

CSS FOR GROWNUPS

MATURING BEST PRACTISES

Andy Hume

SXSW interactive, 2012

Front-enders shouldn't be afraid to say they "program". CSS is constraint programming and not respecting JS in 2011 is just ignorant [sic].

Alex Russell

<https://twitter.com/slightlylate/status/141681624134844416>

IN THE BEGINNING



Web Standards movement

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/mariachily/4149054961/>


```
<table>
  <tr><td></td></tr>
  <tr><td><font face="arial,sans-serif"
size="4" color="red"><b>Error</
font><br><br></b></td></tr>
  <tr><td></td></
tr>
</table>
```

```
<p class="error">Error</p>
```

Zen Garden

The Beauty of CSS Design



A demonstration of what can be accomplished visually through CSS-based design. Select any style sheet from the list to load it into this page.

Download the sample [html file](#) and [css file](#)

The Road to Enlightenment

Littering a dark and dreary road lay the past relics of browser-specific tags, incompatible DOMs, and broken CSS support.

Today, we must clear the mind of past practices. Web enlightenment has been achieved thanks to the tireless efforts of folk like the W3C, WaSP and the major browser creators.

The css Zen Garden invites you to relax and meditate on the important lessons of the masters. Begin to see with clarity. Learn to use the (yet to be) time-honored techniques in new and invigorating fashion. Become one with the web.

So What is This About?

There is clearly a need for CSS to be taken seriously by graphic artists. The Zen Garden aims to excite, inspire, and encourage participation. To begin, view some of the existing designs in the list. Clicking on any one will load the style sheet into this very page. The code remains the same, the only thing that has changed is the external .css file. Yes, really.

CSS allows complete and total control over the style of a hypertext document. The only way this can be illustrated in a way that gets people excited is by demonstrating what it can truly be, once the reins are placed in the hands of those able to create beauty from structure. To date, most examples of neat tricks and hacks have been demonstrated by structurists and coders. Designers have yet to make their mark. This needs to change.

Participation

Graphic artists only please. You are modifying this page, so strong CSS skills are necessary, but the example files are commented well enough that even CSS novices can use them as starting points. Please see the [CSS Resource Guide](#) for advanced tutorials and tips on working with

select a design:

[Under the Sea!](#) by Erl Stoltz

[Make 'em Proud](#) by Michael McAghon and Scotty Reifsnnyder

[Orchid Beauty](#) by Kevin Addison

[Oceanscape](#) by Justin Gray

[CSS Co., Ltd.](#) by Benjamin Klemm

[Sakura](#) by Tatsuya Uchida

[Kyoto Forest](#) by John Politowski

[A Walk in the Garden](#) by Simon Van Hauwermeiren

archives:

[next designs >](#)

[View All Designs](#)

resources:

[View This Design's CS](#)

The power of CSS

Web Standards Obsession

*Every time you need to add a class or id for a style hook, put a pound/dollar in a jar.
#malarkeysprotips*

Andy Clarke, 2011

<https://twitter.com/malarkey/status/70161540254416896>

```
.social li:nth-child(1) {  
    background-image: url(twitter.png);  
}  
.social li:nth-child(2) {  
    background-image: url(facebook.png);  
}  
.social li:nth-child(3) {  
    background-image: url(linkedin.png);  
}
```

```
.social .twitter {  
    background-image: url(twitter.png);  
}  
.social .facebook {  
    background-image: url(facebook.png);  
}  
.social .linkedin {  
    background-image: url(linkedin.png);  
}
```




Managing complexity

http://www.flickr.com/photos/dippy_duck/2685596185/


```
.product-list li a {
```

```
}
```

Managing complexity

http://www.flickr.com/photos/dippy_duck/2685596185/


```
.product-list li a {  
  display: block;  
  padding: 0.5em 0.23em;  
  color: #54FE87;  
  background-color: #CCC;  
  text-shadow: #6374AB 20px -12px 2px;  
}
```

Managing complexity

http://www.flickr.com/photos/dippy_duck/2685596185/



With great power...

http://www.flickr.com/photos/dippy_duck/2685596185/



Constraints are good

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/banspy/3843960604/>



Nobody is really smart enough to program computers.

Steve McConnell

Code Complete 2, Microsoft Press, 2004

Constraints are good

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/banspy/3843960604/>

```
#side-bar a {  
    color: green !important;  
}
```



Nobody is really smart enough to style web pages.

Andy Hume

SXSWi, 2012

Constraints are good

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/banspy/3843960604/>

'Code quality'

CORRECTNESS

RELIABILITY

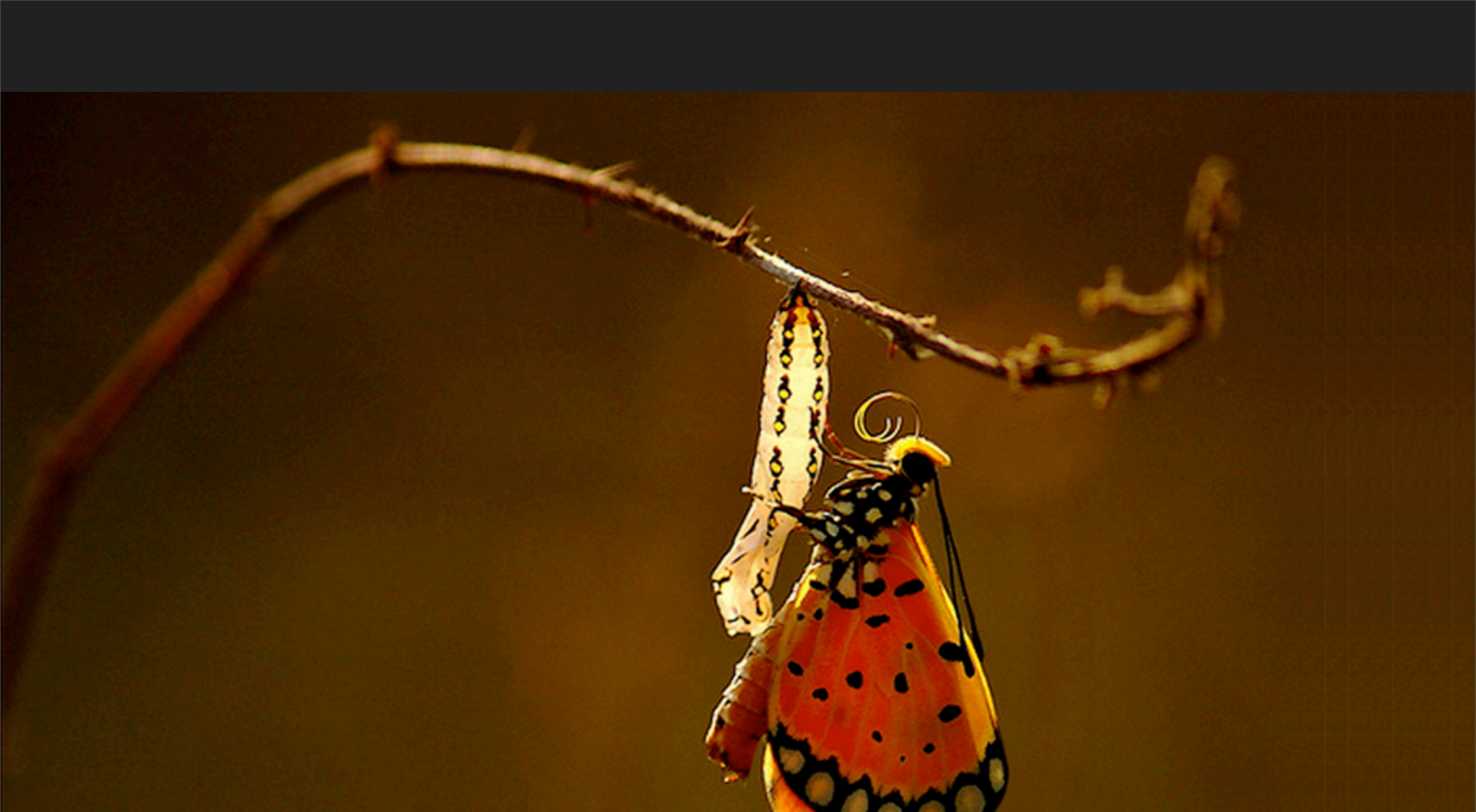
REUSABILITY

WEB 2.0 COMPLIANT

PERFORMANCE

TESTABILITY

EXTENSIBILITY



Optimize for change

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/anandham/4499539060/>

261 declarations of Facebook blue

<http://www.slideshare.net/stubbornella/our-best-practices-are-killing-us>

Very few people (only professional designers, it seems) write style sheets longer than a hundred lines.

Bert Bos, 2008

<http://www.w3.org/People/Bos/CSS-variables>

Sass

<http://sass-lang.com>

LESS

<http://lesscss.org/>

Stylus

<http://learnboost.github.com/stylus/>

OOCSS

<http://oocss.org>

SMACSS

<http://smacss.com>

CSS Lint

<http://csslint.net>

EXAMPLES

DOCUMENT

Layers of CSS

HTML DOCUMENT

DOCUMENT

BASE

Layers of CSS

BASE STYLES

HTML DOCUMENT

DOCUMENT

BASE

MODULE

Layers of CSS

MODULE STYLES

BASE STYLES

HTML DOCUMENT

DOCUMENT

BASE

MODULE

LAYOUT

Layers of CSS

LAYOUT STYLES

MODULE STYLES

BASE STYLES

HTML DOCUMENT

```
.green {  
    color: green;  
}
```

```
.green {  
    color: red;  
}
```

DOCUMENT

BASE

MODULE

LAYOUT

```
.promo-box {  
  color: red;  
  background: black;  
}
```

```
.promo-box {  
    color: red;  
    background: black;  
}  
.promo-box h3 {  
    font-size: 1.2em;  
    text-transform: uppercase;  
}
```

```
.promo-box {  
    color: red;  
    background: black;  
}  
.promo-box h3,  
.promo-box h4 {  
    font-size: 1.2em;  
    text-transform: uppercase;  
}
```

```
.promo-box {  
  color: red;  
  background: black;  
}  
.promo-box .promo-box-h {  
  font-size: 1.2em;  
  text-transform: uppercase;  
}
```


!! headings

DOCUMENT

BASE

MODULE

LAYOUT

```
h1 { font-size: 3em; }  
h2 { font-size: 2.3em; }  
h3 { font-size: 2.1em; }  
h4 { font-size: 1.8em; }  
h5 { font-size: 1.3em; }  
h6 { font-size: 1.1em; }
```

DOCUMENT

BASE

MODULE

LAYOUT

```
.h1 { font-size: 3em; }  
.h2 { font-size: 2.3em; }  
.h3 { font-size: 2.1em; }  
.h4 { font-size: 1.8em; }  
.h5 { font-size: 1.3em; }  
.h6 { font-size: 1.1em; }
```

```
.h-headline { font-size: 3em; }  
.h-subheadline { font-size: 2.3em; }  
.h-byline { font-size: 2.1em; }  
.h-standfirst { font-size: 1.8em; }  
.h-related { font-size: 1.3em; }  
.h-promo { font-size: 1.1em; }
```

!! lists

DOCUMENT

BASE

MODULE

LAYOUT

```
ul.product-list li {  
  
}
```

DOCUMENT

BASE

MODULE

LAYOUT

```
.product-list li {  
  
}
```

DOCUMENT

BASE

MODULE

LAYOUT

```
.product-item {  
  
}
```



```
<ul>
  <li class="product-item">Prod 1</li>
  <li class="product-item">Prod 2</li>
  <li class="product-item">Prod 3</li>
  <li class="product-item">Prod 4</li>
  <li class="product-item">Prod 5</li>
</ul>
```

```
<p class="product-item">Prod 1</p>
```

...

```
<div class="product-item">  
  <h4 class="product-item-h">Prod 1</h4>  
  <p>Details about product</p>  
</div>
```

...

```
<section class="product-item">  
  <h2 class="product-item-h">Prod 1</h2>  
  <p>Details about product</p>  
</section>
```

DOCUMENT

BASE

MODULE

LAYOUT

```
.product-list li,  
.product-item {  
  
}
```

!! module variants

```
.promo-box {  
    color: red;  
    background: black;  
}  
#sidebar .promo-box {  
    background: white;  
}
```

DOCUMENT

BASE

MODULE

LAYOUT

```
.promo-box {  
    color: red;  
    background: black;  
}
```

```
.promo-box-light {  
    background: white;  
}
```

```
<div class="promo-box promo-box-light"></  
div>
```

DOCUMENT

BASE

MODULE

LAYOUT

```
.promo-box {  
    color: red;  
    background: black;  
}  
.promo-box--light {  
    background: white;  
}  
<div class="promo-box promo-box--light"></div>
```

!! page specific styles

DOCUMENT

BASE

MODULE

LAYOUT

```
.promo-box {  
  color: red;  
  background: black;  
}  
.product-page .promo-box {  
  color: green;  
}
```

```
.promo-box {  
    color: red;  
    background: black;  
}  
  
.product-page .promo-box,  
.home-page .promo-box,  
.about-page .promo-box,  
.tag-page .promo-box {  
    color: green;  
}
```

DOCUMENT

BASE

MODULE

LAYOUT

```
.promo-box {  
    color: red;  
    background: black;  
}  
.promo-box .promo-box-eco {  
    color: green;  
}
```

!! media queries

```
.promo-box input[type=text] {  
    display: block;  
}  
@media screen and (min-width: 20em) {  
    .promo-box input[type=text] {  
        display: inline;  
    }  
}
```

Get started with Fontdeck

Create an account

Create a Fontdeck account

Your email address

Choose a password

Passwords should be at least six characters long.

Confirm password

Where do you want to use web fonts?

Website domain
(optional)

Eg *mysite.com*, *www.mysite.com*, *localhost*, *127.0.0.1*

You can add extra domains later

Already registered?

Email address

Password

Remember me
Uncheck if you're on a public computer

Log in to Fontdeck

Fontdeck forms

Join Fontdeck mailing list

To receive a newsletter about new fonts, interviews and exclusive promotions.

<https://fontdeck.com/register>


```
.promo-box input[type=text] {  
    display: block;  
}  
.promo-box @(min-width: 20em) {  
    input[type=text] {  
        display: inline;  
    }  
}
```

```
.promo-box input[type=text] {  
    display: block;  
}  
.promo-box @(min-width: 20em) {  
    input[type=text] {  
        display: inline;  
    }  
}
```

```
.promo-box input[type=text] {  
    display: inline;  
}  
.promo-box.narrow input[type=text] {  
    display: block;  
}
```

```
.promo-box input[type=text] {  
    display: inline;  
}  
.promo-box.narrow input[type=text] {  
    display: block;  
}
```

Selector Queries

<https://github.com/ahume/selector-queries>

```
<div data-squery="max-width:400px=narrow">  
  <p>Content here</p>  
</div>
```

Selector Queries

<https://github.com/ahume/selector-queries>

```
<div data-squery="max-width:400px=narrow">  
  <p>Content here</p>  
</div>
```

Selector Queries

<https://github.com/ahume/selector-queries>

```
<div data-squery="max-width:400px=narrow">  
  <p>Content here</p>  
</div>
```


Selector Queries

<https://github.com/ahume/selector-queries>

```
<div data-squery="max-width:400px=narrow">  
  <p>Content here</p>  
</div>
```

Selector Queries

<https://github.com/ahume/selector-queries>

```
var e = document.querySelectorAll(".promo-box");  
SelectorQueries.add(e, "min-width",  
    "30em", "wide");
```

!! presentational class names

Surgical layout helpers

```
.margin-top {  
    margin-top: 8px;  
}  
.margin-bottom {  
    margin-bottom: 8px;  
}
```

Surgical layout helpers

```
<div class="promo-box margin-top">  
    Module content  
</div>
```

Surgical layout helpers

```
.gutter-left {  
    padding-left: 8px;  
}  
.gutter-right {  
    padding-right: 8px;  
}
```

Surgical layout helpers

```
<div class="gutter-left gutter-right">  
  <div class="promo-box">  
    Module content  
  </div>  
</div>
```


!! extra non-semantic elements

 23 Comments

Background icons

```
.icon {  
    background-image: url(icons.png);  
}
```

```
.icon-comment {  
    background-position: 0 -30px;  
}
```

```
<p class="icon icon-comment">23 Comments</p>
```

 23 Comments

Background icons

```
.icon {  
    background-image: url(icons.png);  
}
```

```
.icon-comment {  
    background-position: 0 -30px;  
}
```

```
<p><i class="icon icon-comment"></i>23  
Comments</p>
```

A white rounded rectangular button with a black speech bubble icon on the left and the text "23 Comments" in black to its right.

```
<p><i class="icon icon-comment"></i>23  
Comments</p>
```

A white rounded rectangular button with a black speech bubble icon on the left and the text "Comment" in black to its right.

```
<a><i class="icon icon-comment"></  
i>Comment</a>
```

DOCS & STYLEGUIDES



GEL

Global
Experience
Language

Home | Philosophy | Web | TV | Mobile | Tablet | Accessibility

An introduction to GEL

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



**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 10px vertical units.

FOUNDATIONS

The Masthead

The global masthead retains the current global

Building a Global Experience
Language for the BBC

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

This is probably the best job in the world

BBC Global Experience Language

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/gel>

Base CSS

On top of the scaffolding, basic HTML elements are styled and enhanced with extensible classes to provide a fresh, consistent look and feel.

[Typography](#)[Code](#)[Tables](#)[Forms](#)[Buttons](#)[Icons by Glyphicons](#)

Typography

Headings, paragraphs, lists, and other inline type elements

Headings & body copy

Typographic scale

The entire typographic grid is based on two Less variables in our variables.less file:

`@baseFontSize` and `@baseLineHeight`. The first is the base font-size used throughout and the second is the base line-height.

We use those variables, and some math, to create the margins, paddings, and line-heights of all our type and more.

Example body text

Nullam quis risus eget urna mollis ornare vel eu leo. Cum sociis natoque penatibus et magnis dis parturient montes, nascetur ridiculus mus. Nullam id dolor id nibh ultricies vehicula ut id elit. Vivamus sagittis lacus vel augue laoreet rutrum faucibus dolor auctor. Duis mollis, est non commodo luctus, nisi erat porttitor ligula, eget lacinia odio sem nec elit. Donec sed odio dui.

h1. Heading 1

h2. Heading 2

h3. Heading 3

h4. Heading 4

h5. Heading 5

h6. HEADING 6

Documenting base styles

About

Styleguide

This document is a guide to the mark-up styles used throughout the site.

Sections

The main page header of this guide is an **h1** element. Any header elements may include links, as depicted in the example.

The secondary header above is an **h2** element, which may be used for any form of important page-level header. More than one may be used per page. Consider using an **h3** element if you need a header level of less importance, or as a sub-header to an existing **h2** element.

<http://paulrobertlloyd.com/about/styleguide/>

[About the Author](#) >

[Contact](#) >

[Colophon](#) >

[Styleguide](#) >

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Documenting base styles

<http://paulrobertlloyd.com/about/styleguide/>

How to implement the grid

Styles from layout.css

.col-12

.col-6

.col-6

.col-4

.col-8

.col-4

.col-4

.col-3

.col-3

.col-6

.col-3

.col-3

.col-1



Documenting layout styles

Optional checklist title

Integer sed tincidunt erat. Pellentesque orci nisi, tristique in lacinia vitae, iaculis eu velit.

- Do something on the Family Nest site
- Maybe do something offline as well a urna dolor. Donec diam erat, iaculis veurna doloronec.
- Visit something elsewhere
- Do something on the Family Nest site
- Something else

```
<div class="mod checklist-paper">
  <div class="checklist-paper-body">
    <h2 class="sub-title">Optional checklist
    title</h2>
    <p>Integer sed tincidunt erat.
    Pellentesque orci nisi, tristique in lacinia
    vitae, iaculis eu velit.</p>
    <ol class="check-list">
      <li><a href="#">Do something on the
      Family Nest site</a></li>
      <li>Maybe do something offline as
      well a urna dolor. Donec diam erat, iaculis
      veurna doloronec.</li>
      <li><a href="#">Visit something
```

[checklist-paper.html](#)

Your comments

Add your comment here...

```
<div class="mod comment-form">
  <h3 class="section-title">Your
  comments</h3>
  <div class="input-container">
    <textarea name="comment"
    placeholder="Add your comment
    here&hellip;"></textarea>
  </div>
  <p class="sub sub">Disclaimer test of
  some sort lorem ipsum dolor sit amet,
  consectetur adipiscing elit. Phasellus
  rutrum lectus quis erat aliquam non
  aliquam dolor accumsan. Morbi
  condimentum arcu sed felis tempus.</p>
```

[comment-form.html](#)

Module library

Your full name

Your email address

Savings & Investments

Short-term or long-term savings and the tax benefits, could a Junior ISA be the right choice? Use our savings calculator to find out how saving in stocks and shares could benefit your child.

Teaching kids about money

You've taken extended paternity leave, can you afford to work and are childcare vouchers worth it?

```
</h2>
  <p class="sub">Give yourself a
  financial health check, from Maternity and
  Paternity rights to Working and Child Tax
  Credits</p>
```

[topic-explorer.html](#)

USEFUL TOOLS

An excerpt from the piece...lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipisicing elit, sed do eiusmod.



Budget calculator



Benefits calculator



Childcare calculator

```
<div class="mod useful-tools" data-
squery="min-width:508px=wide">
  <h6 class="related-title">Useful
  Tools</h6>
  <p class="top-five-description">An
  excerpt from the pieceâ€¦lorem ipsum
  dolor sit amet, consectetur adipisicing
  elit, sed do eiusmod.</p>
  <ul>
    <li>
      <a href="#">
        
```

[useful-tools.html](#)

Module library

The benefits

Client-side developers

<http://goo.gl/xq76e>


Software developers

<http://goo.gl/Fj9DP>

Thank-you!

 <http://lanyrd.com/spmqc>

 @andyhume

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theguardian