

Creating Perfect CSS Layouts

Tips & Tricks for Design Challenges

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Original Vision for the Web

- Web globally accessible (any platform, any user agent, anyone)
- Web is international (sites are global, local, in many and even multiple languages)
- Web is meaningful, searchable and useful



Where Does a Website Come From?

Content is the Core

- Your web site is content
 - information
 - sales
 - marketing
- How do you best present this content?
- How do you want your user to interact with this content?
- Be logical and create a flow through the site

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Why KGS?	Our frames Accessories & Services Specialty lines Galleries Articles News Great rides What's new Locations	Contact Us	
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Analyze the designer's comp

Decisions

- What parts of your page should be "Plain Old Semantic HTML" [POSH]?
- What portions could be enhanced using Ajax techniques?
- Should Flash or Flash video be utilized?
- What about desktop apps like Adobe AIR?
- Do you need any PDF delivery?
- How should the document appear when printed?



Design Challenge #1

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Bringing your vision to life.

Lifetree Creative is a full-service design agency in Kansas City, MO. We specialize in creative solutions that empower organizations and small businesses to promote their products, communicate their message effectively, and connect people with a common vision.

Request a FREE Estimate Today!



Time-Saving Tools

TimeWise CMS is an easy-to-use content management system for any type of website. You'll not only have a great design, but you will also be able to have a website with content you can manage on your own including blogs, podcasts, forms, events, gallerles, donations, and more!

More About TimeWise CMS

Cutting-Edge Design

Let us help you make your website stand out from the crowd. We aim to produce websites that are easy to use and detail-oriented. With you in mind, we developed a flexible and helpful design process that is simple, clear, and fast. Our clients are important to us and we make every effort to help you with your new or existing project.

Our Design Process

Our Clients are #1

We believe in Customer Service, the old-fashioned way! We know that in a business relationship, trust is essential. Unlike others, we'll meet your deadlines, answer your calls and keep you in the loop every step of the way. Our clients are our main priority.

How can we help you?

Client Testimonials

"I can't say enough about the excellent work that Lifetree Creative has done on our website. They took a below-average website and transformed it into an appealing and informative website. It was an absolute pleasure to work with them. The designer listened to my thoughts and suggestions and far surpassed my expectations. I highly recommend that you use Lifetree Creative to develop your website!"

Tom Cole, PureHeartSeminars.com

Latest News

Happy 2009! We've got great plans for this year. We've officially launched our company and are very excited about the feedback we have received so far. Right now we're working with a few great projects, such as the International House of Prayer at El Paso, TX. We also launched ProyectoLucas18.com, JayeThomas.com, and FranciscoArteaga.com.

In other news, our website was accepted in the following Galleries and Showcases: CSS Mania, CSS Heaven, CSS Based, CSS Fresh Blend, Most Inspired, CSS Moon & many more. We're glad that other people enjoy our website and our work as much as we do!



By night: a band of highly-trained, elite

We delight in creating beautiful, advanced web sites. We love what we do and so will you. Interested? Drop us a line.

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happily discuss your visionary web ideas, print plans, email newsletter woes and identity goals. Web Development » Web Marketing »

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What We're Saying



lam from the law.

Every designer should C.U.S.

And your mother always said cussing makes a bad impression - well, not always true. ...

Why the disparity between our own site and the work in our portfolio?

"It's been a huge weight off my shoulders to find developers that I can totally trust."



Design Challenge #1

Challenge

Large horizontal bands of color

Solution

- if band contains text must be flexible and grow vertically
- if band contains only images can have a height
- don't use a single background image on the body for the entire area
- use multiple wrappers for each band that needs to expand
 - the outer wrapper contains the background image or color
 - the inner wrapper constrains the content area (and may contain a second dividing image like a separating drop shadow or glow)



Design Challenge #2



Cufón Font Replacement - The Good and The Bad

ERIK OLSON, ON THE TOPIC OF CSS AND JAVASCRIPT 016 AND OPINIONS/REVIEWS

PORTFOLIO CAREERS

APR13

As soon as designers got ahold of the web as a design medium (probably about 15 years ago), they were thinking about fonts, right? (It was at least in the top five on the "first things to think about" list). So, in an age where tens of thousands of fonts have been invented, why are we mostly still using the same six?

Techniques like image replacement and sIFR have done us well. They remain the strongholds until something better comes along -- which may have just happened: namely, I'm talking about Cufón by Simo Kinnunen.

Cufón (I'm pronouncing it "koo-fon") is a font-replacement technique that uses javascript and vector graphics to write fonts from a font file (TTF, OTF or PFB) to your browser. It's easier/safer to use than sIFR and lighter on size than image replacement, but has the same copyright issues as both.

WHAT DOES CUFÓN DO?

VIGET 🔍

The way Cufón works is pretty smart and highly technical. A proprietary javascript rendering engine takes your font file and converts it to a vector form. From there, it's translated to VML (Vector Markup Language). The result? Essentially, the font outline is written as JSON and converted into lots of numbers that define every curve and angle of its shape. The html5 canvas element is used to display the font in most browsers while VML is used in Internet Explorer (kudos to IE who has supported VML since IE5.5. VML is a very fast way to display vector graphics).

WHAT'S GOOD ABOUT IT?

Ease of Use. The process involves uploading your font file to the script -) Dahind the Com

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WE'RE THE DESIGNERS

200

at Viget Labs. We write about design news, trends, techniques, buildout, inspiration, CSS, and our projects.

KNOW SOMEONE? Viget's hiring a Senior Ruby on Rails (RoR) Developer. Find out more >

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JUL 06



Vagabond Tabs

February 25th, 2009

Driving a car requires that you focus your attention on the road and keep your hands on the steering wheel. Towards that end, many car manufacturers position controls (such as those for the radio or air conditioner) on the steering wheel — either on the "spokes" that attach the wheel grip to the steering column, or on surfaces mounted behind the grip, close enough that they can be reached without letting go of the steering wheel.

But imagine if auto makers took this to an extreme, and put those controls at the ten o'clock and two o'clock position, where you hold the wheel, and actually mounted the buttons exactly under your fingers and hands — right on the surface of the steering wheel grip. Anytime you tried to turn the wheel you had to be extra careful that you didn't change the radio station, or turn on the heater.

That's what Apple has done with the tabs in Safari 4.

The title bar used to be a nice, clean expanse of chrome that served as an indicator as to which document or application was associated with a window, and served as a safe area to grab and move the window around your screen. Not so in the Safari 4 beta. Tabs have migrated northwards in the browser window, and made their home in the formerly pristine title bar.

Sure, you can still use the title bar to move the window, but **it's no longer a sure thing**. The very fact that the tabs are there creates ambiguity. You're

Illustration and other random pixelry by Anthony Piraino About »

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MY SOFTWARE



RECENT RAMBLINGS

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Greatest Hits Posted January 30th, 2009

New Desktop: Instrumental Posted December 31st, 2008

iSource Reloaded Posted December 12th, 2008



One Page at a Time

We figured that's how websites should be ordered as well!

GetMeFast.com introduces pay-per-page, custom web design service where you can use your web design budget effectively and order exact number of pages you want to be designed for your website!





Fact: We have designed 500+ websites till date. View our portfolio

What People Are Saying:

"I was in a rush and wanted a website to be done quickly. While other agencies were still preparing a quote, using GetMeFast I worked out the budget instantly, and got first draft on the very next day."

Kevin Roger



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Presented at TODCON 2006

Welcome to Orlando

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Hello & Welcome!

The things we make is the online home of me Mike Kus. Here you can view my portfolio, check out my sketchbook and photobook. I'll also keep you up to date with projects I'm working on and anything else I think you might want to hear about. Please feel free to have a good look around!

Featured Work



Design Challenge #2

Challenge

Large monitors and fluid pages

Solution

- create graphics that can be repeated
- create graphics where more of the image is revealed
- create non-boxy look by including a portion in an adjacent element
- create a large graphic that blends with the background and set it to be fixed so that the text scrolls over it



Design Challenge #3

SHAWNELLECHERRY COSTUME DESIGNER

HOME ABOUT ME FEATURE FILMS FASHION GALLERY RÉSUMÉ CONTACT

❀ WELCOME ※

Based in Los Angeles California, I have been a costume designer for feature films since 1997 with a background in fashion design, specializing in evening wear and bridal gowns. Before becoming a costume designer I owned a fashion design studio in Pacific Palisades California, where I designed evening gowns for celebrity clients. <u>Read</u> <u>More</u>

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www.aplusmonitoring.com
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Welcome to my site

"â€;that works awesomeâ€;â€

It's often the first thing my client say when they experience my services.

My name is Robin Kedia, and I am the prinicipal of this site.

Here is my story:

I began my career at Digital Domain India Pvt. Ltd. During the end of the year, I left this company to have more challenging and rewarding career and has been working with De~Bono Ltd. ever since.

From a technical standpoint, I have extensive experience in develop & deploy projects on Microsoft technology. Expertise includes extensive technical experience on Microsoft related technology like c#, vb.net, asp.net, ms sql server, etc.

Besides technical knowledge, I also have experience with web design.

My diverse professional experience makes me an adapt problem solver, and allows me to provide my client roboust solution.

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Design Challenge #3

Challenge

Designing in a defined box - Postcard style

Solution

- backgrounds must have at least a small piece that repeats vertically so pages can grow with content or text resizing
- don't use heights on divs containing text (page should not have inner scroll bars or text that disappears)
- for "paper" look, let only the top and bottom be crumpled
- add tiny differences to the repeat occasionally by placing a small random graphic on top



Design Challenge #4



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Belvedere inc.

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Our estates are free from ban-lines, security systems, grumpy neighbors and bad builders! We allow skyboxes, small shops and resident landscaping in public spaces. Come get creative with friends and family today!

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VIN the Blogs

NOW HIRING! Two Positions ..

Belvedere Inc is now hiring for two entry-level positions. Please direct all questions and resumes to Lefty Belvedere. Marketing Guru -The ideal person for this job is very web-savvy with intimate knowledge of blogs, news sites, forums and in-world groups pertaining to Second Life and its culture. If you are a naturally social creature who is [...]

h 9th, 2009 by lefty belvedere

Get Hired!

Blog

Welcome to Belvedere!!

Services

We here at Belvedere inc have been bringing inspiring spaces to the Metaverse world of Second Life for over four years... (?) It's hard to believe that it's been that long.

As a small, mighty team we have been a creative force in building today's Metaverse. Belvedere inc has been tackling projects of all scope and scandal from large public ventures to small, private matters of seclusion.

Exploring this site will give you a feel for our company and our community. Residents of our public estates in Second Life will also find useful community information and important announcements.

Your dream project is probably a mixture of wild imagination and strict organization. Our answer is always the same: "Yep! We have a guy who does that!"

~Jared Saverino



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Better spaces by design.

About Us Estates



Our office in bel Vale will get you on your way to finding the plot that catches your eye and inspires your ideas.



What Belvedere Residents are doing:



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Learn to drive with Revolution Driving Tuition, a Sheffield based female driving instructor offering exciting & progressive driving lessons.

HOME

Tel: 0114 2644 577 Mob: 0780 6625 966 Mail: info@revolutiondrivingtuition.co.uk

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Why Choose Revolution?

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Revolution Driving Tuition learners are not only taught how to become safe and competent drivers on their driving lessons, but are also given practical advice on everyday motoring tasks such as using petrol pumps and air pressure gauges which can often seem daunting to new drivers. Find out more about Revolution...

Explore The Car

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Revolution Driving Tuition offers driving lessons covering the Theory Test, Hazard Perception and Practical Driving Test as well as offering additional training such as Refresher Courses and Pass Plus.

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of my life. I am an artist by ... (continued)

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Design Challenge #4

Challenge

boxes (especially equal-height)

Solution

- boxes must expand vertically
- faux columns technique can be used
- combination of a background image with background color for the portion that grows
- deconstruct <u>www.belvedereinc.net</u> for boxes with two images (one color when placed right, another when placed left)
- deconstruct <u>my example</u> for three fluid boxes



Thank you! Questions?

Resources

- W3Conversions http://www.w3conversions.com/resources.html
- Mastering CSS with Dreamweaver CS3 Mastering CSS with Dreamweaver CS4 [New Riders Voices that Matter] Stephanie Sullivan & Greg Rewis
- Video: Mastering Web Content: Structure and Presentation with XHTML and CSS [New Riders]
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