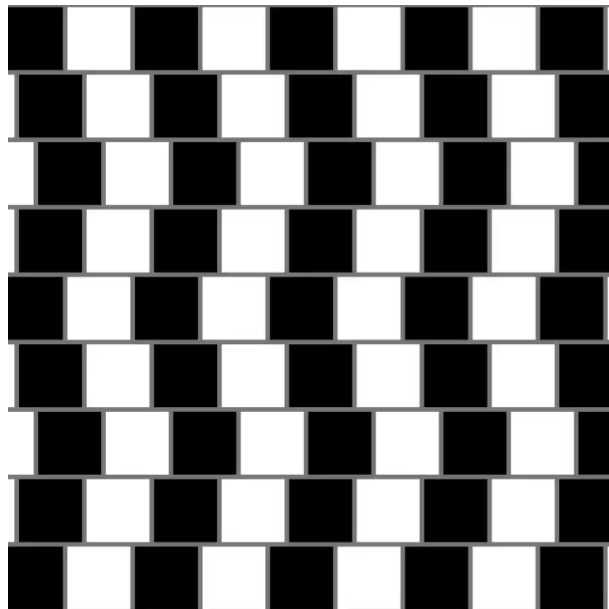


Weird wall

Do the horizontal lines of mortar on the wall look parallel?



Look closely at the horizontal lines of mortar in this wall.

Look at them from the front as well as from the side.

The lines of tiles appear to taper in opposite directions, as if the tiles gradually change in height along the wall. But if you stand at either end of the wall and look carefully, you'll see that all the tiles are the same height.

Our eye perceives white areas bigger than black areas. This effect is called irradiation. This size difference in the shifted checker pattern will be interpreted as warpage by our brain. If you use tiles with similar brightness, e.g. green and red, the effect will not be observed.

The psychologist Hugo Münsterberg was the first who observed the warpage effect.