

I share with readers the tips for capturing two architectures in the same photograph so that neither one of them becomes too big nor too small even if they are not next to each other. We describe how we can capture two important landmarks located in Central, namely, International Financial Centre (IFC) and Bank of China Tower (BOCT) and offer a solution of this architecture photography problem in two steps: What photograph-taking spots we should choose and where to locate these suitable spots out.

To find a suitable photograph-taking spot, we should first find the height ratio of the two buildings (the height of IFC to that of BOCT is 1.31308:1). The photograph-taking spot should be chosen with the ratio of the distance from the IFC to that from BOCT approximately equal to 1.31308:1 so that the two right-angled triangles are similar to each other and the angles between the horizontal and the line joining the spot and the top of the buildings are approximately equal. These two equal angles will be preserved when the light enters the lens of the camera and fall on the focal plane of the lens. As a result, the heights of the two buildings look equal in the photograph.

To locate these photograph-taking spots, we need a geometric fact: if a moving point maintains a fixed distance ratio from two fixed points, its locus is a circle known as an Apollonius Circle. This offers us an easy way to locate these spots. We need to locate a point on this circle (with the ratio of the distances of the two buildings equal to the height ratio) with a clear view of the two buildings and the images of the two buildings will look approximately equal in height in the photograph.