

Presentate: Structured Themes Manual

A guide for hierarchy-aware themes

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1 Introduction

Presentate provides two categories of themes:

1. **Basic Layouts:** Minimalist themes like `simple` and `default` that focus on content without managing complex document hierarchy.
2. **Structured Themes:** A suite of themes (`sidebar`, `miniframes`, `split`, `progressive-outline`, and `minimal`) designed to automatically handle document structure, navigation, and transitions.

This manual focuses exclusively on the **Structured Themes category**. These themes share a common core API and a **Unified Transition Engine** to generate roadmap slides between content blocks.

2 Global Configuration for Structured Themes

All structured themes follow a consistent API pattern and are located in the `themes.structured` namespace. They are invoked using a `template` function through a `show` rule.

```

#import "@preview/presentate:0.2.3": themes
#show: themes.structured.sidebar.template.with(
  title: [My Presentation],
  author: [John Doe],
  // ... options
)

```

2.1 Common Parameters

The following parameters are supported by all five structured themes:

Parameter	Type	Description
title	content	The main title displayed on the title slide and often in the navigation bar.
subtitle	content	Displayed below the title on the title slide (optional).
author	content	The name of the presenter.
date	content	Presentation date. Defaults to current date.
text-font	string	Font family family for the whole document. Default: "Lato".
text-size	length	Base text size. Default: 20pt.
mapping	dictionary	Maps logical roles to Typst heading levels. Default: (section: 1, subsection: 2). Supports part, section, subsection.
auto-title	bool	If true, slides without a manual title will automatically display the current heading body. Default: false.
show-heading-numbering	bool	Global toggle for heading numbering. Default: true.
numbering-format	str auto	Typst numbering format string (e.g., "1.1", "I.a"). If set to auto, it respects the global #set heading(numbering: ...) setting. Default: auto.
show-outline	bool	If true, displays an outline slide after the title slide. Default: false.
outline-title	content	The title of the automatic outline slide. Default: [Outline].
outline-depth	int	The maximum depth of headings shown in the outline slide. Default: 2.
show-all-sections-in-transition	bool	If true, displays the full presentation outline during roadmap slides. Default: false.
transitions	dictionary	Configuration for the transition engine (see Section 3).

2.2 Structural Mapping

The mapping dictionary is crucial as it tells the theme which headings should trigger transitions and navigation updates.

- part: Typically mapped to level 1 (=).
- section: Typically mapped to level 1 or 2.
- subsection: Typically mapped to level 2 or 3.

Example:

```
mapping: (part: 1, section: 2, subsection: 3)
```

2.3 Important Note: Heading Placement

To ensure that transitions and navigation work correctly, structural headings (=, ==, etc.) must always be placed at the **top level** of your document.

Do not place these headings inside a `#slide[...]` block. Headings nested inside slides will not trigger transitions and will cause the compilation to fail.

3 The Unified Transition Engine

The transition engine automatically generates roadmap slides when your structure changes. It is highly configurable via the `transitions` argument.

3.1 Configuration Options

The `transitions` dictionary accepts the following keys:

Key	Type	Description
enabled	bool	Global switch for transitions. Default: true.
max-level	int	The maximum Typst heading level (1-3) that triggers a transition. Default: 3.
show-numbering	bool	Display heading numbers in transition outlines using the global numbering-format. Default: true.
background	color str	Background of transition slides. "theme" (primary color), "none" (white), or an explicit color.
filter	function	A callback (heading) => bool. Headings returning false will not trigger slides and will be hidden from outlines.
style	dictionary	Global styling for the transition outline (see below).
parts	dictionary	Override settings for Part transitions. Accepts enabled (bool), visibility (dict), and background (color str).
sections	dictionary	Override settings for Section transitions. Accepts enabled (bool), visibility (dict), and background (color str).

Key	Type	Description
subsections	dictionary	Override settings for Subsection transitions. Accepts enabled (bool), visibility (dict), and background (color str).

3.2 Transition Style

The transitions.style dictionary controls the typography of the roadmap:

- active-color: Color of the current heading. Defaults to theme accent.
- active-weight: Font weight of the active heading. Default: "bold".
- inactive-opacity: Opacity (0.0 to 1.0) for future headings. Default: 0.3.
- completed-opacity: Opacity for past headings. Default: 0.6.

3.3 Visibility Logic

For each roadmap type (parts, sections, subsections), you can define which levels are visible via the visibility key:

- "all": Show all headings at this level.
- "current": Only show the active heading at this level.
- "current-parent": Show siblings of the active heading (e.g., all subsections of the current section).
- "none": Hide this level.

Default Behavior:

- Part transitions: Show all Parts, hide Sections/Subsections.
- Section transitions: Show current Part, all Sections, current Subsections.

4 Theme Reference

4.1 Sidebar Theme

The sidebar theme provides a persistent navigation bar on the left or right side. It now automatically displays the presentation title at the top of the bar for better branding.

4.1.1 Theme Parameters

side	string	"left" or "right". Default: "left".
width	ratio	Width of the sidebar. Default: 22%.
sidebar-color	color	Background color of the sidebar.
main-color	color	Background color of the content area. Default: white.
active-color	color	Highlight color for the current item in the sidebar.
logo	content	An image or shape to display in the sidebar above the title.
logo-position	string	"top" or "bottom". Default: "top".
outline-options	dictionary	See "Outline Configuration" below. Customizes visibility, spacing, and styling.

4.1.1.1 Outline Configuration

The outline-options dictionary allows fine-grained control over the sidebar navigation menu. It merges with the theme defaults to customize the progressive-outline component.

level-{n}-mode	Visibility for level n (1-3). Options: "all", "current", "current-parent", "none".
spacing	Dictionary for layout. Keys include indent-{n} (e.g., indent-2) and v-between-{prev}-{curr} (e.g., v-between-1-2) defining vertical gaps between specific level transitions.
text-styles	Dictionary defining font styles. Keys: level-{n} containing sub-keys active, inactive, completed (each accepting text parameters like fill, weight).
match-page-only	Bool. If true (default), the outline highlights only the heading exactly on the current page. If false, it maintains the highlight on the current logical section even on subsequent slides.

4.2 Miniframes Theme

Inspired by the Beamer Berlin theme, it uses dots to show progress within sections. It features a specific separator | when three levels of hierarchy are used.

4.2.1 Navigation Dictionary

The navigation parameter is a dictionary containing:

position	string	"top" or "bottom". Default: "top".
style	string	"compact" (one row) or "grid" (one row per subsection).
marker-shape	string	"circle" or "square".
marker-size	length	Size of the dots. Default: 4pt.
fill	color	Color of the navigation bar block.
show-level1-titles	bool	Show names of sections in the bar. Default: true.

4.3 Split Theme

Features a horizontal header divided into two contrasting areas for Section and Subsection titles.

4.3.1 Theme Parameters

primary	color	Background color for the Section block.
secondary	color	Background color for the Subsection block.
navigation-style	string	"all" (show all siblings) or "current".
header-columns	tuple	Width ratios for the header blocks. Default: (1fr, 1fr).
section-align	alignment	Horizontal alignment for section text. Default: right.

4.4 Progressive Outline Theme

A clean theme focused on document progression with a breadcrumb-style header. It supports dynamic fil-d'ariane based on the active mapping.

4.4.1 Theme Parameters

header	content auto	Override the top breadcrumb navigation.
footer	content auto	Override the bottom page number area.

4.5 Minimal Theme

A content-first theme with zero distractions. It has no persistent headers or sidebars, providing the maximum possible area for your content while still supporting automatic roadmap transitions.

4.5.1 Theme Parameters

header	content none	Optional header content. Default: none.
footer	content auto	Optional footer content. Displays author, title and page number by default.

5 Hooks API

If you need to generate a transition slide that doesn't fit the roadmap pattern (e.g., a full-page image), use hooks. They take precedence over the transition engine.

- `on-part-change(heading)`
- `on-section-change(heading)`
- `on-subsection-change(heading)`

Example:

```
#show: template.with(
  on-section-change: (h) => {
    empty-slide(fill: black)[
      #set align(center + horizon)
      #text(white, size: 2em)[Next Chapter: #h.body]
    ]
  }
)
```