

# Preface

In creating this book we followed the Chinese adage according to which a picture is worth a thousand words. We believe that our interest in symmetry accompanies our lives; ever since as a baby we discover for the first time that we have two hands even though we may not realize the similarity and difference between our right and left hands right away. We live in a world of symmetries in which the absence of symmetry may be as interesting and often more important than its presence. Our reference point is usually symmetry, and being aware of it makes it easier to recognize its absence and various imperfections. We have been consciously interested in symmetry for about four decades and started collecting images of symmetry and its conspicuous absence from the time our children were born because at that time photography became part of our daily routine. Over the years, we have developed an awareness of symmetry that has helped us notice and recognize many beautiful and instructive patterns that we might have missed otherwise. The awakening of this awareness is what we hope to share with our readers.

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