

AQUENT

GYMNASIUM

RESPONSIVE WEB DESIGN

Lesson 7

MATERIALS & ASSIGNMENT

THIS LESSON'S CORE CONCEPTS

1. Responsive Design introduces a number of new layout challenges that stem from the need to adapt a fluid design for multiple size screens. These layout challenges include adapting complex desktop grid layouts to the smaller screens of smartphones and tablets. Other layout challenges include integrating forms, tables, and navigation.
2. Although every layout challenge has its unique problems, designers and developers can turn to pre-existing solutions in the form of responsive patterns and responsive style guides. These solutions may be effective in the abstract sense (understanding how to order the content blocks of a complex layout to a single-column smartphone layout) or in the concrete sense (examining and re-using code from working responsive examples).
3. There are a few common solutions to Responsive Layout challenges that have emerged over time. None of these solutions should be considered better than the others; choosing the correct solution depends on the context of the website. “Lightweight” options (such as using the `display:none` property to remove an element from the mobile view) are typically easy to implement but may have potentially significant impacts on design and performance. “Middleweight” and “Heavyweight” options typically offer more robust solutions but with increasing dependencies on added HTML, CSS, and often JavaScript.
4. “Familiar” web page components such as forms and tables present layout challenges in Responsive Design. Tables can appear inflexible and/or are not well suited for small-screen layouts, and forms tend not to work well on all screen sizes by default. We can address these challenges by creating new styles within our media queries.
5. When it comes time to create breakpoints for any given layout challenge, instead of using rigid definitions of “phone” (320 pixels or less), “tablet” (320-768 pixels), or “desktop” (anything greater than 768 pixels), we strive for creating organic breakpoints. An organic breakpoint can be described as identifying the point at which a component of your layout begins to appear visually awkward or problematic, and then targeting this in a media query.

READINGS

- <http://www.implementingresponsivedesign.com/>
Tim Kadlec's book “Implementing Responsive Design” offers a complete look at building responsive websites; the chapter on fluid layout is particularly relevant.
- <http://www.markboulton.co.uk/journal/theinbetween>
Mark Boulton discusses the strategy of using breakpoints in order to make “subtle design optimisations” and discusses the tactic of content-out design.
- <http://blog.andyhume.net/responsive-containers/>
Andy Hume shares a concept (and JavaScript) that allows developers to adjust a single component based on its current layout.

WEBSITES MENTIONED IN THE PRESENTATION

- <http://www.slideshare.net/AaronGustafson/learning-to-love-forms-webvisions-07>
- <http://zurb.com/playground/responsive-tables>
- <http://bradfrost.github.io/this-is-responsive/index.html>
- <http://www.starbucks.com/static/reference/styleguide/>
- <http://css-tricks.com/responsive-data-tables/>
- <http://www.thismanslife.co.uk/projects/lab/responsivewireframes/>

ASSIGNMENTS

1. Quiz

2. Research a Responsive Style Guide

There are a number of good Responsive Style Guides on the web, and you can find a large number of them here:

<https://gimmebar.com/collection/4ecd439c2f0aaad734000022/front-end-styleguides>

After you find one, thoroughly explore the different styles using your browser's developer tools.

3. Add a Contact Form to Your Responsive Site

Based on the model from this lesson, add a contact form page to your Portfolio-in-Progress. Add support for at least two screen widths. Be sure to experiment with Form width, Input Field width and Send Button width in order to fit your layout.

Alternatively, if you feel like your portfolio layout is not suitable for an integrated contact form, create a standalone page named "contact.html" and add the form there. In a later lesson you will be able to hook this page up to your navigation.