

Rachel Andrew @ An Event Apart Boston

New CSS Layout Meets the Real World

“The state of the use of Cascading Style Sheet on the web is really beginning to get boring. Why haven't designers begun exploiting its benefits yet?”

I can remember a time not too long ago when individuals were running amok exploiting the simplest of html tags and creating works of beauty. But now, after browser vendors have stepped it up and given us much of the control we've been asking for, I can't seem to find web designers that are exploiting these new found powers.

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Chris Casciano

Chris Casciano

<http://www.chunkysoup.net/opinion/boringcss/>

2nd October 2001

AUTHOR

Chris Casciano has been working in the web industry since 1997, and currently makes his living as a freelance web developer. He also runs Place Name Here and contributes to the Web Standards Project.

NOTE

You are reading an article that was written some time ago and may contain information that is now considered outdated or obsolete. For newer content search the blog posts from the Site Tools below.

The site has been decommissioned. Visit Place Name Here for more up to date web development information.

OLD
ARTICLES

YOUR CSS BORES ME

Originally Published 2001-10-02 :: Last Modified 2006-03-22

The state of the use of Cascading Style Sheet on the web is really beginning to get boring. Why haven't designers begun exploiting its benefits yet?

I understand that making the jump away from tables to pure CSS based layouts might be intimidating, unfamiliar, or perhaps even uncomfortable for some. Does that justify the cookie cutter look of the vast amount of tableless designs that are becoming popular the web? Is there more to CSS then derivatives of templates found at sites like glish and blue robot?

THE TEMPLATE PROBLEM -OR- WHERE ARE THE DESIGNERS?

Let me get this out in the open right now. I am not trying to rag on anyone who has built a 'tableless' website, either from scratch or one that is based off of an existing template. And I certainly don't have anything against those who have spent their time creating the templates. This site isn't much to look at – its clean, simple to navigate, and easy to read, perfectly appropriate for the type of site that it is. I find the same is true for most content based sites that employ CSS.

I can remember a time not too long ago when individuals were running amok exploiting the impact of HTML tags and creating works of beauty. But now, after browser vendors have stepped it up and given us much of the control we've been asking for, I can't seem to find web designers that are exploiting these new found powers. Everyday I see a tremendous amount of visual experimentation using web technologies other than CSS. I visit sites like Born Magazine and www.1000hours.com and

chunkySoup.net
Serving hearty nuggets since 2001

CSS Layout Techniques: for Fun and Profit



Look Ma, No Tables.

If you are looking for help making the transition to CSS layout (that's Cascading Style Sheets), you've come to the right place. I am cataloging here as many useful *cross-browser* CSS layout techniques as I can find, and some that I made up when I was bored last Thursday. All the **examples on this site** have been reduced to only their essential code, and you will find the source displayed on each page to hopefully make it quick and easy to understand the inner workings of the CSS. **Feel free to steal all the code you find on this site**, and consider linking back here on your site or in your source comments.

You will also find below links to various online CSS **resources** and **tutorials**, appropriate for both the novice and the seasoned CSS veteran.

I started this collection because of the dearth of resources I found out there when I went looking for information on how to translate typical table based layouts to CSS layouts. I know it is not nearly exhaustive, so if you see that there is something missing, whether it is a particularly good tutorial, or a site that is using a complex CSS layout, please **let me know about it**. I will pay you \$3750 for each link you submit that I use.

If you don't have any idea why anyone cares about this topic, because like tables can do all that stuff and more, please read this: **To Hell with Bad Browsers**. And then read this **follow up interview** with Zeldman. And then read about the Web Standards Project's **Browser Upgrade** campaign. The future is bright, kids!

CSS Techniques

CSS layout techniques and the sites that use them.

3 Columns, The Holy Grail of page layouts — The most elegant technique and perhaps the most sought after layout: a 3 column page with a fluid center column. Easy to understand, easy to implement. I first saw this layout at **dynamic ribbon device** and have since learned that the sweet CSS came from Rob Chandana's of **BlueRobot**. Owen also made a very nice **tutorial** using this layout technique.

2 Columns, ALA Style — Famously chronicled by Jeffrey Zeldman in his ALA article **A Web Designer's Journey**, this is an extremely easy layout to implement requiring only a simple float:left declaration.

4 Columns, All Fluid — This technique can actually be used to provide as many columns on a page as you like. Drawback #1) it gets difficult quickly if you want to make any of the columns a fixed width. Drawback #2) it relies heavily on percentages, which the various browsers all calculate differently, so you can't place your columns very precisely. Still, a very useful technique, especially if you don't want borders and different background colors for your columns.

3 Columns, All Fluid — A much simpler and potentially more useful technique than the 4 column technique above. It uses float:left, suffers from needing percentage widths for each column, and from

Quick-Links to the Layouts:

- 3 columns, the holy grail**
- 2 columns, ALA style**
- 4 columns, all fluid**
- 3 columns, all fluid**
- static width and centered**
- nested float**

On This Page:

- CSS Techniques**
- CSS Resources**
- CSS Tutorials**

At This Site:

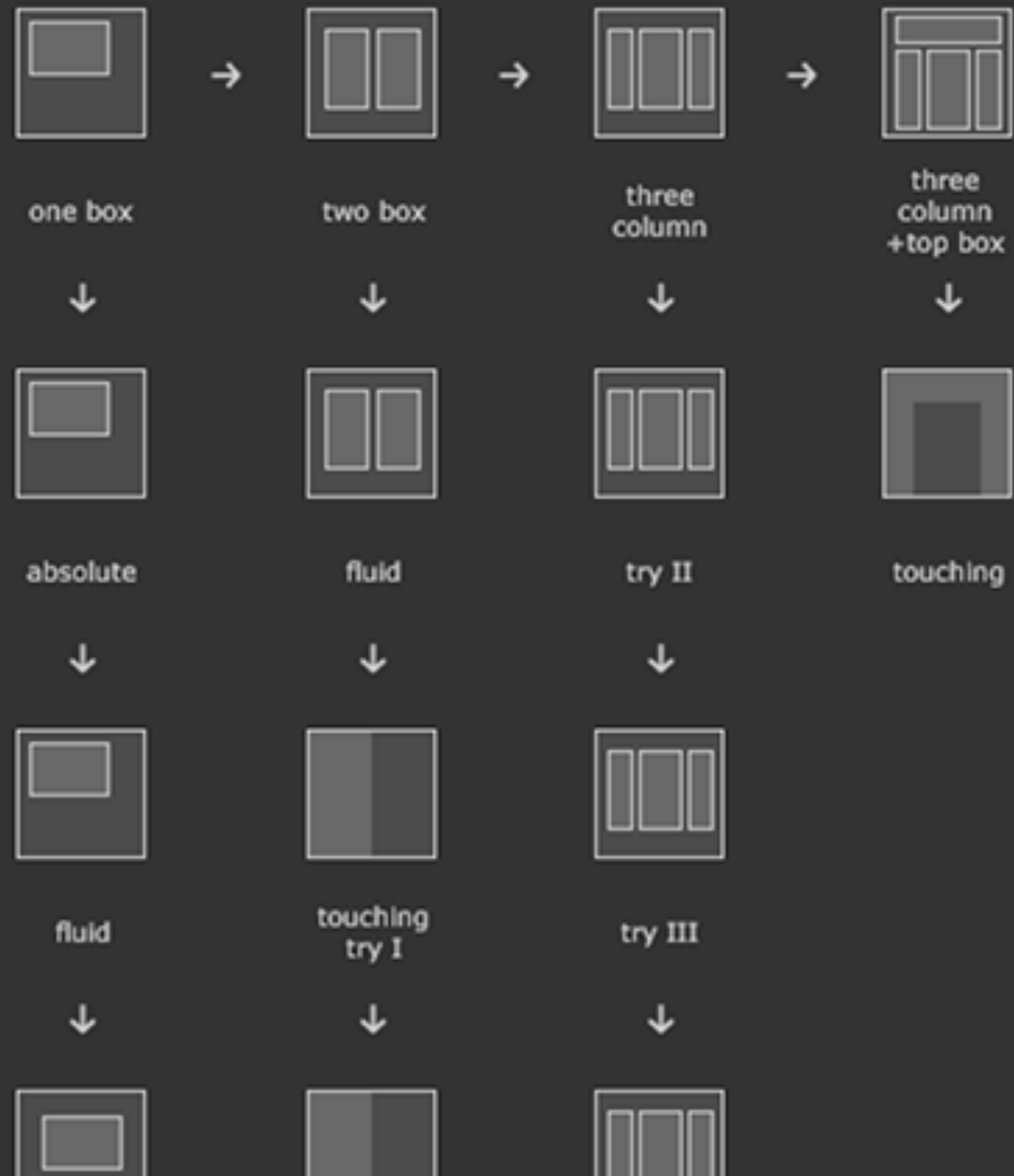
- Blogger Template**
- CSS Hacks Explanation**
- Celebrity Makover**

What's New:

5-04-04— The second edition of our book is out:



YES



16 Years.

March 2017



March 2017



March 2017



March 2017



March 2017



March 2017



Soooooon!

Method of using a grid concept to lay out content, providing a mechanism for authors to divide available space for layout into columns and rows using a set of predictable sizing behaviors

unprefixed: 56.99%
 www.rachelandrew.co.uk 2.38% + 1.78% = 4.17%
 unprefixed: 2.38%

Current aligned	Usage relative	Date relative	Show all	IE	Edge *	Firefox	Chrome	Safari	Opera	iOS Safari *	Opera Mini *	Android Browser *	Chrome for Android
							1 49						
							1 56						
	2 14				4 52		4 57	10		9.3		4.4	
2 11	2 15			4 53		58	10.1	44		10.2		4.4.4	
						54	59	TP		10.3	all	56	57
						55	60						
						56	61						

Notes Known issues (0) Resources (11) Feedback

Supported in WebKit Nightly with `-webkit-` prefix.

1 Enabled in Chrome through the "experimental Web Platform features" flag in `chrome://flags`

2 Partial support in IE refers to supporting an **older version** of the specification.

But, old
browsers!

There will be
code

A new system
for layout

Featuring

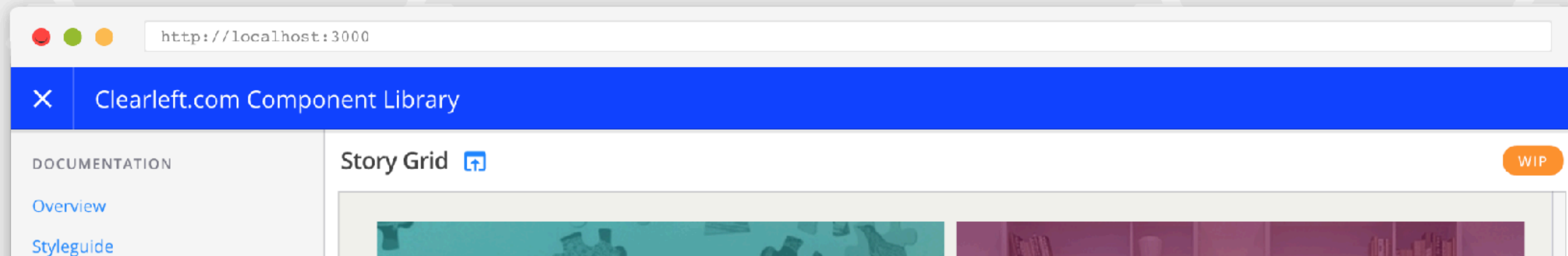
- ▶ Flexbox
- ▶ CSS Grid Layout
- ▶ Box Alignment
- ▶ CSS Shapes
- ▶ CSS Feature Queries



Build. Document. Integrate.

Powerful component libraries & styleguides that fit the way *you* work.

Get started →





Zeldman ✓
@zeldman

 Follow



“I design patterns (small responsive designs themselves) that ultimately stitch together to create pages.” @beep #aeasea

RETWEETS

2

LIKES

4



4:41 PM - 3 Apr 2017 from **Seattle, WA**





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An optional footer goes here.

New CSS Meets

The Media Object

Media Object

- ▶ contains an image plus content
- ▶ is flexible
- ▶ elements should stack on mobile
- ▶ box should clear the contents
- ▶ image can be to the left or the right
- ▶ can be nested



This is my title

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An optional footer goes here.

Avoid pre-empting the need for markup as styling hooks.

Media Object

A parent with a class of 'media'

Four child elements:

- title
- img
- content
- footer

```
<div class="media">
  <h2 class="title">This is my title</
h2>
  <div class="img">
    
  </div>
  <div class="content">
  </div>
  <div class="footer">
    footer here
  </div>
</div>
```



This is my title

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An optional footer goes here.

Media Object

To create a grid use a new value of the display property:

display: grid

```
@media (min-width: 600px) {  
  .media {  
    display: grid;  
  }  
}
```

Media Object

Create gutters between grid cells:

- grid-column-gap
- grid-row-gap
- grid-gap

```
@media (min-width: 600px) {  
  .media {  
    display: grid;  
    grid-column-gap: 20px;  
  }  
}
```

Media Object

The `grid-template-columns` property creates column tracks on the grid.

The new `fr` unit represents a fraction of the available space.

```
@media (min-width: 600px) {  
  .media {  
    display: grid;  
    grid-column-gap: 20px;  
    grid-template-columns: 1fr 3fr;  
  }  
}
```

This is my title



An optional footer goes here.

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An optional footer goes here.

Media Object

Define areas with grid-area

```
.media > .title {  
  grid-area: title;  
}  
.media > .img {  
  grid-area: img;  
}  
.media > .content {  
  grid-area: bd;  
}  
.media > .footer {  
  grid-area: ft;  
}
```

Media Object

Describing layout with the
grid-template-areas property

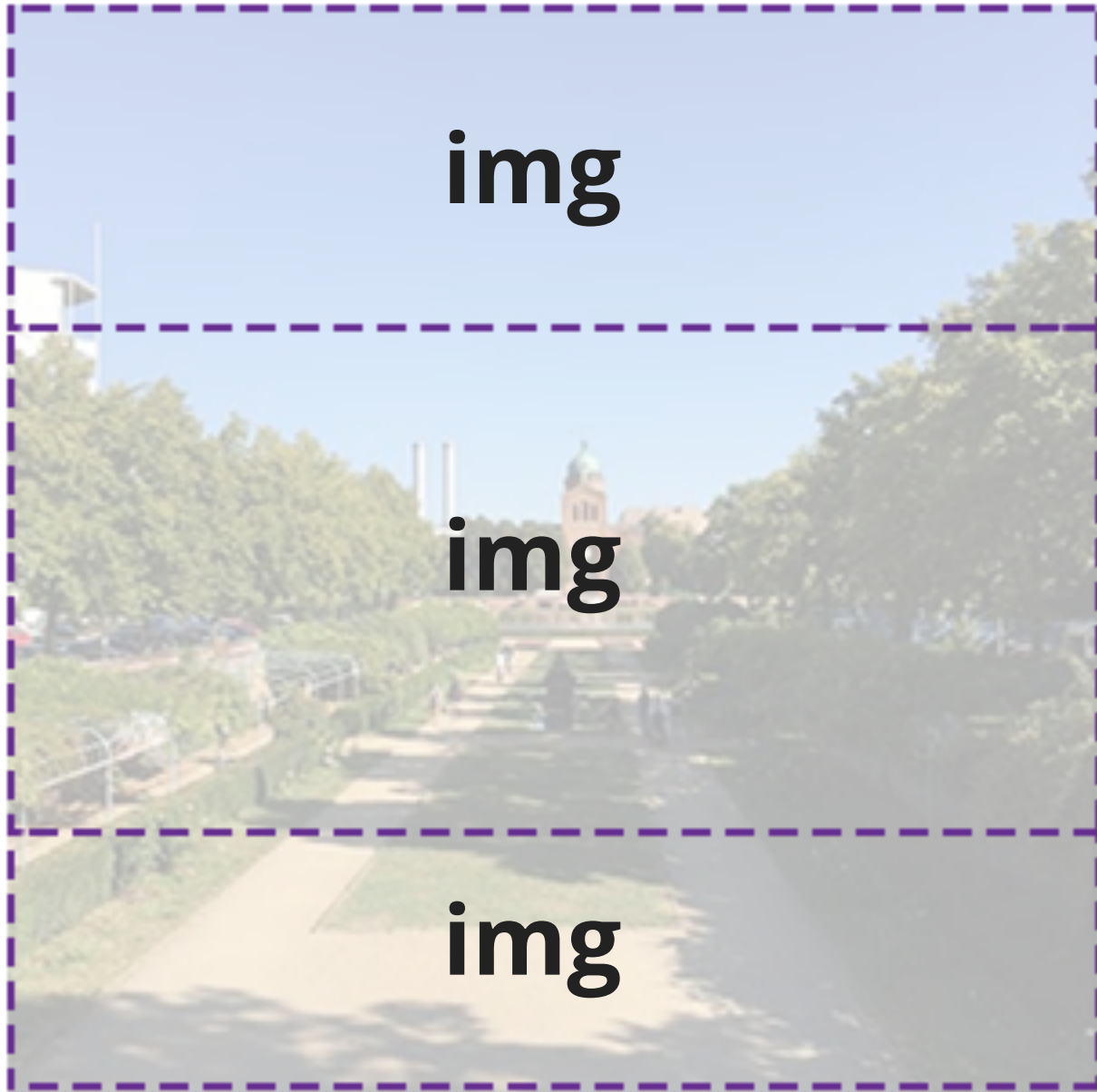
```
@media (min-width: 600px) {  
  .media {  
    display: grid;  
    grid-column-gap: 20px;  
    grid-template-columns: 1fr 3fr;  
    grid-template-areas:  
      "img title"  
      "img bd"  
      "img ft";  
  }  
}
```



This is my title

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An optional footer goes here.



This is my title **title**

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An optional footer goes here. **ft**



This is my title

Only a little bit of text.

An optional footer goes here.

auto

auto as flex-basis

Box one, two and three are nested inside flex-example.

There is another element nested inside box three.

```
<div class="flex-example">  
  <div class="one">Box one</div>  
  <div class="two">Box two</div>  
  <div class="three">  
    <div class="inner">Box three</div>  
  </div>  
</div>
```

auto as flex-basis

The parent becomes a flex container, and all direct children are set to grow and shrink from a flex-basis of **auto**.

```
.flex-example {  
  display: flex;  
}
```

```
.flex-example > div {  
  flex: 1 1 auto;  
}
```

Box one

Box two

Box three

no box has a width, and flex-basis is auto and so resolved from the content

Box one

Box two has some additional content has some additional content.

Box three

auto as flex-basis

Use auto and the flex-basis will be taken from any width set on the item. If there is no width, flex-basis will be taken from the content width.

```
.flex-example {  
  display: flex;  
}
```

```
.flex-example > div {  
  flex: 1 1 auto;  
}
```

```
.two {  
  width: 350px;  
}
```

```
.three .inner {  
  width: 200px;  
}
```

Box one

Box two

Box three

no width

width 350px

nested item width 200px

Box one

Box two has some additional content has some additional content.

Box three

<https://cssgrid.me/flex-auto>

Media Object

The `grid-template-rows` property defines the rows on the grid.

If we don't define rows grid will create them as part of the implicit grid.

```
@media (min-width: 600px) {  
  .media {  
    display: grid;  
    grid-column-gap: 20px;  
    grid-template-columns: 1fr 3fr;  
    grid-template-rows: auto 1fr;  
    grid-template-areas:  
      "img title"  
      "img bd"  
      "img ft";  
  }  
}
```

Media Object

Mix absolute lengths with fr units to have flexible containers that have some fixed width tracks.

```
@media (min-width: 600px) {  
  .media {  
    display: grid;  
    grid-column-gap: 20px;  
    grid-template-columns: 150px 1fr;  
    grid-template-rows: auto 1fr;  
    grid-template-areas:  
      "img title"  
      "img bd"  
      "img ft";  
  }  
}
```

Media Object

- ▶ contains an image plus content ✓
- ▶ is flexible ✓
- ▶ elements should stack on mobile ✓
- ▶ box should clear the contents ✓
- ▶ image can be to the left or the right
- ▶ can be nested



Media Object

Flipping the display by creating new rules for the 'media-flip' class.

```
@media (min-width: 600px) {  
  .media {  
    display: grid;  
    grid-column-gap: 20px;  
    grid-template-columns: 150px 1fr;  
    grid-template-rows: auto 1fr;  
    grid-template-areas:  
      "img title"  
      "img bd"  
      "img ft";  
  }  
  
  .media.media-flip {  
    grid-template-columns: 1fr 150px;  
    grid-template-areas:  
      "title img"  
      "bd img"  
      "ft img";  
  }  
}
```

This is my title

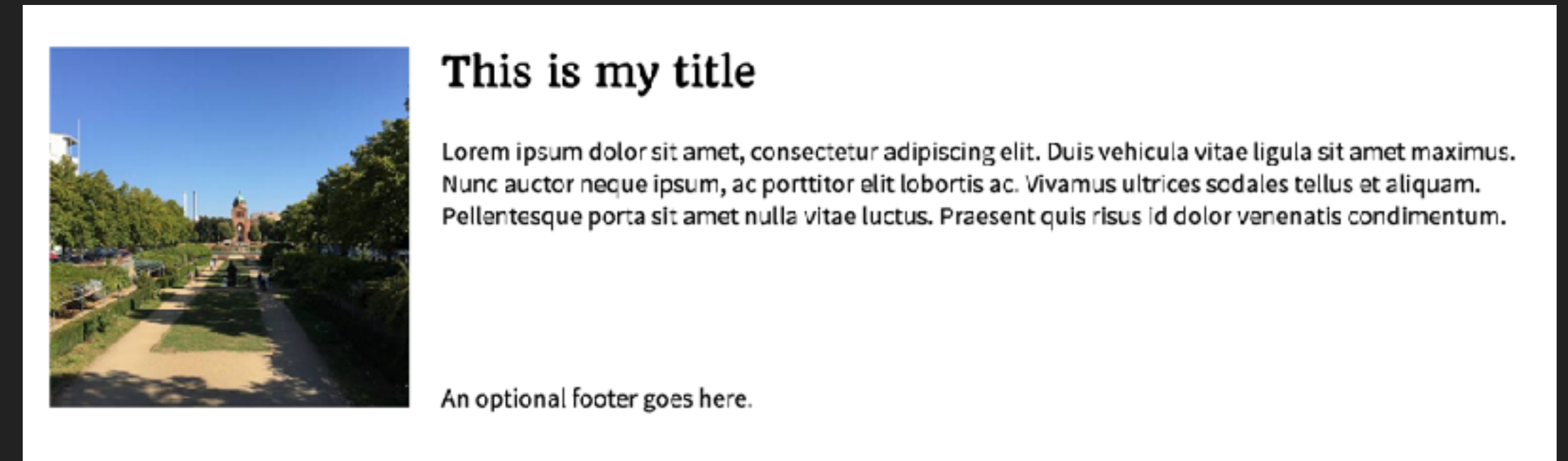
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An optional footer goes here.



Media Object

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footer here

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Media Object

If an item with a class of media is the direct child of an item with a class of media, start on column line 2.

Line -1 is the final line of the grid.

```
.media > .media {  
  grid-column: 2 / -1 ;  
}
```




This is my title

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footer here



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footer here

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The image displays three examples of Media Objects, each consisting of a square image of a path lined with trees, a title, a paragraph of Lorem Ipsum text, and a footer. The first example shows the image on the left, the title and text on the right, and the footer below. The second example shows the image on the left, the title and text on the right, and the footer below. The third example shows the image on the left, the title and text on the right, and the footer below.

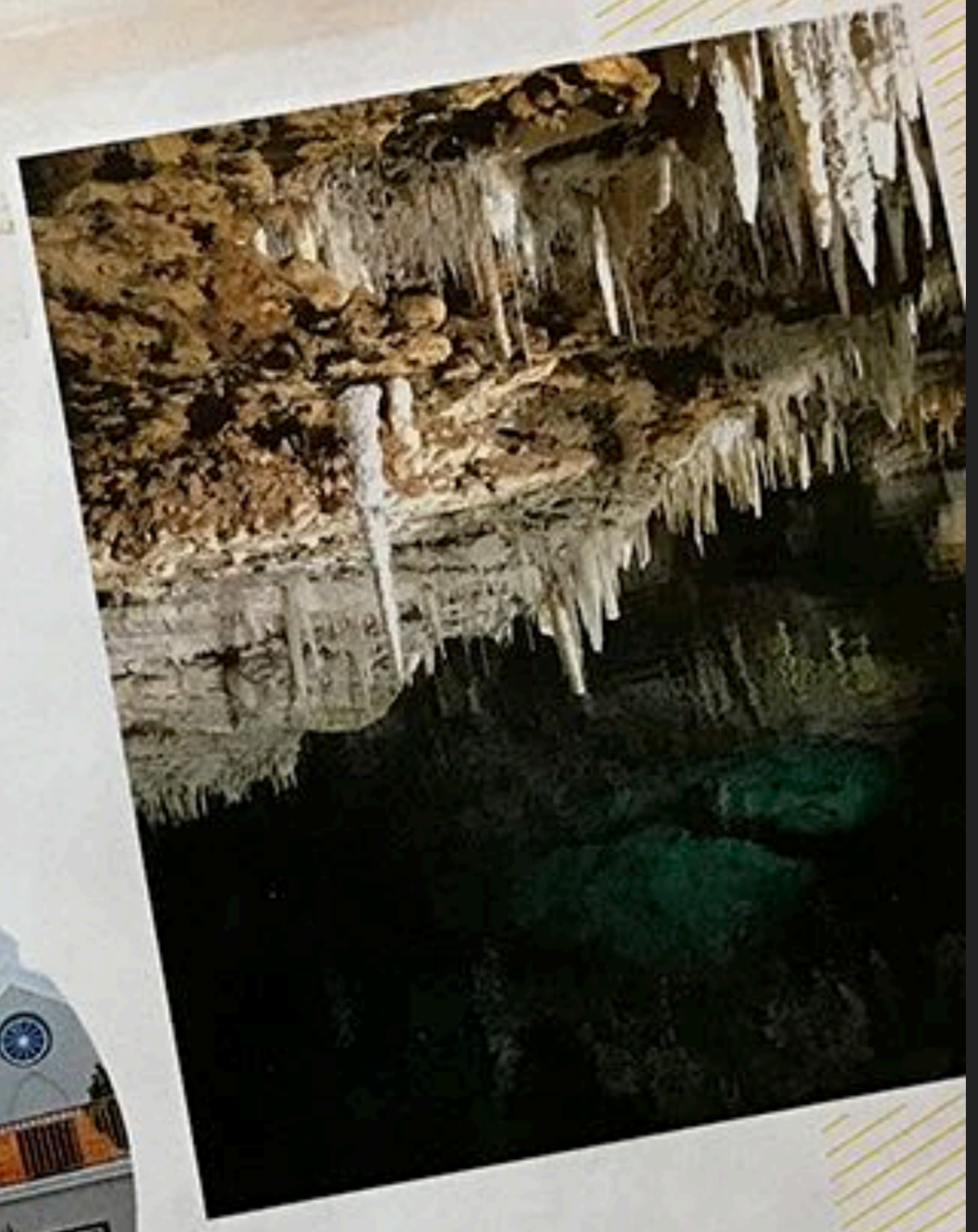
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footer here



Clockwise from top: Bermuda is known for its pink-sand beaches, like Horseshoe Bay. The Crystal Caves were discovered in the early 20th century. The church St. Peter's, Their Majesties Chappell dates to 1612.



New CSS Meets

Magazine style layout

ocean Sea (it's actually in the Atlantic
and another being that it's a single island
of 181 islands). The biggest misconcep-
tion, might be that Bermuda is only for the
rich, given its abundance of sailing, golf
clubs. The truth is that Bermuda can be done
on a budget, so long as you like genial locals,
pink-sand beaches and 400 years of U.S.
intertwined history.

in the eastern city of St. George, a UNESCO
World Heritage Site. The town dates to 1612 and is a
mecca for history buffs looking to learn about life
in colonial Bermuda. On the don't miss list: gorgeous
St. Peter's, Their Majesties Chappell; Tucker House;
St. Catherine. Wandering the lanes is a lovely
way to spend the afternoon, too.

Heading back toward Hamilton, geology geeks
might want to check out the Crystal Caves (caves.bm),
thought to be 30 million years old, for stalagmite and
stalactite formations. Across the road is the Swizzle Inn
(swizzleinn.com), home of the Rum Swizzle, a popular
cocktail to drink in Bermuda (be careful, it's potent).

Explore the beaches on the south shore as you
make your way west. The most popular beach by
far is Horseshoe Bay, but if you walk along the coves
on either side of it you'll be rewarded with a more
secluded experience. Warwick Long Bay Beach is
also of note, although you'll find turquoise water
and pink sand seemingly at every turn.

For more information, visit gotobermuda.com.



Clockwise from top: Bermuda is known for its pink-sand beaches, like Horseshoe Bay. The Crystal Caves were discovered in the early 20th century. The church St. Peter's, Their Majesties Chappell dates to 1612.



Magazine Style Layout

The block is a figure with three images and a caption.

```
<figure class="feature-fig">  
  <figcaption>caption</figcaption>  
    
    
    
</figure>
```

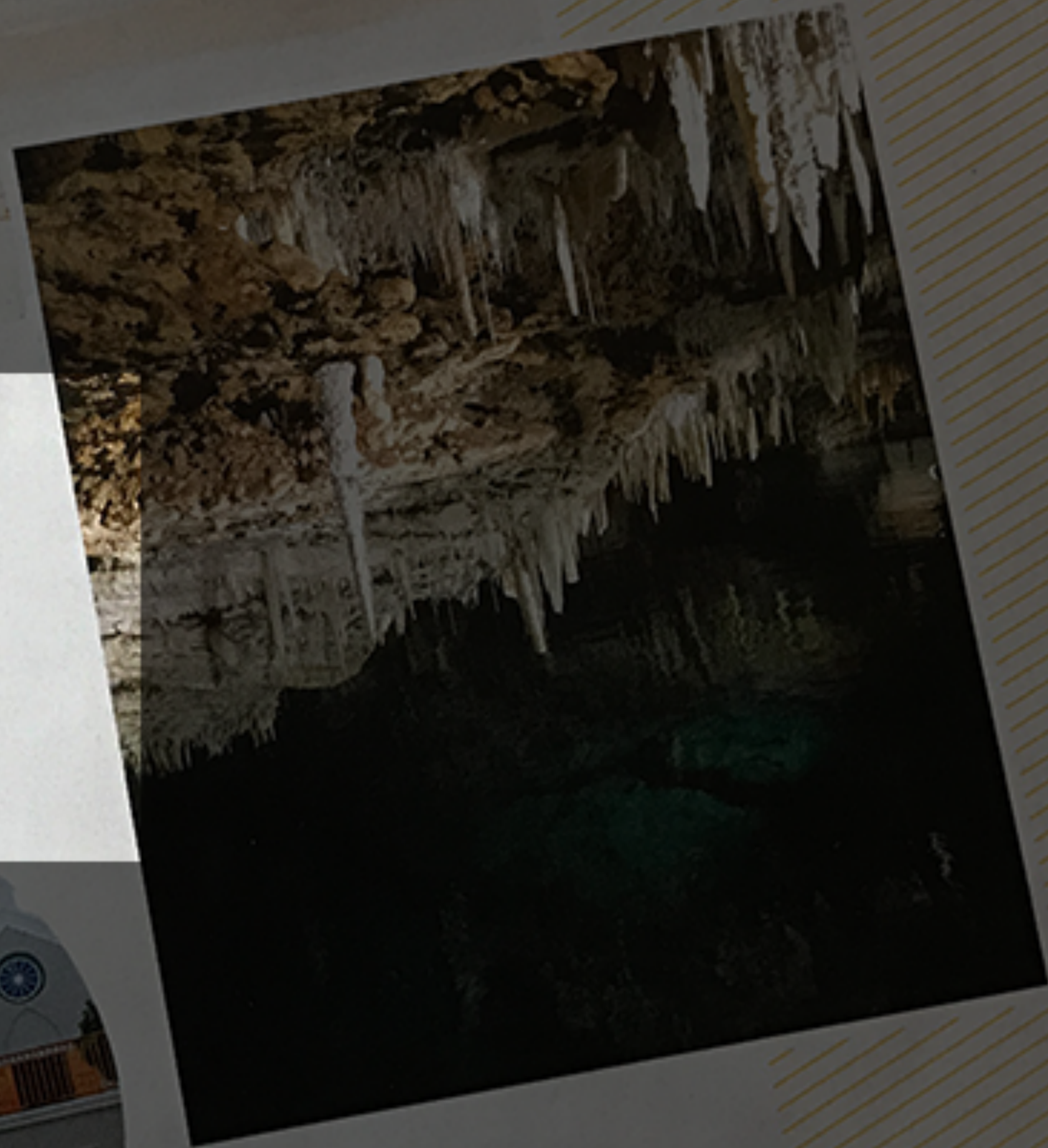
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Head to the eastern city of St. George, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The town dates to 1612 and is a mecca for history buffs looking to learn about life in colonial Bermuda. On the don't miss list: gorgeous St. Peter's, Their Majesties Chappell; Tucker House; and Fort St. Catherine. Wandering the lanes is a lovely way to spend the afternoon, too.

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Half-border Box

Creating the half-border box as a standalone pattern.

```
<div class="half-border">  
  <p class="inner">Content here</p>  
</div>
```

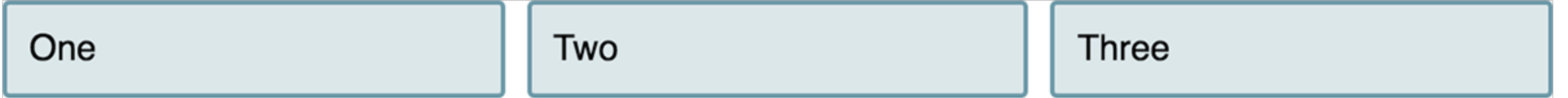

Half-border Box

I'm using grid layout to create a single column, 2 row grid.

```
.half-border {  
  display: grid;  
  border-top: 2px solid #000;  
  grid-template-rows:  
    minmax(30px, 1fr) 2fr;  
}
```

minimax()

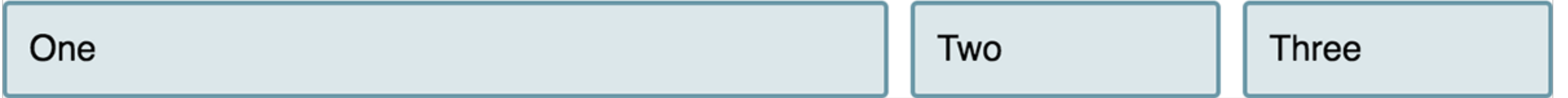
700px container



1fr

1fr

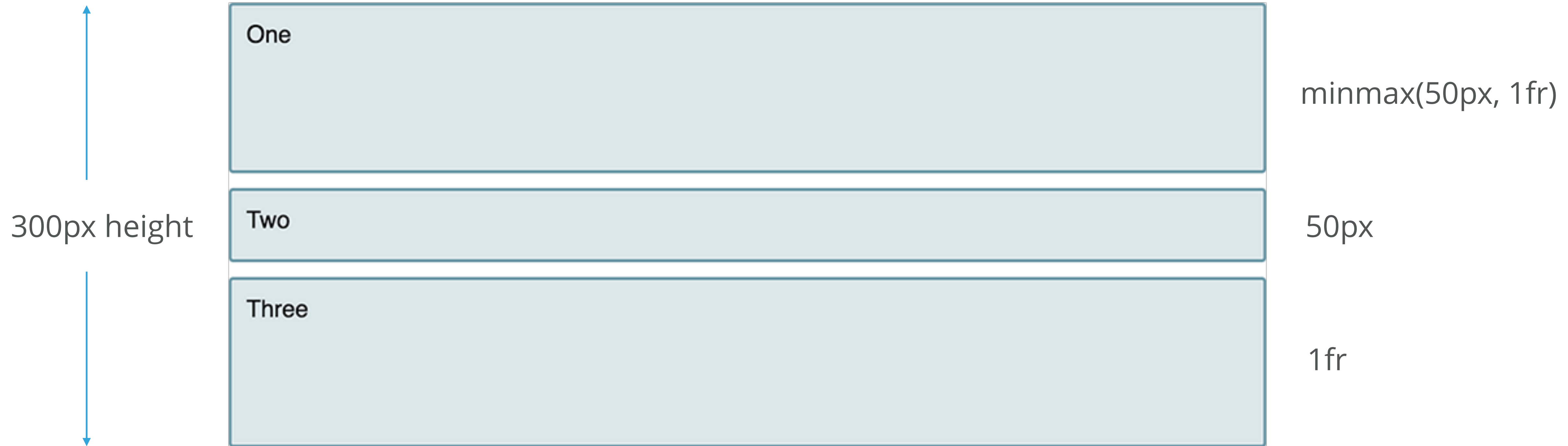
1fr



minmax(400px, 1fr)

1fr

1fr



<https://cssgrid.me/grid-minmax>

Half-border Box

The first row of the grid is a minimum of 30px tall, a maximum of 1fr.

```
.half-border {  
  display: grid;  
  border-top: 2px solid #000;  
  grid-template-rows:  
    minmax(30px, 1fr) 2fr;  
  align-self: start;  
}
```

Half-border Box

A pseudo-element created with generated content will also become a grid item.

```
.half-border::before {  
  content: "";  
  border-left: 2px solid #000;  
  grid-row: 1;  
  grid-column: 1;  
}
```

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Half-border Box

The inner starts at row line 1 and ends at row line 3, spanning 2 row tracks.

```
.half-border .inner {  
  grid-row: 1 / 3;  
  grid-column: 1;  
  margin: 10px;  
}
```

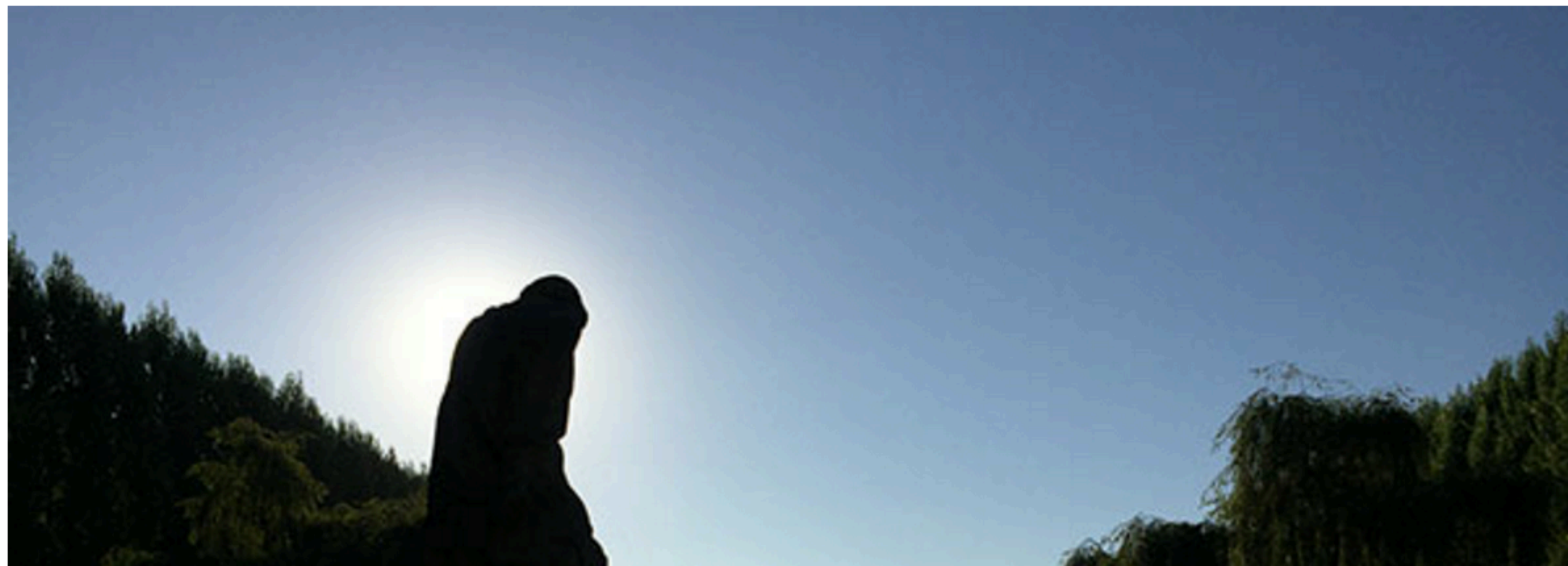

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Duis vehicula vitae ligula sit amet maximus. Nunc auctor neque ipsum, ac porttitor elit lobortis ac. Vivamus ultrices sodales tellus et aliquam. Pellentesque porta sit amet nulla vitae luctus. Praesent quis risus id dolor venenatis condimentum.

Magazine Style Layout

Adding the half-border classes.

```
<figure class="feature-fig">  
  <figcaption class="half-border">  
    <p class="inner">caption</p>  
  </figcaption>  
  
    
    
    
  
</figure>
```

This caption should be descriptive for all of the images contained in the feature figure.
This caption should be descriptive for all of the images contained in the feature figure.

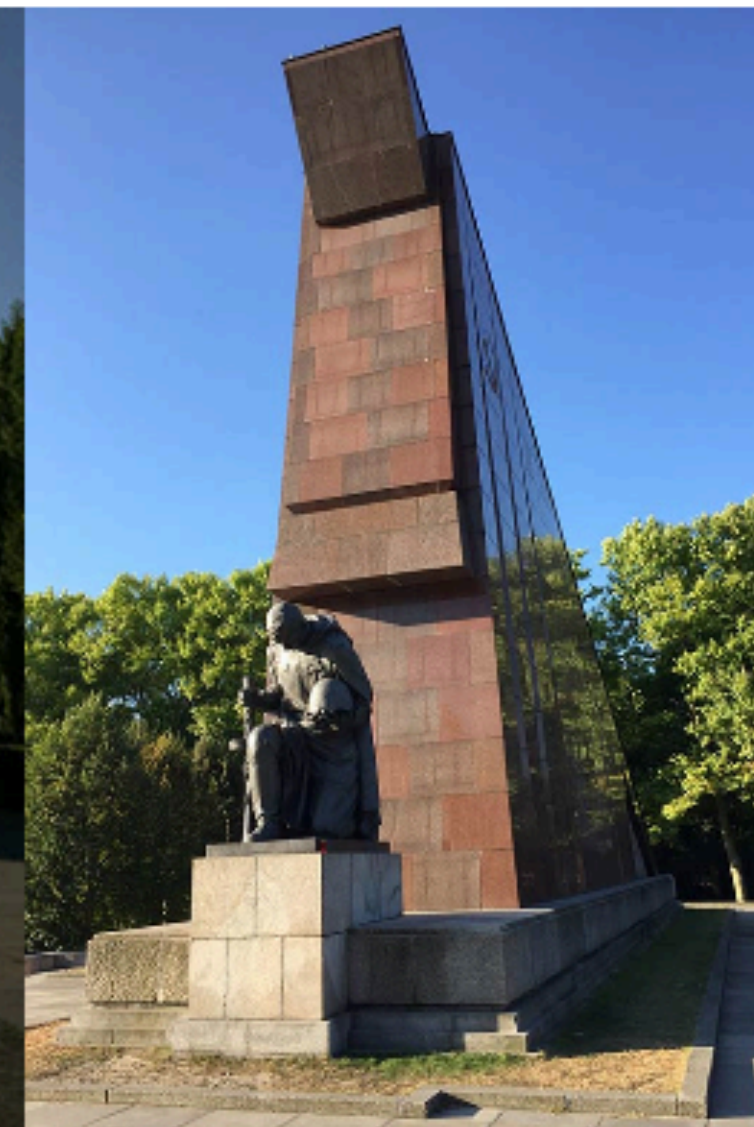
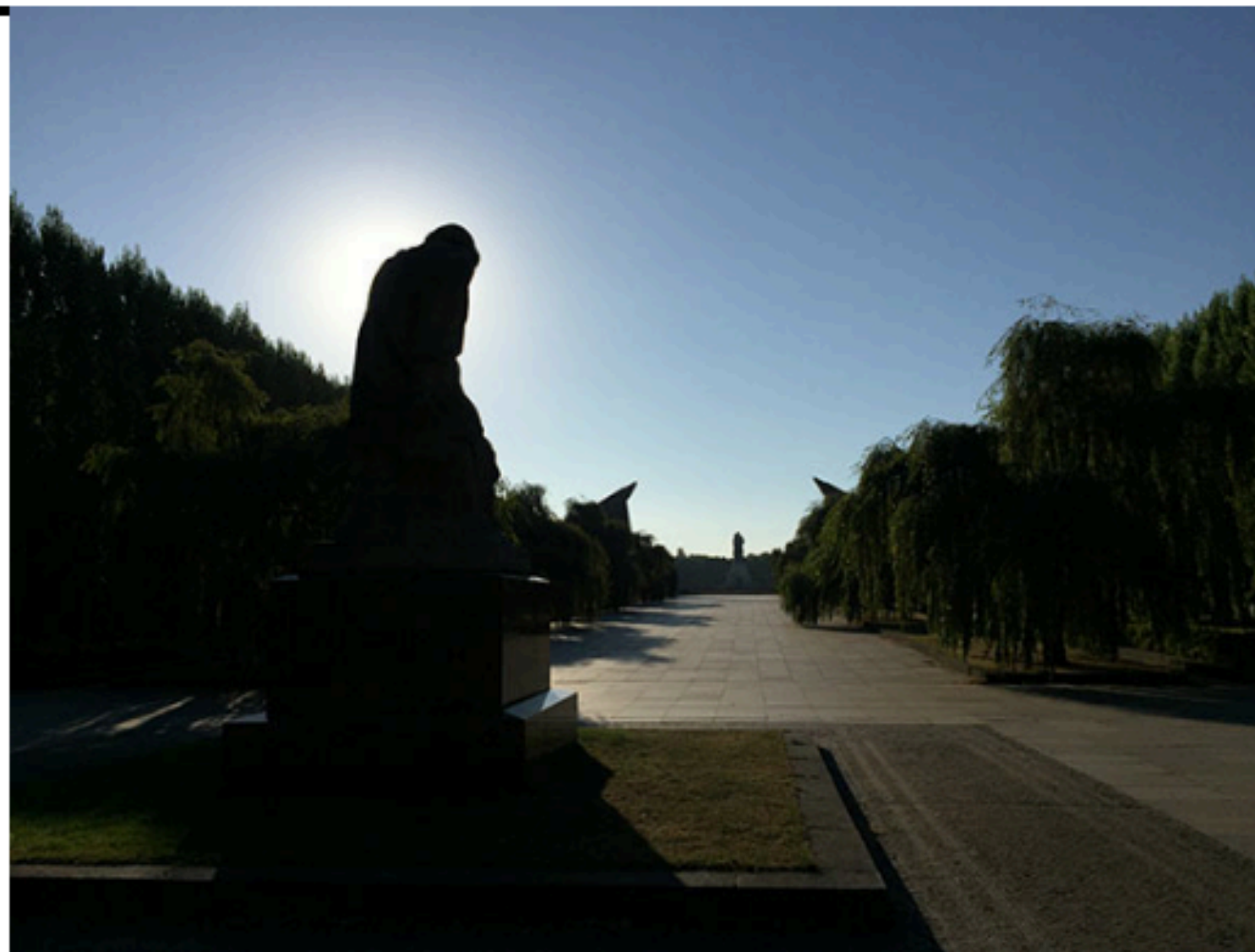


Magazine Style Layout

Defining a grid with 3 column tracks.

```
@media (min-width: 600px) {  
    .feature-fig {  
        display: grid;  
        grid-template-columns: 2fr 2fr 1fr;  
    }  
  
    .feature-fig img {  
        object-fit: cover;  
    }  
}
```

This caption should be descriptive for all of the images contained in the feature figure. This caption should be descriptive for all of the images contained in the feature figure.



Magazine Style Layout

Creating row tracks. The `minmax()` notation means that we can set a minimum size for the tracks.

```
@media (min-width: 600px) {  
  
  .feature-fig {  
    display: grid;  
    grid-template-columns: 2fr 2fr 1fr;  
  
    grid-template-rows:  
      minmax(200px, auto)  
      minmax(100px, auto)  
      auto  
      minmax(100px, auto);  
  }  
  
  .feature-fig img {  
    object-fit: cover;  
  }  
}
```

Magazine Style Layout

Position the figcaption after grid column line 1, and grid row line 3

```
.feature-fig figcaption {  
  grid-column: 1;  
  grid-row: 3;  
  margin-top: 10px;  
}
```



This caption should be descriptive for all of the images contained in the feature figure. This caption should be descriptive for all of the images contained in the feature figure.

Magazine Style Layout

The items are positioned using line-based positioning.

Grid items respect z-index so we can layer items that end up in the same cells.

```
.feature-fig .main {  
  grid-row: 1 / 3;  
  grid-column: 1 / 3;  
  z-index: 2;  
}
```

```
.feature-fig .insert {  
  grid-row: 2 / 5;  
  grid-column: 2 / 4;  
  border-top: 10px solid #fff;  
  border-left: 10px solid #fff;  
  z-index: 3;  
}
```

```
.feature-fig .small {  
  grid-row: 4 / 6;  
  grid-column: 1 ;  
}
```



This caption should be descriptive for all of the images contained in the feature figure.
This caption should be descriptive for all of the images contained in the feature figure.



Magazine Style Layout

Setting border-radius to 50% gives us a circle.

```
.photo-circle {  
  border-radius: 50%;  
}
```



This caption should be descriptive for all of the images contained in the feature figure. This caption should be descriptive for all of the images contained in the feature figure.



4.5
Miles

in Berlin, Germany

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New CSS Meets

Fancy headers with circles



4.5

Miles

in Berlin, Germany

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Fancy Header

The mark-up for the article header

```
<header class="run-header">
  <h1>
    4.5
    Miles
    in Berlin,
    Germany</h1>
  <div class="intro">
    <p> </p>
  </div>
</header>
```

Fancy Header

We need to add some mark-up to identify the parts of the h1 text we want to style.

```
<header class="run-header">
  <h1><span class="distance-wrap">
    <span class="distance">4.5</span>
    <span class="miles">Miles</span></
span>
    <span class="location">in Berlin,
Germany</span></h1>

    <div class="intro">
      <p> </p>
    </div>
</header>
```




in Berlin, Germany

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Fancy Header

I use border-radius set to 50% to make the distance part of the header a circle.

```
.run-header .distance-wrap {  
  border-radius: 50%;  
  width: 5em;  
  height: 5em;  
  padding: 0;  
  background: linear-  
gradient(rgba(0,0,0,0),  
rgba(0,0,0,0.8)),url(/assets/img/flag-  
germany.jpg) center center;  
  background-size: cover;  
  margin: 0 auto 1em auto;  
  z-index: 2;  
}
```

4.5 Miles

in Berlin, Germany

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Fancy Header

Setting display to block will mean the span becomes block level.

```
.run-header .distance-wrap {  
  display: block;  
  border-radius: 50%;  
  width: 5em;  
  height: 5em;  
  padding: 0;  
  background: linear-  
gradient(rgba(0,0,0,0),  
rgba(0,0,0,0.8)),url(/assets/img/flag-  
germany.jpg) center center;  
  background-size: cover;  
  margin: 0 auto 1em auto;  
  z-index: 2;  
}
```



in Berlin, Germany

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Quisque facilisis quis mi id ornare. Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Nunc leo risus, suscipit vitae dignissim ac, viverra in diam. Maecenas ac purus ut urna sollicitudin tempor. Donec nulla mauris, convallis vel dignissim quis, interdum eu lectus. Sed tristique magna ligula, quis tincidunt lectus maximus nec.

Fancy Header

I use border-radius set to 50% to make the distance part of the header a circle.

```
.run-header .distance-wrap {  
  display: flex;  
  flex-direction: column;  
  align-items: center;  
  justify-content: center;  
  border-radius: 50%;  
  width: 5em;  
  height: 5em;  
  padding: 0;  
  background: linear-  
gradient(rgba(0,0,0,0),  
rgba(0,0,0,0.8)),url(/assets/img/flag-  
germany.jpg) center center;  
  background-size: cover;  
  margin: 0 auto 1em auto;  
  z-index: 2;  
}
```



in Berlin, Germany

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Fancy Header

Floating the distance-wrap class left means the location comes up alongside it.

```
@media (min-width: 600px) {  
  .run-header .distance-wrap {  
    float: left;  
  
    margin: 0 10px 10px 0;  
  }  
  .run-header h1 {  
    text-align: left;  
    width: 100%;  
  }  
  .run-header .location {  
    display: inline-block;  
    padding-left: 1em;  
    margin-left: -1em;  
  }  
  .intro {  
    padding: 0;  
  }  
}
```




4.5
Miles

in Berlin, Germany

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suscipit vitae dignissim ac, viverra in diam. Maecenas ac purus ut urna sollicitudin tempor. Donec nulla mauris, convallis vel dignissim quis, interdum eu lectus. Sed tristique magna ligula, quis tincidunt lectus maximus nec.

Fancy Header

We can use the `shape-outside` property with a value of `margin-box` to create the curved text.

```
@media (min-width: 600px) {  
  .run-header .distance-wrap {  
    float: left;  
  
    margin: 0 10px 10px 0;  
  }  
  .run-header h1 {  
    text-align: left;  
    width: 100%;  
  }  
  .run-header .location {  
    display: inline-block;  
    padding-left: 1em;  
    margin-left: -1em;  
  }  
  .intro {  
    padding: 0;  
  }  
}
```

Fancy Header

We can use the `shape-outside` property with a value of `margin-box` to create the curved text.

```
@media (min-width: 600px) {  
  .run-header .distance-wrap {  
    float: left;  
    shape-outside: margin-box;  
    margin: 0 10px 10px 0;  
  }  
  .run-header h1 {  
    text-align: left;  
    width: 100%;  
  }  
  .run-header .location {  
    display: inline-block;  
    padding-left: 1em;  
    margin-left: -1em;  
  }  
  .intro {  
    padding: 0;  
  }  
}
```



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Miles

in Berlin, Germany

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This is my title

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An optional footer goes here.



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in Berlin, Germany

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Design for the extreme
edges of the experience.

The middle is
constantly changing.

CSS Shapes Level 1 📄 - CR

Allows geometric shapes to be set in CSS to define an area for text to flow around.

Global 79.98%
unprefixed: 72.4%
www.rachelandrew.co.uk 73.42%
unprefixed: 55.9%
[show more...](#)

Current aligned Usage relative Date relative [Show all](#)

IE	Edge *	Firefox	Chrome	Safari	Opera	iOS Safari *	Opera Mini *	Android Browser *	Chrome for Android
			49						
			56						
	14	52	57	10 <small>⚠</small>		9.3 <small>⚠</small>		4.4	
11	15	53	58	10.1	44	10.2 <small>⚠</small>	all	4.4.4	
		54	59	TP	45			56	57
		55	60		46				
		56	61						

[Notes](#) [Known issues \(0\)](#) [Resources \(7\)](#) [Feedback](#)

MS Edge status: **Under Consideration**

Firefox status: **in-development**

caniuse.com/#feat=css-shapes

CSS has backwards
compatibility built in.



4.5
Miles

in Berlin, Germany

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suscipit vitae dignissim ac, viverra in diam. Maecenas ac purus ut urna sollicitudin tempor. Donec nulla mauris, convallis vel dignissim quis, interdum eu lectus. Sed tristique magna ligula, quis tincidunt lectus maximus nec.

Feature Queries

CSS Feature Queries - CR

Global 92.36%
www.rachelandrew.co.uk 82.42%
U.K. 89.83%

CSS Feature Queries allow authors to condition rules based on whether particular property declarations are supported in CSS using the @supports at rule.

Current aligned Usage relative Date relative Show all

IE	Edge *	Firefox	Chrome	Safari	Opera	iOS Safari *	Opera Mini *	Android Browser *	Chrome for Android
			49						
			56			9.3		4.4	
	14	52	57	10		10.2		4.4.4	
11	15	53	58	10.1	44	10.3	all	56	57
		54	59	TP	45				
		55	60		46				
		56	61						

Notes Known issues (2) Resources (7) Feedback

See also the [CSS.supports\(\) DOM API](#)

caniuse.com/#feat=css-featurequeries



4.5
Miles

in Berlin, Germany

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Fancy Header

A Feature Query looks very similar to Media Queries. Here we test for a property and value pair.

```
@supports (shape-outside: margin-box) {  
  }  
}
```

Using Feature Queries

- ▶ Write CSS for browsers without support
- ▶ Override those properties inside the feature queries
- ▶ See <https://hacks.mozilla.org/2016/08/using-feature-queries-in-css/>
- ▶ A component based approach helps to keep this all in check!

Fancy Header

Outside of the feature query I add a left margin to the intro.

Inside the feature query we add the `shape-outside` property and also remove that margin.

```
.intro {  
  padding: 0;  
  margin-left: 9em;  
}  
  
@supports (shape-outside: margin-box) {  
  .run-header .distance-wrap {  
    shape-outside: margin-box;  
    margin: 0 10px 10px 0;  
  }  
  .intro {  
    margin-left: 0;  
  }  
}
```



in Berlin, Germany

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in Berlin, Germany

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This caption should be descriptive for all of the images contained in the feature figure. This caption should be descriptive for all of the images contained in the feature figure.



Half-border Box

Using a Feature Query to check for
Grid Layout support

```
@supports(display: grid) {  
  
}
```

Half-border Box

Outside the Feature Query write CSS to style the box.

Override that for Grid supporting browsers inside the query.

```
.half-border {
  display: inline-block;
  border: 2px solid #000;
  padding: 10px;
}

@supports(display: grid) {
  .half-border {
    border: 0;
    padding: 0;

    /* the rest of my CSS for grid */
  }
}
```

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<https://cssgrid.me/half-border-box>

Magazine Style Layout

Outside the Feature Query add CSS for non-grid browsers.

Inside write CSS to override plus the rules for grid layout.

```
@media (min-width: 600px) {  
  .half-border {  
    width: 45%;  
    display: inline-block;  
    vertical-align: top;  
  }  
  .feature-fig img {  
    object-fit: cover;  
    display: inline-block;  
    width: 45%;  
  }  
  .feature-fig .small {  
    vertical-align: bottom;  
    margin: 0 0 20px 5%;  
  }  
  .photo-circle {  
    border-radius: 50%;  
  }  
  @supports(display: grid) {  
    .feature-fig img,  
    .half-border {  
      width: auto;  
    }  
    .feature-fig .small {  
      margin: 0;  
    }  
    /* the rest of my CSS for grid */  
  }  
}
```


This caption should be descriptive for all of the images contained in the feature figure.
This caption should be descriptive for all of the images contained in the feature figure.



Magazine Style Layout

Outside the Feature Query add CSS for non-grid browsers.

Inside write CSS to override plus the rules for grid layout.

```
@media (min-width: 600px) {
  .half-border {
    width: 45%;
    display: inline-block;
    vertical-align: top;
  }
  .feature-fig img {
    object-fit: cover;
    display: inline-block;
    width: 45%;
  }
  .feature-fig .small {
    vertical-align: bottom;
    margin: 0 0 20px 5%;
  }
  .photo-circle {
    border-radius: 50%;
  }
}
@supports(display: grid) {
  .feature-fig img,
  .half-border {
    width: auto;
  }
  .feature-fig .small {
    margin: 0;
  }
  /* the rest of my CSS for grid */
}
}
```

If using display: grid or display: flex

- ▶ Floated items that become grid or flex items lose their float behaviour
- ▶ vertical-align has no effect on a grid item
- ▶ Items set to display: inline-block or display: block become grid items
- ▶ Your overrides mostly will be concerned with changing widths, margins and padding.
- ▶ If grid tracks or flex-basis seem to be using a size you didn't expect, **check your item widths!**

Grid “fallbacks” and overrides

[Defined in the CSS Grid Specification](#) are the ways in which grid interacts with other layout methods. These definitions mean that as soon as an item becomes a grid item, other behaviour that you may have used for older browsers is overwritten. This means that you do not have to completely fork your code and build two versions. Where you do need to overwrite CSS used for older browsers, you can do so inside a CSS Feature Query. This enables safe encapsulation of any CSS you only want a grid supporting browser to apply.

Here is a quick reference to the defined overrides with simple examples. See the resources at the end of this cheatsheet for more advice and examples.

Floated items

Float and clear have no effect on a grid item

If you float an item, in your CSS for non-grid browsers, when that item becomes a grid item float ceases to have any effect. The clear property applied to an item that becomes a grid item also no longer takes effect.

Example

```
<div class="grid">
  <div>One</div>
  <div>Two</div>
  <div>Three</div>
</div>
```

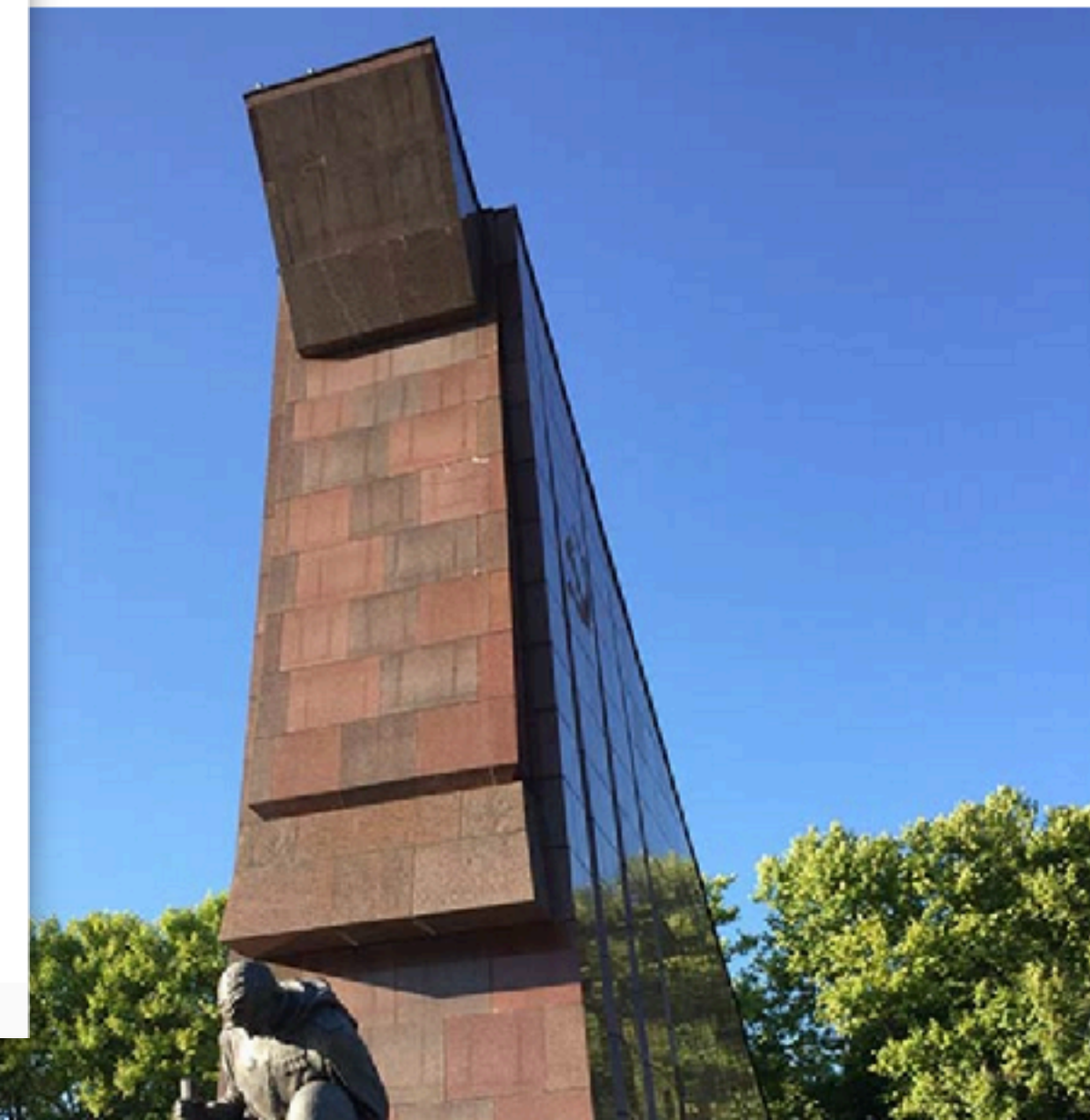
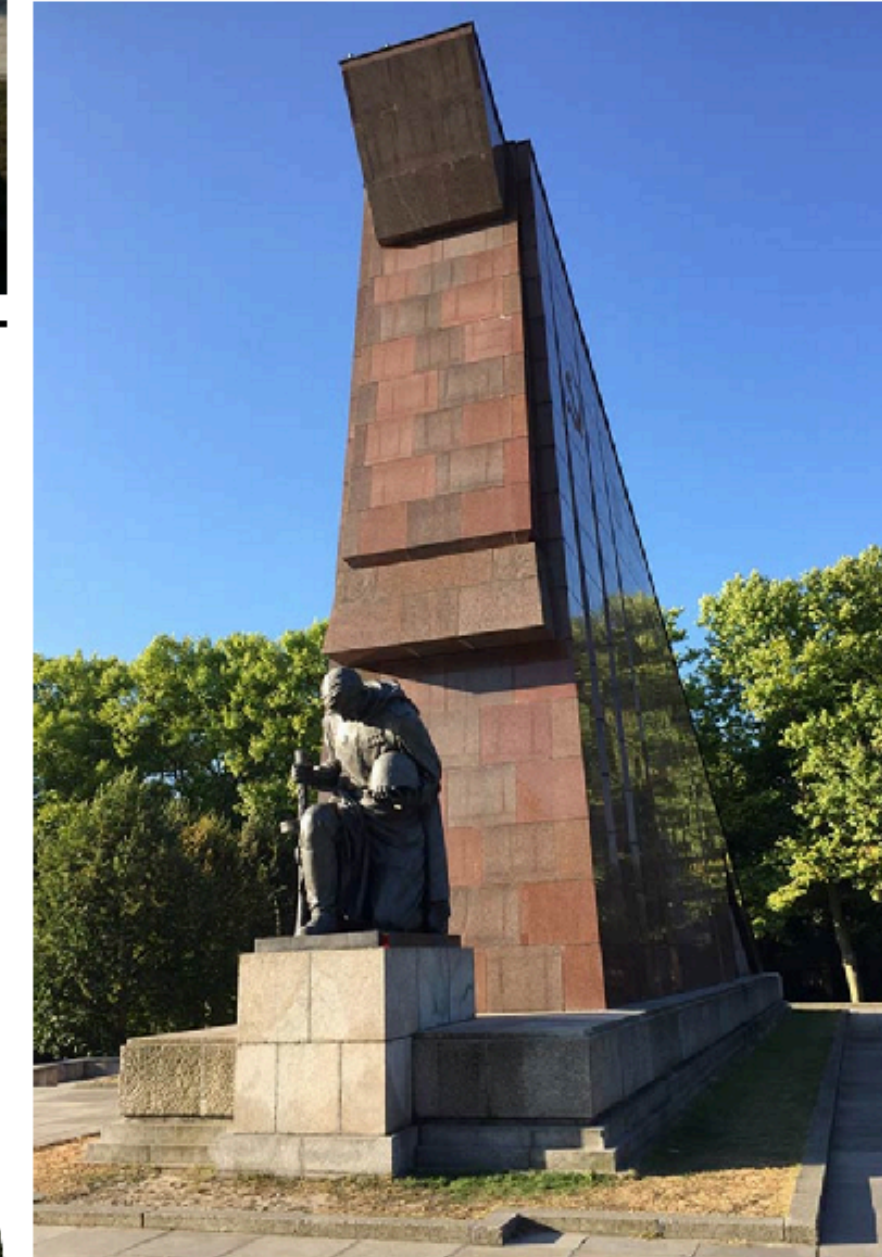
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This caption should be descriptive for all of the images contained in the feature figure.
This caption should be descriptive for all of the images contained in the feature figure.



This caption should be descriptive for all of the images contained in the feature figure.
This caption should be descriptive for all of the images contained in the feature figure.



Magazine style layouts three ways
- <https://cssgrid.me/feature-figure>

This is my title

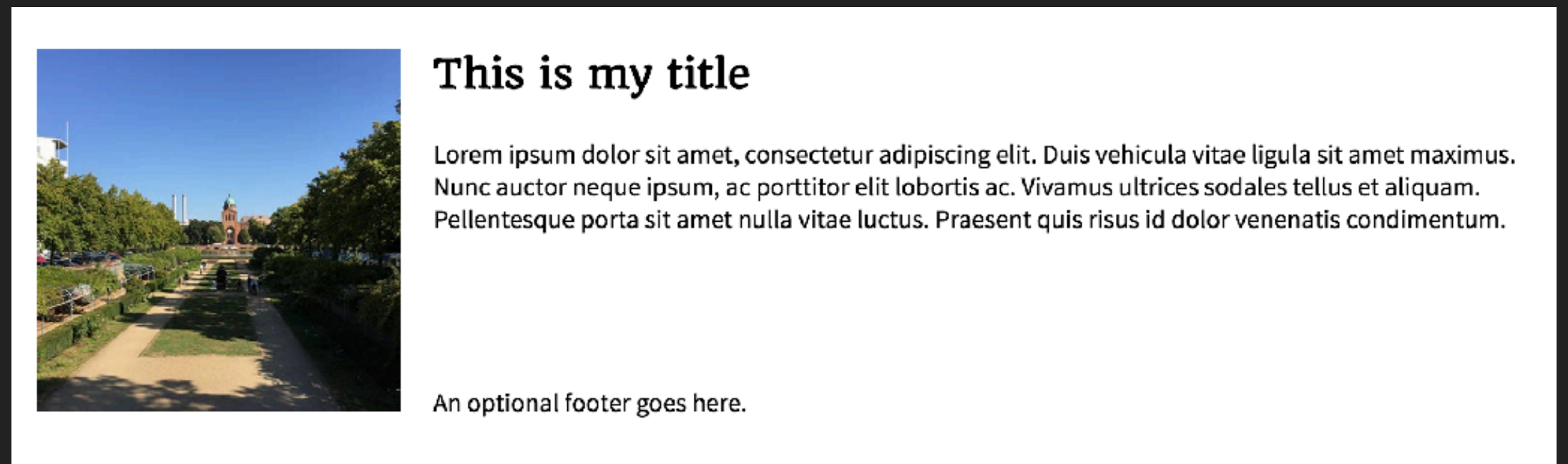


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An optional footer goes here.

Media Object

- ▶ contains an image plus content ✓
- ▶ is flexible ✓
- ▶ elements should stack on mobile ✓
- ▶ box should clear the contents ✓
- ▶ image can be to the left or the right ✓
- ▶ can be nested ✓



Media Object

We need to add a 'clearfix' to the media object outside the Feature Queries, and also clear nested Media Objects.

```
.media:after {  
  content: "";  
  display: table;  
  clear: both;  
}
```

```
.media > .media {  
  margin-left: 160px;  
  clear: both;  
}
```


Media Object

The image is floated left, or right.

Add a right, or left margin to the other child elements.

```
.media .img {  
  float: left;  
  margin: 0 10px 0 0;  
  width: 150px;  
}
```

```
.media.media-flip .img {  
  float: right;  
  margin: 0 0 0 10px;  
}
```

```
.media > * {  
  margin: 0 0 0 160px;  
}
```

```
.media.media-flip > * {  
  margin: 0 160px 0 0;  
}
```

Media Object

The overrides are to remove margins and widths and the now redundant generated content for clearing.

```
@supports(display: grid ) {  
  
  .media > *,  
  .media.media-flip > * {  
    margin: 0;  
  }  
  
  .media .img,  
  .media.media-flip .img {  
    width: auto;  
    margin: 0;  
  }  
  
  .media:after {  
    content: none;  
  }  
  
  /* the rest of my CSS for grid */  
}
```

This is my title



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An optional footer goes here.

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footer here

This is my title

Media Object

Moving the title below the image in the source.

```
<div class="media">
  <div class="img">
    
  </div>
  <h2 class="title">This is my title</h2>
  <div class="content">
  </div>
  <div class="footer">
    footer here
  </div>
</div>
```



This is my title

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footer here



Media Object

A single column grid to arrange our elements for narrow widths.

```
.media {  
  display: grid;  
  grid-column-gap: 20px;  
  grid-template-areas:  
    "title"  
    "img"  
    "bd"  
    "ft";  
}
```

This is my title



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An optional footer goes here.

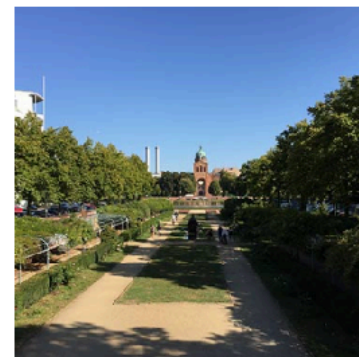
This is my title



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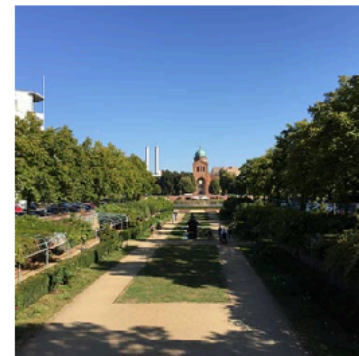
footer here



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An optional footer goes here.

What happened to
vendor prefixes?

Vendor Prefixes

- ▶ Vendor specific extensions to CSS
- ▶ Used by browsers to expose *experimental features*
- ▶ Used by developers to use those experimental features *in production*

Prefix Removals

- ▶ The only prefixed Grid is the old IE10 implementation `-ms` prefix
- ▶ `shape-outside` is `-webkit` prefixed in Safari and iOS Safari 10
- ▶ The `-webkit` prefix has been removed from `shape-outside`, so future Safari shouldn't need it
- ▶ Flexbox is now unprefixed in all browsers

For older browsers

- ▶ Check caniuse.com to see where you still need prefixes
- ▶ Autoprefixer uses the Can I Use database to add these automatically
- ▶ Autoprefixer will prefix very simple grids with the `-ms` version. In simple cases this may work for you.
- ▶ Autoprefixer may also make a terrible mess if you have used properties not part of the IE implementation. Be sure to test!

Creating Layout

```
3 <div class="post">
4   <article class="main">
5     {{> @run-header }}
6
7     <div class="body">
8       <p>Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Maecenas semper nisi eget justo porttitor semper. Maecenas nec cursus nulla, at
9       semper magna. Vestibulum at tincidunt nulla. Etiam diam ante, vestibulum eu velit quis, imperdiet faucibus nisi. Donec ut dignissim est.
10      Pellentesque scelerisque augue lectus, eu hendrerit sem mollis at. Pellentesque habitant morbi tristique senectus et netus et malesuada
11      fames ac turpis egestas. Vivamus tempor tempor diam, ac porta odio porta a. Duis maximus feugiat risus, non ullamcorper ligula malesuada at.
12      Cras mollis maximus diam vel finibus. Nam nec diam vel sapien aliquet efficitur. Sed vestibulum ligula id tortor vehicula, in commodo nibh
13      convallis.</p>
14
15      <p>Cras ac massa euismod, vulputate quam eu, porta ligula. Nullam in ullamcorper eros. Nulla quis nibh eu magna scelerisque venenatis. Morbi
16      diam enim, pellentesque a dui quis, accumsan volutpat ante. Vestibulum in neque sollicitudin, volutpat purus imperdiet, eleifend orci. Fusce
17      justo dui, facilisis non pellentesque at, pellentesque a tortor. Vivamus dapibus commodo vulputate. Nam venenatis purus eget erat rhoncus
18      tempus. Donec sagittis quis neque ut placerat. Nunc malesuada iaculis est, a volutpat tortor elementum in. Sed molestie urna et libero
19      pretium tempor.</p>
20
21    </div>
22
23  </article>
24
25  <div class="comments">
26
27    <h3>Comments</h3>
28    {{> @media--avatar }}
29    {{> @media--avatar }}
30    {{> @media--avatar }}
31    {{> @media--avatar }}
32  </div>
33
34  <aside class="extras">
35    {{> @feature-fig }}
36  </aside>
```

Article Layout

The skeleton layout mark-up

```
<div class="post">
  <article class="main">
    <!-- fancy header -->

    <div class="body">
      <!-- article content -->
    </div>
  </article>

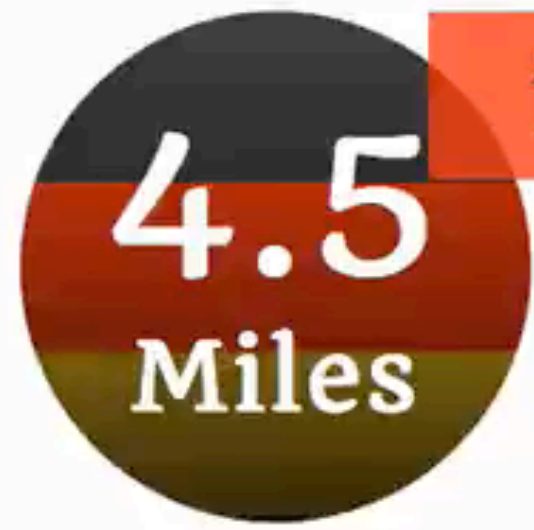
  <div class="comments">
    <h3>Comments</h3>
    <!-- media objects -->
  </div>

  <aside class="extras">
    <!-- feature figure -->
  </aside>
</div>
```


Article Layout

Basic CSS for a single column article layout.

```
.post {  
  margin: 1em auto;  
  padding: 0 20px;  
  max-width: 960px;  
}  
  
.post .body {  
  margin: 0 0 2em 0;  
}
```



in Berlin, Germany

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Comments



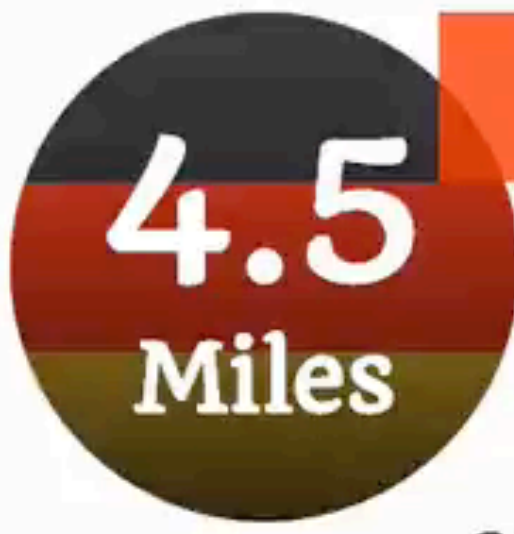
I have something to say

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Article Layout

If we have grid and a wide screen, I'm going to take advantage of that.

```
@supports(display: grid) {  
  
  @media(min-width: 900px) {  
    .post > .main { grid-area: article;}  
    .post > .comments { grid-area: side;}  
    .post > .extras { grid-area: secondary;}  
  
    .post {  
      display: grid;  
      grid-template-columns: 3fr 2fr;  
      grid-template-areas:  
        "article side"  
        "secondary side";  
  
      grid-column-gap: 80px;  
      max-width: 1600px;  
    }  
  }  
}
```



in Berlin, Germany

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Comments



I have something to say

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31st October, 2016 at 3.15pm



I have something to say

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Your component is
already a reduced test
case.

This is not twice
the work

This is not about
fallback support

This is
evergreen design

Design that enhances
itself as the platform it
lives on improves.

Thank you #aeabos

@rachelandrew