Say no to cookie cutter web layouts

By Chen Hui Jing / @hj_chen
The Digital Revolution
The web is unlike anything we’ve seen before
The “Holy Grail” layout
The “Panel” layout
12 columns
“We need to translate ideas that we find in other places, not transfer them.”

—Jen Simmons
Let’s establish a new normal
CSS Layout Toolbox (2017)

- Flexbox
- Grid
- Object-fit
- Viewport units
- calc()
- Media queries
- Writing mode
- Transforms
- Shapes
- Feature queries
- Multicolumn
- Clip-path
Flexbox and Grid
Based on the container-child relationship

Flex/Grid container

Flex/Grid item
Flexbox
Provides “simple and powerful tools for distributing space and aligning content in ways that web apps and complex web pages often need”
# Flexbox browser support

**CSS Flexible Box Layout Module**

Method of positioning elements in horizontal or vertical stacks. Support includes all properties prefixed with `'flex'`, as well as `'display: flex'`, `'display: inline-flex'`, `'align-content'`, `'align-items'`, `'align-self'`, `'justify-content'` and `'order'`.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Version</th>
<th>IE</th>
<th>Edge</th>
<th>Firefox</th>
<th>Chrome</th>
<th>Safari</th>
<th>Opera</th>
<th>iOS Safari</th>
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<td>46</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data from caniuse.com | embed from caniuse-bitsofco.de

Global: 83.8% + 13.39% = 97.19%
Flexbox basics

```css
.flex-cont1 {
  display: flex;
}

.flex-cont1 div {
  border: 1px solid;
}

.flex-cont1 p {
  display: none;
  border: 1px solid;
}
```
## Flex shorthand

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>flex: initial</th>
<th>flex: 0 1 auto, cannot grow but can shrink when there isn’t enough space</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>flex: auto</td>
<td>flex: 1 1 auto, can grow and shrink to fit available space</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>flex: none</td>
<td>flex: 0 0 auto, cannot grow or shrink, AKA inflexible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>flex: &lt;positive-number&gt;</td>
<td>flex: &lt;positive-number&gt; 1 0, can grow and shrink, extent of growth depends on flex factor</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Flexbox layouts (1/2)

```css
.flex-cont2 ul {
  display: flex;
  flex-wrap: wrap;
}

.flex-cont2 li {
  flex: 1 0 auto;
  // border: 1px solid;
}

.flex-cont2 img {
  width: 100%;
  height: 3em;
  object-fit: cover;
  margin: 0.25em 0;
}
```
calc() and object-fit browser support

CSS3 object-fit/object-position
Method of specifying how an object (image or video) should fit inside its box. object-fit options include "contain" (fit according to aspect ratio), "fill" (stretches object to fill) and "cover" (overflows box but maintains ratio), where object-position allows the object to be repositioned like background-image does.

calc() as CSS unit value
Method of allowing calculated values for length units, i.e. `width: calc(100% - 3em)`
CSS Grid

Defines a two-dimensional grid-based layout system, optimized for user interface design.
CSS Grid browser support

CSS Grid Layout
Method of using a grid concept to lay out content, providing a mechanism for authors to divide available space for layout into columns and rows using a set of predictable sizing behaviors.

<table>
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</tbody>
</table>

Data from caniuse.com | embed from caniuse.bitsofcode.de

Global: 66.65% + 4.63% = 71.28%
CSS grid basics

Define your grid.
Place items in the grid.
Fixed CSS grid

```css
.container {
  display: grid;
  grid-template-columns: repeat(5, 10em);
}
```
Fluid CSS grid

.container {
  display: grid;
  grid-template-columns: repeat(5, 1fr);
}

CSS Grids
Fluid Grid
Responsive CSS grid

```
.container {
  display: grid;
  grid-template-columns: repeat(5, minmax(10em, 1fr));
}
```
Placing grid items

grid-row and grid-column

Grid Track

Grid Cell
But books are good only so far as a boy is ready for them. He sometimes gets quite superior to the common sense of his elders and betters. The wise man is often uncomprehended in the school, but he is the kind who makes a book, not a boy. He reads himself to be better than the books, and he is. The schoolboy is an enthusiastic reader. You give him books and he reads them; you give him a boy and he reads him. You show him the world, and he reads the moon. If you give him a lesson you get a book.

Arthur, politics, ger and Fasting and these are all alike. In the end, all education, literary and otherwise, comes to this: the one who reads the world reads the books.

---

THE GONDUOT OF LIFE

CULURE

R.W. EMERSON - 1840
Whitespace

.grid-cont1 ul {
  display: grid;
  grid-template-columns: repeat(auto-fill, minmax(3em, 1fr));
  grid-template-areas: "a b . . c"
               "d . . ."
               "e . . . f";
}
.grid-cont1 li:nth-child(6) {
  grid-area: f;
}
Was Kunst häufig so harmlos macht, ist gerade ihre Selbstüber-
schätzung. Der naive Glaube, alle Probleme erkennen, begreifen,
subtil verfremden, interdisziplinär vernetzen und am Ende in
ausstellbare Form bringen zu können, ist die eigentliche Ursa-
che für das Krankheitsbild Irrelevanz, das viele Kunstwerke heu-
te so schön und teuer, aber auch so weltfremd und unwissend
macht. Das Projekt »Borderline« bei FACT Zollverein unternahm
deshalb den Versuch, Interdisziplinarität auf den Prüfstand zu
stellen. Wie viel weiß Kunst vom Leben draußen? Und was
Overlap (1/2)

The Orange Issue

```css
.grid-cont2 {
  display: grid;
  grid-template-columns: repeat(9, 1.25em);
  grid-template-rows: repeat(6, 1.25em);
}

h2 {
  grid-row: 3 / 5;
  grid-column: 1 / 10;
}

.grid-cont2::before {
  grid-row: 1 / 7;
  grid-column: 1 / 7;
}

.grid-cont2::after {
  grid-row: 1 / 7;
  grid-column: 4 / 10;
}
```
Overlap (2/2)

```javascript
main {
  display: grid;
  grid-template-columns: repeat(auto-fill, minmax(8em, 1fr));
  grid-auto-rows: 8em;
}
@media screen and (max-width: 383px) {
  main {
    grid-template-rows: 3em repeat(auto-fill, 8em);
  }
}
@media screen and (min-aspect-ratio: 1/1) {
  main {
    grid-template-columns: repeat(4, minmax(25vw, 5em));
    grid-template-rows: repeat(3, calc(100vh / 3));
    grid-template-areas: "a b c d" "e f g h" "i j k l";
  }
}
```
Firefox Grid Inspector (1/2)
Transforms

Allows us to change the shape and position of the affected content without disrupting the normal document flow.
Sant Jordi a les Biblioteques 2008
22.04.08 19h
Saló de Cent de l'Ajuntament de Barcelona
Pregó de la lectura a càrrec d'Alessandro Baricco
# 2D transform functions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Function</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><code>rotate(&lt;angle&gt;)</code></td>
<td>Performs a 2D rotation by the angle specified around the element’s origin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>translate(&lt;translation-value&gt;[, &lt;translation-value&gt;])</code></td>
<td>Performs a 2D translation in the specified X and Y directions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>skew(&lt;angle&gt;[, &lt;angle&gt;])</code></td>
<td>Performs a 2D skew by the angles specified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>scale(&lt;number&gt;[, &lt;number&gt;])</code></td>
<td>Performs a 2D scale operation by the scaling vector specified</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Diagonal text with rotate()

```css
.trf2d-cont {
  display: grid;
  grid-template-columns: repeat(9, 1fr);
  grid-template-rows: repeat(3, 2em)
  repeat(3, minmax(10vmin, 3em)) 2em 2em 50vh;
  grid-gap: 0.125em;
  position: relative;
}
@media screen and (min-width: 480px) {
  .trf2d-cont {
    transform: rotate(-30deg)
    translateX(5vh);
  }
}
@media screen and (min-width: 640px) {
  .trf2d-cont {
    transform: rotate(-30deg)
    translateY(-15vh);
  }
}
```
14 November 2012

ORAN MOR

SNARKY PUPPY
FEDERATION OF THE DISCO PIMP

WEST SIDED STORY

DIRECTED BY ROBERT WISE

JEROME ROBBINS
NEW DIRECTIONS IN PORTUGAL

AIED MATEUS - BROTHERS OF INVENTION

PORTUGAL'S IMPRESSIVE CULTURAL AND CREATIVE POTENTIAL WAS FIRST REVEALED TO THE WORLD OF MODERN ARCHITECTURE BY ALVARO SIZA. IN HIS WAKE, A NEW GENERATION OF ARCHITECTS IS EMERGING THAT INCLUDES MANUEL AND FRANCISCO AIRES MATEUS. THEIR WORK IS BOTH STRONGLY INTERNATIONAL AND ROOTED IN ITS PARTICULAR PLACE.

BY DENNIS CARTER. PHOTOGRAPHY BY DANIEL MALEO

Manuel and Francisco Aires Mateus are brothers who, after studying architecture at the Escola Superior de Tecnologia de Lisboa, went their separate ways, working as architects until they joined forces in 1988. Their practice was to develop new ideas, one of them being a studio in Lisbon, from a renovated apartment in a former factory. As they have worked collaboratively, they have developed a style that combines modernism and tradition. Their work is strongly influenced by the Portuguese landscape, and they have used it in many of their projects.

Their work has been exhibited in many countries, and they have been awarded numerous prizes for their innovative designs. They have been influential in the development of contemporary architecture in Portugal, and their work has been featured in many publications and exhibitions.

Their latest project is the design of a new museum in Lisbon, which is due to be completed in 2023. The museum will house the work of the late Portuguese artist Joaquim Cardozo, and it will be an important addition to the cultural landscape of Lisbon.

The brothers are known for their commitment to social issues, and they have used their design work to address a range of social problems, including housing, education, and public spaces.

Their innovative approach to design and their commitment to social issues have made them leaders in the Portuguese architectural scene.

OPPOSITE PAGE: For this house in Almada (2006), a small village just outside of Lisbon, Ares Mateus & Associates related and improved the “mass” work of a former house, using their studio’s workshop to construct a contemporary intervention. The result is a structure that combines traditional and modern elements.

The brothers continue to work on a number of projects, and they are looking forward to the future with optimism. They remain committed to their work, and they are determined to continue to be leaders in the field of architecture.

www.aires-mateus.com
Rethinking Web Design
# Transforms browser support

## CSS3 2D Transforms
Method of transforming an element including rotating, scaling, etc. includes support for `transform` as well as `transform-origin` properties.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Browser</th>
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</table>

Data from caniuse.com | Embed from caniuse.bsfco.de

**Global:** 94.14% + 0% = 94.14%

## CSS3 3D Transforms
Method of transforming an element in the third dimension using the `transform` property. Includes support for the `perspective` property to set the perspective in z-space and the `backface-visibility` property to toggle display of the reverse side of a 3D-transformed element.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Browser</th>
<th>IE</th>
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</tbody>
</table>

Data from caniuse.com | Embed from caniuse.bsfco.de

**Global:** 90.05% + 3.56% = 93.71%
Editor's LETTER

EVERGREEN

May not be by 1 ft, but I've been starting my own little green movement. I stepped using the plastic bags at the supermarket. I threw my plastic cake away container and no longer use the disposable bento box I used to. Instead, I use small glass jars. I've also reduced my carbon footprint by taking a bus home instead of a cab. I also now walk around in my best shoes because they are made of sustainable materials. I am proud of my sustainable lifestyle.

May not be by 1 ft, but I've been starting my own little green movement. I stepped using the plastic bags at the supermarket. I threw my plastic cake away container and no longer use the disposable bento box I used to. Instead, I use small glass jars. I've also reduced my carbon footprint by taking a bus home instead of a cab. I also now walk around in my best shoes because they are made of sustainable materials. I am proud of my sustainable lifestyle.
The Trouble with

When the price of oil soared to $100 a barrel, companies around the world scrambled to adjust to the new reality. The oil market was in a state of flux, with prices rising and falling rapidly. Governments and companies worldwide were affected by the changes, and the future of the oil industry remained uncertain.

Across the Gulf, oil prices have risen from $30 to $100 per barrel, according to the figures. But at the same time, energy security and energy efficiency have become more important. The Gulf's ability to meet its energy needs is now more dependent on imports, and this has raised concerns about the long-term sustainability of its energy strategy.

In the face of these challenges, the Gulf's leaders have sought to diversify their economies, but the process has been slow. Many of the region's economies remain heavily dependent on oil and gas, and the transition to alternative energy sources is unlikely to be easy.

The Gulf's leaders have also made efforts to improve energy efficiency and reduce waste, but the progress has been limited. The region's dependence on fossil fuels is likely to continue for some time, and efforts to reduce emissions will face significant challenges.

As the Gulf's leaders grapple with these issues, they must also consider the impact of climate change on their economies. The region is particularly vulnerable to rising sea levels and changes in precipitation patterns, and efforts to adapt to these changes will be critical.

In conclusion, the Gulf's leaders must balance the need for energy security with the goal of reducing emissions and diversifying their economies. The challenges are significant, but with the right policies and strategies, the Gulf can emerge from this period of uncertainty stronger and more resilient than ever before.
Out of Control

Is Ukraine the Next Yugoslavia?

Who Are You Calling a Slut?

Coach Kill checks in at Mayo for tests

NEXT STOP FOR LYNTN: NBA FINALS

¿Conseguirías volar hasta España? (Could you fly to Spain?)
CSS Shapes
Defines properties to control the geometry of an element's float area
Basic shapes

Lollipop marshmallow lemon drops jujubes muffin fruitcake bonbon. Muffin carrot cake bear claw sweet roll tiramisu chocolate jelly beans toffee sweet roll. Biscuit candy sweet sweet powder tart bear claw. Tiramisu jelly beans apple pie donut topping dessert lemon drops gummies halvah.


Gummi bears apple pie chupa chups jelly pie halvah pastry sweet. Cookie dessert sweet roll icing cheesecake macaroon wafer cheesecake. Toffee lemon drops apple pie fruitcake sweet roll chocolate cake jelly bear claw jelly. Donut tiramisu chocolate cake sesame snaps marshmallow tootsie roll candy canes cheesecake cotton candy.

Cake powder croissant lollipop cotton candy tiramisu lollipop tiramisu. Cookie candy canes gummies jujubes bonbon fruitcake ice cream gingerbread. Marzipan toffee carrot cake marshmallow danish cupcake jelly-o.

Beyoncé Giselle Knowles-Carter is an American singer, songwriter, dancer and actress. Born and raised in Houston, Texas, Beyoncé performed in various singing and dancing competitions as a child. She rose to fame in the late 1990s as lead singer of the girl group Destiny's Child.
To be honest, the W3C spec is not that easy to understand, so here's my attempt at explaining it in plain English. A prerequisite for applying CSS shapes is that the element containing the shape property must be floated or absolutely positioned. In other words, how you want the text to flow around your element. In addition to that, you can also extract a shape from images with an alpha channel.
WASH YOUR FACE

FACT: Regularly washing your face can do wonders for your skin. By Emily Balling Photograph: Benoît Noisette
Viewport-percentage lengths

Viewport-percentage lengths are relative to the size of the viewport’s *initial containing block*. When the height or width of the viewport is changed, they are scaled accordingly.
**Viewport units**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><code>vw</code> unit</td>
<td>Equal to 1% of the <strong>width</strong> of the viewport’s initial containing block</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>vh</code> unit</td>
<td>Equal to 1% of the <strong>height</strong> of the viewport’s initial containing block</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>vmin</code> unit</td>
<td>Equal to the <strong>smaller</strong> of <code>vw</code> or <code>vh</code>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>vmax</code> unit</td>
<td>Equal to the <strong>larger</strong> of <code>vw</code> or <code>vh</code>.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Fluid typography with locks

\[
calc(16px + (24 - 16) \times (100vw - 400px) / (800 - 400));
\]

How to Work Up to a Handstand Against the Wall

Doing a handstand against the wall is not a difficult move to do. It doesn’t require much strength, as when you do it right, you’re using your structure more than muscle. It takes some coordination and balance, though. So if you’ve never done it before that can be the hard part. But with a little practice, just about anyone will be able to achieve this.

The most difficult piece of the handstand for most is simply being upside down. If you’re not used to this position - and most people aren’t - then you’ll find you tend to lose control of your body when you do go upside down. That’s why I say coordination is the biggest thing you’ll have to learn.

Use the Headstand to Get Used to Being Upside Down
Fluid typography (with Sass)

About speaking at conferences

How would you feel if you’re given the opportunity to talk about one of your favourite things in front of a large group of people? For the little group of people who have attended Talk.CSS before (I LOVE you all), it seems like I’m pretty okay with public speaking, and honestly, I generally am. But an “official” event like a conference (or anything with a budget, actually), does feel different.

I know that Chris and I often joke that we’re flying blind when it comes to Talk.CSS, and that’s largely true, and we do a lot of improvisation and ad-libbing for that, but meet-ups are generally quite casual and relaxed.

Conferences (and events with a budget), at least to me, come with a greater responsibility and an air of professionalism.
Responsive image gallery

https://www.chenhuijing.com/demos/css-slider/

.container {
    display: flex;
    justify-content: center;
}

.thumbnails {
    display: flex;
    flex-direction: column;
    line-height: 0;
}

li {
    flex: auto;
}

a {
    display: block;
}

img {
    width: 30vmin;
    height: 20vmin;
    object-fit: cover;
Writing-mode

Defines CSS features to support for various international writing modes
What are you searching for?

Us alone. Destiny
unseen hand just pushing random coincidence, some answer... the winds of fate then? Here's another our will, something like made, the sheer force of today? The choices we how did we all get here

They're the thing that gets us to "Computers aren't the thing."

Halt and Catch Fire
Vertical headers
Building for cross-browser compatibility

This is the third post of a multi-part series about developing the brand identity for Wismut Labs.
Vertical navigation

Without roots. Everywhere.
THEN SUDDENLY, IN A FLASH, I SAW SOMETHING WHITE BEING GRABBED. I TURNED AROUND AND CLICKED THE MOMENT THE SAILOR KISSED THE NURSE.

ALFRED EISENSTAEDT

VICTORY OVER JAPAN DAY
Bogart

Humphrey

It was during Bogart's naval stint that he developed his characteristic lisp, though the actual circumstances are unclear.
An der Schnittstelle zwischen persönlichem Schicksal und melancholischer Langeweile — wenn das Warten zum Bild wird.
# Feature Queries

CSS Feature Queries allow authors to condition rules based on whether particular property declarations are supported in CSS using the `@supports` at rule.

![CSS Feature Queries](image)

### CSS Feature Queries Table

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<td>44</td>
<td>9.3</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data from caniuse.com | embed from caniuse.com/

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.selector {
    /* Styles that are supported in old browsers */
}

@supports (property:value) {
    .selector {
        /* Styles for browsers that support the specified property */
    }
}
“CSS isn’t a programming language. It’s a stylesheet language. We shouldn’t expect it to behave like a programming language. It has its own unique landscape and structures, ones that people with programming language mental maps might not expect.”

—Danielle Huntrods
A long list of references

- CSS Isn’t Black Magic
- Six Layout Myths Busted
- List of CSS properties, both proposed and standard
- CSS Inheritance, The Cascade And Global Scope: Your New Old Worst Best Friends
- History of Flexbox
- 11 things I learned reading the flexbox spec
- Deep Dive into Grid Layout Placement
- CSS Grid Layout and positioned items
- Powerful New Additions to the CSS Grid Inspector in Firefox Nightly
- There are maps for these territories
The CSS Layout Workshop

Does this sound familiar?

"I love designing a site, but then I find I have to compromise the design when it comes to building it with CSS."

"My approach to building layouts is to try things, reload and see what happens."

"I use a framework to do my layouts. I’d love to know what it is really doing under the hood."

"Once I get my CSS working I’m afraid to make changes in case it all falls apart again!"

"I’ve never really understood why margins collapse."

Thank you!

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