

Three-Point Perspective

Art & Design

The third vanishing point, and why verticals start to converge.

When the picture plane is tilted rather than upright, vertical edges converge as well. The third vanishing point sits far above or far below the horizon.

THIRD POINT
above or below

VERTICALS
converge

- Looking up: the third point is high above the horizon.
- Looking down: it sits far below the horizon.
- The nearer that point, the more extreme the tilt.
- Verticals are no longer vertical on the page.
- One- and two-point assume an upright picture plane.
- A shift lens removes this convergence in photography.

LOOK FOR IT

Standing at the foot of a tower, its sides lean in towards a point somewhere in the sky.

Three-point is not more correct than two-point. It answers a different question: whether you tilted your head.