Visual Design **SWE 632 Fall 2023**

With at least 30 new things you won't believe!



Administrivia

• HW6 due on 11/14



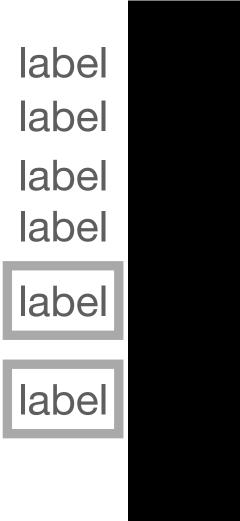
Class Overview

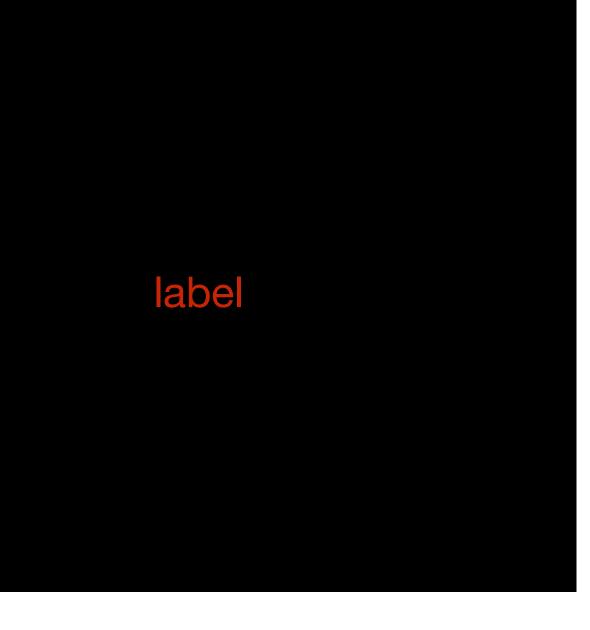
- Overview of Visual Design: What it is and Why it Matters 1.
- Guidelines for Visual Design: Simplicity and Regularization 2.
- Scale, Contrast, & Proportion: Formatting Matters З.
- **Organization & Structure:** Information Conveyance 4.
- Images & Icons: Getting the Right Picture Across 5.
- Design Languages: Unifying your Design 6.



Overview of Visual Design

Elements of Visual Design





label

label



Visual Design

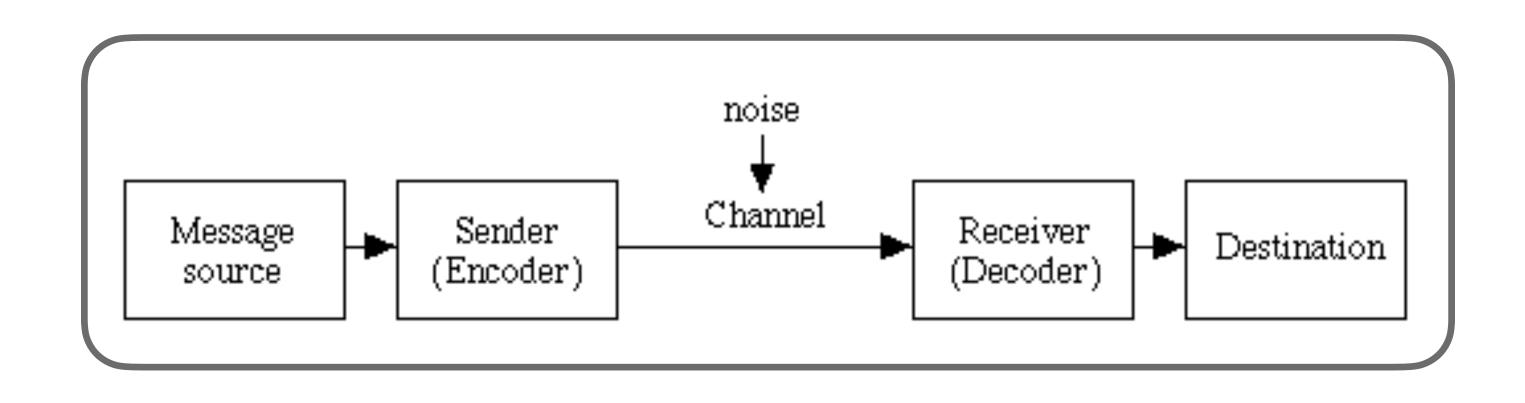
- Solving <u>communications problems</u> in ways that are both functionally effective and aesthetically pleasing.
- Creating a visual language containing a vocabulary of design elements characterized by
 - Visual variables—shape, size, position, orientation, color, texture, ...
 - Organizational relations between elements—balance, structure, proportion,
 - Visual syntax—rules for assembling elements w/in design language





Visual Design as Communication

- \bullet
- Visual variables & organization encode information



Goal: efficiently & accurately transmit information from system to user



Goals for Visual Design

- Successfully *transmit* information
- Present coherent & consistent design that reduces ambiguity and potential confusion
- Reduce visual <u>search</u> time through layout & organization
- Create desired <u>emotional</u> reactions through aesthetic choices



General Guidelines for Visual Design

Elegance & Simplicity

- <u>Elegance</u>—derives from Latin eligere, to "select carefully"
- <u>Judicious</u> selection of elements and economy of expression revealing an intimate understanding of problem
- Removing & combining superfluous elements until only the necessary remains

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Benefits of Simplicity

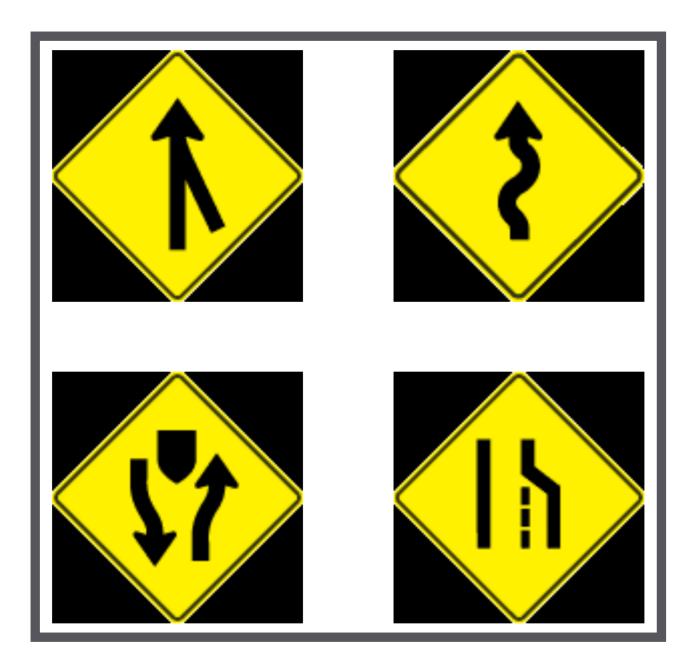
- <u>Approachability</u> rapidly understood affordances, allowing glanceable understanding of possible interactions
- Immediacy greater emotional impact because interactions can be quickly understood



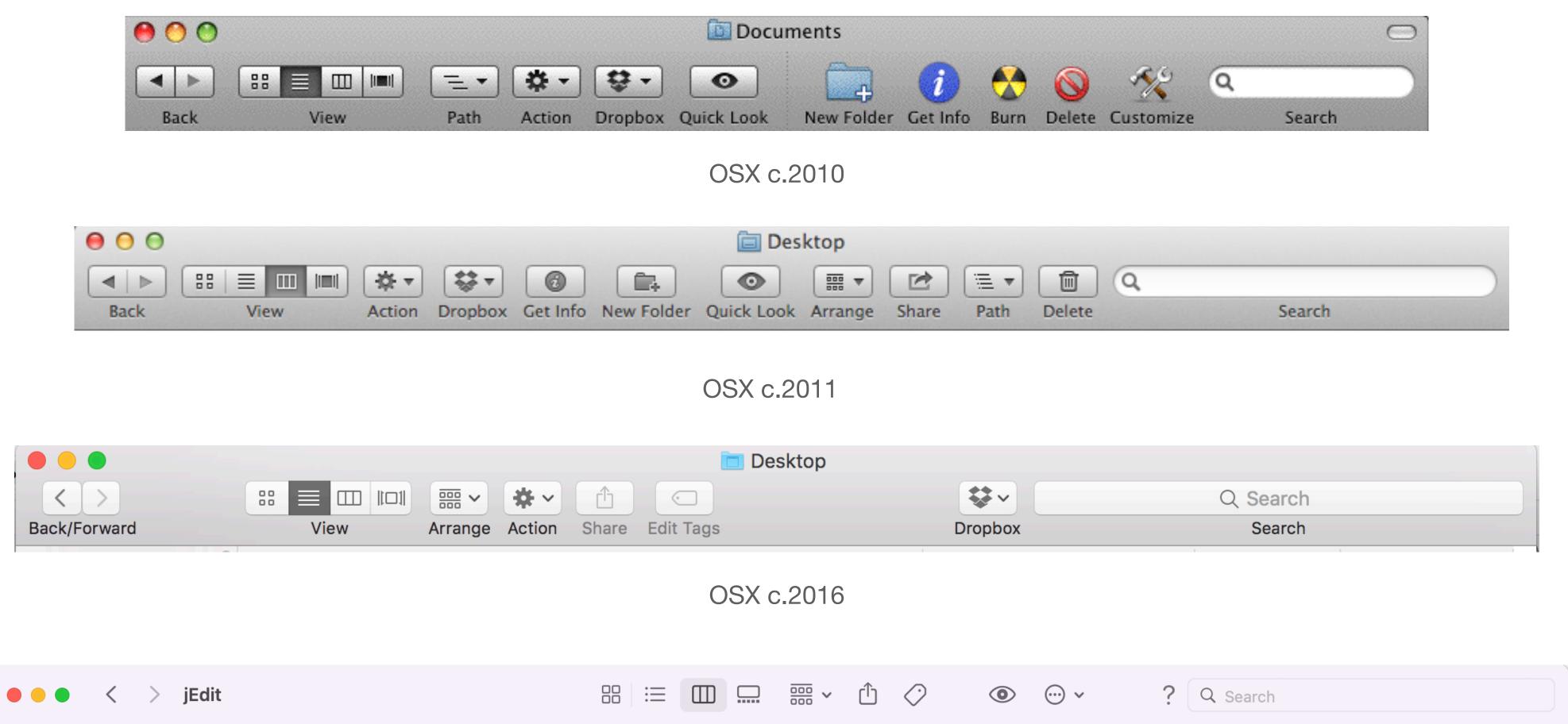
Marc Berthier. Tykho Radio. 1997. Synthetic rubber and other materials, 5 1/2 x 5 1/2 x 1 5/8" (14 x 14 x 4.1 cm). Manufactured by Lexon, France. The Museum of Modern Art, New York. Gift of the manufacturer.

Reducing a Design to its Essence

- Make design simple, bold, and direct by removing inessential details & elements
 - Even essential elements may be suggested
- **1.** Determine essential qualities & information to be conveyed
- 2. Critically examine each element & ask how design would suffer without it.
- 3. Try removing elements. What happens?



Trade-offs in Simplicity





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OSX c.2021



Guidelines for Visual Design



Reduction in new map: relative distances don't matter

Regularizing the Elements of a Design

- rhythm
- Enable user to scan ahead
- Use irregularity where needed to clarify that something is irregular!
 - 1. Use <u>regular</u> geometric forms, simplified controls, muted colors where possible

size, shape, color, texture, spacing, alignment

3. *Limit variation* in typography to a few sizes

4. Make sure critical elements intended to stand out are *not* regularized

Reduce information by repeating elements according to a rule, principle or

- 2. If multiple similar forms required, make them *identical* as much as possible in



Guidelines for Visual Design

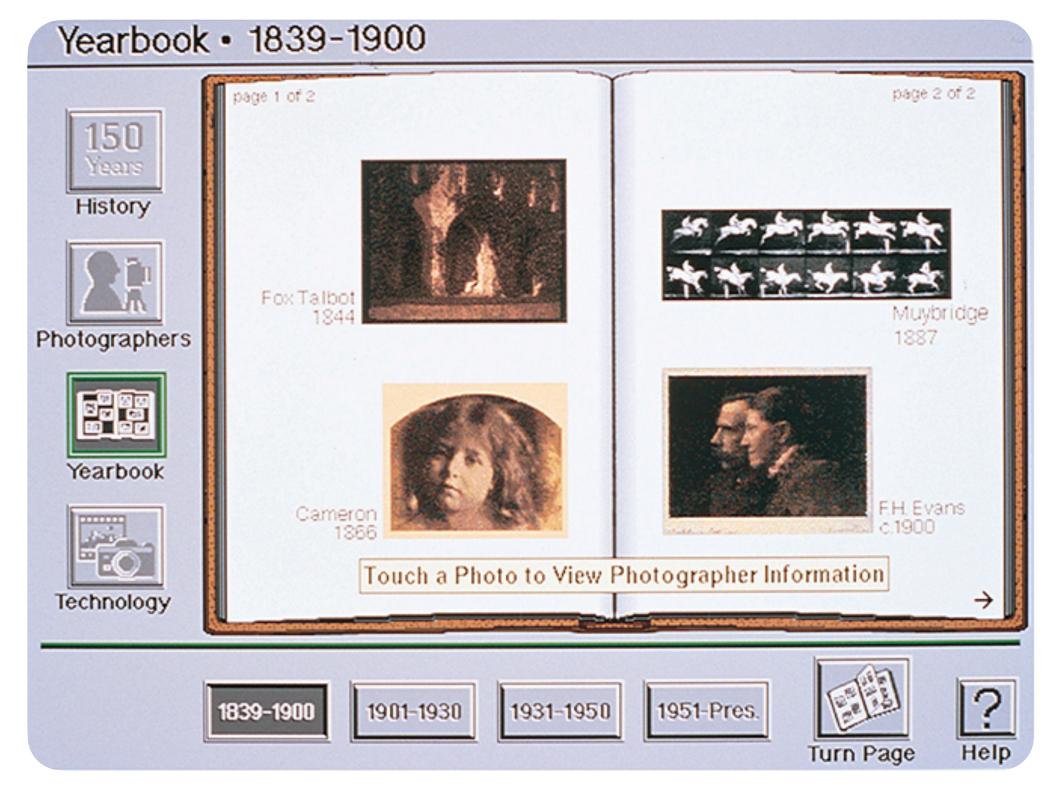


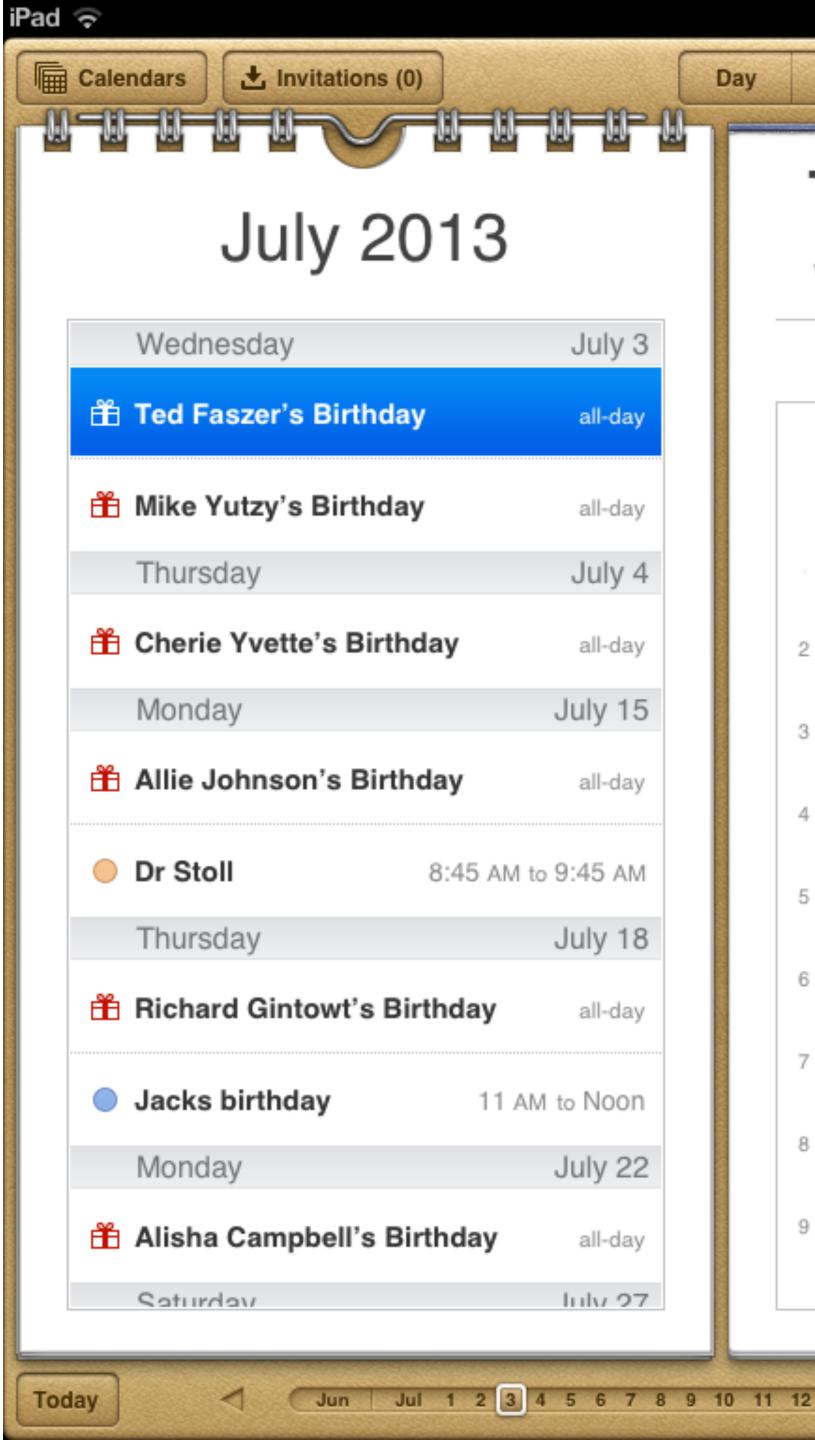
Regularization in new map: Straight lines result in station names laid out in a line, rather than bouncing around



Error - Excessive Skeuomorphism

- Skeuomorphism making visual design resemble reality (like metaphors)
- Excessive skeuomorphism is distracting and wastes potential visual bandwidth that could encode meaningful information
- Trend towards "flat" interfaces





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Ted Faszer's Birthday

Details

+

Wednesday, July 3, 2013

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	Mike Yutzy's Birthday
Ē	Ted Faszer's Birthday
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iPad ᅙ

November 2016

Day

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	• SWE 432	Noon				
20	• SWE meeting 11 AM • Office Hours • SWE 432	22 10:30 AM Noon	23 • SWE 432	24 Noon	25	26
27	28 • Office Hours • SWE 432	29 10:30 AM Noon				
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4	5 • Office Hours • SWE 432	6 10:30 AM Noon	7 • SWE 432	8 Noon	9	10
11	12 • Office Hours	13 10:30 AM	14	15	16	17











Calendars

Inbox

Scale, Contrast, & Proportion

Scale, Contrast, & Proportion

Envisioning Information)

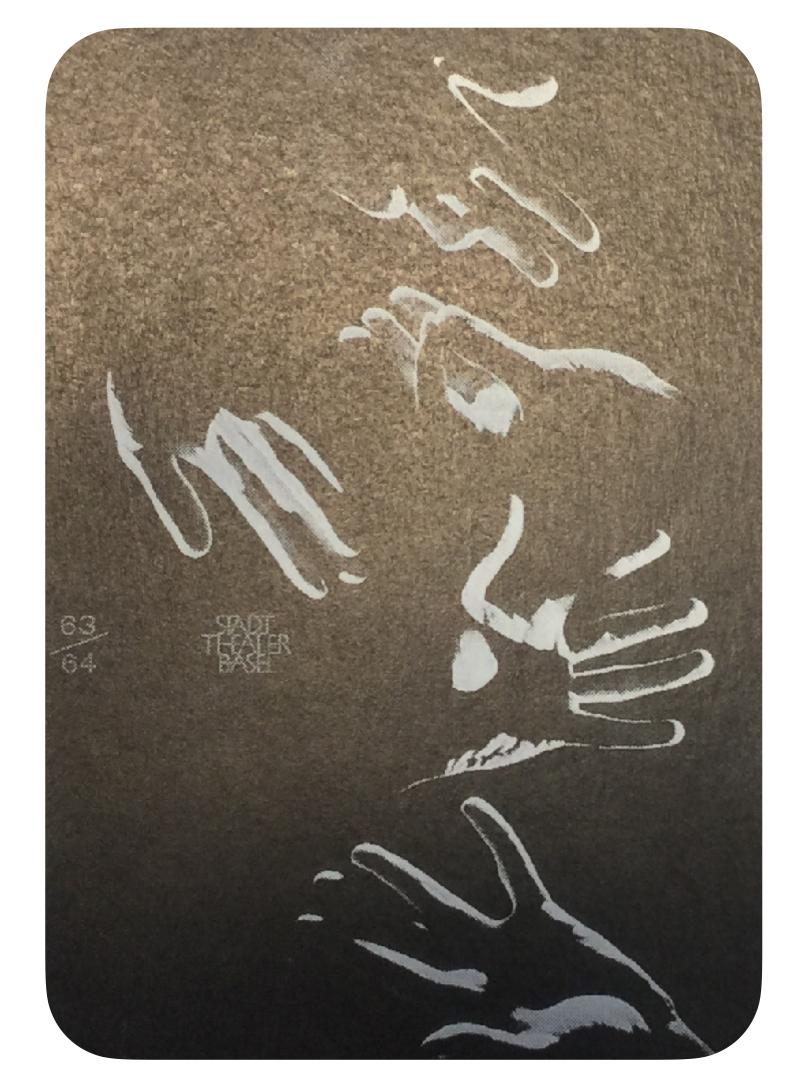
Individual visual variables of design that encode information

Information consists of differences that make a difference. (Edward Tufte,



Terminology

- Scale <u>relative</u> size or magnitude of element in comparison to related elements
- Contrast visually noticeable <u>distinctions</u> along a common visual dimension
- Proportion ratio and <u>balance</u> between elements
- Emphasis contrasts can emphasize important elements or areas & add visual *interest* by creating tension & drama



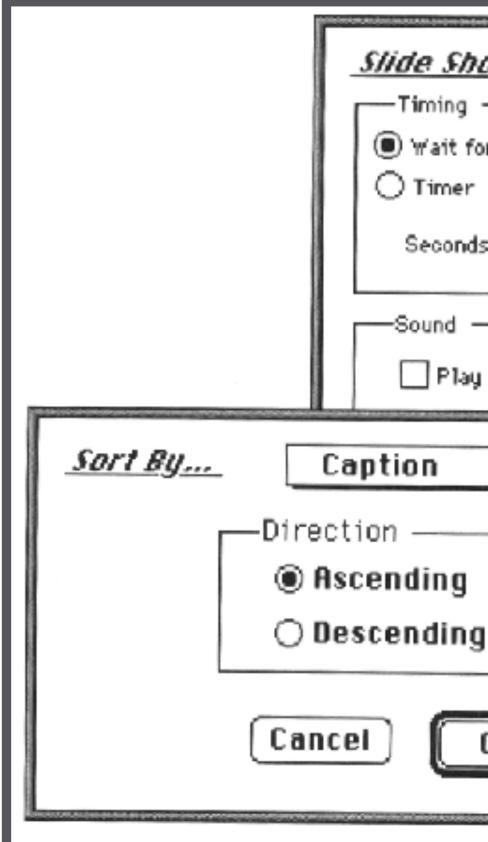


Principles

- <u>Clarity</u> contrasts should be clear and easily differentiated, not slight and subtle
- <u>Harmony</u> proportions and ratios should be harmonious
- <u>Activity</u> use contrasts to maintain orientation & context within design
- <u>Restraint</u> contrasts should be conscious, strong, few in number, and never overwhelming



Error - Excessive Typographic Contrasts



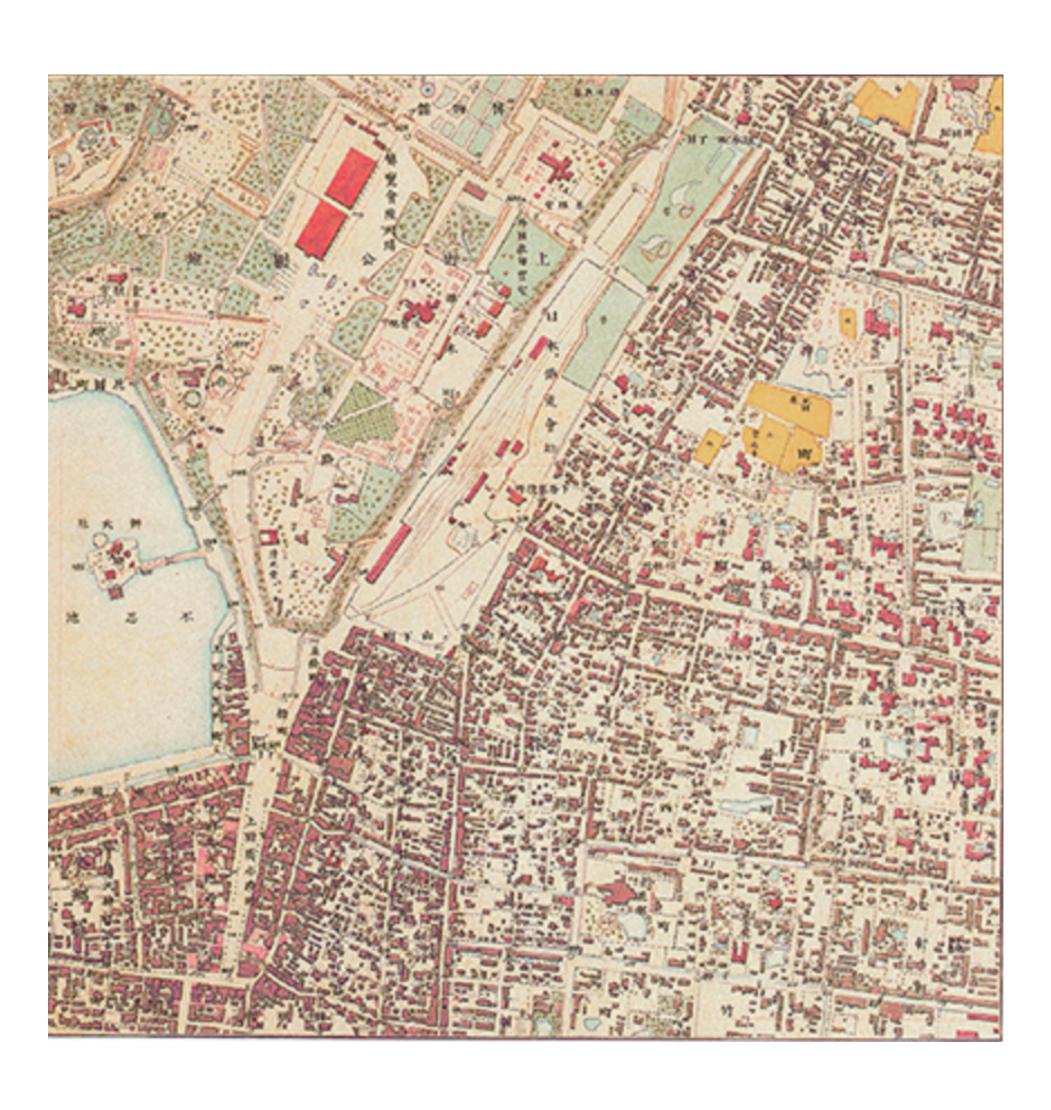
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5 different types sizes in 3 different fonts (!!)



Layers

- Contrasting color, value, texture can segregate information into separate layers
- Supports <u>overlapping</u> information in displays, allowing selective processing of specific sets of elements
- Allows different layers to be read and interpreted <u>separately</u>



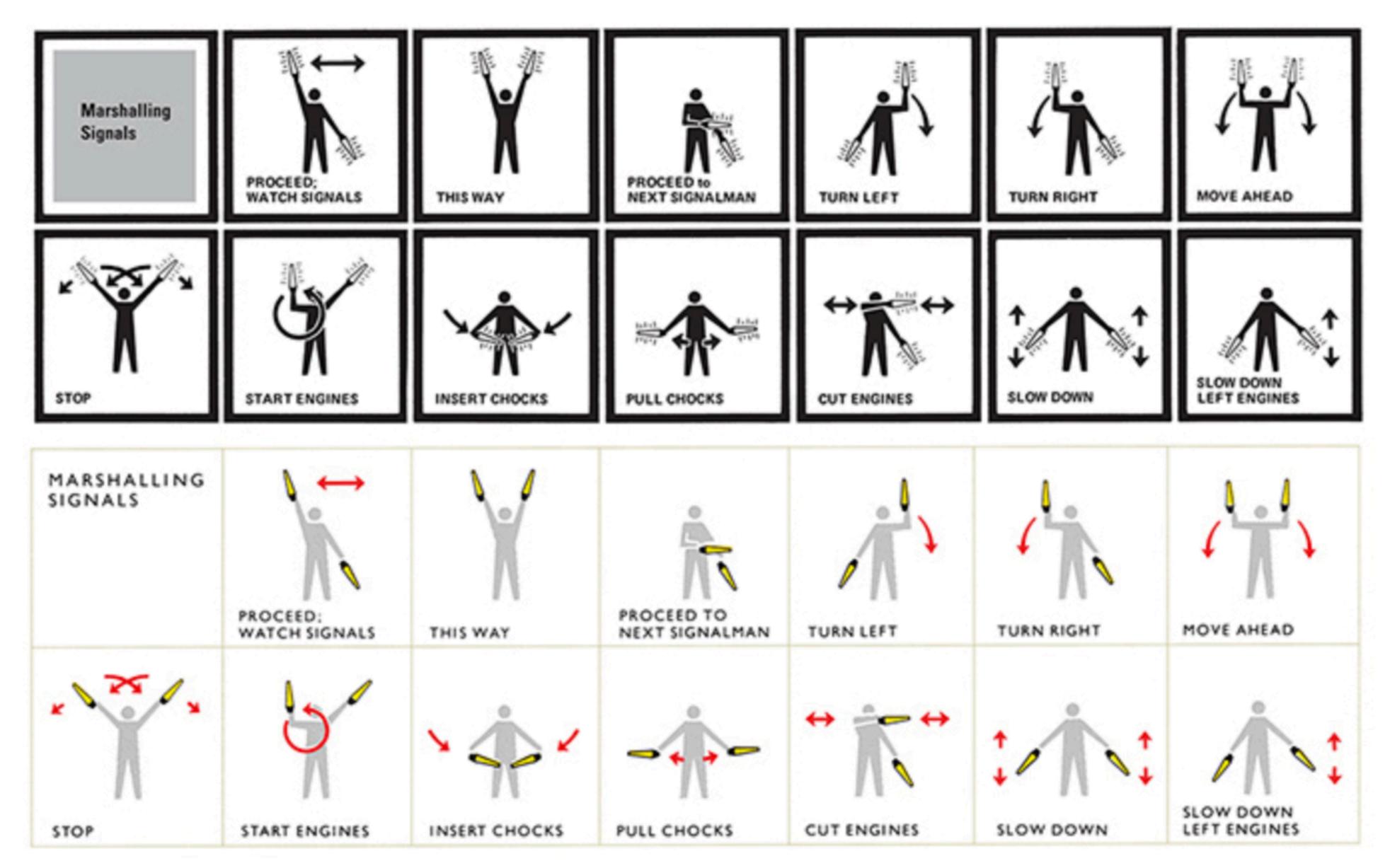


Creating Layers

- 1. Group items into categories based on intended use
- 2. Determine rank & importance of groups
- 3. Use perceptual variables (size, value, hue, etc.) to establish layering effect
- 4. Maximize differences between groups while minimizing differences within groups
- 5. Use squint test to ensure elements in group retain together but visually separated



Layers



Organization & Structure

Organization & Structure

- Organization needs to be <u>designed</u>
- Benefits
 - Unity ties together related elements so that they work together
 - Integrity & readability offers structure that helps user to easily scan & make comparisons
 - Control determines where user will focus attention in the design
- Gestalt -> psychology of perception

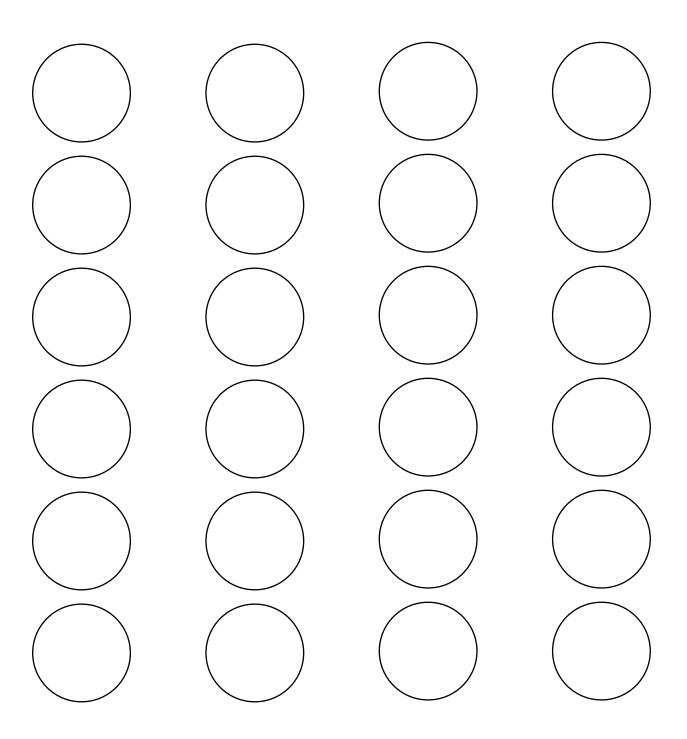


Gestalt Principle - Proximity

Elements associated <u>most</u> strongly w/ nearby elements

parsed as 4 columns based on close vertical spacing then parsed as two sets of two columns based on spacing





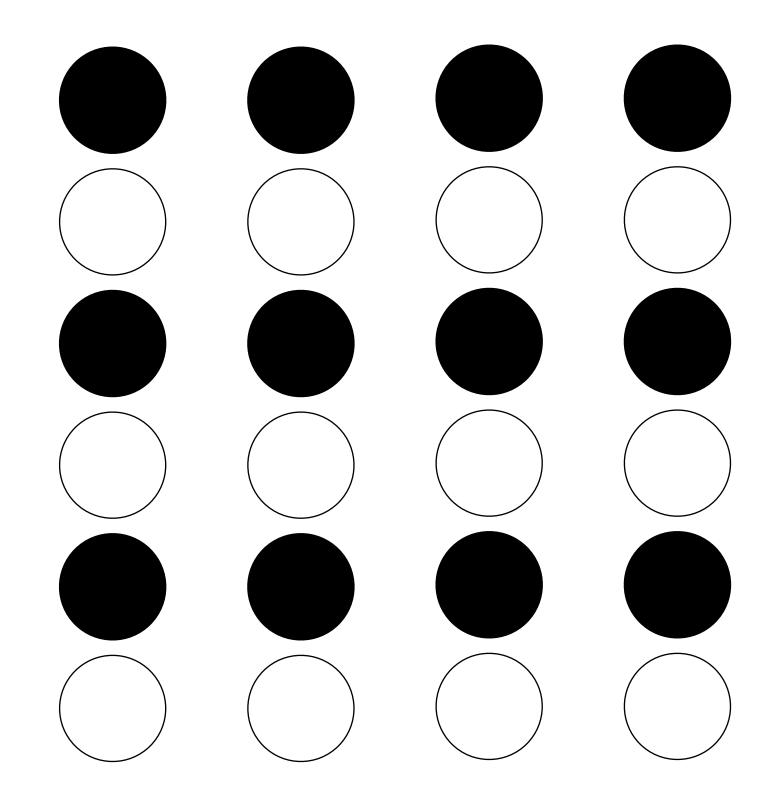


Gestalt Principle - Similarity

visual attributes than when they differ

parsed as rows based on fill similarity, despite closer column spacing

Elements associated more strongly when share common





Gestalt Principle - Continuity

figure

parsed as two lines, rather than 4 separate lines or 4 opposing angles

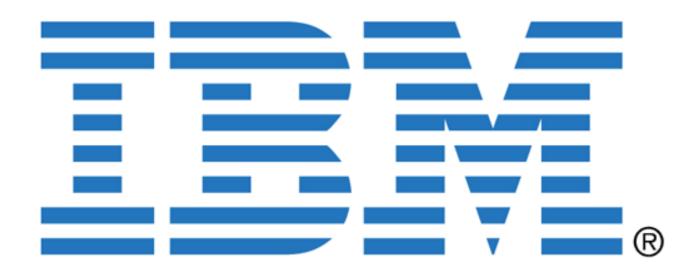
Preference for <u>simplest</u> physical explanation of complex



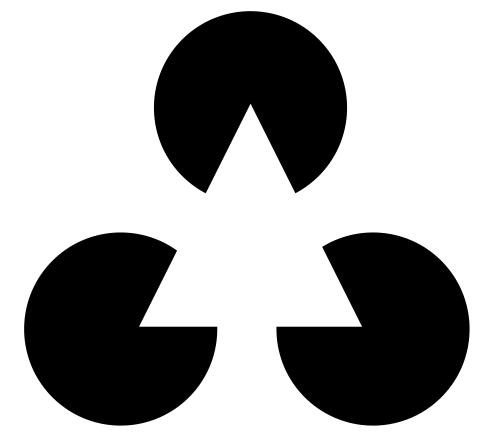
Gestalt Principle - Closure

Preference to interpret figmissing information

Parsed as triangle superimposed on 3 complete circles, even though none of these is actually present



Preference to interpret figures as complete, even when





Gestalt Principle - Area

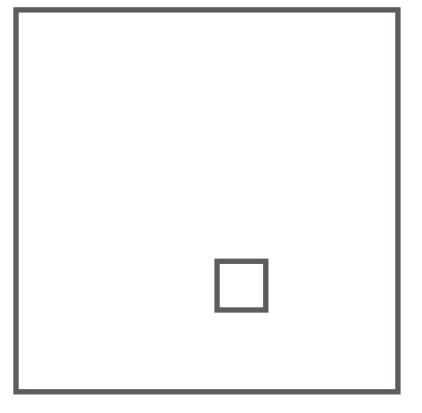
figure, larger as ground

Small rectangle parsed as small rectan jle on top of larger, rather than hole





Preference to interpret smaller overlapping elements as

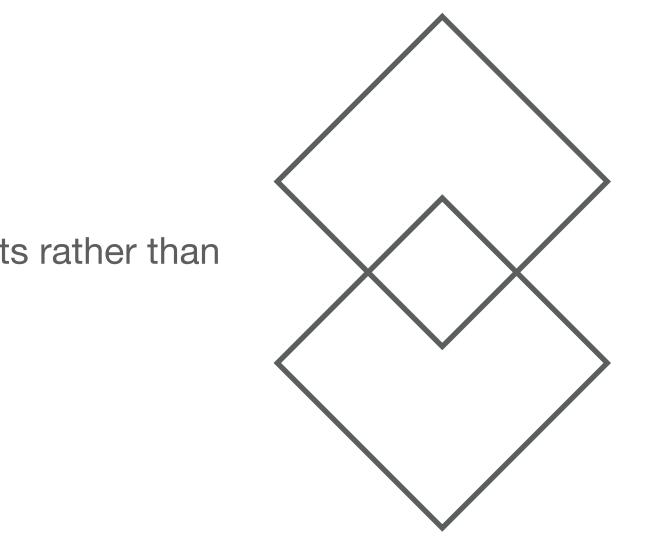




Gestalt Principle - Symmetry

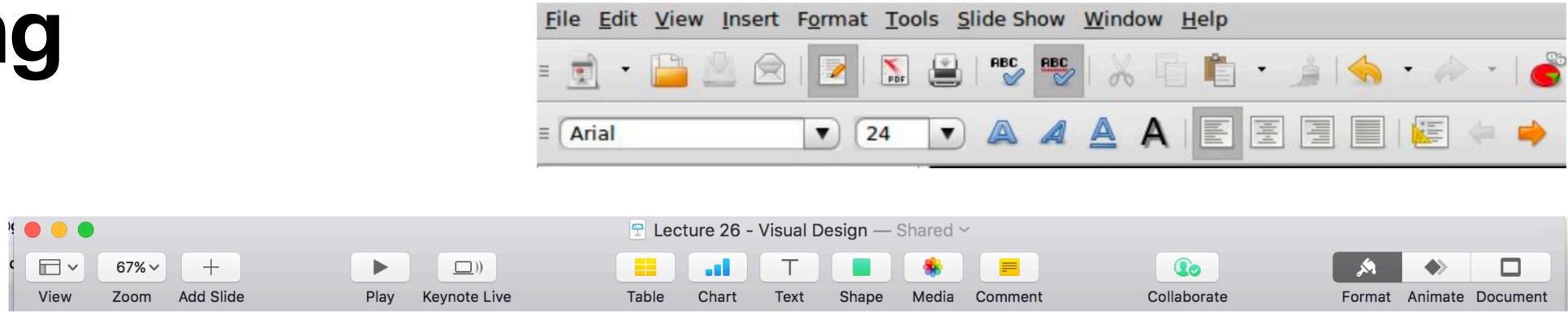
Preference to interpret ambiguous form as multiple symmetric elements

Parsed as two overlapping objects rather than 3 separate shapes









- Binding UI elements tightly together while distinguishing them from surrounding controls
- "Showing" not "telling"
- Can be achieved through
 - Bounding boxes (not recommended)
 - Negative space & contrasts
 - Arrangement & alignment



Use Fewer Borders

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PLAYLISTS	4 C	dyssey	Artists	 4	Odyssey
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Workout Lounge	6 J	uno	Vibes	6	Juno

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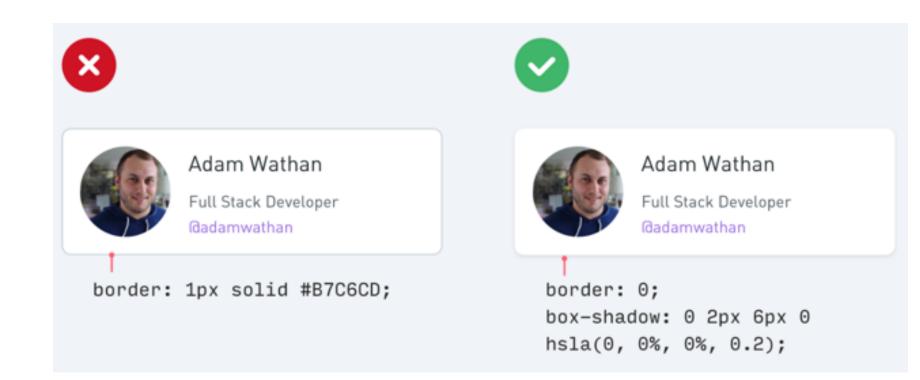
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margin-bottom: 48px;

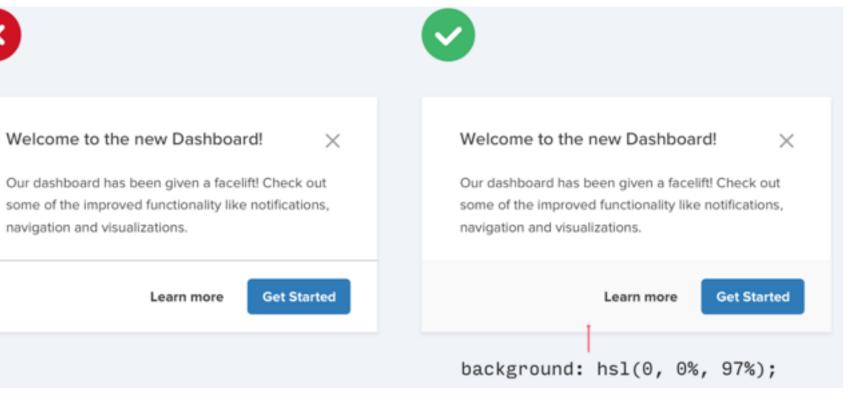
negative space



navigation and visualizations.



box shadows



different backgrounds

https://medium.com/refactoring-ui/7-practical-tips-for-cheating-at-design-40c736799886



Hierarchy

Order groups based on perceptual prominence corresponding to intended reading sequence

Can help solve "skimming" problems

Structure can help people focus attention on key parts

Key points might get lost though.

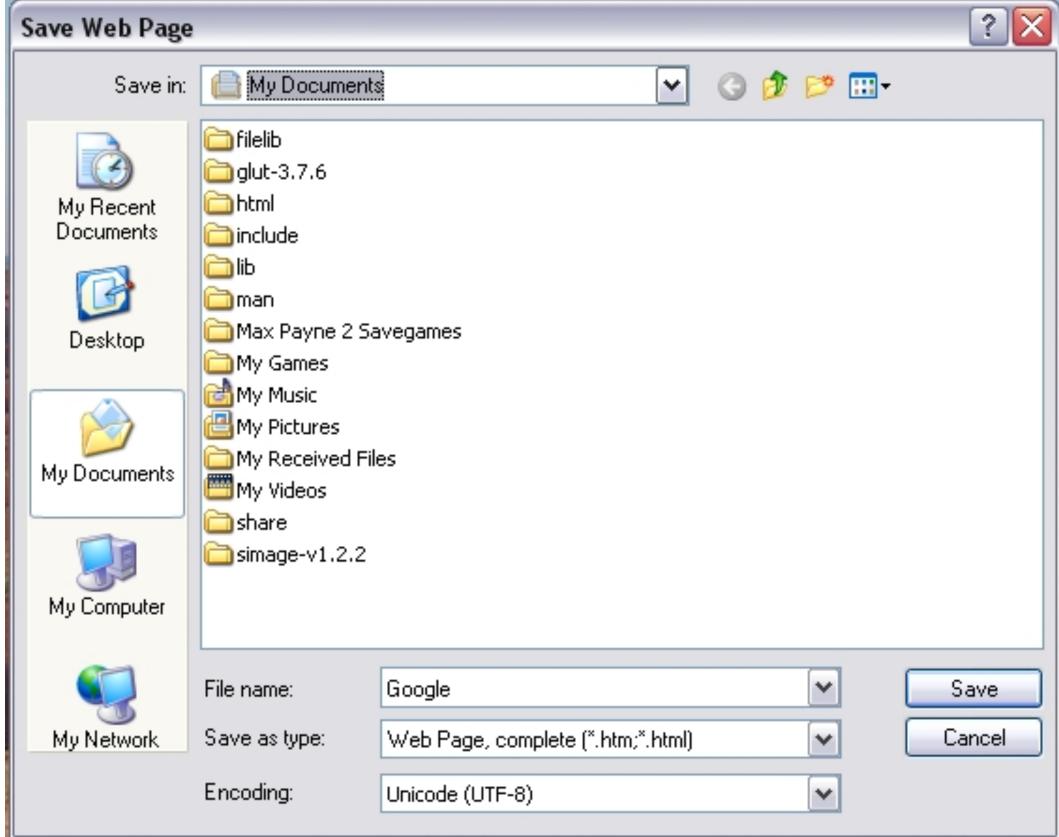
But bolding helps! Plus this obnoxious red arrow and text in a totally different font!





Hierarchy in Uls

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Use Negative Space

- Directs *attention* to critical regions of display
- 1. Review design, prioritizing groups
- important elements

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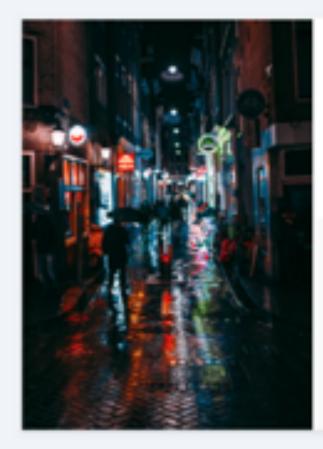
2. Add extra <u>space</u> to ensure spatial separation & emphasis, particularly for

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Creating Hierarchy: Color and Weight Instead of Size





Amsterdam Walking Tour

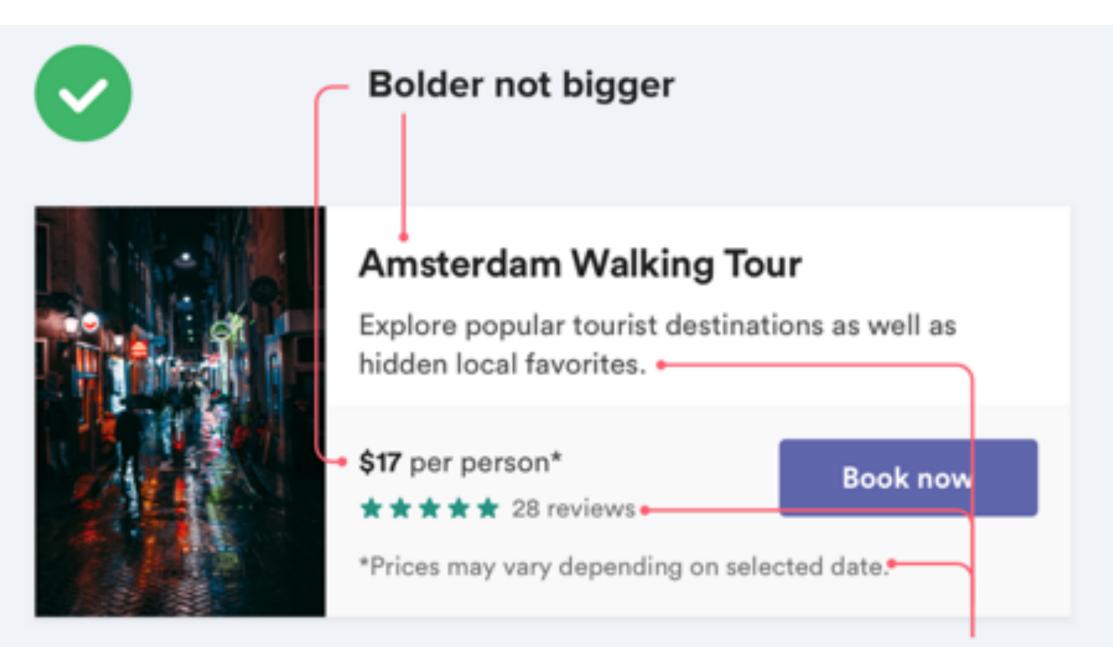
Explore popular tourist destinations as well as hidden local favorites.

\$17 per person*
* * * * 28 reviews

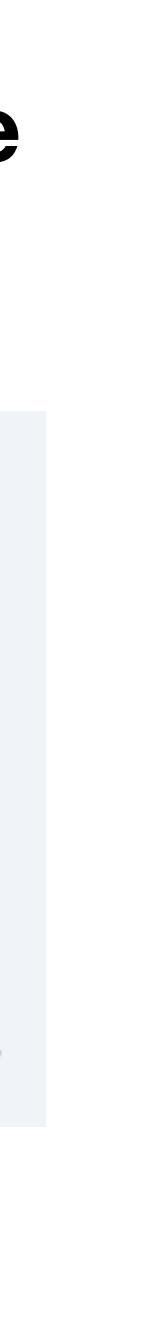
Book now

*Prices may vary depending on selected date.

https://medium.com/refactoring-ui/7-practical-tips-for-cheating-at-design-40c736799886

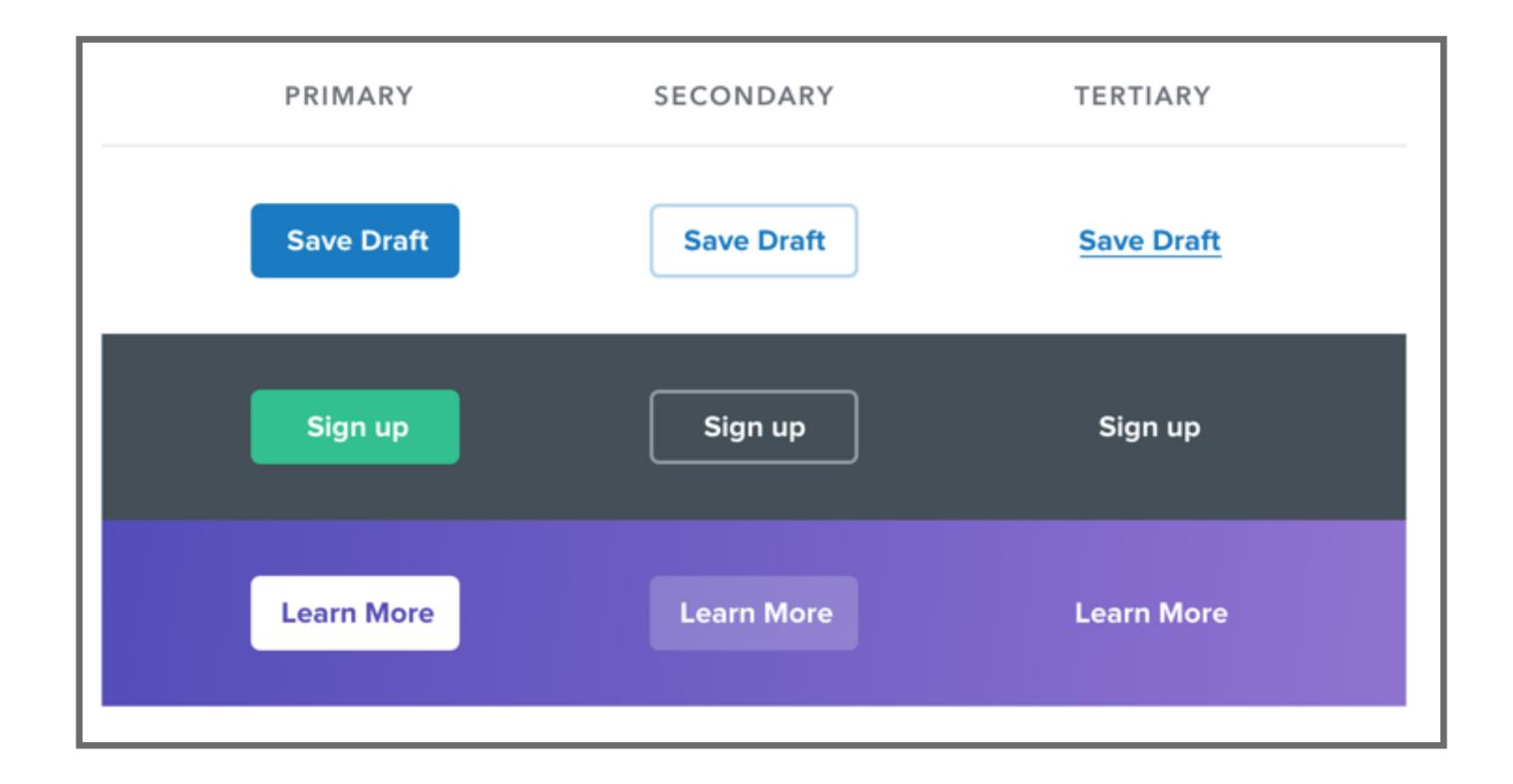


Lighter not smaller



41

Signal Importance of Action



https://medium.com/refactoring-ui/7-practical-tips-for-cheating-at-design-40c736799886



Images & Icons

Images & Icons

- Benefits
 - Identification images are easy to recognize
 - engaging & enjoyable

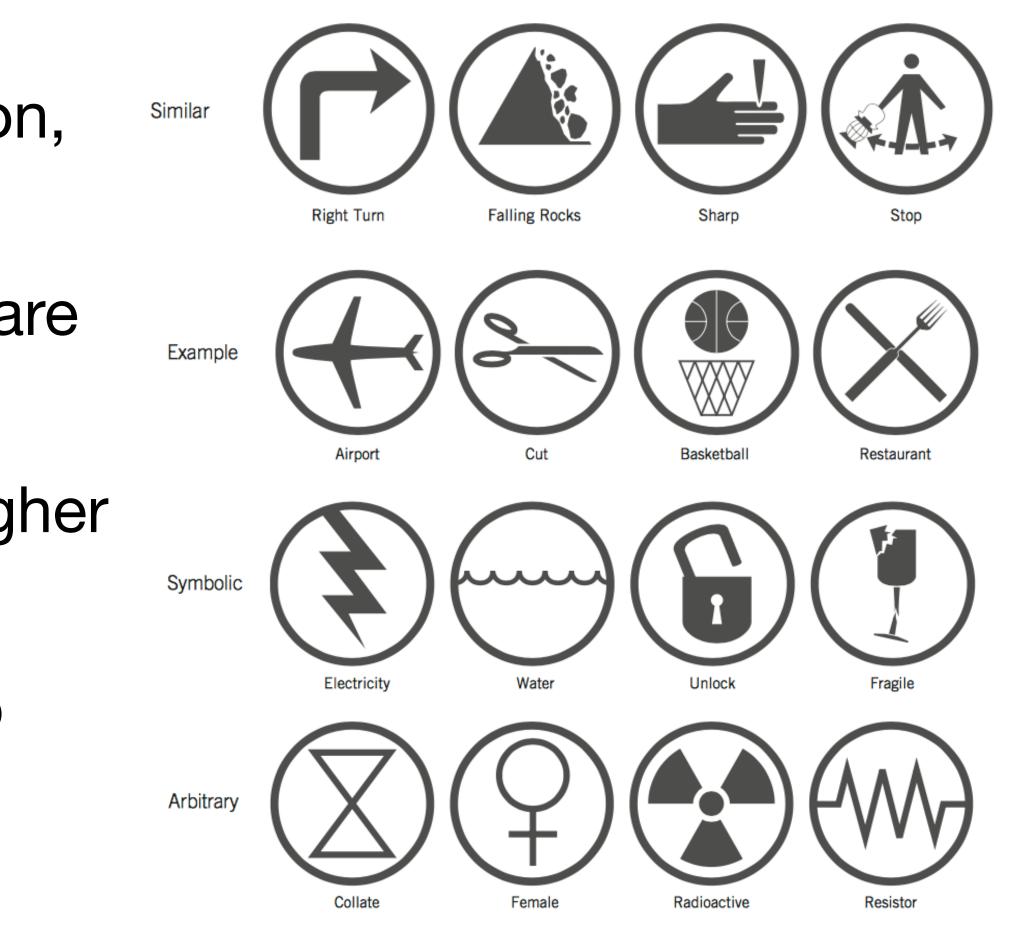
• Expression - breadth of artistic expression that can make design more



44

Types of Iconic Representation

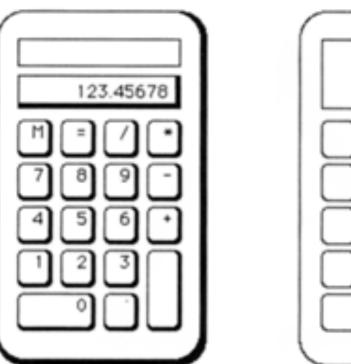
- Similar visually <u>analogous</u> to action, object, concept
- Example things that exemplify or are commonly associated
- Symbolic represent concept at higher level of <u>abstraction</u>
- Arbitrary little or no relationship to concept, must be learned through standard

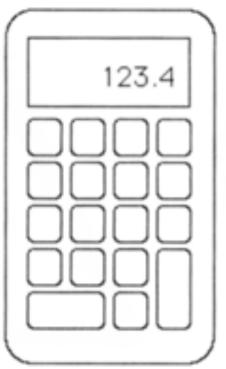


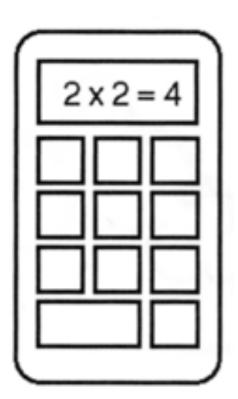


Use of Abstraction

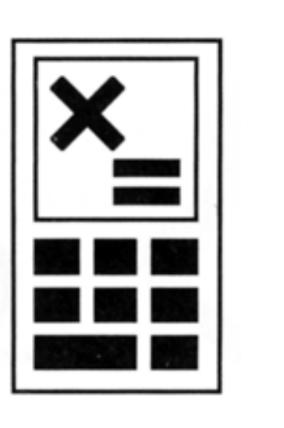
- interpret up to the point at which further abstraction obscures icon's semantics
 - Makes icon more generic, more canonical, less complex







Simplifying highly concrete, realistic representations makes them easier to







Principles of Icon Design

- Immediacy can be perceived effortlessly & involuntarily by being *bold*, clear, balanced
- Generality represents a <u>class</u> of items, rather than an individual element, by removing details that may vary
- Cohesiveness set of icons that function <u>together</u> by sharing visual variables
- Characterization call to mind one or more *distinctive* features









Selecting the Right Type of Icon

- If concept is concrete, familiar, tangible, use similar or example icon
- If concept will be used repeatedly, consider using more symbolic or arbitrary icon based on convention
- If concept is abstract process or subtle, use textual label



Activity: OS 10.2 Preferences Icons



Best 3, worst 3 and why? Then: How to make worst 3 better?



Activity: OS 10.15 Preferences Icons





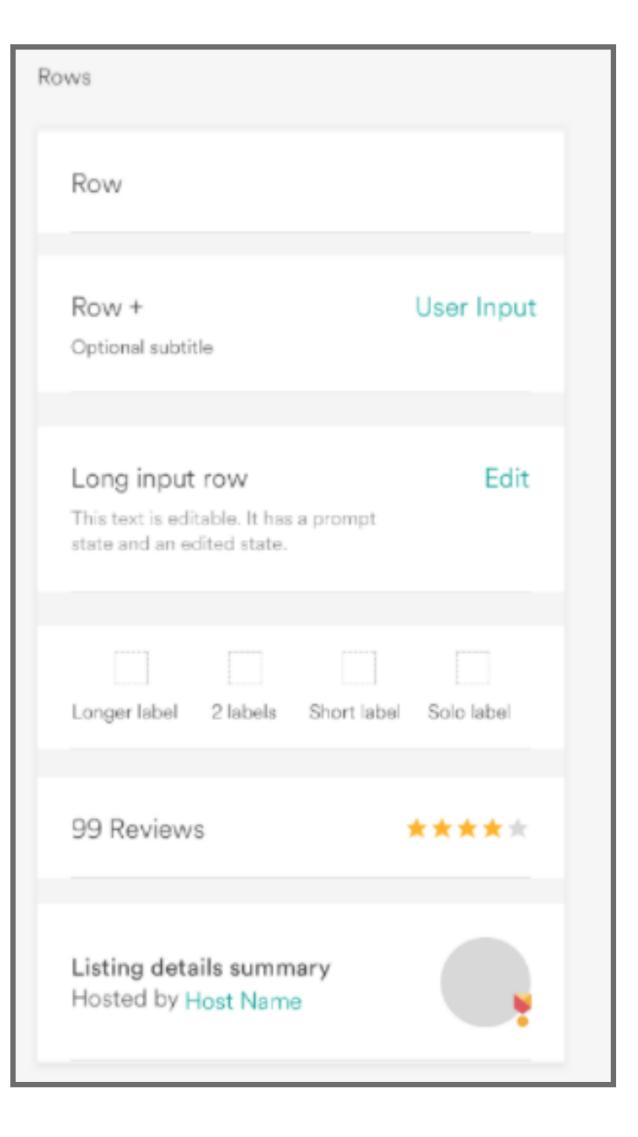
Design Languages



Design Languages

- Many, *many* choices about visual variables and syntax of composition
 - How do you ensure choices are made consistently across web app?
- Solution: design language
 - Describes how to express ideas and concepts in the interface
 - May be communicated through Human Interface Guideline documentation
 - (Example of consistency and standards)

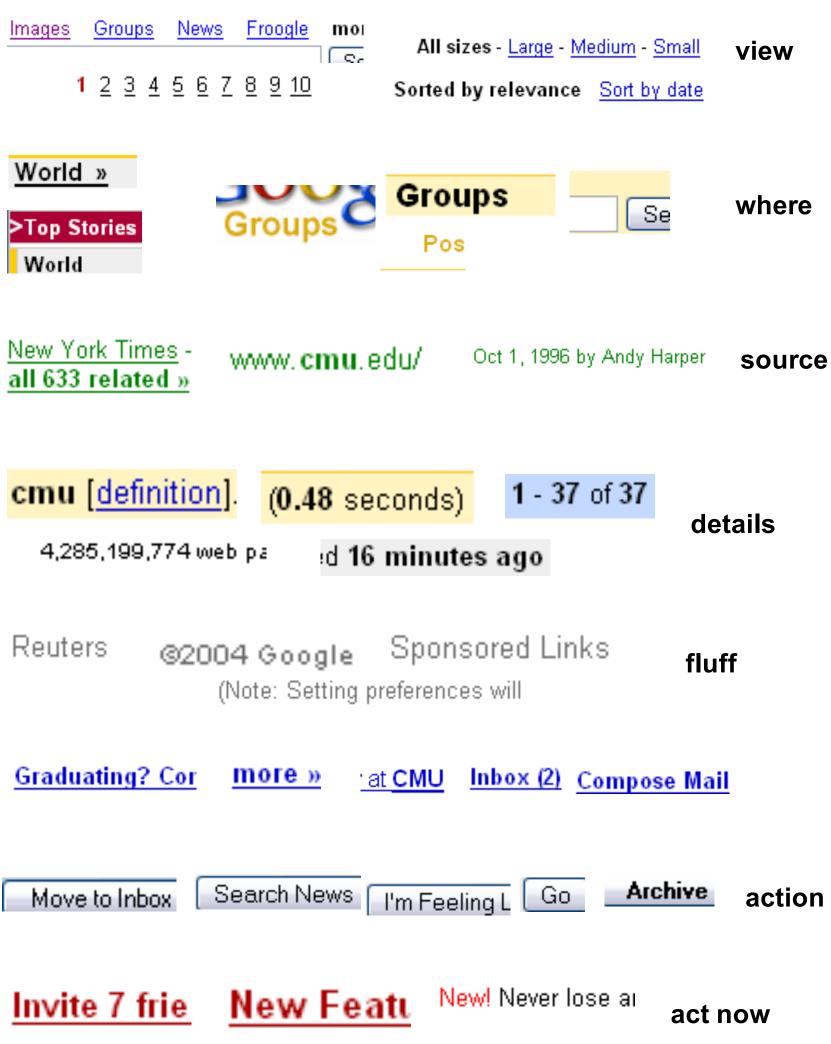






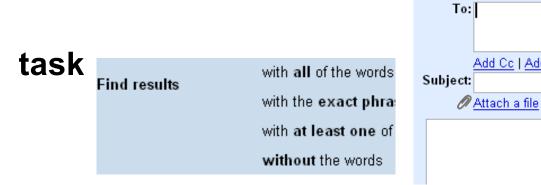
Example: Elements, Google 2004

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Example: Syntax, Google 2004



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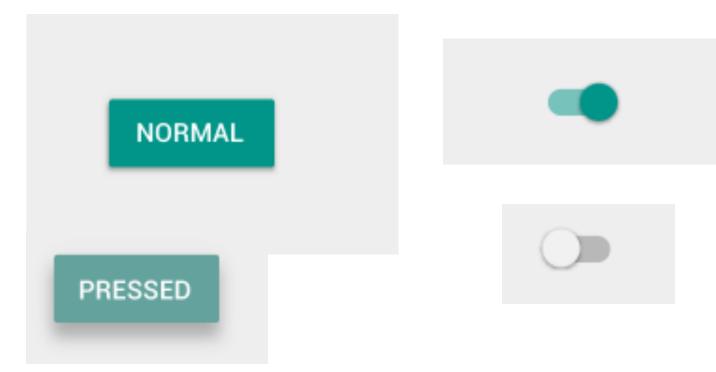
Examples: Google 2016

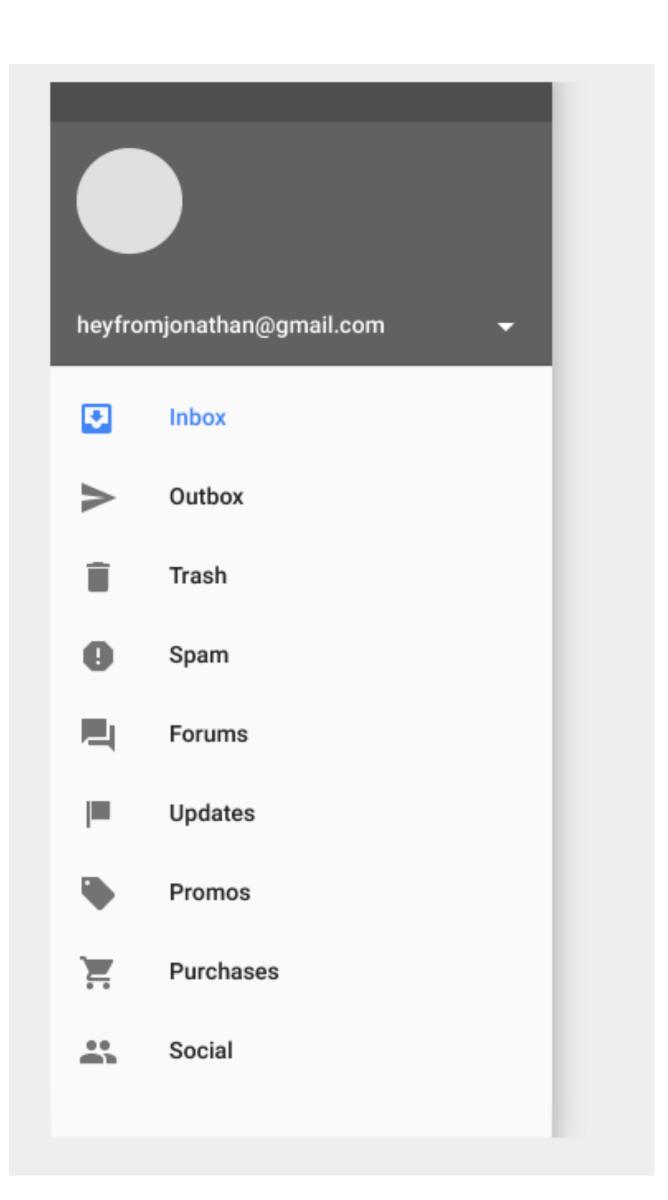
Top 10 Australian beaches

Number 10

Whitehaven Beach Whitsunday Island, Whitsunday Islands

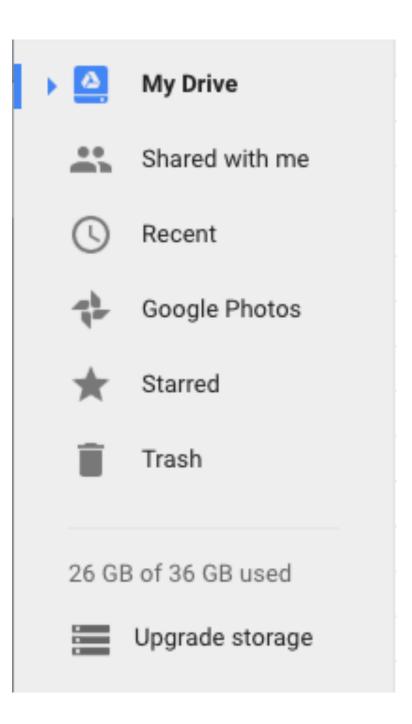
SHARE EXPLORE







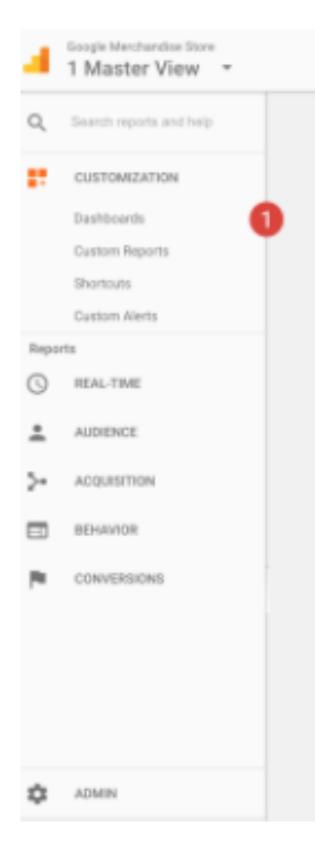
Examples: Google 2016



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App Engine

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Task queues
Security scans
Quotas
Blobstore
Memcache
Search
Settings





Examples: IBM

Product Analytics

Service Onboarding

New Onboarding Statistics		New Onboardi
Completion time (Avg)	38 days	Rejected
Error rate (Avg)	18%	Completed
Type of industry	Automotive	Pending
Client feedback score (Avg)	3.5 - 4	Active
Busiest month	May	Total



Documents

Profiles Community



ding Statistics	
	21
	186
	54
	315
	576

Automotive	42%
Travel	23%
Healthcare	20%
Retail	15%



Examples: IBM



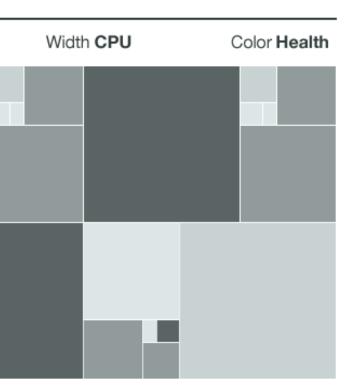
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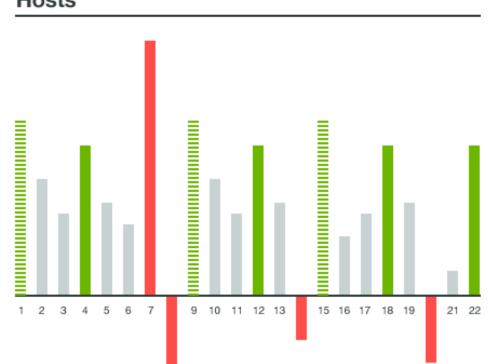
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Hosts



Examples: IBM



Application data

Title	Title	Value	
Imperial	true	9 456 234	
Hard	false	987 345	
Cider	false	43 567	
Anaerobic	true	324 543	
Cold filter	false	432 456	
Barrel hand	true	32 432	
Pump wort	true	4 567	
Dry hopping	false	34 567	
Carbonation	true	434 567	
Mash tun	false	9 456 234	
Bittering hops	true	987 345	
Heat exchanger	false	43 567	
Lauter aerobic	false	324 543	
Abbey seidel	true	432 456	
Brewhouse	false	32 432	
Brewpub adjunct	true	4 567	
Dextrin seidel	true	34 567	
Aau beer	false	434 567	
Krug abv	true	434	

Date 🔻	Value
21. Feb 2014	9 456 234
21. Feb 2014	987 345
21. Feb 2014	43 567
21. Feb 2014	324 543
20. Feb 2014	432 456
20. Feb 2014	32 432
20. Feb 2014	4 567
20. Feb 2014	34 567
20. Feb 2014	434 567
20. Feb 2014	9 456 234
20. Feb 2014	987 345
19. Feb 2014	43 567
19. Feb 2014	324 543
19. Feb 2014	432 456
19. Feb 2014	32 432
19. Feb 2014	4 567
19. Feb 2014	34 567
19. Feb 2014	434 567
19. Feb 2014	434

Configure	User	Save
Catalog	Chat	Repository



Examples: AirBnb

User Marquee

Optional caption

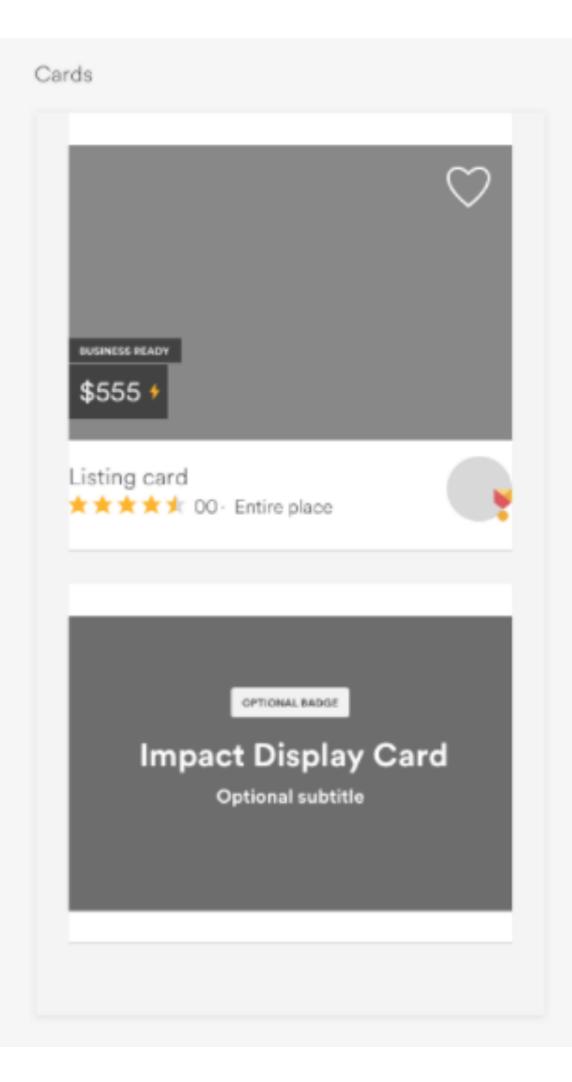
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Paragraph two



Examples: AirBnb



Editorial Marquee

Editorial Marquee

Optional Subtitle

Description: America's early beginnings are etched into the earth of Boston, a traditional New England city.



Examples: Microsoft



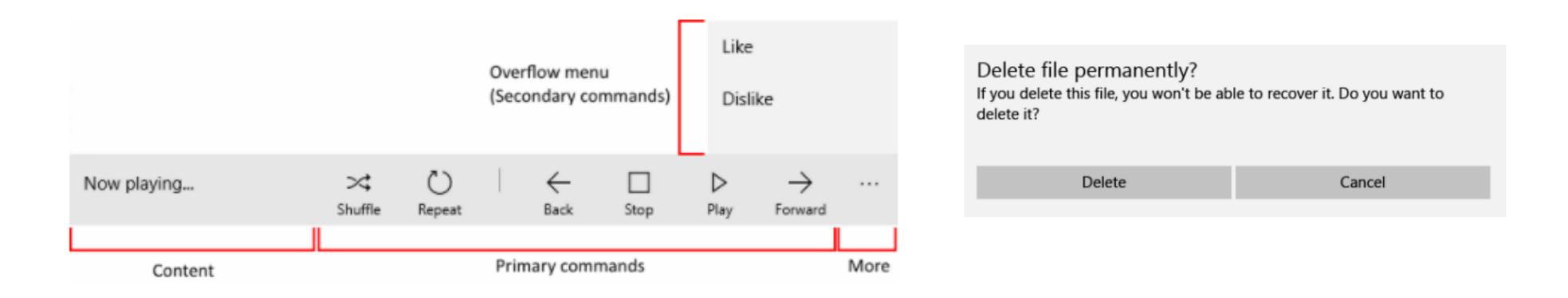
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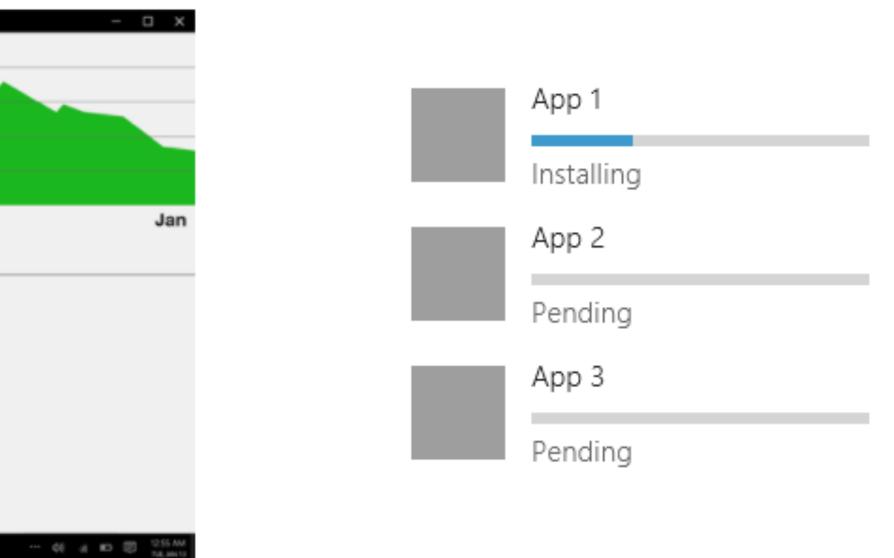
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Examples: Microsoft

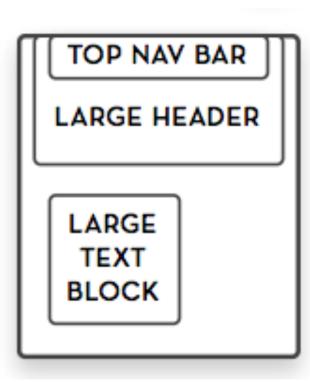
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Lamna Healthcare \$25.50 0.10 0.14%	Apr Jul 12 months 🗸	Oct
Northwind Traders \$521.00 0.10 2.69%	\$41.00	Market cap 342.3B
Trey Research \$-3.13 1.32 -0.68%	Open 41.64	52 w high 50.05
Wide World Importers \$-0.75 2.25 -38.9%	High 41.95	52 w low 38.51
City Power & Linht +	Low 41.41	Volume 35.97M
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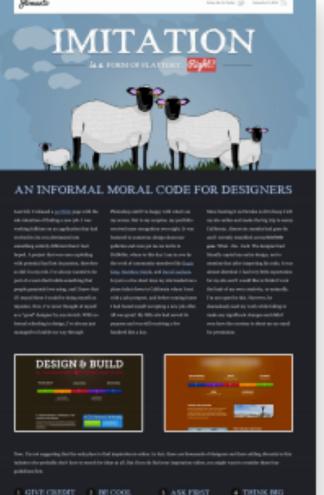




Example: Header with text blocks layout



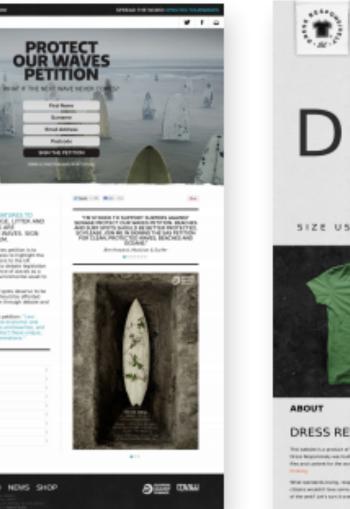






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http://ranjithakumar.net/resources/webzeitgeist.pdf









Position Encodes Meaning and Function



http://ranjithakumar.net/resources/webzeitgeist.pdf



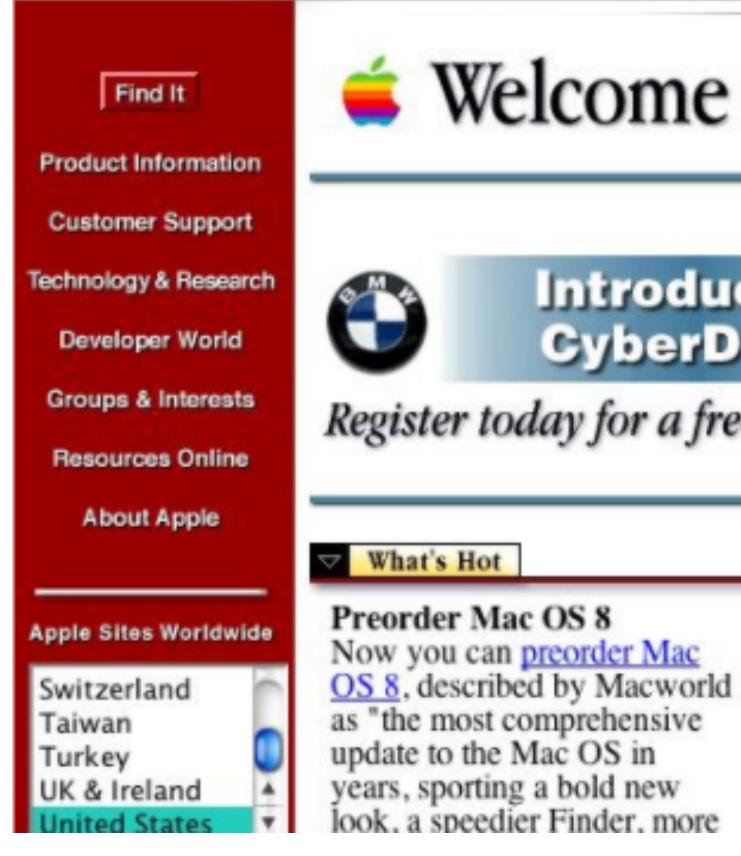
C Info.cem.ch/hypertext/WWW/TheProject.html World Wide Web The WorldWideWeb (W3) is a wide-area hypermedia information r Everything there is online about W3 is linked directly or indirectly to November's W3 news, Frequently Asked Questions What's out there? Pointers to the world's online information, subjects , W3 serve Helo on the browser you are using Software Products A list of W3 project components and their current state. (e.g. Technical Details of protocols, formats, program internals etc Bibliography Paper documentation on W3 and references. People A list of some people involved in the project. History A summary of the history of the project. How can I help ? If you would like to support the web .. Getting code Getting the code by anonymous FTP , etc.

The World Wide Web project ×

https://blog.hubspot.com/marketing/look-back-20-years-website-design#sm.00000ip14jejk1d51u53crk6cwrns

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this document, including an executive summary of the project, Mailing list	I, Policy	
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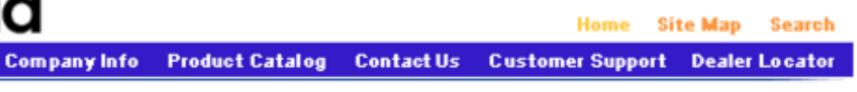
Commercial 🔶





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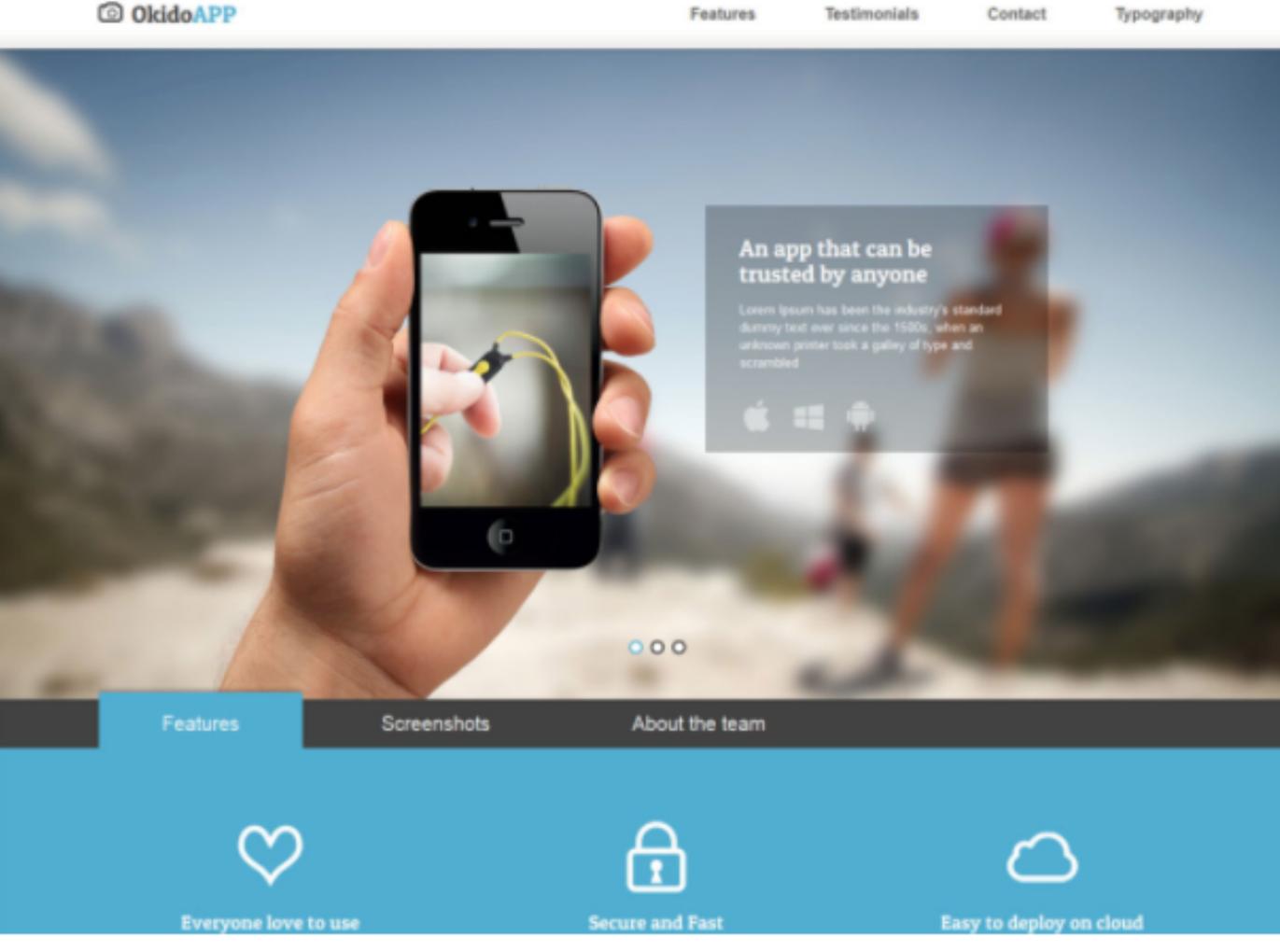
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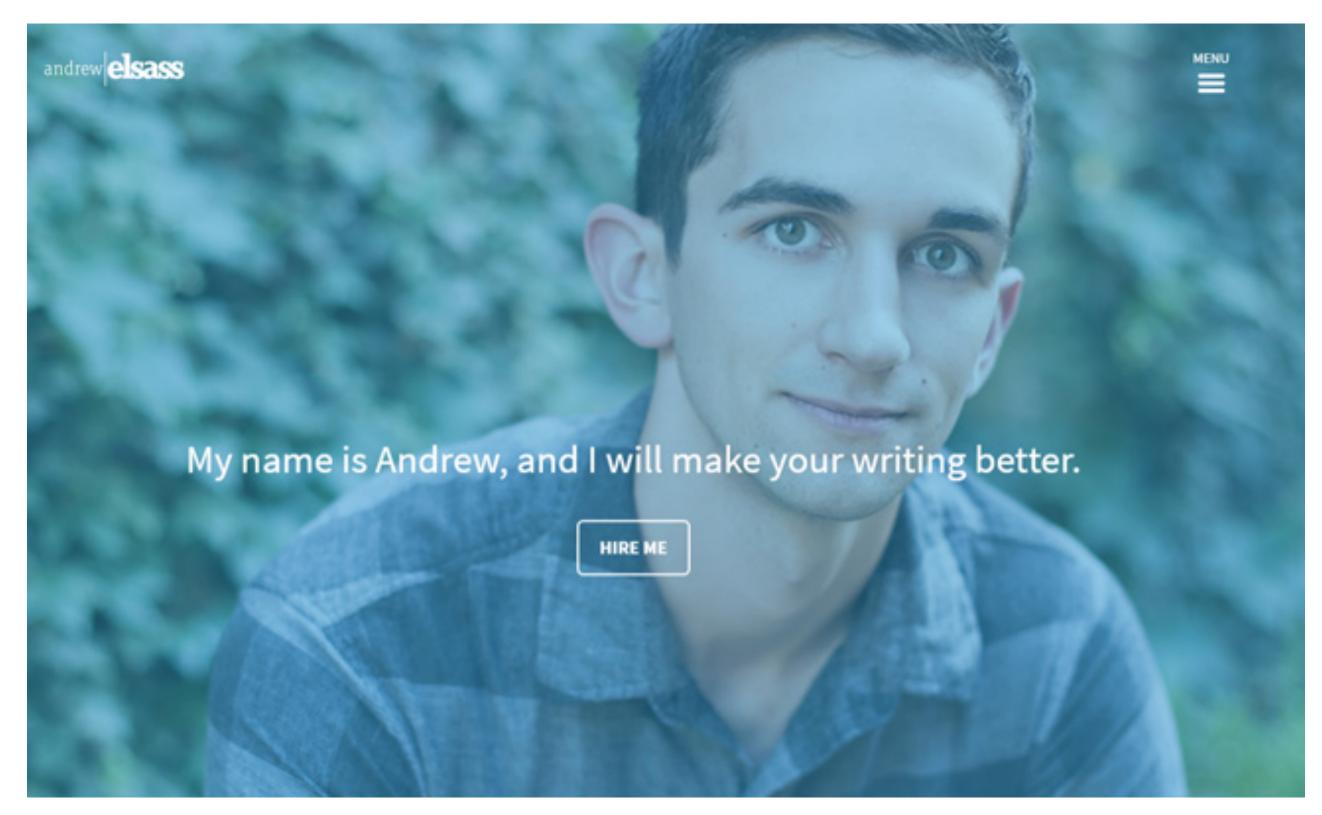
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71

Common Visual Idioms, Circa 2016

• Hero images: large attractive header image

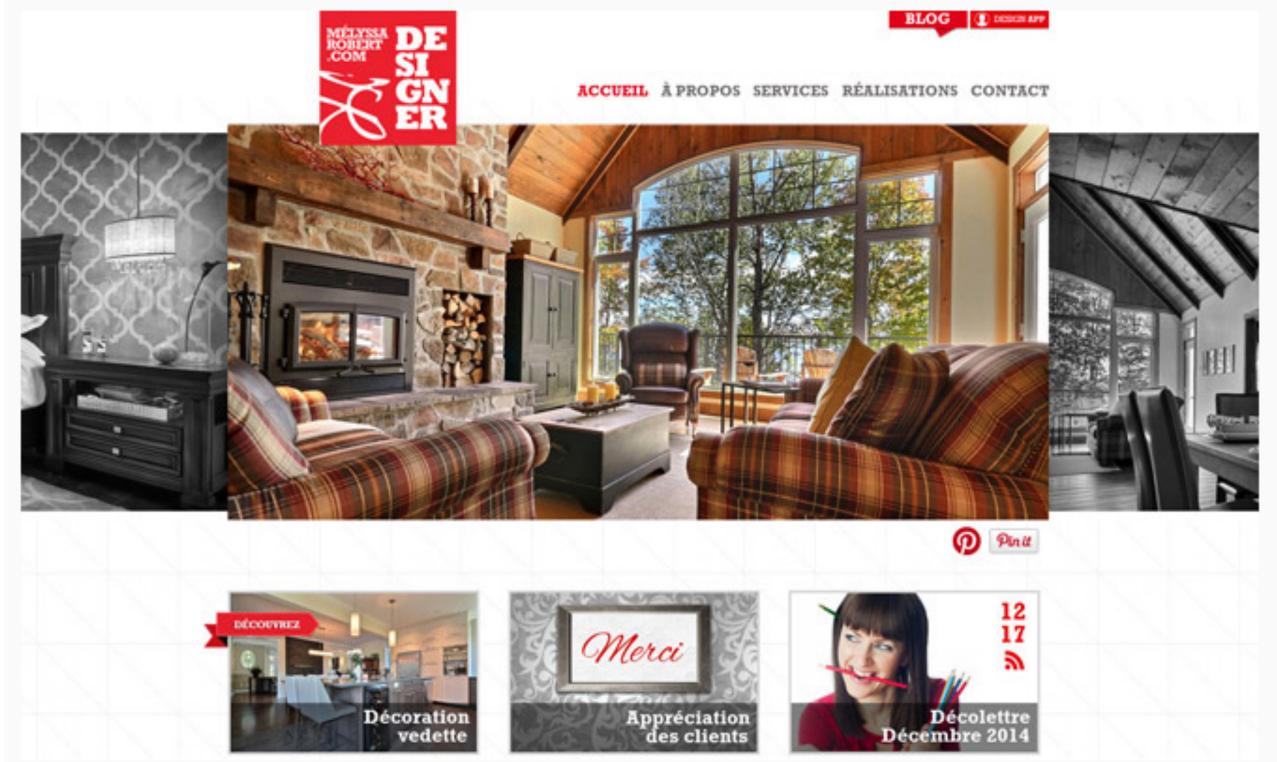


https://envato.com/blog/exploring-hero-image-trend-web-design/



Common visual idioms, circa 2016

• Rotating image galleries (carousels)



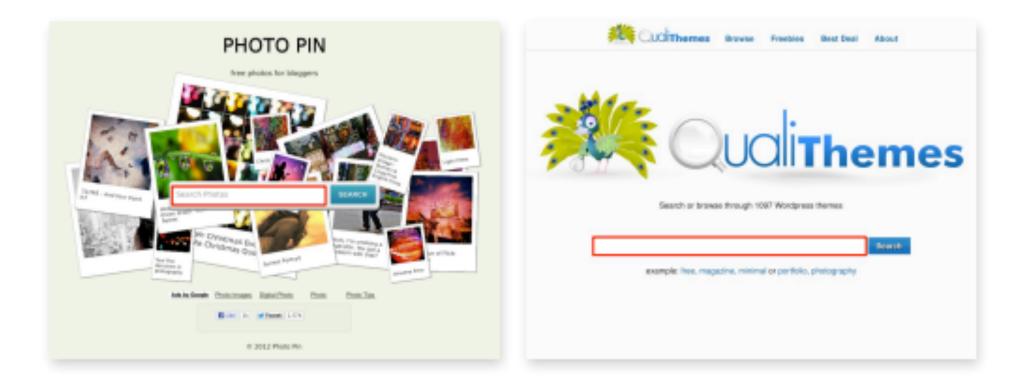
https://envato.com/blog/exploring-hero-image-trend-web-design/

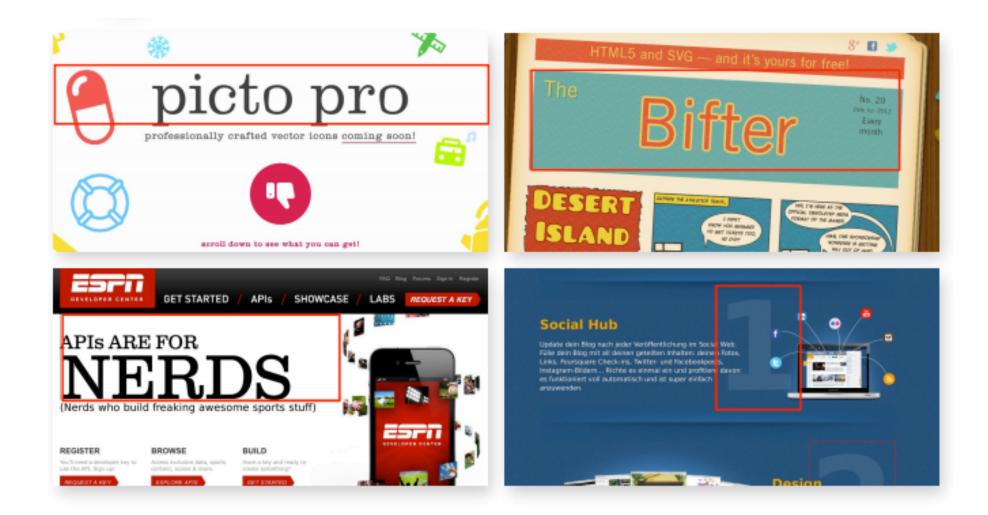


Why it Matters

 Users will have idioms they expect to see, particularly if suggested by other related elements

 Branding: Users will see your website and have particular associations based on what it exemplifies







74

Goals in Designing a Design Language

- Offer guidance and options on
 - Colors: examples of color palettes
 - Typography: justification, sizes, fonts, different heading levels
 - Organization

- Support different resolutions, devices
- Support universal design
 - Visually impaired, color blind users



In-Class Activity

Activity: Design a Design Language

- In groups of 2 or 3, brainstorm an idea for a new company, and then design a Design Language for the new company.
- Your design language should include at least 10 types of elements. For each type of element you should:
 - (1) To identify each category of element, describe (1.1) what is its purpose (e.g., marque image caption, detail text, footer detail text), (1.2) in what situations might it be used
 - (2) Define a style, describing its visual characteristics.
- Deliverables
 - Brief description of company
 - Description of design language with at least 10 types of elements
 - Brief description of how design language helps establish and communicate the brand of the company
 - Due at 7:10pm





Activity: Design a Design Language

- Some example visual design guidelines from well-known companies:
 - https://developer.apple.com/design/human-interface-guidelines
 - https://m3.material.io
 - https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/uwp/design/

