

## Week Five: CSS Page Layouts

### Static Page Layouts

**Centered Layouts:** one of the more popular techniques of today is to center your “Live Area” page layout within the browser frame, which we will do in the following steps

**Background Images:** one popular idea is to give the entire page a different background than the background that the “main content” sits within

```
body {
  background-image: url(images/bodyBG.gif);
  font-family: Arial, Helvetica, sans-serif;
  color: #85898A;
}
```

- in this example I have used a one pixel shim for the background color as to ensure that it will match with the main content background

**Main Content:** to center the entire layout in the page, one would use a static layout with a “main” content box that is centered in the page using auto margins

```
#main {
  width: 780px;
  background-image: url(images/mainBG.gif);
  margin-right: auto;
  margin-left: auto;
}
```

- by using the value of *auto* for the properties of *right* and *left* margins, the main box will appear to be centered in the page
- by using a main background image to match the body background image, I have created an illusion of depth

**Headers:** within the main content box, one should start out with a “branded” header for the page layout

```
#header {
  border-bottom: 1px solid #85898A;
  margin: 0px 75px 0px 75px;
  padding: 25px 0px 25px 0px;
}
```

- notice that this *header* box has no width property, so it will extend the width of the *main* box it is within
- the box also uses the margin properties to set the border of the *header* box within the *main* box
- and uses padding to set the logo away from the top and bottom

**Columns:** to give my layout a *menu* and a *copy* block I will use a two column layout

```
#menu {
  width: 100px;
  height: 500px;
  float: left;
  margin: 25px 0px 0px 75px;
}
```

```
#copy {  
    width: 500px;  
    float: right;  
    margin: 25px 0px 25px 0px;  
    padding: 0px 75px 0px 25px;  
    border-left: 1px dotted #85898A;  
}
```

- by using two boxes, *menu* and *copy*, and floating them *left* and *right*, they will sit side by side; thus you will be able to build a two column layout
- by giving a *border* to the *left* side of the copy box, I have reinforced the “look” of columns

**Footers:** often contain navigation items, the copyright notice and links to email

```
#footer {  
    clear: both;  
    border-top: 1px solid #85898A;  
    margin: 0px 75px 0px 75px;  
    padding: 25px 0px 25px 0px;  
}
```

- when using a box, such as this *footer*, after two floating columns you must use the *clear* property; in this case I have cleared *both*
- notice that I have also used the same *margin* properties
- I have also used the same *border* values to make the footer look consistent with the *header*, however the *border* is now on the *top* of the footer box