (right).

Moving closer the two shots below are on either side of the car. The problem below left is the wide angle lens is not wide enough. Below right looks good.



© Richard W. Burry



© Richard W. Burry



© Richard W. Burry

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1. Ohio Statehouse, 2. LeVeque Tower, 3. Ohio Supreme Court Building, 4 Bicentennial Park, 5. Center of Science & Industry (COSI), 6. Toledo & Ohio Central Railroad Station, 7. Topiary Park , 8. German Village south of the freeway. * The Westin Hotel



Take Home List for Architectural Photos Composition

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Good position for shooting; framing the subject, lines, angles, textures, colors; foreground/background

Move around until the frame shows just what you want

Look for lines, textures and colors to add interest

Use the Rule of Thirds

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Unique aspects of the building; interesting building features; building history; function of the building

Search for the most interesting part of the building

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Architectural Photography Walk

The assignment is to take photos of five buildings:

1. The Westin Hotel, 310 S High St
2. The Main Bar, 16 W Main St
3. 170onthePark, 170 S Third St
4. Capital Square Sheraton Hotel, corner of E State St and S Third St
5. Ohio Statehouse, S High St and E State St

Each building has its unique challenges and interesting aspects.

The map shows the location of the buildings and the path for the walk.

The meeting hotel is the Westin and the first photo will be of this historic building from across the street.

