

# Symmetry in Boston: Tunnel Vision

By Amanda Brown



CGS RH103 DD Boston Walk

The View from the Ornamental Bridge  
in the Boston Public Garden

There are several things to factor in when considering what makes a scene or a photo aesthetically pleasing. Of course the subject of the piece must be engaging, but another aspect of photography that can frame a subject is symmetry. Symmetry can help to direct a viewer's eye to the center focus of a piece. In the photo taken from the walking tour video, Professor Henebry voices over a clip from the ornamental bridge in the Boston Common, looking West toward a statue of George Washington. He points out the way symmetry helps create a satisfying view. The trees which line the walkway, creating a symmetrical path, create an essence of importance leading up to the statue. As a person passes each set of trees, the statue gets larger and this greatly celebrated historical figure is revealed in more detail. The photo which I have taken and used for this project comes from the Gardner Museum, located in Boston as well. In the same way that the sidewalk in the Commons creates a balanced image, through the arch here there are perfectly matched flowers and shrubberies leading to a decorative sort of alter. Although both of these photos employ the same framing style, there are a few differences in the way the technique was utilized. While in the first photo, the symmetry is meant to create a tunnel leading towards a grand spectacle, the museum photo creates a much more cohesive picture. Since the symmetry was established using ornate flowers, these factors draw the eye and in a way they themselves become a part of the subject of the photo. Both applications of symmetry are suitable and can be used at different times in order to fulfill an artists vision.