Modes Architec re Implementation Roadmap

Design System Str c Planning • September 202 Dark Mode Edition

Date: September 11, 202 **tus:** Strategic Planning & Arc cture Design **Context:** Establishing comprehensive modes system architect with phased implementa trategy

Current State A ysis

✅ Already Working es

- **Lightness modes:** t/dark themes fully implem d and functional
- **Interaction-empha odes:** low/standard/high hasis system operational
- **Viewport modes:** Responsive multiplier system (mult sponsive: 4px desktop, 5px mobile)

🔄 Partial Implementation Status

- **Component size modes:**

- icon_holder : ✅ Full size-
- Other components: 🔍 Asses

tag ⚠️

📋 Current Token Architecture Foundation

```
✅ Working Foundation:
semantic/
├── sizing.json # W3C DTCG compliant
├── spacing/desktop.json # Responsive multipliers
├── spacing/mobile.json # Responsive multipliers
├── color/s1-lightness/ # Light/dark themes
├── color/s2-emphasis/ # Emphasis modes
└── color/s3-semantic/ # Compiled semantic layer
global/themes-user/
├── lightness/ # Light/dark switching
└── viewport/ # Responsive system (4px/5px)
```

⚠️ Identified Gaps for VP

- Missing: Unified semantic/modes/ architectu
- Missing: component-size theme configuratior
- Missing: Basic viewport mode simplification sktop/mobile only)

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Strategic Objectives

Primary Goal: Establish comprehensive modes architecture foundation with Phase 1 MVP implementation:

- **Big picture architecture** - Complete future vision with 11-dimensional modes system
- **Strategic roadmap** - Phased implementation strategy for systematic expansion
- **Architecture foundation** - Extensible framework for all future mode types
- **Phase 1 MVP modes** - Essential foundation modes for immediate implementation

Complete Future Architecture Vision

📋 **Full Modes Architecture Roadmap** *(All structures prepared, selective implementation)*

Phase 1: MVP Foundation Modes *(Primary Implementation Focus)*

- **Lightness modes** - light/dark ✅ (existing theme lightness switching)
- **Interaction-emphasis modes** - low/standard/high ✅ (existing component interaction states)
- **Component Size modes** - sm/md/lg 🔄 (WIP migration - component dimension coordination)
- **Viewport modes (basic)** - desktop/mobile 🆕 (simplified device distinction for MVP)

Phase 2: Advanced System odes *(Architecture Ready, Implementation Deferred)*

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Complete ulti-Dimensional Architect

```
Full Future System (All 11 Mode Types):

lightness × interaction-emphasis × viewport × comp nt-size × density × contrast × motion × typography × user-font-
× user-motion-pref × user-contrast-pref × dyslexic pport

= 11-dimensional mode combinations
```

🚀 VP Implementation Scope

🎯 **VP Goal:** Prove modes architecture with essent foundation + targeted testing

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VP odes Selection *(Phase 1 Essent Implementation)*

- ✅ **Lightness modes:** light/dark (existing ther ightness switching)
- ✅ **Interaction-emphasis modes:** low/standard/h (existing component interaction states)
- 🔄 **Component Size modes:** sm/md/lg (WIP mig n - component dimension coordination)
- 🆕 **Viewport modes:** desktop/mobile (basic 2- kpoint system for MVP)

VP Architecture: lightness × interaction-emphasis × ponent-size × viewport (4D system)
Note: Density modes moved to Phase 2 - focus on s mode migration completion first

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VP Component Testing Suite *(Strate Component Selection)*

🧪 Test Case 1: Simple Component - icon_holder

- **Purpose**: Baseline size mode behavior validati
- **odes tested**: All size modes (sm/md/lg)
- **Complexity**: Low (single dimension changes)

🧪 Test Case 2: Interactive Component - button

- **Purpose**: Interactive states + size mode coord ion
- **odes tested**: All size modes + interaction-em is modes + lightness modes
- **Complexity**: Medium (multiple mode interaction

🧪 Test Case 3: Content Component - tag

- **Purpose**: Text content + size mode relationshi

- **Complexity**: Medium (content-responsive sizing iewport coordination)

🧪 Test Case 4: Status Component - infobox

- **Purpose**: Semantic color modes + worst-case st scenarios
- **odes tested**: All interaction-emphasis modes - ghtness modes (all status colors)
- **Complexity**: High (color mode combinations + s semantics)

🧪 Test Case 5: Composite Component - input text

- **Purpose**: Babuschka doll complexity (input + t remove button inside)
- **odes tested**: All Phase 1 modes combined (ligh ss × interaction-emphasis × component-size × viewport)
- **Complexity**: Very High (nested component mode ritance + worst-case scenario)

VP Token Foundation *(Complete Arch cture, Selective Population)*

```
semantic/
├── modes/ # 🆕 COMPLETE ARCHITECTURE PREPARED
| ├── component-size/ # ✅ MVP: Full implementati sm/md/lg)
| | ├── sm.json
```

```
| | └── lg.json
| ├── density/ # 🔄 STRUCTURE READY: Implementati    eferred from MVP
| | ├── compact.json # (architecture prepared, tok     placeholder)
| | ├── comfortable.json
| | └── spacious.json
| └── _future-modes/ # 🏗️ COMPLETE STRUCTURE PREP
| ├── responsive/ # (folder structure + placeholde    iles)
| ├── contrast/
| ├── motion/
| ├── typography/
| └── user-preferences/
```

```
global/themes-user/
├── lightness/ # ✅ MVP: Existing (light/dark)
├── interaction-emphasis/ # ✅ MVP: Existing (s2-e    asis modes: low/standard/high)
├── viewport/ # ✅ MVP: Simplified (desktop/mobile    ly)
├── component-size/ # ✅ MVP: Full implementation
| ├── sm.json
| ├── md.json
| └── lg.json
```

```
└── _future-modes/ # 🏗️ COMPLETE STRUCTURE: All fo  rs + placeholder files
```

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🎯 **Implementation Phases:**

- **Phase 1 (VP)**: 4 essential modes - lightne interaction-emphasis × viewport × component-size
- **Phase 2**: Add advanced system modes - + de × contrast × motion + full viewport coverage
- **Phase 3**: Add user preference & accessibili odes - + typography × user-font-scale × user-motion-pref × user-contrast-pref × dyslexia-support

Complete architecture prepared from start, sel ve activation by phase

✅ Already Implemented - Icon Holder Co nent

Location: src/lib/themes/component/atom/icon_hold

```
├── sm.json # Small variant
├── md.json # Medium variant
├── lg.json # Large variant
└── static.json # Context-independent
```

Current Structure:

```json
{
```

```
"c": {
"icon_holder": {
"size": {
"standard": { "$value": "{ob.p.size.250}" },
"mini": { "$value": "{ob.p.size.175}" }
}
}
}
}
}
```

✅ Partially Implemented - Tag Componen

Location: src/lib/themes/component/molecule/tag.jsc
Current Pattern - Size-aware tokens within sing file:

```json
{
"padding": {
"vertical": {
"sm": { "$value": "{ob.s.spacing.none}" },
"md": { "$value": "{ob.s.spacing.xs}" },
```

```
},
"horizontal": {
"sm": { "$value": "{ob.s.spacing.md}" },
"md": { "$value": "{ob.s.spacing.lg}" },
"lg": { "$value": "{ob.s.spacing.2xl}" }
}
}
}
```

Current Token Architecture

Existing Semantic Structure:

```
semantic/
├── sizing.json # ✅ W3C DTCG compliant dimensi okens
├── spacing/
| ├── desktop.json # ✅ Responsive spacing with tipliers
| └── mobile.json # ✅ Responsive spacing with tipliers
├── color/
| ├── s1-lightness/ # ✅ Theme mode implementat
| ├── s2-emphasis/ # ✅ Emphasis mode implement n
```

```
| └── s3-semantic/ # ✅ Compiled semantic layer
└── [other categories]
```

Global Theme System:

```
global/themes-user/
├── lightness/ # ✅ Light/dark theme switching
| ├── dark.json
| └── light.json
└── viewport/ # ✅ Responsive multiplier system
├── desktop.json # mult_responsive: 4
├── mobile.json # mult_responsive: 5
└── static.json
```

odes Architecture Implement ion Strategy

Phase 1: Establish Universal odes A itecture Foundation

Create semantic/modes/ Architecture Fra ork

```
semantic/
```

```
| ├── component-size/ # 🆕 Component dimension es
| | ├── sm.json # Small size mode tokens
| | ├── md.json # Medium size mode tokens (base e)
| | └── lg.json # Large size mode tokens
| ├── density/ # 🆕 Spacing density modes
| | ├── compact.json # Tighter spacing multipli
| | ├── comfortable.json # Standard spacing (ba ne)
| | └── spacious.json # Looser spacing multipli
| ├── _future-modes/ # 🆕 Reserved space for mo requiring research
| | ├── responsive/ # Phase 2: Viewport-based s ng (framework enabled, implementation deferred)
| | ├── contrast/ # Phase 2: A11y high contrast es (research required)
| | ├── motion/ # Phase 2: Animation preference enabled/disabled/reduced)
| | ├── typography/ # Phase 2: Font scaling, re g modes (research required)
| | └── user-preferences/ # Phase 3: User-contr d A11y modes (font scaling, motion, contrast, dyslexia support)
| └── README.md # 🆕 Modes architecture system umentation
```

Key odes Architecture Principles:

- **Scalable**: Easy to add new mode categories
- **Consistent**: All modes follow the same toker ructure patterns
- **Semantic**: Mode tokens reference primitive/s ntic tokens, not hardcoded values
- **Extensible**: Architecture supports future A1 UX, and brand mode requirements

Phase 2: Semantic ode Token Definitions

Component Size odes (semantic/modes/component-size/)

sm.json - Small component dimensions: ` json

```
{
"ob": {
"s": {
"modes": {
"component-size": {
"button": {
"height": { "$type": "dimension", "$value": "{ob.s.size.element.sm}" },
"min-height": { "$type": "dimension", "$value": "{ob.s.size.element.sm}" }
},
"input": {
"height": { "$type": "dimension", "$value": "{ob.s.size.element.sm}" }
},
"tag": {
"paddhngvertical":{{ "$type": "spacing", "$value": "{ob.s.spacdngne"}
```

```
}
}
}
```

`md.json - Medium component dimensions (base e):` `json`

```
{
"ob": {
"s": {
"modes": {
"component-size": {
"button": {
"height": { "$type": "dimension", "$value": "{o  size.element.md}" },
"min-height": { "$type": "dimension", "$value":  b.s.size.element.md}" }
},
"input": {
"height": { "$type": "dimension", "$value": "{o  size.element.md}" }
},
"tag": {
"padding-vertical": { "$type": "spacing", "$val  "{ob.s.spacing.xs}" },
"padding-horizontal": { "$type": "spacing", "$v  ": "{ob.s.spacing.lg}" }
}
```

```
}
}
}
}
```

Density odes (semantic/modes/density/)

comfortable.json - Standard density (baseline): json

```
{
"ob": {
"s": {
"modes": {
"density": {
"layout": {
"stack-gap": { "$type": "spacing", "$value": "{  .spacing.lg}" },
"card-padding": { "$type": "spacing", "$value":  b.s.spacing.xl}" },
"section-margin": { "$type": "spacing", "$value  {ob.s.spacing.2xl}" }
}
}
}
}
```

```
}
```

`compact.json - Tighter density:` `json`

```
{
"ob": {
"s": {
"modes": {
"density": {
"layout": {
"stack-gap": { "$type": "spacing", "$value": "{ s.spacing.md}" },
"card-padding": { "$type": "spacing", "$value": ob.s.spacing.lg}" },
"section-margin": { "$type": "spacing", "$value {ob.s.spacing.xl}" }
}
}
}
}
}
}
```

Phase 3: Universal odes Architectur heme Integration

Add to global/themes-user/ - Comprehens odes Support

```
global/themes-user/
├── lightness/ # ✅ Existing: Light/dark theme                    es
├── viewport/ # ✅ Existing: Responsive scaling                   des
├── component-size/ # 🆕 NEW: Size modes config                   tion (design system controlled)
|  ├── sm.json # References semantic/modes/compo                  t-size/sm.json
|  ├── md.json # References semantic/modes/compo                  t-size/md.json (default)
|  └── lg.json # References semantic/modes/compo                  t-size/lg.json
├── density/ # 🆕 NEW: Density modes configurat                   (product designer controlled)
|  ├── compact.json # References semantic/modes/                  sity/compact.json
|  ├── comfortable.json # References semantic/mo                  /density/comfortable.json (default)
|  └── spacious.json # References semantic/modes                  nsity/spacious.json
└── _future-modes/ # 🆕 RESERVED: Modes archite                   re ready for expansion (Phase 2+)
├── responsive/ # Phase 2: Viewport-based scali                   nodes (framework ready, research needed)
├── contrast/ # Phase 2: A11y high contrast mod                   (research required)
├── motion/ # Phase 2: Animation preference mod                   (enabled/disabled/reduced)
├── typography/ # Phase 2: Typography scaling m                   (research required)
└── user-preferences/ # Phase 3: User-contr                   d A11y modes (font scaling, motion prefs, contrast, dyslex
support)
```

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ulti-Dimensional odes Architecture:

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- Phase 1: lightness × viewport × component-siz ensity (4D) - Full implementation
- Phase 2: + responsive × contrast × motion × ty aphy (8D) - Framework enabled, research required
- Phase 3: + user-preferences (9D+) - User- rolled A11y modes (font scaling, motion, contrast, dyslexia support)
- Future: Additional modes as requirements e ge (nD)

Phase 4: Component igration

Strategy A: Keep Current Icon Holder Pa rn ✅ Recommended

Rationale: Already working, follows semantic bo aries
Current icon_holder structure → Continue using rate files

- sm.json , md.json , lg.json reference se ic modes
- Maintains component isolation
- Allows component-specific size boundaries

Strategy B: igrate Tag to Semantic Ref nces

```json
{
"padding": {
"vertical": {
"sm": { "$value": "{ob.s.spacing.none}" },
"md": { "$value": "{ob.s.spacing.xs}" },
"lg": { "$value": "{ob.s.spacing.lg}" }
}
}
}
```

After (semantic reference):

```json
{
"padding": {
"vertical": {
"sm": { "$value": "{ob.s.modes.component-size.t adding-vertical}" },
"md": { "$value": "{ob.s.modes.component-size.t adding-vertical}" },
"lg": { "$value": "{ob.s.modes.component-size.t adding-vertical}" }
}
}
```

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```
}
```

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Implementation Recommendatic

✅ Preserve What Works

- Keep icon_holder file-based structure - Alr y follows semantic boundaries
- Keep responsive multiplier system - mult_ onsive in viewport themes works well
- Keep existing semantic/sizing.json - W3C D compliant and properly structured

igrate Gradually

Pre- igration: System Cleanup ⚠️

1. Create dedicated migration branch - Work on ture/size-modes-migration to isolate changes from current development 2. Create new Figma file for migrat branch - Duplicate current design system file and associate wi the migration branch for design-dev sync 3. Rep all broken token references - Fix any invalid {ob.*} token references before introducing new semantic mode Validate existing token chains - Ensure current semantic toke properly resolve to primitive values 5. Test cu t build process - Confirm all existing components compile successfully

Priority 1: Create Universal odes Arch cture Foundation

1. Create semantic/modes/ folder structure wi xtensible modes architecture
2. Define component-size modes tokens (sm/md/lg
3. Define density modes tokens (compact/comfort e/spacious)
4. Reserve _future-modes/ structure for planne rchitecture expansions

Priority 2: Component Integration with es Architecture

1. Tag component → Reference semantic modes arc ecture
2. Add component boundaries (sm/md/lg limits pe mponent)
3. Validate grid alignment with multiplier syst

Priority 3: Establish ulti-Dimensional des Architecture System

1. Add component-size and density modes configu on (controlled by design system consumers/product designers)
2. Test multi-dimensional modes combinations (l ness × viewport × component-size × density)
3. Document modes interaction patterns and arch ture extensibility
4. Validate scalability for future modes additi requiring research (responsive, contrast, motion, typography)

Note: Density modes are design system configura s set by product designers, not user preferences.

⚠️ Key Considerations

Grid Alignment Validation

- Ensure mult_responsive (4px desktop, 5px le) preserves 4px grid

- `Validate that semantic mode tokens respect base grid`

Component Boundaries

Based on competitive analysis findings, most design systems (75%) use independent component sizing:

combinations.

Implementation Checklist

Phase 1: Universal odes Architecture Foundation

Phase 3: Component igration & odes chitecture Validation

- [ ] Migrate tag component to semantic modes chitecture references
- [ ] Validate icon_holder compatibility with w modes architecture
- [ ] Test grid alignment across all current es combinations
- [ ] Document component integration patterns r future modes

Phase 4: odes Architecture Validati & Future-Proofing

- [ ] Verify multiplier system maintains 4px d alignment
- [ ] Test all current modes combinations fur on correctly
- [ ] Validate component boundaries prevent b king points
- [ ] Document extensible patterns for future des architecture categories
- [ ] **Phase 2 Planning**: Research responsive m s, A11y high contrast, animation preferences, and typography scaling
- [ ] **Phase 3 Planning**: Research user prefere modes (font scaling A+/A/A−, motion preferences, contrast settings, dyslexia-friendly typography)
- [ ] **Long-term Planning**: Define implementati roadmap for user-controlled accessibility modes

Expected Benefits

For Designers

- Comprehensive mode system for component siz ordination *(Note: Based on research, only 25% of design syste implement size coordination)*

- Component size mode options (sm/md/lg) at t design system level

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For Developers

- **Universal modes architecture** that scales be d size and density
- Clear modes system patterns following W3C D standards
- **Future-proof architecture foundation** for ac sibility and UX modes requirements

For System

- **Scalable tokens architecture** aligned with W DTCG standards
- Maintains existing responsive multiplier be its
- Preserves 4px grid alignment system
- **Extensible modes architecture foundation** re for planned mode categories (contrast, motion, typography)
- **ulti-dimensional modes theme system** suppor g complex product requirements

🎯 VP Success Criteria

Architecture Validation

- [ ] Complete modes architecture structure p ared for all future phases

- [ ] Token resolution validates across all mode combinations
- [ ] Theme switching works seamlessly betwe all MVP modes

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Component Validation

- [ ] All 5 test components render correctly all MVP mode combinations
- [ ] infobox shows all status colors work oss lightness + interaction-emphasis modes
- [ ] input text field babuschka complexity ho es nested component modes correctly
- [ ] Size mode coordination works across i holder , button , tag` relationships

Technical Validation

- [ ] Simplified viewport (desktop/mobile) maintains grid alignment
- [ ] Build system processes all mode combinations v ut errors
- [ ] No broken token references across any MVP mo ombination
- [ ] Documentation clearly shows MVP scope vs futu rchitecture vision

🔄 Post-MVP Expansion Path

Phase 2: Add density modes to existing 4D system → 5D system **Phase 3**: Enable responsive, contrast, motion, typography

Phase 4: User preference modes → 12D system (complete)

Complete architecture prepared from MVP, selective activation by phase