Responsive design frameworks or custom responsive design?

**Which is better?**

Maybe many people believe that it is really easy to answer this question: "Which is better"? Nowadays frameworks are very popular and widely used. But sometimes the answer is not so obvious, because it depends on what is the main goal. When we choose the approach to build our page it is necessary to answer some other questions like:

- How much time do we have to build our project?

- How big is the project - just a 2-3 pages website or a really well developed corporative site with more than 10 different pages?

- What are the most important components for our project?

When we know the answers to these questions it will be easy to choose the right solution. If we work on a small web page and we prefer to develop a specialized design, really good accessibility, a basic functionality (written with JavaScript) and really fast loading pages without any extra files, then the right decision is to do a custom design. That is a logical conclusion but in reality we have much more difficult cases.

So maybe it is more appropriate to look at the positive and negative sides of using frameworks.

They can provide ready to use components like panels, boxes, carousels and more. Some of the frameworks provide the possibility to install only the part you actually need and that can really save space and we avoid having extra files. It is also possible to achieve a personal look to the page by simply editing the CSS styles. Basically frameworks save time for testing and writing code. It is true that the code is not perfectly written, has too many div tags for example, not enough comments and sometimes it could be better ordered and structured, but that is a normal situation when you provide many styles, functionality and content.

The documentation is really an important thing when we are talking about frameworks. Some of them have well written descriptions with details and it is very easy to work with, but some of them do not. So, when we are thinking about using their help it is important to find a framework with complete and detailed written descriptions, because if we do not choose wisely it is possible to lose too much time figuring out how to get it to work.

And here comes the question "time vs quality"?

Frameworks can provide code of quite good quality, good cross browser compatibility and a good degree of accessibility. So they can be the great answer to the question "What should I use?"

The best part is that it is not necessary to take all of the functionalities of the framework when we can just use a piece of code that we need. Тo do that correctly it is necessary to choose a product that provides that kind of functionality because nobody wants to have 10 extra files for one carrousel (slideshow). Therefore, there always has to be some kind of balanced choice.

In conclusion the perfect instrument does not exist, but the frameworks can make our work easier and maybe more pleasant. And if we do not like the code and want to do things better we can always write one by ourselves or to write everything from scratch. Actually every choice depends on the circumstances but in the front-end world everything is developing fast and we should keep up with changing functionality and trends and using frameworks can help us with that.