There are just a few main rules to remember with view camera adjustments:

1) Tilting or swinging the back away from perpendicular to the center-line of the lens will stretch and distort the image.

2) If the film plane and lens plane are parallel to each other, the plane of focus in parallel to both of them. To focus on a plane other than parallel to the film, remember that the three planes—film, lens, and focus—will intersect in a point in space. This is the Scheimpflug rule.

3) A rectangular object parallel to the film plane will appear rectangular on the film.

Illustrations on view camera movements from *The Camera* by Ansel Adams, © 1980
Scheimpflug rule:

Figure 10-8. Focus and depth of field with lens tilted. [A] When photographing only the facade of a building, the camera back and lensboard can be kept in the vertical position, and the depth of field region extends in front of and behind the primary focus plane. [B] If important foreground areas must be included in the depth of field region the lens can be tilted forward. The primary focus plane, indicated by the dotted line, then intersects the planes of the lensboard and film at a single point. The depth of field region extends on either side of the plane of focus. Note that the camera back has been kept in the vertical position to maintain accurate rendering of the building.

Figure 10-6. Vignetting caused by lens tilt. The use of any adjustment that moves the lens axis away from the center of the film area may cause vignetting. From the drawings it can be seen that tilting the lens risks vignetting, while tilting the camera back generally does not.