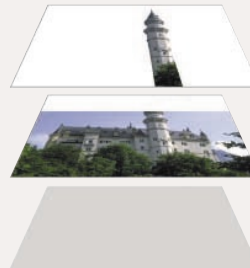# Fascinating stick-outs

Here's a cropping technique that's always intriguing to look at—leave part of a photo sticking beyond its border. This is an excellent way to break up the boxiness of rectangular images, eliminate dead space, and emphasize height, motion or depth.

Cropping is how a designer "recomposes" a photo to heighten its impact. Here, cutting excess sky lops off the tower. Solution: trace carefully to preserve the tower— and create a fascinating point of interest.

Background color: C5 M5 Y5

TO MAKE A STICK-OUT PHOTO

(Above) In Photoshop, open a photo, duplicate its layer, then erase unwanted portions from the duplicate. Now crop the original photo; recrop if necessary. To place over a background color, create and drag a new layer to the bottom of the stack and fill with any color.

Above, even tiny stickouts like heads and toes help convey the sense that these people are the center of our attention rather than trapped in a carton.

Below, stickouts add motion and depth to still action shots. Be sure to feather around soft shadows or they'll look artificially scissored.

AMERICAN HONDA / DAN R. BOYD