

CRAP principles include:

- Contrast
- Repetition
- Alignment
- Proximity

I have chosen Hollyce Balentine's web site for my analysis because it looks like a solid and well elaborated work, that author spent much time on. Personally I liked the design but for a detailed analysis according to CRAP principles each one of them shall be considered.

Contrast is definitely something that author of this web site paid attention to. Big header with the name of the author towers over the whole site and brings attention to itself. This lets viewers of this site to remember author's name, it might be useful for a portfolio type web site. Another highly contrast item is the navigation bar that is made in blue and white, as the rest of the web site, but it is inversed: text is white and background is blue. Such decision highlights the navigation bar strongly and allows the viewer to see the areas at which author is good (exactly the are located in navigation bar) and to navigate easily on the site.

Repetition is highly noticeable on this web site. Many essential items, such as header, footer, navigation bar, contact information and search, persist on all of the pages of the site. This highlights their importance and makes access to them even easier. Moreover, the design of every page stays the same throughout the whole web site, it is a great example of repetition.

Alignment is pretty moderate on the web site and there are no doubts that the way in which the site is built is a standard and a nice solution to the problem of alignment.

Header takes all of the area on top, navigation bar with the contact icons is located under the header, footer is on the very bottom. All of the area that is left is separated by an invisible line to two sections: the smaller one on the right, that includes contact information and search, and the bigger one that contains all of the information from portfolio/resume/ home depending on the page chosen. Everything on this site is where you expect it to be and the alignment separates different parts from each other well.

Proximity is something that shall not be overlooked in a discussion about separation of different areas in a web site. Related items of the site are located close to each other and their proximity is stronger by the common color spectrum (black text, white background and blue headlines for the items in main area; white text and blue background for the items in the navigation bar). Although the background of the header and the main area is common, it doesn't make any troubles because these areas are separated by blue navigation bar and common background just increases consistency of the web site.

The most appealing feature that I found on the Hollyce Balentine's web site is the navigation bar. The whole site is made in blue and white with the regular text in black. The colors of the navigation bar are exactly the same with the only one exception: they are inversed; text is white and background is blue. It's a great way to separate different parts of the site without changing dominant colors and without fancy graphics, which sometimes is useless.

The least appealing feature of this site in my opinion is search bar. It is currently located between the icons on the top and the contact information on the bottom and it is not related to any one of them. I think that the perfect place for the search bar is in right corner of the navigation bar. White bar of search surrounded by blue background of navigation bar would have perfectly matched the design of the site.

In total I like this web site and I would like to create a portfolio that looks like that. But if I was to mimic just one feature of Hollyce Balentine's web site I would have chosen the simplicity of the colors with the inversed colors of navigation bar; it is a great design solution and shapes nicely the whole site.