

Image Editing with Photoshop

When working with images (photographs, renderings, etc) for a presentation, portfolio or website it is often necessary to make adjustments to them. Photoshop is the proper program to use for this purpose.

In Photoshop, open an image file to work on. Along the right side of your screen, a list of tools should be visible. Go to the Window menu and select History - notice that this pops out of those docked tools. You'll want to become familiar with these tools and their functions, primarily Layers and History.

Note that you can expand this dock so all tool palettes are visible. From the View menu, also turn Rulers on.

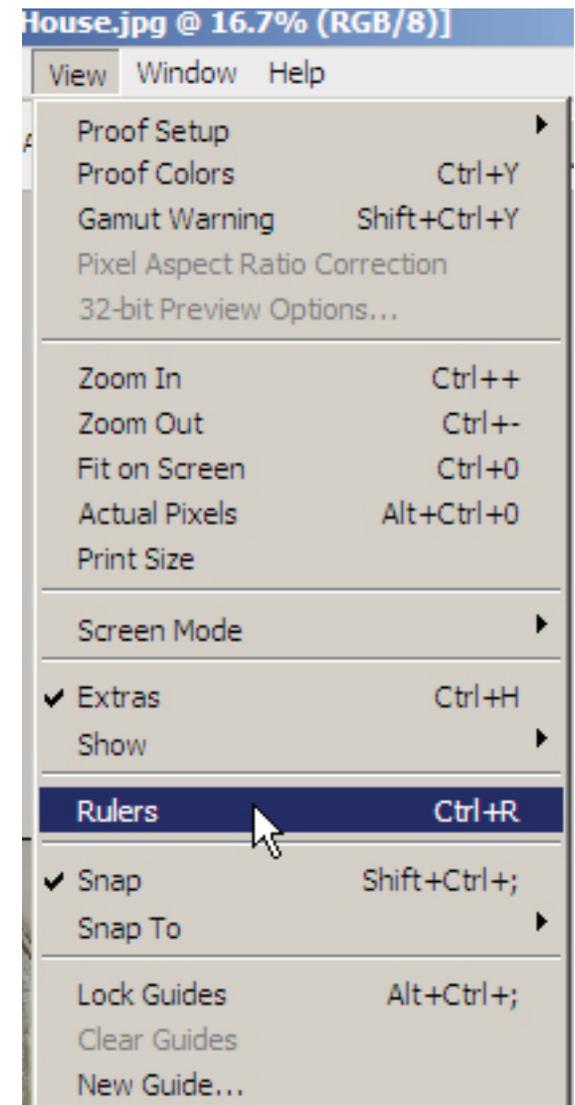
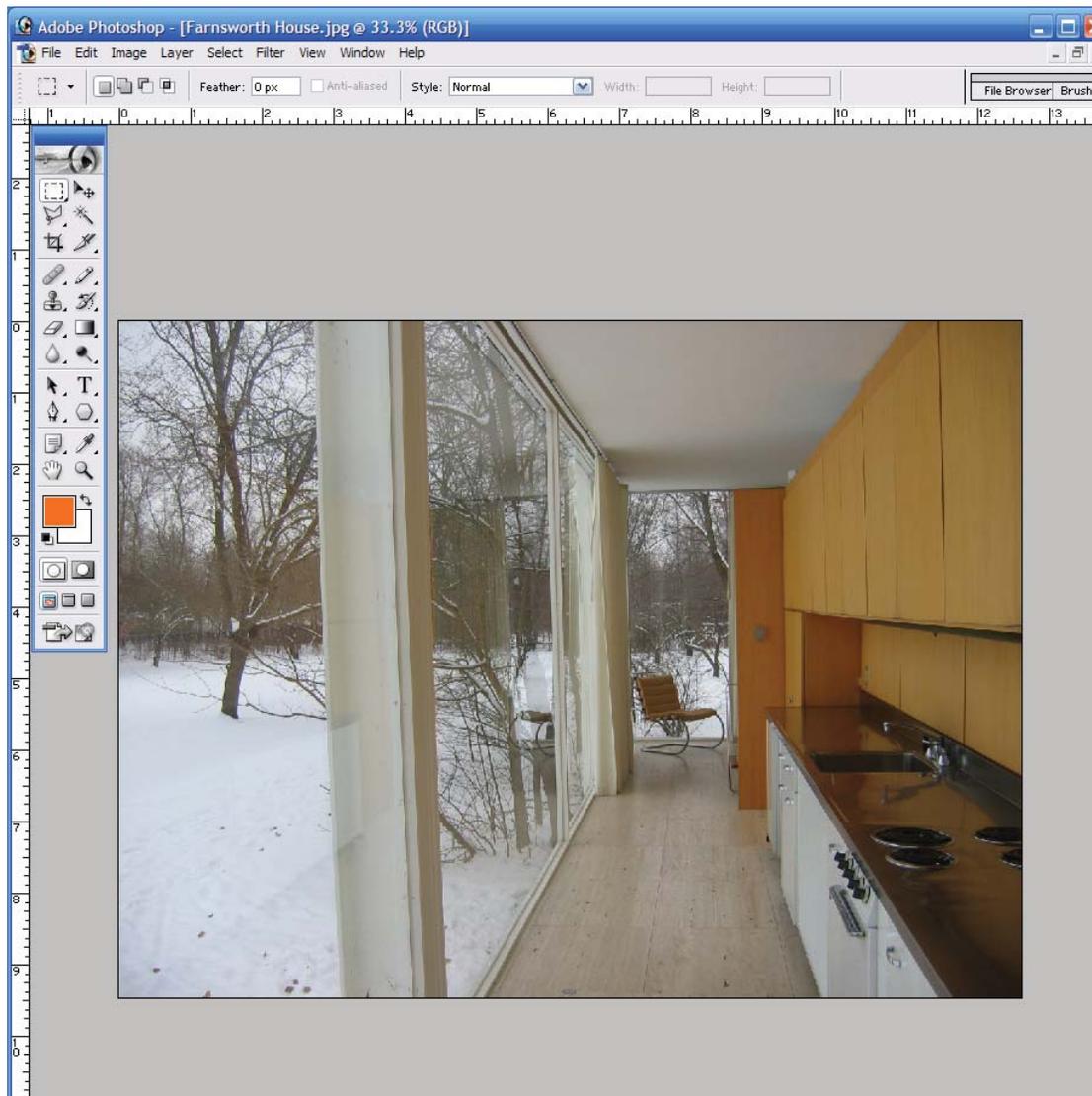
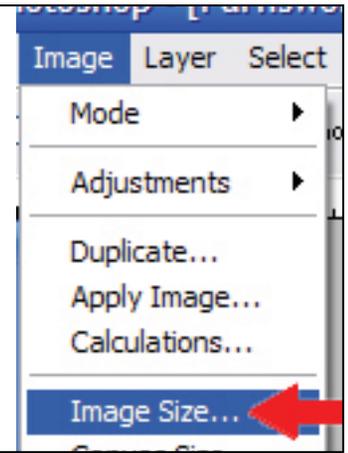


Image Size

When editing images that will be printed, it is important to know the image resolution.

Minimum print resolution is 300dpi.

Although many printers can print higher resolution images, the difference in quality is often negligible because of the paper quality that is commonly available. Check and adjust your image resolution by opening the Image Size window from the Image menu.

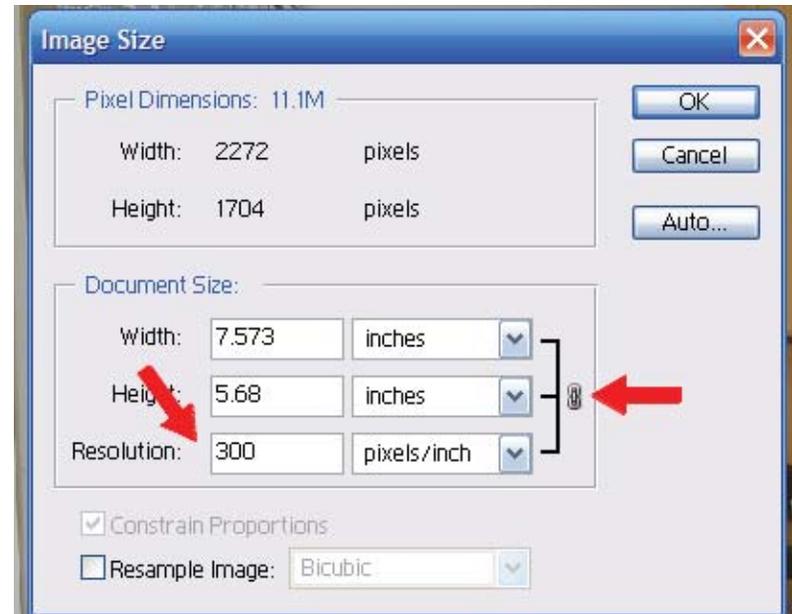
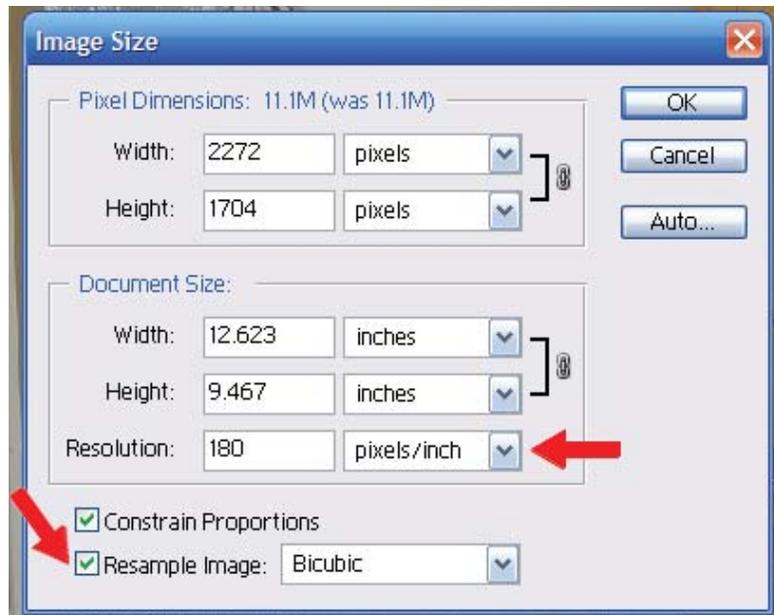


Digital cameras have Image Resolution adjustments - the settings shown below (left) are from a digital camera.

Before adjusting the Resolution from 180 pixels/inch (dpi), select "Resample Image."

This will Constrain the Proportions of the image so that maximum dpi can be obtained without distorting the image.

The image on the right depicts a Constrained Image. Manually type 300 into the Resolution box.



Now, when inserting images such as this into your portfolio, you know that the maximum image size possible with the best print quality is 7.573 inches wide by 5.68 inches high.

Click OK to make the changes.

History

1. Select History from the Window menu. Notice that the last manipulation made to your image is shown in this window. By selecting that action (in this case, Image Size) and dragging it to the trash can on the lower right of that window, you can delete a previous action.

The image that is visible is your "Background." You may elect to copy it and work on a duplicate image to prevent mistakes. To do this, select all, copy and paste. (ctrl+A, ctrl+C, ctrl+V)

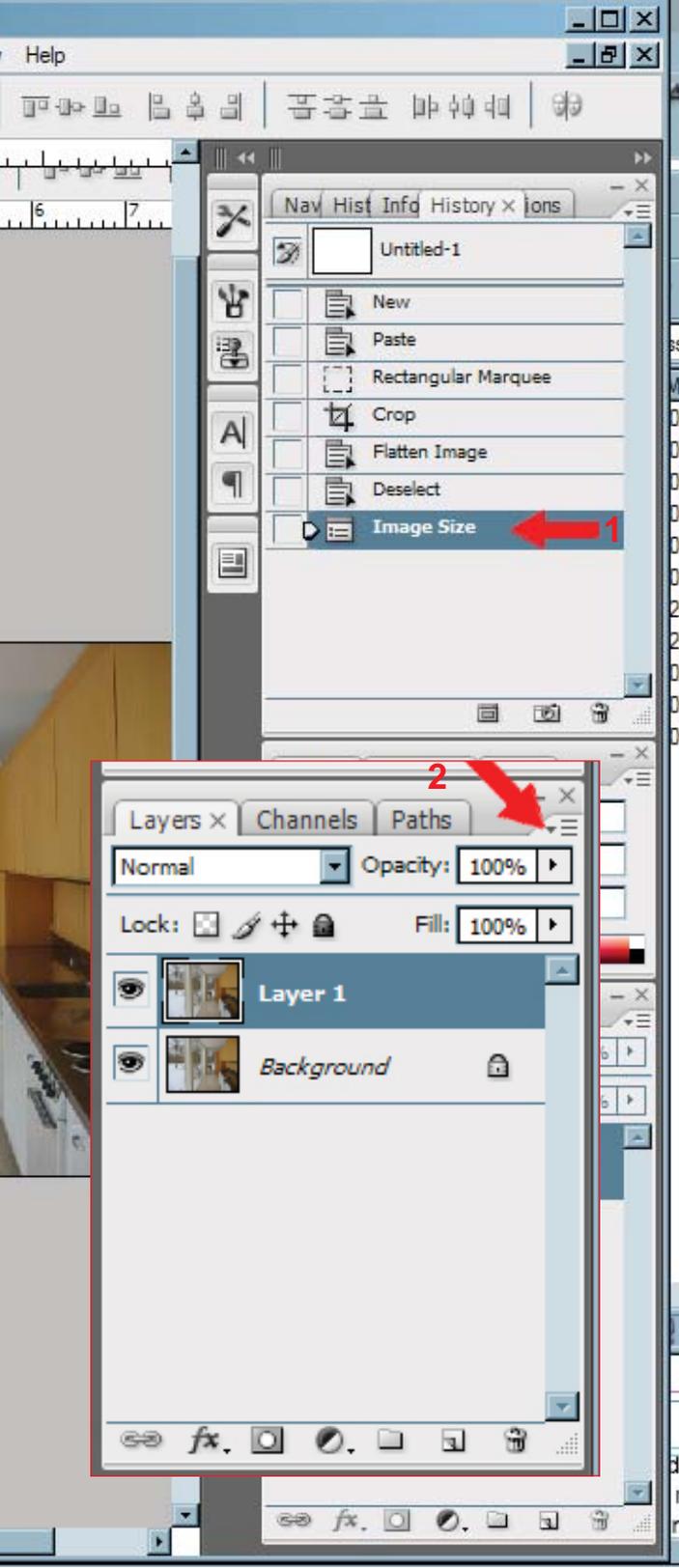
Notice that a new layer appears in the Layers window tab at left. Or, simply double-click within "Background" to retile the layer to work directly on this image.

2. Arrow 2 = Add a new layer. We'll address this function later in the tutorial.

3. Select the arrow tool (Move tool) from the tool bar on the left side of your window.

Create guidelines on your image by clicking-and-holding on the ruler and dragging the guideline across your image.

Use these guides to help determine horizontal and vertical alignment of images. Turn guides on and off: **ctrl ;** (semi-colon)



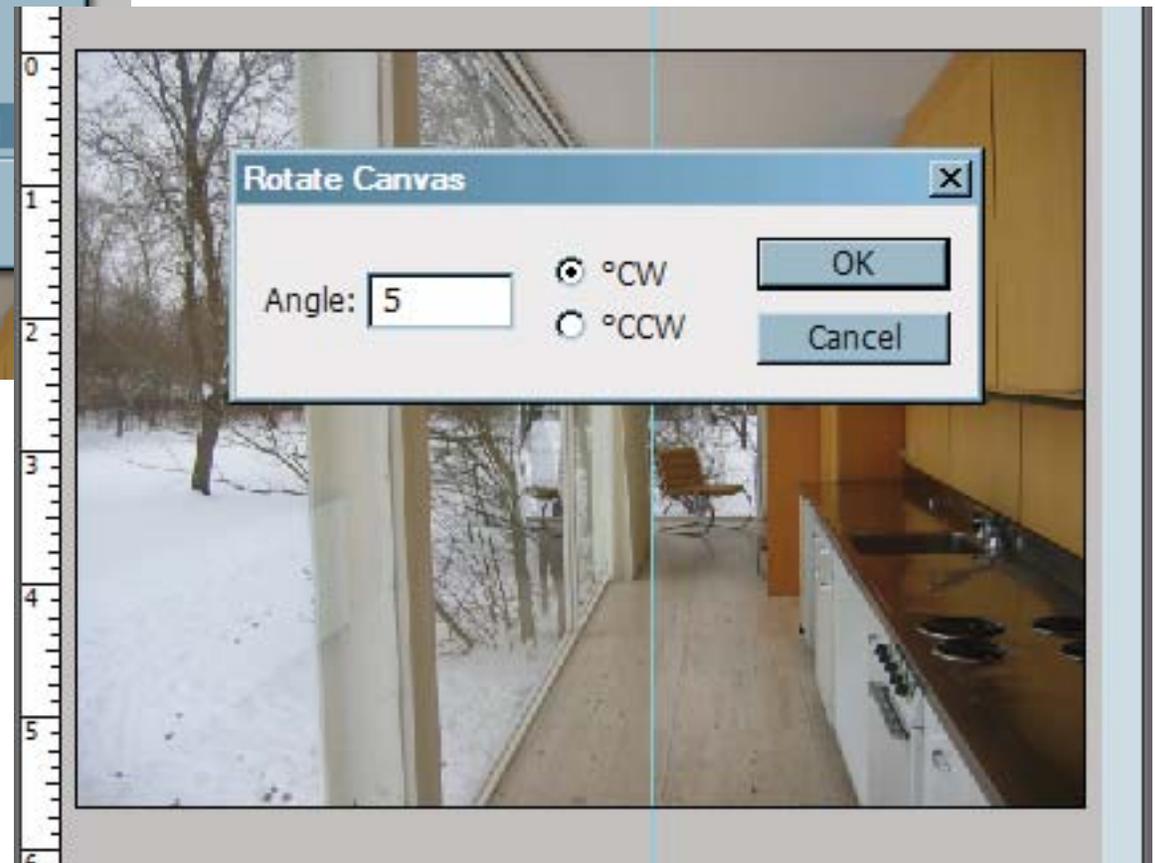
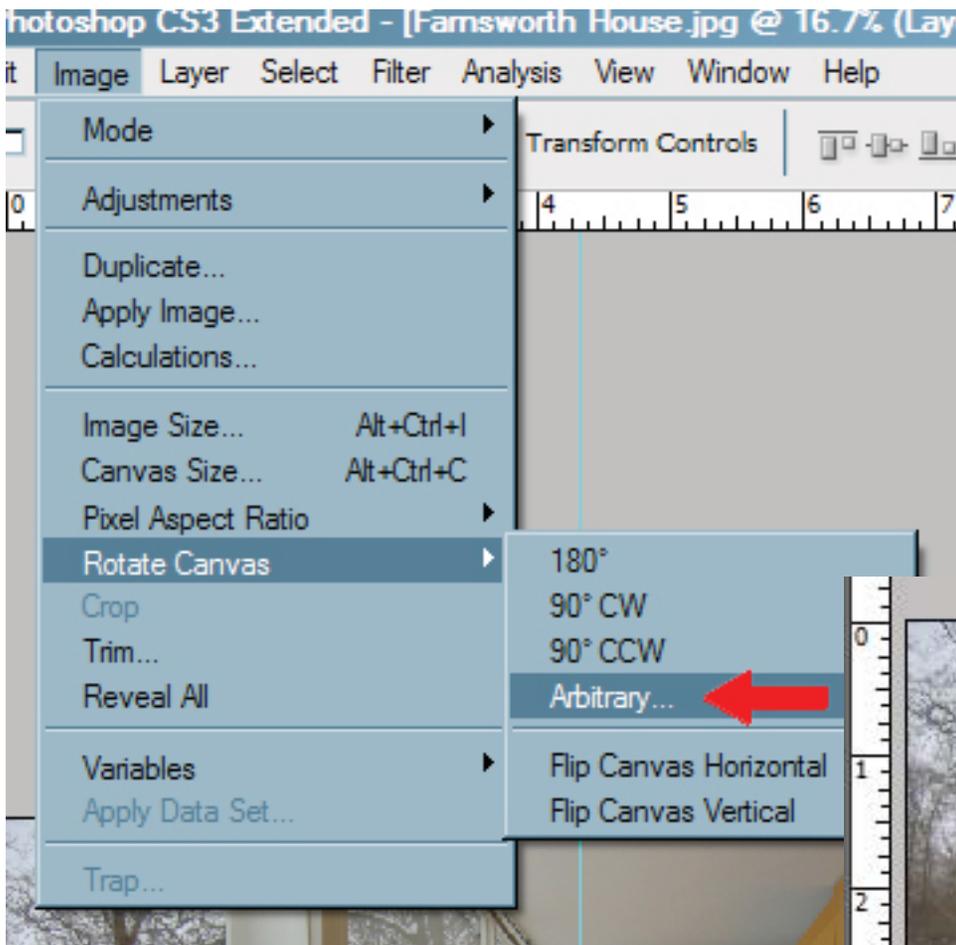
Rotating an Image

Rotate your image to achieve horizontal and vertical alignment. Select Rotate from the Image menu.

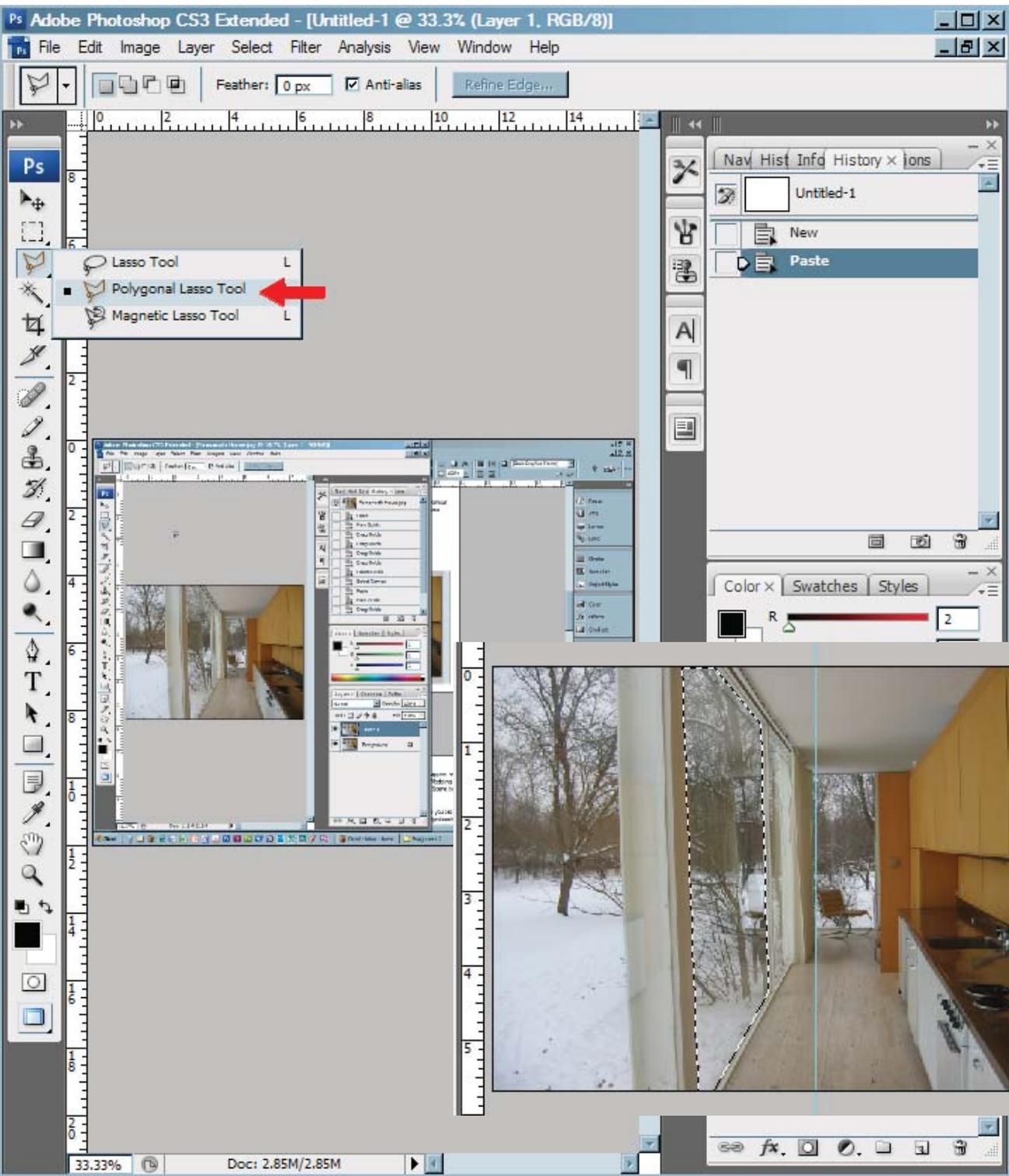
If you select Arbitrary, enter the value and direction of rotation.

CW = clockwise

CCW = counter-clockwise



Lasso Tool



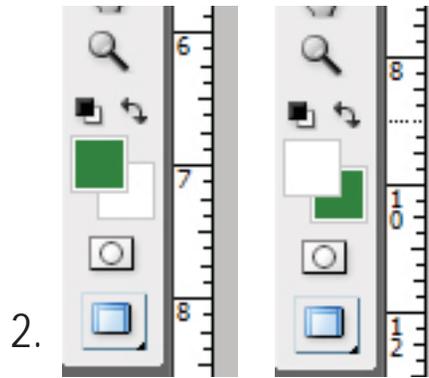
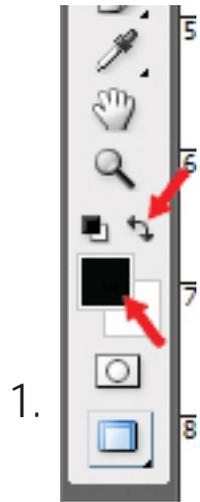
Click on the "lasso" tool in your menu. If you click-and-hold on any tool with an arrow you will be able to access the other tool options.

Select the lasso tool with angles (rather than the curved-line lasso tool).

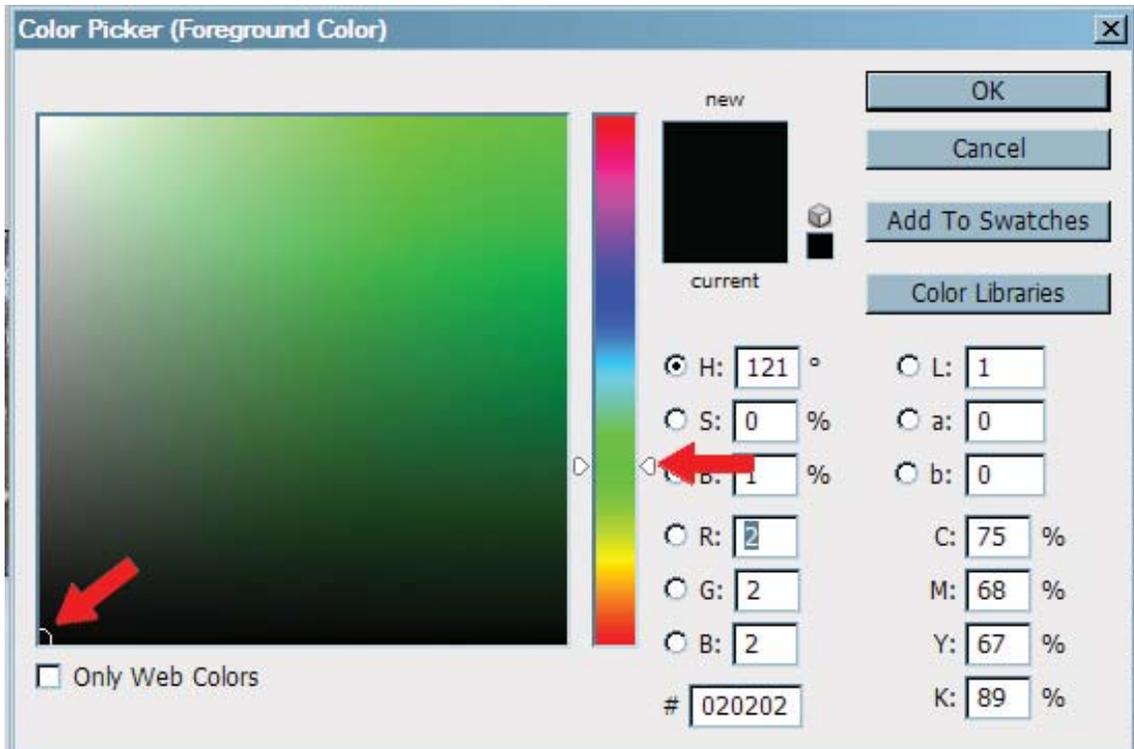
Use this tool to select a particular area within your image. This area can be deleted, transformed, or filled with color.



Fill with Color



3.



1. On the tool palette, a black and white box are displayed at the bottom. The black box is your "foreground color." You can tell because it is located in front of the white box or "background color."

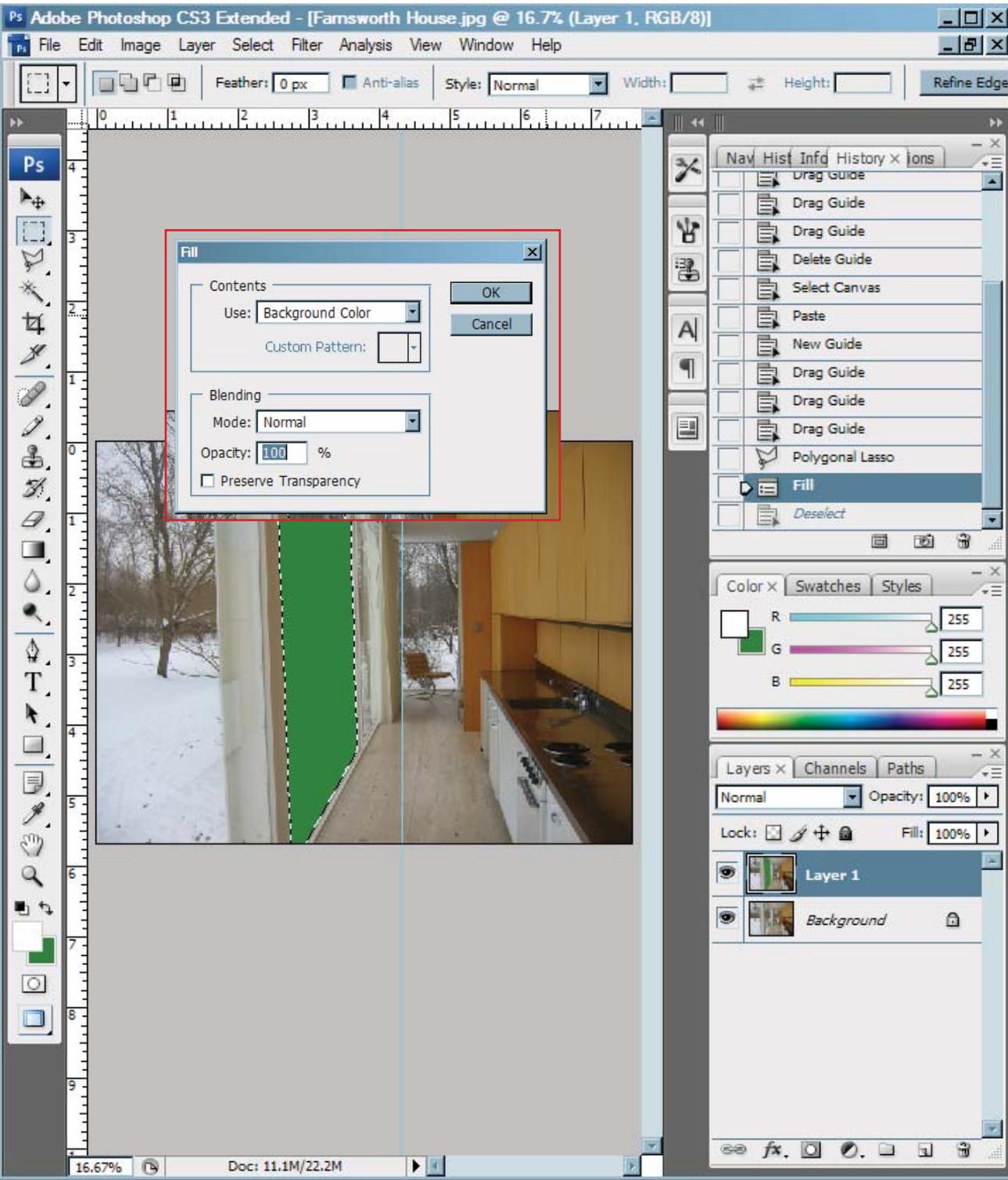
2. You can switch these colors from foreground to background by clicking the curved arrow to the upper right of these boxes.

3. To adjust the color options in Photoshop, click on the black box at the bottom of your tool palette.

Using the slider (two arrows) and moving the tonal selection tool (circle) find the correct color.

After selecting OK, your new color will appear as the foreground color.

Fill with Color



Edit menu > fill to fill the lasso-selected area with color. Note that you can adjust the fill color selection to foreground or background. Notice that once this area has been filled, the portion of photo behind it has been replaced with color. One solution is to put the "fill" on its own layer.

To do this, delete "Fill" from the History tool bar (drag it to the trash can).

On the Layers menu, select New Layer and name it Fill. When the layer is added, be sure it is selected (it will be blue) and add your fill color. This layer can be manipulated without affecting the photo. Try adjusting the opacity (upper right of Layer menu) and moving the fill.

Transparent planes of color or white are often useful additions to architectural renderings.

To manipulate an object on its own layer (rather than the whole canvas) Edit menu > transform > rotate, etc.

Ctrl + d to deselect the lasso tool.

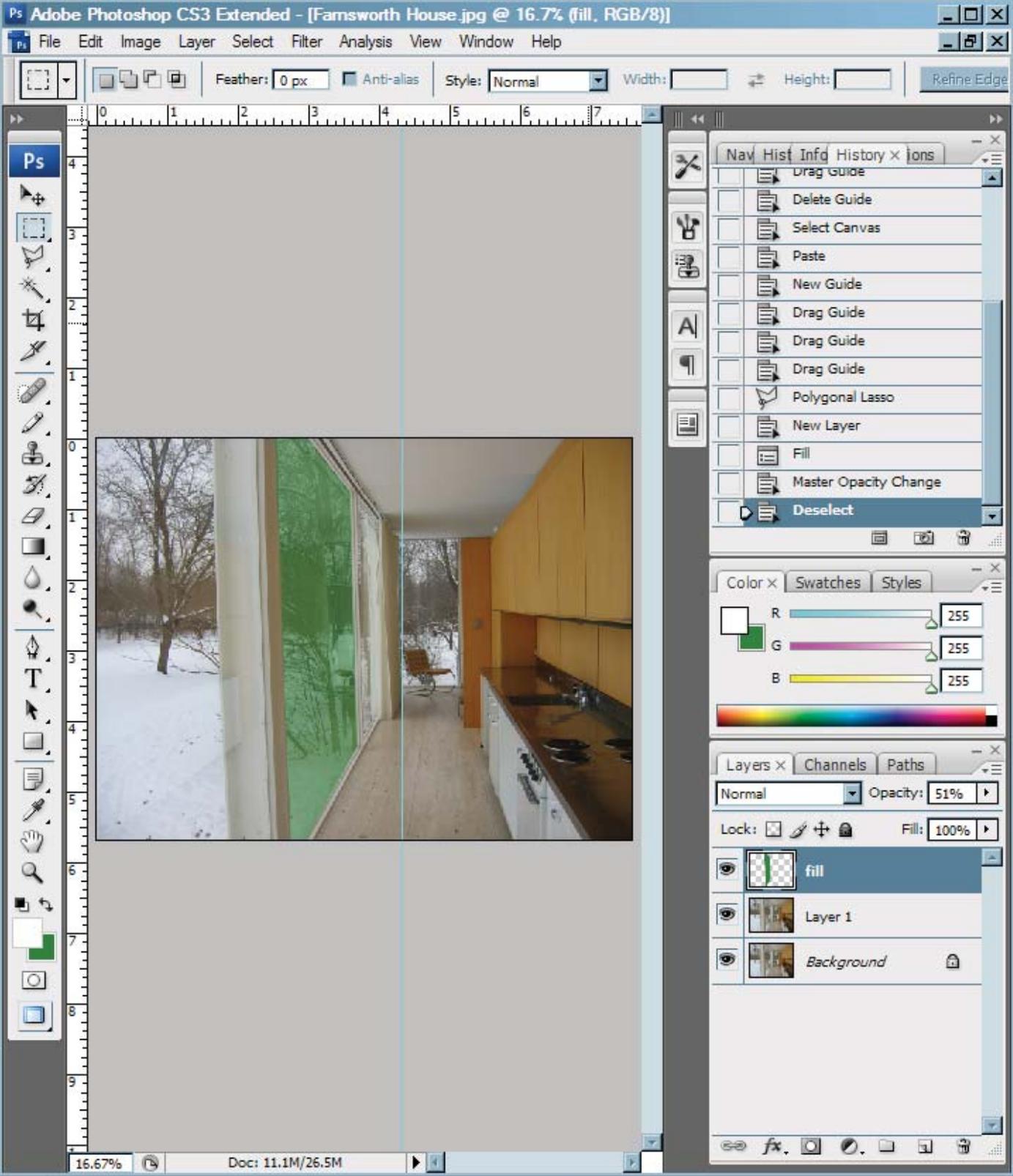


Image Adjustments

It is common, and usually necessary, to export images as jpgs from rendering programs such as SketchUp and modify them in Photoshop .

You can easily add people and other objects to drawings as well (trees, vehicles, etc). To do this, open any graphics files in photoshop (jpg, tif, gif, pdf, etc), copy the information and paste it into your new file. Anything pasted into a photoshop document will be on its own layer. Use the Edit menu > transform tools to change size, scale, proportions, etc.

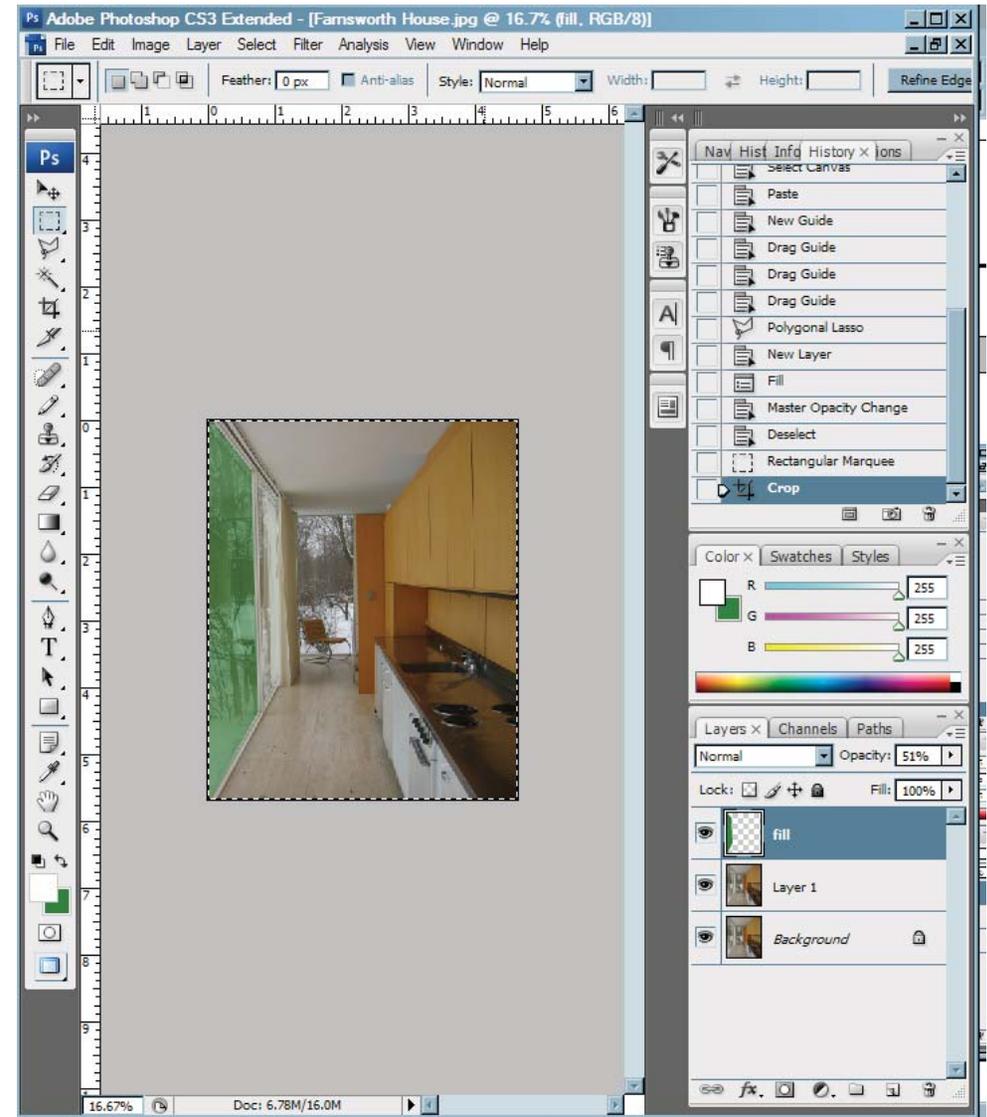
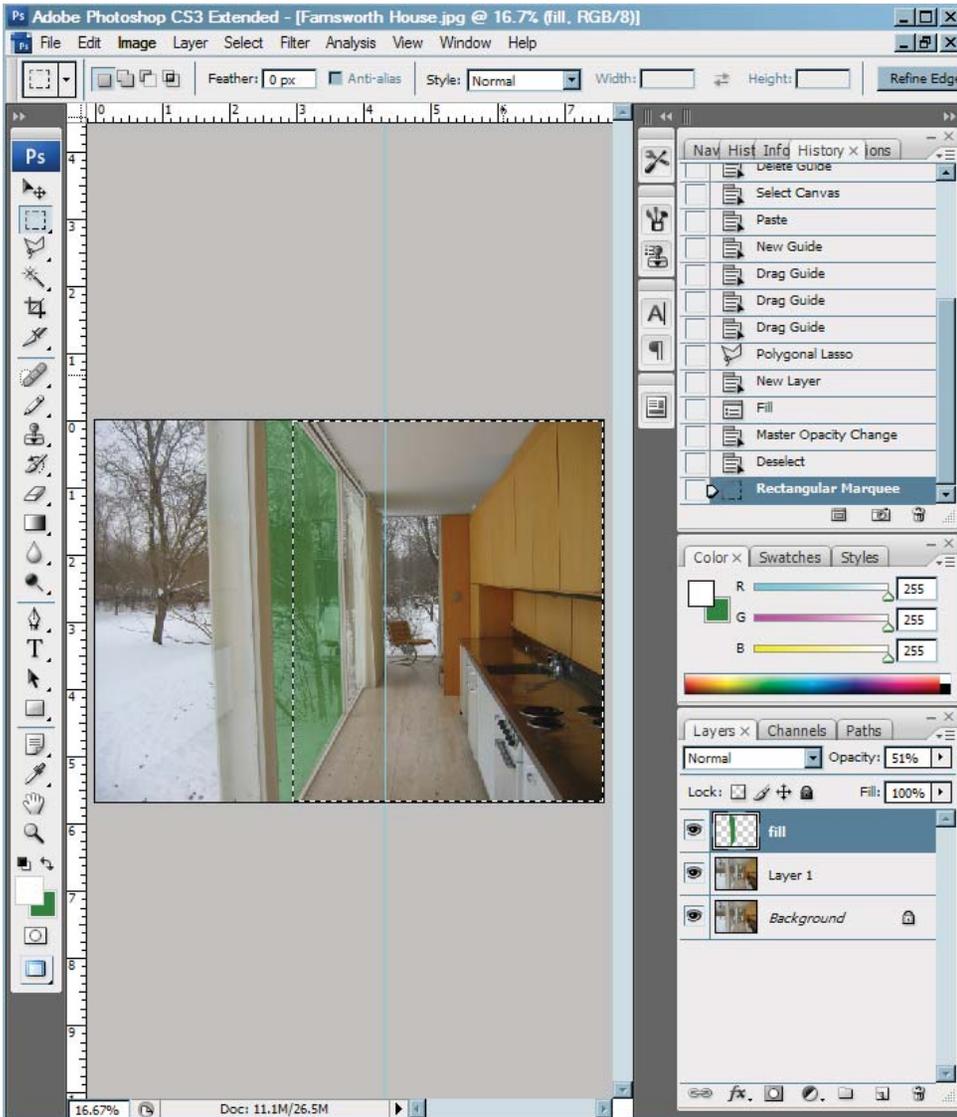
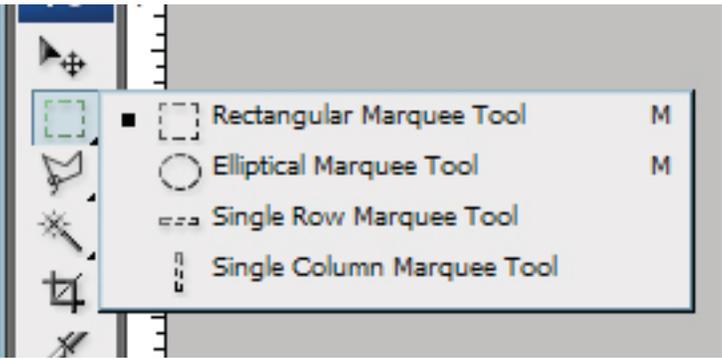
All layers can be sorted by dragging the named layer in the Layers menu and dropping them into the new desired order.

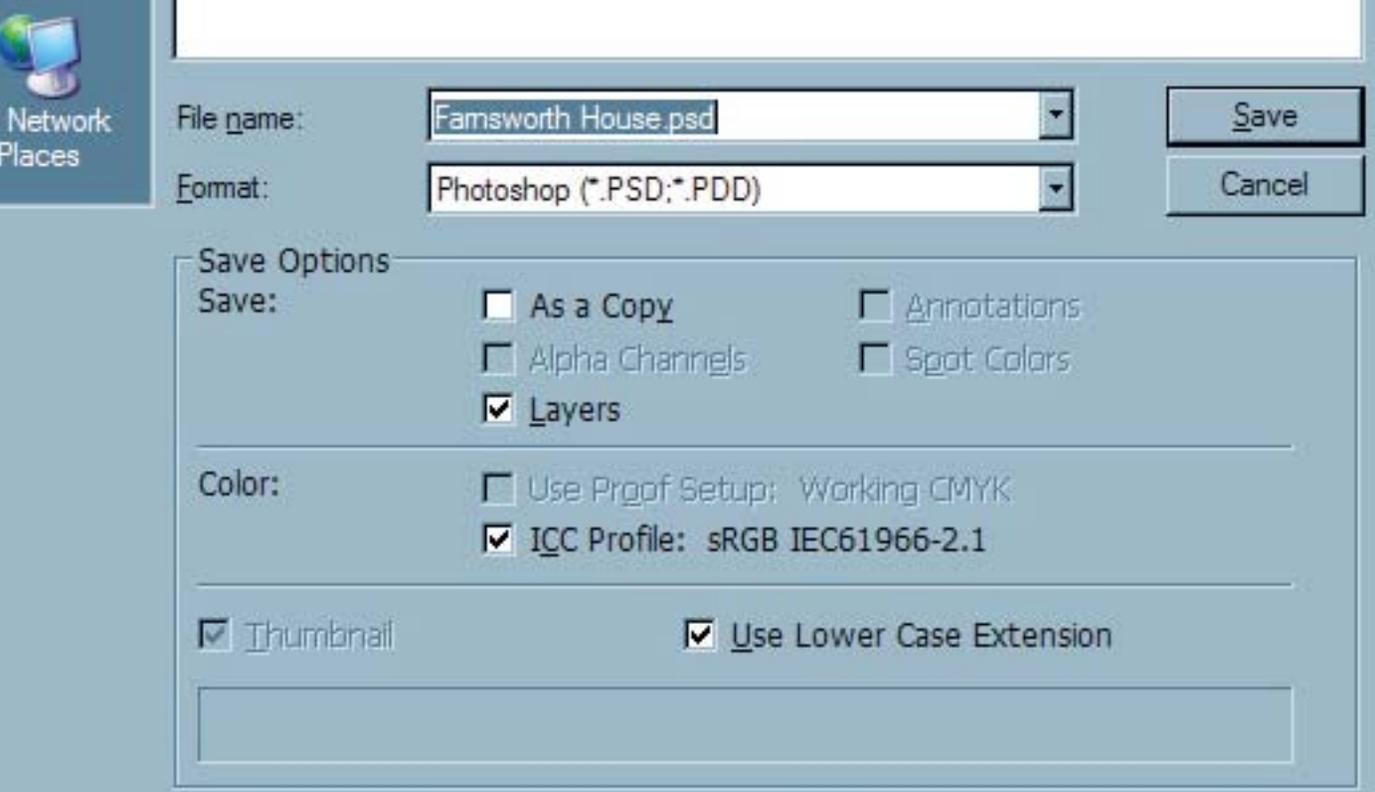
If you retile the Background layer, this will also be movable. If it remains "Background" it will be locked.

Cropping an Image

From the Tool palette select the Rectangular Marquee tool.
Draw a box around the area of your image that you would like to save.
From the Image menu > crop to delete the other portions of the image.

Often cropping an image will completely transform the view.

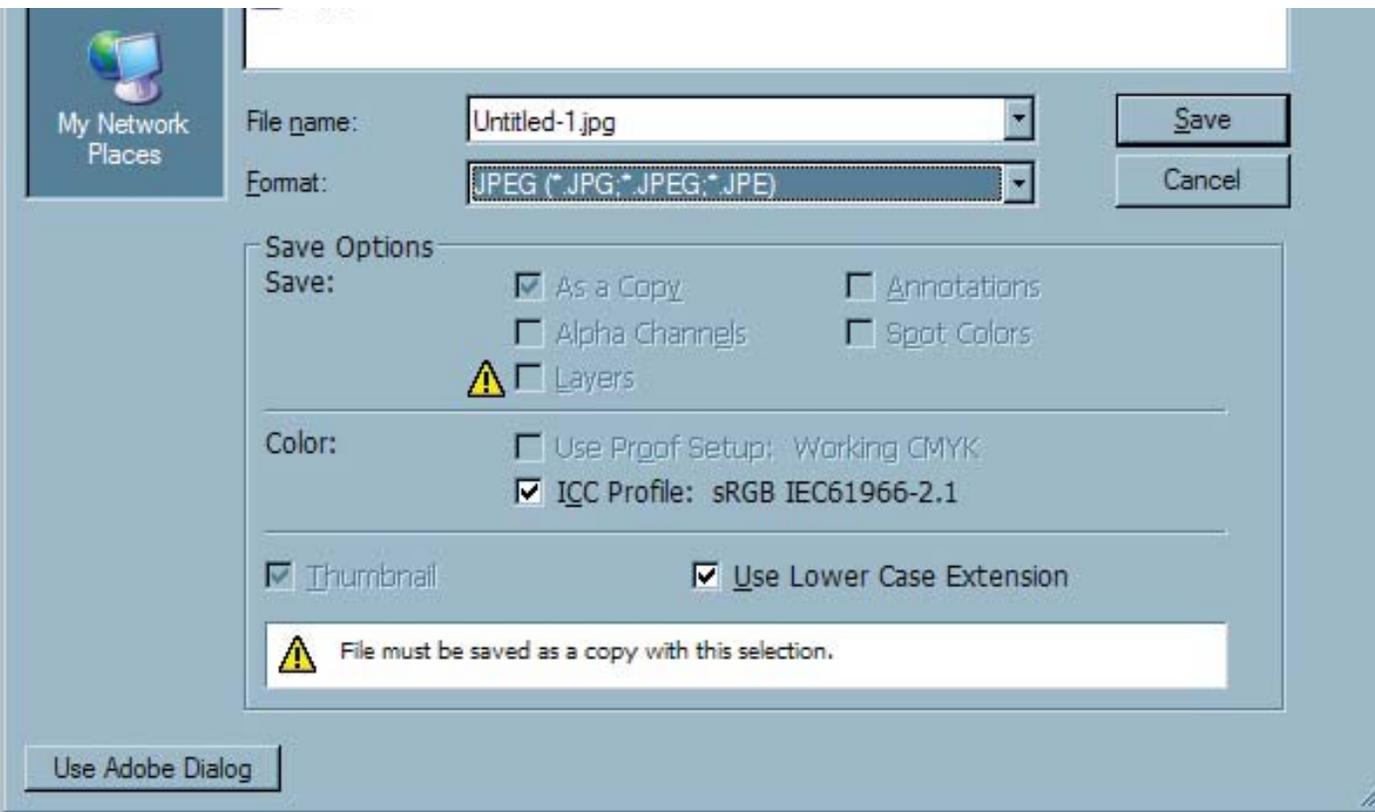




Saving an Image

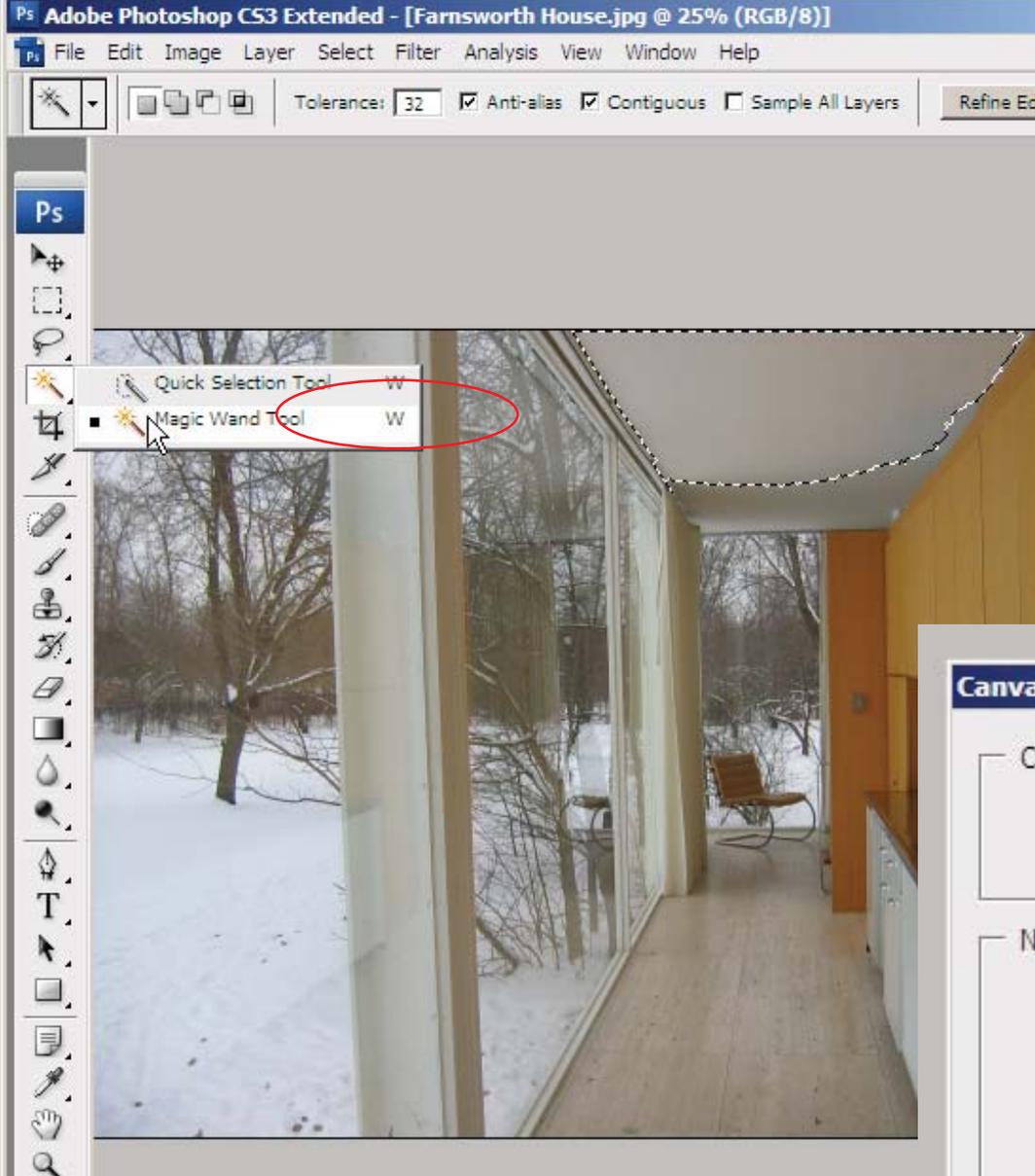
If you've added layers to a .jpg image and try to save it you will be prompted to save as a Photoshop or .psd, document. Saving it as a .psd allows you to continue to work on it.

However, to print the image or incorporate it into a portfolio or other graphic presentation, you must flatten the layers of the drawing first and turn it into a .jpg (or .tif although .jpgs are preferable for ease of viewing on a windows machine).



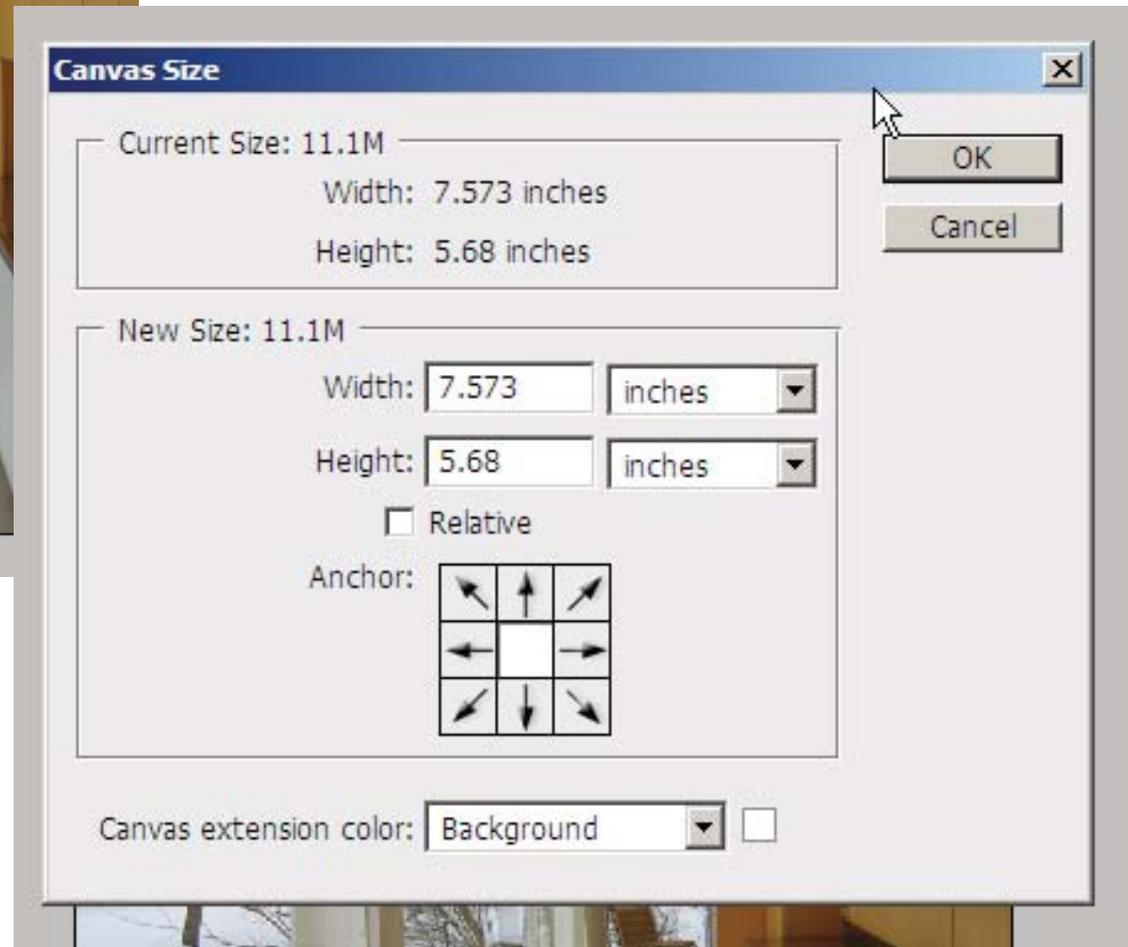
Flattening the layers will delete all of the background information from a graphic file and compress everything to one layer - it is therefore highly recommended that the document be saved as BOTH a .psd and a .jpg

To flatten an image, go to Layer menu > flatten image.



Other Photoshop tools

The Magic Wand tool allows you to select an area that is a single color. Notice that by adjusting the tolerance on the top of your screen, more or less of the color will be selected.



Canvas size refers to the overall size of your canvas. You can add borders to an image or crop an image using this tool. Image menu > canvas size.