

AQUENT

GYMNASIUM

RESPONSIVE WEB DESIGN

Lesson 12

MATERIALS & ASSIGNMENT

THIS LESSON'S CORE CONCEPTS

1. The traditional “waterfall” approach to web design/development involves a relatively linear workflow as follows: a.) research (including UX concerns) b.) creation of wireframes c.) static mockups in Photoshop d.) Coding in HTML/CSS/JavaScript e.) testing and launch. This workflow is inefficient in Responsive Design due to the lack of flexibility with image-based (Photoshop) mockups as well as the number of different layouts typically introduced with media queries.
2. Responsive Design workflow benefits from extra time spent designing “from the content out.” This typically includes a higher priority on structuring text and organizing content before moving to a wireframe or prototyping stage. Additionally, a major trend is the move toward designing in the browser earlier and more frequently, as well as testing in mobile devices earlier and more frequently. This method reduces the reliance on Photoshop mockups and allows for increased feedback and evolution before spending time and effort on moving to production code.
3. The complexity of Responsive Design is reflected in the number of tools used in design, such as browser developer tools, text editors, GitHub, third-party web font hosting services, and CSS pre-processors, as well as a general lack of one single software solution for creating responsive websites.
4. Responsive layouts and web pages can be handcrafted by focusing on creating fluid grids and images, responsive typography, and custom media queries based on the range of devices and scenarios your project requires. CSS pre-processing is an optional, but increasingly more popular, way to address the complexity of these responsive components. CSS pre-processing makes responsive design easier by automating CSS in a number of consistent ways. The benefits include the ability to save time, to perform complex math behind the scenes (so you can focus on more enjoyable tasks such as refining your grid layout), and to speed up collaboration among team members.
5. A few CSS pre-processors exist, such as Sass, LESS, and Stylus. Many of the concepts are the same across the systems. A pre-processor has a specific syntax that ends up generating CSS code across your stylesheets. We focused on Sass in this lesson, which includes variables (a variable is defined once and then can be reused as a CSS property value throughout your stylesheet) and mixins (a mixin defines an entire CSS class that can be reused throughout a stylesheet).

READINGS

- <http://www.vitamintalent.com/vitabites/top-free-portfolio-sites>
An article on the “Top 5 Free Portfolio Sites”
- <http://responsive.rga.com>
A list of the latest links, news and thinking in responsive design

WEBSITES MENTIONED IN THE PRESENTATION

- v2.happycog.com/contact/contact.doc
- <http://dillinger.io/>
- <http://alistapart.com/column/windows-on-the-web>
- <http://sass-lang.com/try.html>
- <http://css-tricks.com/sass-vs-less/>
- <http://twitter.com/rwd>
- <http://rottercreativegroup.com/>
- <http://www.j-parker.co.uk/>
- <http://www.julianabicycles.com/>
- <http://mobile.smashingmagazine.com/2013/05/29/the-state-of-responsive-web-design/>

ASSIGNMENTS

1. Quiz
2. Go finish your responsive portfolio already!
3. No really. Finish it *and* put it online. It doesn't count unless it's online.