Development

In the Visual lecture, Jeff described how some color palettes naturally go well together based upon their position in the color wheel. However, pinpointing these colors that naturally fit together by selecting from a color wheel can take an experienced eye; new users or experienced users looking for a good starting place may wish to have pleasing color palettes automatically generated for them. The widget I have designed takes this principle to heart and offers users a quick and easy way for users to generate suitable color palettes by simply choosing a color.

https://jsfiddle.net/5540p25p/

The widget should hopefully be fairly self-explanatory to use: as the user, simply click anywhere on the color wheel. The color you choose will be displayed below after a fade animation that makes the change between colors a smooth process. To the right, 3 different types of color palettes are offered: the triangle, the square, and the arc (adjacent colors on the color wheel), respectively. Along with offering the actual colors overlaid so the user can see how they go together, the widget also gives all of their hexcodes, allowing for easy application to any HTML, CSS, or independent design platform.

Obviously, these palettes are not meant to be perfect for every color and occasion, but the colors suggested are hopefully informative to the user looking for a range of colors that fit nicely together. The interface is especially useful for suggesting colors of equal saturations, giving users equally bold or pastel suggestions.

The color wheel used here is designed by Adobe, so, even though it is not ideal in terms of varying brightnesses, it offers a full, familiar, and smooth range of colors. Moreover, the grey colors used outside of the color wheel are also the greys used in the Adobe suite, so the widget (with a little polishing, perhaps) could be imagined as an addition to the existing line of Adobe color selection tools. The code is abstracted far enough out that it can be easily changed to fit different color palettes, and thus has even more varied applications in terms of color generation. (i.e. I only did 3 palette types but there are many more.)