

Creating Responsive Drupal Sites with Zen Grids and the Zen 5 Theme

John Albin Wilkins and Dana DeMet
Palantir.net



About Palantir.net

- Founded in 1996; working with Drupal since 2006
- Web strategy, design, and development firm
- Team of senior-level Drupal and Web experts
- Leading contributors to Drupal core, contributed modules, and community
- Enterprise Select Acquia Partner

Palantir and Responsive Design

- Responsive Web Design is the sustainable approach for building “mobile-first” sites
- The mobile device landscape is growing and changing rapidly
- Zen 5 and Zen Grids are built to embrace that change
- Zen 5 and Zen Grids are battle-tested and ready to use today

<http://drupal.org/project/zen>

禪 zen

extend and design



**Over 700,000
downloads!**

禪 zen

+



Zen 7.x-5.0 is the 5th major release.

+ Normalize.css

+ Respond.js

+ Compass

+ Zen Grids

+ Responsive Design

禪 zen

+



+ ARIA

+ Mobile First

+ Sass

+ Drush

+ HTML5 Shiv

+ IE Conditional Classes



+ Accessibility

+ RTL

FENCES



Drupal 7

```
<div class="field-field-NAME">  
  <div class="field-label">  
    LABEL: &nbsp;  
  </div>  
  
  <div class="field-items">  
    <div>VALUE 1</div>  
    <div>VALUE 2</div>  
  </div>  
</div>
```

Drupal 7 + Fences

```
<h3 class="field-label">  
  LABEL  
</h3>  
  
<ELEMENT class="field-NAME">  
  VALUES  
</ELEMENT>
```


Building a Responsive Drupal Site

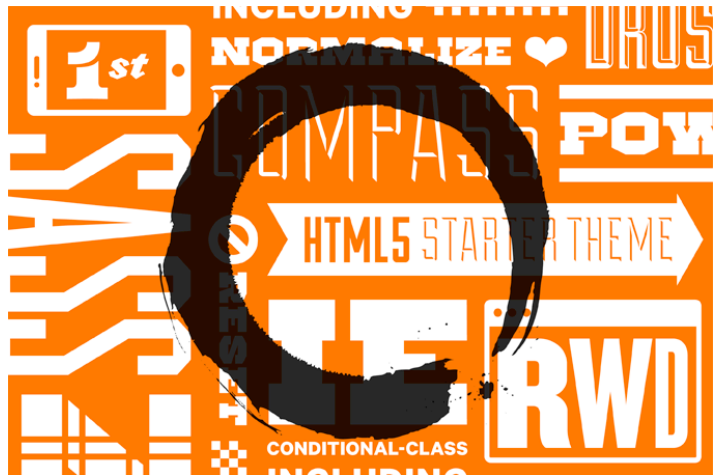
1. Configure Drupal fields with Fences
2. Build a Zen sub-theme
3. Design your layouts with Zen Grids and Sass

Building a Responsive Drupal Site

1. Configure Drupal fields with Fences
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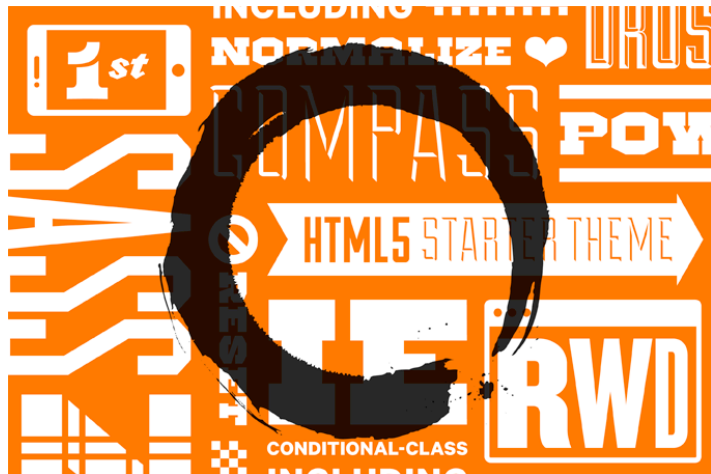
Guiding principle of Zen



Zen makes no assumptions about your content and your design.

It does the most minimally useful thing for all designs and then *gets the hell out of your way*.

Guiding principle of Zen



Lean, semantic HTML5 markup

Flexible, light-weight responsive framework


Drush + Zen =


- > drush dl zen (*download Zen*)
- > drush cc all (*clear the cache*)
- > drush zen "My First Sub-theme" first
--description="Our example theme."
--without-rtl

Starter kit for "My First Sub-theme" created in:
`/sites/all/themes/first`

Configure your sub-theme

extend and design





Zen Sub-theme Starter Kit

Read the [online docs](#) or the included README.txt on how to c

[Settings](#) | [Disable](#) | [Set default](#)

DISABLED THEMES

/admin/appearance

Configure your sub-theme

Text for the "skip link"

For example: *Jump to navigation, Skip to content*

Add HTML5 and responsive scripts and meta tags to every page.

- Add Respond.js JavaScript to add basic CSS3 media query support to IE 6–8.
- Add HTML5 shim JavaScript to add support to IE 6–8.
- Add meta tags to support responsive design on mobile devices.

IE 6–8 require a JavaScript polyfill solution to add basic support of HTML5 and CSS3 media use another polyfill solution, such as [Modernizr](#), you can disable these options. Mobile dev tags for responsive designs.

THEME DEVELOPMENT SETTINGS

Turn off “Add Respond.js” if you want to use a custom Modernizr script.

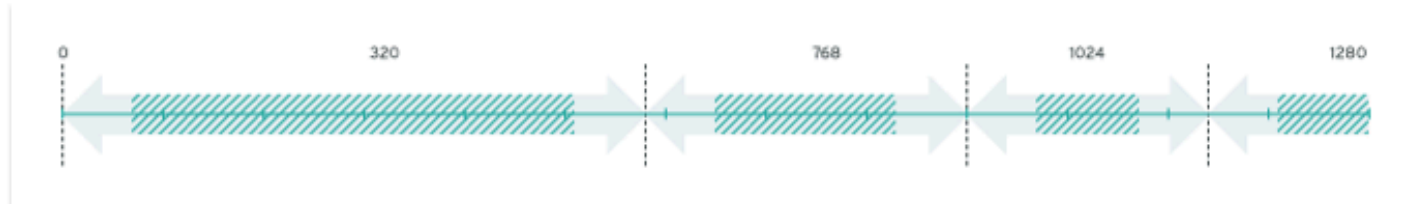
Re-thinking Responsive Techniques

Natural vs. Unnatural Breakpoints

Traditional Approach



Proposed Approach



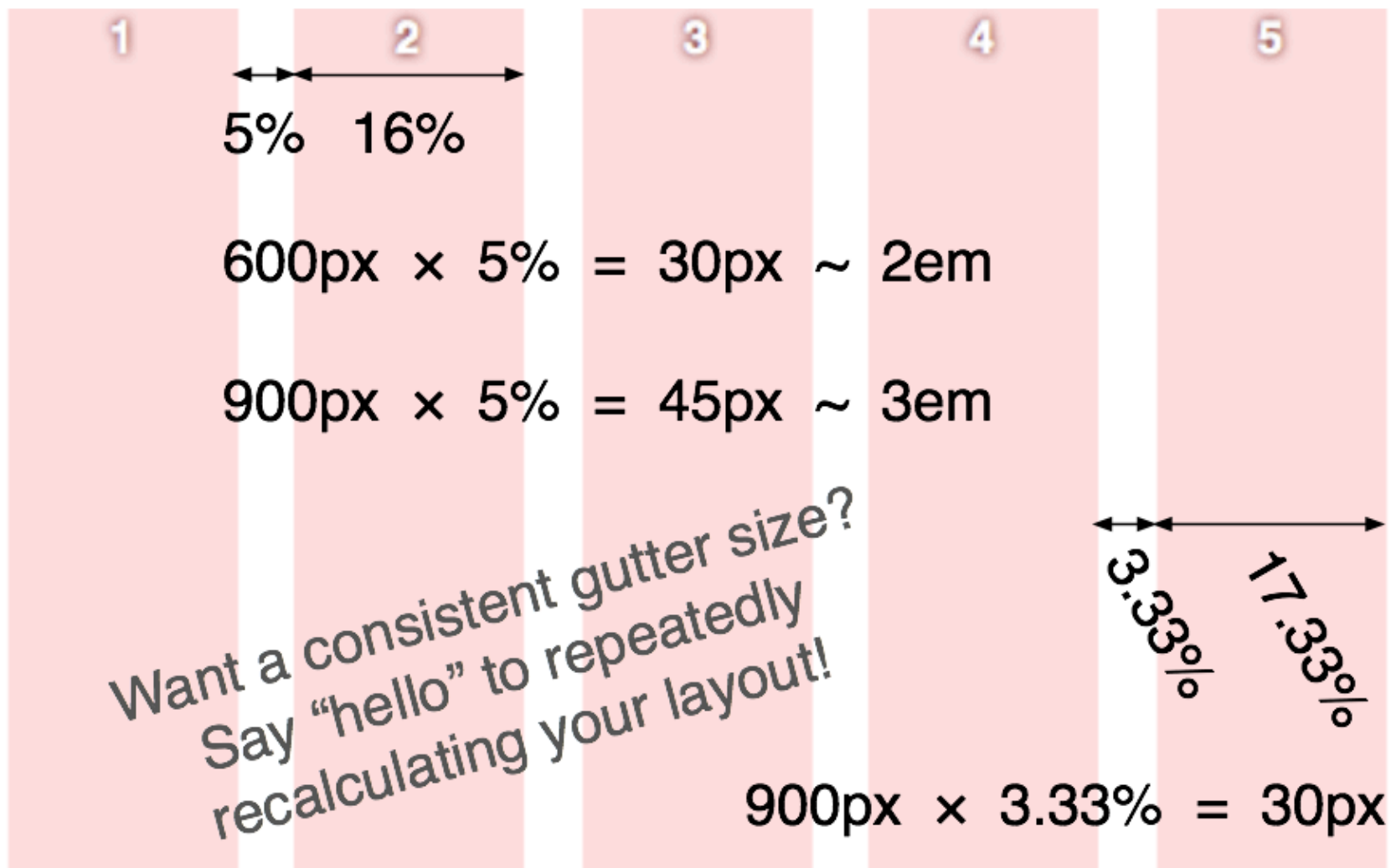
<http://www.palantir.net/blog/re-thinking-breakpoints-responsive-design>

%-based gutters

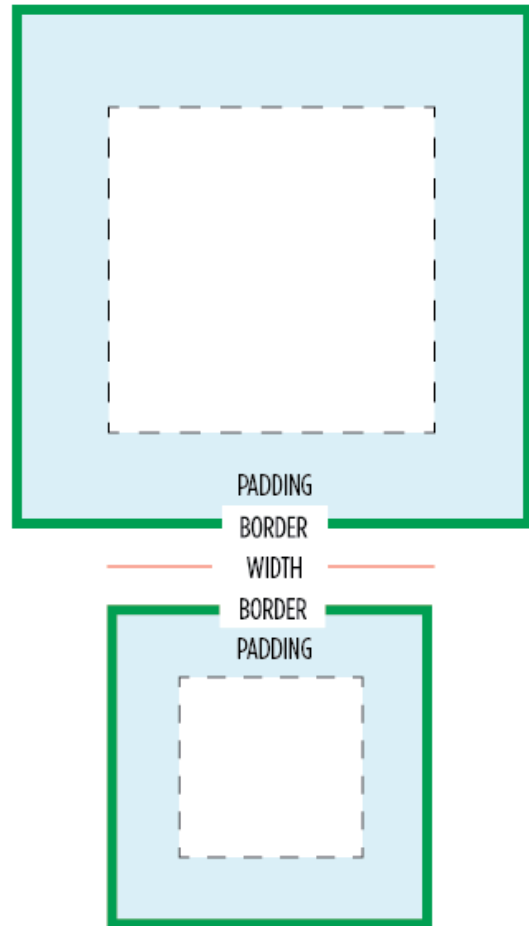
%-based gutters

- They suck.

%-based gutters



em or px-based gutters

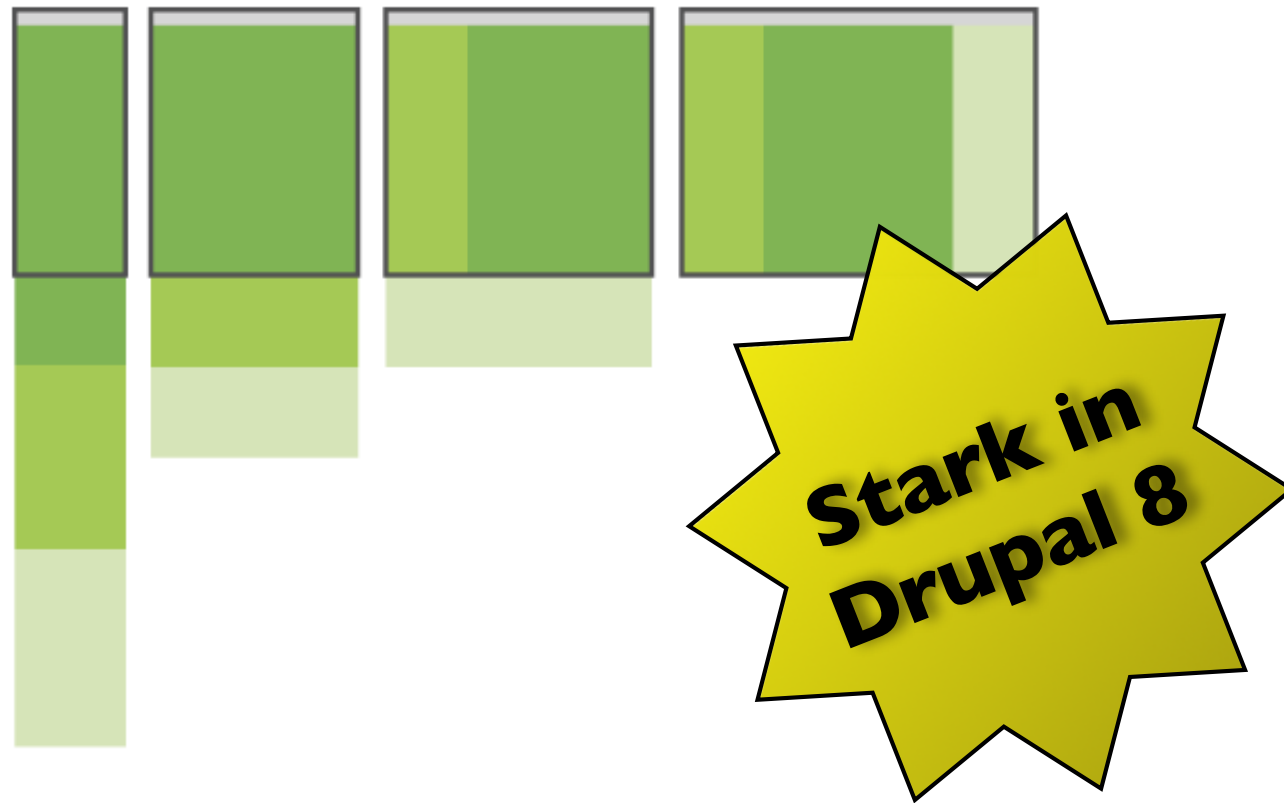


```
box-sizing: border-box;
```

Set your gutter
(padding) in em or px.
Set your column
widths in %.



The obvious layout method: region-based layouts



“Multi-Device Layout Patterns”

<http://www.lukew.com/ff/entry.asp?1514>

Field-based layouts

Each field becomes a grid item

The image shows a screenshot of a website layout with several annotations in red text and arrows pointing to specific fields:

- image field**: Points to a large image of people walking on a street.
- body text field**: Points to the main text block under "Our Client".
- "highlights" text field**: Points to the "HIGHLIGHTS" section.
- "team" text field**: Points to the "THE TEAM" section.

The website content includes:

- Left sidebar: "Barnard students intern at Black Rock Forest Consortium", "For The New York Times, Prof. José C. Moya discusses 'Amerindian immigration from Latin America'", "The New Yorker profiles Barnard commencement speaker Facebook COO Sheryl Sandberg".
- Top navigation: "EVENT", "NEWS", "NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION PROGRAM".
- Main content: "Our Client", "HIGHLIGHTS", "THE TEAM".

禪 zen + 禪
ZEN GRIDS

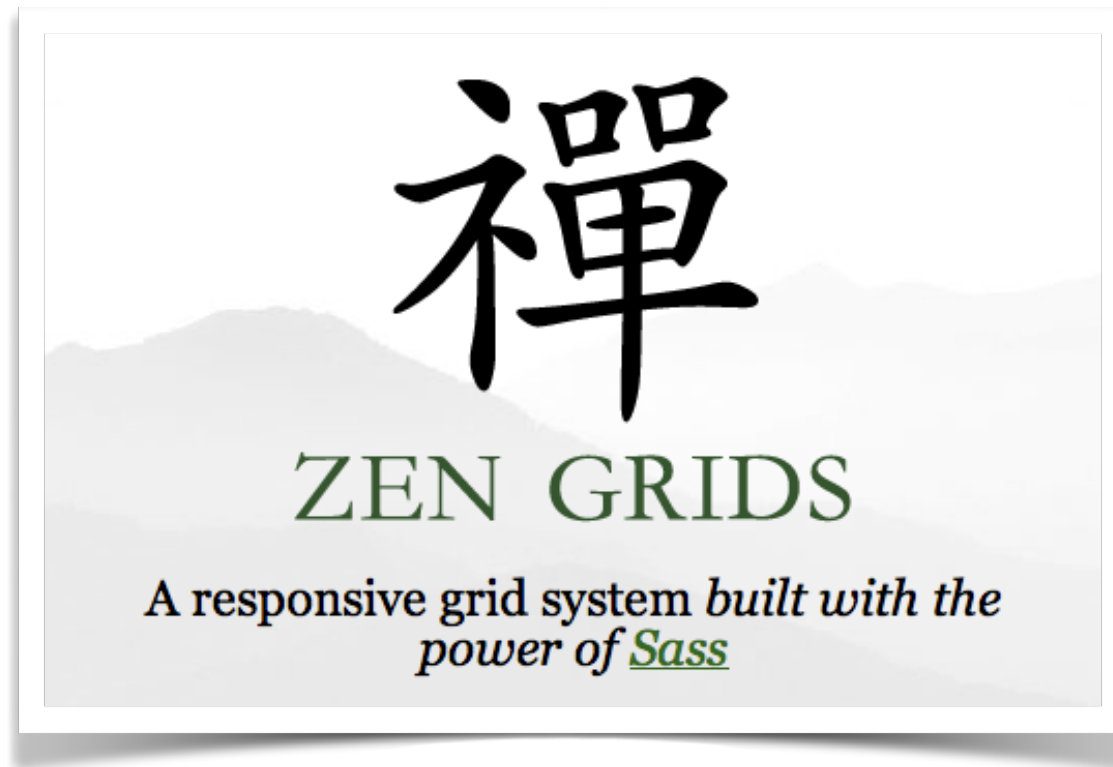


A Drupal Project



A Sass/Compass Project

Zen Grids is a separate project (but it's included with the Zen theme)



<http://zen grids.com>

Writing raw layout CSS is hard

- Writing 3 to 5 separate layouts with raw CSS is really, really, really, really, *really* hard.
- Sass makes its easy.
- Sass is just CSS syntax + awesomesauce.
- Learning Sass will save you time. Immediately.



Sass in 2 minutes

- Variables

```
$blue: #3bbfce;

.text {
  color: $blue;
}

.box {
  border-color: $blue;
}

↓

.text {
  color: #3bbfce;
}

.box {
  border-color: #3bbfce;
}
```

- Mixins

```
@mixin left($distance) {
  float: left;
  margin-left: $distance;
}

.picture {
  @include left(10px);
}

↓

.picture {
  float: left;
  margin-left: 10px;
}
```

Sass in 2 minutes

- Write in Sass.
- Have a Sass utility generate the CSS.
- Deploy the CSS.

Compass in 1 minute

- Compass is a library of pre-defined Sass mixins.
- Includes CSS3 mixins. (Never have to mess with vendor prefixes again.)
- Includes vertical rhythm helper mixins.
- Includes standardized IE Legacy variables. (Turn on or off IE 6/7/8 support with ease.)
`$legacy-support-for-ie6: false;`
- Includes image sprite generation mixins.
- Zen Grids requires Compass.

Installation

- **Command-line junkies:**
Install Compass and Sass for free at:
<http://sass-lang.com/tutorial.html>
And then run:

```
gem install compass  
gem install zen
```
- **Command-line haters:**
Get Fire.app for \$14 at:
<http://fireapp.handlino.com>



Zen Grids LIVE DEMO!



<http://zengrids.com>

Thanks!

John Albin Wilkins

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