

Contrast. The portfolio I'm looking at (benstrauss6.com) uses these bubbles. I'm not sure what the technical name for them is so I'm calling them bubbles. Each bubble/square thing is a picture, and when you hover over them with your mouse the title shows up. The contrast aspect is that each picture is different, and symbolizes a different page. Thus, you can pick something based on the image that draws your interest most and hover over it to get more information (then if you choose to continue -- you just click.)

Repetition. Referring back to the bubble/square things, they're all the same shape. It would look extremely odd if they were different shapes (circles, triangles, etc...) or not aligned properly. Each picture you click on links you to a new page with more information-- the backgrounds of all these pages are the same. The text, and the way the text is formatted remains the same. There is also a side-bar that links to an about page, a resume and back to the main page. This is always there, no matter which page you click on, making it hard to get completely lost.

Alignment. This brings us back to what I mentioned about the bubbles, they're perfectly aligned and aesthetically pleasing. The side-bar is also aligned perfectly with the left side of the screen, it is a constant and never moves.

Proximity. When you first open the site up all the bubbles are right next together. They stay this way, but because of the way it's set up it can be hard to know what exactly you're looking for. If you're just looking, and not seeking anything it's great but when you're searching for something specific you'd have to do a little digging. That's why there are handy little buttons on a top bar, they sort the bubbles for you. The choices are digital, visual, and writing, each one brings up the bubbles related to it and disregards the rest.

The aspect of this site that I find visually appealing, is, surprisingly the sidebar. It's nothing fancy, nor is it flashy, but it's perfect for this site. I've spent a lot of time on Tumblr, not designing themes myself, but toying around with other people's designs to make them my own and I have a thing for a nice side-bar. It's great because it's a constant and will always make sure people know how to get where they're going. Other than that-- the backgrounds are nice, simple, they're a good size. I can't stand flashy backgrounds that distract from the content. CRAP-- Contrast, the background of the sidebar is white and the text is a darker color making certain that it's not hard on the eyes. Repetition, the text is the same font, bigger for the header and smaller for the links. Alignment, nothing is out of place, they line up perfectly. Proximity, they're the perfect distance apart, not on top of each other.

There are some issues with the pages (the ones you click the bubbles to get to). On my laptop (it might not be all computers, but just have to do with the size of mine) the links that lead

to the next page overlap with the title. CRAP -- **C**ontrast, it might help if the links were placed on the bottom of the page instead of the top. The title at the top, get them to read or skim the content and by the time they reach the bottom they'll be ready to move forward. Thus, the link will come in handy. **R**epetition and **A**lignment, if the link leads forward a page, then put it on the bottom right. If it leads backwards a page, align it with the other link but have it on the left side. People will make the connection. Do this for each page. **P**roximity, make sure that if it's a longer link it stays in a certain amount of space so that it doesn't get too close to a different link or text.

If I were to mimic an aspect of this portfolio, it would have to be the sidebar. As I mentioned above I have a thing for a good sidebar. Of course, I'd find a way to make it my own, personalize it, but a full length sidebar is always handy. Especially for users who are looking for certain things.