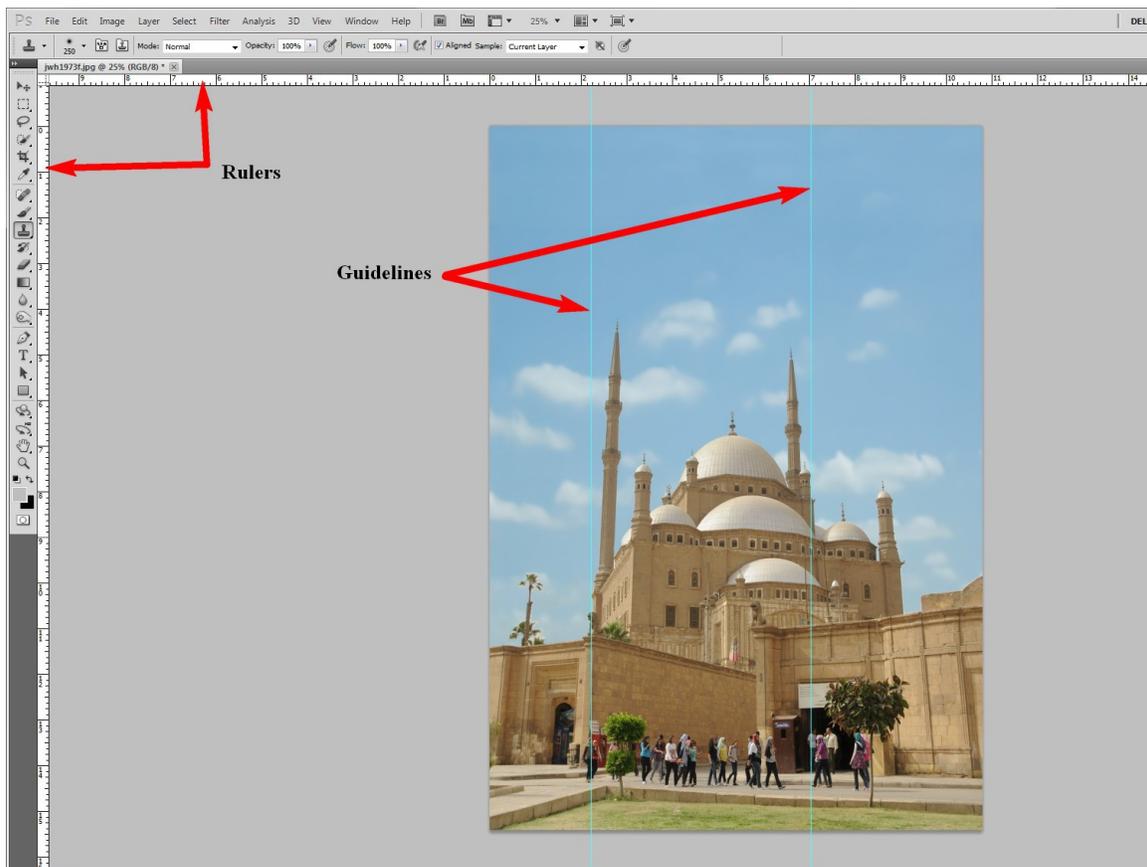


## Straightening a Building By Joe Holler

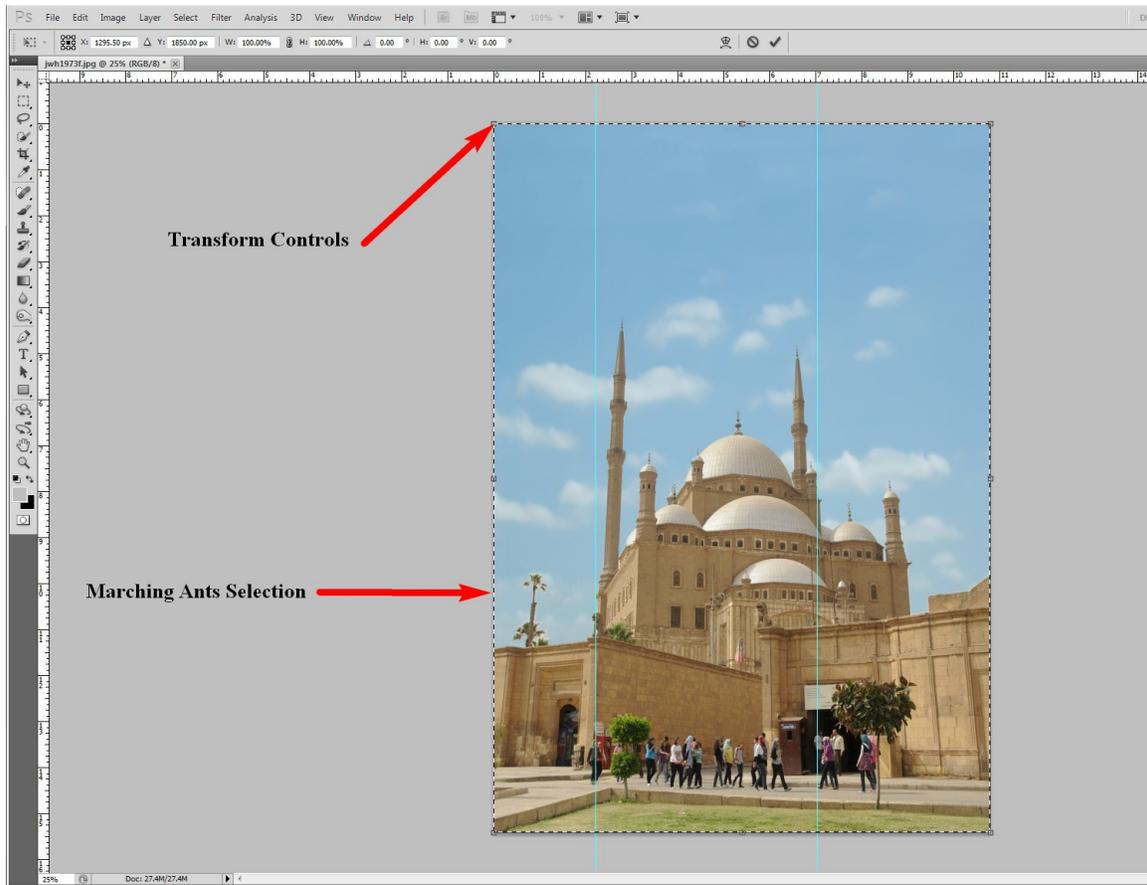
Most photo editing procedures can be done several ways. Here are two ways to straighten a building. The first way uses Photoshop and the second uses Adobe Camera Raw, which comes with Photoshop. I am using Adobe Photoshop CS5 to straighten this picture of the Mosque of Mohamed Ali in Cairo.

In this first method, we will need to use guidelines, which come from the rulers on the left side and top of the work area. If your rulers are not visible then click **View>Rulers** or type **Ctrl+R**. Click on the vertical ruler and drag it to near the edge of the building. Click and drag another guideline to the other side of the building. Guidelines do not become part of the picture. They are not saved with the file. To reposition them, hold the control key down and click and drag them. If they get in your way, you can hide them or show them by clicking on **View>Extras** or **Ctrl+H**.



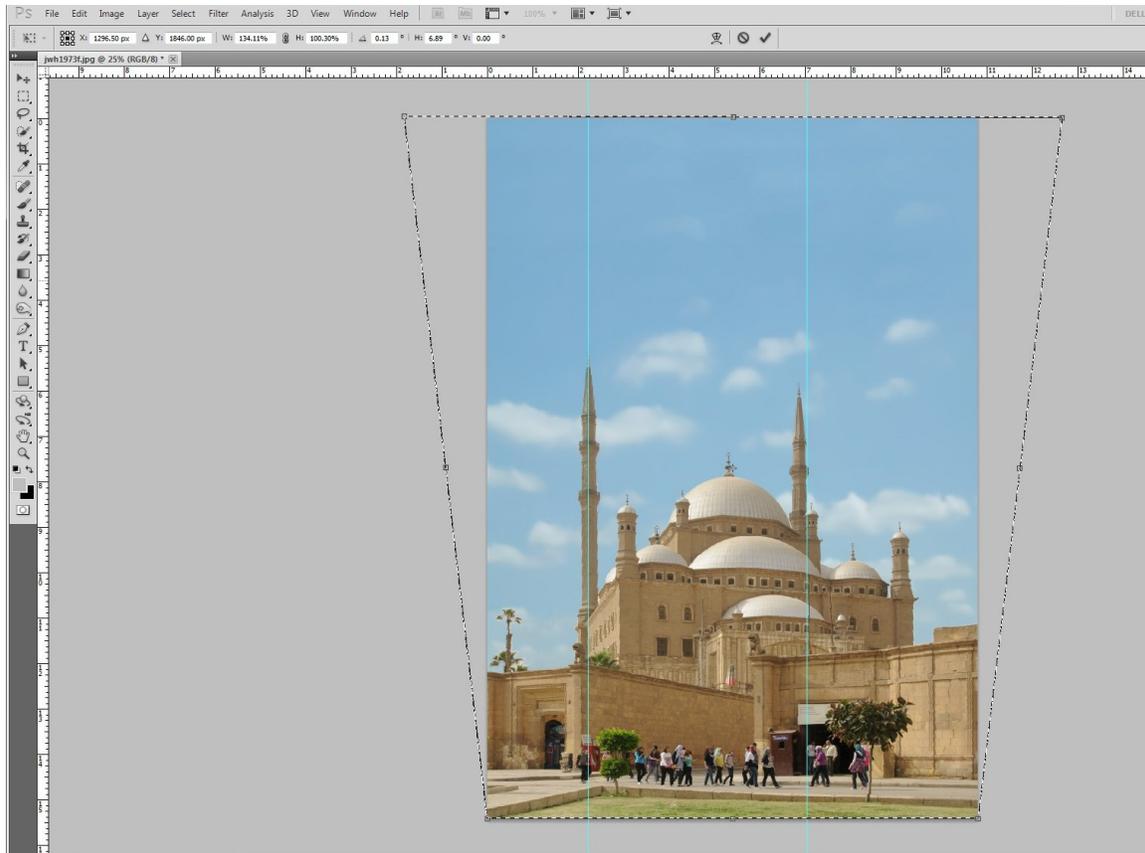
Position guidelines near the building.

Select the entire image by clicking on **Select>All** or **Ctrl+A**. Next apply the transform boxes by clicking on **Edit>Free Transform** or **Ctrl+T**.



Select the image and apply transform box

Next, hold the control key down and click and drag the upper left transform box to the left until the left edge of the building is straight. Repeat this procedure on the upper right transform box. Do this alternately until the building is straight on both sides. Press enter to commit the transformation and save your image.

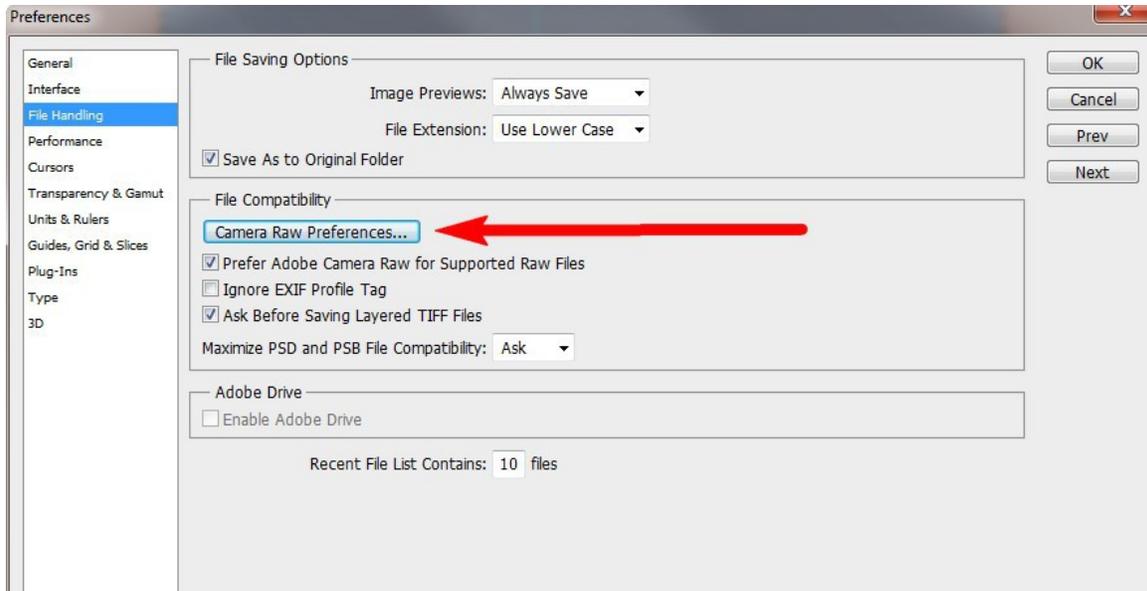


Control Click and drag upper corners

The problem with this method is that it will be distort the image, especially with regards to the height of the building. If the building was to have been photographed with vertical minarets, it would have been taller. The second method will provide a more accurate picture.

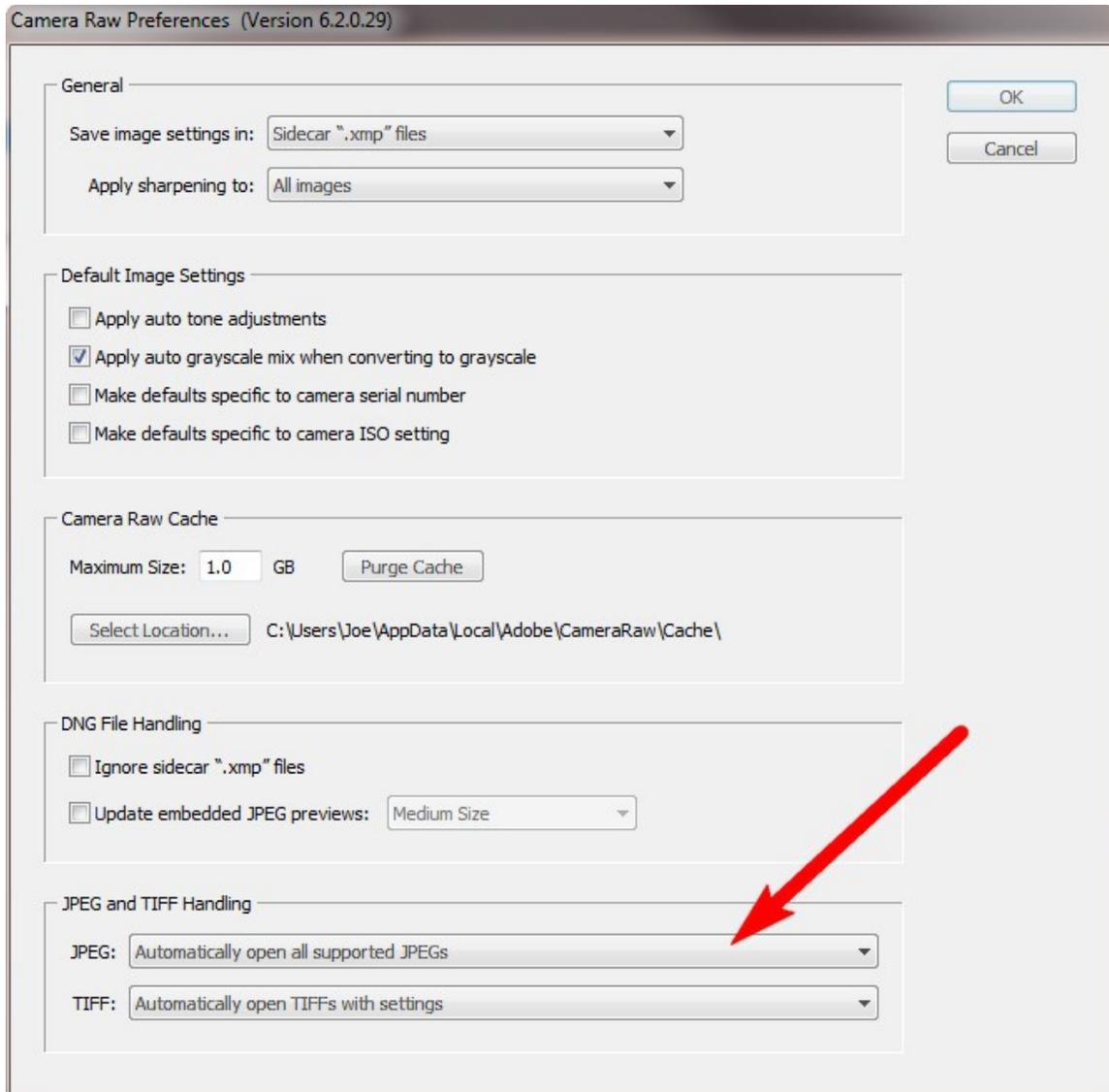
First we will open the image with Adobe Camera Raw(ACR). If you are using a raw image, it will automatically open into ACR when you open it into Photoshop. ACR can also be used for other file types. For example, if you are using a jpg, you can set Photoshop to open all jpgs into ACR this way:

In photoshop, click on Edit>Preference>File Handling. Then click on the Camera Raw Preferences button.



Click on the Camera Raw Preferences button

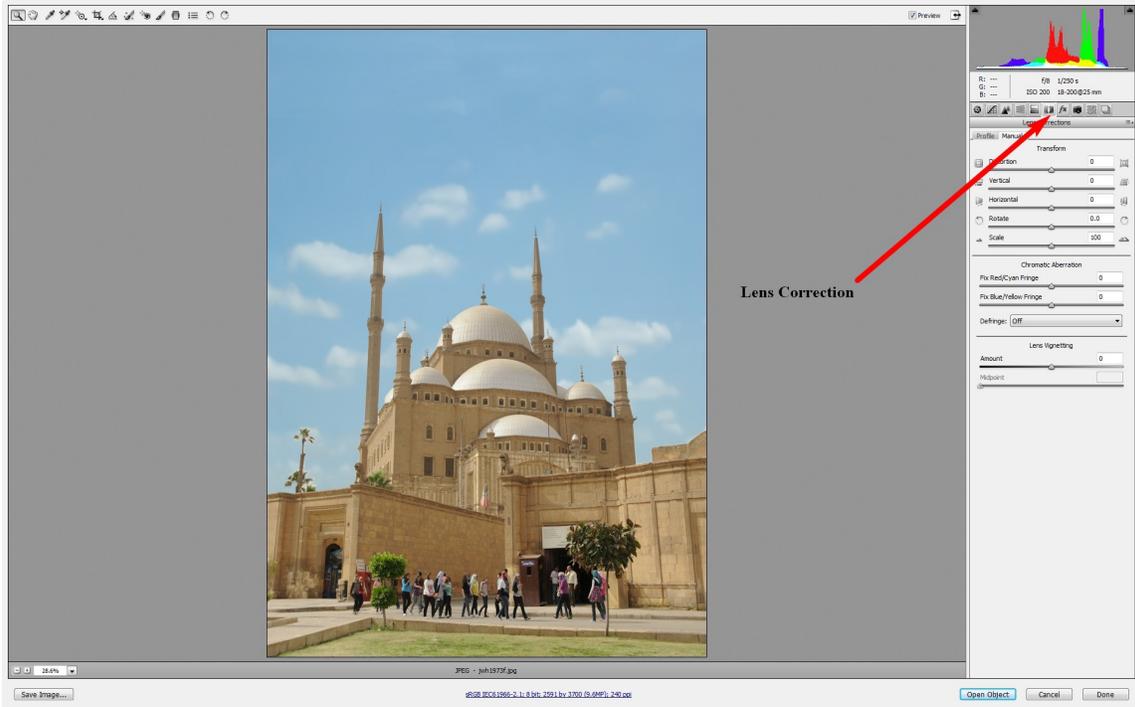
On the bottom of the Camera Raw Preferences dialog box, drop the JPEG menu down and select the “Automatically open all supported JPEGs” option.



Select the “Automatically open all supported JPEGs” option

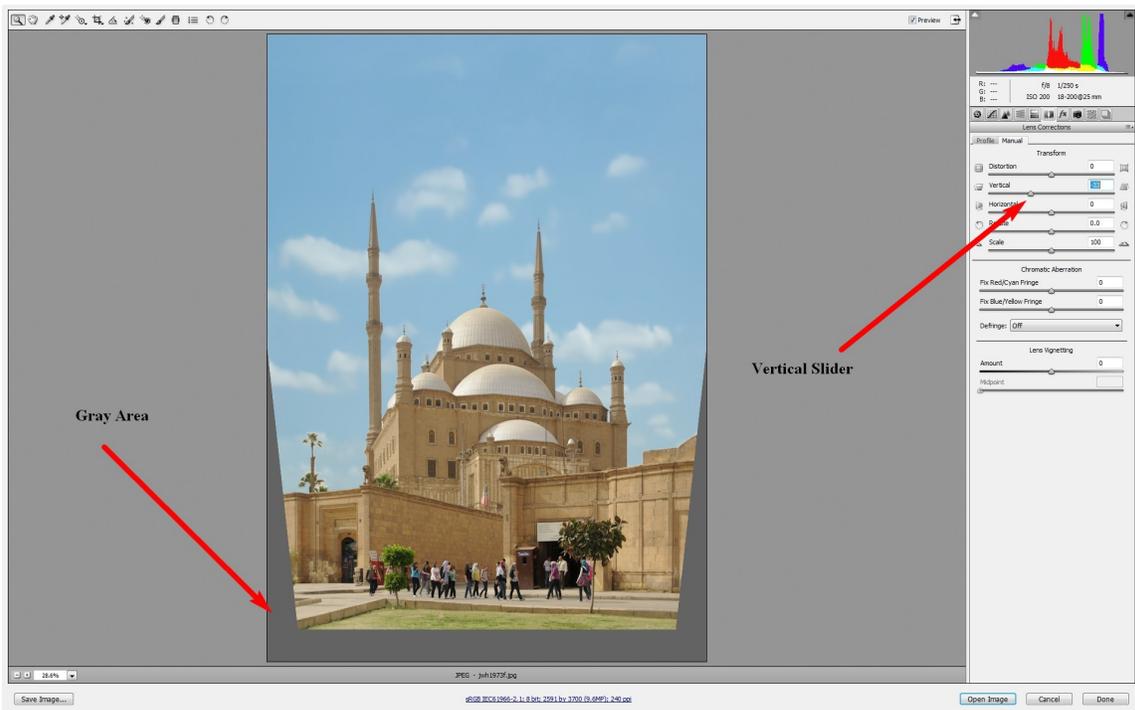
Click OK twice and your set. Now when you open a jpg, it will open into ACR first.

Open the image into ACR and select the Lens Corrections tab.



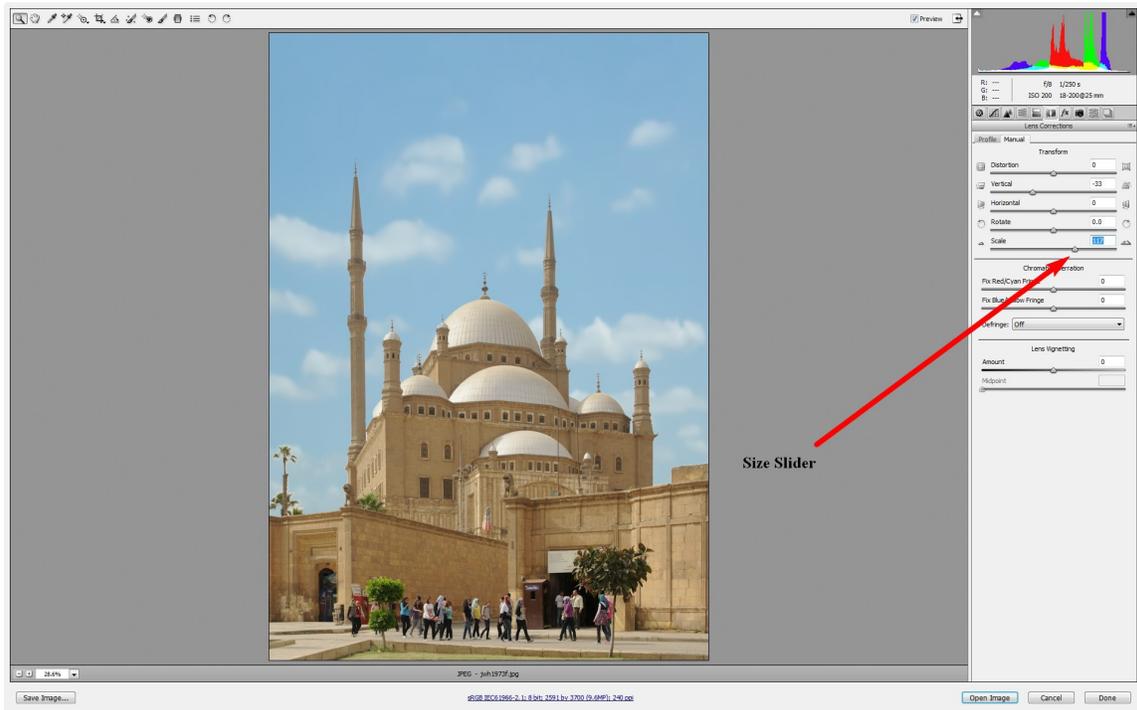
Select the Lens Corrections tab

Slide the Vertical slider to the left until the building is straight. You will see the top of the image rotate forward and a gray area appear at the bottom.



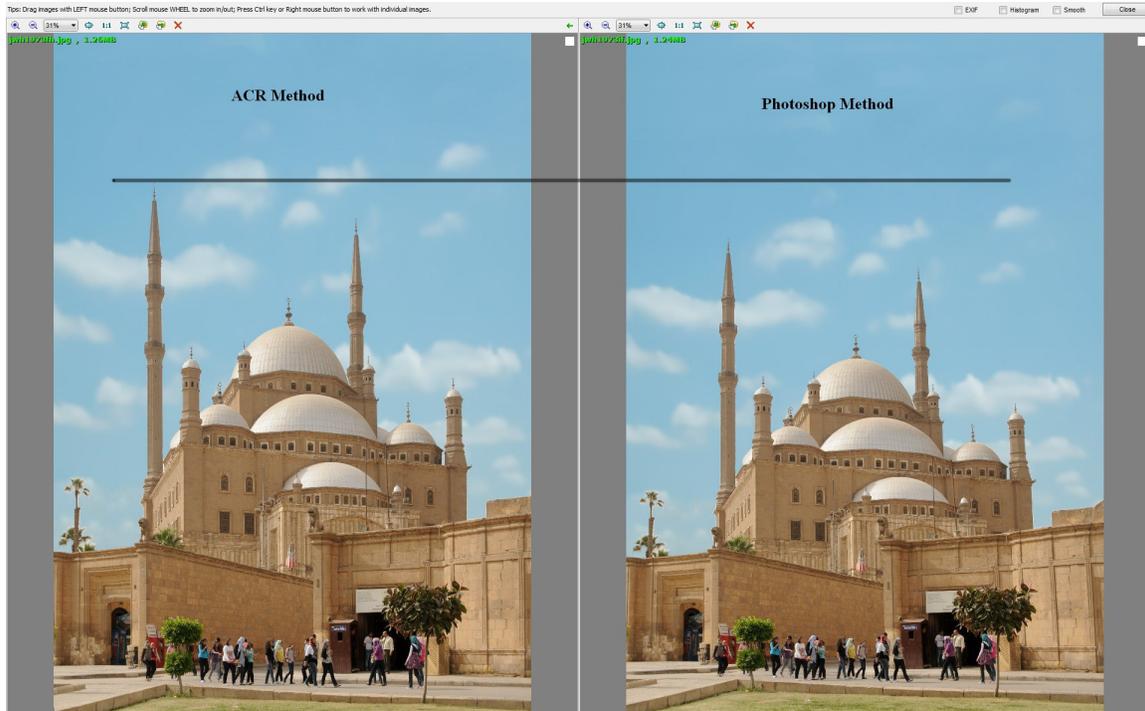
Slide the Vertical slider to the left

Next, slide the Size slider to the right until the gray area disappears and you are done. Save the image.



Slide the Size Slider to the right

The advantage of this method is that it preserves the proportionality of the building. The minarets are taller using this method. I put the finished product of both methods side by side and drew a horizontal guideline for comparison.



The ACR method is more accurate

When taking a picture of a building, with the intent to straighten it when you get it into a computer, leave plenty of room on all four sides of the image so that you can adjust it without losing part of the building. If the tops of the minarets were near the top of the original photo then they would have been off of the picture when I rotated it in ACR. Also, if the minarets were too close to the edges of the original photo, then they would have been dragged off of the picture when I use the Photoshop method.

I like to make buildings look straight but sometimes it looks odd to do so. Sometimes it is better to leave well enough alone. Give it a try and see which way you like.