Simon Collison

A philosophy of restraint

Refresh Edinburgh | July 2012



Why call it a philosophy?

Design is messy

We design to communicate, and we seek emotive responses.



RECYCL ART

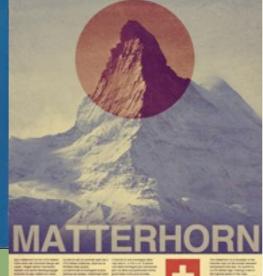
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One week of The Guardian

THE LIVES AND LOVES OF THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO FLY AMERICA'S AIRLANES

Svizzera swissoir Switzerland



BOB DYLAN & HIS BAND

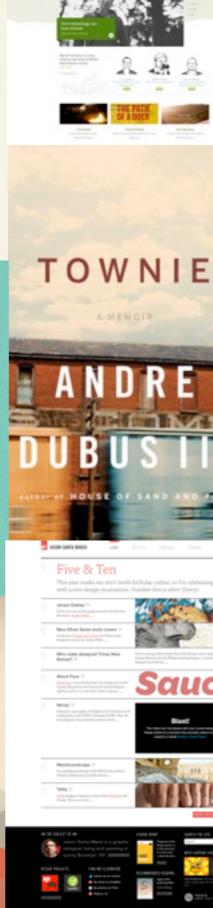
























To delight someone is to give them a small lesson in seeing the world as something good.

Frank Chimero, designer









A design aesthetic?

Minimal, lots of white space... and clean. Right?





Tastemakers



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The A-List



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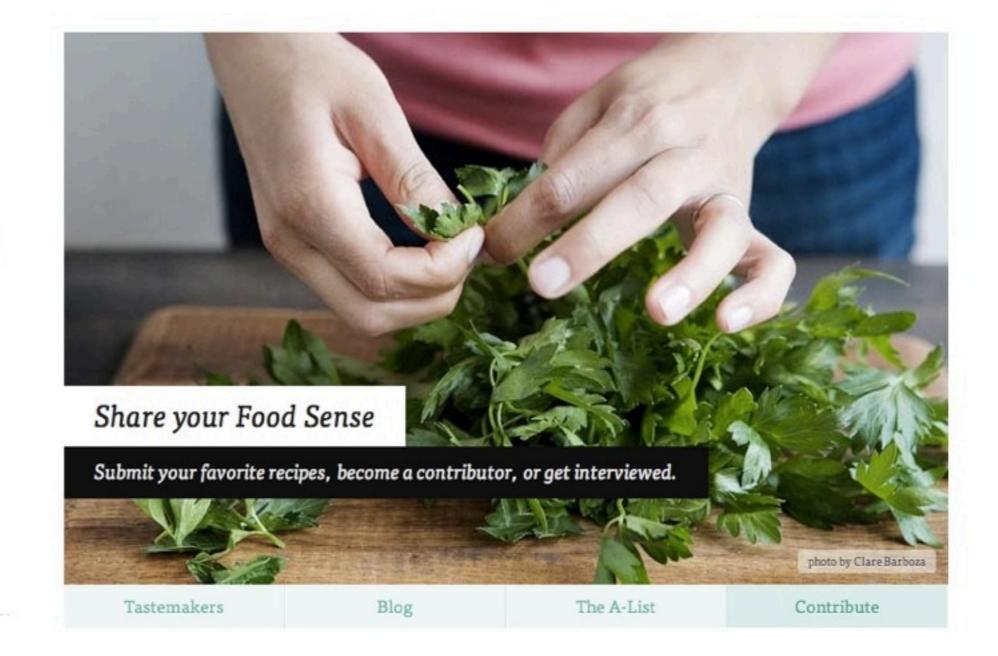
"an elegant and easy springtime pasta from @purewow: http://t.co/5vfKiWix"



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- Commons debate on health bill as it happened
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- NHS staff voice concerns over service

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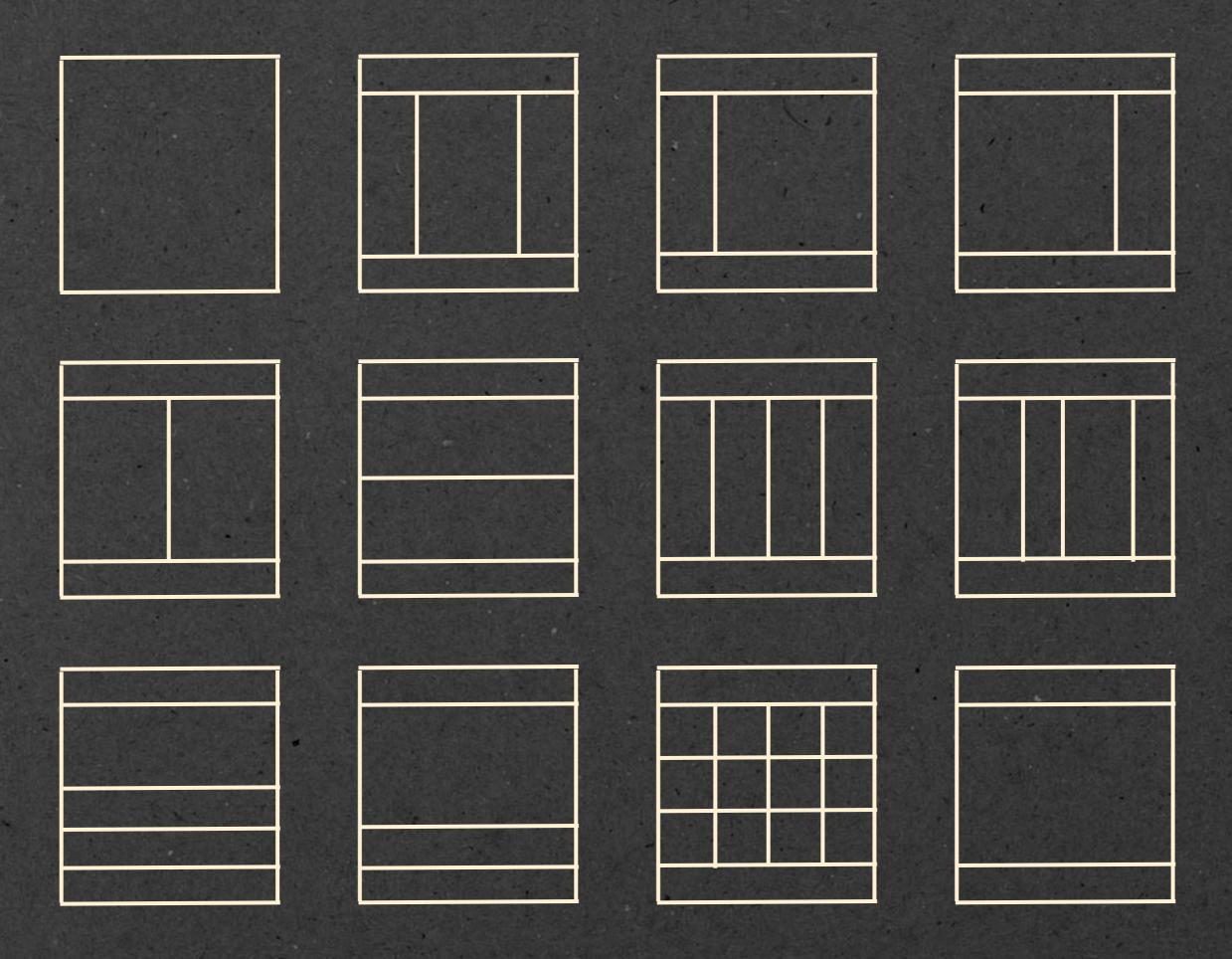


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Accessibility

An introduction to GEL

GEL Authentic, Current, Pioneering, Modern British, Local/Global, Compelling, Distinctive, Joined-up, Universal, Best.

Building a Global Experience Language for the BBC

We are evolving a global experience language for the BBC's digital services.

The GEL guidelines are a reference point for designing BBC services across Web, Mobile, iPTV and Tablet. This is probably the best job in the world!

Neville Brody, Research Studios



Download GEL Web Styleguide

Download GEL Assets



Download core GEL components

BUILDING BLOCKS

Typography

Large bold type should be used to establish a clear information hierarchy.

FOUNDATIONS

Universal Grid

Your starting point is a universal grid, divided into 61 x 16px vertical units.

FOUNDATIONS

The Masthead

The global masthead retains the current global navigation links with additional links.

PATTERNS

Overlay Panels

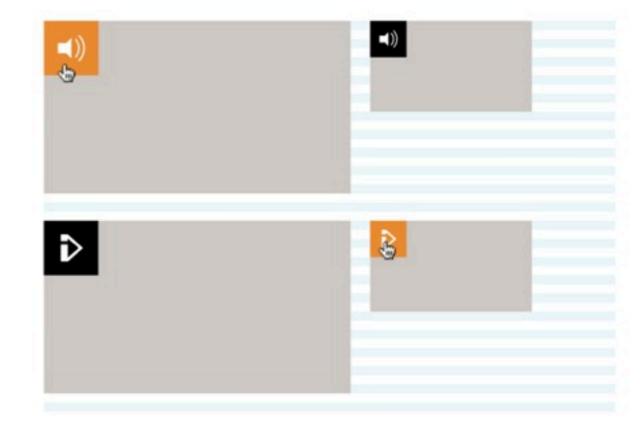
The overlay panel is an interaction pattern that is used to shift the user's focus from the main page to a single element or group of elements.

Featured Pattern

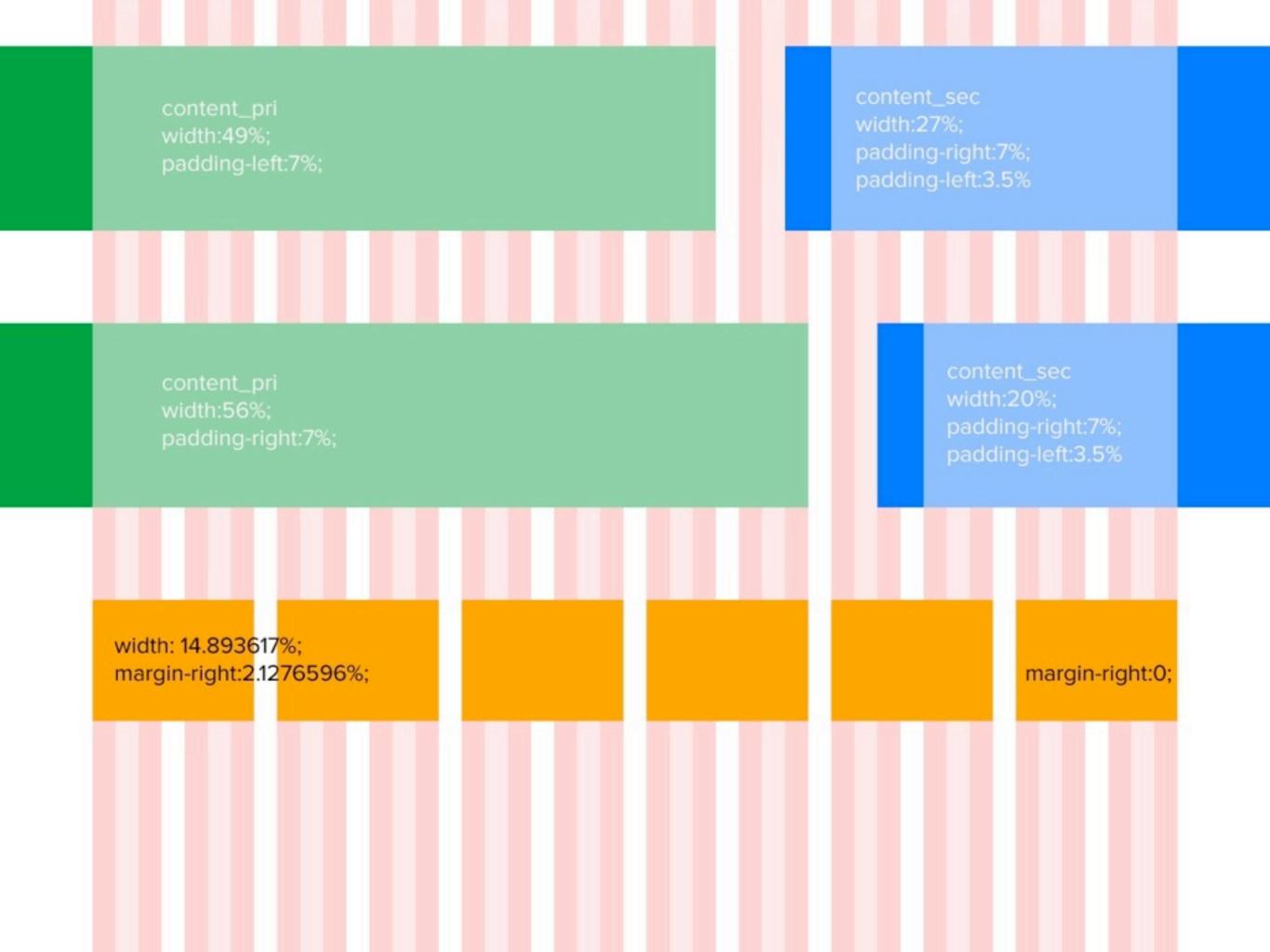
Carousel

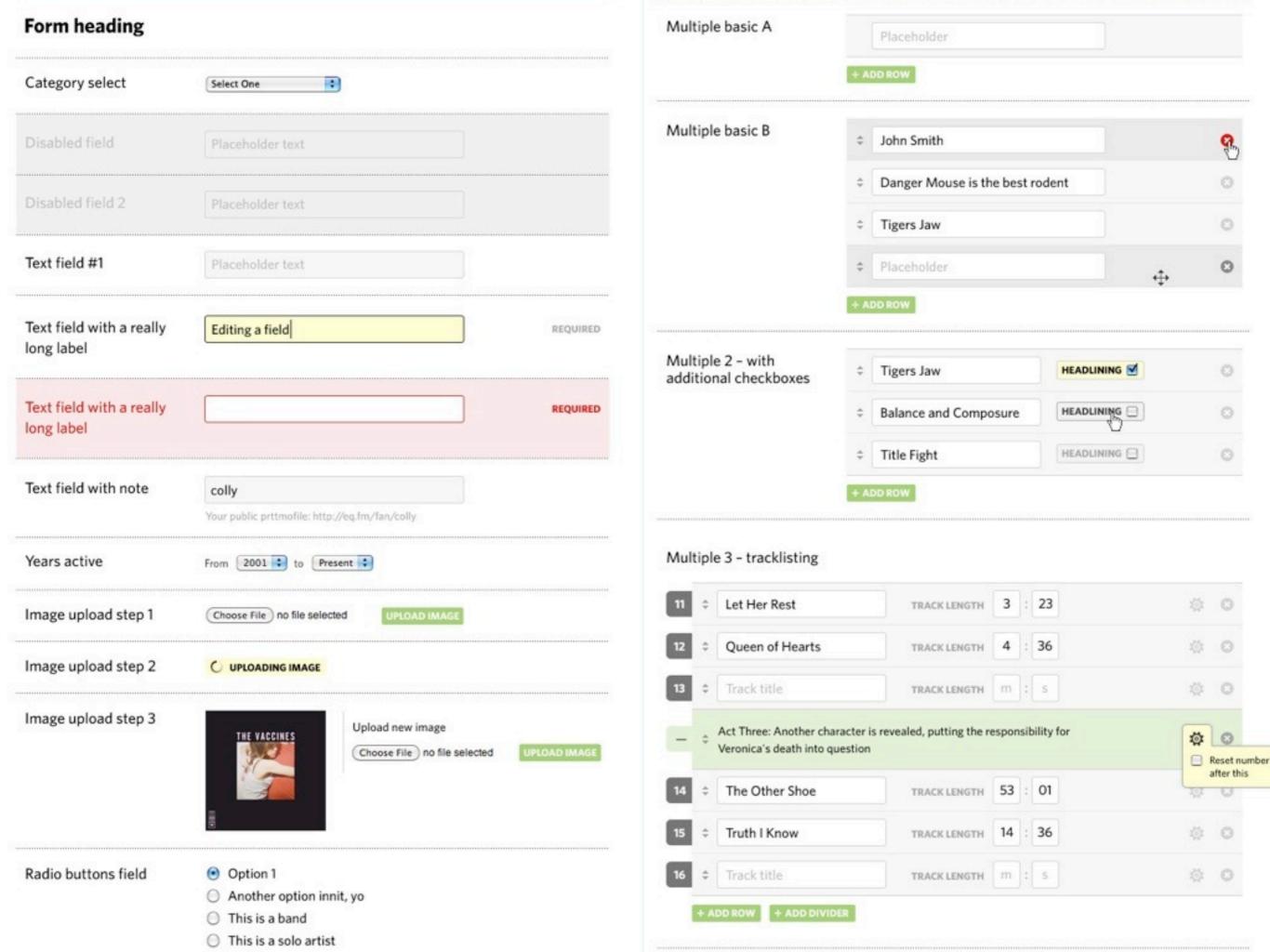
Links should comply with existing standards and guidelines. They should be easily distinguishable from body copy using a combination of bold type and colour, along with underline or underline on hover. On rollover links should change colour (and underline if under 24px).







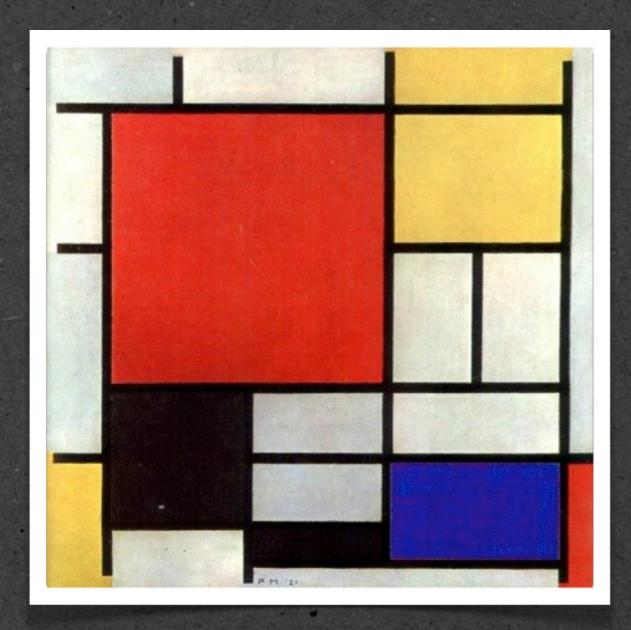


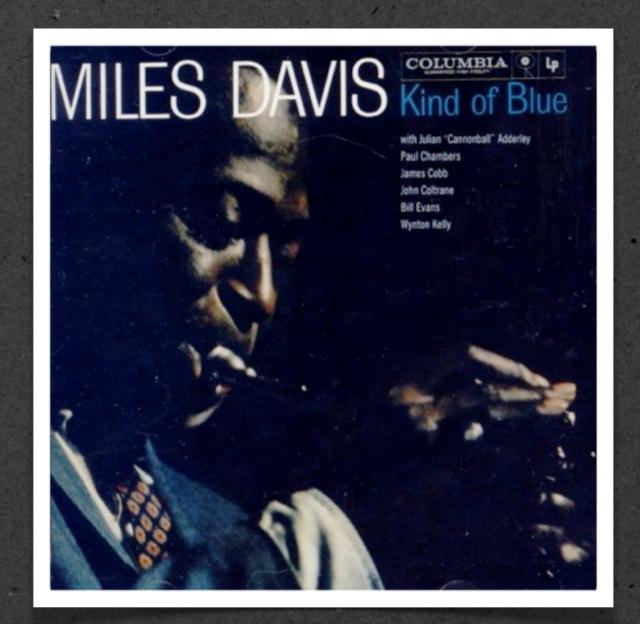


- Build a foundation for complexity
- Devise a holistic approach for all projects
- Devise a detailed project-specific system
- Invest time in flexible pattern libraries
- Prepare for all eventualities

Embrace constraints

Having complete freedom is possibly the worst way to start any project.





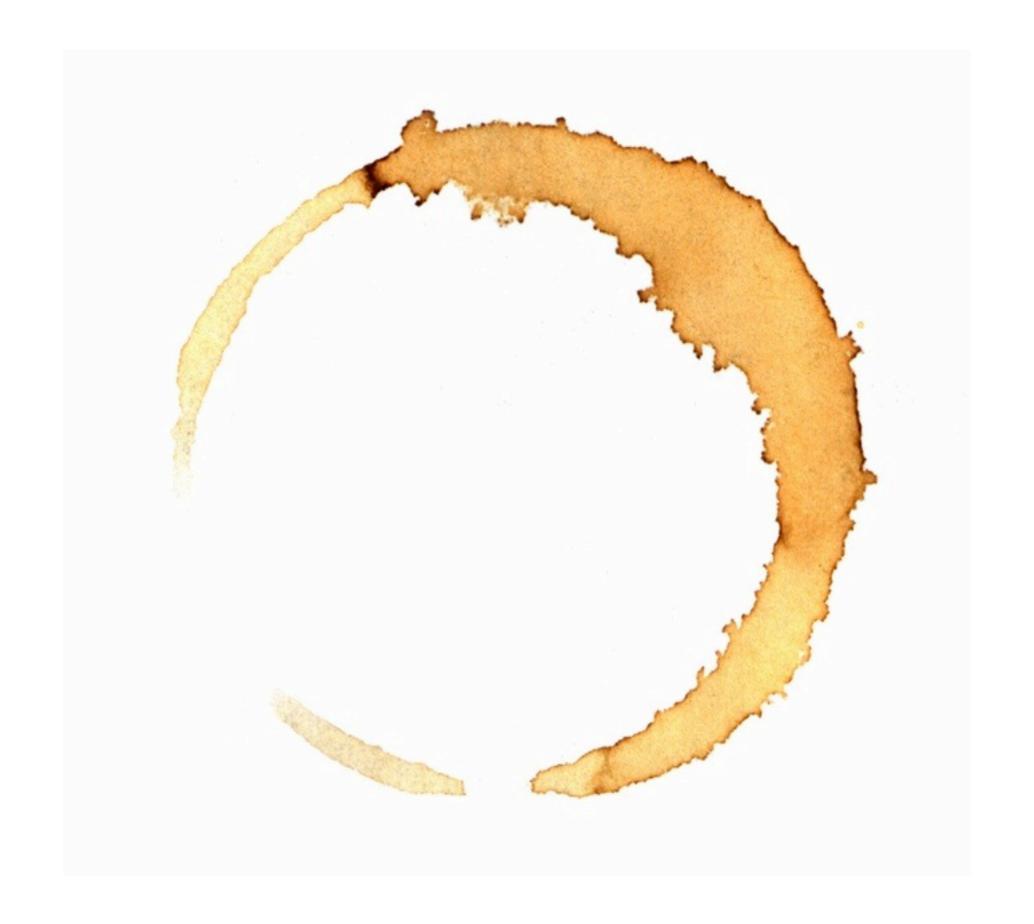
Constraint is key to understanding complexity. Increase constraint and you create an ordered system; do that inappropriately and you create the conditions for catastrophic failure; remove constraint and the system is chaotic.

Dave Snowden, The 5 C's of Complexity

- Make sense of the constraints you're given
- Look for constraints you yourself can apply
- Make constraints a feature or selling point

Exercising restraint

Responding to the problem in the simplest way possible.





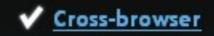


jQuery is a new kind of JavaScript Library.

jQuery is a fast and concise JavaScript Library that simplifies HTML document traversing, event handling, animating, and Ajax interactions for rapid web development. jQuery is designed to change the way that you write JavaScript.







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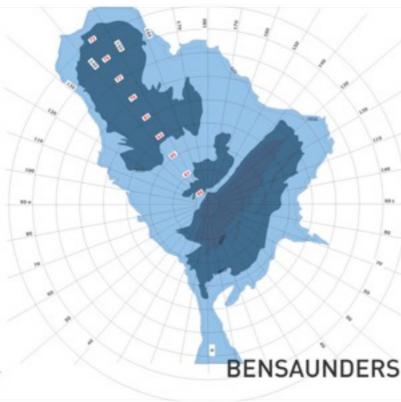
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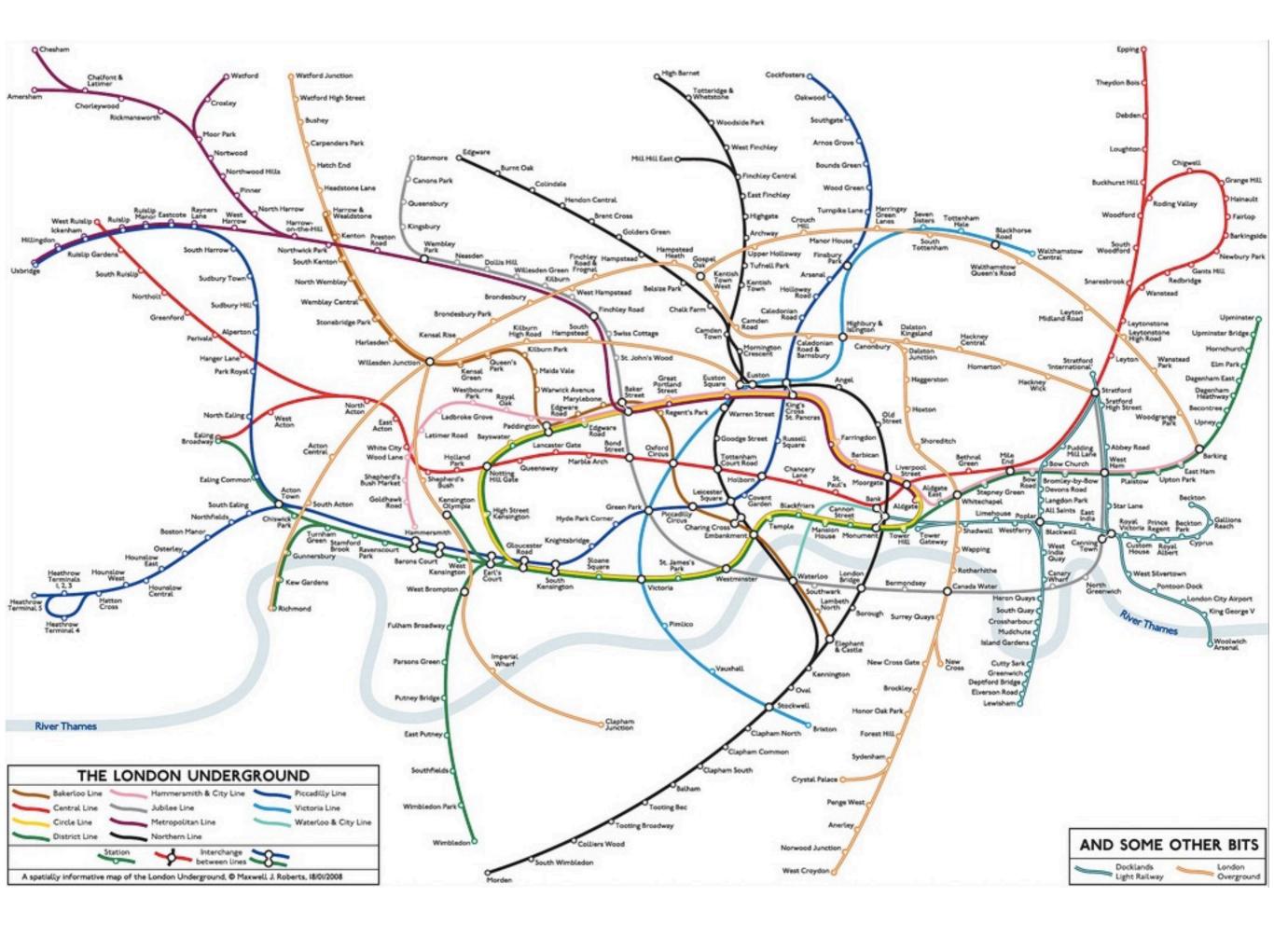
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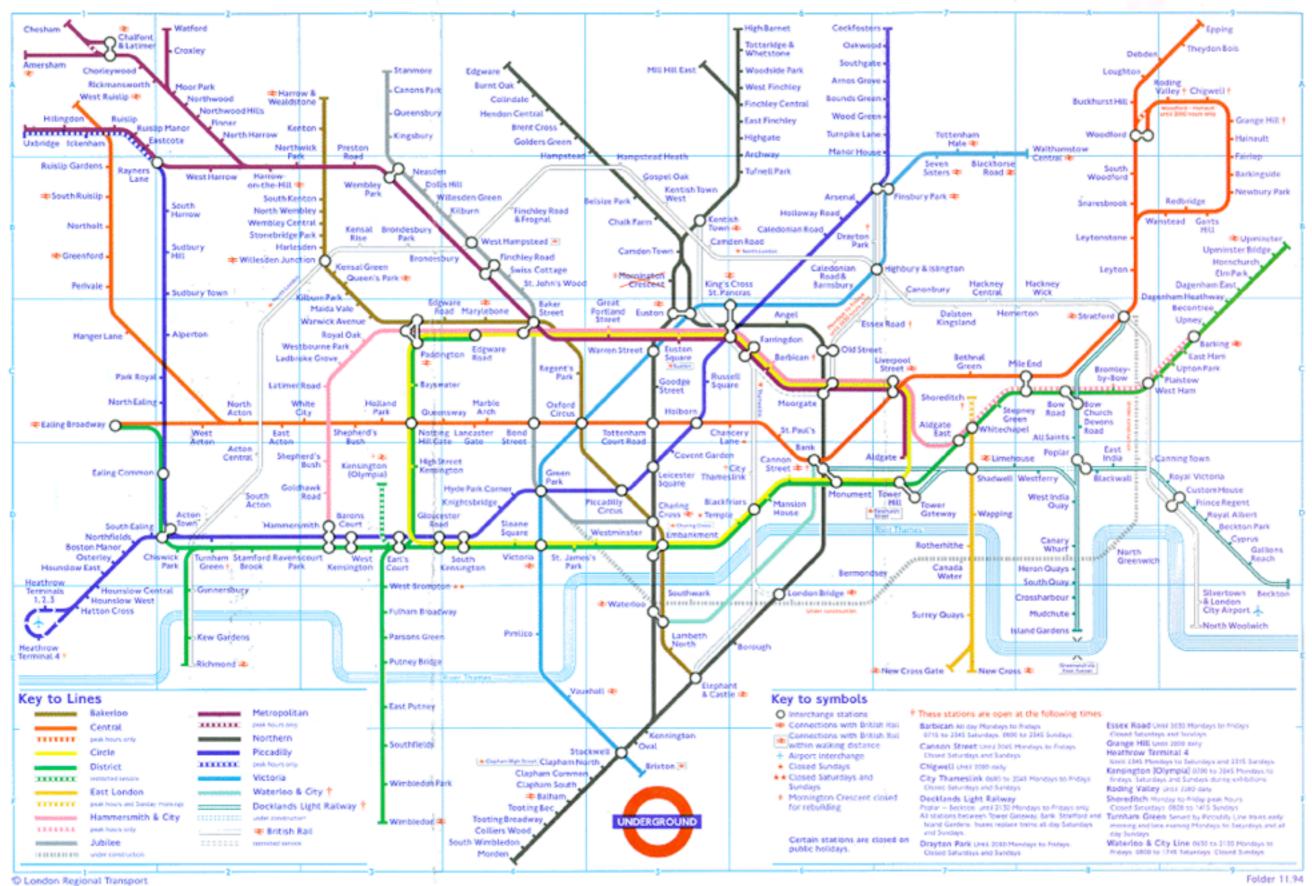
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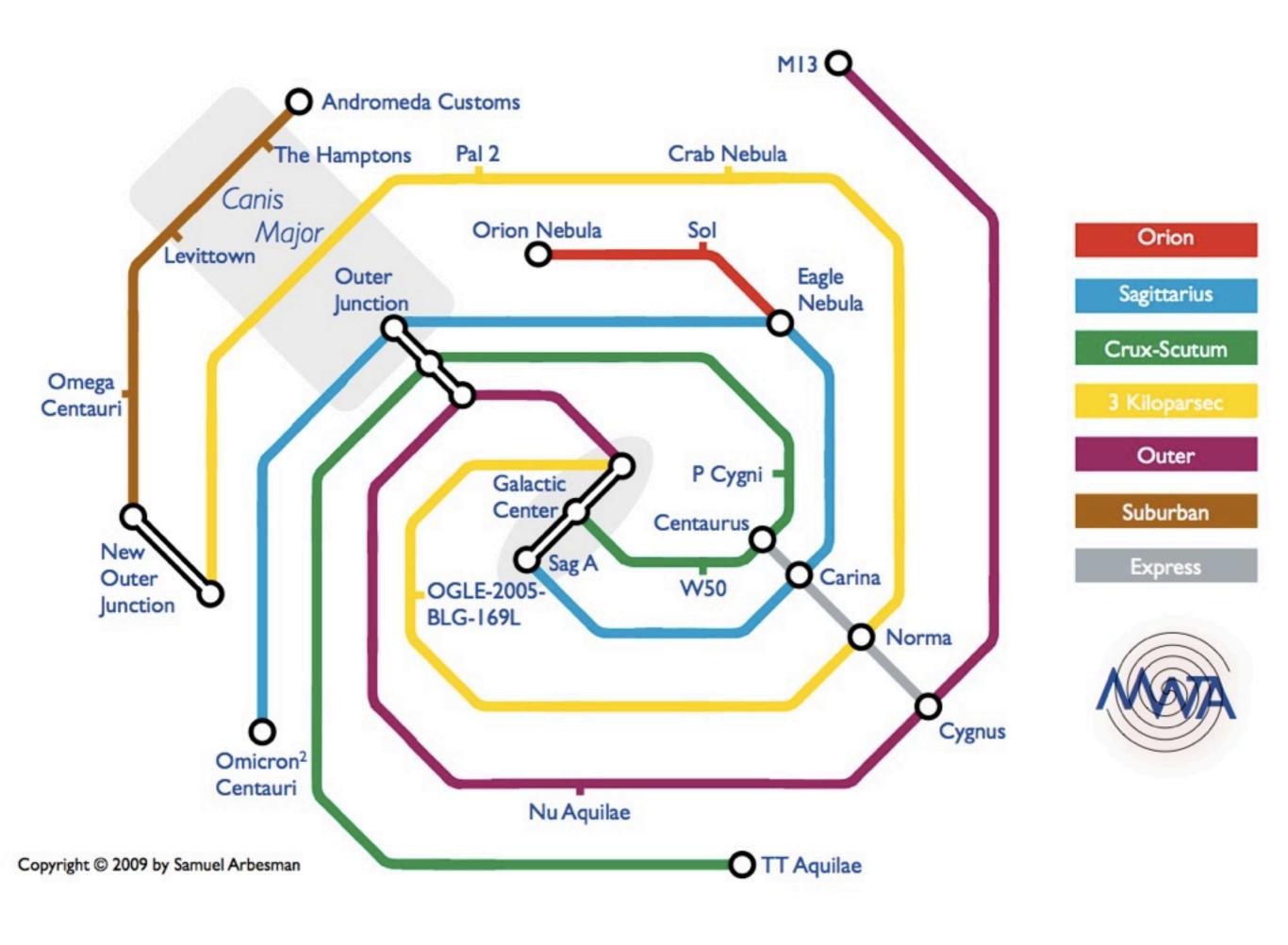
- Immerse yourself in the subject
- Design responses first, not a website
- Discover what can be put to one side
- Avoid misplaced vernacular and cliché

Simplicity
and
complexity

Less is more. Simple is better. Right?



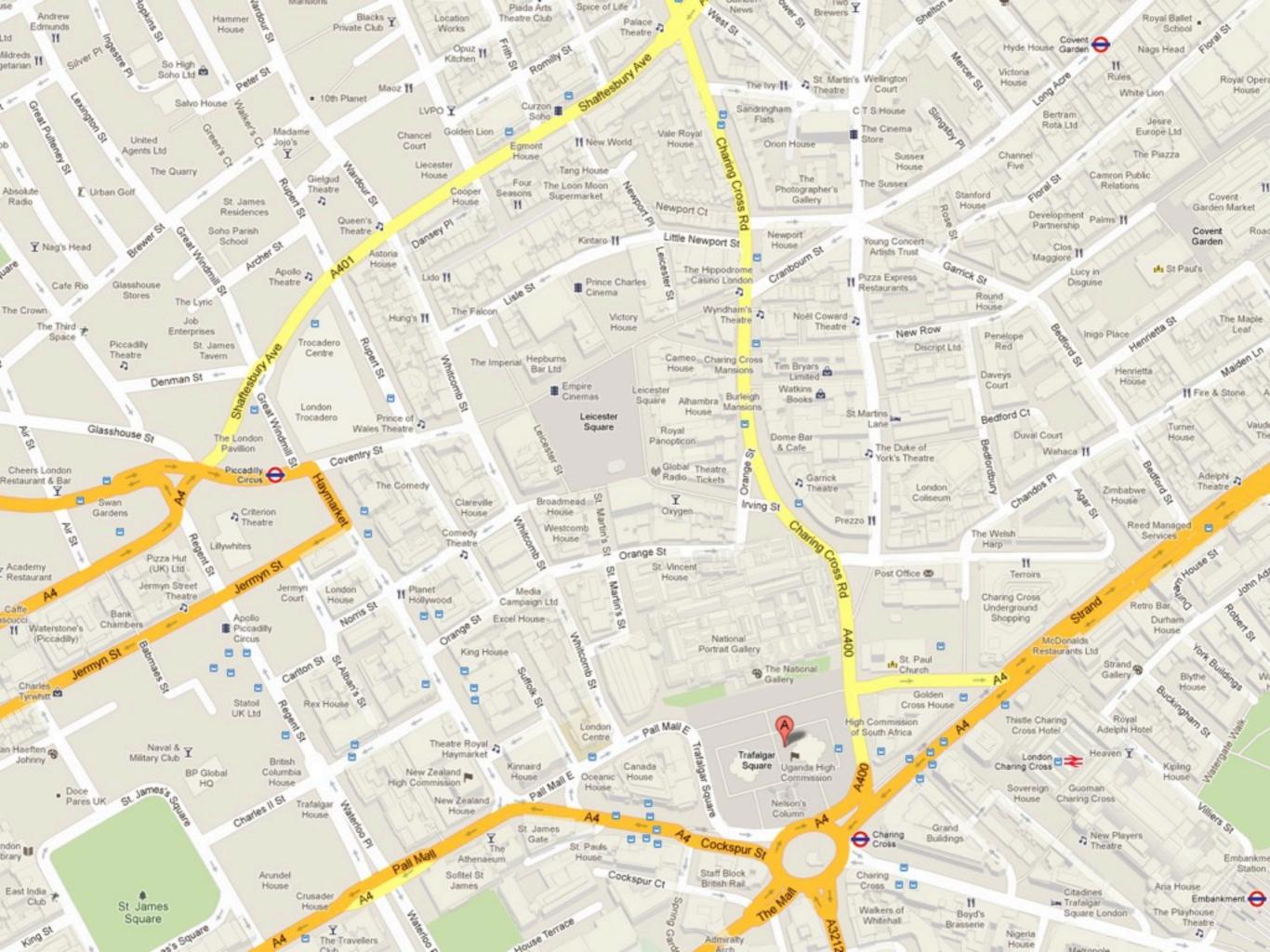


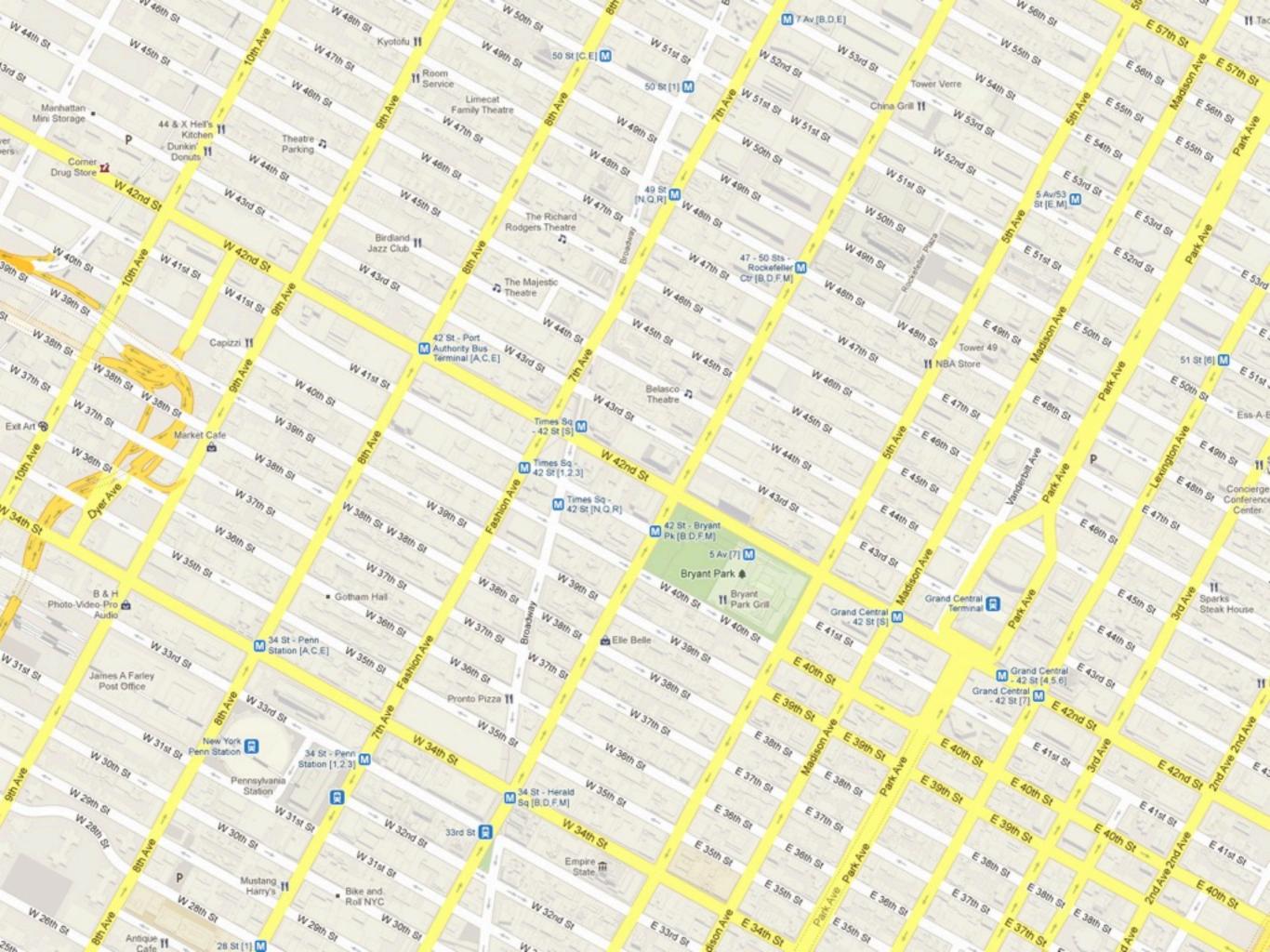






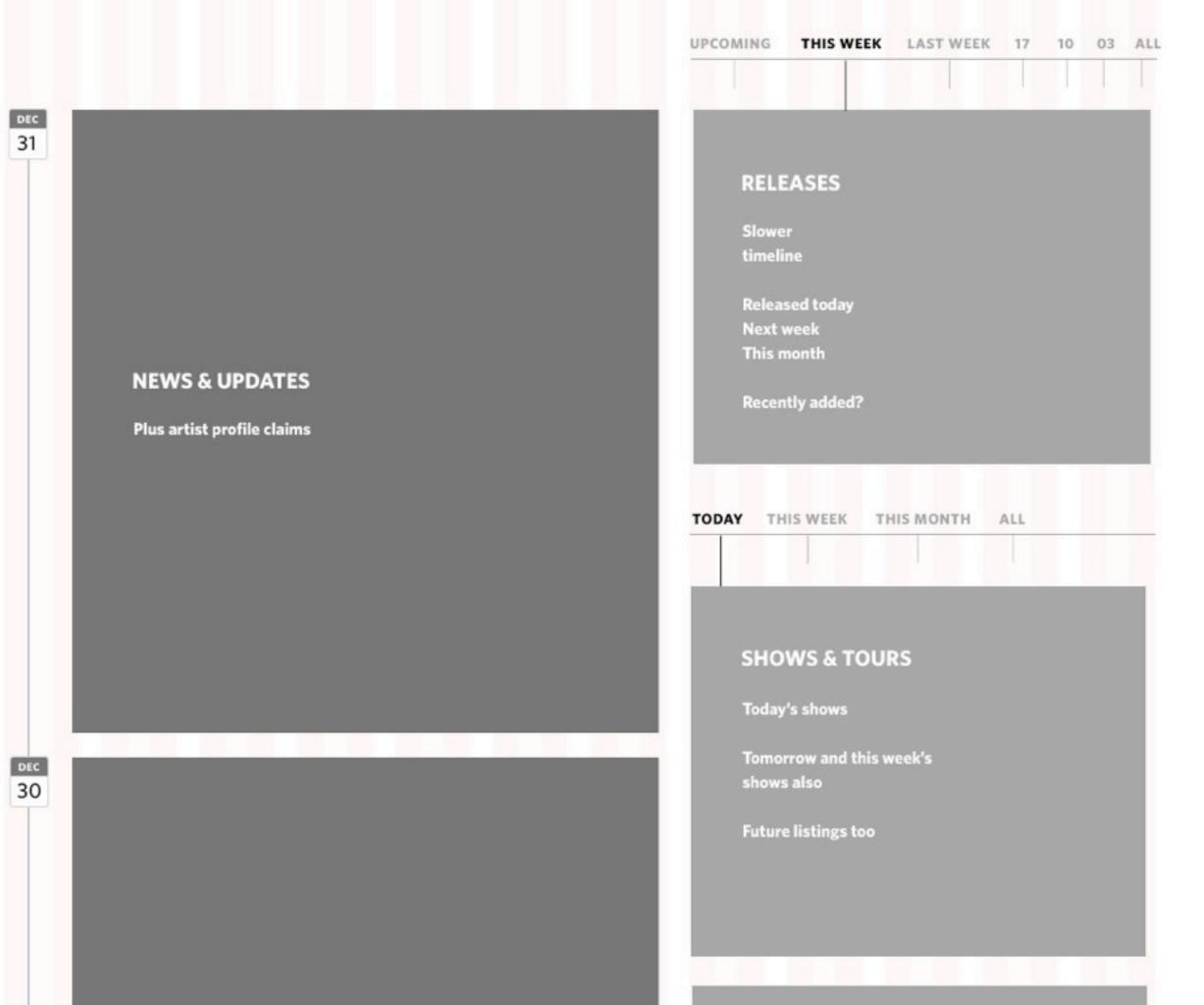






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YESTERDAY





Morks at Freelance

Studied at University of Sunderland

* From Nottingham, United Kingdom

Born on September 9

About







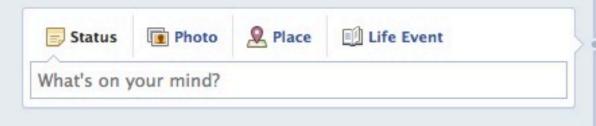
Photos 14



Map 8



Likes 3





Simon Collison added 6 photos to the album Instagram Photos. March 12 via Instagram 🚷







Friends



Gregory Wood 18 mutual friends



Simon Hawtin 14 mutual friends



Rob Antill



3 mutual friends



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Molly E. Holzschlag 90 mutual friends



Sarah Woolner 34 mutual friends



Craig Happy Dobson 15 mutual friends



Erla Kristín Bjarnadóttir

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Unleash complexity in orchestrated phases, and increase power gradually.

- Good systems bear the weight of complexity
- Embrace new methods for organising data
- Find simplicity in the data flows
- Don't be afraid of obvious approaches
- Release power gradually

Between the lines

Don't underestimate humans. They can fill in the blanks.

Me Experience Interaction Others Instruction Environment







- Anticipate mental models
- Reveal only what is necessary
- Let users find their own stories
- Embrace serendipity
- Trust users to make sense of things

Affordance & typography

An affordance is a quality of an object, or an environment, that allows an individual to perform an action.









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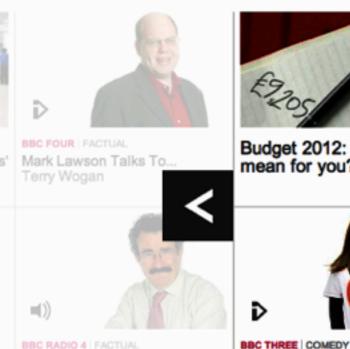
Newsletters & Print

Strategy & writing to make sure the content that lives outside your website is on-brand, consistent and written well.

- Understand the power of attractiveness
- Create obvious opportunities for interaction
- Avoid unnecessary fakery and over-texturing
- Don't "iCal" the skeuomorphics
- Use web type responsibly

Distraction





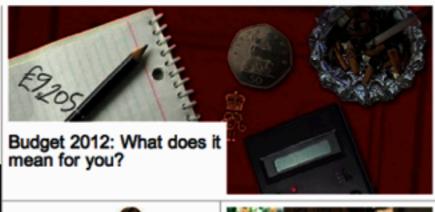
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Child benefit cliff-edge tackled Over-65s' tax-free income freeze UK woman kidnapped in Kenya freed France gunman 'set to kill again'

LOCAL NEWS LONDON

Cycle junctions get Budget money Gang members 'renounce violence' Stolen Easter egg makes £42,000



Muamba was 'dead' for 78 minutes

BBC SPORT

Sportsday - breaking sports news Mark Webber column Mancini warned on Tevez selection Strauss and Trott hit centuries

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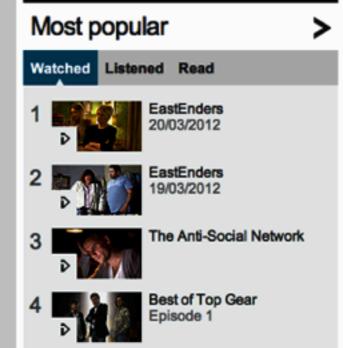
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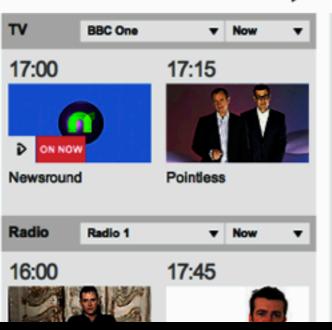
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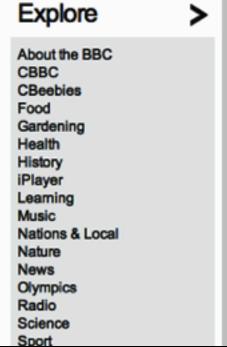
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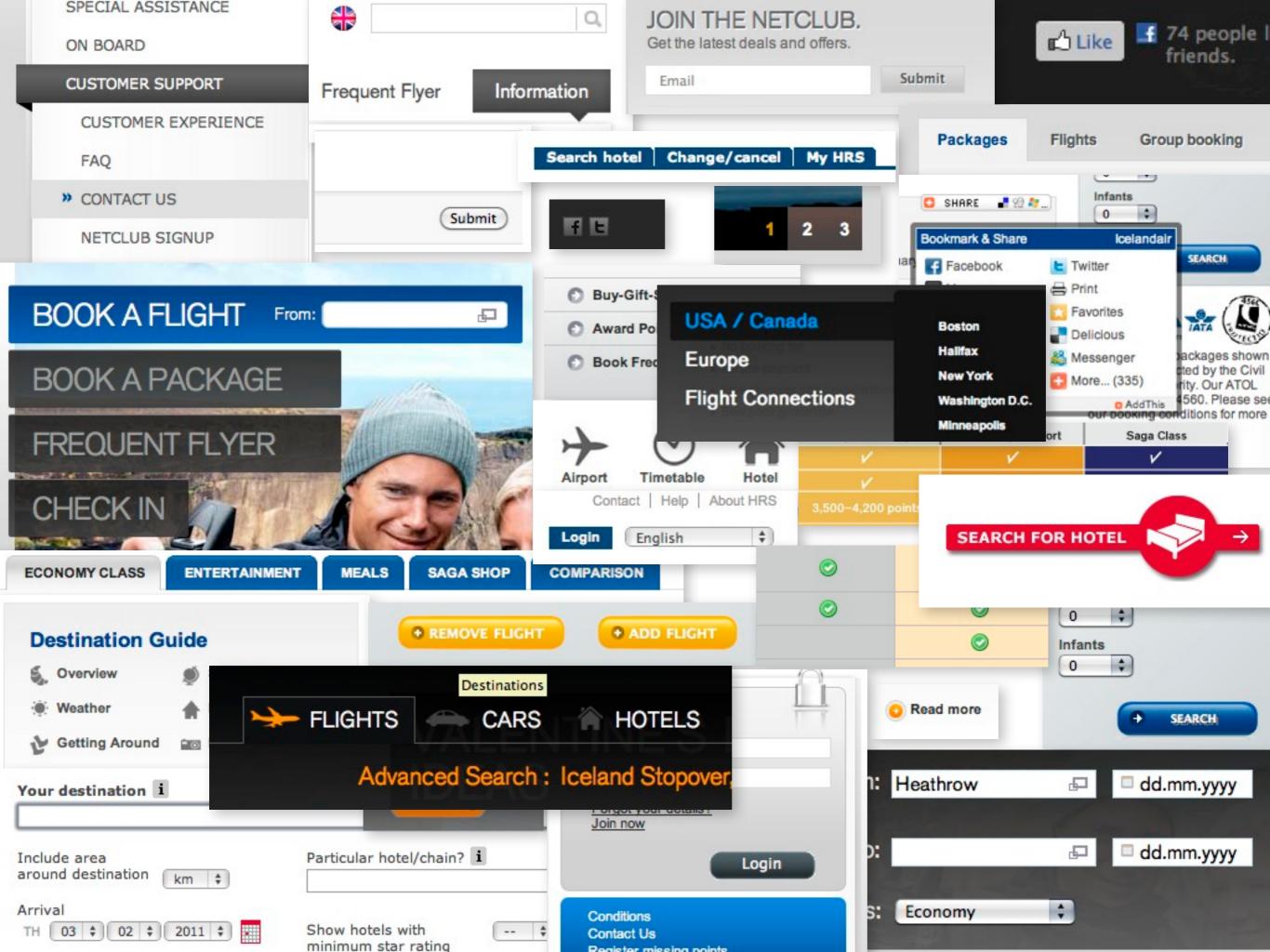
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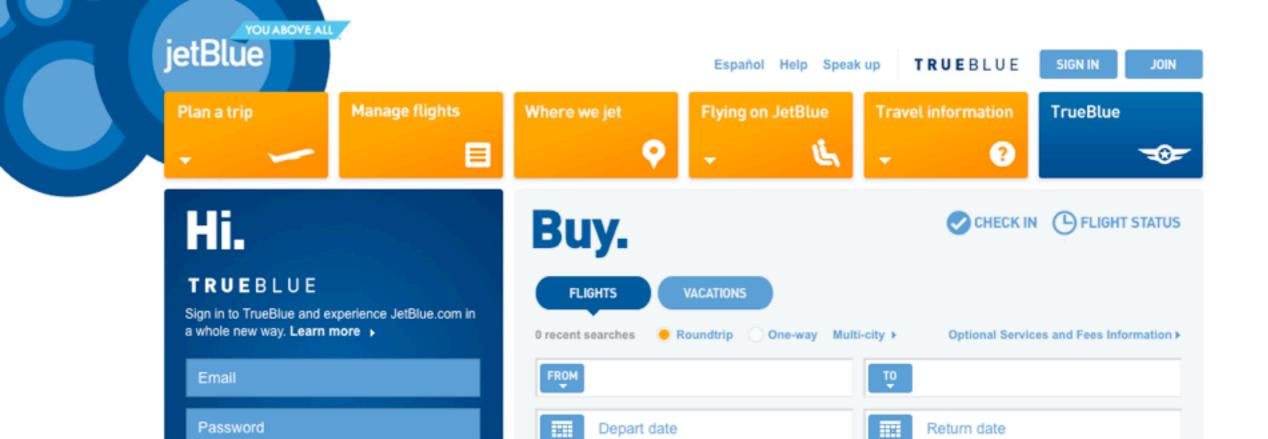
Head to Iceland for some of



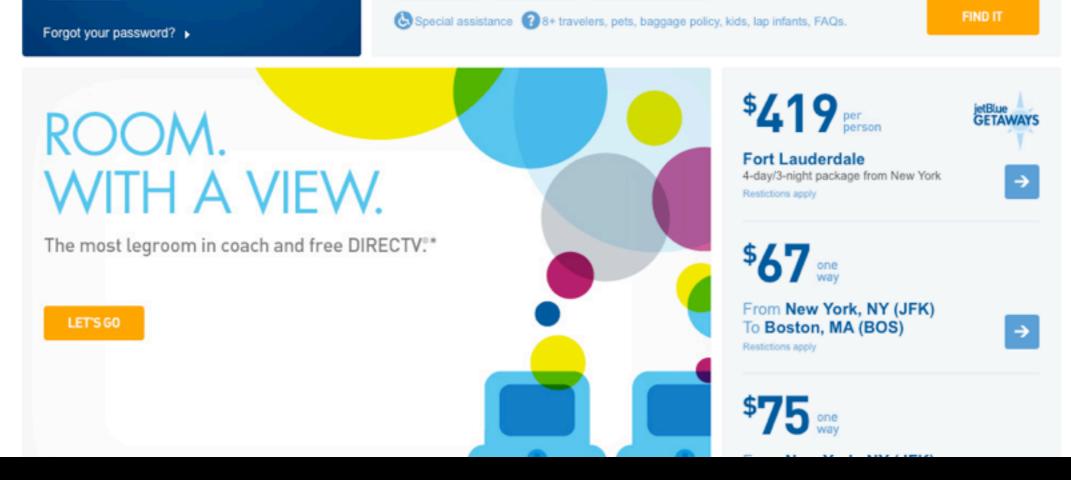
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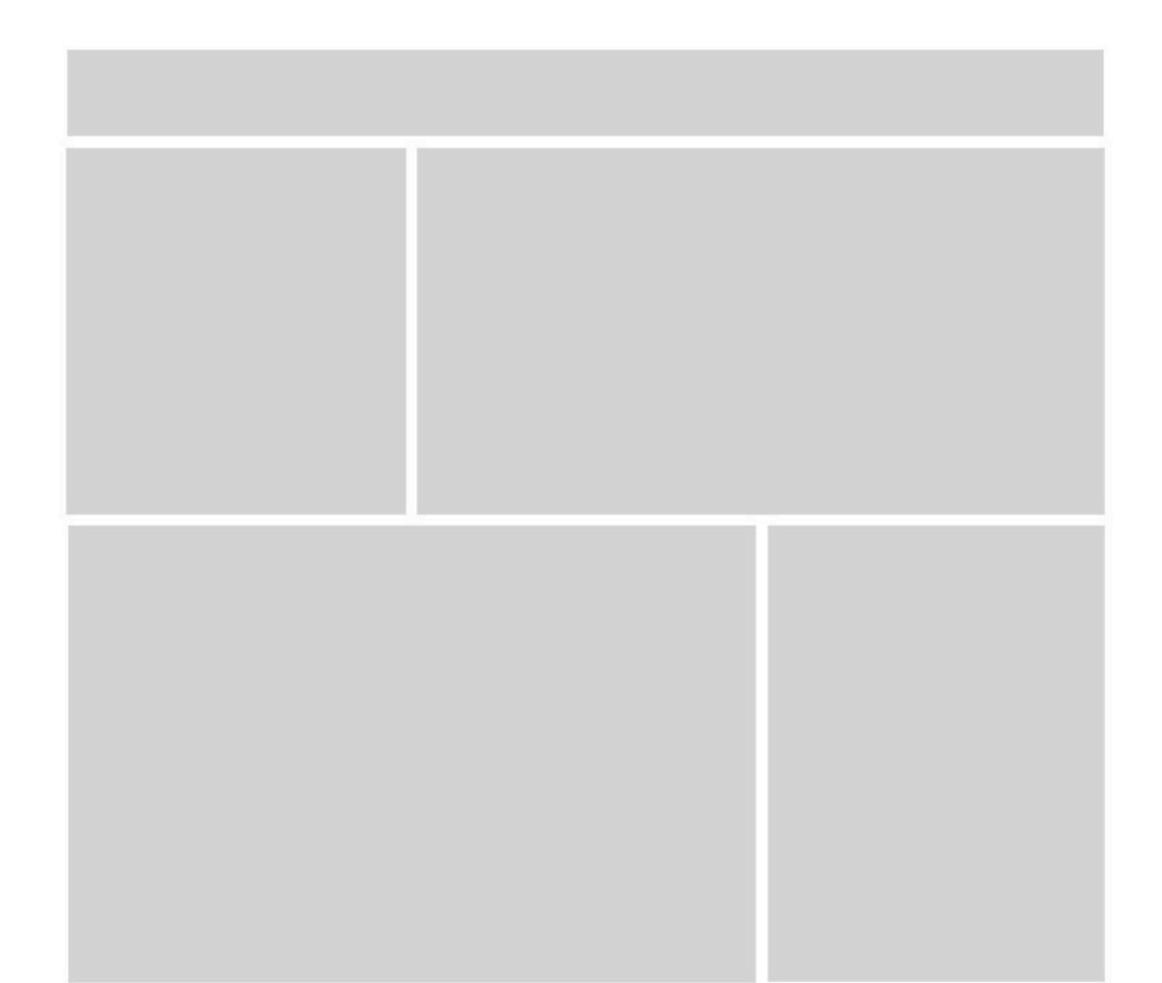
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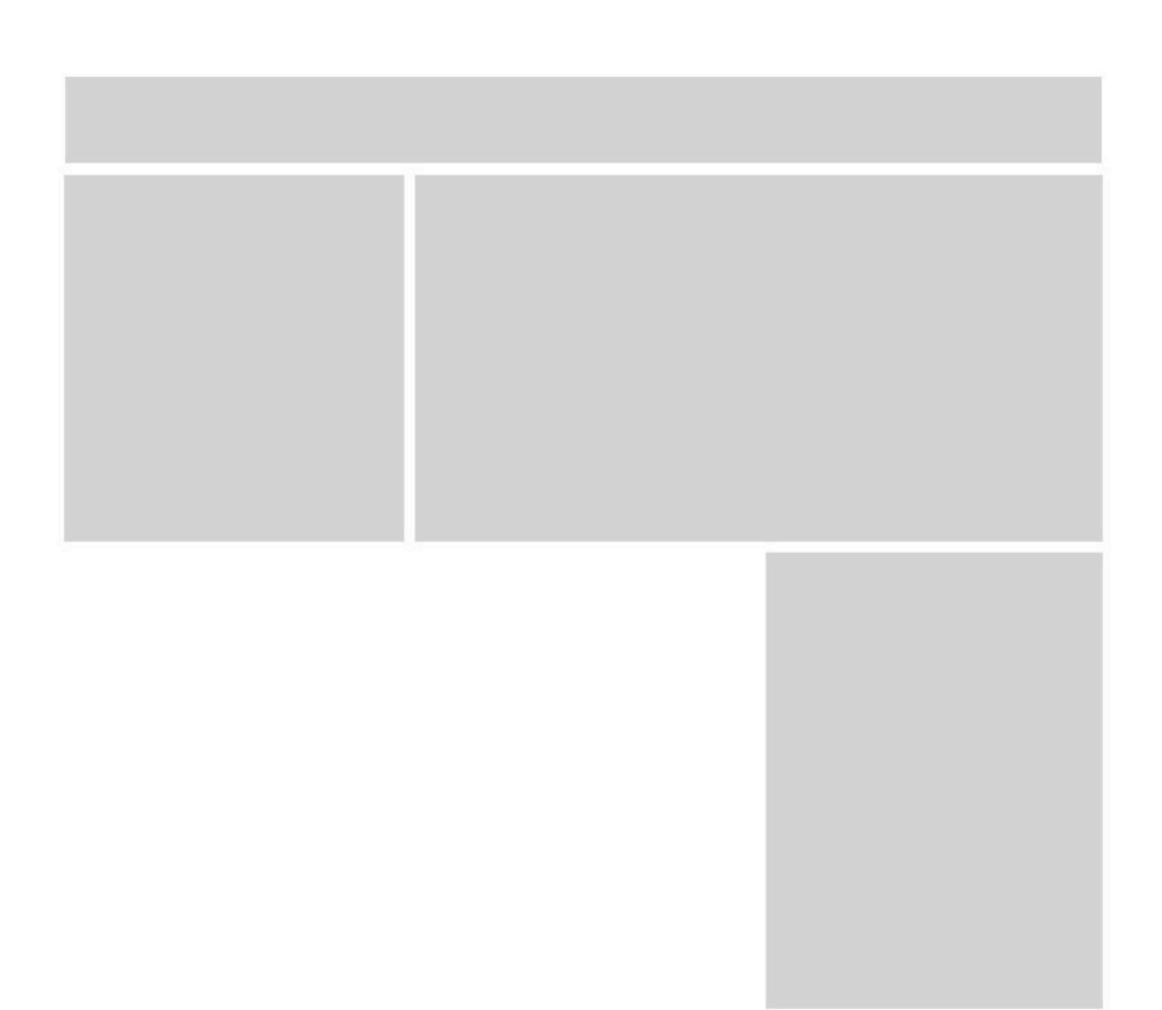
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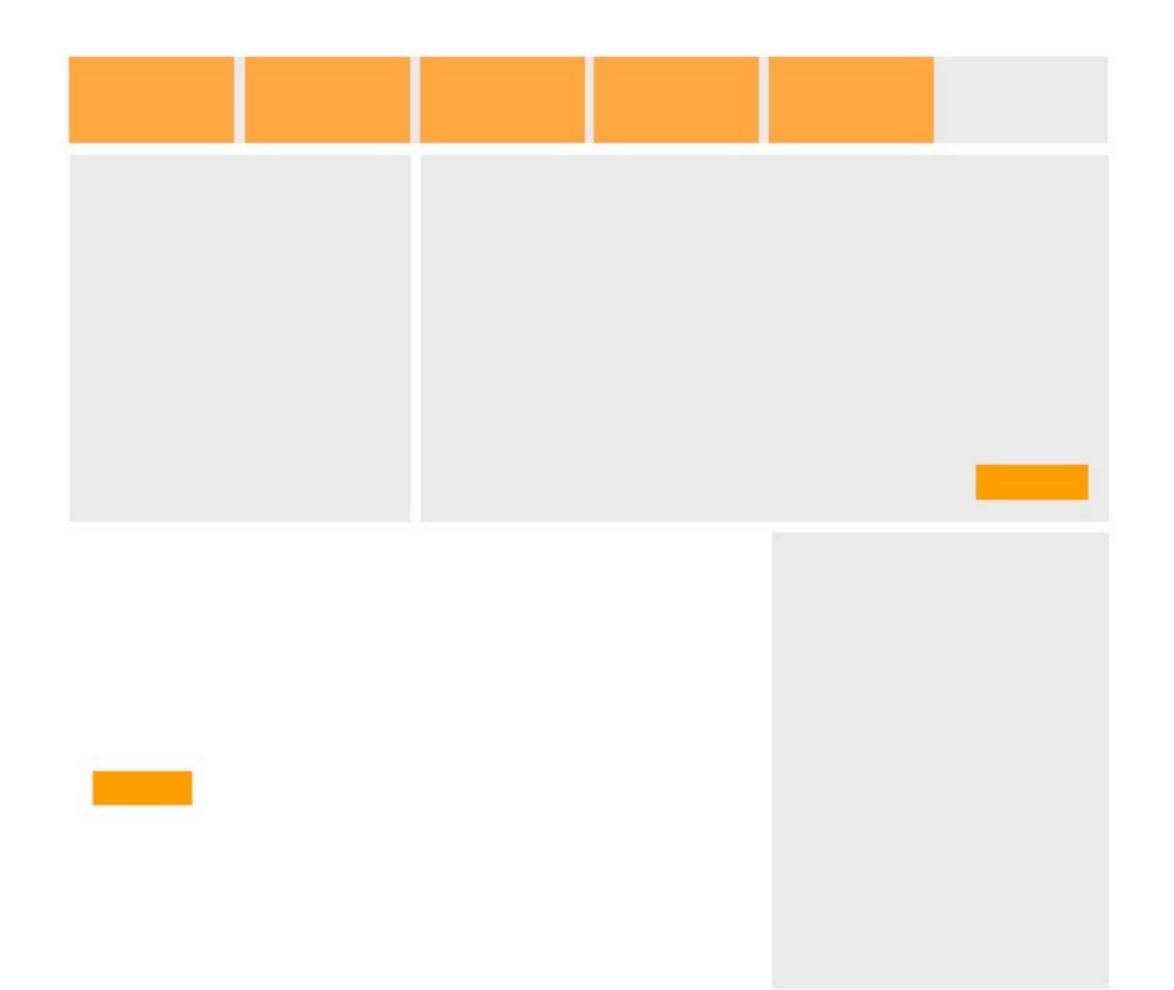
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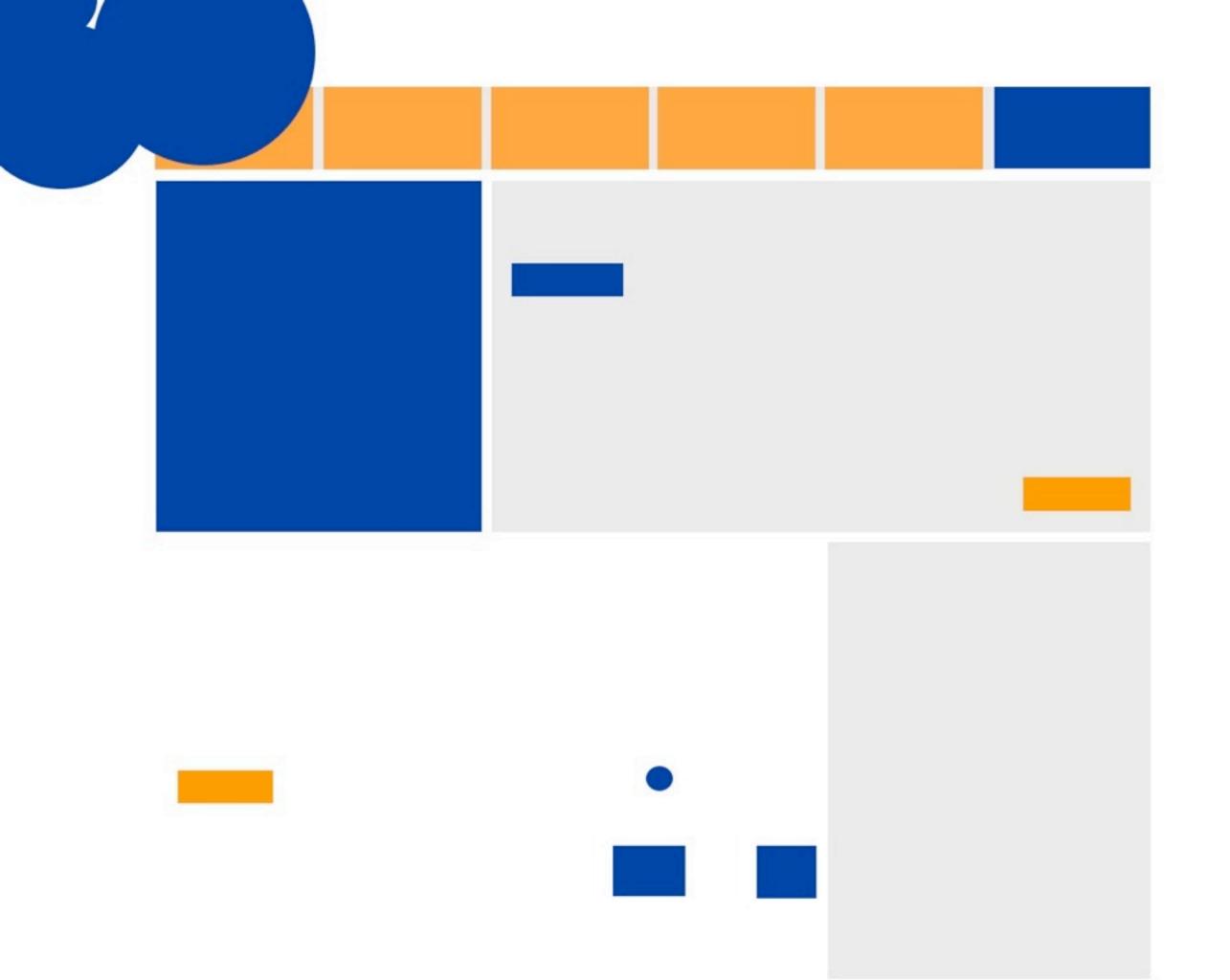
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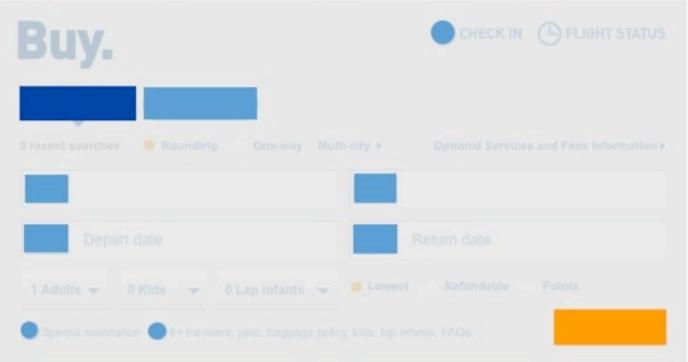
















- Use a clear hierarchy
- Look for obvious clashes or fussy extras
- Remove or lessen the impact of distractions
- Avoid dozens of competing patterns
- Don't disguise calls to action

Focus & context

Put the extraneous to one side. Focus on the task in hand, or add greater emphasis to stories.

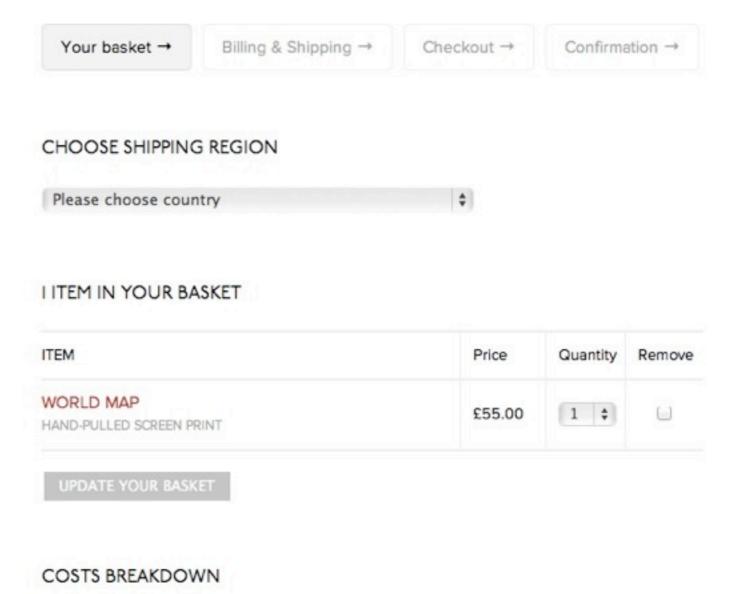




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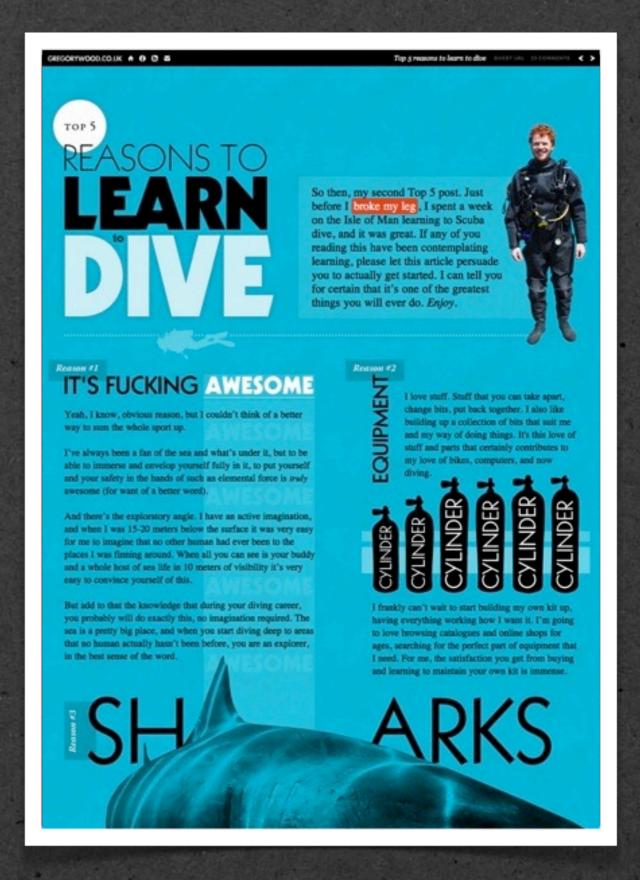
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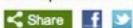
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Fabrice Muamba shows 'small signs of improvement'

19 March 2012 Last updated at 16:23



0







Fabrice Muamba's heart condition is "showing small signs of improvement" following his cardiac arrest.

A Bolton statement said: "His heart is now beating without the help of medication and he is also moving his arms and legs.

"However, his long-term prognosis will remain unclear for some time.



"He is still critically ill and will continue to be closely monitored and treated by staff in The London Chest Hospital's intensive care unit."

The midfielder, 23, has been at the hospital's heart attack centre after suffering the cardiac arrest during Saturday's FA Cun tie at

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This story around the web

Muamba 'stable but critical' - hospital Yahoo! UK and Ireland 48 mins ago

Fiancee calls for prayers as Fabrice Muamba remains critically ill in hospital Irish Independent 1 hr ago

Prayers for Muamba after cardiac arrest Christian Today UK 1 hr ago

This story around the web-

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SPORT FOOTBALL

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Fabrice Musmba shows 'small signs of improvement

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Fabrice Musmba facilitie

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PLAYERS' MESSAGES ON TWITTER

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Also related to this story

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Shore this story MONORM DESIGNATION

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SPORT FOOTBALL

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Fabrice Muemba shows 'small

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This story around the web

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More from Excelusion

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PLAYERS MESSAGES ON TWITTER

Fabrice Musmba facilitie

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Patricia and his family?



Also related to this story

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STREET, STREET

About 900 Spire

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SECTION NAME AND

"However, his long-term prognosis will remain unclear for some time.



James Pearce reports from the London Chest Hospital about Fabrice Muamba's condition

"He is still critically ill and will continue to be closely monitored and treated by staff in The London Chest Hospital's intensive care unit."

The midfielder, 23, has been at the hospital's heart attack centre after suffering the cardiac arrest during Saturday's FA Cup tie at Tottenham.

Bolton chairman Phil Gartside and manager Owen Coyle visited the player on Monday morning.

In a statement on the club's website,

Gartside said: The staff at the London

Chest Hospital have been nothing short of

exceptional and I would like to thank them all at this ongoing critical time.

Fabrice Muamba factfile

- Born on 6 April 1988 in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo
- Progressed through Arsenal's youth academy, representing England at every level from under-16 to under-21
- Joined Birmingham in 2007, having been there on loan previously, then moved to Bolton the following year
- Appeared at the 2011 European Under-21 Championship in Denmark for England Under-21s, for whom he made 33 appearances

"The support we had from Tottenham and our own fans was fantastic - the staff, the fans, the players and the officials at the game - it was unbelievable."

Muamba's fiancee Shauna Magunda, the mother of his son Joshua, has thanked wellwishers for their support.

"Where there is life there is hope," she tweeted ☐ on Monday.

Bolton manager Owen Coyle said: "From our end, and on behalf of the family, we certainly want to say thanks to everybody.

"Everybody is praying for Fabrice which is very important and that has been a real source of strength to the family."

Bolton's Premier League game at Aston Villa on Tuesday has been postponed.

PLAYERS' MESSAGES ON TWITTER

the former England Under-21 international on the pitch after he fell to the ground with no other players around him.

Medics spent six minutes trying to resuscitate

The score was 1-1 when the quarter-final

- Muamba 'stable but critical' hospital Yahoo! UK and Ireland 48 mins ago
- Fiancee calls for prayers as Fabrice
 Muamba remains critically ill in hospital
 Irish Independent 1 hr ago
- Prayers for Muamba after cardiac arrest Christian Today UK 1 hr ago
- ▼ Team's Anguish As Muamba Fights For Life Metro Radio 2 hrs ago
- uk soccer star STILL in critical condi... South Africa Star 2 hrs ago

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More from Football



Muamba shows signs of improvement

19 Mar 2012 Bolton



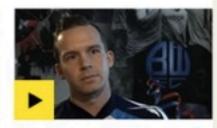
Spurs offer 'support' to players

19 Mar 2012 Tottenham



NEW Muamba 'shows signs of improvement'

19 Mar 2012 UK



Our focus is on Muamba - Davies 19 Mar 2012 | Football

Samba is upset by Russian racism 19 Mar 2012 African Football

FA Cup talk irrelevant - Davies 19 Mar 2012 Bolton

"Pray for Fab. God willing he will pull through."

- Design with context and tell the story
- Allow users to focus
- Split complex tasks into manageable chunks
- Don't compromise primary areas
- Remove distractions at key times
- Forms can always be simplified

Audit

A timely audit can prevent catastrophic failures, and shine new light on what you've learned.

Edit release

"Reconstruction Site" by The Weakerthans



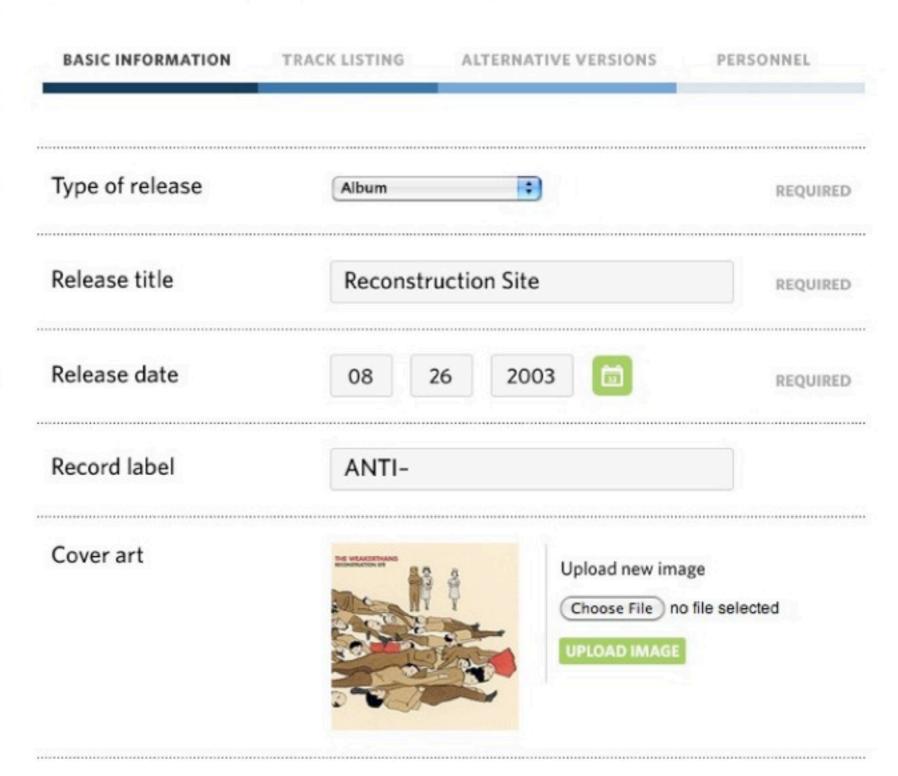
I'm not yet sure if or how these colour keys translate to areas of the Fan and Artist profiles, and this needs more investigation.

That said, I want to look at carrying this approach throughout, again marrying the keys to data types, eg: Green for Release, Blue for Shows etc.

As Greg is so close to the Artist screens, he can have a huge impact here by translating my rough ideas.

Edit release

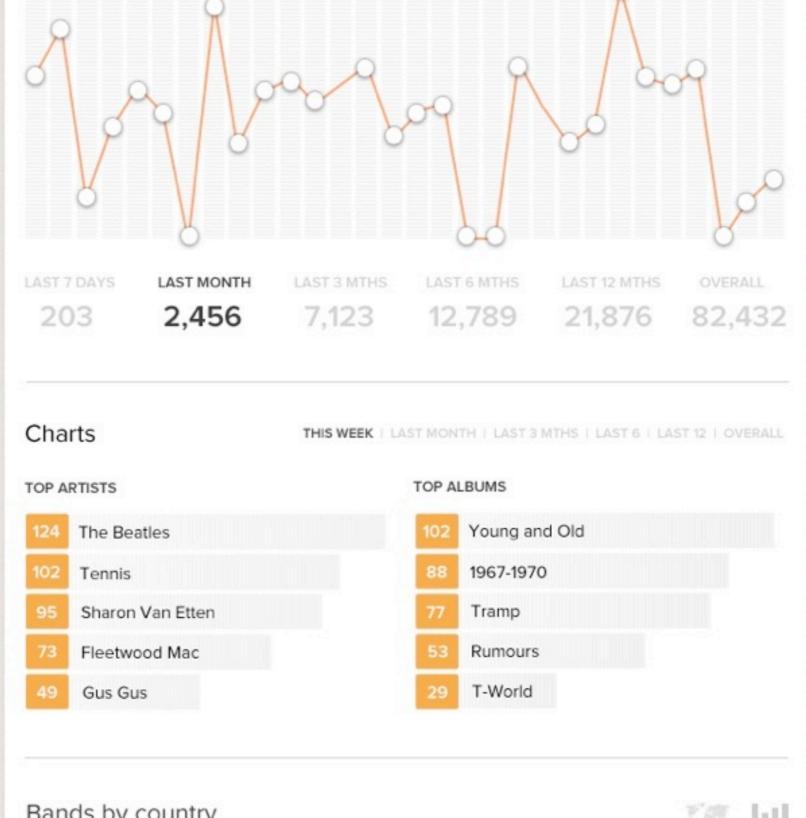
"Reconstruction Site" by The Weakerthans







You're compatibility is 87% You're both fans of The National, Burial, Massive Attack, Fleetwood Mac, The Beatles, Elbow, British Sea Power and 23 more artists.





RUSHMORE SEARCH David Hargreaves ▼

David Hargreaves



Nottingham, UK

History student, writer, and part time music teacher.

ARTISTS

FRIENDS

FOLLOWERS

93

246

389











You and David

You're compatibility is 87%



You're both fans of The National, Burial, Massive Attack, Fleetwood Mac, The Beatles, Elbow, British Sea Power and 23 more artists.





Fan of 1246 artists, including...







Elbow



The XX



Fleetwood Mac



Burial



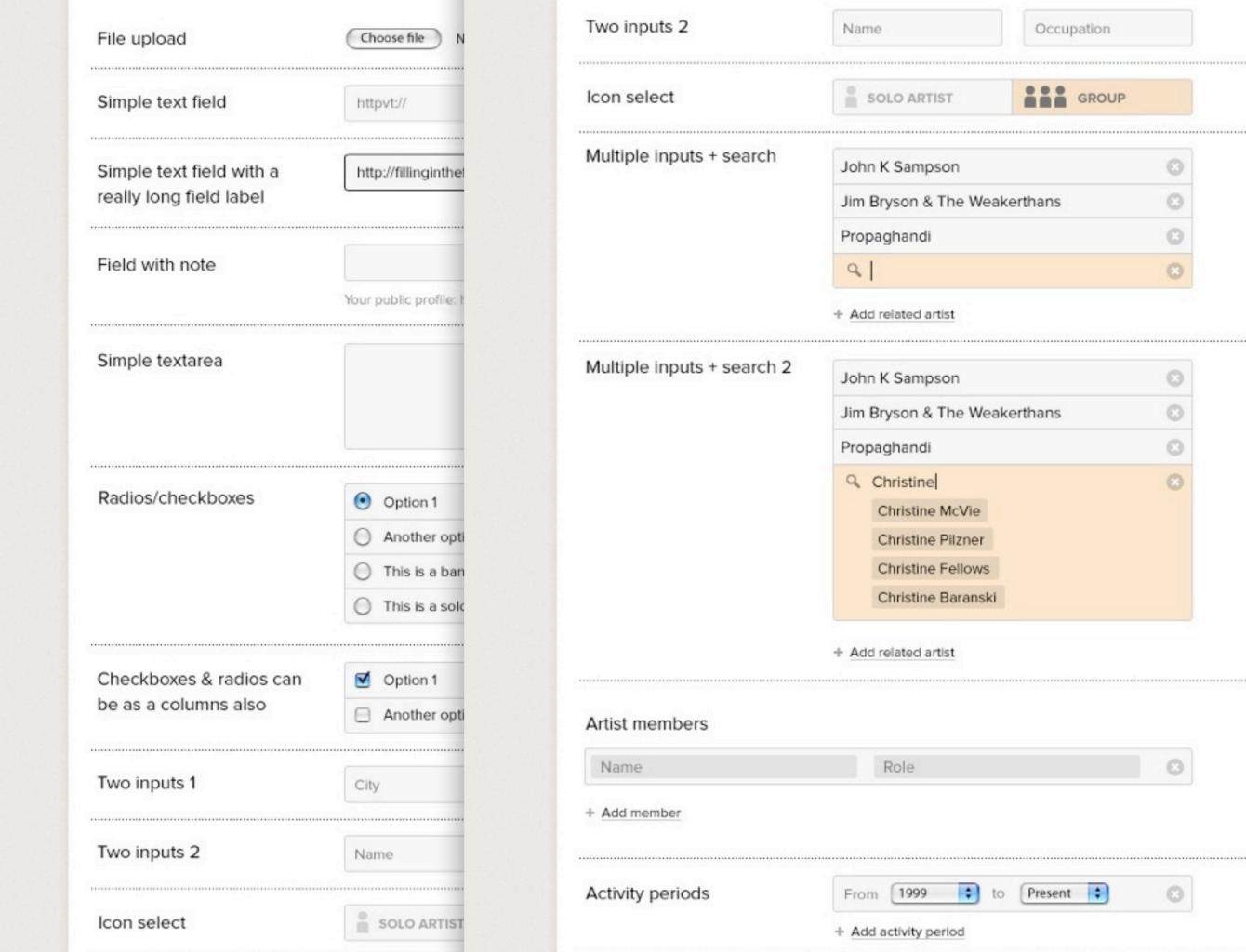
The Phoenix Foundation



Massive Attack



The Beatles



- Add breathing space to your schedule
- Make regular audits a part of your process
- Be honest about shortcomings or failures
- Never be afraid to rethink and rework

A final pause

Don't launch. Instead, sit with your work, think about it. Sieve it down and give it space.

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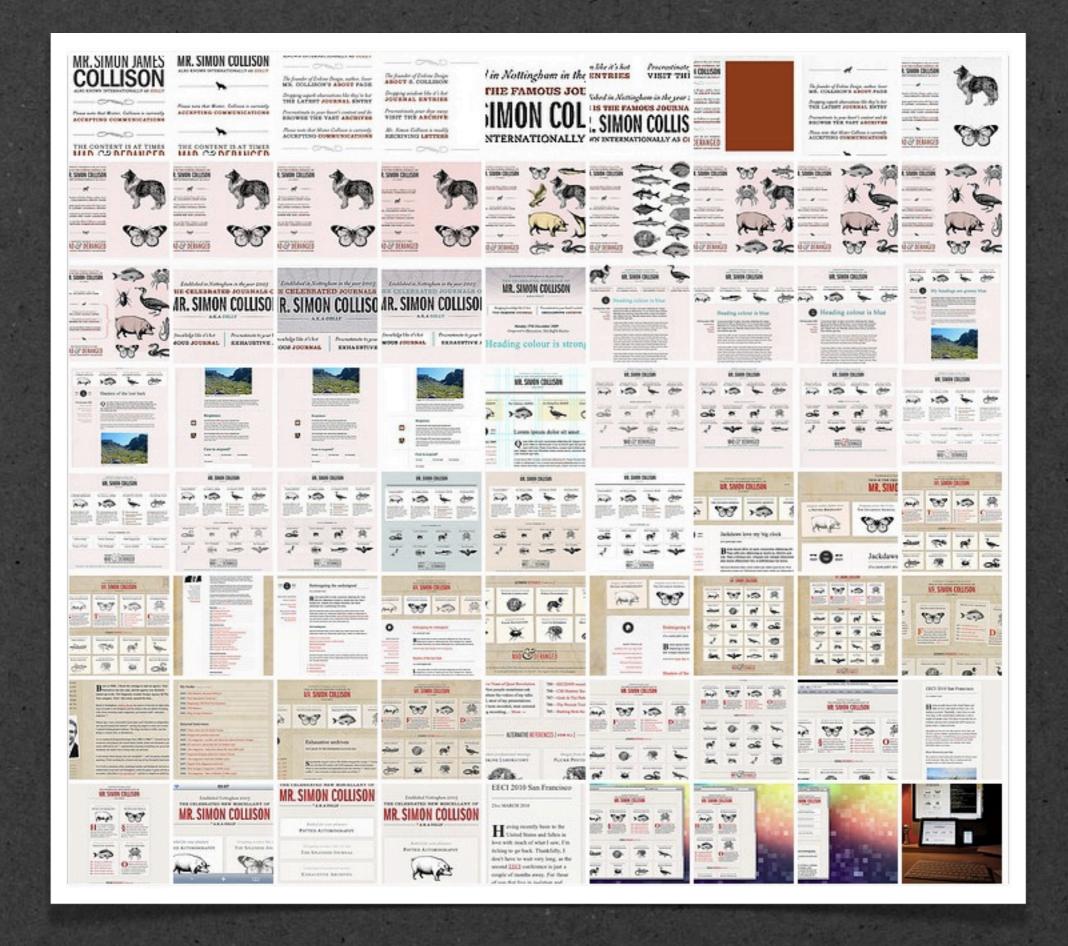
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MAD CONTENT WITHIN IS AT TIMES

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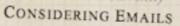
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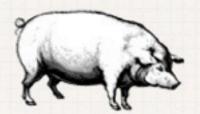
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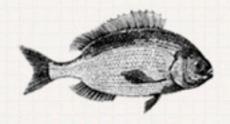
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Redesigning the undesigned
For two years—and with much
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apologising for my undesigned
blog. Well, no more shall I blush. To
mark this fourth redesign... More →

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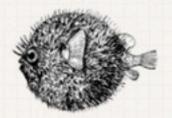
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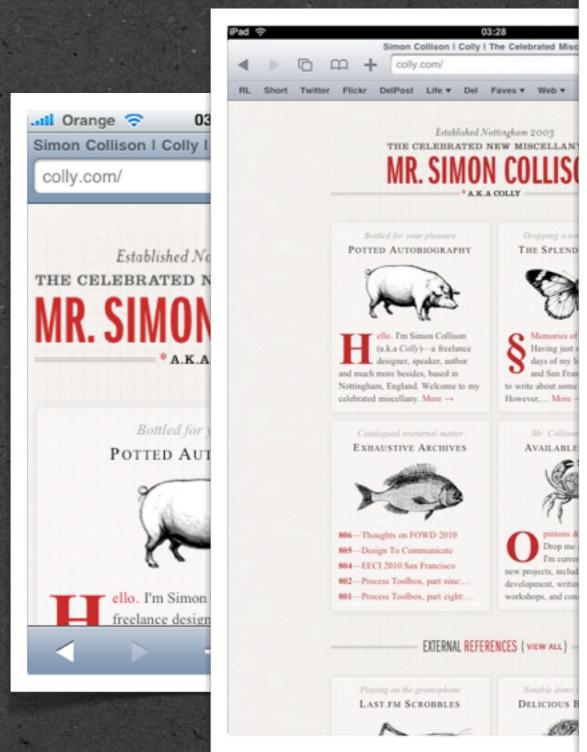
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The tweets of @simoncollison

TWITTER HAPPIER







- Sit with your 'finished' work for some time
- Stand back from it, find new perspectives
- Seek valued opinion and feedback
- Find things to throw away or reduce
- Launch only when you are ready

This is my philosophy

delight / emotion / surprise systems / constraint / restraint simplicity / complexity / focus context / reduction

Thanks

Simon Collison

@colly