

How to Get the Shot

Revealing the secrets behind
unforgettable photography

Blog #121: Ascending the Buckminster Fuller Dome



Sometimes the most memorable photos come at the end of a shooting sequence, just as you are ready to leave.

On an online tourist site from Miami, I came across the Miami Design District which bills itself as *“a creative neighborhood & shopping destination dedicated to innovative fashion, design, art, architecture & dining”*.

The image that caught my photographer’s attention was the Buckminster Fuller’s architectural dome called *“Fly Eye”*.

Commissioned and designed by R. Buckminster

Fuller, the monument attained its current form after its original architect's demise. The dome which exists today has been constructed in accordance with the prototypes devised by Fuller before his death.

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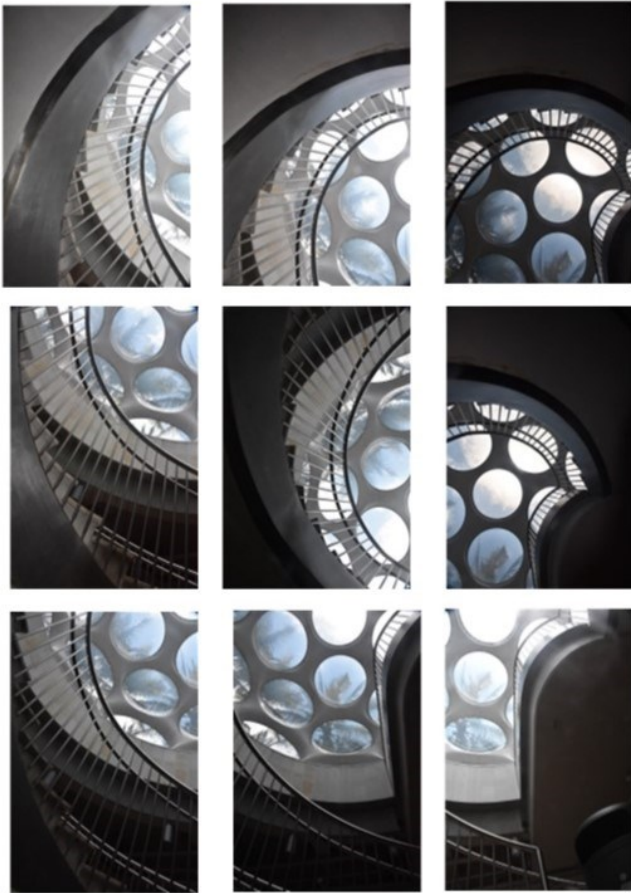
Buckminster Fuller's Dome: "Fly Eye"
Photo: Phillip Pessar

I had been capturing images of large building landscapes using a technique of "photo merging" where I take a series of photos and then merge them into a single image, and that is what I intended to capture from inside the dome.

Here is the merged image I captured:



I left the dome and headed back down to my parking space in the basement of the building and that's where I saw an unusual site for an industrial parking garage: a spiral staircase! Going to the staircase and looking up, I was shocked



to discover that the spiral staircase was a direct entry point into the Buckminster Fuller Dome above!

Laying on the floor of the parking garage and looking up, I was able to see the image captured in my photo entitled, *“Ascending the Buckminster Fuller Dome”*.

Capturing the image required a series individual shots taken in sequence with overlapping images that were then merged into a single photograph.

Series of photo merged to create the final photograph

TAKEAWAYS

1. When you are done photographing the photo you came for, look around for interesting variations.
2. If you see something unusual (like a spiral staircase in a parking garage), check it out! It may lead to fun images to capture.
3. Don't be afraid to get on the ground and shoot up to capture a shot not commonly seen by others.
4. Experiment with photo stitching for wide images not easily captured with a standard photo exposure. My free *“Photo stitching 101”* guide is available on the Studio Steve Photography website.