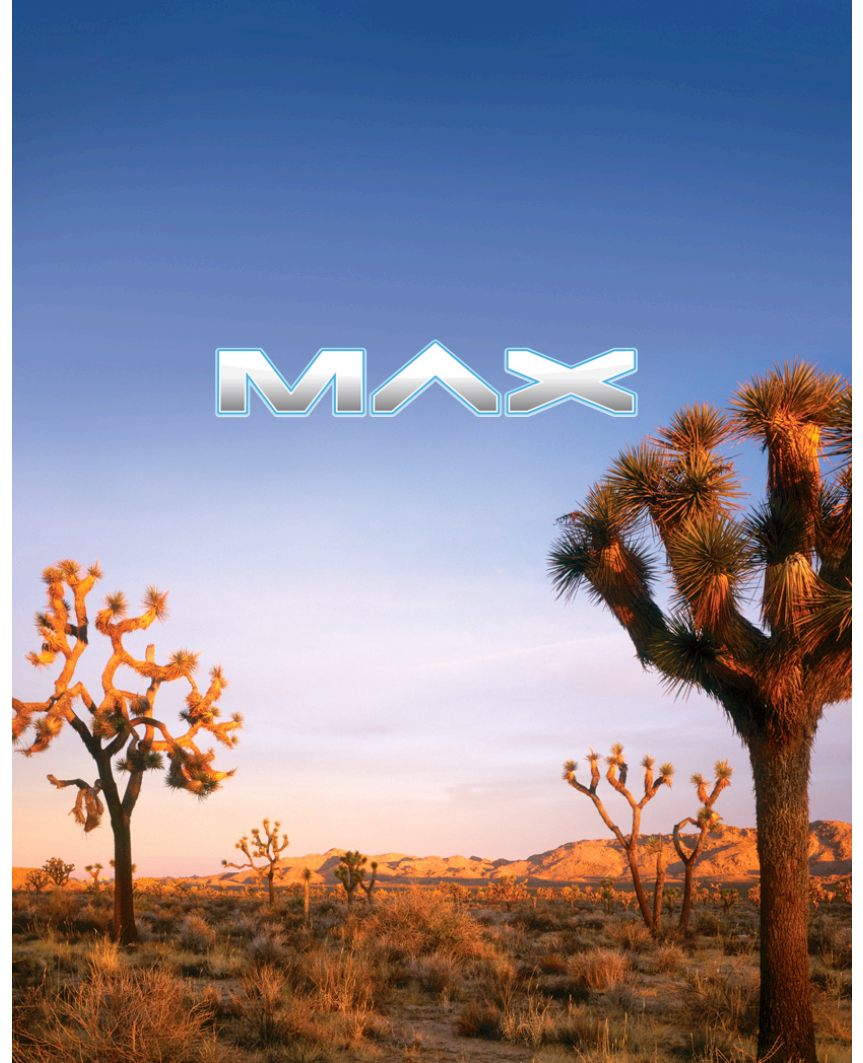


MAX 2006 Beyond Boundaries

Stephanie Sullivan

Corporate Consultant/Trainer

W3Conversions



Biography



- Founder/Principal - W3Conversions LLC - Web Standards and Accessibility
- Speaker and Corporate Trainer
- Consultant & sub-contractor for XHTML/CSS development
- Adobe Community Expert
- Dreamweaver Task Force for Web Standards Project (WaSP)
- Partner - CommunityMX.com
- Author - DW MX 2004 Magic, Web Developer's & Designer's Journal (formerly MXDJ), Adobe's DevNet Center, and other web publications
- International Advisory Board for Web Developer's and Designer's Journal
- List Mom for WebWeavers & moderator for SEM 2.0



Session Overview

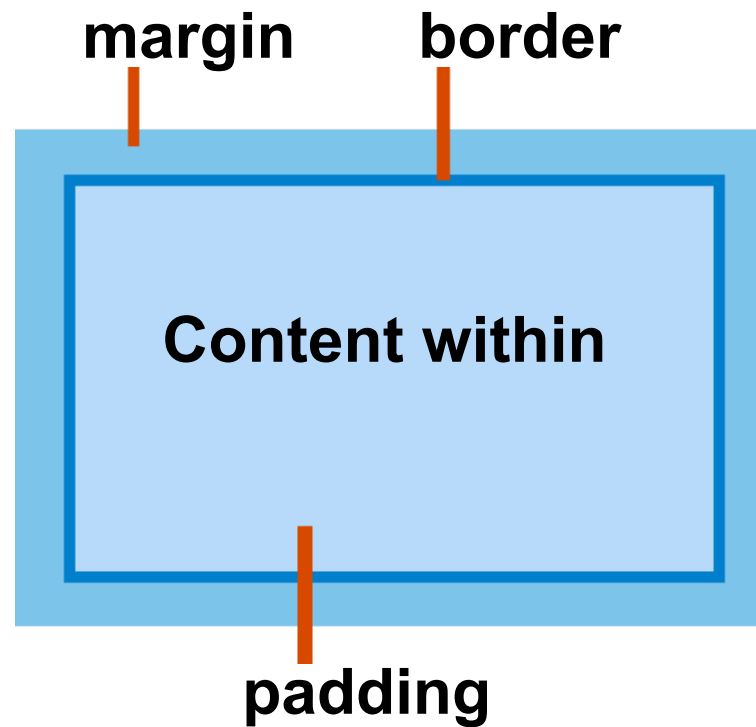


- Efficient CSS Management
- Selector Types
- Advanced Styling Techniques

Quick Review



- What is the Box Model?



Quick Review



- What is an inline element?
- What is a block element?
- What is meant by the “flow of the document?”
- What are the different positioning methods?
 - Static
 - Relative
 - Absolute
 - Fixed

■ Selector types

■ Type

body p h1 ul

■ Descendant

#nav a:link #content p.mark body#about .about ul ul li a

■ Child

body > p div ol > li strong p>strong

■ Adjacent Sibling

h3 + h4 ul+p strong + em

■ Attribute

h1[title] a[href=<http://www.communitymx.com/>]

■ Class

.anyname p.red div.box

■ ID

#nav div#mainContent

- How do you write efficient CSS?
 - Start with well-formed, semantic X/HTML
 - Use names that mirror the use, not the placement or style
#nav or #news, not #leftColumn or #rightcolumn
.branding or .current, not .red or .smallGray
 - Avoid “classitis”
 - Begin with type selectors
 - ID all major page divisions
 - Class anything that can be repeated
 - Use descendant selectors instead of classes to target specific elements
 - Follow the order of your X/HTML document to keep CSS logical OR divide your CSS document into a logical structure that works for you. IE: structure, text, links, etc
 - Use shorthand when possible

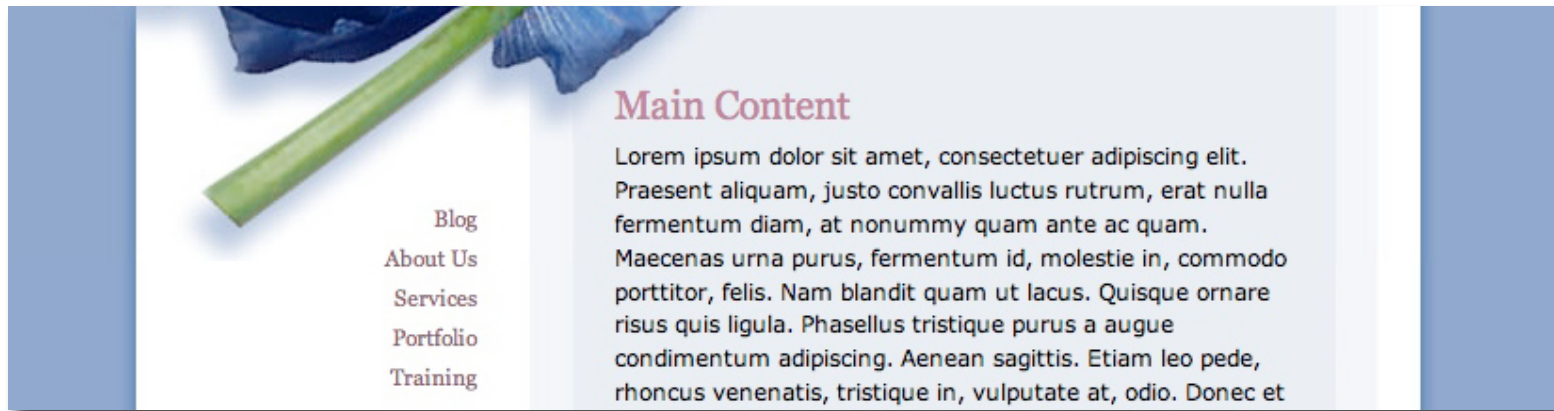
Real World Examples - W3Conversions



- Faux columns & multiple wrappers



- Faux columns & multiple wrappers

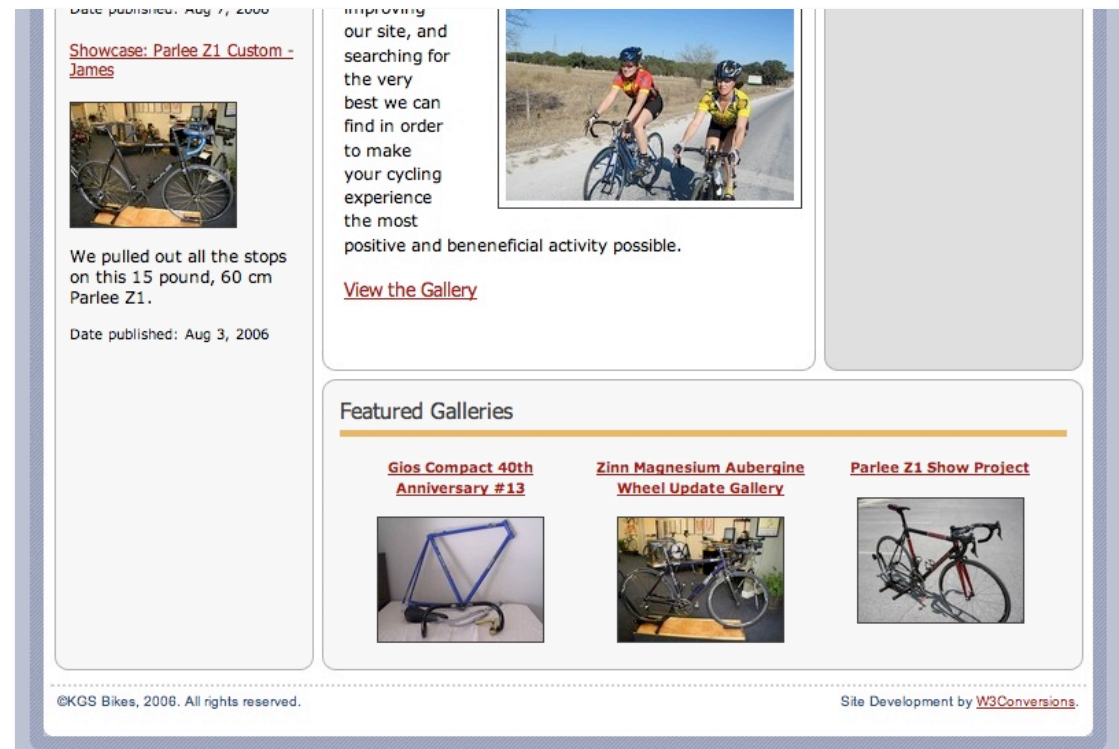
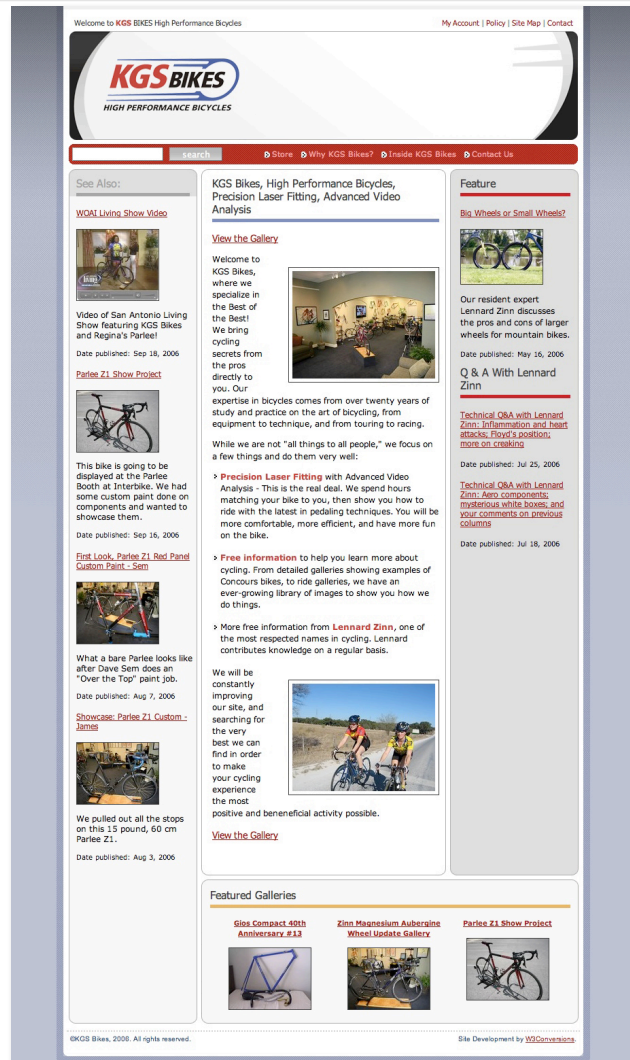


This effect is created with a single graphic on the body element.

Real World Examples - KGS Bikes



- More complex faux columns & multiple wrappers



Multiple Wrappers - Construction



Overall container

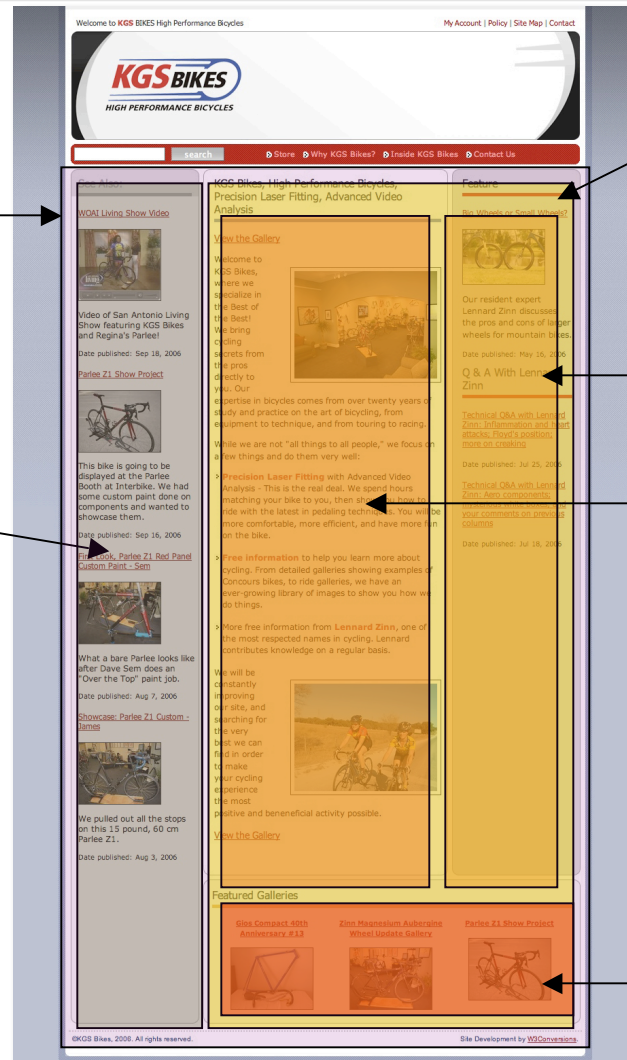
Floated Left
Single column

Right side container
Margin-left

Floated right column

Margin-right column

Cleared single div



Multiple Wrappers - Images



- Five small images in total

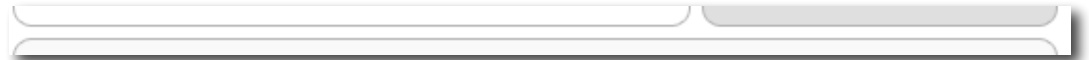
Top cap



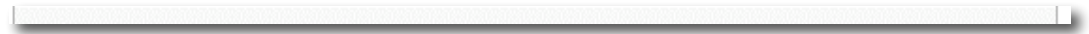
Full page
repeat



Column switch
(bottom two - top one)



Lower small repeat



Bottom cap



Multiple Wrappers - XHTML



```
<div id="thrcol_main">
  <div id="thrcol_top">
    <div id="thrcol_bott">
      <div id="nav">
        Content for nav
      </div>
      <div id="content">
        <div id="feature">
          Content for feature
        </div>
        <div id="main">
          Content for main
        </div>
        <br class="brclear" />
        <div id="display_main">
          <div id="display_top">
            Content for display
          <br class="brclear" />
        </div>
      </div>
      <br class="brclear" />
    </div>
  </div>
</div>
```

Full page repeating graphic (repeat-y)

Top cap
(no-repeat top left)

Bottom cap
(no-repeat bottom left)

Lower small repeating graphic
(repeat-y)

Column switch
(contains bottom of two
columns and top of one)

Real World Examples - Anteo



- Multiple wrappers - split, reusable background graphics



Real World Examples - Anteo



- Multiple wrappers - navigation graphics

Rollovers

Left side

Right side



Multiple Wrappers - Navigation HTML



```
<div id="navwrap">
  <div id="nav">
    <ul>
      <li id="prima1nk"><a href="#">link one</a></li>
      <li id="coop1nk"><a href="#">link two</a></li>
      <li id="aree1nk"><a href="#">link three</a></li>
    </ul>
    <br class="brclear" />
  </div>
</div>
```



Multiple Wrappers - Navigation CSS

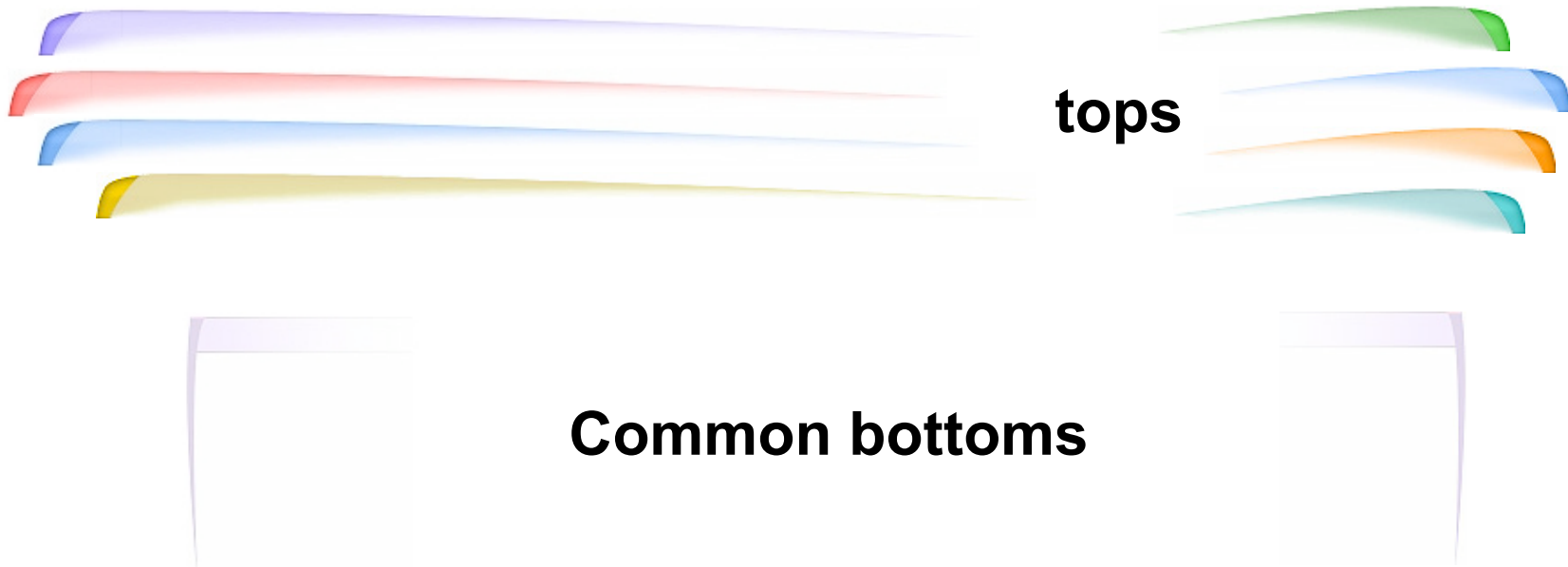


```
#nav {  
    background: #E5DDEC url(images/nav_lft.gif) no-repeat left top;  
    padding-left: 18px;  
}  
#navwrap {  
    background: #E5DDEC url(images/nav_rt.gif) no-repeat right top;  
    padding-right: 19px;  
}  
li#primalnk a {  
    width: 142px;  
    background: #D1C3DE url(images/nav_1.gif) no-repeat;  
}  
li#primalnk a:hover, li#primalnk a:active, li#primalnk a:focus, body#primapg li#primalnk a {  
    background: #9677B5 url(images/nav_1_on.gif) no-repeat;  
}
```

Real World Examples - Anteo



- Split background graphics



Split Backgrounds



```
<div id="content">
  <div id="bluepod"> <!-- places colored top -->
    <div id="pod"> <!-- used on every pod -->
      <h1>sIFRized header</h1>
      <p>Content of the pod</p>
      <br class="brclear" />
    </div> <!-- closes pod -->
  </div> <!-- closes bluepod -->
</div> <!-- closes content -->
```

SUBLEVEL LINK TITLE

HEADLINE TITLE

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipisicing elit, sed do eiusmod tempor incididunt ut labore et dolore magna aliqua. Eiusmod tempor incididunt ut labore et dolore. Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipisicing elit, sed do eiusmod tempor incididunt ut labore et dolore magna link. Eiusmod tempor incididunt ut labore et dolore.

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipisicing elit, sed do eiusmod tempor incididunt ut labore et dolore magna aliqua. Eiusmod tempor incididunt ut labore et dolore.

- sIFR
 - Use any font - even when only on your machine
 - Uses JavaScript and Flash - falls back to pure text/CSS
 - Create Flash swf of a dynamic alphabet
 - Insert JavaScript, CSS and tune



Sari Medium - sIFR



Helvetica - CSS

- Currently in version 3 beta - you can participate:
- <http://lists.novemberborn.net/mailman/listinfo/sifr3-dev>

Real World Examples - W3Conversions



- Negative body margins



Negative Margins - CSS

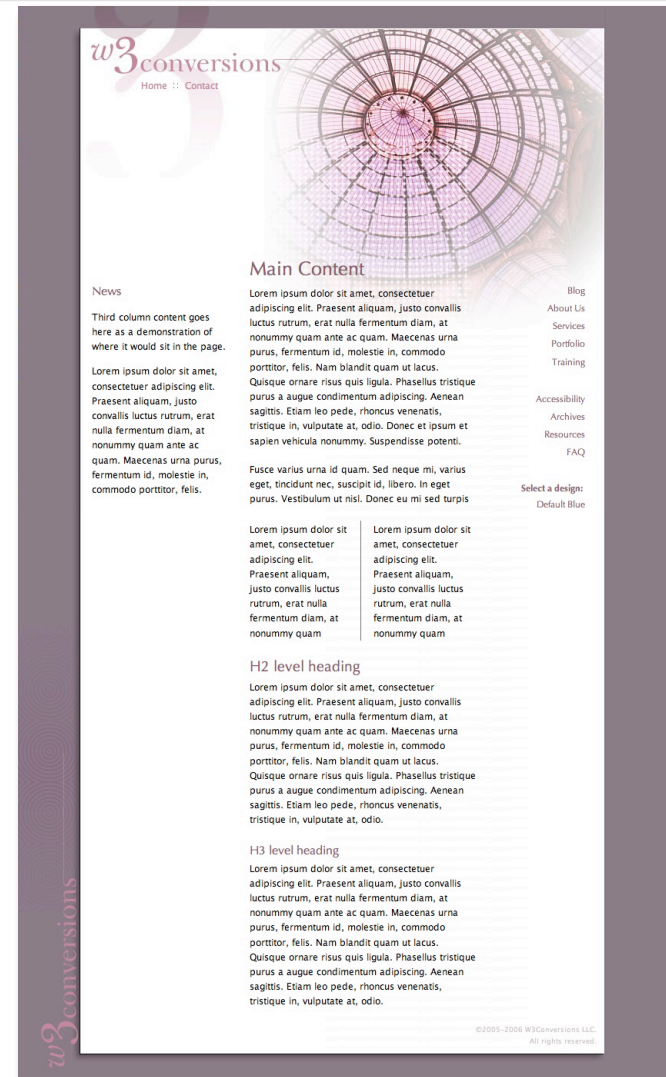
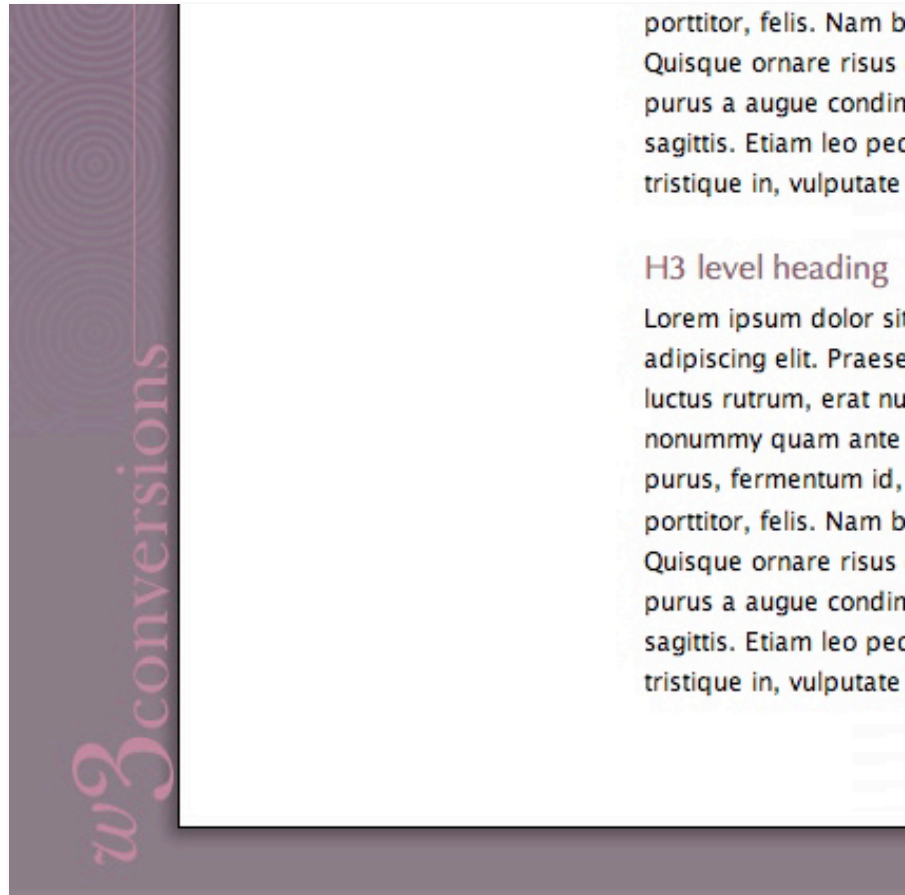


```
body {  
    background: #7F98C3 url(../images/background_body1.jpg) repeat-y  
center top;  
    margin: 0 0 0 -68px;  
    padding: 0;  
}  
#outcontain {  
    width: 770px;  
    margin: 0 auto;  
    background: url(../images/background_1.jpg) repeat-y top right;  
}  
#innercontain {  
    background: url(../images/top_flower1.jpg) no-repeat top left;  
    padding: 0 10px 0 68px;  
}
```

Real World Examples - W3Conversions



- Negative wrapper margins



Negative Margins - Images



- Three images in total



Full page repeat

Left side

Footer bottom cap



Negative Margins - CSS



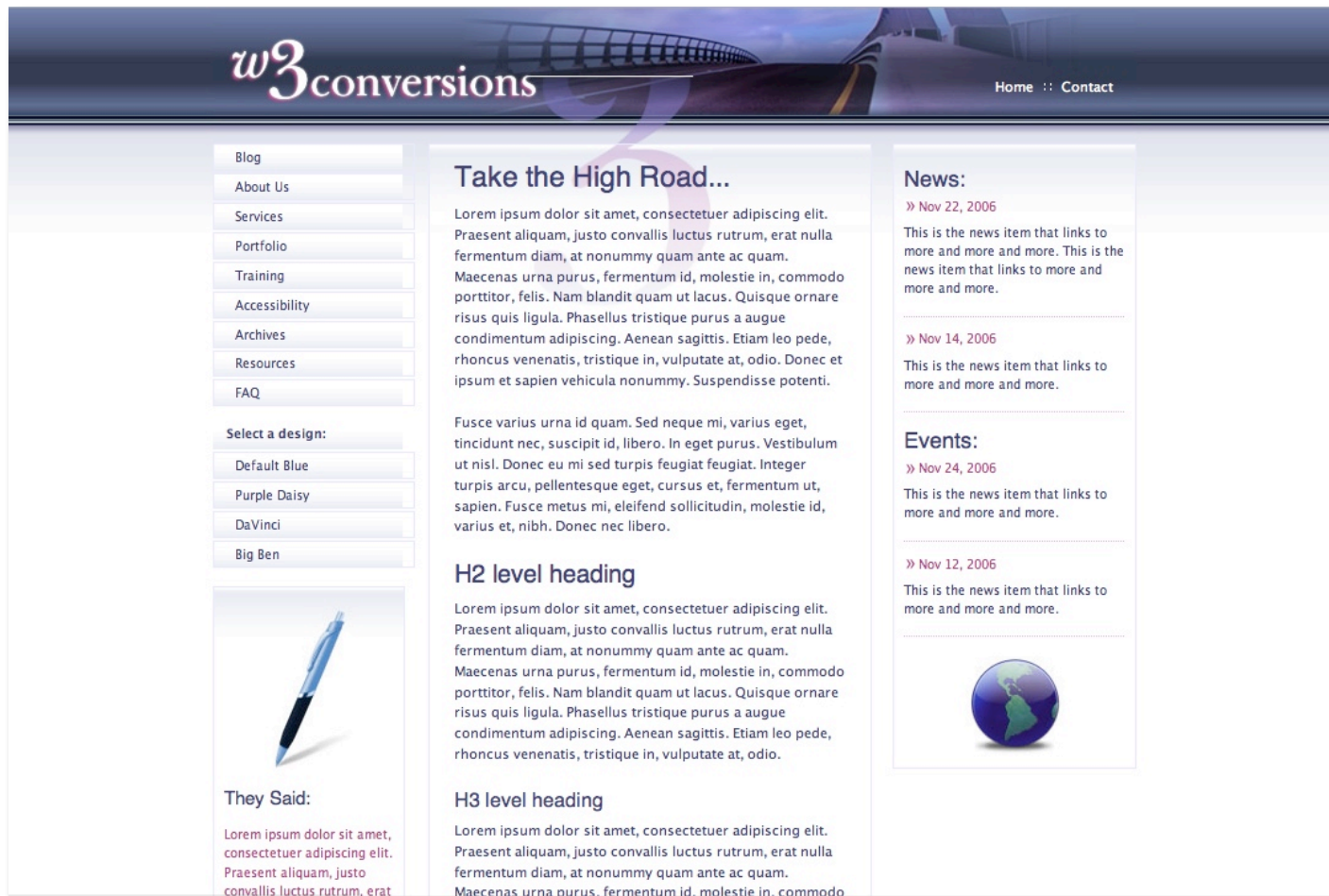
```
body {
    margin: 0;
    padding: 0;
    background: #7A6977 url(../images/background_body4.jpg) repeat-y;
}
#outcontain {
    width: 762px;
    background: url(../images/foot_btm4.jpg) no-repeat 81px 100%;
}
#container {
    background: url(../images/bldg_side4.jpg) no-repeat 0px 100%;
    margin: 0 0 -25px; /*pulls bottom margin up so dropshadow doesn't show */
}
#innercontain {
    background: url(../images/top_bldg4.jpg) no-repeat top left;
    padding: 0 10px 35px 81px; /*padding to keep footer text on white */
}

<div id="outcontain"> (contains bottom footer shadow)
  <div id="container "> (has negative bottom margin and side graphic)
    <div id="innercontain">
```

Real World Examples - W3Conversions



- Overall width based on user's default font size



Overall Width Based on EM Units



- If user's default font size is larger, page width increases



Overall Width Based on EM Units



```
#innercontain {  
    width: 67em;  
    max-width: 1024px;  
    min-width: 600px;  
    text-align: left;  
    font-size: 0.7em;  
    margin: 0 auto;  
    background: url(../images/tile.jpg) repeat-x;  
}
```

To force IE6 and below to do min-width and max-width, use an IE Conditional Comment and an expression (they're supported in IE7):

```
<!--[if lte IE 6]  
#innercontain {  
    width:expression(document.body.clientWidth < 600? "600px" :  
document.body.clientWidth > 1200? "1200px" : "auto");  
}  
<![endif]-->
```

Real World Examples - FlexRight



- Local directory-based CSS, descendant selectors and AP divs

FlexRight Website Screenshot

Header: RIGHT PLANS RIGHT NOW FLEX RIGHT. Account Login | Home | Site Map | Contact Us.

Navigation Tabs: RIGHT FOR EMPLOYEES, RIGHT FOR EMPLOYERS, FLEXRIGHT ADVANTAGE.

Left Sidebar (Desktop View):

- Introduction >
- Health Care >
- Dependent Care >
- Commuter Assist >
- I'm Interested >

Main Content (Desktop View):

FlexRight Offers Three Health Care Options:

FlexRight MedFlex Account (FSA)

These plans, often called cafeteria plans, flex plans or Section 125 plans, have been available longer than the other flexible benefit options, but have a strong appeal. With the right plan design, they can be used in combination with some of the newer options like health reimbursement arrangements or health savings accounts. FlexRight offers three Flexible Spending Account options:

1. Pre-Tax Premium Payment
2. MedFlex Account

Health Reimbursement Arrangement (HRA)

An HRA account is funded by the employer and is used to pay for healthcare-related expenses. The reimbursements are not taxable to the employee and are tax deductible for the employer. The most common use of an HRA is in combination with a higher deductible health plan. Employees benefit from lower premium cost, but the higher deductible cost to the employee is cushioned with HRA dollars. [More...](#)

Right Sidebar (Desktop View):

About FlexRight

FlexRight is unique. While a lot of administrators offer flexible benefit products, FlexRight actually makes them work. We have the right combination of plan options, automated tools and streamlined processes to make consumer-driven benefits a real, affordable choice, no matter how big or small your company may be.

Footer: ©2005 FlexRight. All rights reserved. Privacy Statement | Terms of Use.

Local/Directory-based CSS



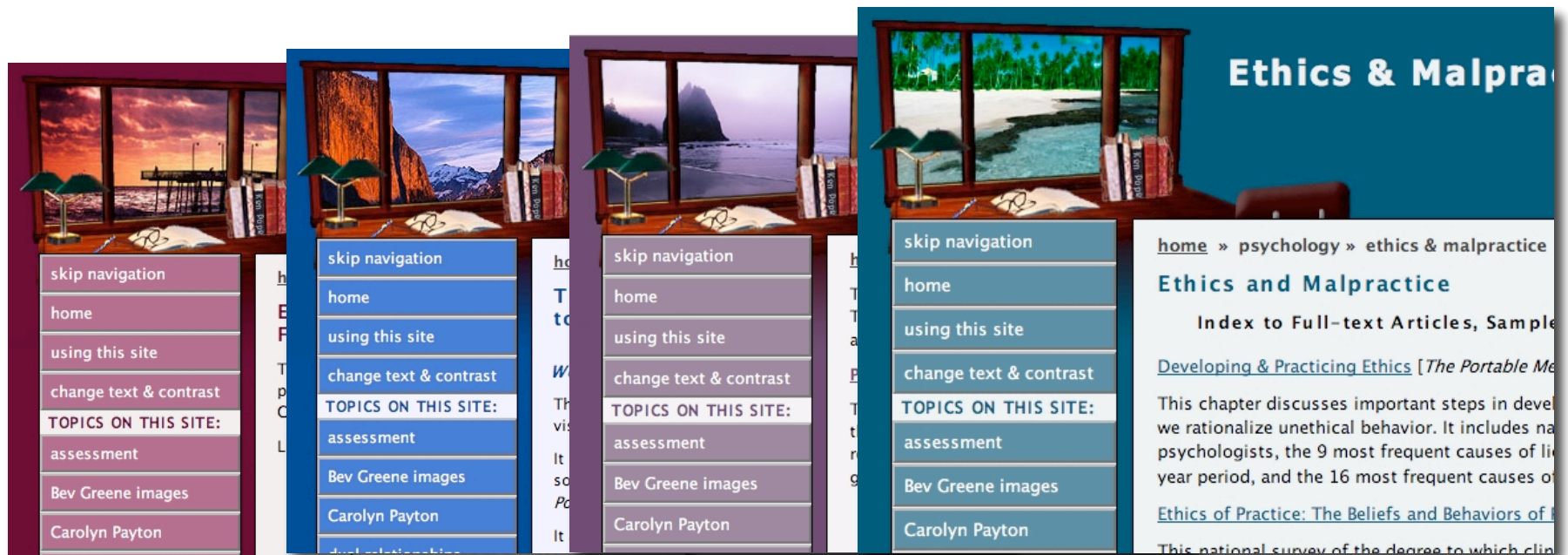
- Site is based on a DW template and CSS is broken into two pages
 - flex.css (main structure and all universal selectors) - root relative
 - local.css (placed in individual directories - contains color only) - document relative

```
<link href="local.css" rel="stylesheet" type="text/css" />  
<link href="/flex.css" rel="stylesheet" type="text/css" />
```


Local/Directory-based CSS



- KSPope.com (more complex)
- Same theory but six in each directory due to accessibility style switcher



Descendant Selectors - control columns



- Create two or three columns - three columns is the template default X/HTML

```
<body class="two">
```

```
#faux {
```

```
    background: url(images/divider.gif) repeat-y 498px 0px;
```

```
    margin: 25px 0;
```

```
}
```

```
body.two #faux {
```

```
    background: url(none);
```

```
}
```

```
body.two #callout {
```

```
    display:none;
```

```
}
```


Descendant Selectors - Page Indicator



- Navigation/Site section indicator (you are here)

```
<body id="employer" class="two">
```

```
<li id="employerlnk"><a href="index.htm">RIGHT FOR EMPLOYERS</a></li>
```

```
body#employer #employerlnk a {  
    /*selectors for button */  
}
```



- Pay attention to specificity

```
#about .about a
```

```
body#aboutpg #nav li#aboutlnk a
```

Absolutely Positioned (AP) divs



- Navigation bar

- Dual wrappers for “end caps”
- grey color between as background color
- logo placed over the bar as an AP image



- AP elements

- are positioned within the last positioned parent (relative)
- should be used sparingly and appropriately
- should rarely contain resizable content like text
- should not be routinely styled inline (DW layers)

Summary



- Take advantage of the flow of the document
Go with the flow -- not against it
- Use creative methods of display:
 - Multiple divs and backgrounds
 - Negative margins
 - Faux backgrounds
 - Use expandable layouts based on text sizing
 - Break-up CSS and background images
 - Get to know sIFR
- Validate pages and be sure you actually have a bug using DW's CSS panel and visualization features
- Use snippets to speed up work

Resources



- Position is Everything
<http://www.positioniseverything.net/>
- Mac IE 5: oddities
<http://l-c-n.com/IE5tests/>
- Community MX
<http://communitymx.com/>
- CSS Zen Garden
<http://csszengarden.com/>
- W3Conversions
<http://w3conversions.com/>
- sIFR Information
<http://novemberborn.net/sifr3/alpha>
- CSS-discuss Wiki
<http://css-discuss.incutio.com/>

Better by Adobe.™