DEPTH OF FIELD
DEPTH-OF-FIELD AND FOCUS

SMALL apertures (BIG NUMBER) maximize the depth-of-field.
DEPTH-OF-FIELD AND FOCUS factors

• Aperture (f-stop),
• focal length
• focus distance

The DOF defines a zone around the chosen focus point where objects appear to be sharp.

Beyond the (floating) border of this zone objects get blurry.
DEPTH-OF-FIELD AND FOCUS - Isolation

Only the main subject is in focus while everything in front or behind the focus plane becomes blurry and therefore virtually unimportant.

Use to isolate the object in focus from the environment around it.
DEPTH-OF-FIELD AND FOCUS – Isolation

In a small depth-of-field, the focus of the object often helps to reinforce the “story” that the photograph is intended to tell.
DEPTH-OF-FIELD AND FOCUS - Isolation

A small DOF is a common technique for portrait photography.

Usually it is quite difficult to find the right balance between people, that are chosen to be the main subject, and their environment.

A sharp background is often distracting.
DEPTH-OF-FIELD AND FOCUS

A small depth-of-field can separate a subject quite easily from the surrounding.
But sometimes there is no option because:
1. Of very long focus distances
2. Or, to include a sharply focused environment in the scene because the foreground and background doesn't contain any disturbing objects.
In this case, the bath-tubs are the naturally isolated by?
DEPTH-OF-FIELD AND FOCUS - Perspective

Wide focal length: 28mm

The four trees have an equal distance between them. At the wide setting it seems that this distance increases towards the foreground. The background seems to be far in the distance. Perspective is exaggerated.

Natural view: 50mm

The perspective is much less extreme and more correct. We can guess that the distance between the trees is roughly the same.
Revealing Eye in Digital Photography

**DEPTH-OF-FIELD AND FOCUS - Perspective**

100mm lens

The trees group here with a seemingly small distance between them. The enlarged background suddenly moved towards foreground. The scene is compressed.

200mm lens

Effect increases more. Trees seem to be on the same distance plane. Background may be blurry (due to the small depth-of-field) and seems to be a few meters away.
Compressed photos works best when depicting patterns or rhythm in a photo where depth of field is not much of concern.
To enhance depth, we can use the effect of layering of foreground, middle-ground and background.
Which photo has more depth and why?