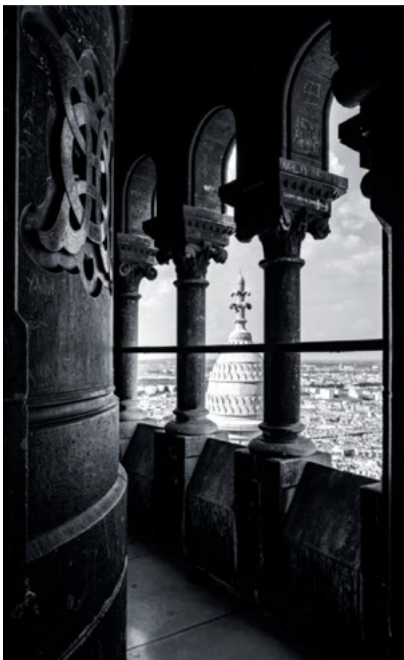




Flip & Planetize

Flip & Planetize

In this lesson, I'm going to provide you with some actions that will allow you to reflect your images in various ways and then distort them in order to create some interesting, abstract images.

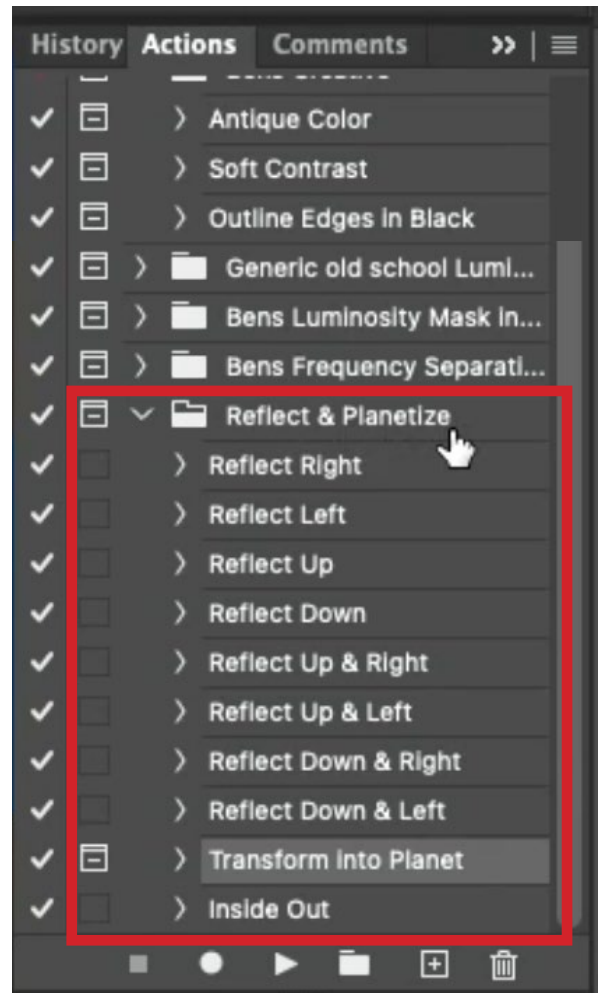


Here are some before-and-after examples that demonstrate what the actions will do to your images.

Download and load actions To start, you will need to download the actions from the lesson page and then load them into Photoshop. The file will be in a zipped format, which means you will need to double-click on it after downloading in order to expand its contents. Then, double-click on the unzipped file to load the actions into Photoshop. Note that it won't tell you that anything happened. Photoshop will simply come to the forefront on your screen, letting you know the actions have been loaded. You can find them within the Actions Panel, at the bottom of the action list. If the Actions Panel is not visible on your screen, you can access it by clicking on the Window menu and choosing Actions.

Note: If, for some reason, the actions are *not* loaded after double-clicking on the file, you can manually load them by clicking on the little menu in the top right corner of the Actions Panel and choosing Load Actions from the pop-up menu. You'll be prompted to navigate to the downloaded file on your hard drive (the unzipped version).

The actions will all be contained within a folder called "Reflect & Planetize." You will see there are several options. They all reflect and distort your images in different ways. To run an action, simply click on it in the Actions Panel to select it and then click the little triangular Play button at the bottom of the panel.

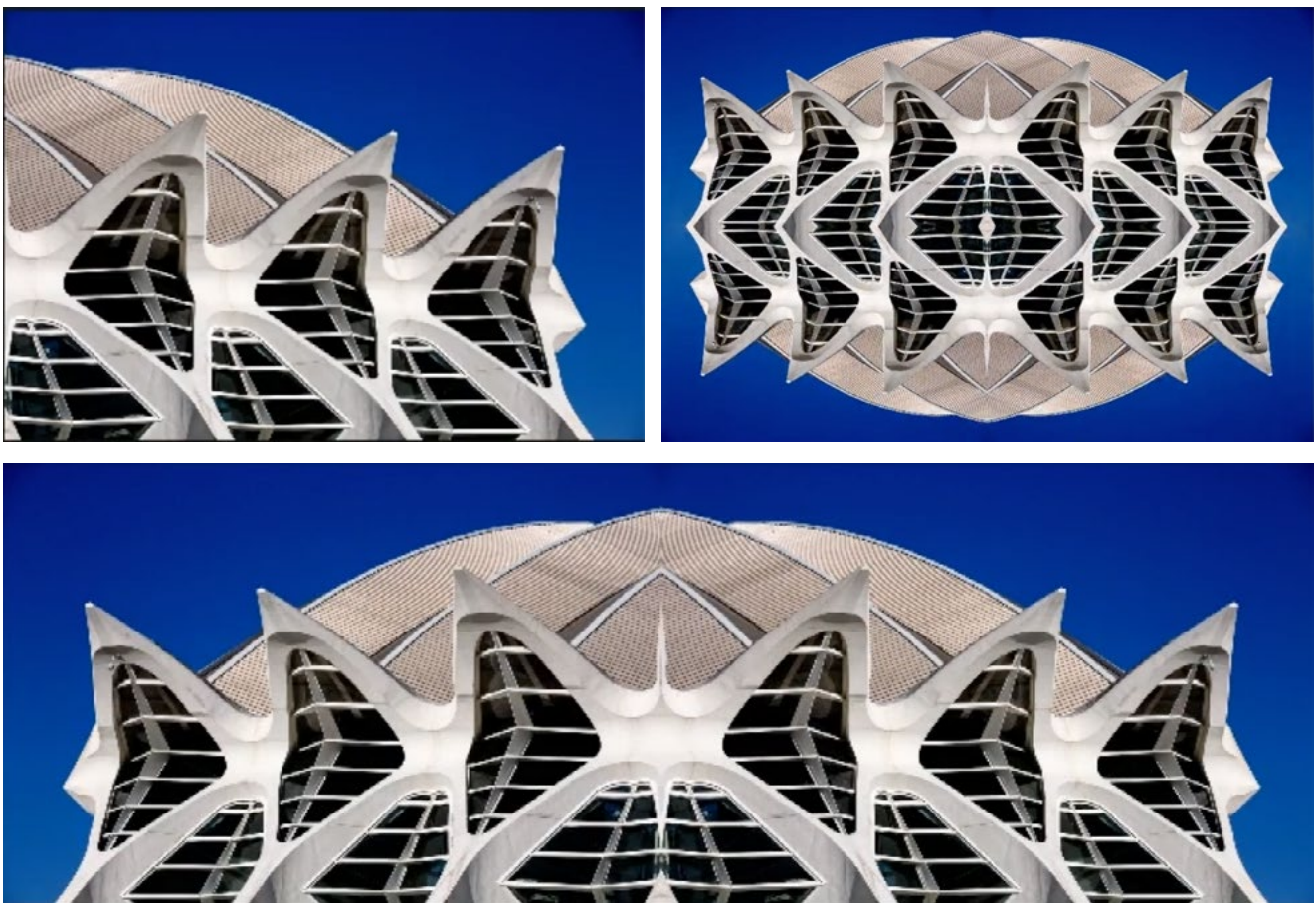


After the actions have been loaded, they will appear at the bottom of the Actions Panel.

The Reflect Actions

The Reflect Left action will copy the layer, flip it horizontally and move it over to create a horizontal reflection. The Reflect Down action will copy the layer, flip it vertically and then move it downward to create a vertical reflection.

Some of the actions will reflect the image twice. For example, the Down & Left action will reflect the image downward (vertically) and then to the left (horizontally). This would basically be the same thing as running the Reflect Left action and then running the Reflect Down action.



TOP LEFT: The original image

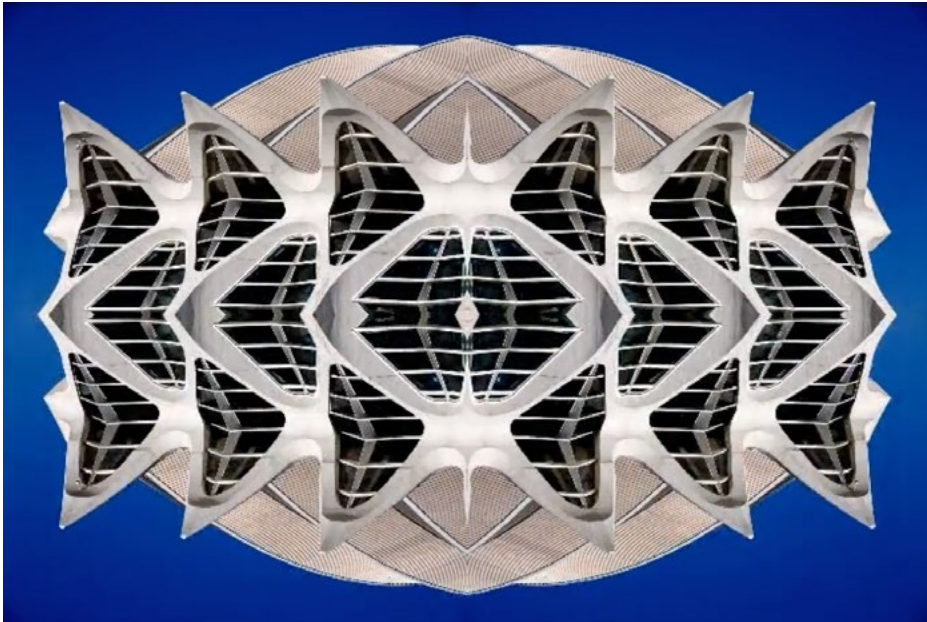
DIRECTLY ABOVE: The Reflect Left action was run on the image.

TOP RIGHT: The Down & Left action was run on the image.

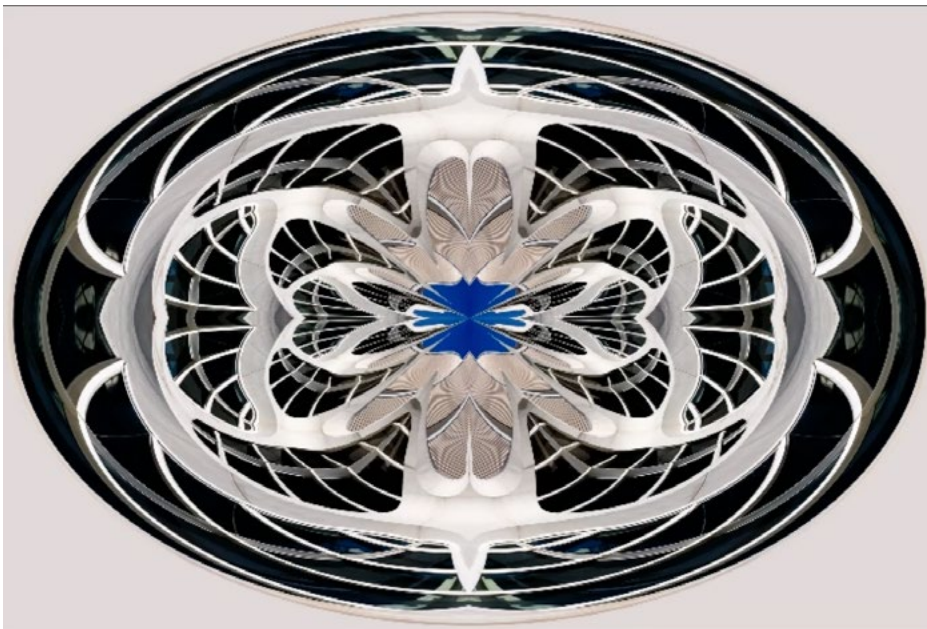
The Distort Actions

The two actions that will distort the image are called Transform into Planet and Inside Out.

The Inside Out action will take whatever is on the outside edge of the image and flip it so that it becomes the inside of the picture. Whatever is on the inside of the picture will end up on the outside edge.



This is the image after it was reflected left and then reflected down.



The Inside Out action was run on the above image.

Transform into Planet action will create that “tiny plant” sphere style look on your image and it will work best when you have an image that is in the horizontal orientation and where the right edge perfectly lines up with the left edge. This would be the case for a landscape image because the horizon would line up.

After hitting the Play button, the action will pause at the “Pinch” step. The Pinch dialog will appear and the Amount slider can be used to determine how strong the distortion will be. The setting that’s already dialed in should be fine for most images, but you may want to play with the setting to see how it affects your particular image. Click OK when you’re satisfied and the action will finish running.

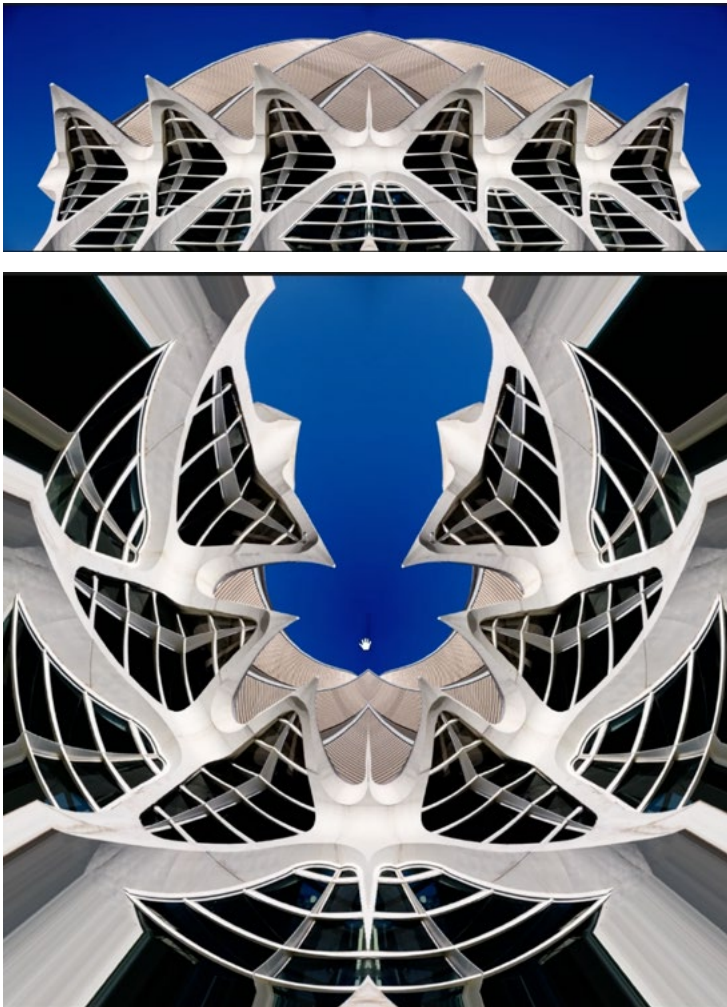


The original image is shown at left. It was flipped vertically and then rotated 90 degrees so that the result was in a horizontal orientation. Then, the Transform into Planet action was run and you can see the result here.



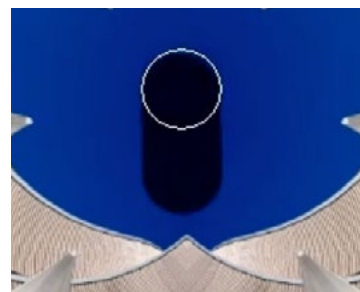
When running the Transform into Planet action, the action will pause when the Pinch dialog appears. Here, you can adjust the Amount slider before clicking OK to finish running the action.

Before using the Transform into Planet action, you can decide how the result will look by controlling what is on the edges of the image. This can be done by rotating the image or using one of the other actions to reflect the image first. Keep in mind that whatever is on the top edge of the image will be the outside of the “planet.” Therefore, you could rotate the image to change what’s on the top edge and therefore change the result.



The Transform into Planet action was run on the above left image to get the result shown directly above. Then, that same image was rotated 180 degrees so that the sky was on the bottom. The Transform into Planet action was then run again, which produced the image shown at left.

After running this action, you may need to retouch the seam line that runs down the center of the image. I like to use the Spot Healing Brush for this.



The Spot Healing Brush is being used to retouch the seam that ended up in the center of the image.