

Six Revisions

[Skip site navigation](#)

- [Home](#)
- [All Articles](#)
- [Tutorials](#)
- [Freebies](#)
- [About](#)
- [Contact](#)
- Subscribe: [RSS Feed](#)
- [Follow on Twitter](#)

5 diggs [digg it](#)

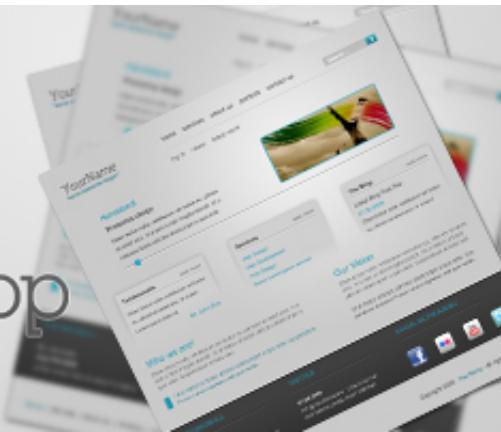
[Create a Slick and Minimalist Web Layout in Photoshop](#)

January 8th, 2010 by Mahmoud Khaled | [72 Comments](#) | [Stumble It!](#) [Delicious](#)

Newest post on our newly-launched site, Design Instruct: "[Make Watercolor and Marker Style Portraits with Illustrator](#)".



Create a **minimal** Layout in Photoshop



In this Photoshop web design tutorial, we're going to learn how to create a slick and minimalist-looking website layout. We will use the 960 Grid System as a template to make it easy to align the design elements on the layout.

Preview

Here's a preview of what we'll be creating together, click the image to [enlarge](#).

YourName
"some awesome slogan"

home services about us portfolio contact us

Search.....

log in news latest work

Handstand!

Photoshop design

Etiām lectus nulla, vestibulum vel luctus eu, ultricies sit amet arcu. In a sem a nibh fringilla blandit. Ut ut metus turpis ultricies ullamcorper a quis ante.



Testimonials

[read more](#)

Etiām lectus nulla, vestibulum vel luctus eu, ultricies sit amet arcu. In a sem, Lorem ipsum dolor sit.

Mr. John Doe

Services

[read more](#)

[Web Design](#)

[Web Development](#)

[Print Design](#)

[Some Lorem ipsum service](#)

The Blog

[read more](#)

Latest Blog Post Title

01.08.2009

Etiām lectus nulla, vestibulum vel luctus eu, ultricies sit amet arcu. In a sem!

Who we are!

Etiām lectus nulla, vestibulum vel luctus eu, ultricies sit amet arcu. In a sem a nibh fringilla blandit. Ut ut metus ut turpis ultricies ullamcorper a quis ante. Suspendisse et torto sed.

Ut ut metus ut turpis ultricies ullamcorper a quis ante. Suspendisse Fusce cursus egestas velit quis mollis.

Our Vision

Etiām lectus nulla, vestibulum vel luctus eu, ultricies sit amet arcu. In a sem a nibh fringilla blandit. Ut ut metus ut turpis ultricies ullamcorper a quis ante. Suspendisse et torto sed.

Ut ut metus ut turpis ultricies ullamcorper a quis ante. Suspendisse et torto. Fusce cursus egestas velit quis mollis.

TESTIMONIALS

Mr. John Smith

Aug 17th 2009

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet!! Creative!!

TWITTER

01.08.2009

RT @ Six Revisions : Check out our new tutorial, pretty nice!! Minimal!

SOCIAL NETWORKING

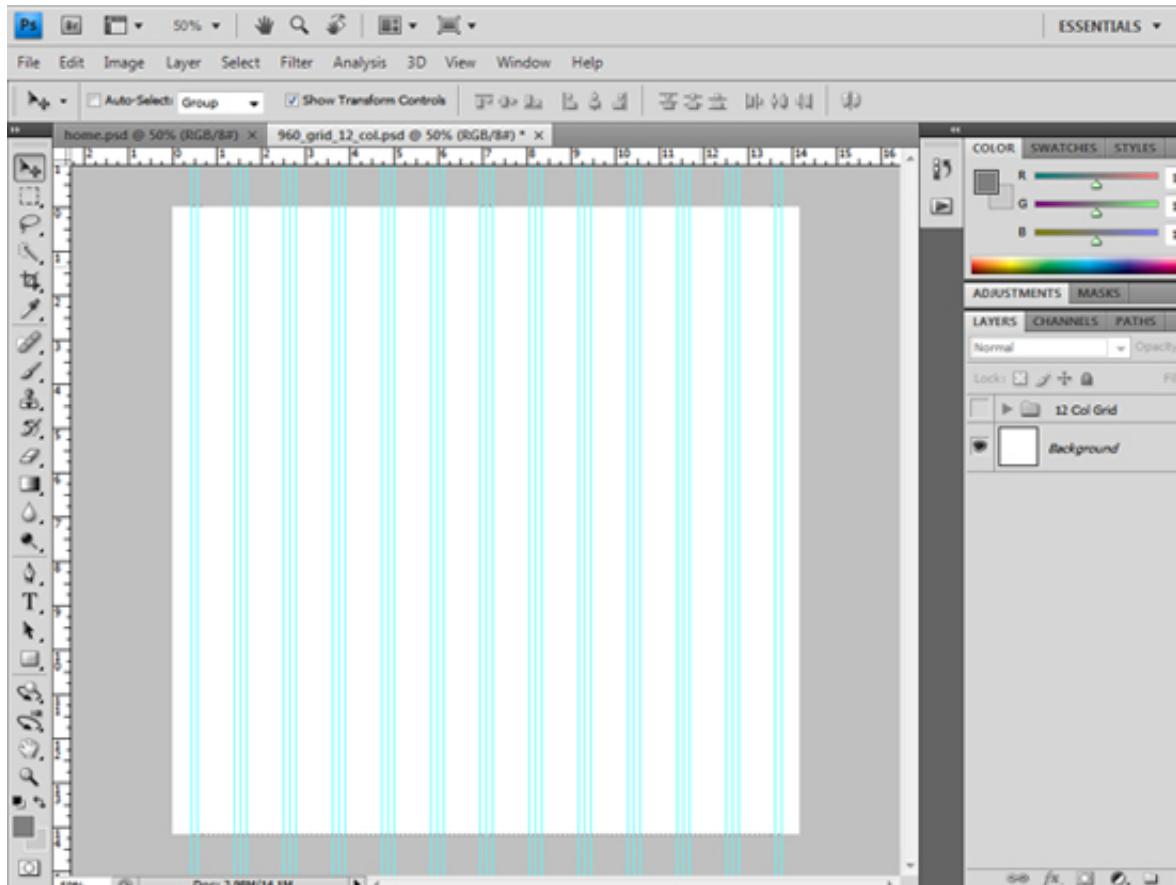


[Home](#) | [Services](#) | [About Us](#) | [Portfolio](#) | [Contact](#)

Copyright 2009 - YourName - All rights reserved

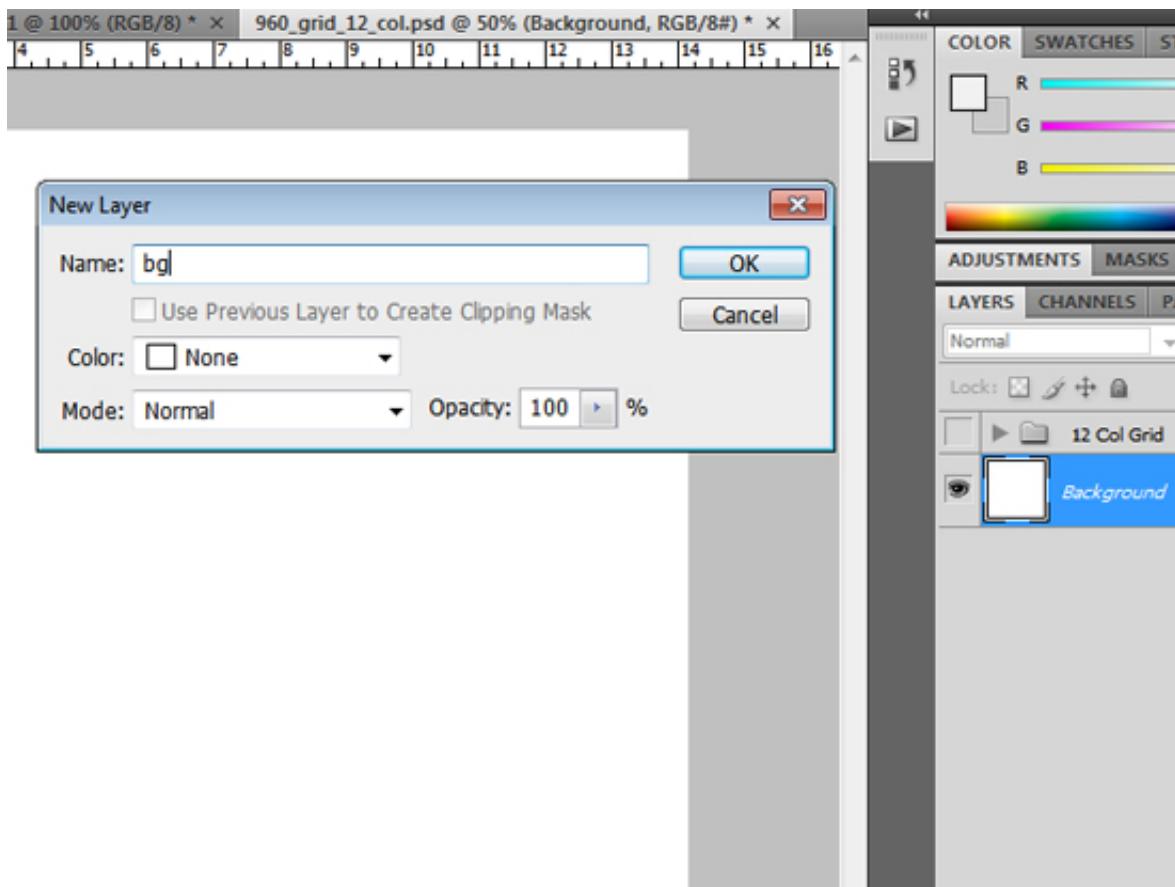
Create a new Photoshop document

1 We'll be using the 960 Grid System (download it at <http://960s/>) as a starting template. Once downloaded, open up the file called **960_grid_12_col.psd** and then hide the group called **12_col_grid**.

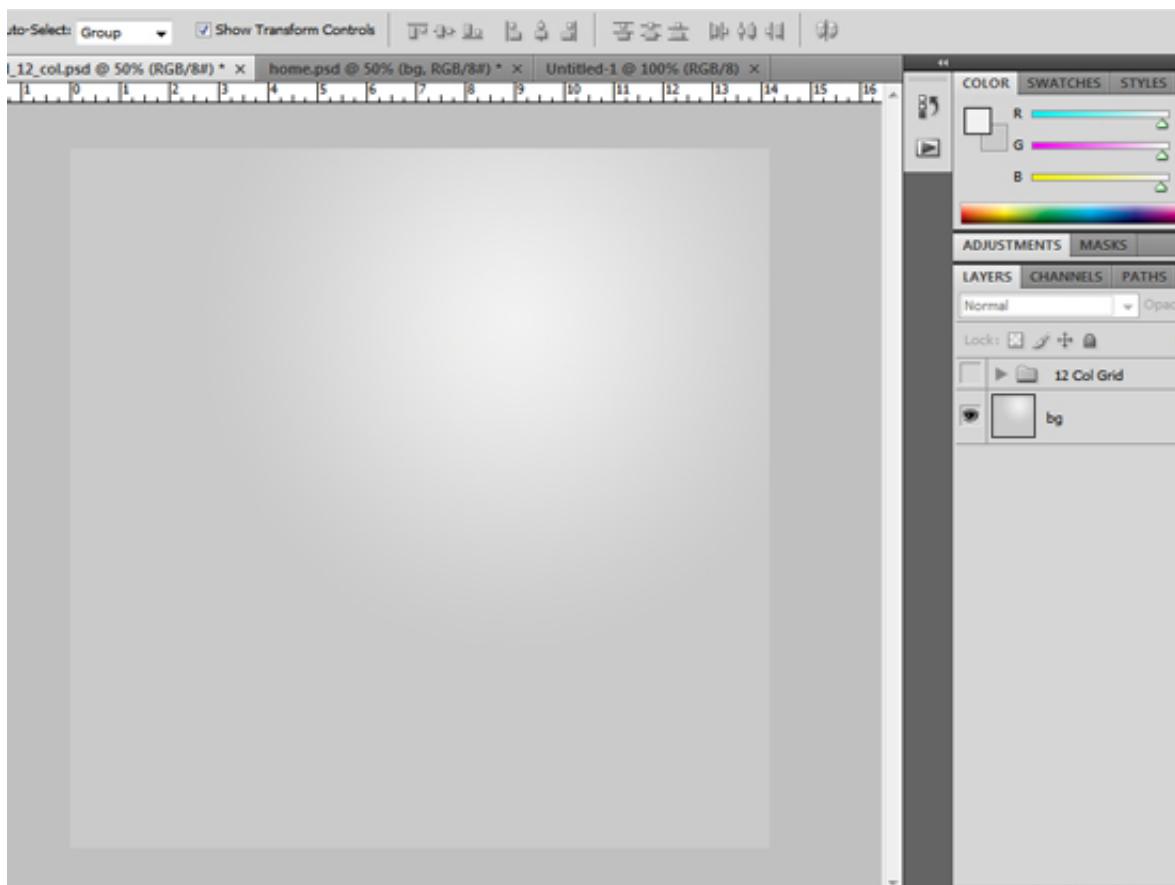


Creating the background

2 First of all, right-click on the Background layer in the Layers Panel and then choose *Layer From Background*. This will unlock the Background layer so that it's editable. I named the Background layer as **bg**.

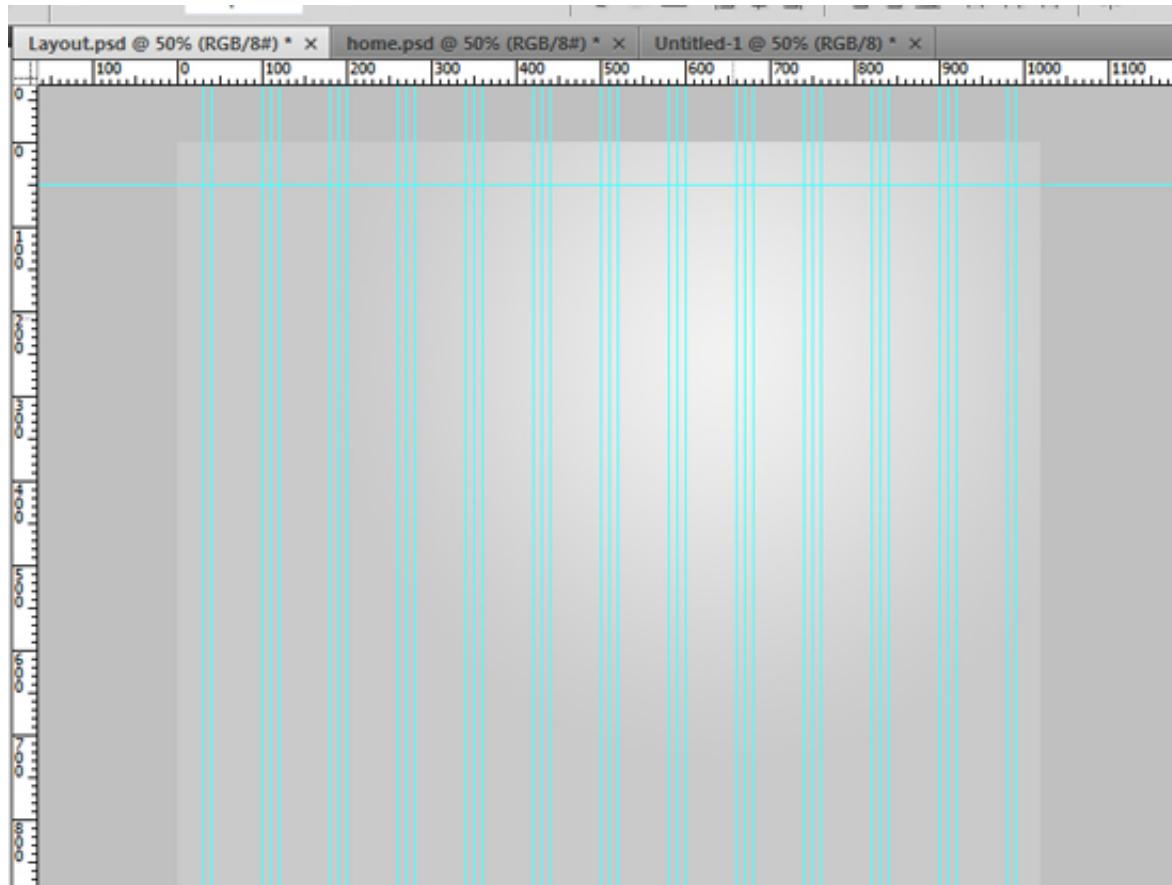


3 Now select the Gradient Tool (G), set your Foreground color to **#efefef** and your background color to **#cacaca**. Select *Radial Gradient* as the type of gradient in the Options bar. Drag the gradient onto the canvas so that you have something similar to this:



Designing the header section

4 We'll add a new horizontal guide at the **50px** mark from the top of the document to set our top borders. This will mark the location of the layout's header section.



5 We'll start adding our title and slogan; select the Horizontal Type Tool (T) and type your site's name and your slogan. Here are the font settings I used in the layout:

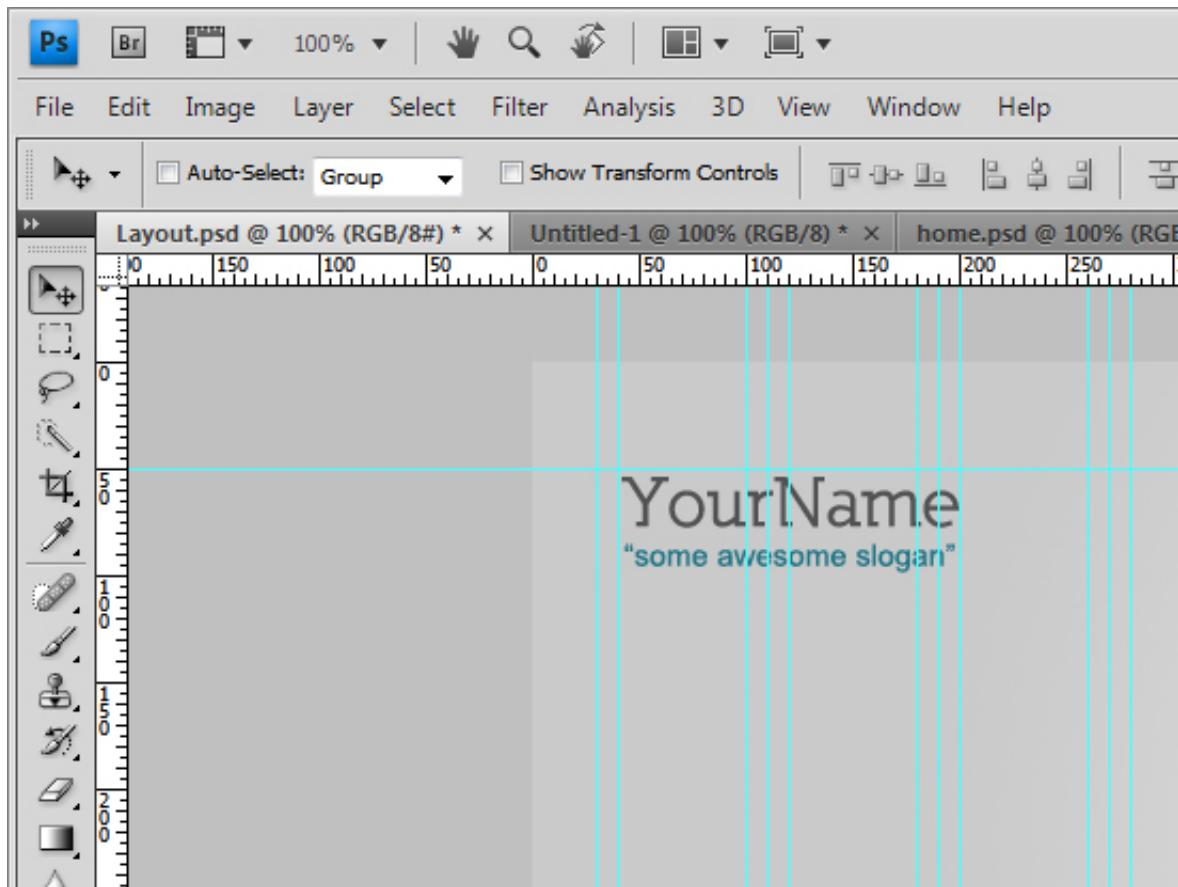
"YourName"

- Font family: Nilland font ([get it from dafont.com](#))
- Font size: 33pt
- Font weight: Bold
- Anti-aliasing setting: Strong
- Color: #525252

"some awesome slogan"

- Font family: Arial
- Font size: 14pt
- Font weight: Regular
- Anti-aliasing setting: Strong
- Color: #207687

6 Align the fonts on the left top, using your guides for accurate placement.

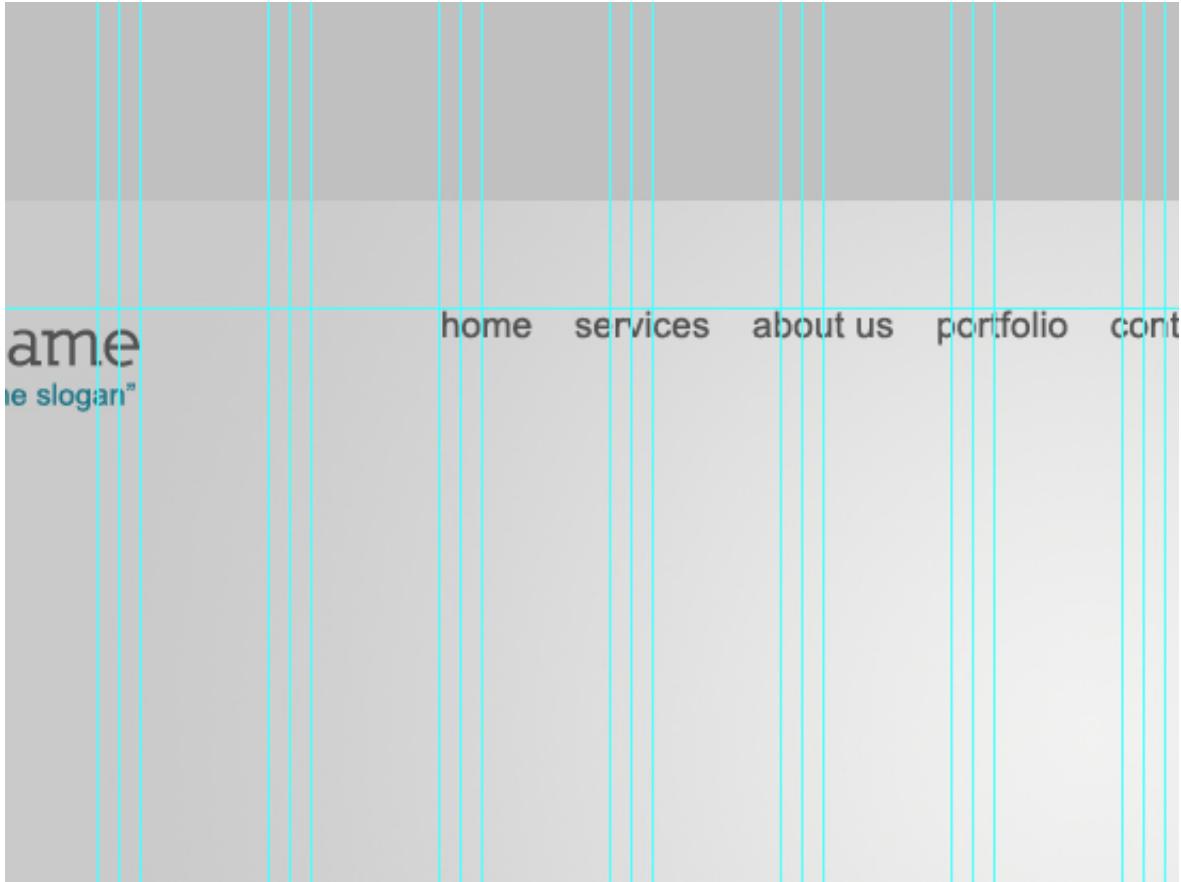


Creating our navigation

7 Select the Horizontal Type Tool (T) and type the navigation text (home, about us, services, portfolio, and contact) using the following font settings:

- Font family: Arial
- Font size: 17pt
- Font weight: Regular
- Anti-aliasing setting: Strong
- Color: #525252

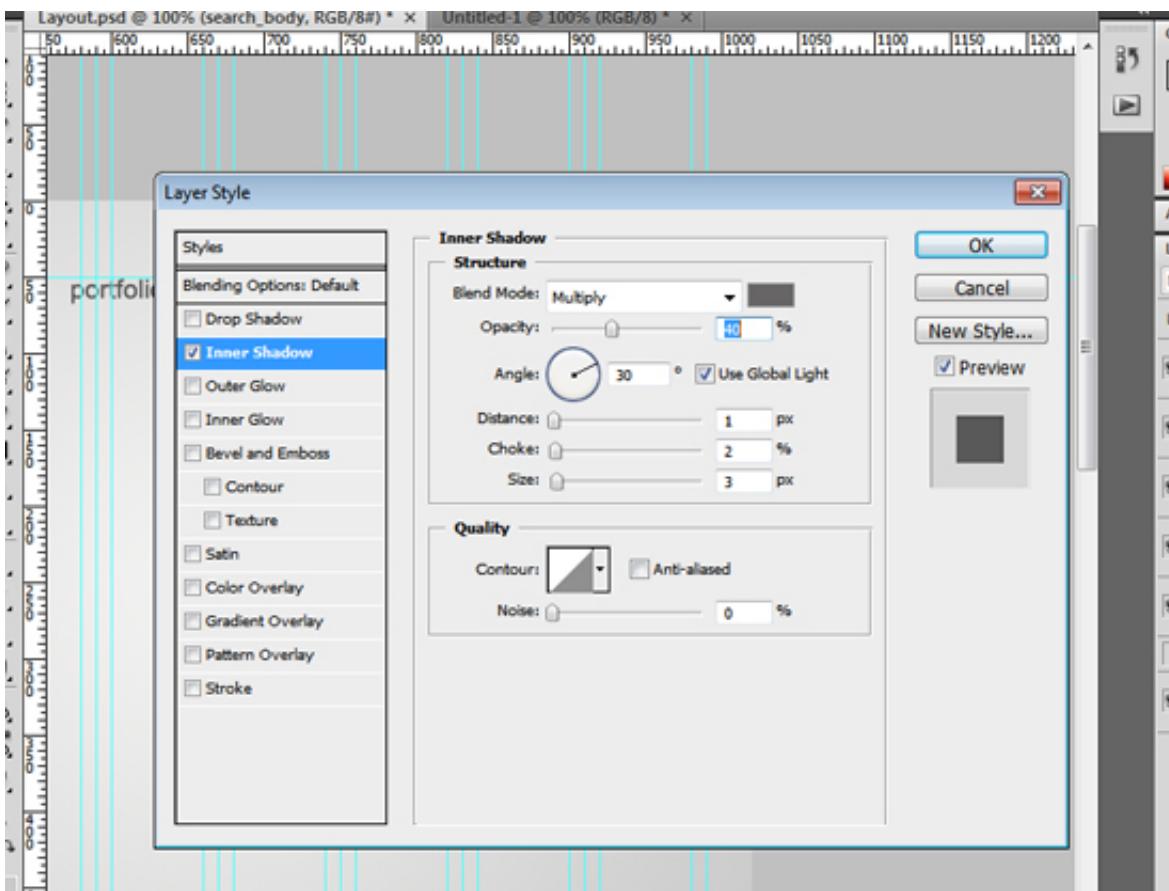
8 Use the document's guides to align the navigation link text like the following image:



Creating the search bar

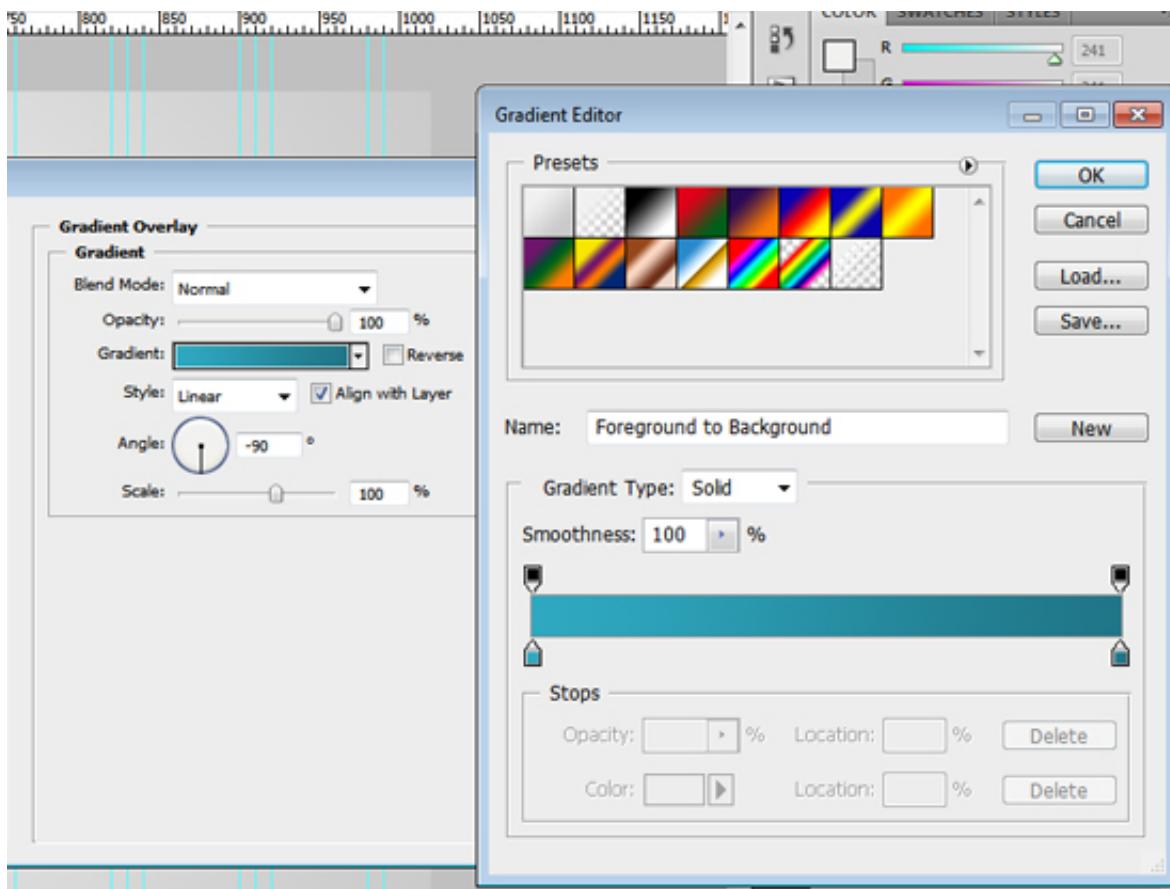
9 Now it's time to create the search bar that's situated on the right of the navigation links. Select Rounded Rectangle Tool (U), set the Radius option value to **5px**, and then draw the rounded layer shape onto the canvas such that it has **155px** width and **20px** height, and located at the right of the navigation links.

10 Add an Inner Shadow layer style by double-clicking on the rounded rectangle shape layer in the Layers Panel to open up the Layer Styles dialog box. Use the following settings below for the layer style settings:



11 Let's create the GO button now. Create a new rounded rectangle shape with the same height (**20px**) and Radius option value (**5px**), but with a width of **30px**.

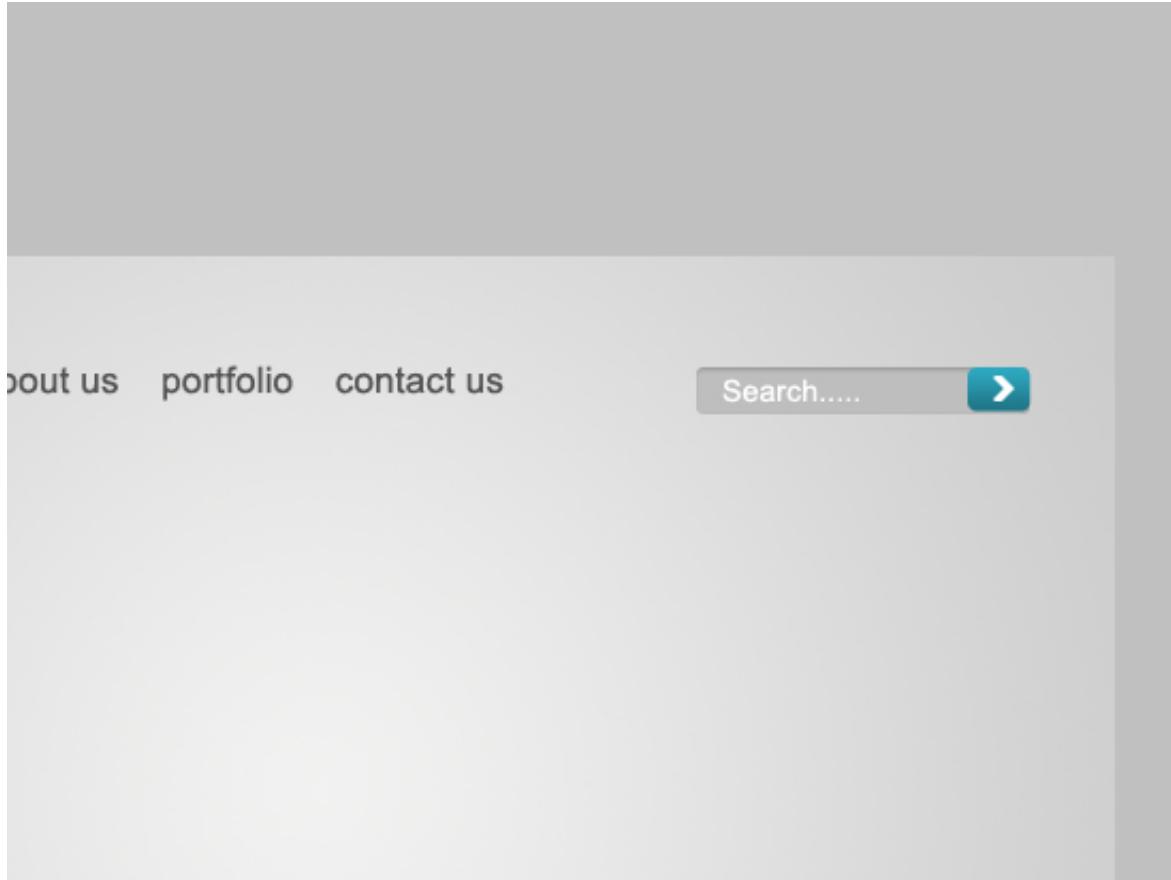
12 Apply a vertical (90 degrees) Linear Gradient layer style onto the Go button, with the left color stop being **#2fa9c1** and the right color stop being **#207687**.



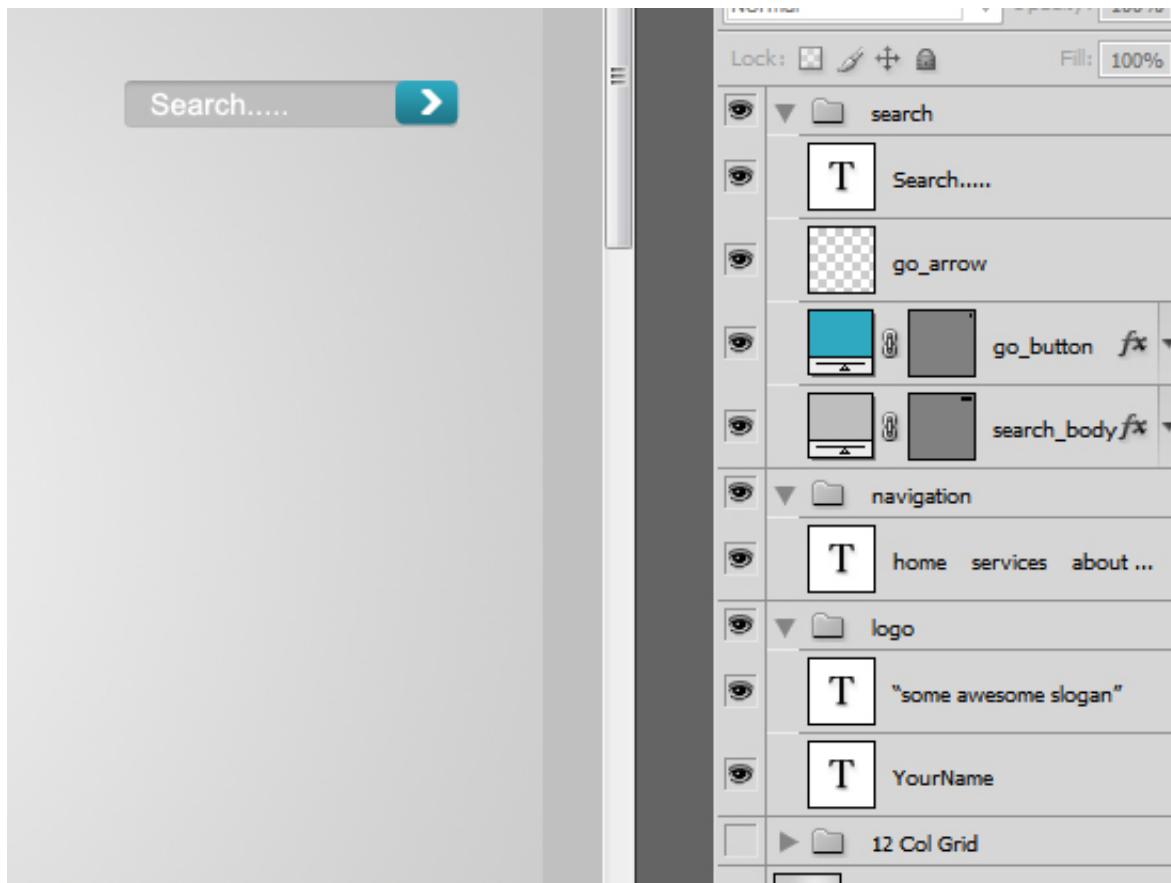
13 And then write any text like "search..." using the Horizontal Type Tool (T) on top of the search bar; use a white color (#ffffff).

14 Using the Custom Shape Tool (U), create a white arrow and align it to the center. I used the custom shape called *Arrow 2*, which comes standard in Photoshop CS versions. Look for it in the Shape option dropdown menu in the Options bar.

Our search bar should be looking like this:

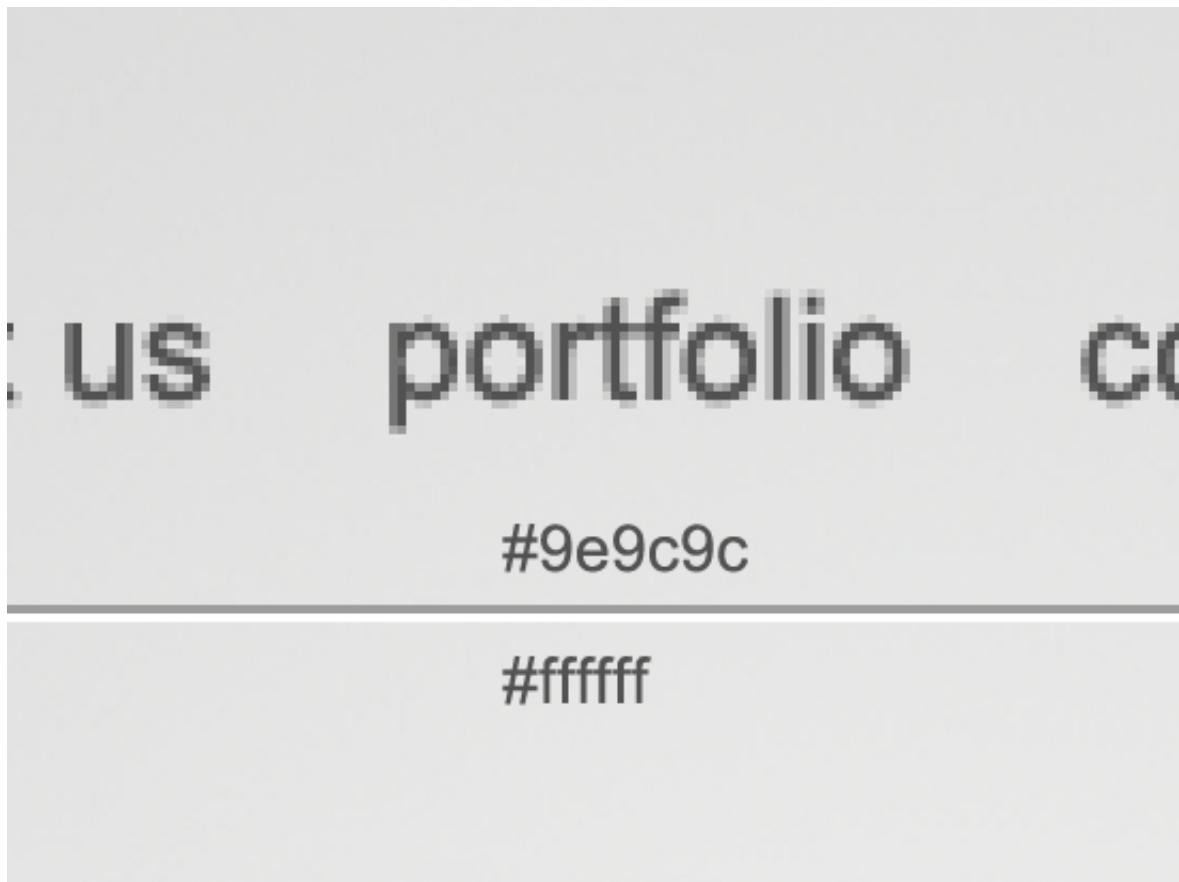


15 Before we move to the next step, just make sure that everything is well-organized in our document. Here's a screen grab of my Layers Panel as I was developing the layout:



Creating the separating lines

16 Using the Line Tool (U), Create two **1px** lines on top of each other, with the following color values:



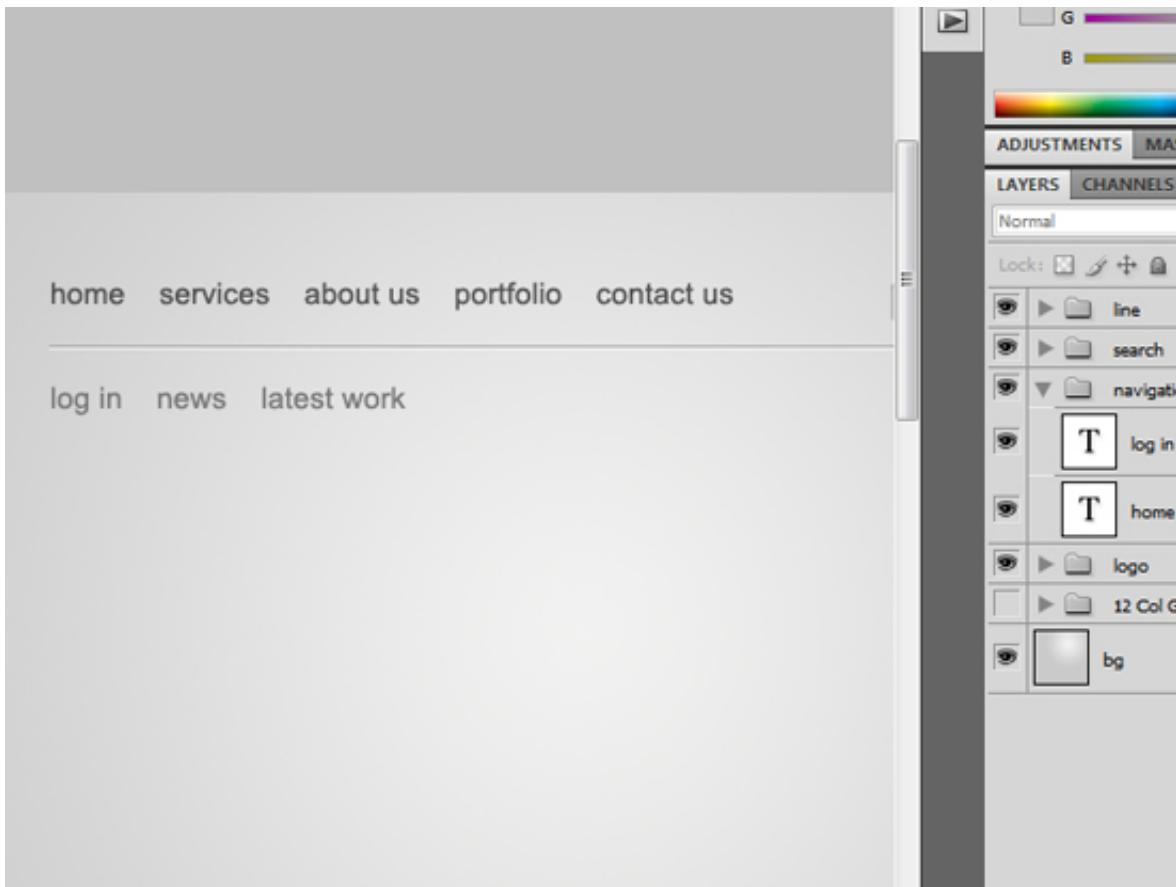
Note: There are many ways to set the colors of the line shapes. The first is by setting the Color option in the Options bar before drawing the lines. The other way, if you already drew the lines, is to use a Color Overlay layer style. I'll let you decide how to do this.

Adding the sub-navigation

17 Type your sub-navigation text using the Horizontal Type Tool (T) using the following settings:

- Font family: Arial
- Font size: 17pt
- Font weight: Regular
- Anti-aliasing setting: Strong
- Color: #787878

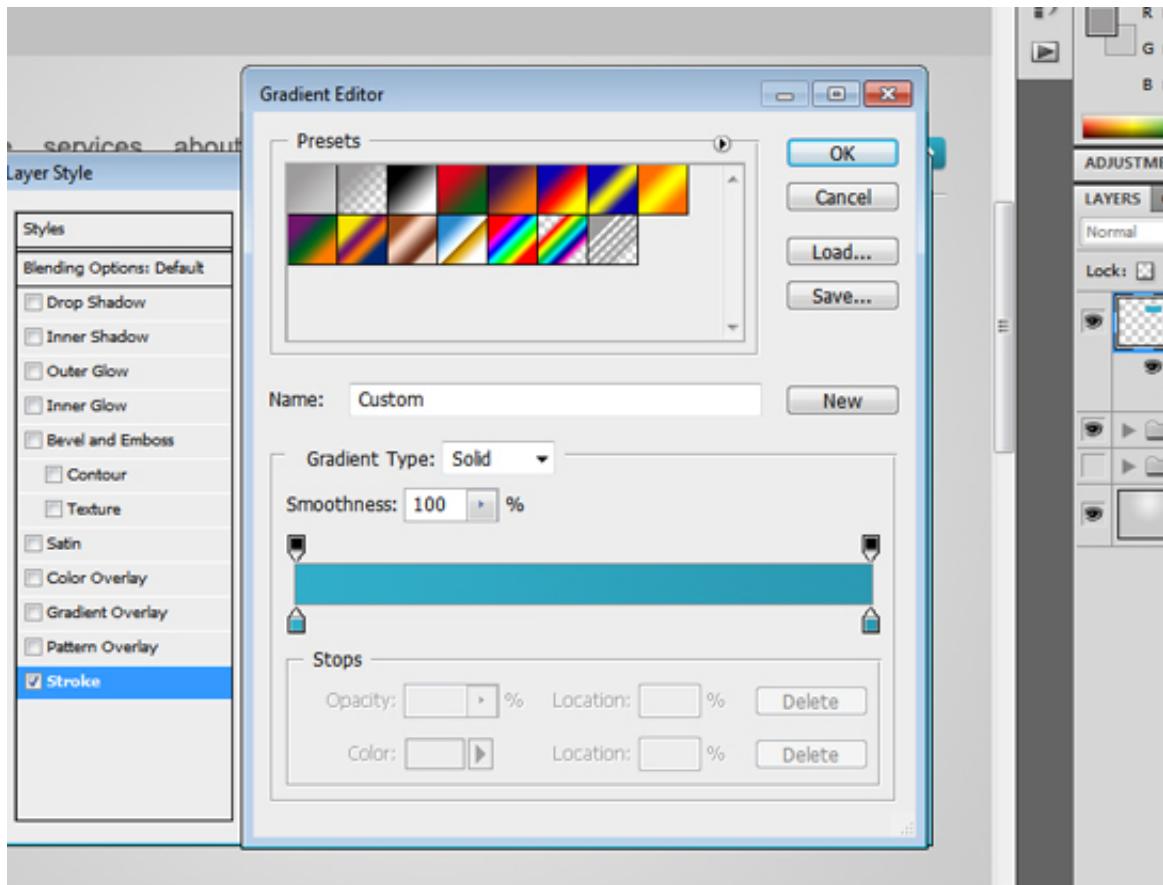
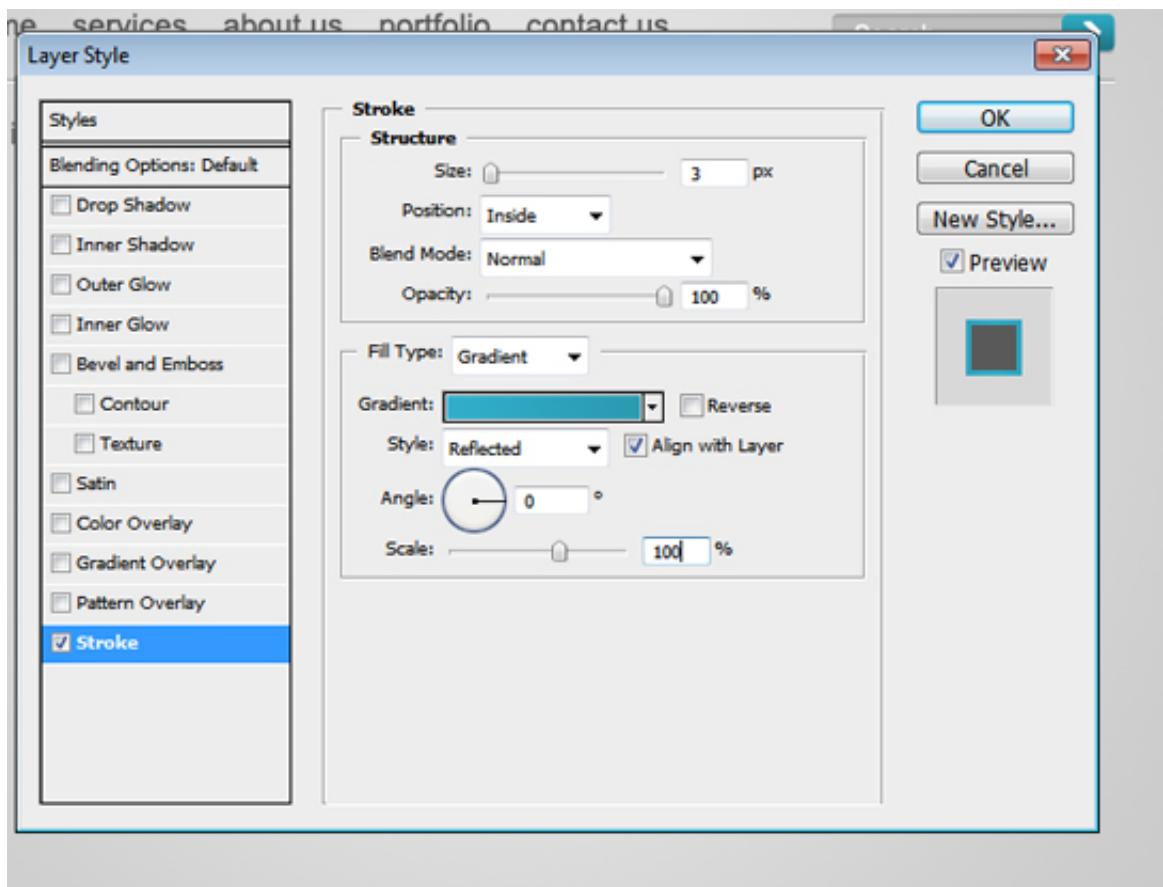
18 Make sure that the separating line is centrally aligned between the main and sub-navigation. Here's how it should look:



Creating the featured designs area

19 We'll start creating the place where the image of a featured design would be, so we'll select Rounded Rectangle Tool (U), and we'll create a rectangle of **335px** width and **128px** height, and a Radius option set to **5px**.

20 Apply a gradient Stroke layer style to it by setting the Fill Type option to *Gradient*. Modify the gradient colors so that it starts at **#31aec4** and ends at **#2b9ab2**.

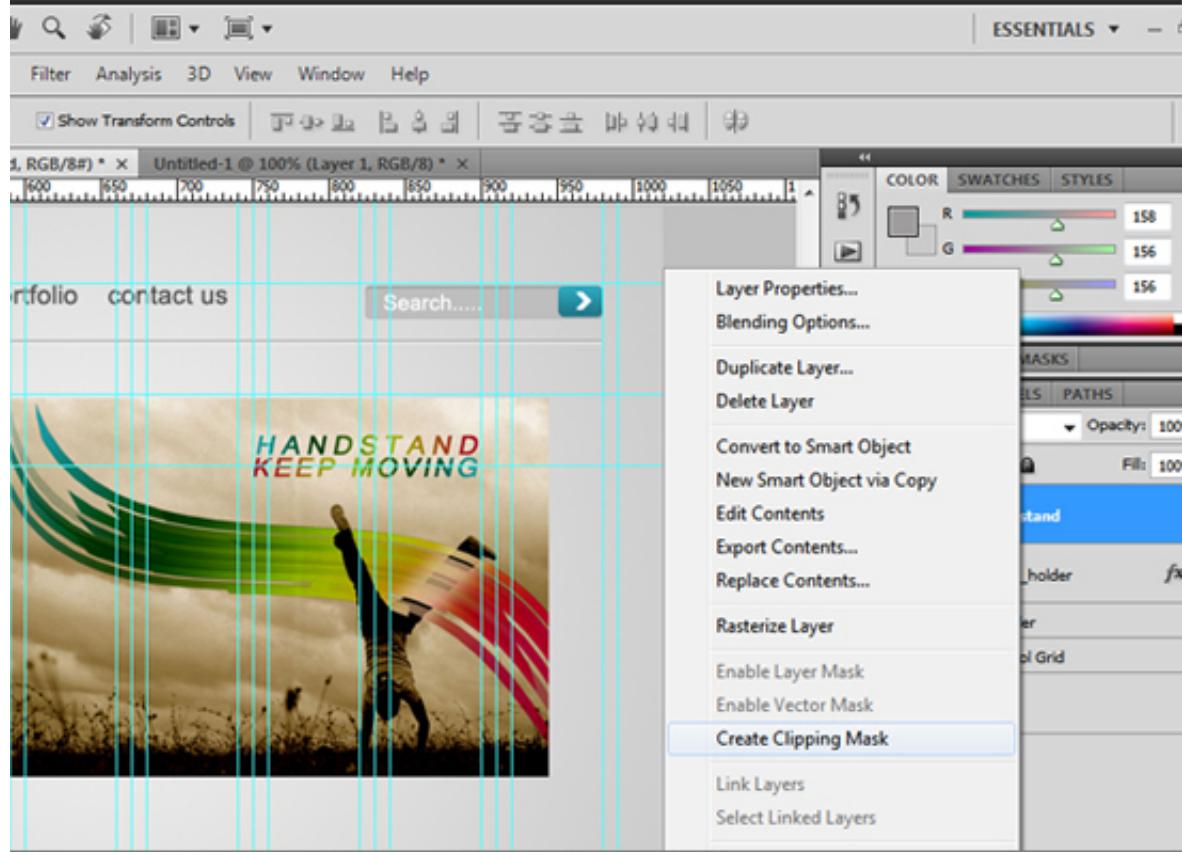
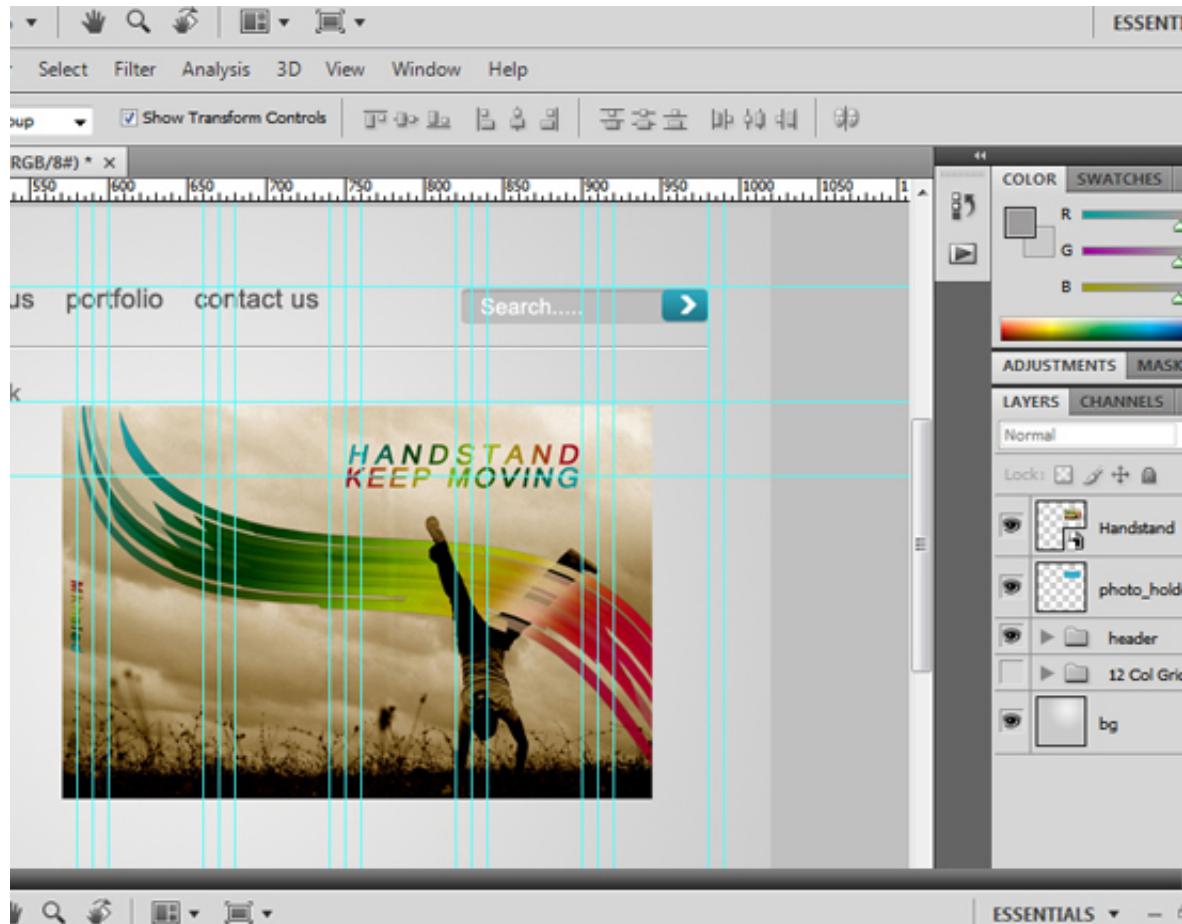


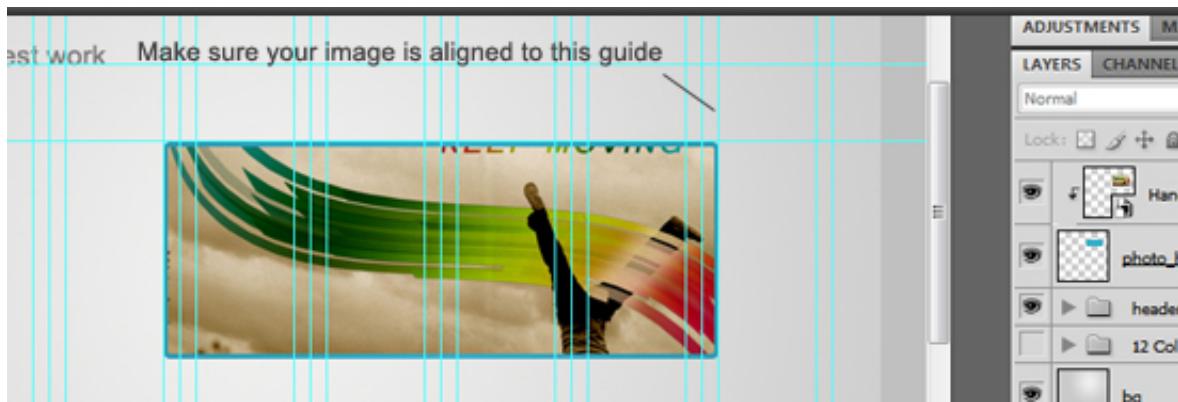
21 Call this newly created layer **photo_holder**.

22 Well, let's add an image of a featured design by going to File > Place. This will open up the Place

dialog box where you can select an image to place on our canvas. Pick an image, and then press the Place button when you're done.

23 Make sure that the layer of the image is above the photo_holder layer; if it isn't, move it. Right-click on the image layer and choose *Create Clipping Mask*.

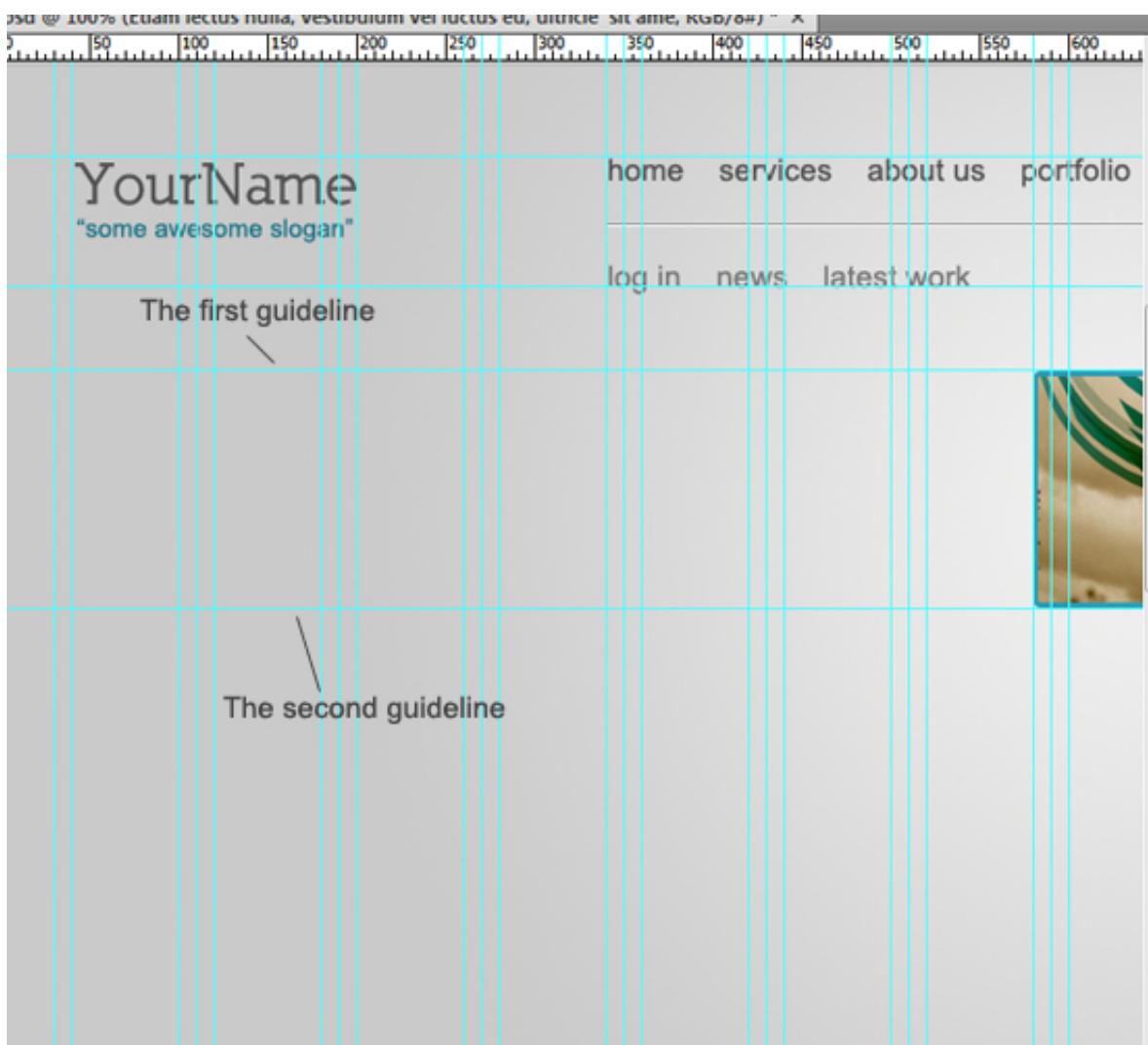




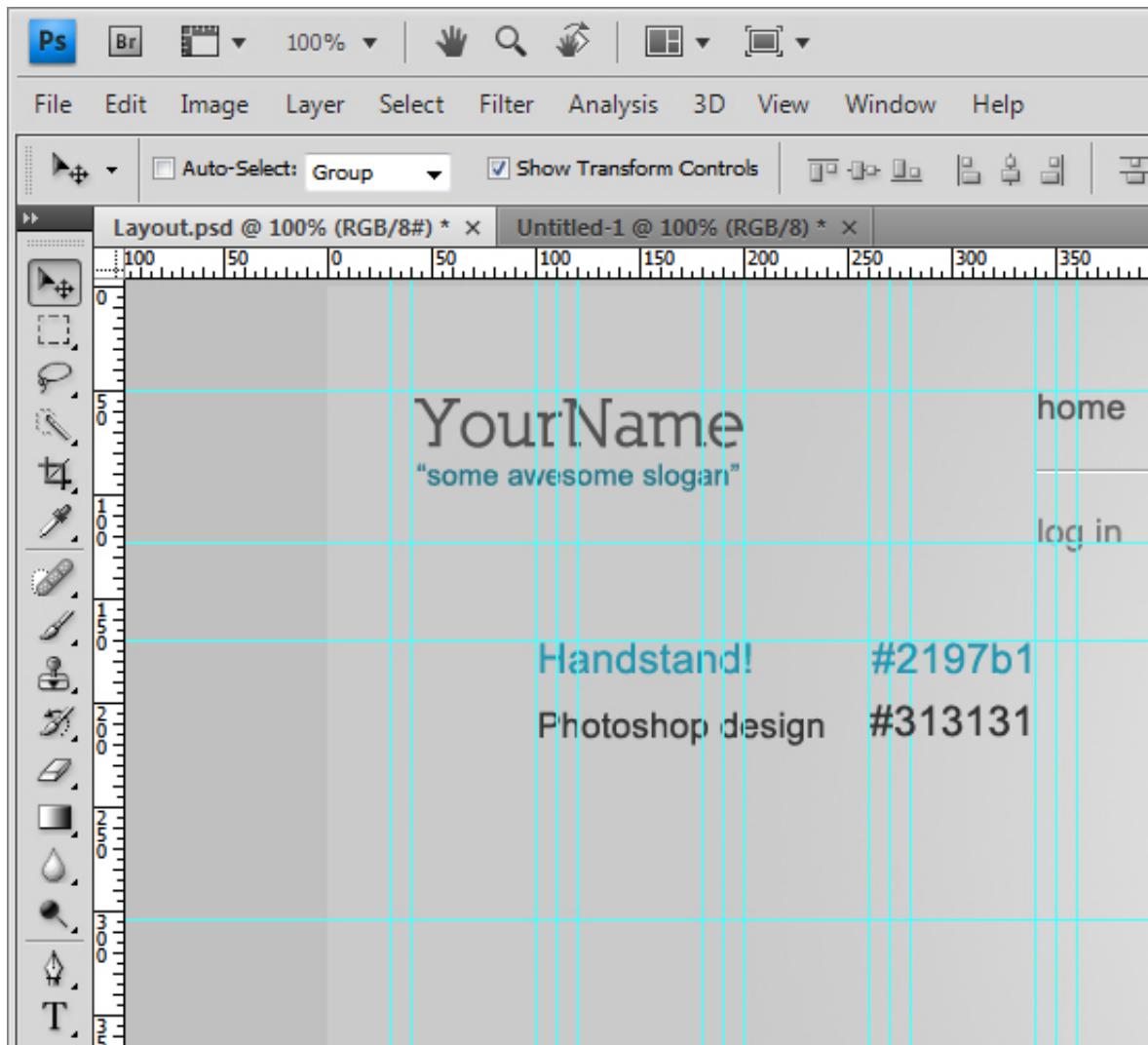
24 Modify the size of the image to fit; you can use Free Transform (Ctrl/Cmd + T). When you're happy with the size, Make sure that your image is aligned according to the image above, flushed to the right of the layout design.

Add some content to the design

25 Let's add some content to our design, but before we do that, we have to set our boundaries for our content. To do that, drag two horizontal guides like in the following image.



Add a title and a category



26 Use the following settings for the title and category.

Title (in my case it was "Handstand!")

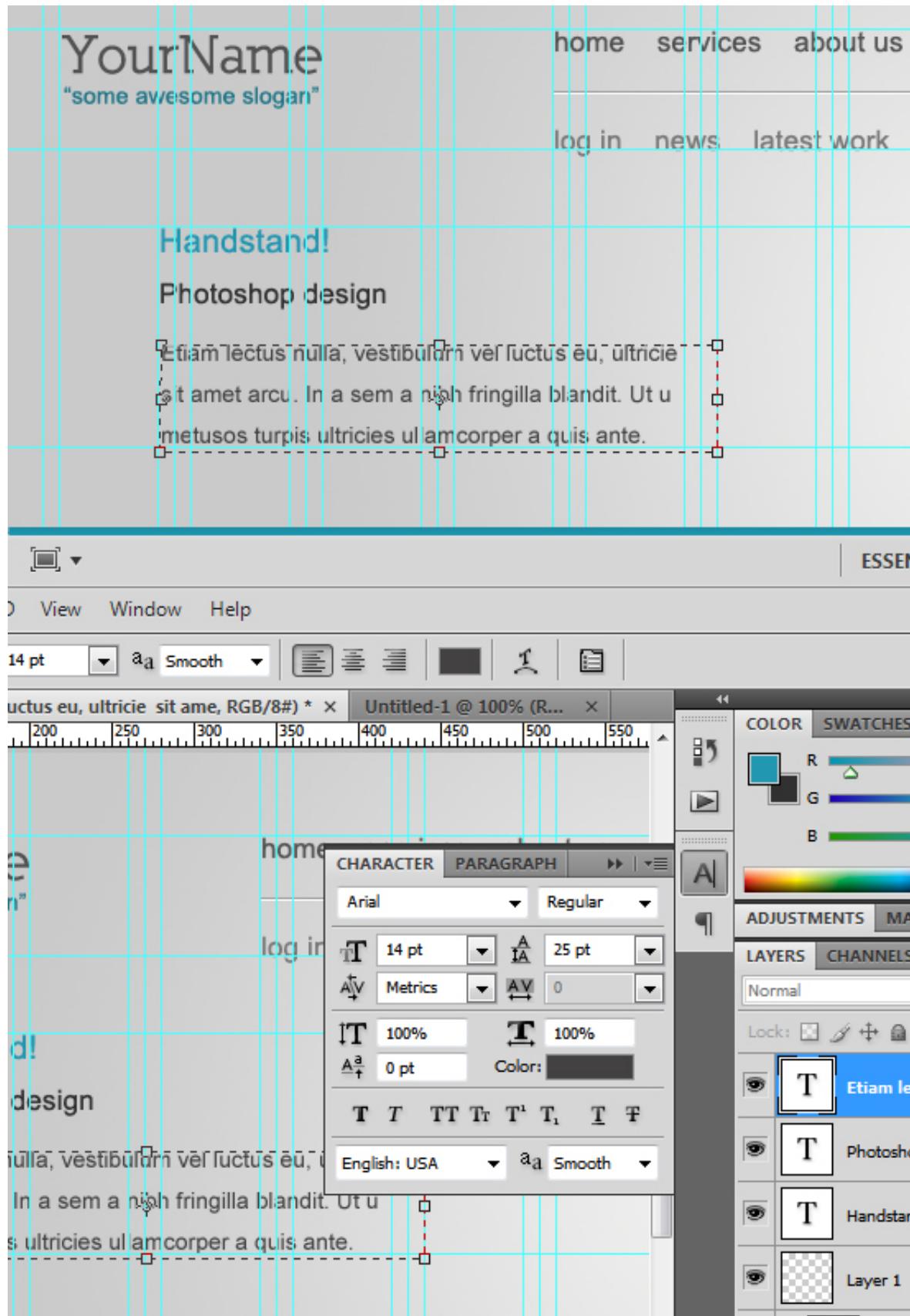
- Font family: Arial
- Font size: 20pt
- Font weight: Regular
- Anti-aliasing setting: Strong
- Color: #2197b1

Category (in my case it was "Photoshop design"):

- Font family: Arial
- Font size: 17pt
- Font weight: Regular
- Anti-aliasing option: Strong
- Color: #313131

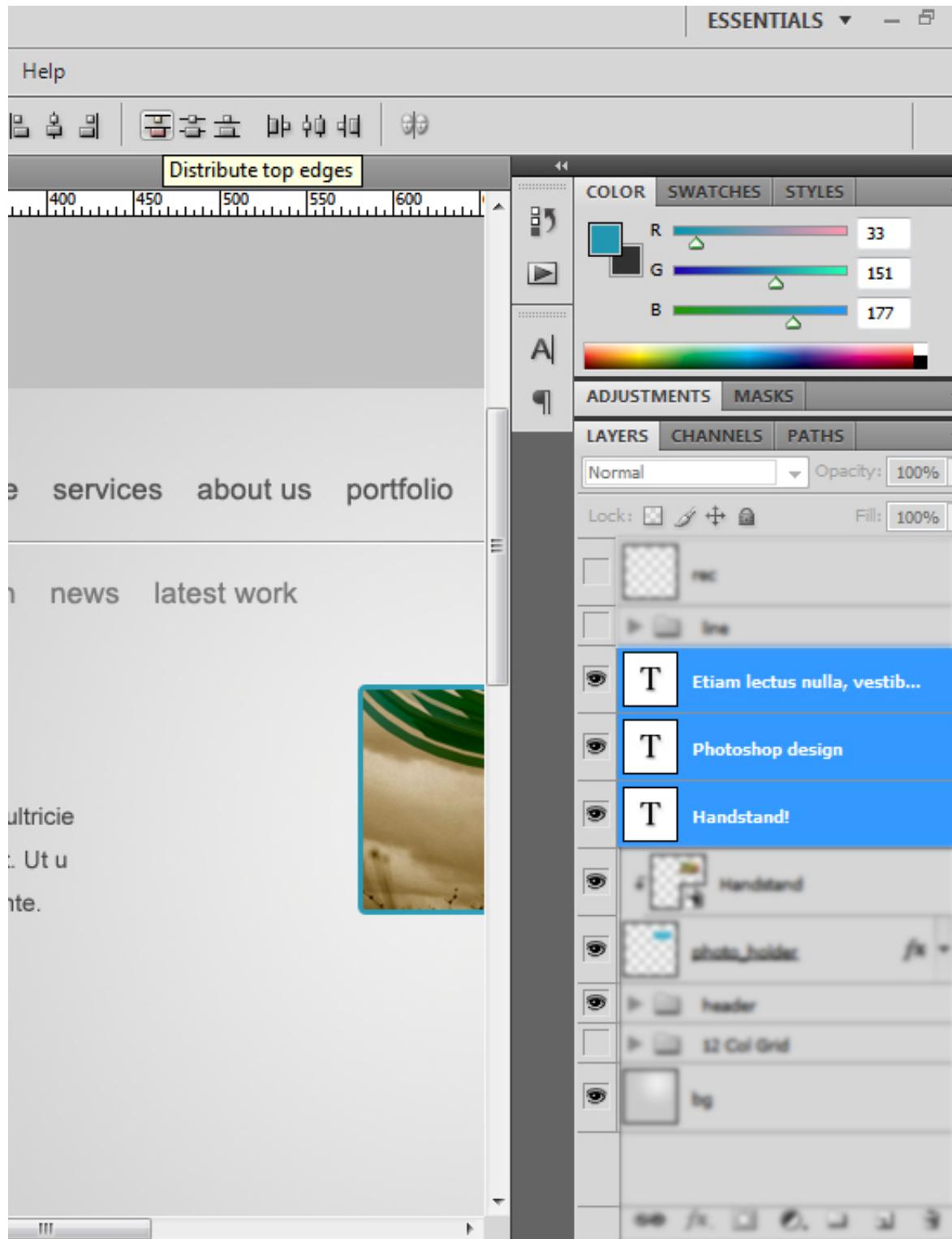
Paragraph content

27 Add your paragraph text, using the following image for reference.



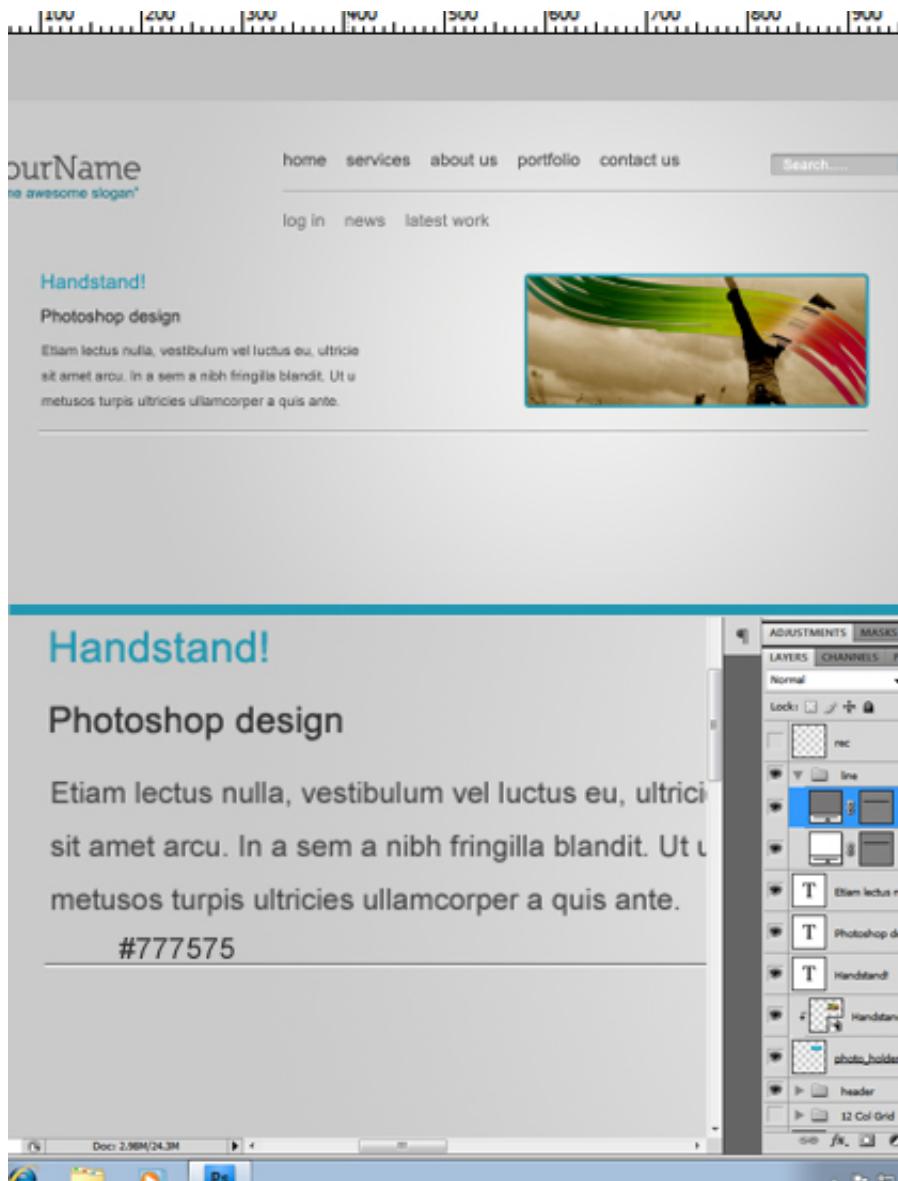
28 Choose the Move Tool (V) in the Tools Panel and select our three text layers in the Layer Panel (hold down Ctrl/Cmd while clicking on them to select all of them).

29 Give them equal spacing using the *Distribute top edges* option.

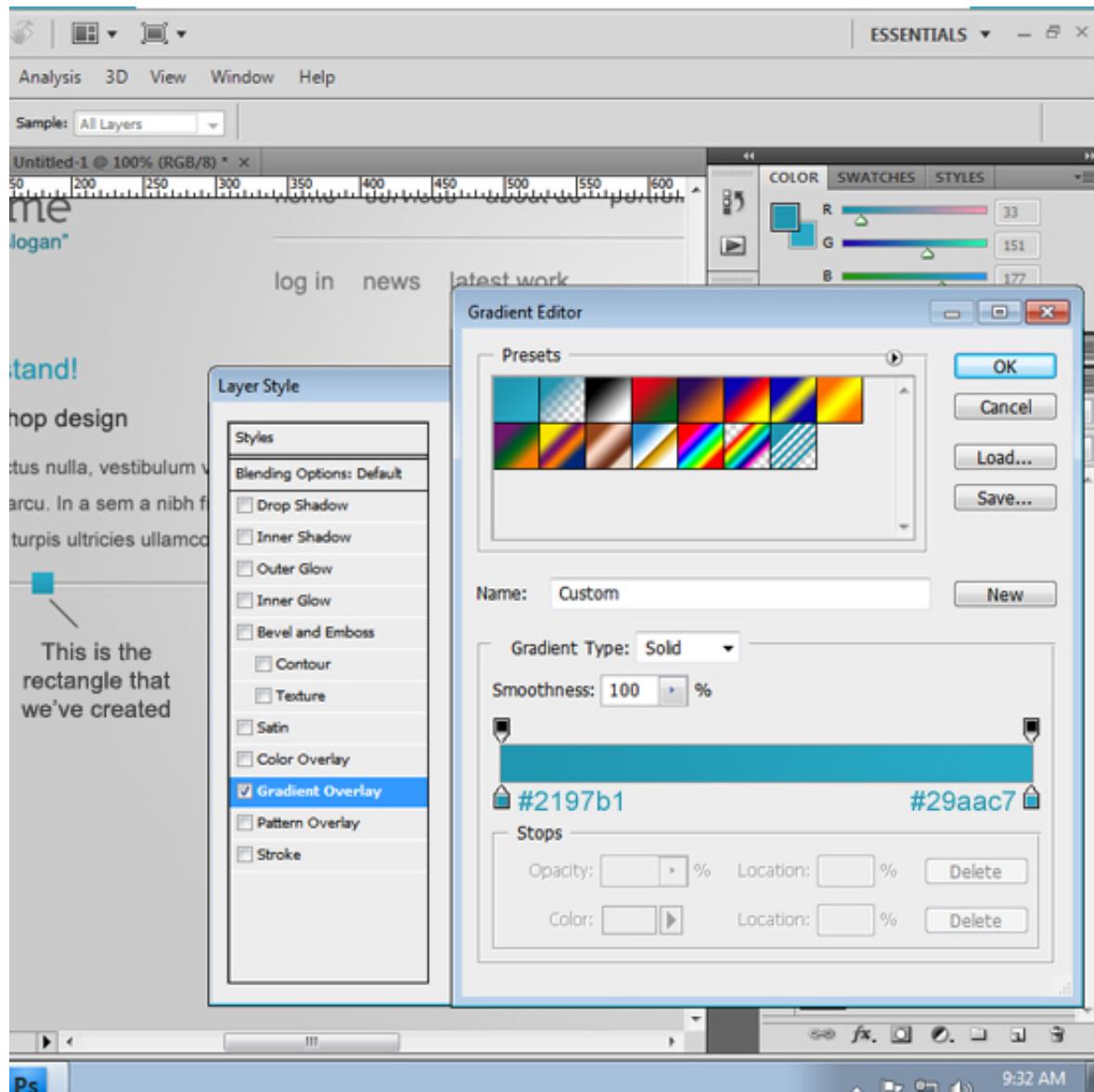


Create the slider control

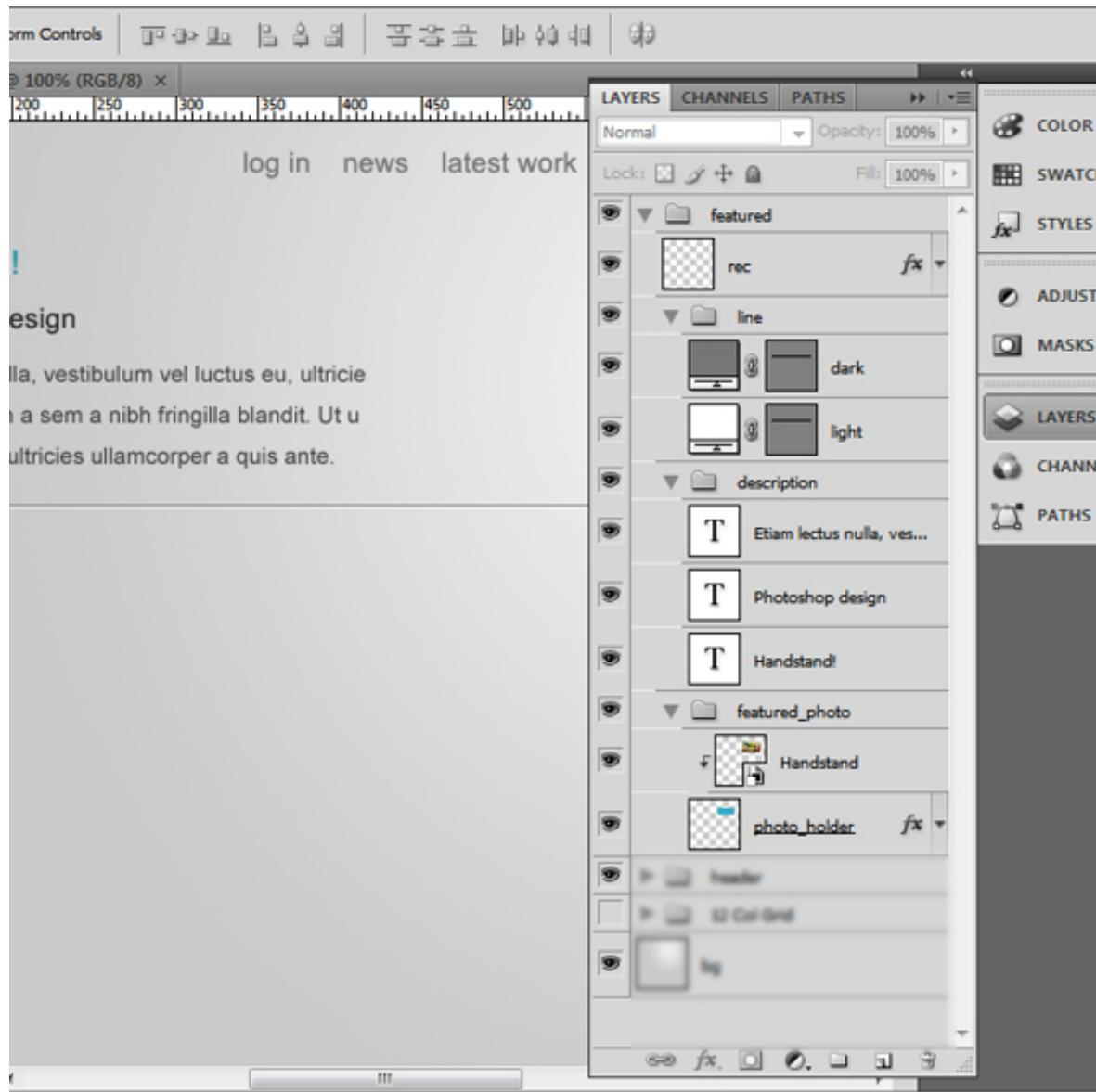
30 It's time to create the slider control. Start by duplicating the two lines we've created for the navigation, and then resizing them (you can use Free Transform to do this). We'll make the dark line darker, giving it a color value of #777575.



31 Then create a small box rectangle shape using the Rectangle Tool (**15px** wide and **15px** high) and apply a Gradient Overlay layer style to it.

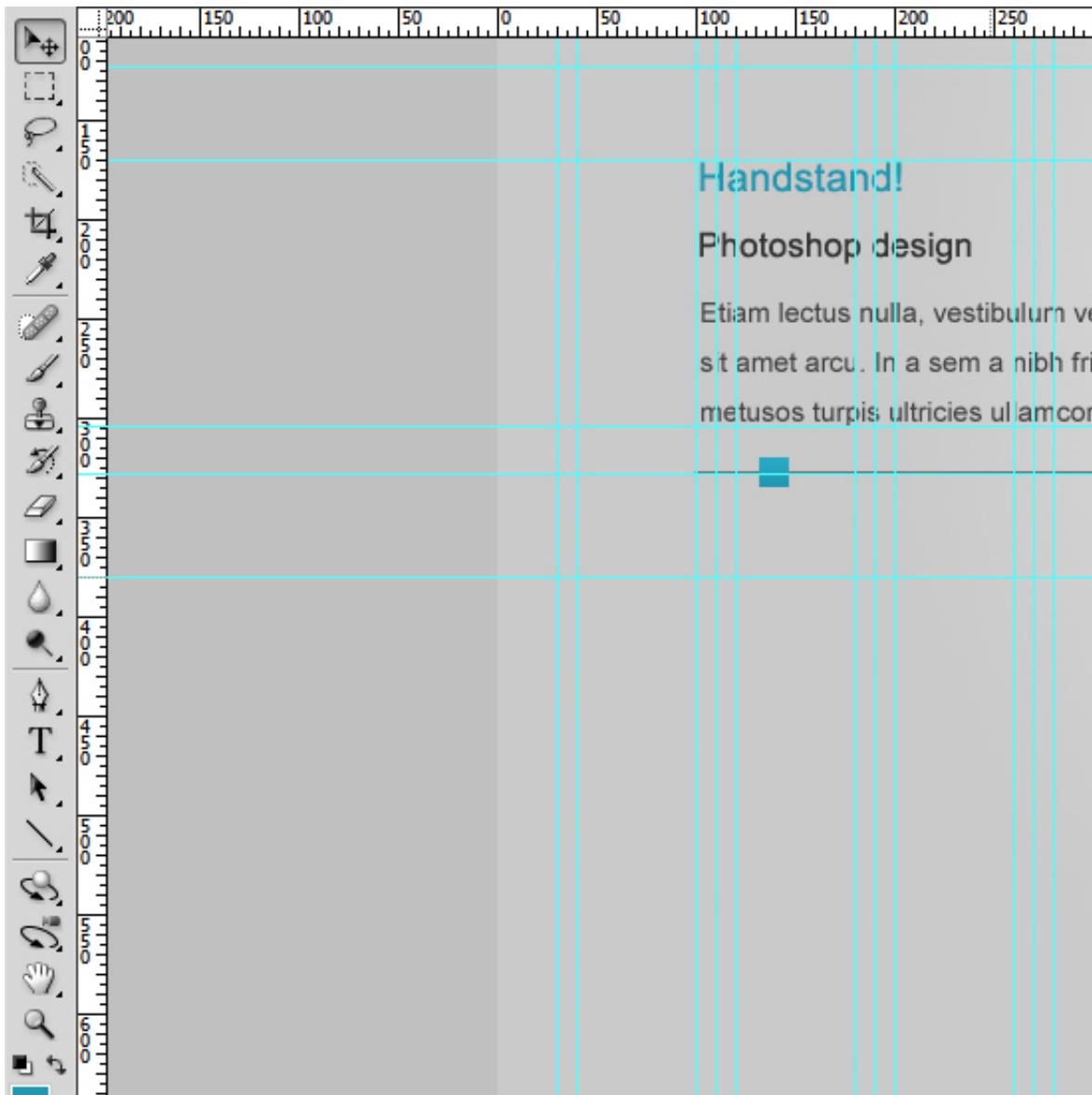


32 Before we move to the next step, we have to organize our layers. Use the following reference image to make sure the layers are in proper order.



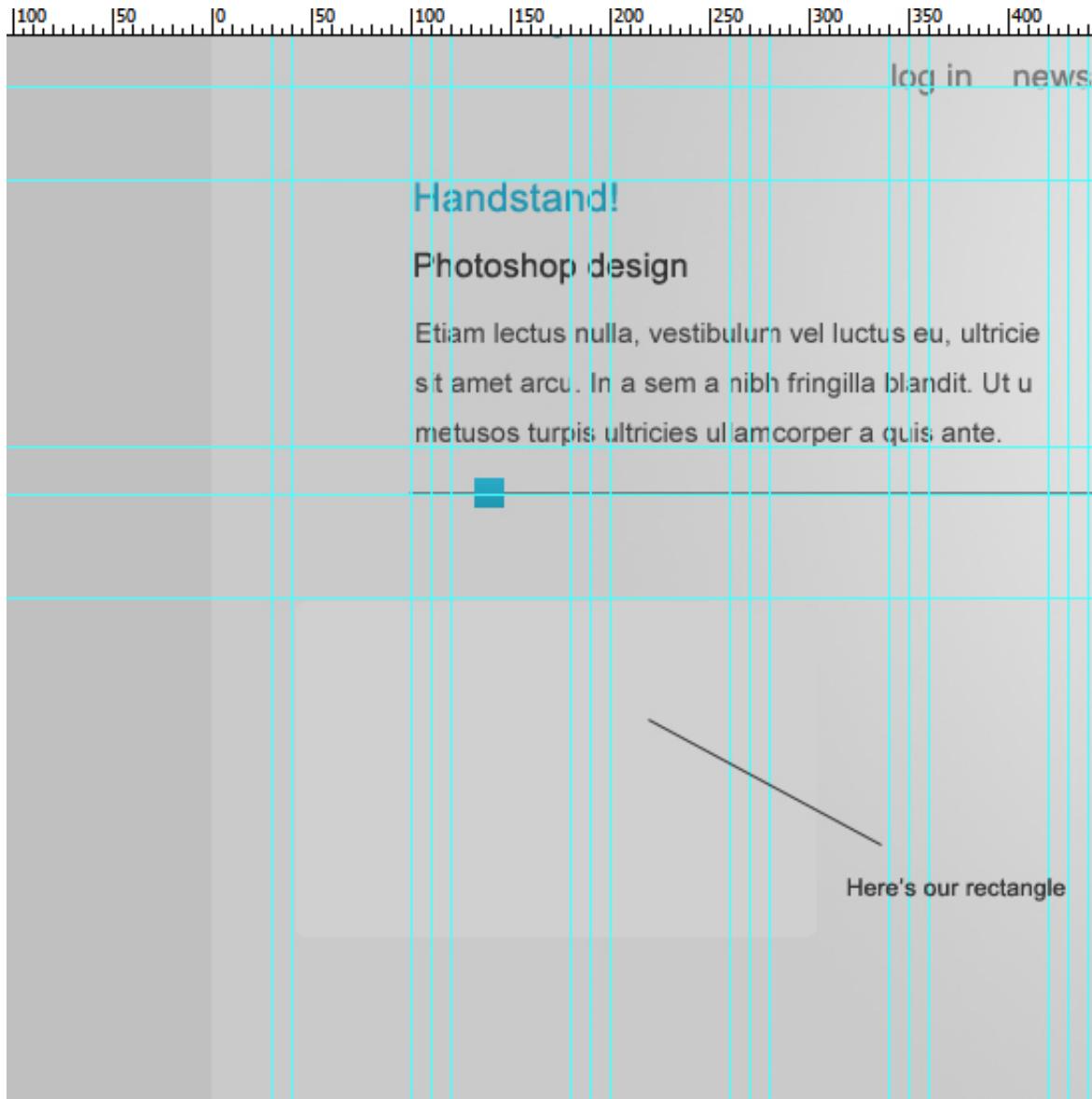
Creating the content boxes

First off, we need to set our boundaries. Drag a horizontal guide and put it on the slider line. Leave a **50px** gap, and then add another horizontal guide.



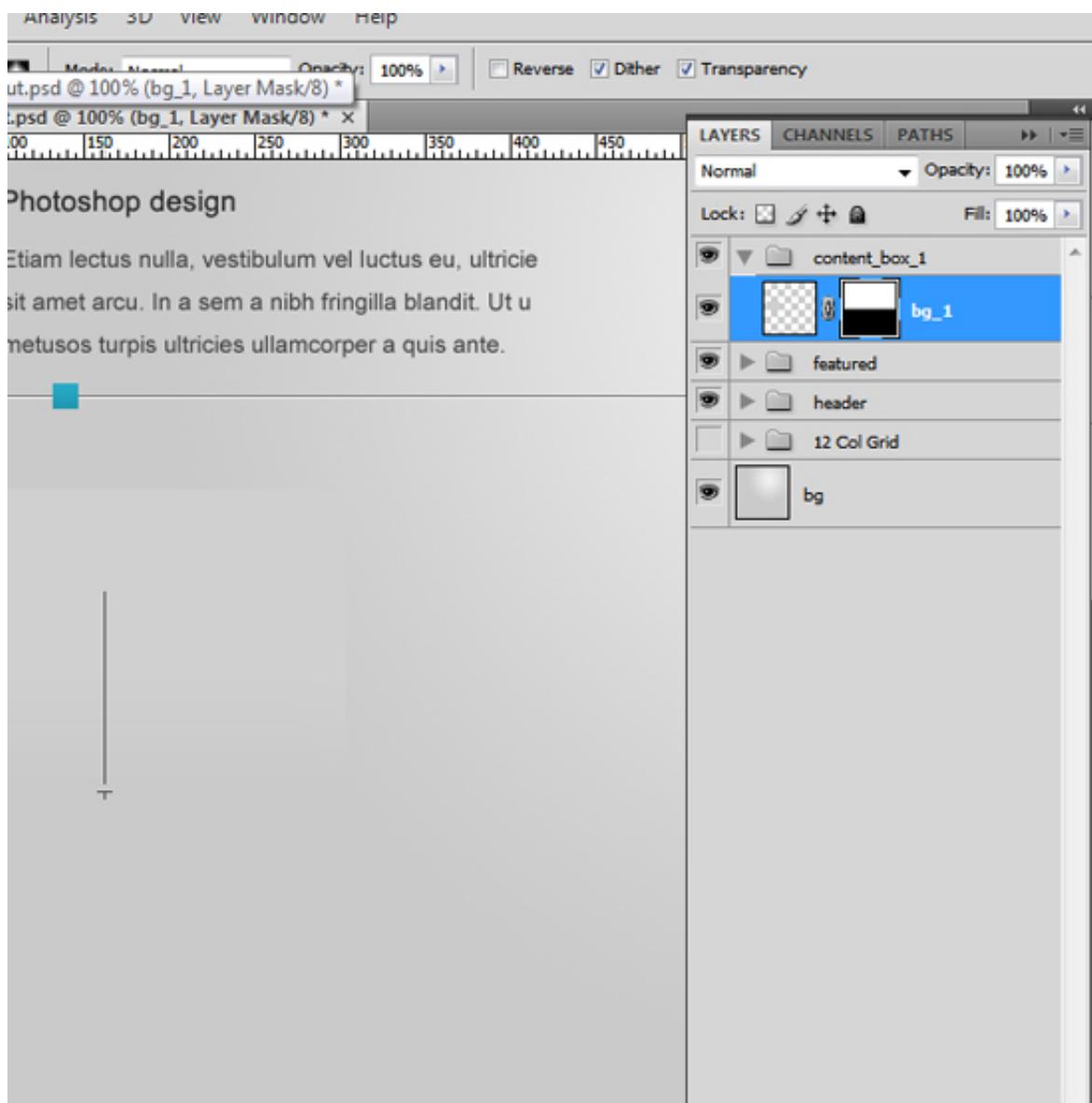
34 Now select the Round Rectangle Tool (U). Create a rectangle of **260px** width and **170px** height and a color of **#d0d0d0**. Call this layer **bg_1**.

35 Align the rectangle like the following reference image, using the Move Tool (V) to position them accurately.

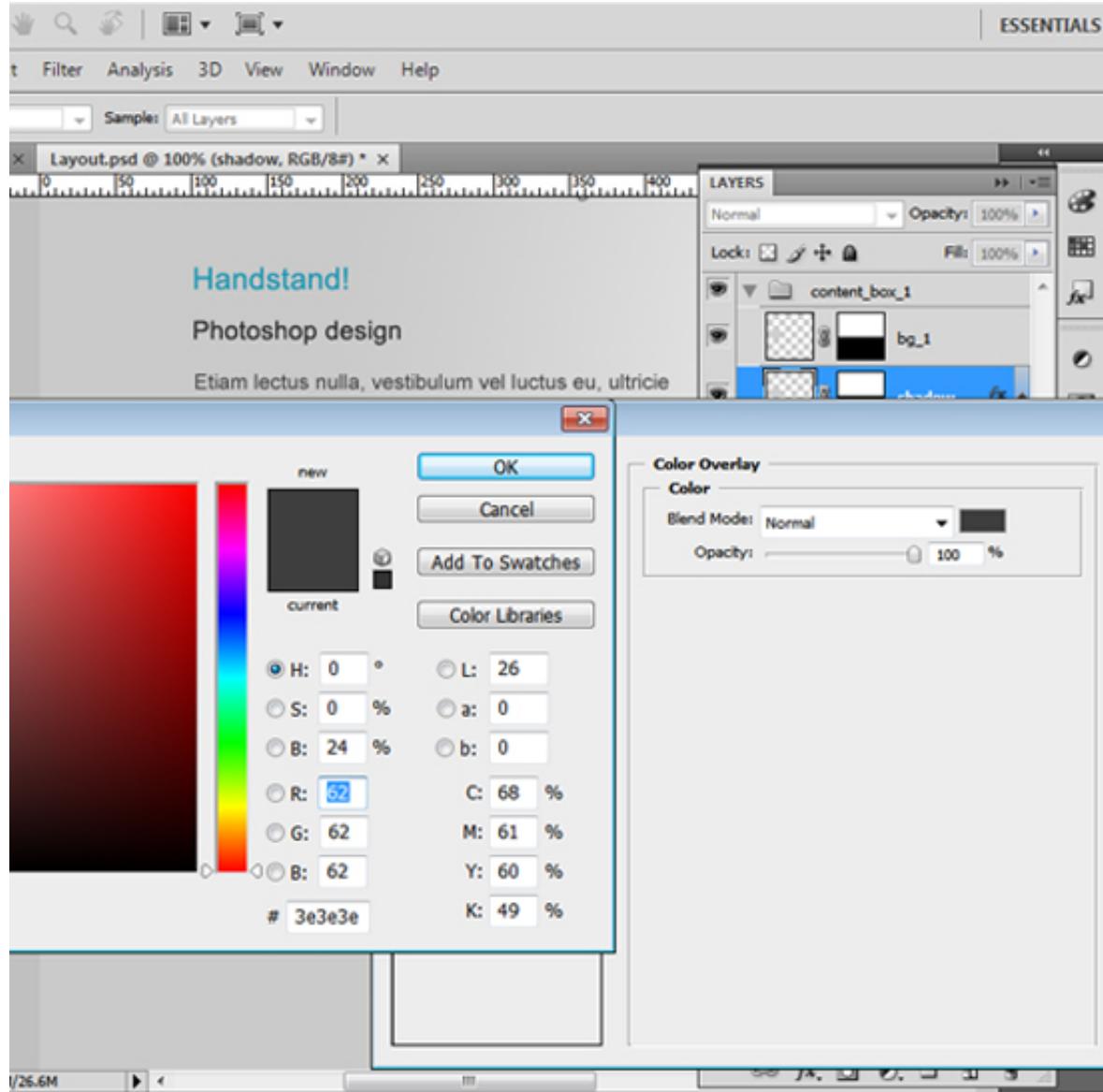


36 Right-click on the bg_1 layer in the Layers Panel and choose *Create Layer Mask* from the contextual menu.

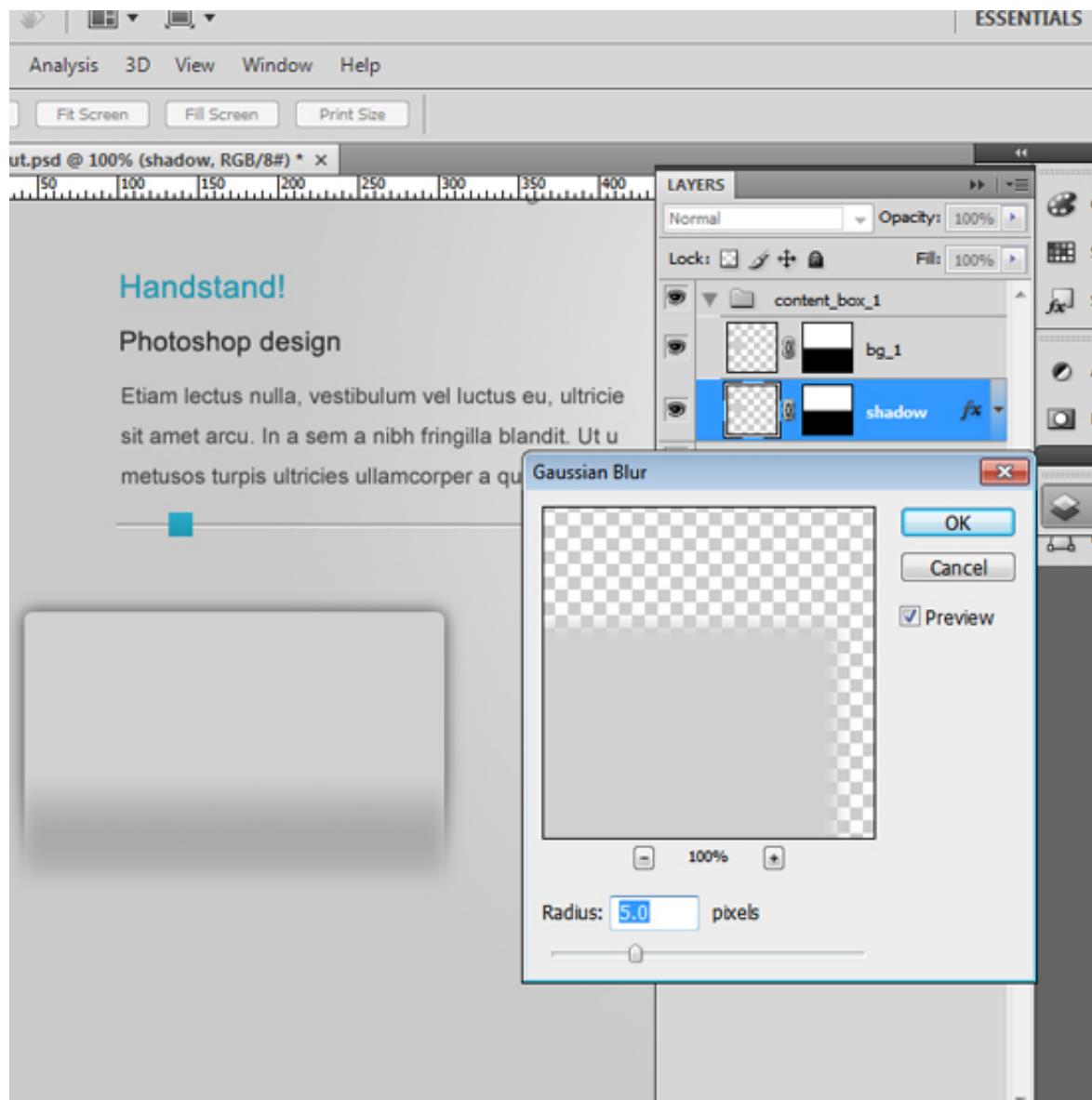
37 Select the Gradient Tool (G), set your foreground and background color to Black and White (press D to automatically reset the colors). With a linear gradient, drag from top to bottom until you're satisfied with the look.



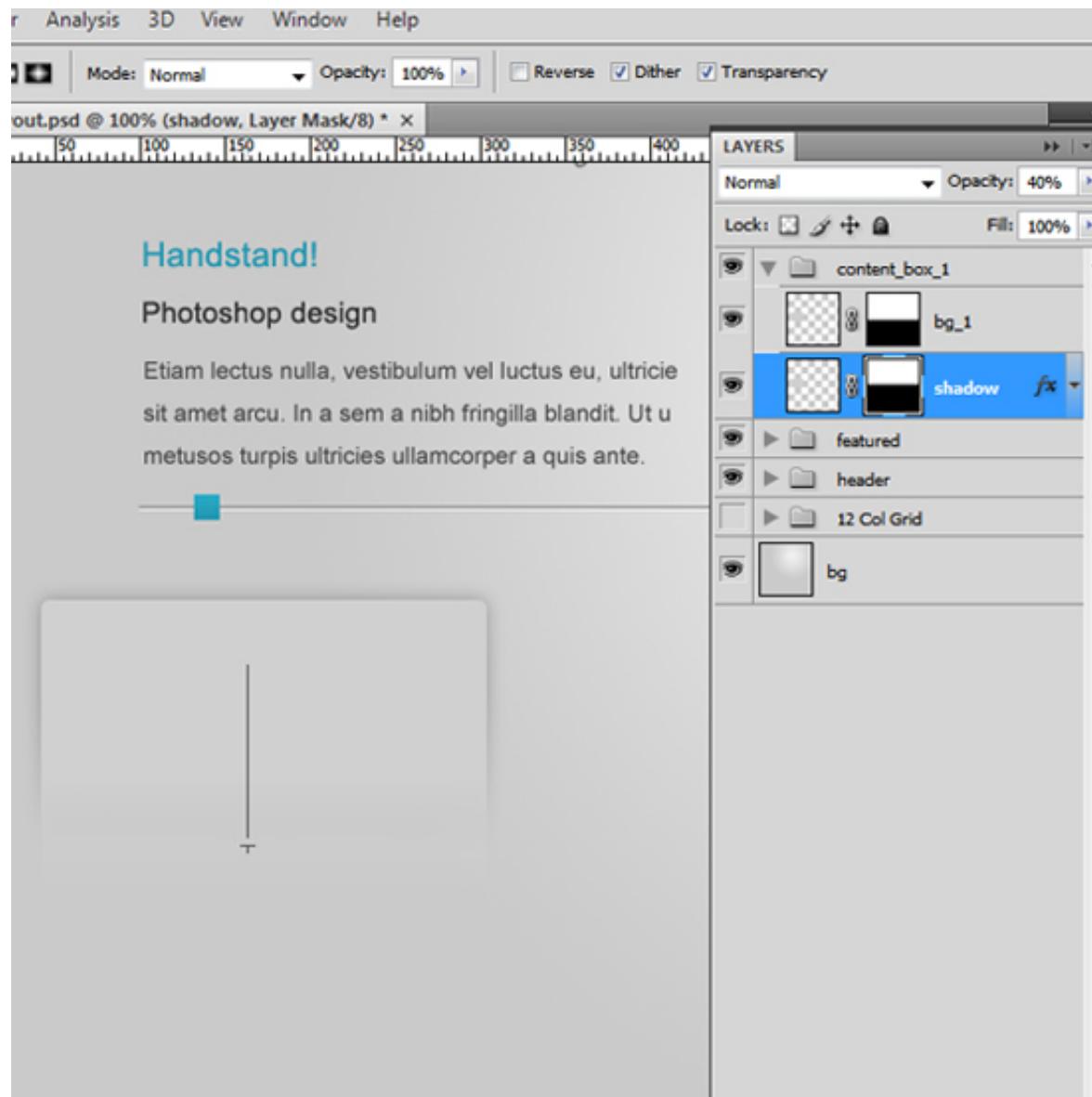
38 Now let's create the shadow. Duplicate the **bg_1** layer. Name the duplicated layer **shadow**. Place the layer beneath the **bg_1** layer. Then apply a Color Overlay layer style with a dark gray color (#**3e3e3e**).



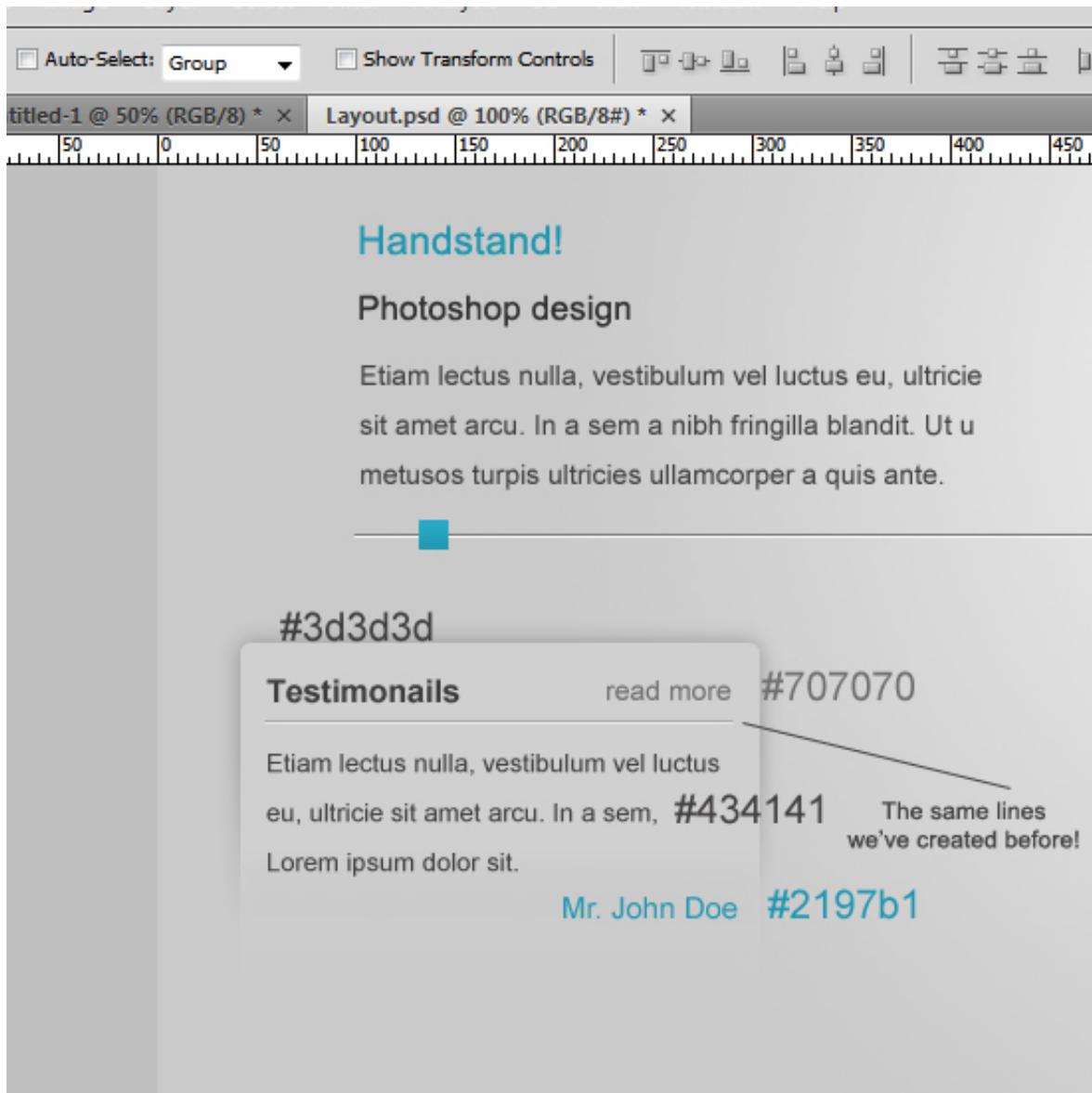
39 While having the shadow layer selected, go Filter > Blur > Gaussian Blur. Set the Blur Radius to **5.0px**.



40 Using Gradient Tool (G), adjust the layer mask until you have something like this:

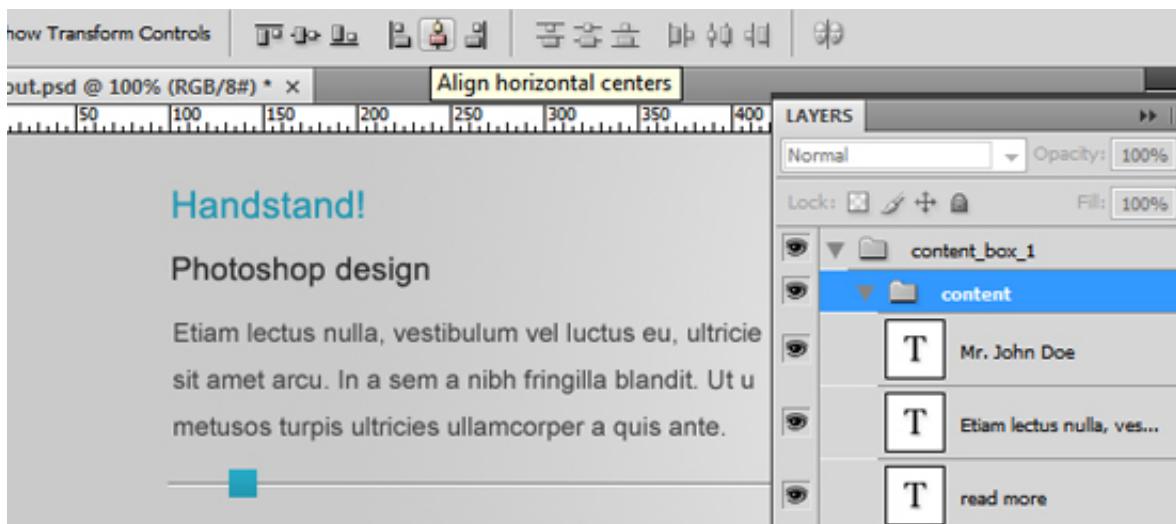


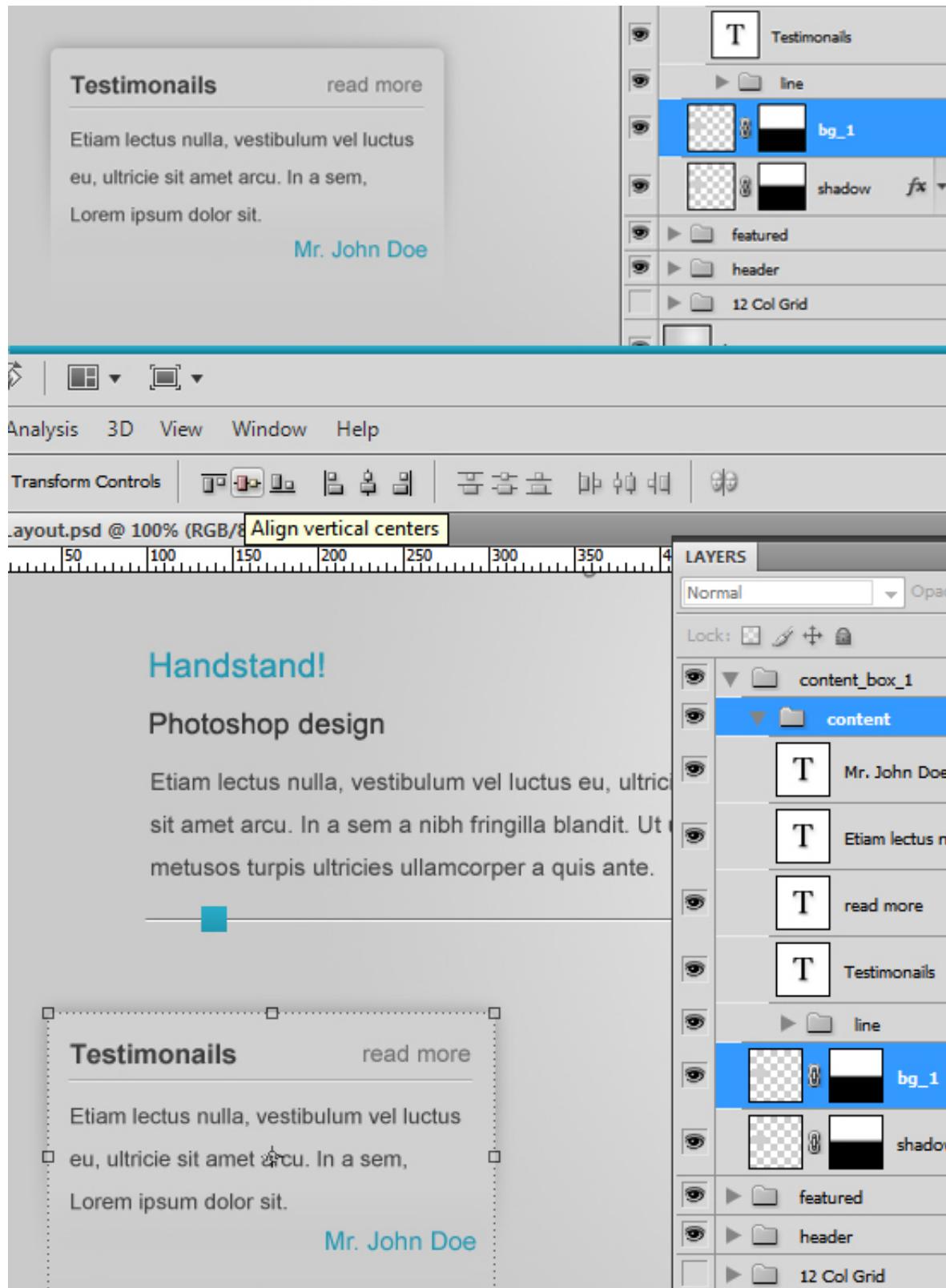
41 Add some content to the box. Below, you'll see what I ended up with.



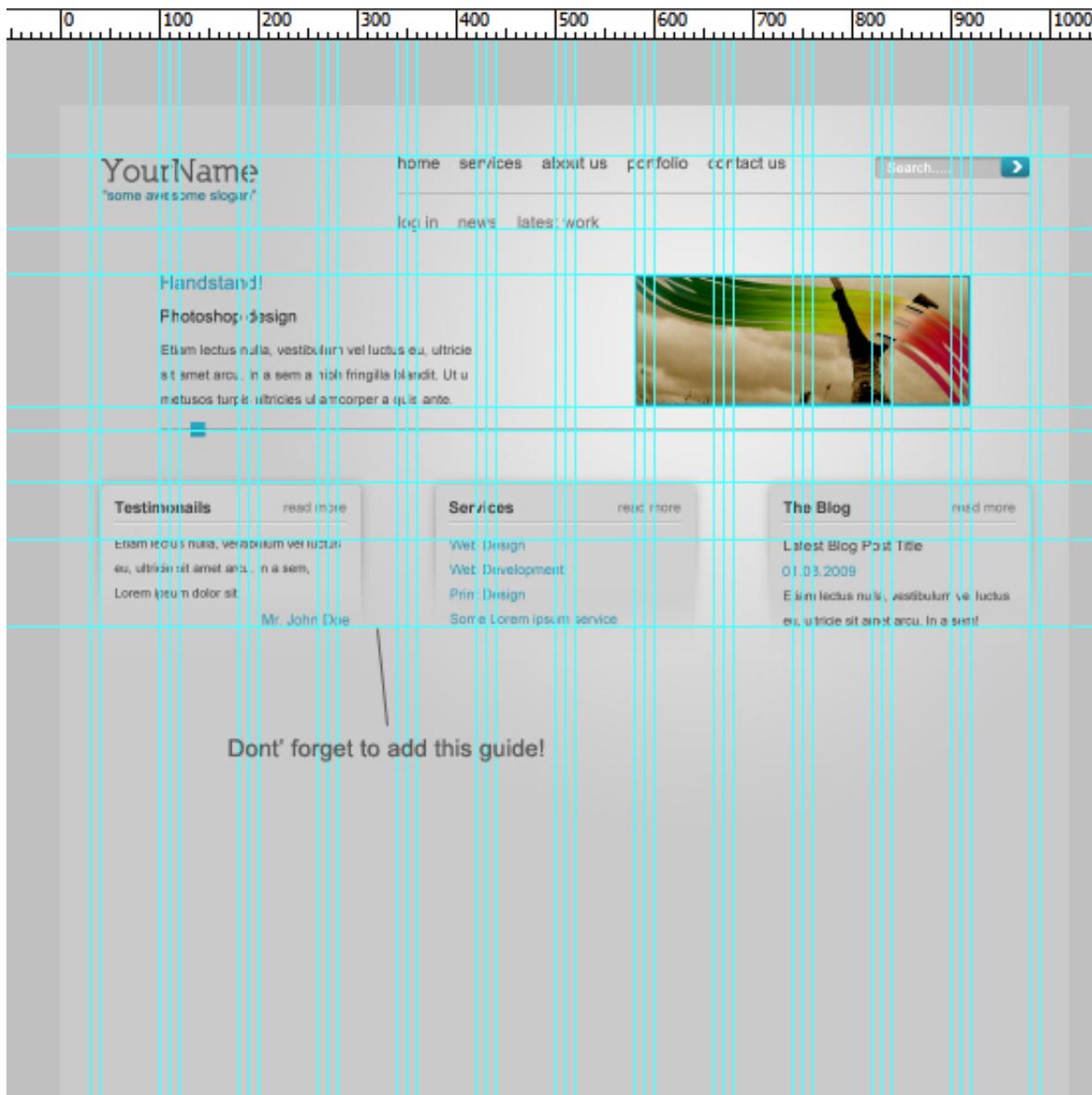
42 Group the content layers that you created into a group called **content**.

43 Now we want to align it. Select the content group, hold down the Ctrl/Cmd key, and select the bg_1 layer in the Layers Panel. Choose the Move Tool (V), and click on the *Align horizontal centers* option and the *Align vertical centers* option to position them.

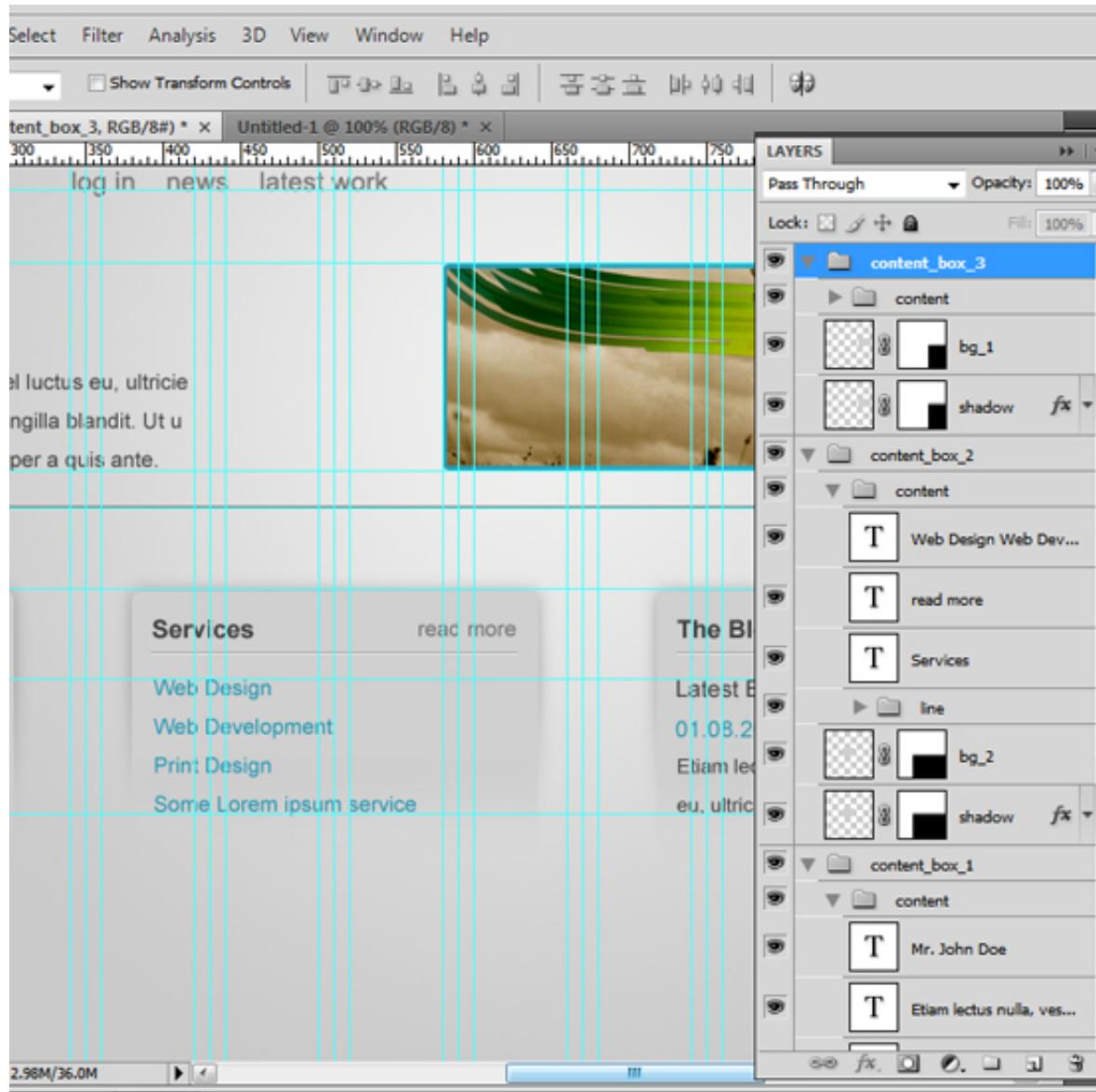




44 Now make two copies of this box by duplicating the layers of the original content box we just created. Align them, change the content, and don't forget to add a horizontal guide at the bottom.

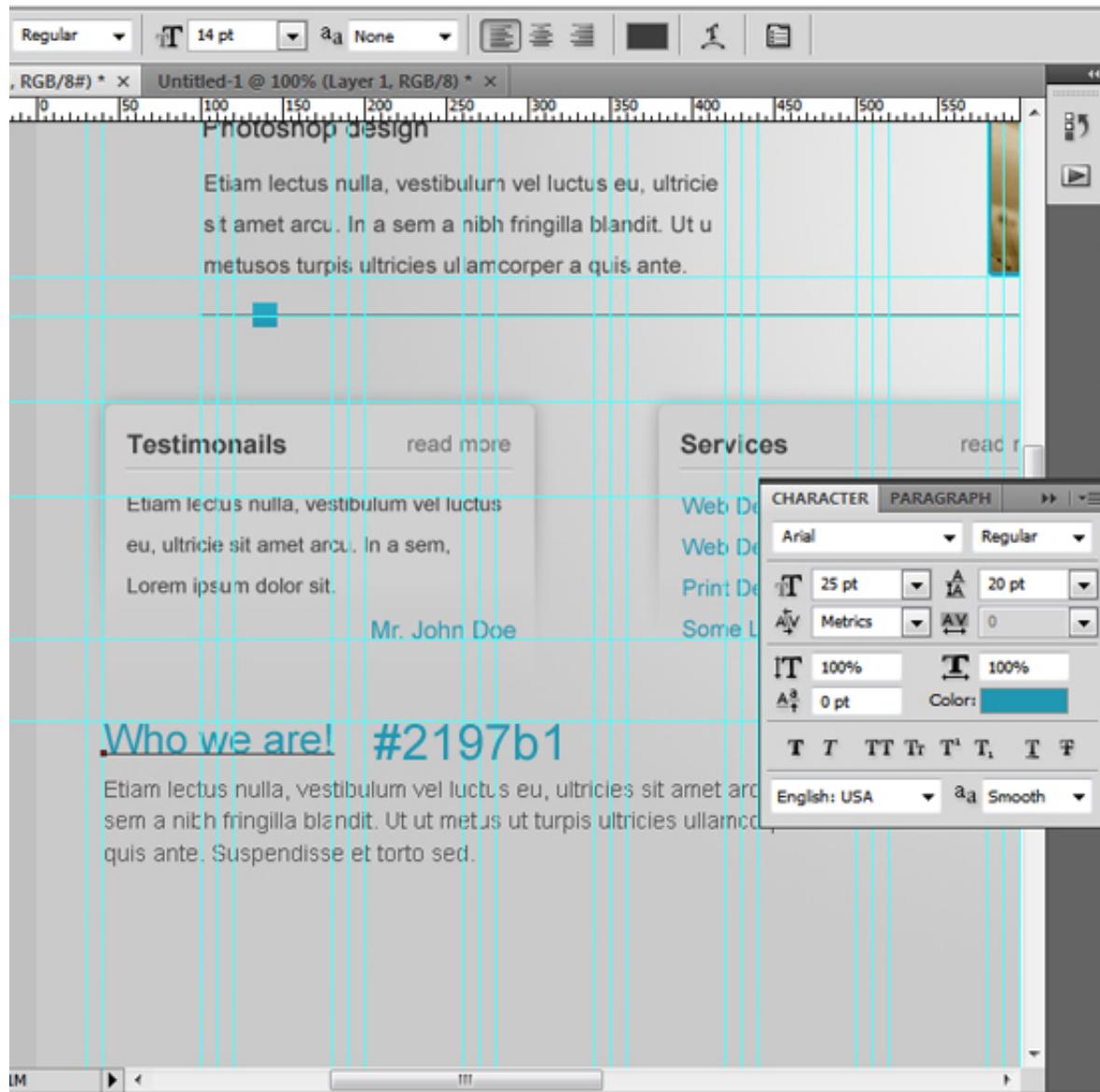


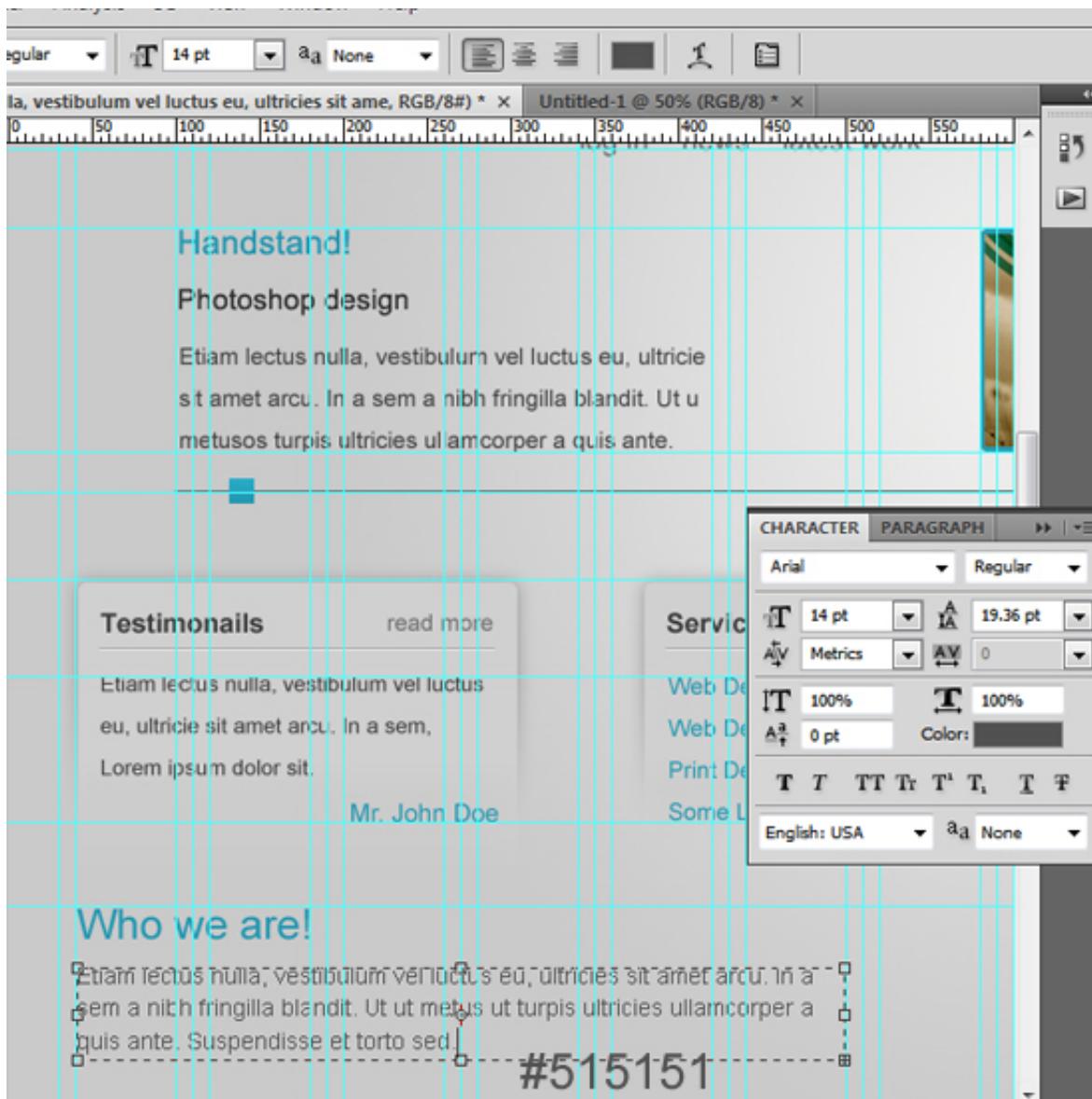
45 Let's check back and make sure that all of our layers are organized; use the screenshot of my layers as reference.



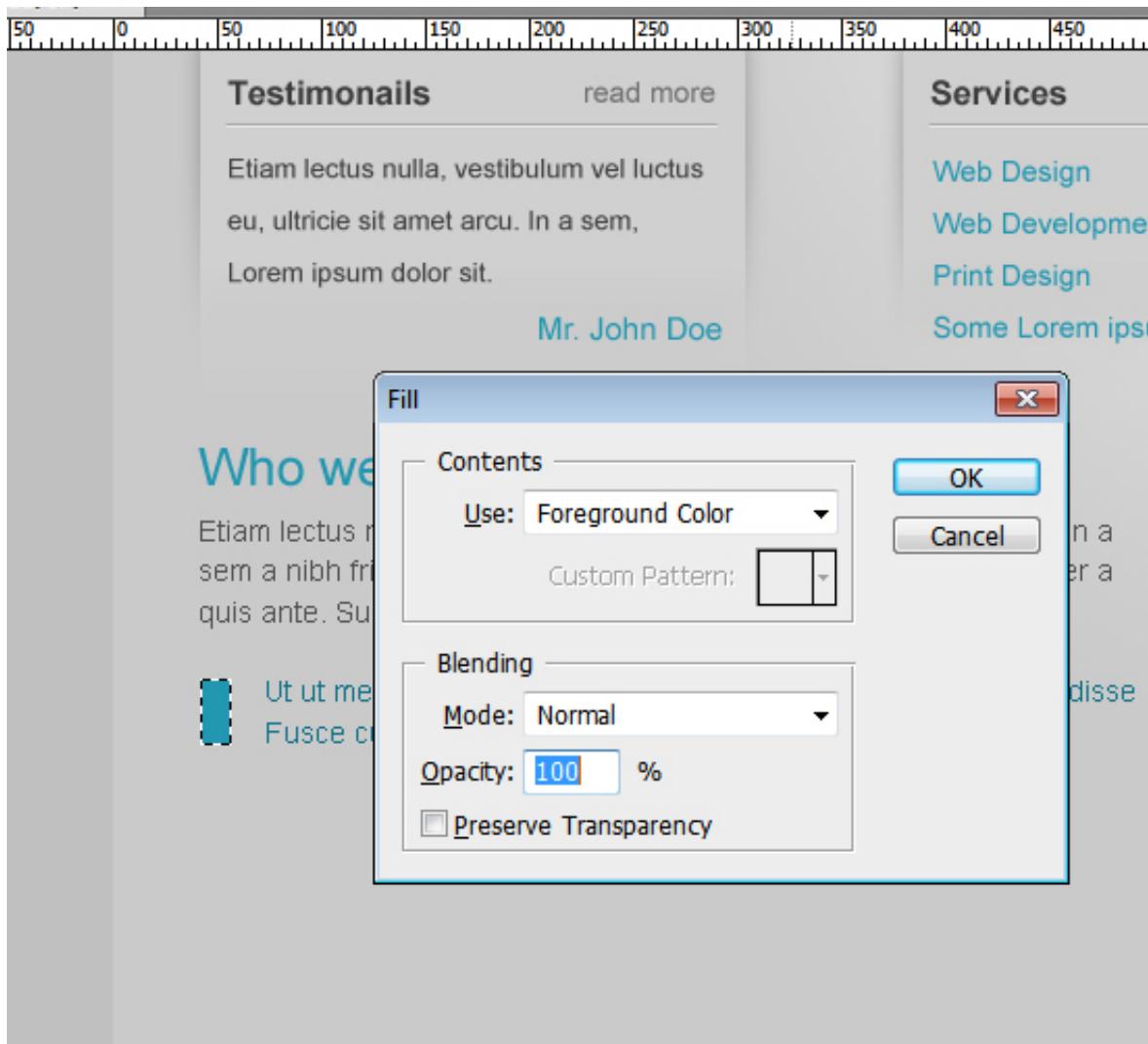
Creating the main content area

46 Leave a **50px** gap and drag a new horizontal guide. Start adding your content and align it according to the following image.

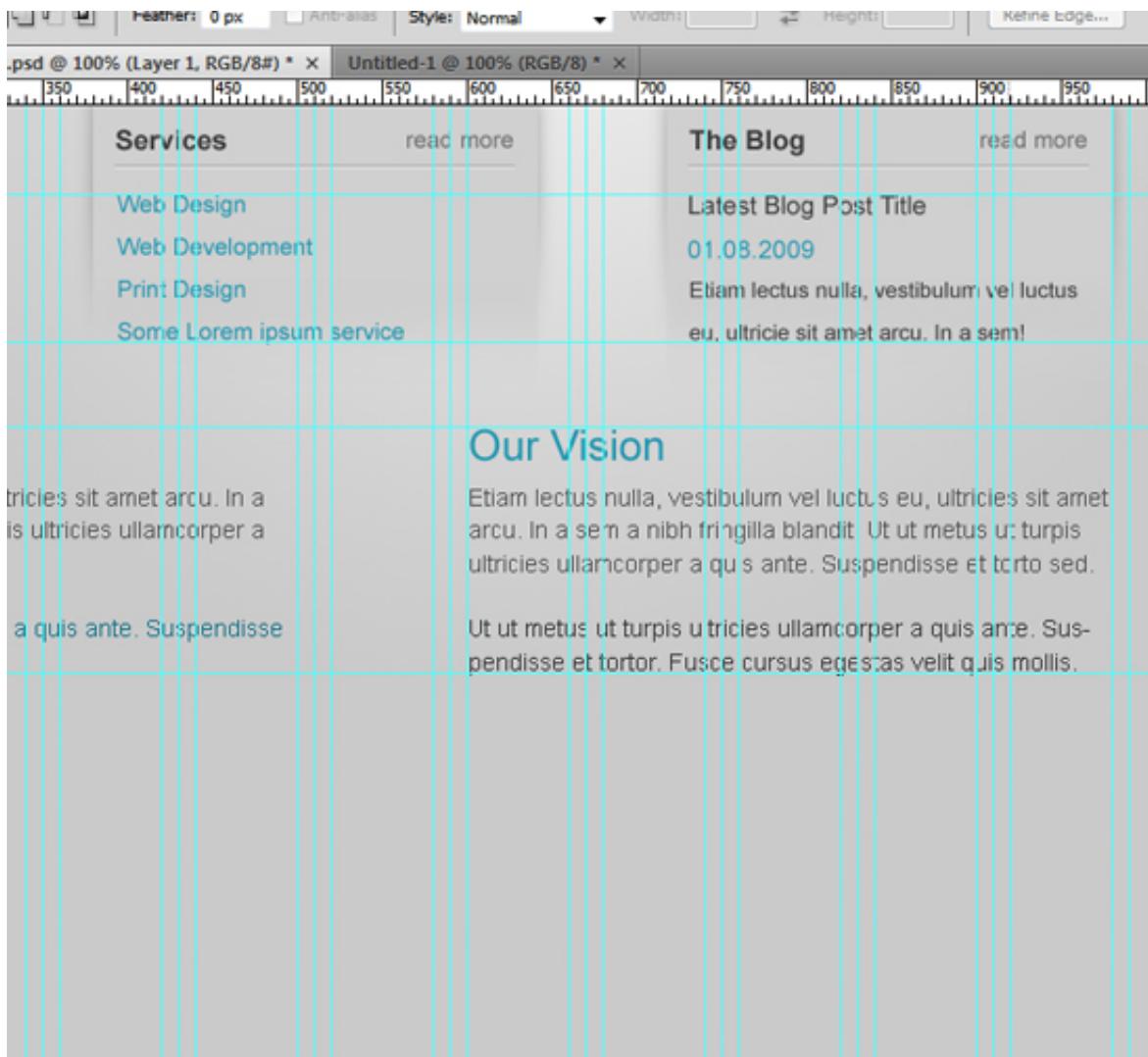




47 Let's make it look a bit better. We'll select Rectangular Marquee Tool (M). In the Style option, choose *Fixed Size* with a fixed width of **15px** and a fixed height of **30px**. Set your foreground color to **#12197b** and fill the rectangular marquee selection with the color (Press Ctrl/Cmd + Backspace to fill).



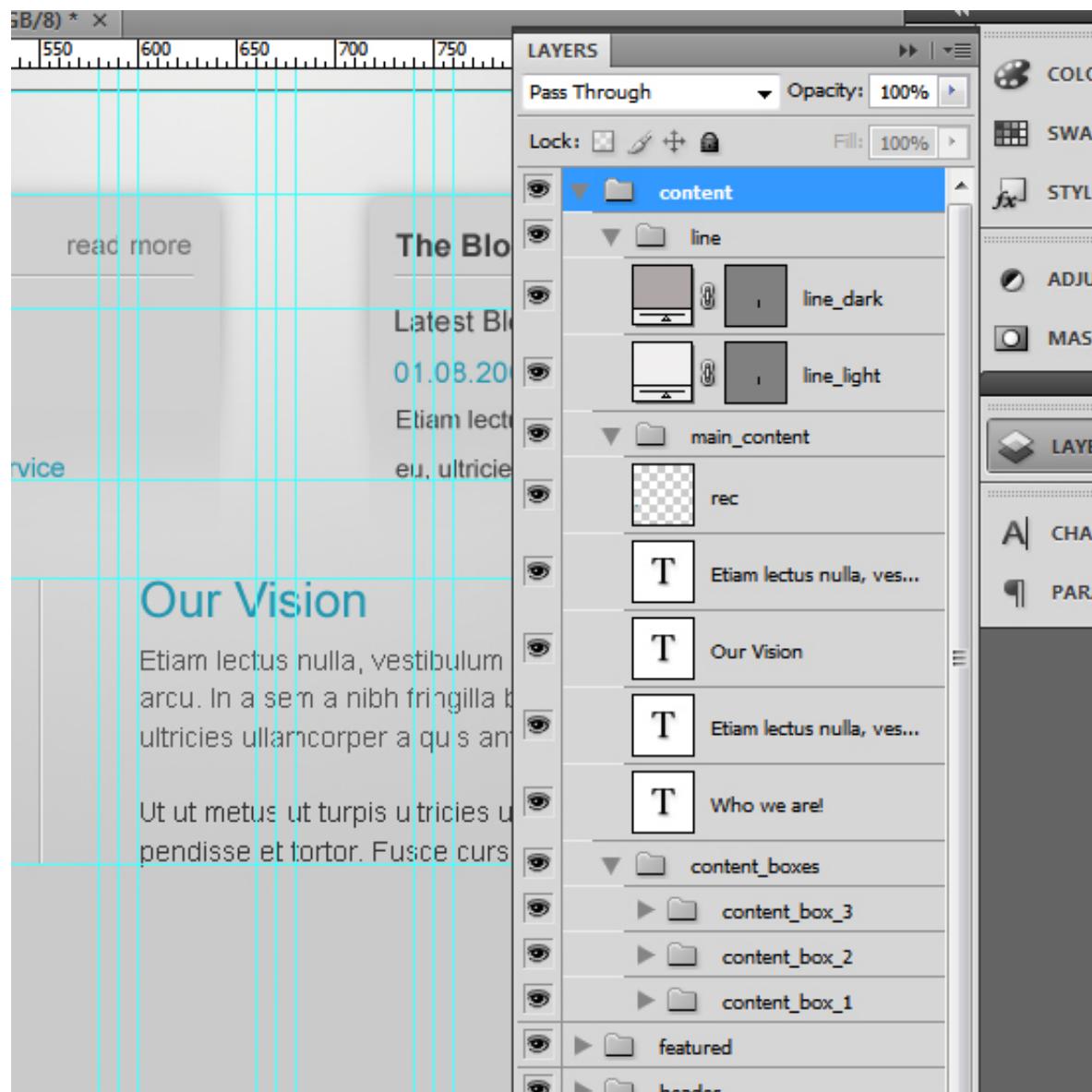
48 Using the same settings, you can add some content in the right side.



49 Drag a new horizontal guide at the bottom. Add a separating line; use the following image for reference.



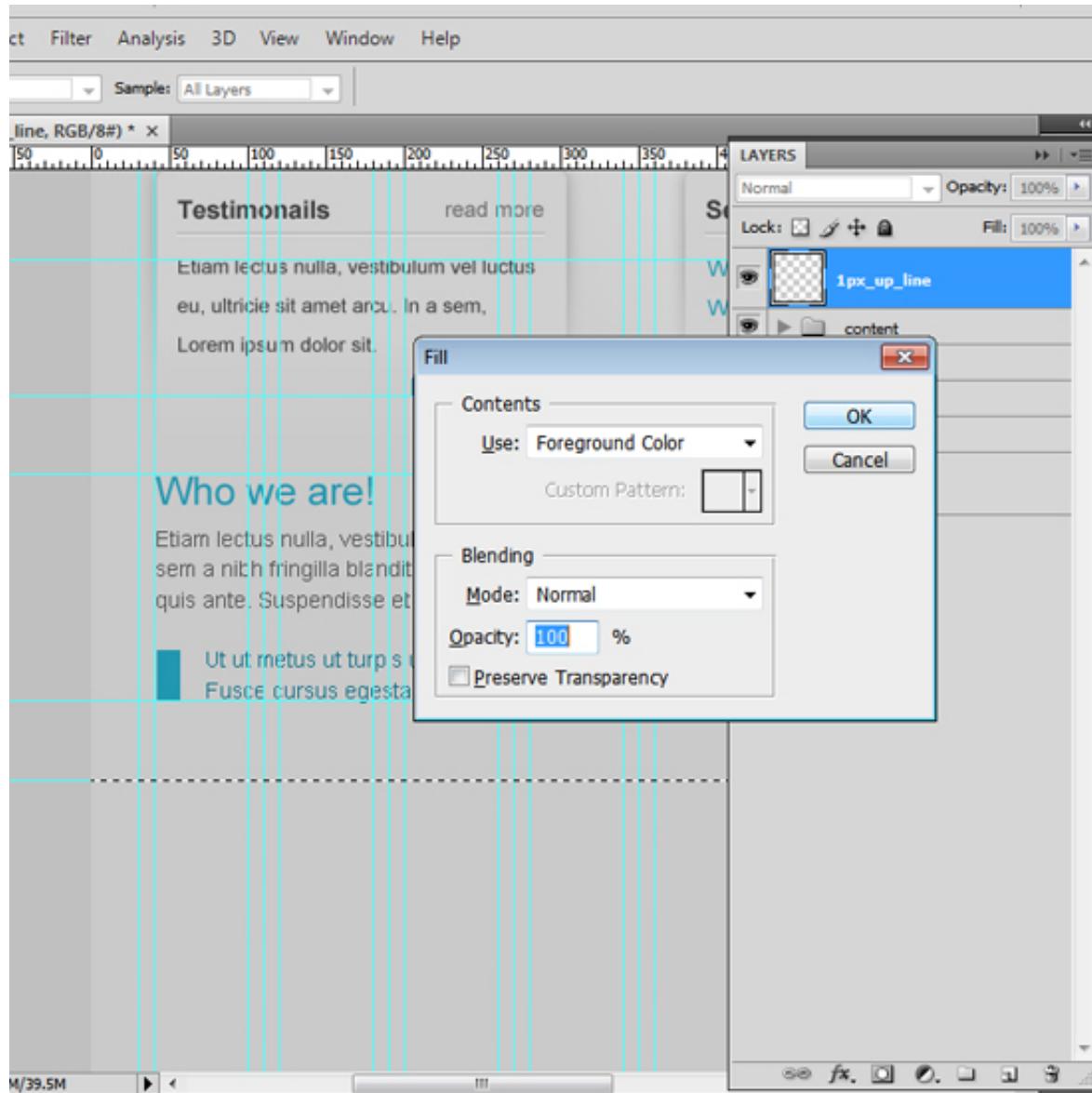
50 Check back to see all your layers are organized, using the following image as reference.



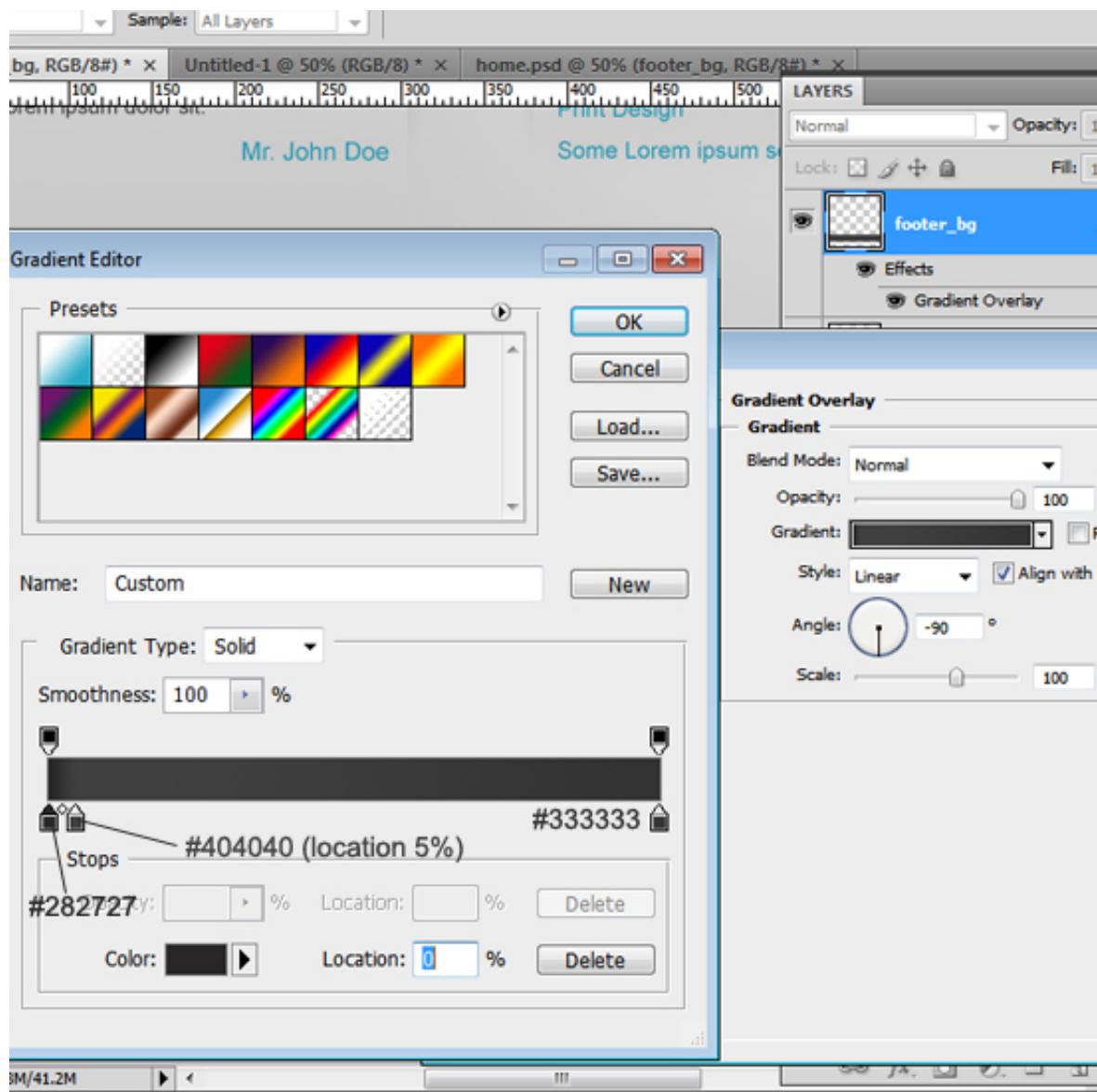
Creating footer area

51 We'll start with the footer area creation by (again) creating a new horizontal Guide. Leave a **50px** gap between the guide above, and drag a new horizontal guide!

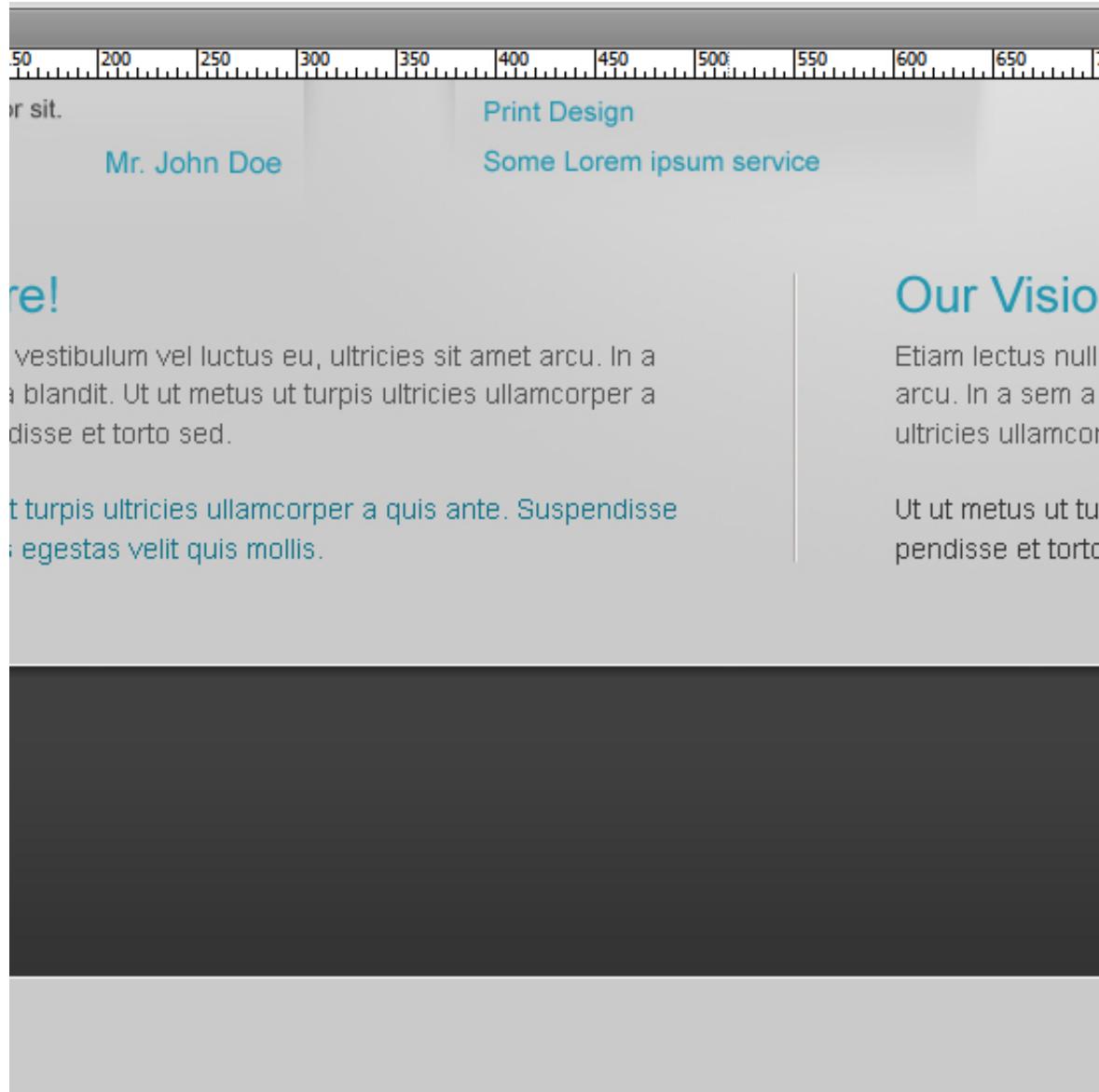
52 Select the Single Row Marquee Tool (M). Set your foreground color to white (#**ffffff**). Click on the canvas to create the marquee selection. Then press Ctrl/Cmd + Backspace to fill it. Call this layer **1px_upper_line**.



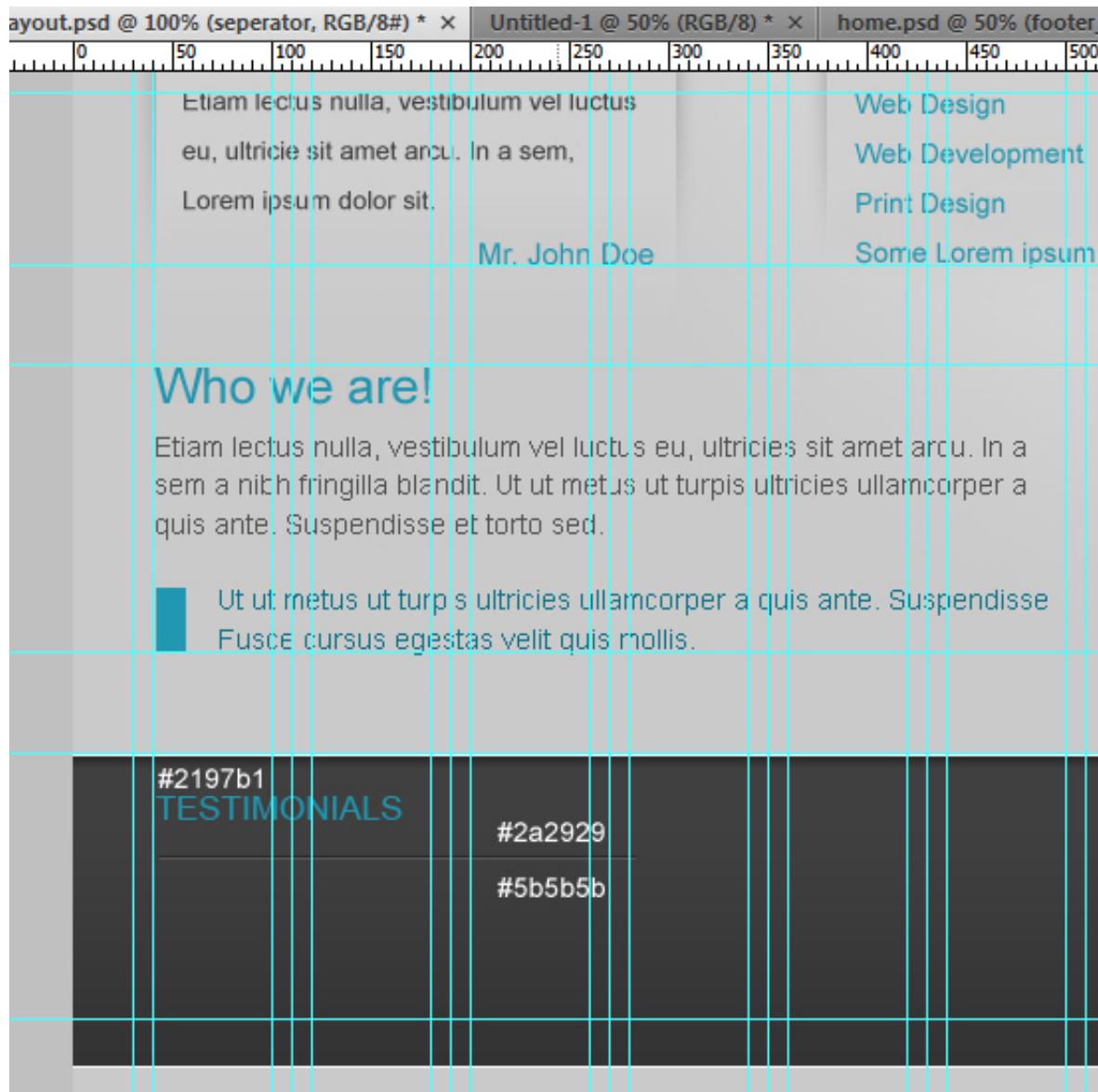
53 Select Rectangular Marquee Tool (M) and create a rectangle of **1020px** width (it spans the entire width of the canvas, and **160px** height. This will be the background of the footer area. Fill it with any color. Apply a Gradient Overlay layer style to it using the following settings.

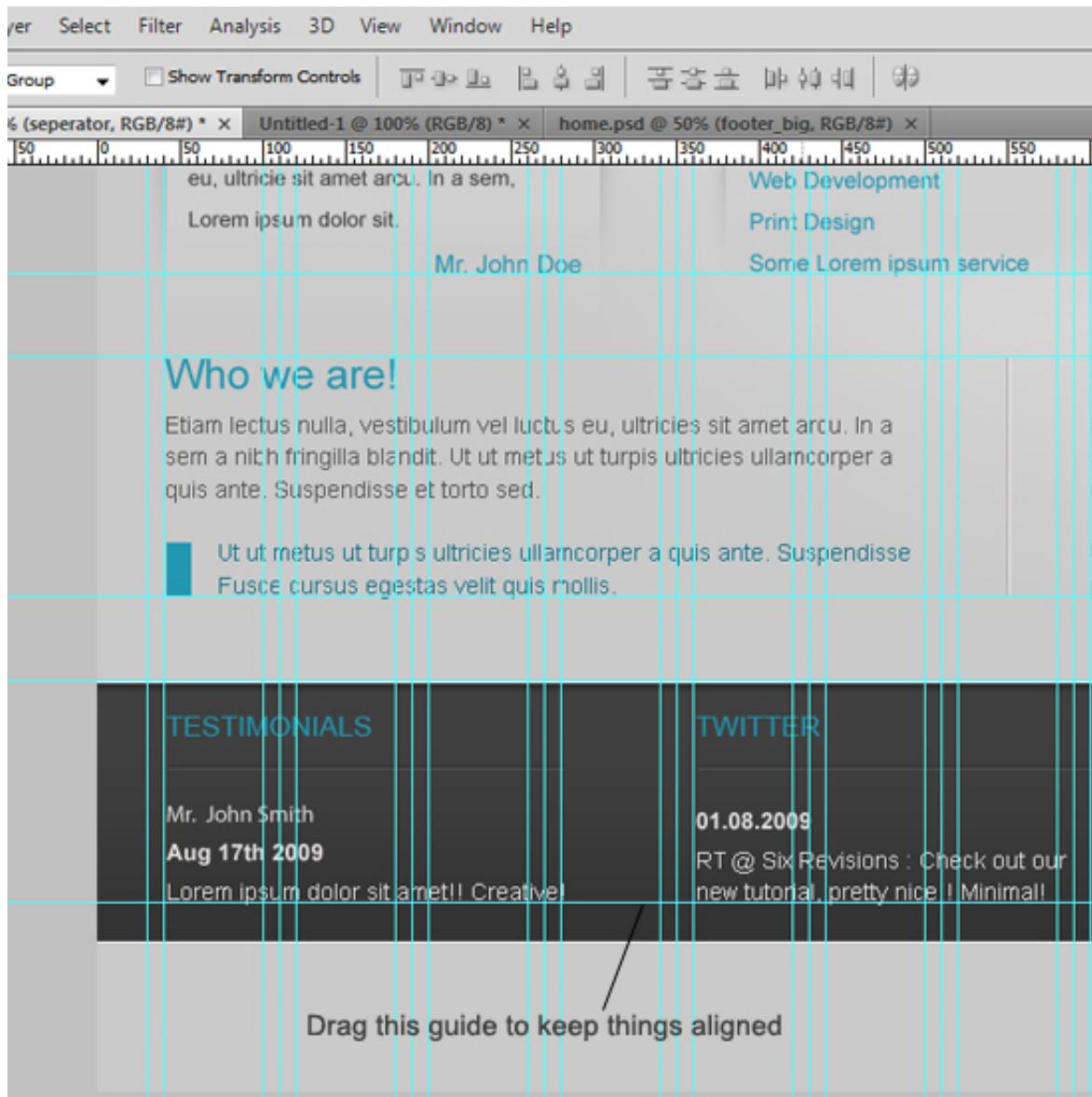


54 Duplicate the `1px_upper_line` layer and move it to the bottom of the footer, call it whatever name you want, but I've called mine `1px_down_line`. Here's how it looks.



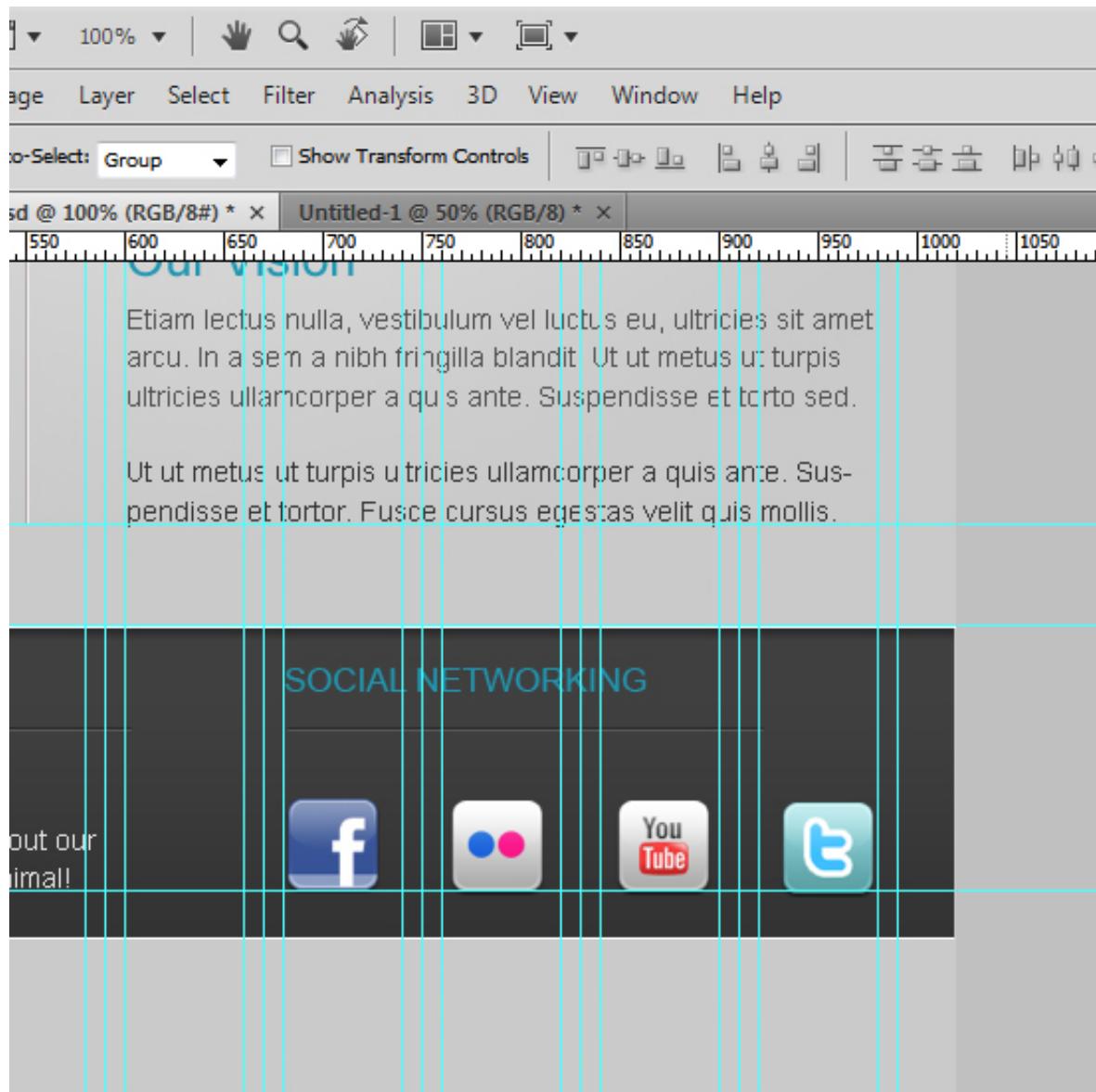
55 Start adding some content; use the following images for reference:





56 You can download the social media icons from deviantART – they're called [Aquaticus.Social](#) by [Junwei](#).

57 Align them like in the following image:



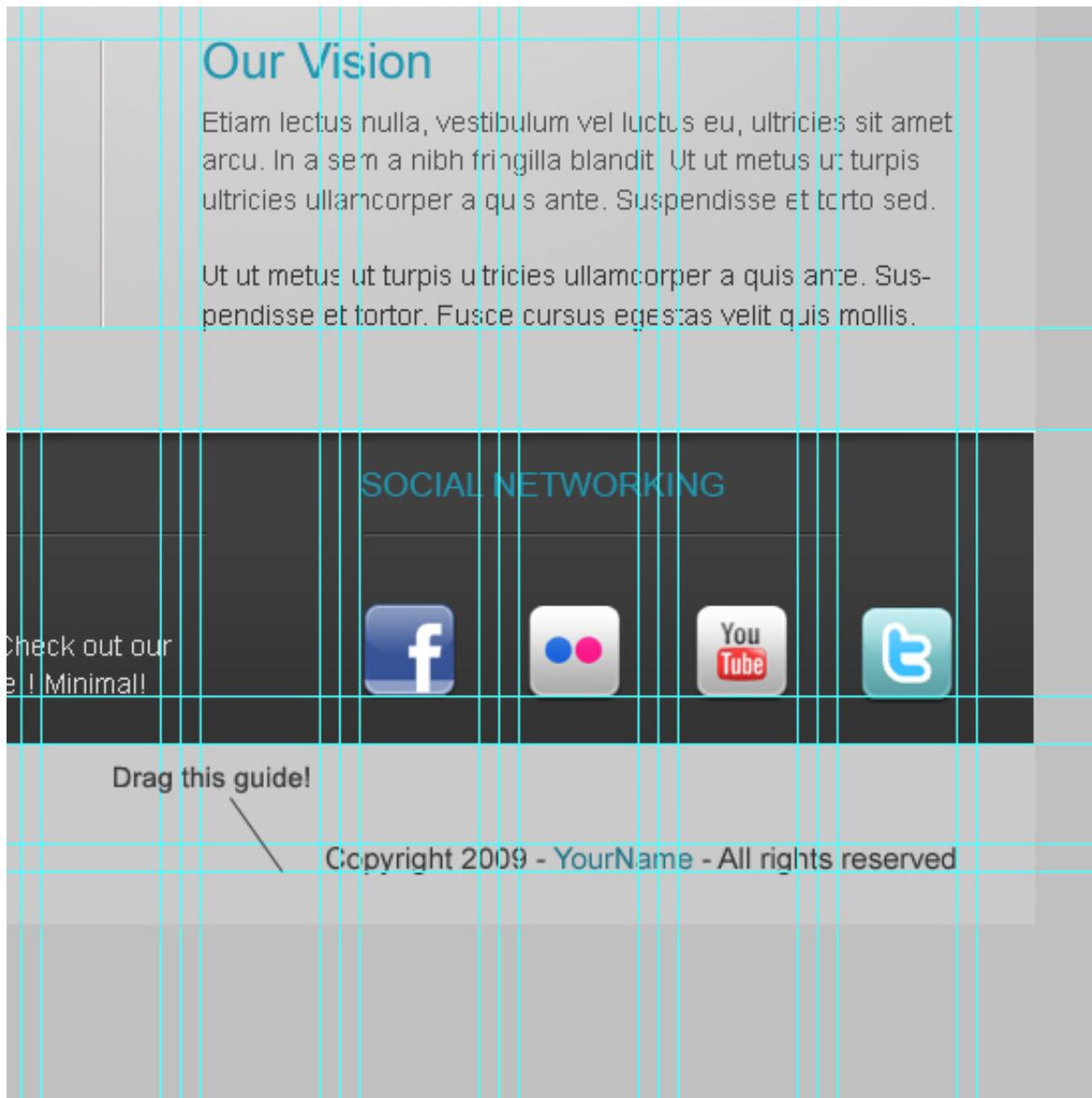
Creating the small footer

58 Drag a new horizontal guide at the bottom of the big (brown footer), leave a **50px gap**, then add a new horizontal guide.

59 Then write your footer navigation text like so:

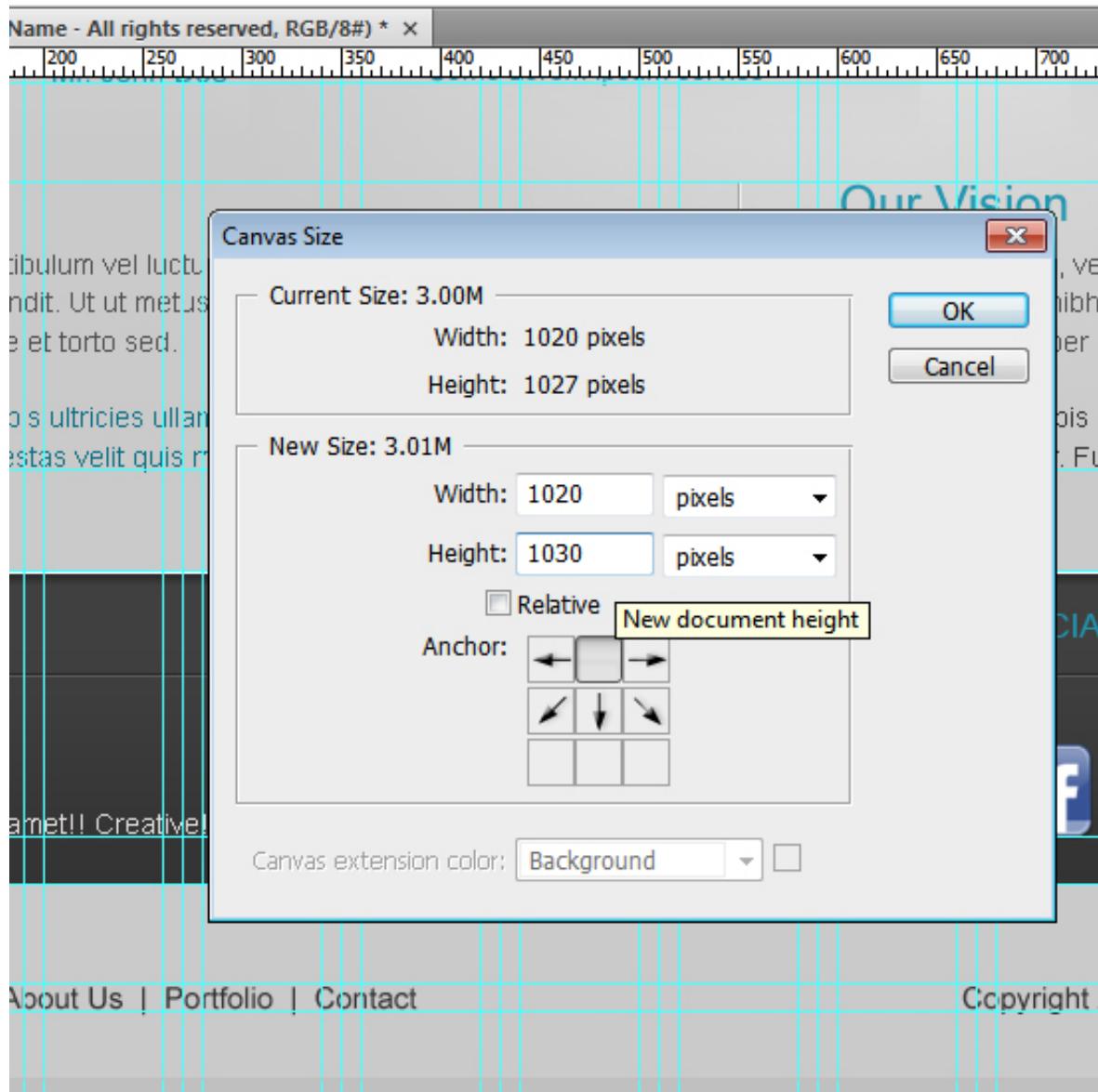
The screenshot shows a Photoshop document with a grid background. At the top, there's a header section with the text "Mr. JOHN DUE" and "Some Lorem ipsum". Below this is a large white area containing the heading "Who we are!". Underneath the heading is a paragraph of placeholder text: "Etiam lectus nulla, vestibulum vel luctus eu, ultricies sit amet arcu. In a sem a nibh fringilla blandit. Ut ut metus ut turpis ultricies ullamcorper a quis ante. Suspendisse et torto sed." To the left of this text is a small teal square icon. Below the main text is another paragraph: "Ut ut metus ut turpis ultricies ullamcorper a quis ante. Suspendisse Fusce cursus egestas velit quis mollis." On the left side of the main content area, there's a dark vertical bar with the text "Drag this guide" and a diagonal line. To the right of the main content, there's a sidebar with sections for "TESTIMONIALS" (containing "Mr. John Smith" and "Aug 17th 2009"), "TWITTER" (containing "01.08.2009" and "RT @ Six Revisions : new tutorial, pretty nice!"), and two color swatches "#207687" and "#313131". At the bottom, there's a navigation menu with links: "Home | Services | About Us | Portfolio | Contact". A note "Leave 50px then add this one!" with a slash is positioned between the sidebar and the footer.

60 Write the copyright text and align it to the right, add a **final** horizontal guide.



Adjusting the canvas size

61 Finally, we need to leave another 50px gap between the footer navigation, copyright text and the borders in order to do that, we'll adjust our canvas size.



Conclusion

And there we have it! We've created a clean and minimalist layout design!

YourName
"some awesome slogan"

home services about us portfolio contact us

Search.....

log in news latest work

Handstand!
Photoshop design

Etiam lectus nulla, vestibulum vel luctus eu, ultricies sit amet arcu. In a sem a nibh fringilla blandit. Ut ut metus turpis ultricies ullamcorper a quis ante.



Testimonials [read more](#)

Etiam lectus nulla, vestibulum vel luctus eu, ultricies sit amet arcu. In a sem. Lorem ipsum dolor sit.

Mr. John Doe

Services [read more](#)

Web Design
Web Development
Print Design
Some Lorem ipsum service

The Blog [read more](#)

Latest Blog Post Title
01.08.2009
Etiam lectus nulla, vestibulum vel luctus eu, ultricies sit amet arcu. In a sem!

Who we are!

Etiam lectus nulla, vestibulum vel luctus eu, ultricies sit amet arcu. In a sem a nibh fringilla blandit. Ut ut metus ut turpis ultricies ullamcorper a quis ante. Suspendisse et torto sed.

Ut ut metus ut turpis ultricies ullamcorper a quis ante. Suspendisse Fusce cursus egestas velit quis mollis.

Our Vision

Etiam lectus nulla, vestibulum vel luctus eu, ultricies sit amet arcu. In a sem a nibh fringilla blandit. Ut ut metus ut turpis ultricies ullamcorper a quis ante. Suspendisse et torto sed.

Ut ut metus ut turpis ultricies ullamcorper a quis ante. Suspendisse et torto. Fusce cursus egestas velit quis mollis.

TESTIMONIALS

Mr. John Smith
Aug 17th 2009
Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet!! Creative!!

TWITTER

01.08.2009
RT @ Six Revisions : Check out our new tutorial, pretty nice!! Minimal!

SOCIAL NETWORKING

[Home](#) | [Services](#) | [About Us](#) | [Portfolio](#) | [Contact](#)

Copyright 2009 - YourName - All rights reserved

Download source file

You want a PSD copy don't you? Here's a ZIP archive that contains a PSD, and a JPG preview, get it now!

- [slick-minimal-layout.zip](#) (4.97MB, ZIP)

Related Content

- [Create a Winter Theme Web Design in Photoshop](#)
- [Create an Animated “Call to Action” Button](#)
- [Design a Minimal and Modern Portfolio Layout with Photoshop](#)
- *Related categories:* [Tutorials](#) and [Web Design](#)

About the Author



Mahmoud Khaled a web and graphics designer from Egypt. He's also a blogger and tutorial writer. At a young age of 15, he already shows skills equivalent to his much older counterparts. Send him a tweet [@Mkhaled1](#), connect with him [on Facebook](#), and visit his site and blog called [mkhaled.com](#).

228

tweets

retweet

72 Comments



Graham

January 8th, 2010

Really awesome tutorial, so easy to follow with the images :-)



Angela

January 8th, 2010

That is one talented 15 year old :)
Great tutorial.



Ben

January 8th, 2010

Great post, love minimal designs. It takes much more work than one would think.



Jon Rawlins

January 8th, 2010

Great Tutorial for a simplistic design. I love inspirational tutorials like this.

Keep up the good work.



Amanda Radley

January 8th, 2010

Personally I'd never use this, I like WordPress too much and it's nice and easy for a blonde like me. However I love this tutorial, it's back to basics, easy to use and creates impressive results. Well done and thank you for sharing.



Milos Milikic

January 8th, 2010

Nice one!



Nick

January 8th, 2010

Very nice articel and qool design =)



Jacob Gube

January 8th, 2010

Hi everyone, thank you for the encouraging words that you've given Mahmoud. I think he did a wonderful job here, and his tutorial was very well-explained and detailed. I hope that if you follow along the tutorial, that you'd upload your final work on the [Six Revisions Flickr showcase](#) so that we can keep building it together as a community.

@Angela: After reading Mahmoud's submission, I pretty much said the same thing. What adds to my amazement is not only that such a young individual can create a beautiful layout, but also write a great

tutorial on his process that's well-explained and easy to follow.



Gilberto Ramos

January 8th, 2010

Thanks!! following you on twitter since now ;)



Leandro

January 8th, 2010

Isn't too much gray? Looks a bit dark.



Jordan Walker

January 8th, 2010

Great job!



Alex Yamaguti

January 8th, 2010

Nice tutorial Mahmoud! :9



kutchbhi

January 8th, 2010

Ok that's very elegant. But exactly how do we go from psd > html/css ?

**vik**

January 8th, 2010

cool man!

but how to take this to html?

i am always stuck on that part:(



Juliana Garcia Sales

January 8th, 2010

Congratulations! A beautiful layout in a very accessible tutorial. Thank you! =D



Zak Groner

January 8th, 2010

Haha, another teenage web designer. :)

Nice tutorial, the final outcome is great, my only criticisms are the paragraphs at the bottom. The left one is longer than the one on the right- it just looks odd to me.

**nicolas**

January 8th, 2010

Nice!

Question: How it works later ?(links, html, code, etc)

How I convert it in html page?

Bye and thanks



Rishi Luchun

January 8th, 2010

Perfect been looking for something like this!

Thanks

**Barbara**

January 8th, 2010

Excellent Tutorial. It was very well thought out and easy to follow. Mahmoud, you have a very promising future!

**Tom**

January 8th, 2010

Great stuff. However, from the CSS aspect of using the 960 system, the design breaks the grid a few times here and there. As I have worked with it, I have noticed that the 12 column system doesn't give you enough flexibility. There actually is a 24 column system now (960.gs lets you build your own with as many columns as you want, actually). Now you might think it's crazy e.g. "Why not just make a grid with 960 columns while you're at it" but the 24 column one is pretty nice because it still gives you the framework for being able to line up columns but the columns are smaller so the width jumps from a grid_1 to grid_2, for example, are less jarring and give the design a more organic, less griddy look. The point is having that nice floating/clearing architecture in place while trying to make it not look so much like a grid.

**Mahmoud**

January 8th, 2010

Thanks a lot everyone for your encouraging and nice words :)

**Callum Chapman**

January 8th, 2010

Very talented 15 year old indeed, great tutorial Mahmoud, well done!



Matt Lewisley

January 8th, 2010

Photoshop is the best program for designing. Thank you.



Charlie

January 8th, 2010

Very nice article. My one complaint would be the title, as the resulting design is not even a little bit minimalist.



Melody

January 8th, 2010

Nice, clean layout, I can't imagine what you're skills will be like in a couple of years from now..



Julian Gaviria

January 8th, 2010

Great talent and bright future. Good Stuff.



Ashley

January 8th, 2010

Great tutorial! Bookmarked for future reference on the next layout I attempt to design. Thank you!



Shawn Hoogkirk

January 8th, 2010

Great tutorial Mahmoud.

Good to see you are introducing the grid for beginners, rather than just creating a simple website without it. The grid can save you an incredible amount of time, and reduce the time thinking about staying in the lines ;)

Keep it up Mahmoud!



Mohamed Mansour

January 8th, 2010

Very creative! Looking forward for your next one.



Ivan Mišić

January 8th, 2010

Excellent tutorial and nice clean design



Rick

January 8th, 2010

Fantastic tutorial, Mahmoud! I would agree that it's a little dark, as a place to start from it can't be beat. We only wish everyone adopted more minimalism! I'm hoping this tutorial will get new designers pointed in the right direction.



Lee Fuller

January 8th, 2010

Excellent tutorial, nice clean and stylish layout.

Thankyou

**NetKit**

January 8th, 2010

Nice clean layout, great tutorial. Thanks!

**izulcybercafe**

January 8th, 2010

Nice, how to slicing & css ?

**Mars**

January 9th, 2010

perfect and its very clean layout

**sayan mukherjee**

January 9th, 2010

Nice and very detailed but the design looks a bit dull to me.

**Mahmoud**

January 9th, 2010

Once again thanks a lot everyone!

Concerning the HTML part, I'm actually not a coder, However I'll be contacting Mr, Jacob to see if any of Six Revisions authors would like to code the design and share it back.



tessar

January 9th, 2010

wow that's great tutorial



Liviu

January 9th, 2010

Excelent tutorial.



TutsBot

January 9th, 2010

Thanks for this great tut :)

The final result looks great !



arnold

January 9th, 2010

lol your 15,cool!. you got a bright future.
only thing i notice bad is the spacing, my opinion of course.
shadow looks good though



Geeee

January 9th, 2010

That was really fab. I really liked your tutorial very well explained and straight forward .. U r talented my friend ;D keep it up & waiting for more

Vladimir Remenar

January 9th, 2010

Very clean and professional design!

Using a pure black text for content and orange colour instead of this greenish-bluish for headings could make it a bit interesting and more readable... I even might give it a try and create a comp :)

SmashDesign

January 9th, 2010

great toturial

Thanks a lot

Simon Carr

January 10th, 2010

This is a nice tutorial – especially with all the graphics included. My site, Work By Simon uses a lot of the same minimal techniques that were mentioned in this article.

Deepu Balan

January 11th, 2010

Very well explained... Wonderful tutorial. The design is really awesome... Neat n cleat UI which is

unique and professional. Very well done, Way to go talented young man! :-)

-Deepu



Webjohn01

January 11th, 2010

Hello Mahmoud!

I really like your design, because it was very simple and clean. I hope the psd to xhtml/css conversion will follow.

Keep up the good work.

More thanks!



Modern Zen

January 11th, 2010

Fantastic design, great use of the grid system. You've got a bright future ahead of you!



stephanie

January 11th, 2010

I'm having trouble with the bg_1 layer. I create the rounded rectangle as described, but when I right click on that layer in the layers panel, I don't have an option to "Create Layer Mask". I even tried to rasterize that layer first, and still didn't have a layer mask option. Am I missing something? I'm using PS CS4. Thanks for any help! I would really like to be able to duplicate that faded background shadow effect.



bart

January 12th, 2010

Great tutorial!

Too bad the link to the zip file is broken.



Dalton

January 12th, 2010

You might want to check the link near the top of the article. The page to download the template is 960.gs

I also found this design to be a bit dull. Possibly a lighter background could give it more contrast.



Julian Gaviria

January 12th, 2010

Stephanie,

First make sure the layer is rasterized. It isn't supposed to show up when you right click it, instead you highlight the layer and then at bottom of the layers panel you have the icon of a rectangle with a circle in the middle. When you put your mouse over it it should say add layer mask, and that's what you're looking for.



Mahmoud

January 13th, 2010

@stephanie

First off, I'm sorry for the kind of late reply!

Well, you mean by the layer "bg_1" the background layer of the content box no.1 right ?

Let's relax and create again :)

Step1 : Create a new layer, Select the Rounded Rectangle Tool (U) and select "paths" for the option.

(see this image : <http://mkhaled.com/images/1.jpg>)

Step2 : After you've created your rectangle – and while you're selecting the Rounded Rectangle Tool

(U) – right click on the rectangle and choose “Make Selection”.

(see this image : <http://mkhaled.com/images/2.jpg>)

Step3 : Now let's fill it! set your foreground color to #d0d0d0 and click Shift+Backspace (use : foreground color)

(See this image : <http://mkhaled.com/images/3.jpg>)

Don't forget to click Ctrl+D to deselect.

Step4 : Here's the important part, While having the layer we've created in the first step selected, at the bottom of the layers panel there's a couple of icons, click on the one that says “Add a layer mask”.

(see this image : <http://mkhaled.com/images/4.jpg>)

Here's how your layer should look after clicking the icon : <http://mkhaled.com/images/5.jpg>

Step6 : Now with a Black, White gradient you can adjust your layer mask.

(see this image : <http://mkhaled.com/images/6.jpg>)

And that's it!

You've also mentioned duplicating the faded shadow layer.

There's many ways the easiest way is to:

Right click on the layer you want to duplicate and click “duplicate layer”

(see this image : <http://mkhaled.com/images/7.jpg>)

I really hope this helped! and please do let me know if you need any other help.

BTW, Julian Gaviria explained it very well, but I thought it would be better with images.

@ bart

I just tried downloading the zip and it's working perfectly, give it another try and I'm pretty sure it will work :)



[lon](#)

January 13th, 2010

I think minimalist websites look and work the best, I mean they are usually a lot more user friendly as your eye is not overloaded with too many things.



Stephanie

January 13th, 2010

Thank you Julian and thank you Mahmoud!!
I was able to make this work thanks to your extra help! :)

**Elemental**

January 14th, 2010

thanks for the tutorial, but the link: <http://960s> is not resolving??

Or am i missing something?

**Rad**

January 14th, 2010

Hey Elements!..
try this <http://960.gs/>
:)

**Ben Stokes**

January 15th, 2010

I base all my work on minimalist design – I think a busy design tends to make the viewers eyes wander some-what from what they really should be looking at. This is an excellent tutorial, very easy to follow.

Thank you.

**Alexey**

January 17th, 2010

Great! Such skills at 15 y.o.! Awesome!

Somebody asked about conversion to xhtml/css.

You can read about it here: <http://sixrevisions.com/tutorials/photoshop-tutorials/how-to-create-a-clean-web-20-style-web-design-in-photoshop/>

This is the 1st part ('painting'). There you'll find a link to the 2nd part – conversion to xhtml/css.

Have fun!



Stuart lyon

January 19th, 2010

Very simple and easy tutorial!

But if you want to use it you have to code it using css! Do you have a tutorial on that.



Dan

January 21st, 2010

Very cool, would love to see a tutorial on html/css



Miss "B"

January 21st, 2010

Great tutorial! Wish I'd discovered you sooner. Thank you!



PAO

January 30th, 2010

Thank you for this great tutorial about how making a great minimalist web layout in Photoshop. I don't use Photoshop for making complete layouts anymore but it's very useful for beginners :)

**Don**

January 30th, 2010

Great tutorial, I love photoshop, but i do all my web interfaces using fireworks. Would like to try sometimes photoshop as well. Thanks

**Marc**

February 1st, 2010

You're 15???

Well that means two things:

- 1) You're awesome.
- 2) I quit.

Looks like a great walkthrough, can't wait to try it out.

**Constantin**

February 4th, 2010

that was great fun. thanks for the tutorial. and kudos to the fact that you are doing this at the age of 15.

**ronald**

February 11th, 2010

Thanks for sharing, should try this one day . . .

**Susan**

February 15th, 2010

It sure would help if you would specify which the heck version of photoshop the tutorial has in mind. I can never finish any of the tutorials because you guys don't include every single step. I can't get a gradient into my rounded rectangle. To heck with it.

**Doug**

February 15th, 2010

Wow! this is great, thanks for the post!

**Mahmoud**

February 15th, 2010

@Susan

Well this tutorial was made in Photoshop CS4 (Creative Suit 4). but it's not that big deal though!

And would you please specify exactly which rounded rectangle that you can't get gradient into?

Let me know if you need any other help :)

*Note: "Which the heck, heck, heck.." isn't an attractive way to get response :)

**Jacob C**

February 18th, 2010

@Mahmoud – Nice tutorial! I personally don't like the layout, it's not my taste and there are some issues with spacing/typography.

Anyway, my only question is this, please don't take it wrong.
Your comment above says that you created this with CS4.

Now, I have been a web and graphic designer in the USA for 3 years and have worked with some large clients but I don't even have CS4 yet. I still work with CS3.

How in the world does a 15 year old boy in Egypt able to afford Photoshop CS4? That just boggles my mind. Hope you don't take this wrong.

But if you are using a pirated copy, then shame on you! If not, then ignore this comment.

Have a nice day.



Mahmoud

February 20th, 2010

@Jacob C

I did not get you wrong,
but I just don't understand; What's the connection between living in Egypt and having Photoshop CS4?

Well, my father is a Petroleum Engineer. He's worked in USA, Australia, Europe, the Gulf area, etc.
Also with large corporations (such as; Aramco)

He bought the CS4 master collection as a gift.

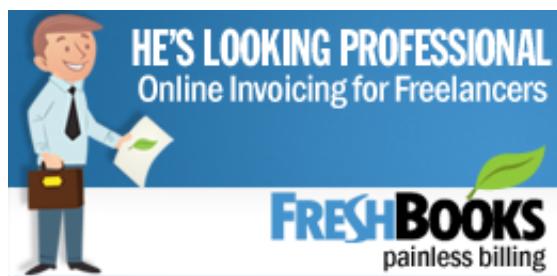
Leave a Comment

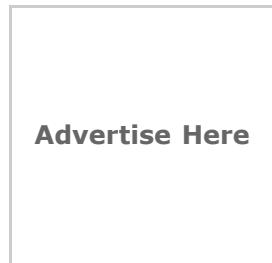
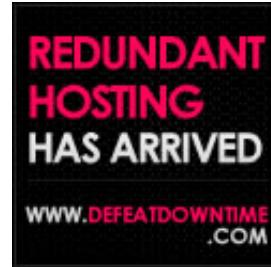
Name (required)

email (will not be published) used for Gravatars (required)

Website

Subscribe to the [comments on this article](#).





Buy our Book

- Purchase a copy of [MooTools 1.2 Beginner's guide](#). read more [here](#).



Search

-



Topics

- [AJAX](#)
- [CSS](#)
- [Design Showcase / Inspiration](#)
- [Flash](#)
- [Freebies](#)

- [Graphic Design](#)
- [JavaScript](#)
- [Photoshop](#)
- [Project Management](#)
- [Resources](#)
- [Tools](#)
- [Tutorials](#)
- [Usability / Accessibility](#)
- [User Interface](#)
- [Web Applications](#)
- [Web Design](#)
- [Web Development](#)
- [Web Standards](#)
- [WordPress](#)

Recent

- [Best Practices for Hints and Validation in Web Forms](#)
- [Win a MooTools 1.2 Beginner's Guide Book from Packt Publishing](#)
- [MooTools 1.2 Beginner's Guide Book](#)
- [The Comprehensive Guide to Saving Images for the Web](#)
- [Free XHTML Template Pack: Classic Luxury](#)



-

Friends

- [1stwebdesigner](#)
- [App Sheriff](#)
- [Blog.SpoonGraphics](#)
- [Burbia](#)
- [Chris Wallace](#)
- [Css Globe](#)
- [Design Bump](#)
- [DesignOra](#)
- [Designmess](#)
- [DesignM.ag](#)
- [fudgegraphics](#)
- [Function](#)
- [InstantShift](#)
- [LaptopLogic.com](#)
- [Marcofolio.net](#)
- [MyInkBlog](#)
- [Naldz Graphics](#)
- [NETTUTS](#)
- [N.Design Studio](#)

- [Noupe](#)
- [Onextrapixel](#)
- [psdfan.com](#)
- [PSDVIBE](#)
- [\[Re\]Encoded.com](#)
- [Smashing Apps](#)
- [Smashing Magazine](#)
- [Stylegala](#)
- [Speckyboy Design Magazine](#)
- [Stock Footage - Foto Search](#)
- [Stylized Web](#)
- [TheBestDesigns.com](#)
- [Vandelay Design](#)
- [Walyou](#)
- [Web Design Core](#)
- [Web Designer Help](#)
- [Webdesigner Depot](#)
- [Web Design Ledger](#)
- [WPBeginner](#)

[Advertising](#) - [Contact](#) - [RSS Feed](#) ©2008-2010 Six Revisions. Theme Design by [Jacob Gube](#). Six Revisions [mobile version](#) by [Mobify](#).

