

Hope Tsai
ARCH 153
Professor Carey

Visual Analysis Paper

In this photograph, a blue expanse of sky dyes the background. In the center of the landscape, a sturdy edifice looms above every other structure in sight. The edifice's morphology resembles a pyramid; the four separate legs at the base combine in the middle, before ascending towards the sky. The surrounding trees and buildings look short in comparison, and the people appear as small as ants. Through the use of structured sections, straight lines, and nearly uniform color, this edifice demonstrates vertical symmetry.

Firstly, this edifice is divided into three sections, which are separated by large "rings" that surround the structure. The rings protrude, and almost look like wide, railed platforms that one can stand and walk around on. They are perfectly horizontal, and divide the structure into three sections; the section closest to the ground is the widest and shortest, while the topmost section is the tallest and narrowest. The middle section smoothly bridges these two, so that each one transitions to the next in a single line. The smooth, connected nature and order of these sections naturally draw the eye from the ground towards the sky. If the edifice is split down the middle, then the left half is exactly the same as the right. More specifically, the rings move horizontally across the structure. If the rings had moved diagonally instead, then the edifice wouldn't demonstrate vertical symmetry.

Secondly, this edifice consists mainly of straight lines. Straight metal rods intersect each other to create numerous triangles and diamonds, and much of the structure is dominated by these orderly, straight lines. However, as the eye moves towards the base, it lands upon a round

arch that frames a white building behind the edifice. Nearby, green trees in parallel lines draw the eye towards the edifice. Though uniform in color and trimmed to be identical in shape and height, the trees' shape is not rigid nor straight. Instead, the shape is smooth and round, much like the round arch at the bottom of the structure. This roundness appears in sharp contrast to the rest of the edifice. On the other hand, the meticulously cut grass has a uniform, light green color, and parallel lines of darker green race towards the pyramidal structure. The blades of grass appear to be the same height, and their rigid straightness brings a sense of completion. The entire environment is vertically symmetrical, even as some structures are round while others are straight and flat.

Thirdly, there is very little variation in the color of this structure. Instead, the sturdy metal is almost entirely coated in a matte light brown. While the color lightens from the bottom to the top, the darkest shade is just slightly darker than the lightest. The only other variation is a muted green hue which appears three times in the topmost section; if one looks closely, there appears to be green nets that surround a part of the section. The hue is so muted and neutral that it blends in with the light brown. In addition, it's important to note that the light brown lightens from the bottom to the top, not from side to side; at the same time, the green hue spans the section horizontally, just like the rings that separate each section. It's nearly impossible to gauge how old this structure is, because there are no signs of aging or rust on the metal. After all, uneven, unintentional dark spots of aging paint or rust would disturb the otherwise vertical symmetry.

In conclusion, through nearly uniform color, straight lines, and structured sections, this edifice perfectly demonstrates vertical symmetry. It is not horizontally symmetrical, for the base is wider than the top; if split horizontally, then the two halves wouldn't match. With such a tall

structure, only human efforts can maintain this symmetry. Indeed, rust must be fixed, and parts of the edifice must be repainted once natural elements (such as rain and harsh winds) take their toll. However, human effort is not solely restricted to this edifice. On the ground, the trees and grass are diligently trimmed to maintain a sense of order and symmetry. Though the edifice may appear simple, the simplicity and symmetry is what makes it such a satisfying structure to behold.