

# **Grids Are Good**

(Right?)

March 10, 2007 SXSW Interactive Austin, TX



Khoi Vinh Subtraction.com Mark Boulton
MarkBoulton.co.uk

# **About Khoi**



I'm the **Design Director** for **The New York Times Online**.

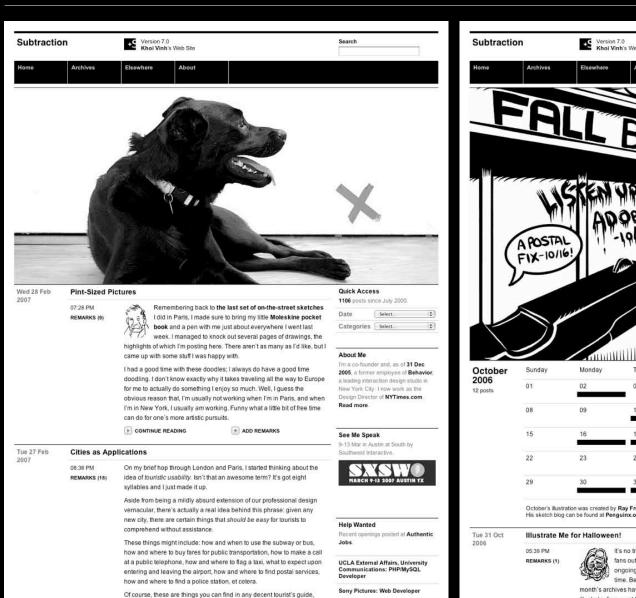
nytimes.com

I'm the author of **Subtraction.com**, a personal weblog where I write about design, technology and other subjects.

subtraction.com

# Subtraction.com

# OXSWO



PINT, Inc.: CSS Coder

Designer

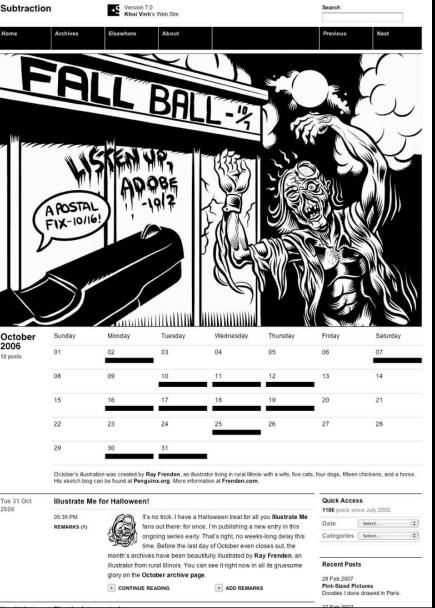
LDS Church: IT Solution Interaction

and any sensible traveler will pack such a book. But it struck me, while

muddling through my first trip to London in seven years (and even, to an

extent, on my third visit to Paris in less than twenty-four months), that

these are things that should be inherently usable, as well.



# **About Mark**



I'm the **Founder** of a tiny design consultancy **Mark Boulton Design**.

markboultondesign.com

I also write about design and whatever else takes my fancy at markboulton.co.uk

markboulton.co.uk

# MarkBoulton.co.uk



About Work Articles & Examples Journal Contact

### MARK BOULTON

DESIGN THINKING, WEB DELIVERY.

### Journal

## What is up with Flow?

February 19, 2007

I've had a few people over the past months contact me and ask what has been happening with Flow Well, we're still working on it, but as one of the developers, Keeran, states on his blog:

While it is achievable to ship new products in a short amount of time, as we have seen with companies like 37Signals and Carson Systems, there are always going to be times, certainly in the early stages, where Real Paid Work must take priority.

Damn right, especially for a business which is only six months old.

Since returning from snowboarding a month ago, I've been consumed with Real Work and everything else, including the book, has been put to one side. Such is life and, as I'm learning, business.

That said, Flow is coming along and as I'm writing this, I'm working on the templates whilst a couple of guys at **Beanlogic** are working on the backend. It's coming along. Slowly but surely.

Posted in: Design, Business

Comments [11]

### And the winner is...

February 15, 2007

Me. As I registered the name 'Mark Boulton Design' over six months ago, technically, I am the winner. Hurrayl

However, to show I'm not a tight Northern bugger, I've decided to award the prize to the runner up (he says, stuffing his face with humble-pie)

Congratulations Chris Gibbons, whose suggestion—point12—was top of the list for most of the week. There's one iPod shuffle in the colour of your choosing on its way to you.

Once again, thanks for all the suggestions. If anything, it made me realise my original choice wasn't so bad after all.

Posted in: markboulton.co.uk

Community days

# A naming competition

February 09, 2007

Anyone who has ever been in a band will know how difficult naming the band can be. It is no different for a new business.

I find naming incredibly difficult. It really isn't one of my strong points.

Unfortunately though, next Thursday, I have to register myself as a new company name and I'm completely devoid of inspiration. So, I thought I'd hold a competition to find me a good name. Lazy? yes, I suppose, Thing is, I'm totally stacked with finishing off the book and a mountain of client work. Sitting here with a blank piece of paper (after thinking of names) for about an hour now has not been a productive use of my time.

### Most recent entries

What is up with Flow? And the winner is... A naming competition

A couple of books Whymper's Mountain Five Simple Steps to designing

Five Simple Steps to designin with colour part 3: Colour combinations All is good on the DV

All is good on the DV Off the Grid PDFs: A quick poll

Yes, we know the web is not

# Categories

Apple Design Articles

Articles Business

Information Architecture

Expression Engine

Flow . CSS

markboulton.co.uk BBC

Personal Simple Steps

Typography

Archives

Complete Archives Category Archives

Search

Subscribe

S RSS 1.0

RSS 2.0

# Speaking events

The Art Institute of Atlanta

~ Five Simple Steps February 28, 2007 Atlanta, Georgia

SXSW Interactive
- Grids Are Good, and How to

Design with Them
- Web Typography Sucks
March 9-13, 2007 Austin, TX

@media 2007 (Europe)

- Five Simple Steps to Better
Typography

Typography June 7–8, 2007 London, UK

### Of interest ...

These links are now pulled from my del.icio.us account. You can subscribe to the feed if you like.

### flickr













Stuff I like





# Portfolio

# Digital / International Baccalaureate Organization

About Work Articles & Examples Journal Contact



# Print / Kit Designer branding



BOULTON

DESIGNATIONAL WEB DELIVERY

### Digital: web sites and applications

Art Directing large corporate websites such as Compaq and One 2 One to producing effective, user centred application design such as BBC Vocab. Creative design that works.

Print: branding and corporate publications

From Branding and Identity design through to large scale rebranding. Logo design and marketing support material in addition to typesetting and

### BBC VOCAB



BBC Vocab is a new language help application for Welsh language learners.

# $\times$

publication design.

CUBE GALLERY

Identity, Marketing material and Signage for the CUBE gallery, Manchester, UK

### COMPAQ



Reposition compaq as a market leader in both the business, b2b and consumer markets.

# grand

Logo and marketing material for Manchester's newest hotel conversion.

### COMMONWEALTH BANK



Flash designed minisite to promote Commonwealth Bank's youth account.

### ISTD



Annual membership awarded by the International Society of Designers.

### **BRITISH AIRWAYS**



The UK gateway is the regional United Kingdom and Ireland homepage.

### PULMAN ASSOCIATES ARCHITECTS



Website and Corporate Identity for Pulmann Associates Architects



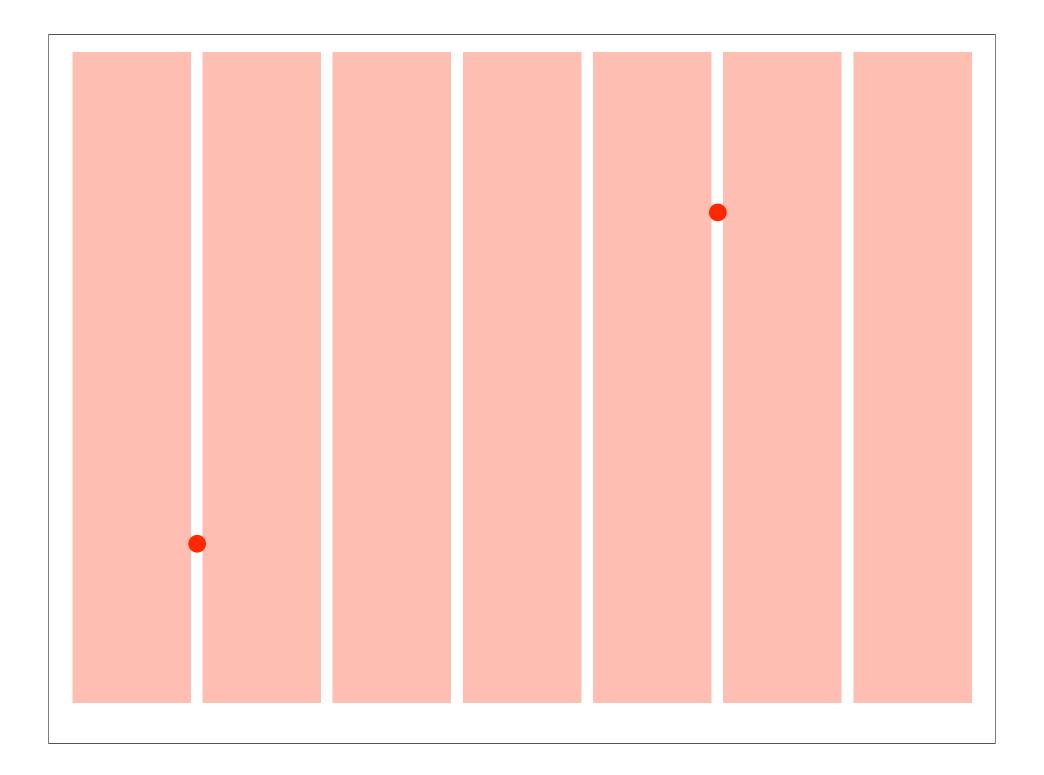
# **Dots to Design**

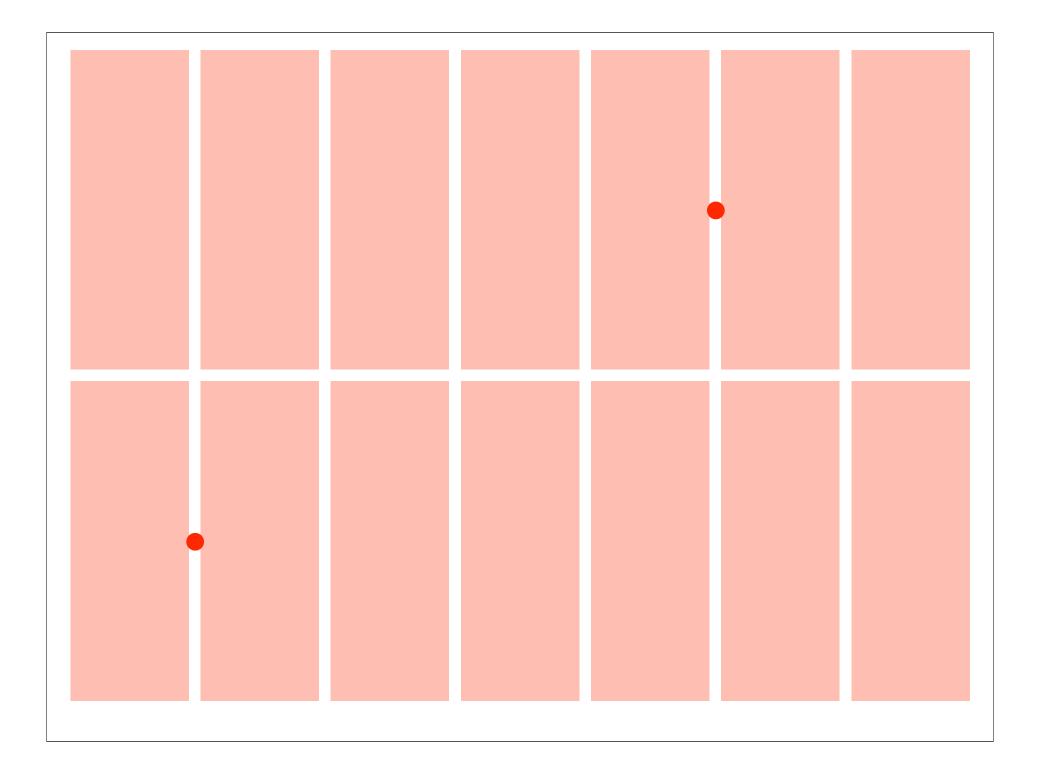


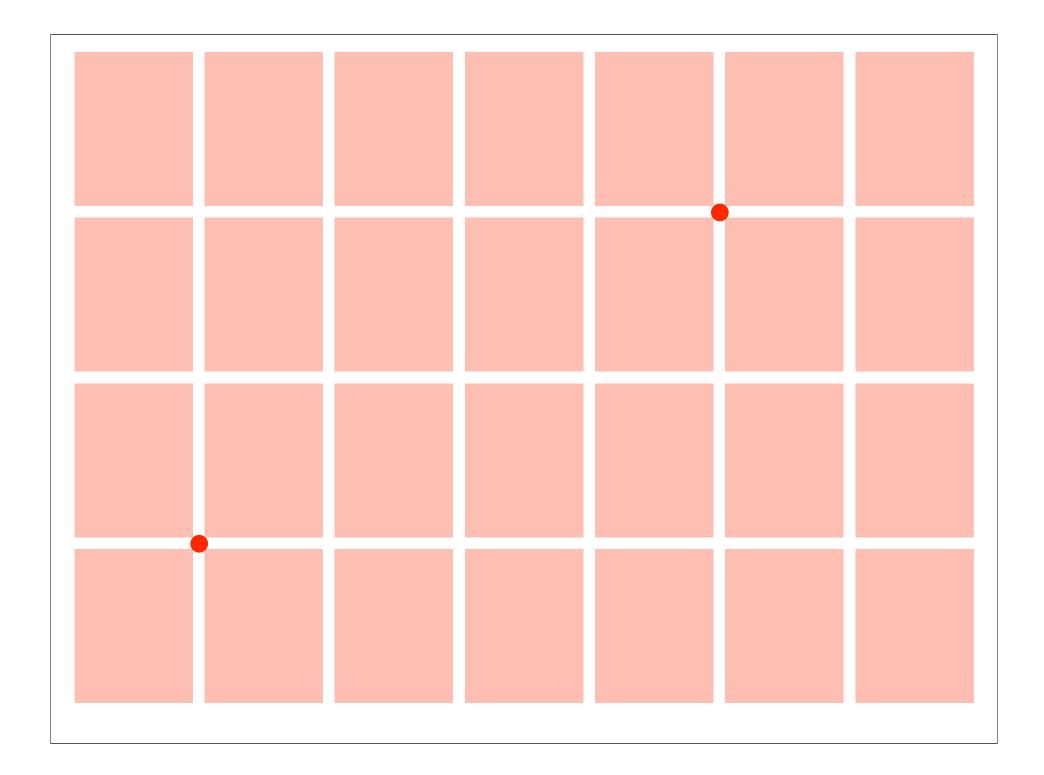
# **From Dots to Design**



 Any two or more marks on a single plane is a design.







# **Some History**



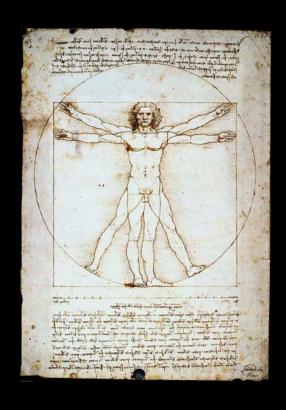
The grid is the most vivid manifestation of the will to order in graphic design.

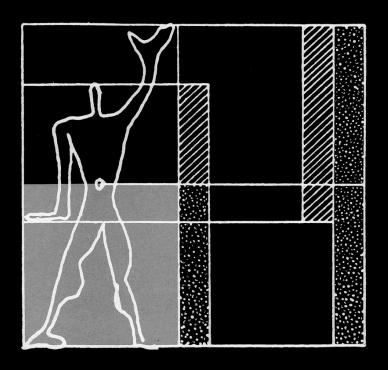
# A Brief History of the Grid

# **Looking for Reason**



Divining architectural proportion from nature.



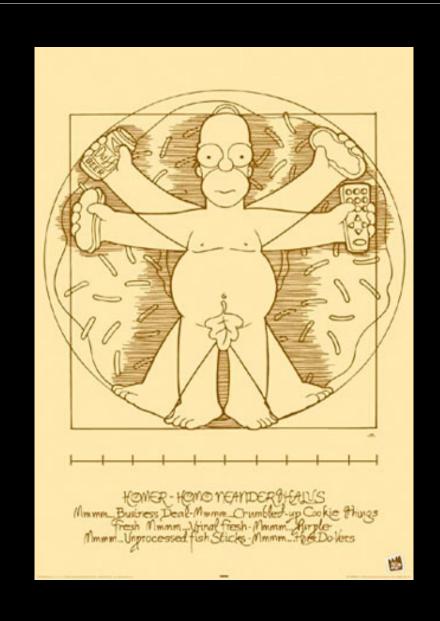


Leonardo DaVinci, "The Vitruvian Man" 1492.

Le Corbusier, "Modulor" 1948.

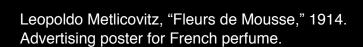
# **Right Up to the Modern Day**

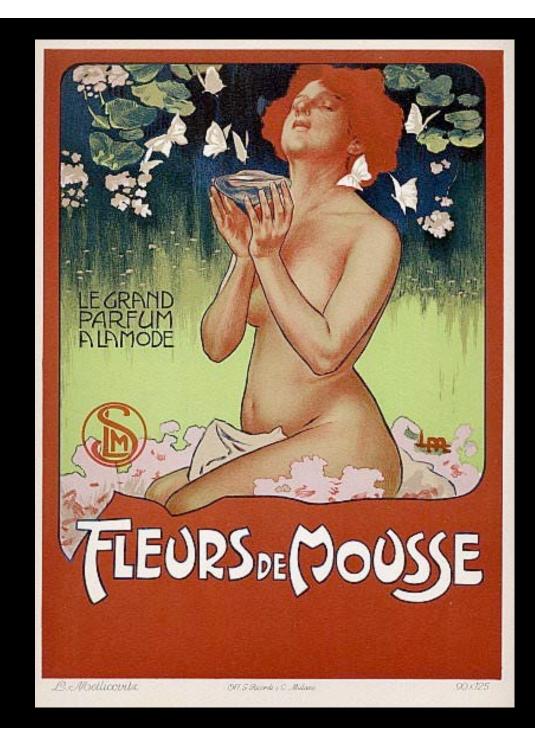




# **Ornamentation**

From this...

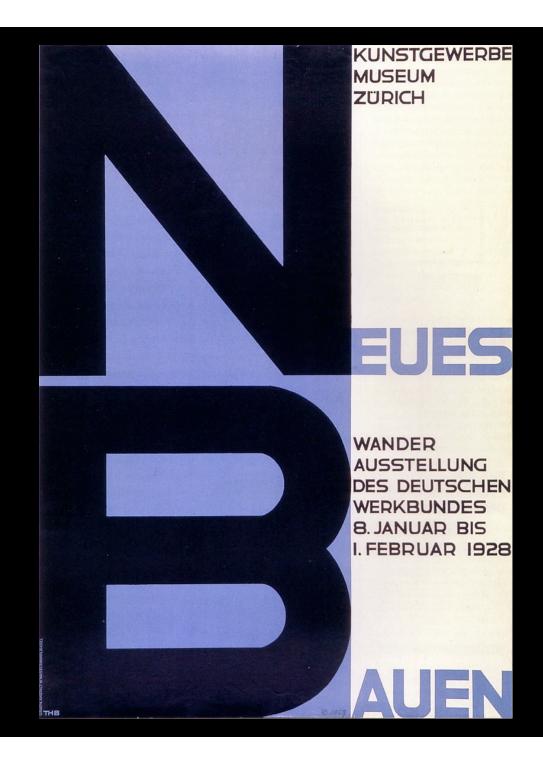




# **Rational Design**

...to this.

Theo Ballmer, "Neues Bauen" 1928.
Poster for German Werkbund exhibition.



# **New Ideas**

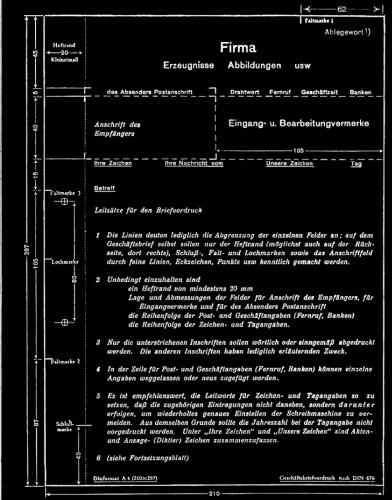
Rationalism became the new imperative for design.

Out with decoration and formalism, in with logic and standardization.

Jan Tschichold, "Die neue Typographie" 1928. Instructions for the standardized layout of A4 letterhead.

# Geschäftsbrief Format A 4 (210×297)

DIN 676



1) Zweckmäßig wird der Schriftwechsel nach den Einheits-ABC-Regeln abgelegt. Lochabstand 80 mm (nach Beschluß der Briefordnerkonvention). Geschäftsbriefe, Halbbriefe Format A 5 siehe DIN 677. Briefhüllen siehe DIN 678. Fensterbriefhüllen siehe DIN 680

Mai 1924

Ausschuß für wirtschaftliche Verwaltung (AWV)
Fachausschuß für Bürowesen

Fortsetzung Seite 2

# The More Things Change...



Modernists looked to build a new aesthetic by

- Deriving beauty from the innate qualities of the machine
- Championing standardization

**Sound familiar?** 

# ...The More They Stay the Same

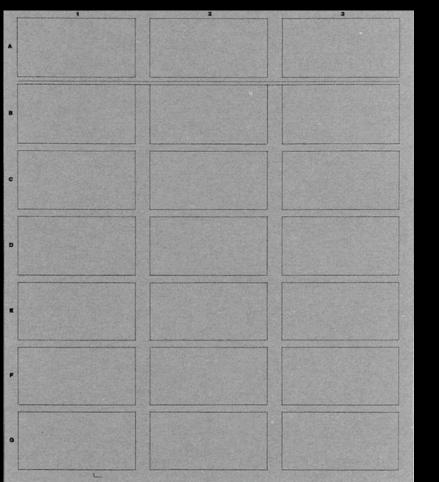


There is a **strong overlap** between what motivated grid usage nearly a century ago and what motivates grid usage today.

- Deriving beauty from the innate qualities of the browser
- Championing standardization

# **Paul Rand for IBM**

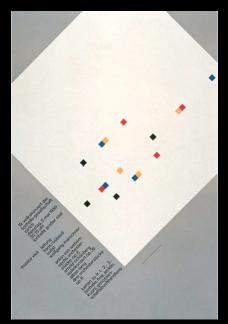




International Business Machines Corporation Annual Report for the year ended December 31, 1975 2 Highlights of the Year 3 Letter to Stockholders... Chairman Frank T. Cary's comments on the financial results of the year, his analysis of conditions that affected business in 1975. 5 Report on Operating Units... New products developed and manufactured in 1975; significant events in marketing around the world; other information on the operating units of IBM. On the cover . . Bymbolizing the special focus on predictivity in this report there page 133, the over photos shows a portion of a fault defect translator photos shows a portion of a fault defect translator and the special shorter microscope. Earn cell on the circulation microscope. Earn cell on the circulation one but of information. Fabrication by IMIP Research, the experimental chip has a storage density of \$2,000,000 they engues inch. Teaches to the Sines that of previously reported memory chips \_\_operated State and outside layout. 11 Productivity... IBM products are particularly suited to help customers meet the world's productivity crisis. Here, stories of the work they do. 18 Financial Review Report of Independent Accountants 19 Earnings and Retained Earnings 20 Balance Sheet 22 Changes in Financial Position 23 Notes to Financial Statements 27 Management's Discussion and Analysis of the Summary of Operations 28 Questions and Answers... Surveys Indicate a growing public Interest in the workings of large corporations. IBM enswers questions commonly asked. 29 Information for Stockholders... Material about IBM available to stockholders. 31 Directors and Officers

# J. Müller-Brockmann





Tonhalle-Quartett, 1955.



Juni-Festwochen Zürich, 1959



Juni-Festwochen Zürich, 1962

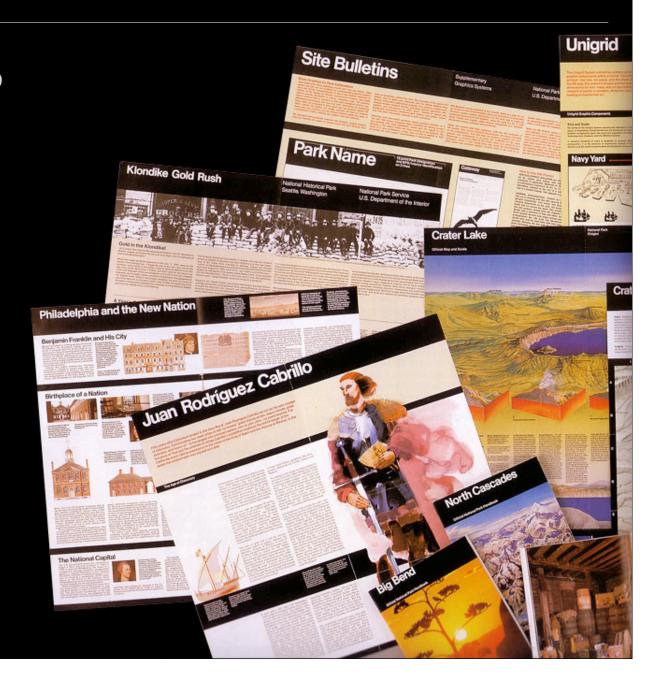


Musica Viva, 1968

# Massimo Vignelli for National Park Service



Unigrid as a solution to large-scale design and production of many different publications.





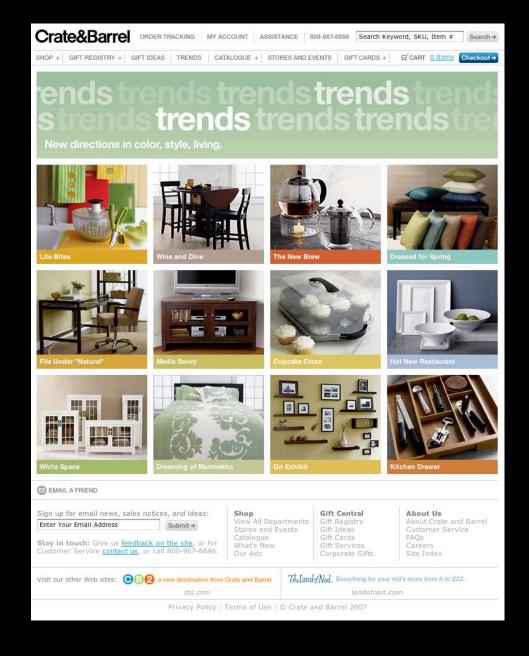
# Grids on the Web



# **Crate & Barrel**

crateandbarrel.com

# **Product Display**



# 'Inventory' Display

Crate&Barrel ORDER TRACKING MY ACCOUNT ASSISTANCE 800-987-8696 Search Keyword, SKU, Item # Search +

SHOP \$\psi\$ GIFT REGISTRY \$\psi\$ GIFT IDEAS TRENDS CATALOGUE \$\psi\$ STORES AND EVENTS GIFT CARDS \$\psi\$ \$\frac{\text{GIFT CARDS}}{\text{CARDS}}\$\$\psi\$ \$\frac{\text{CARDS}}{\text{CARDS}}\$\$\psi\$ \$\frac{\text{CARDS}}{\text{CARDS}}\$\$\psi \$\frac{\text{CARDS}}{\text{CARDS}}\$\$\psi\$ \$\frac{\text{CARDS}}{\text{CARDS}}\$\$\psi\$ \$\frac{\text{CARDS}}{\text{CARDS}}\$\$\psi\$ \$\frac{\text{CARDS}}{\text{CARDS}}\$\$\psi\$ \$\frac{\text{CARDS}}{\text{CARDS}}\$\$\psi\$ \$\frac{\text{CARDS}}{\text{CARDS}}\$\$\psi\$ \$\frac{\text{CARDS}}{\text{CARDS}}\$\$\psi\$ \$\frac{\text{CARDS}}{\text{CARDS}}\$\$\psi\$ \$\frac{\text{CARDS}}{\text{CARDS}}\$\$\psi\$ \$\frac

All Departments Home / View All Departments



Valentine's Day



What's New New for the Table New for the Kitchen New in Furniture New in Home Accessories

Dinnerware Bone China Porcelain Stoneware Earthenware

Glass Dinnerware Outdoor Dinnerware New in Outdoor Furniture Plates, Bowls, Mugs Best Sellers Discontinued Dinnerware



Flatware Place Settings Serving Pieces Steak Knives Best Sellers



Drinkware Wine Glasses Champagne Flutes Bar Glasses Beer Glasses Martini Glasses Margarita Glasses Cordial Glasses Acrylic Glasses Bar Accessories Decanters



Serving Dishes Serving Bowls Plates Decanters Specialty Serving Dishes



Table Linens Placemats, Napkins Tablecloths, Napkins Napkin Sets Table Runners Napkin Rings Placecard Holders



Kitchen Accessories **Gourmet Foods** Cookware Breakfast Bakeware Sweets Cutlery Seasonings, Sauces Small Appliances Oil, Vinegar, Dressings Coffee and Tea Spreads, Mustards Grills and Accessories Savories, Snacks Cocktails, Beverages Bowls Cutting Boards Dishtowels Aprons, Potholders



Furniture Dining Room, Kitchen Furniture Living Room Furniture Bedroom Furniture Home Office Furniture Storage Outdoor Furniture Ready to Assemble Kids Furniture



Rugs, Curtains Rugs Curtains



Lighting Table Lamps Desk Lamps Chandeliers Sconces



Cleaning Products Kitchen Gadgets Cookbooks Kitchen Storage Salt and Pepper

Home Accessories Pillows Candlelight Vases **Botanical Accents** Garden, Patio Prints

Wall Décor Home Accents Throws Baskets Picture Frames Photo Albums Clocks Office Accessories Bags, Umbrellas Utility



Bedding and Bath Bed Linens Bath Linens Bath Accessories



Sale Sale Accessories Sale Kitchen Sale Tabletop Sale Furniture Sale Lighting Sale Curtains Sale Bedding Sale Bath Accessories Christmas Sale

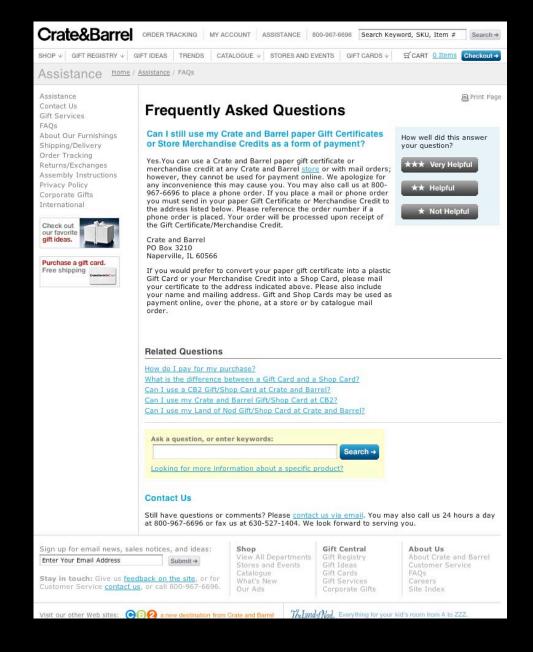








# **Text Forms**





# **Comment Is Free**

commentisfree.guardian.co.uk

# **Main Page**



# comment is free...

Search: Comment is free

Go

This week Contributors Subjects A-2 Editors blog Dan Chung Steve Bell About us Audio Webfeeds Other blogs

### What I found at the forum

Hilary Wainwright Feb 04 07, : Now that the dust has settled after the two world forums - at Davos and Nairobi - it's time to take stock of the balance of power. Comments (3) - [2]

### Hey, kids, leave those teachers alone

Sarah Teather Feb 04 07, om: There are laws against assault, so why are school staff just expected to put up with violence as if it was all in a day's

Comments (8) - [9]

# Shuttered windows to the

Andrew Brown Feb 04 07, n: We can know what people are prepared to say as a result of their religious beliefs, but what they understand by their words is another question. Comments (41) - [3]

### **Enlightenment from Somalia**

Andrew Anthony Feb 04 07 n: Ayaan Hirsi Ali has a view of freedom that makes many western liberals uneasy. Comments (76) · 📵

### A Nobel warrior

Martin Peretz Feb 03 07, n: Compared with the shameful litany of previous winners, Al Gore richly deserves to win the Nobel peace prize for his work on climate change. Comments (29) · [2]

### Social studies

Libby Brooks Feb 03 07, 49am: At an admittedly middle-class discussion on class, the consensus was that it's about power, autonomy and selfdetermination. Comments (55) · 🔁

### Of plagiarism and primaries

Ian Williams Feb 02 07, 58pm: Toe Biden, former Neil Kinnock plagiarist, shows the full madness of American presidential primaries.

Comments (40)

### A strategy in tatters

Robert Fox Feb 02 07, 07:30pm:



### A Nobel warner

Martin Peretz: Compared with the shameful litany of previous winners. Al Gore richly deserves to win the Nobel peace prize for his work on climate change. Comments (29) - [2]

# Love letters from France deserve an amorous reply

Mary Riddell: When the French choose a new president, whether the name on the ballot paper is Sarkozy or Royal, electors will be casting their vote for Britain. Comments (52) - [2]

# Tolerating intolerance is still this country's besetting sin

Henry Porter: If the majority of Muslims truly want to integrate, they could start by kicking out the preachers of hatred from their mosques. Comments (181) - [3]

# Finally, another attempt at the end of the peer show

Andrew Rawnsley: Tony Blair's incomplete changes left us with a bizarre upper house. Good luck to Jack Straw as he has a fresh go at reform.

Comments (51) - [2]

# Is justice served by these tales of beheading?

Nick Cohen: In an age of terror, we need to look again at our legal system and restraints on the press. Comments (36) - [2]

# We cannot afford the Kyoto debacle to happen again

### Today's Guardian comment

Assessing the risk Slights and suspicions

The British are going

Don't destroy the Lords I hate Macs

The need to keep talking

More comment from Monday's paper

### The latest from Guardian Unlimited

- Government studies Hungary link - Delay In

Labour plan for swift Blair exit Prepare for cash for honours charges, say senior Labour figures...

Steve Boggan on the government's cold war nuclear bunker Steve Boggan journeys deep beneath Wiltshire to the government's cold war nuclear refuge....

Gangs use bogus Tesco jobs to lure young Poles to Britain towns after paying

Gunman pursued victim in front of 300 at

close pay gap Party wants to abolish gag on disclosing

Podcasts · Our other blogs

## Most active

## Best of the web

remains (230) comments 2. Tolerating intolerance is still this country's besetting sin (181) comments

An unforgivable truth (154) comments

5. Let Tony Blair get (111) comments

Why Yates of the Yard will have to put up or shut up (105) comments

8. And now, the end is near (98) comments

set up? Did Cheney

 Guido: Smith Institute - N11 Downing Street, the rent-free home of Gordon Brown's Smith Institute.

3. NYT: Ulster's last holdout - If the Rev Ian Paisley continues to live in the past, the promise of self-rule in Northern Ireland will be postponed indefinitely....

done wonders for Britain, though not for all Britons....

5. Abdelilah Boukil

# **Article Comments**

# With horizontal hierarchy.

### Comments Post your comment Greek4GodsGift Offensive? Unsuitable? Email us AndyV "Britain is a high-growth country whose unemployment vastly undercuts February 4, 2007 02:48 AM France's 8.6 per cent. With only a third of over-50s in full-time work and 23 per cent of young people jobless,... I can't help but feel that being unemployed in France is a much more dignified experience than being in some minimum wage, no prospect, split shift, burger flipping Job in the UK. Offensive? Unsuitable? Email us Bobby The article is typical leftie drivel. France has unemployment, high taxes and ery 4, 2007 is moribund. Obviously in need of a bit of Thatcherism, like UK was in the 79. Roll on Margaret Sarkozy! Offensive? Unsuitable? Email us Justthefactsman What planet does Mary Riddell come from ? 1. The trains work. 2. The health service works. 3. Education works. 4. The truly independent "deterent" works. 5. The overall standard of living is higher, oh I know important is the way it is distributed. 6. The minimum wage is higher than it is in the U.K 7. France has an indigenous auto industry, the industry in the U.K is foreign owned. 8. Frenchman on unemployment are certainly better of the 9. The unemployment in France is structural, owing much to the fact that French productivity per hour worked has increased at a higher rate than in the U.K, and unfortunately no central planning provided for the unemployment that it would cause, hence the 4 weeks standard vacation and the 35 hour week. higher rate than in the U.K as a partial remedy. In the U.K and also the U.S.A the fruits of productivity increases since the 1970's have gone to the top managers and the shareholders, that those countries have such obscene salaries for thos at the top. In the U.S.A in some industries the C.E.O's get as much as 430 times the salary as their lowest paid workers, and the U.K. is catching up. Just think the C.E.O will receive more for two hours work than the lowest paid worker will get for working a whole year. France bashing will get you nowhere, I suggest that you Brits learn enough French to get around and then go and make a visit, you'd be surprised how many knowledgeable Brits don't return to the U.K. As for the French expatriates in London, well there will always be those who who think that there is room at the top for them, sort of like some minority concentrating on sports rather than education in the hope that they "will As the Aussie's used to sing in W W 2, Blighty is a failure, Take me back to Australia Aussie is the place for me. Offensive? Unsuitable? Email us If the French follow the Thatcher/Blair agenda they must be totally "fou". fortyniner You don't know what you've got till it's gone. Offensive? Unsuitable? Email us jeremyjames. @ AndyV February 4, 2007 08:01 AM "I can't help but feel that being unemployed in France is a much more dignified experience than being in some minimum wage, no prospect, split shift, burger flipping job in the UK."



# Let's Build a Grid



**The Brand** 

What Should We Do?



Not

# SAELO C

# **A Good Problem**

Rudimentary but unimaginative use of grid.



Rather...

SXSWO

yeeaahh.subtraction.com



Requirements

#### **Where to Start**



Every design solution begins by **defining the problem** and establishing constraints.

- 1024 x 768 screen
- Big Ad Unit

## **Screen Resolution**

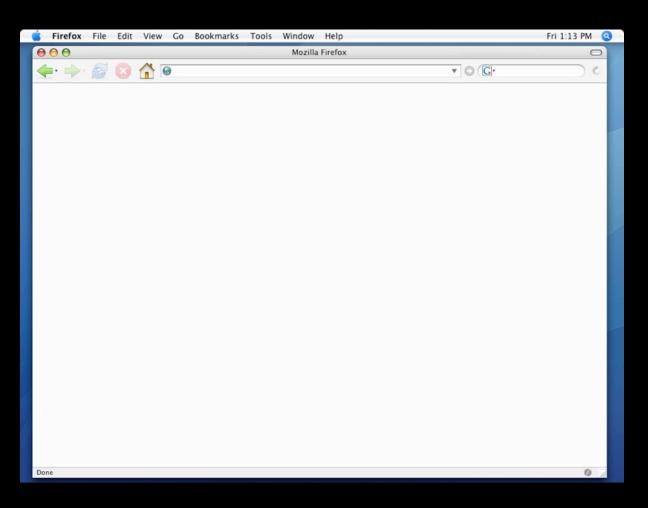




1024 px wide by 768 tall

#### 'Natural' Browser Size

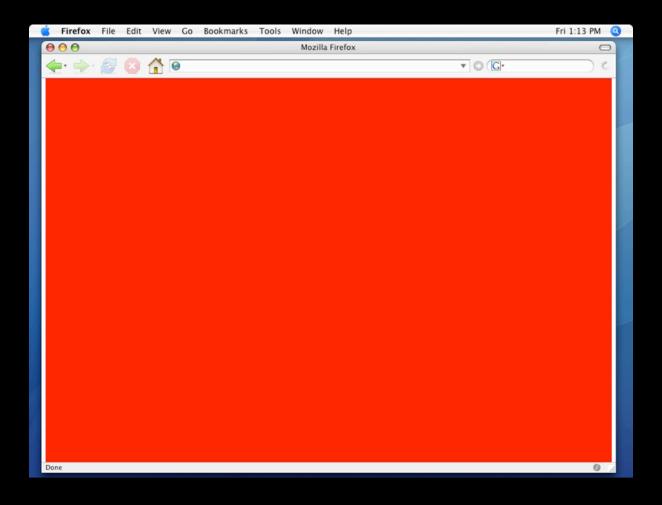




 Approximately 974 px wide by 650 px tall

## **Canvas Area**





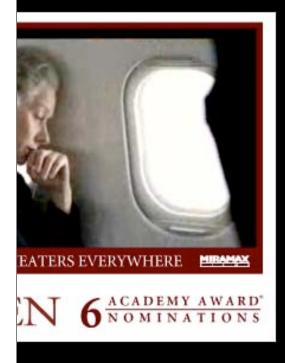
- Less left and right margins
- Approximately 960 px wide by 650 px tall

## The Big Ad



The most useful ad unit to design for is the **Big** Ad.

336 px wide by 280 px tall as established by the **Internet Advertising Bureau**.







#### **Other Ad Sizes**

A design based on the Big Ad will also accommodate the width of the other popular ad unit sizes Big Ad width: 336 px

Medium Rectangle 300 px wide by 250 px tall

Half-page 300 px wide by 600 px tall

## **The Utility of Constraints**



Ad units complicate things, but they're actually very helpful because they serve as **fixed constraints**.

Constraints are the mother of design invention.



**Units** 

#### **Units & Columns**



**Units** are the basic building blocks of a grid. They're all uniform.

**Columns** are the groupings of units that create the visual structure of the page. They are not necessarily uniform.

In this example, four units are combined to create a single column.

## The Rule of Threes... or Fours



In general, we want to create units in multiples of three or four.

Twelve is ideal, because it's a multiple of three *and* four.

# Twelve Units Can Combine into 3 Columns...





Three columns of four units each.

## Into 2 Columns...



Two columns of six units each.

## Into 4 Columns...



Four columns of three units each.

## Into 6 Columns...



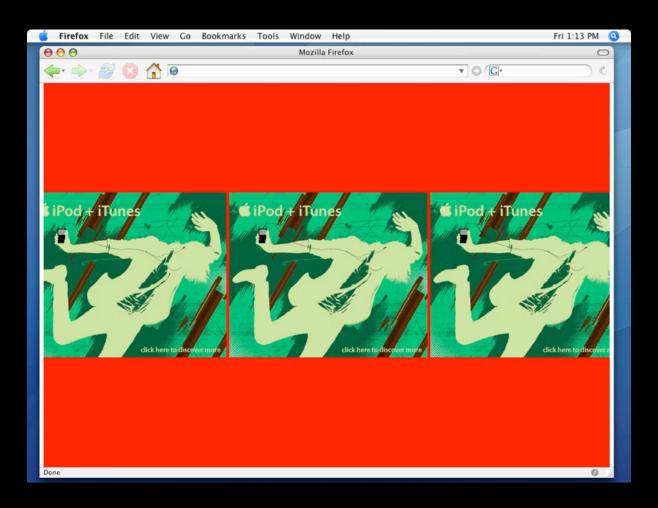
Six columns of two units each.



# **Unit and Column Math First Try**

## **Nonconducive Size**





Unfortunately, three Big Ads will *not* fit within our 960 px width.



Canvas - ((Total Units -1) x Gutter) ÷ Total Units = Unit

950 - 
$$((16 - 1) \times 10) \div 16 = Unit$$

(Don't worry about doing it this way.)

## **Round-up the Ad Column**

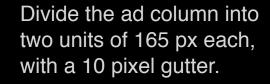




Round up the ad unit column to an even 340 px width.

## **Divide the Ad Column**



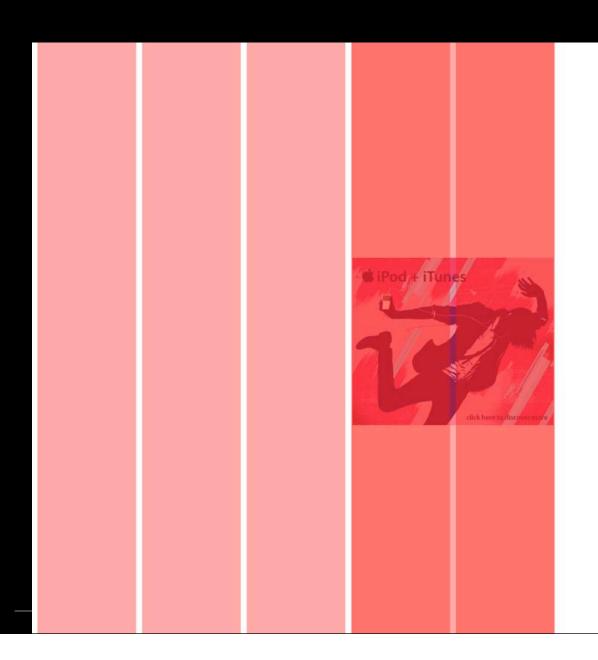


$$(340 - 10) \div 2 = 165$$



## **Extrapolate Units**





Yields 5 units of 165 px each for a total width of just 865 px.

These could be subdivided into 10 units but a 10 unit grid is difficult to work with.



**Second Try** 

## **Round-up the Ad Column**

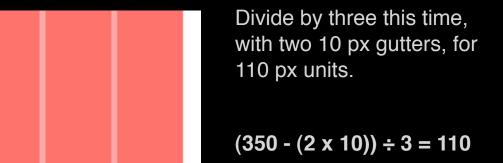




This time round up higher to 350 px width.

## **Divide the Ad Column**

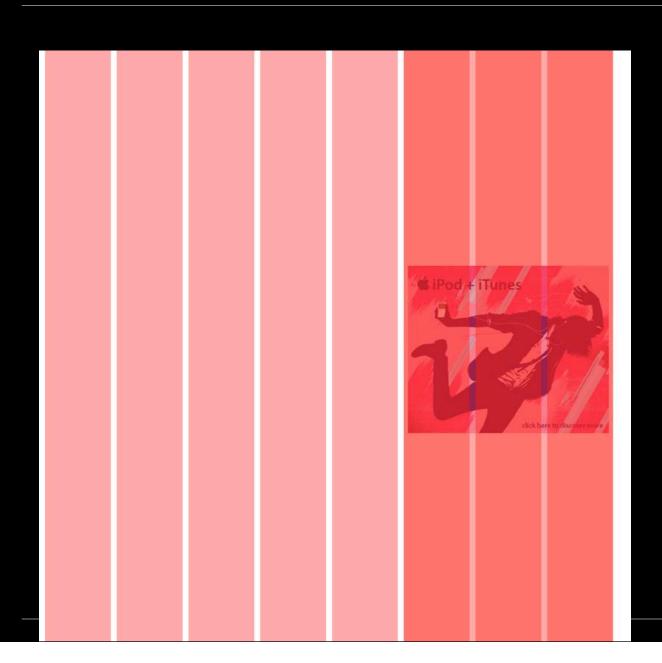






# Extrapolate Units

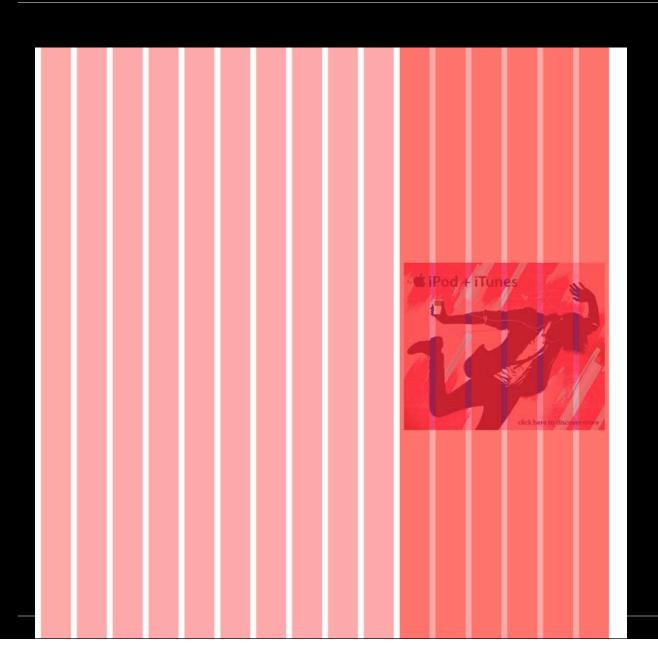




Yields 8 units of 110 px each for a total width of 950 px.

## **Subdivide the Units**



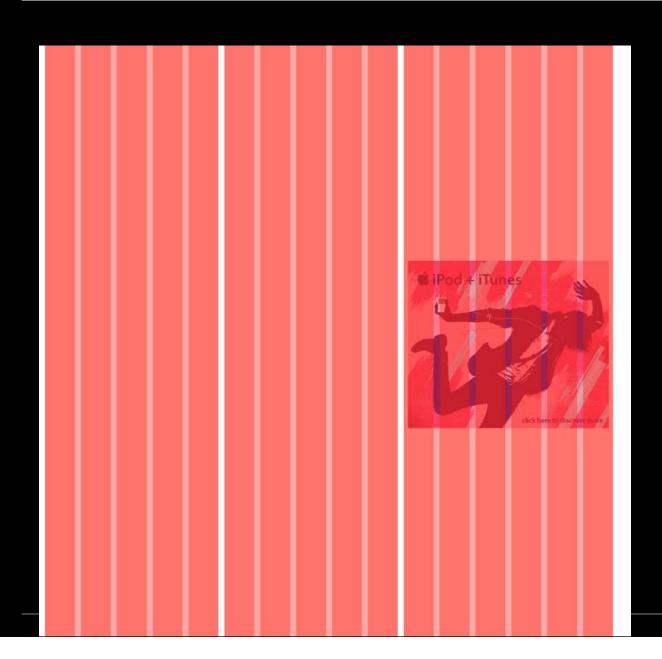


Eight units is a good number, but we can subdivide it even further into a 16-unit grid for added flexibility.

These units are 50 px wide

## **Consolidate Units into Columns**

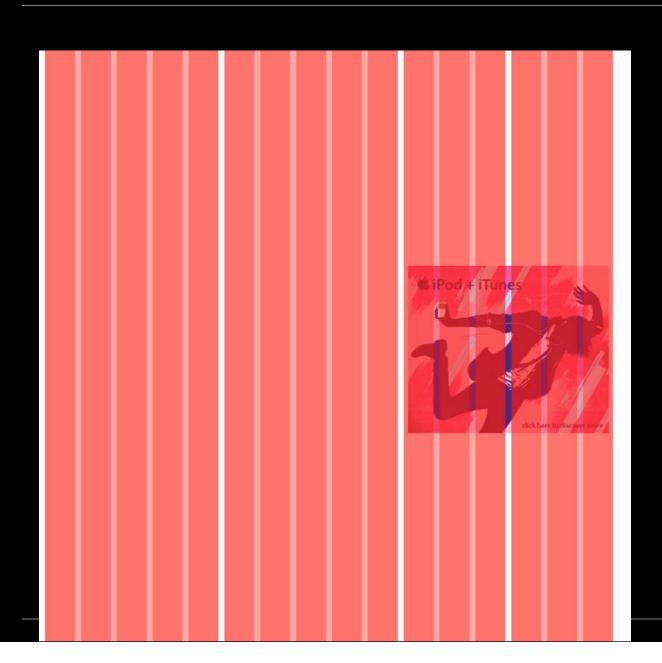




A 16-unit grid allows us to create two equal columns in the left region.

## **Creating Smaller Columns**

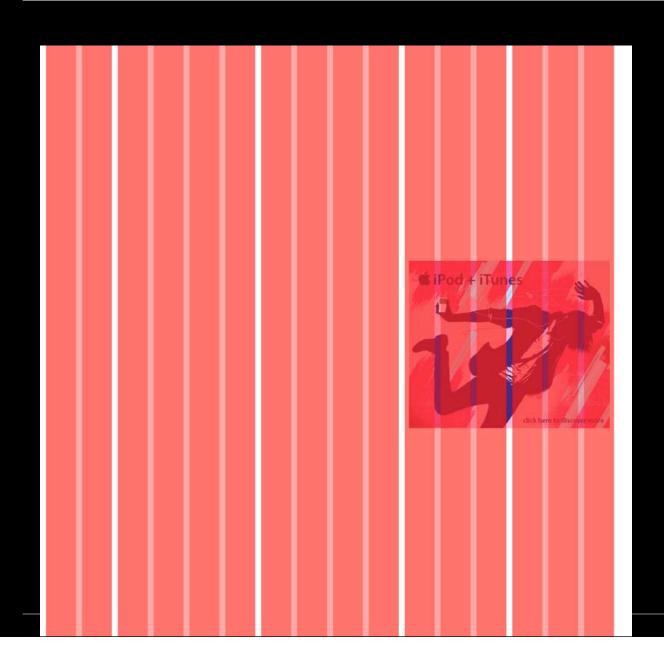




And to subdivide the right region into 2 or 3 columns.

# **Left Navigation**





We can also carve out 2 units at the left to create a left-navigation.



**Third Time's the Charm** 

## **Round-up the Ad Column**



For a tighter look, we can round up the ad unit to 338 px.



## **Divide the Ad Column**



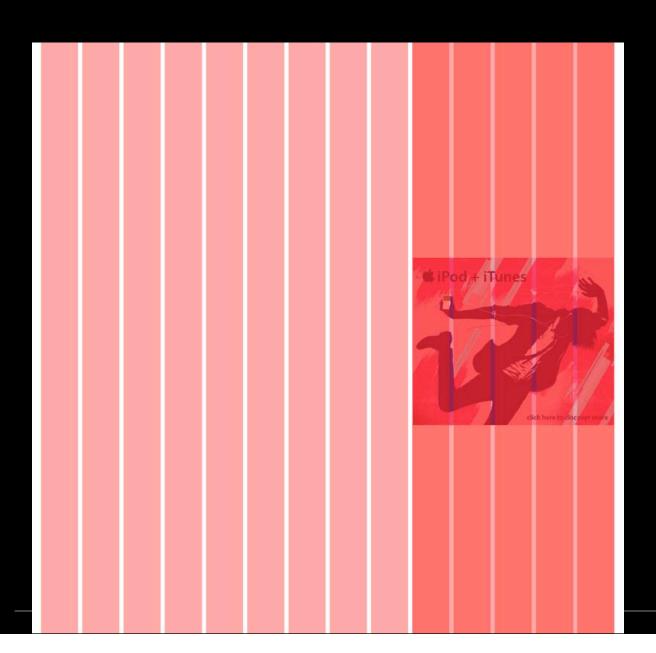


Divide by five this time, with four 7 px gutters, for 62 px units.

$$(338 - (4 \times 7)) \div 5 = 62$$

## **Extrapolate Units**



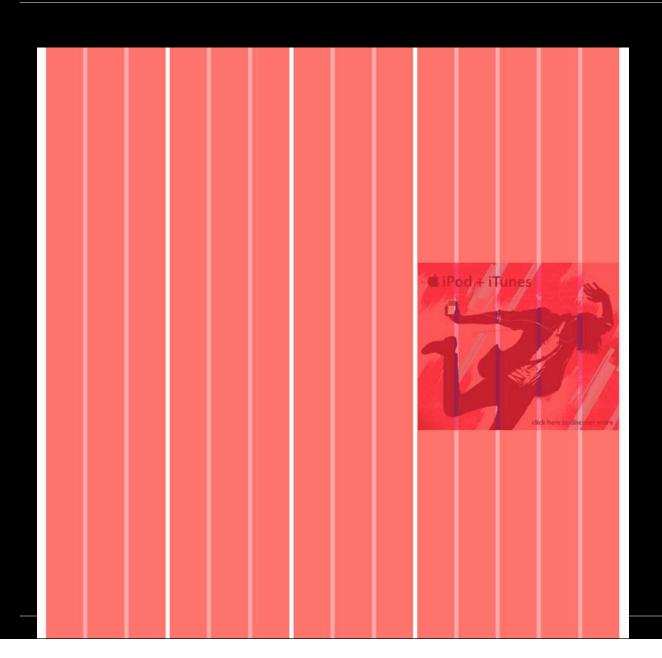


Yields 14 units of 62 px each for a total width of 959 px.

Fourteen is a strange number, but sometimes that makes things more interesting.

## **Consolidate Units into Columns**

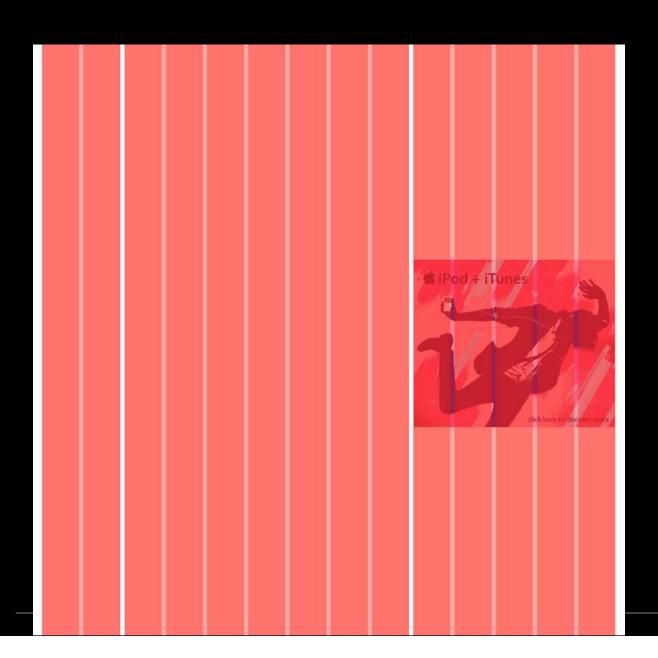




Allows the left region to be consolidated into 3 columns.

# **Left Navigation**





Also allows for a slightly wider and more substantial left-hand navigation column.

## **The Grid Is Done**



Time to design.



### Layout



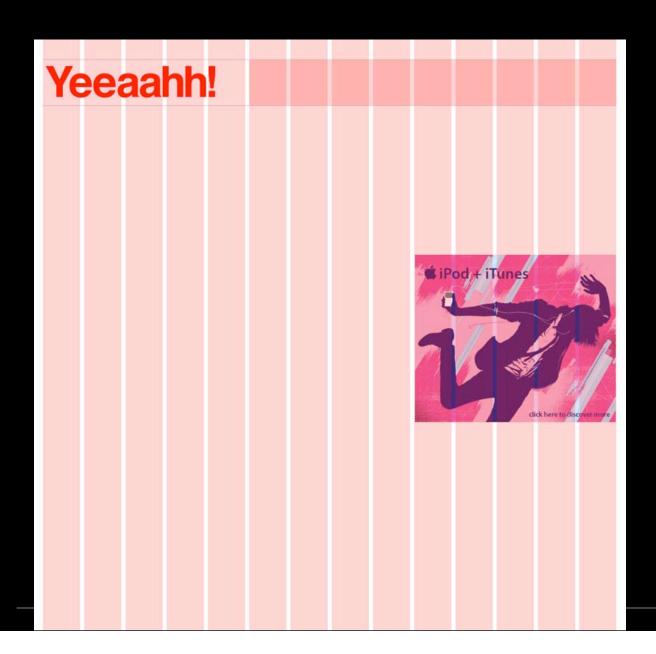
Header



## Yeeaahh! iPod + iTunes

#### **Search Region**





Use the balance of the logo area for a search region.



**The Box Model** 

#### **Grid Usage**



Using a grid isn't quite as simple as just lining elements up along its edges.



Chicken Hot Tacos **Pockets** Parmesan

Let's typeset three elements on a 9-unit grid.

The instinct is to left-align each right on the edge of each column.

#### **Add Grid Lines**



Chicken Tacos Hot **Pockets** Parmesan

Divide the columns with simple rules.

#### **Visual Tightness**



Tacos Chicken Hot Parmesan Pockets

Such strict adherence to the grid causes visual tension.

#### **Another Problem**



Tacos Chicken Parmesan Pockets

Lasagna

What happens when type needs to be inset inside a box?

#### **Accounting for Behavior**



Tacos Chicken Pockets

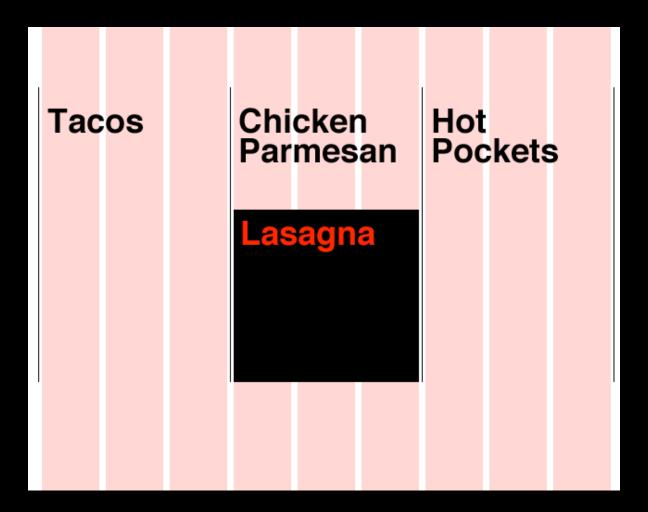
Lasagna

In digital media, those boxes are often behavior. That is, they may or may not appear persistently.

When they're not there, it can cause visual misalignment.

#### **Correcting Alignment**





The answer is to assume some sort of inset for all elements.

#### **Visual Consistency**



Tacos Chicken Parmesan Pockets

Lasagna

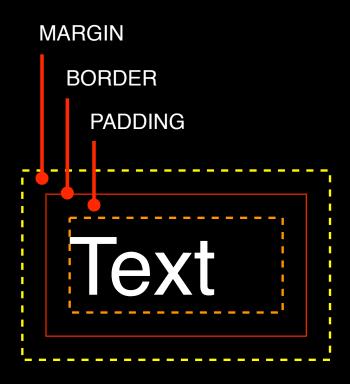
This achieves visual consistency up regardless of whether text is inset, and allows breathing room next to the grid lines.



Tacos	Chicken Parmesan	Hot Pockets
	Lasagna	

#### **The Box Model**

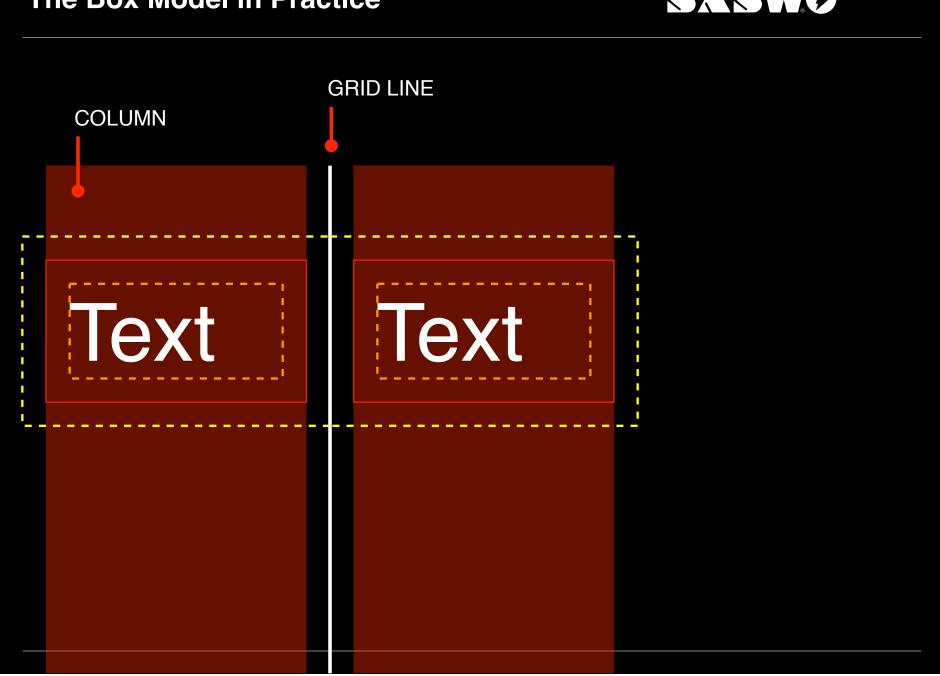




It's actually useful to use the **CSS box model** as a model for imagining the visual space around any element.

#### **The Box Model in Practice**







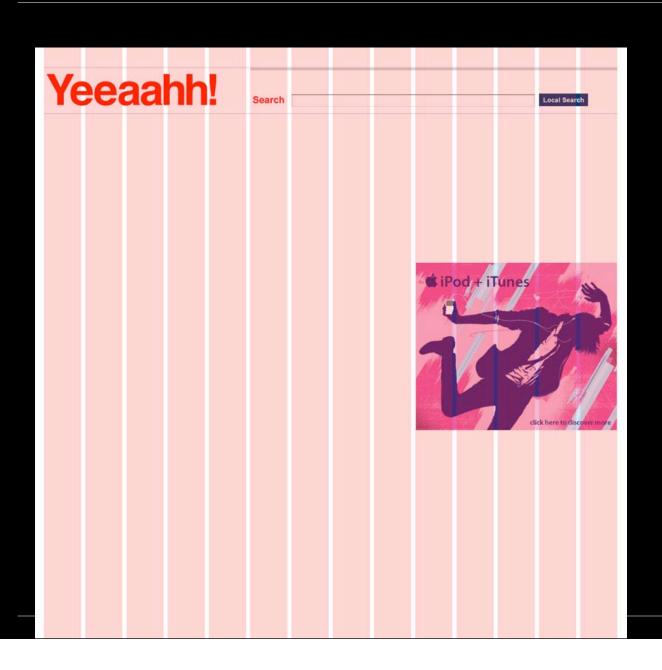
**Back to Search** 



# Yeeaahh! **É** iPod + iTunes

#### **Search Placement**

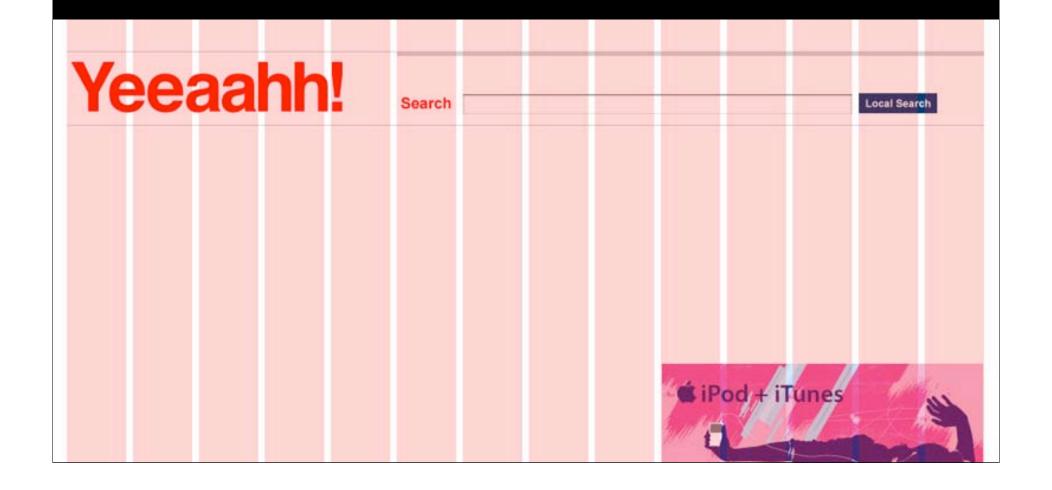




#### **Search Options**



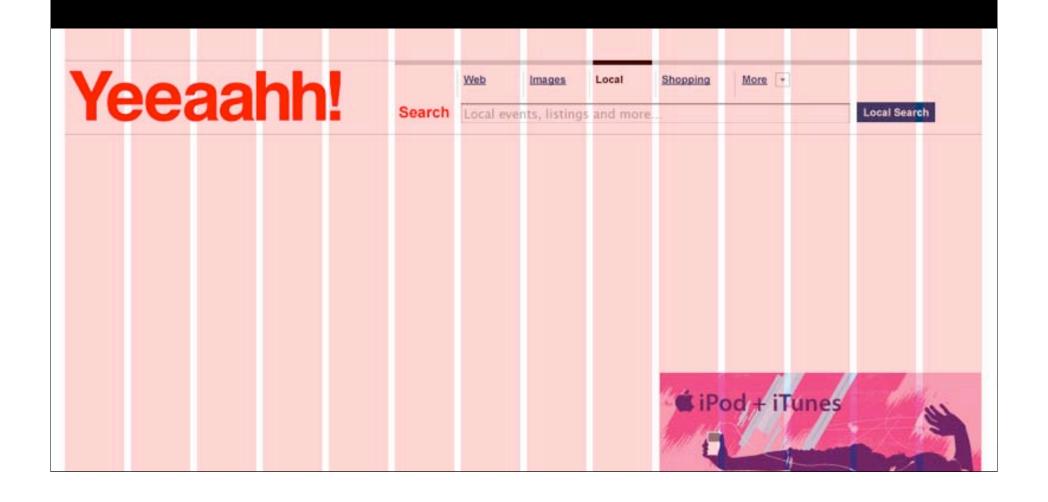
Also need to add search options: Web, Images, Video, Local, Shopping and More.



#### **Options Aligned on the Grid**



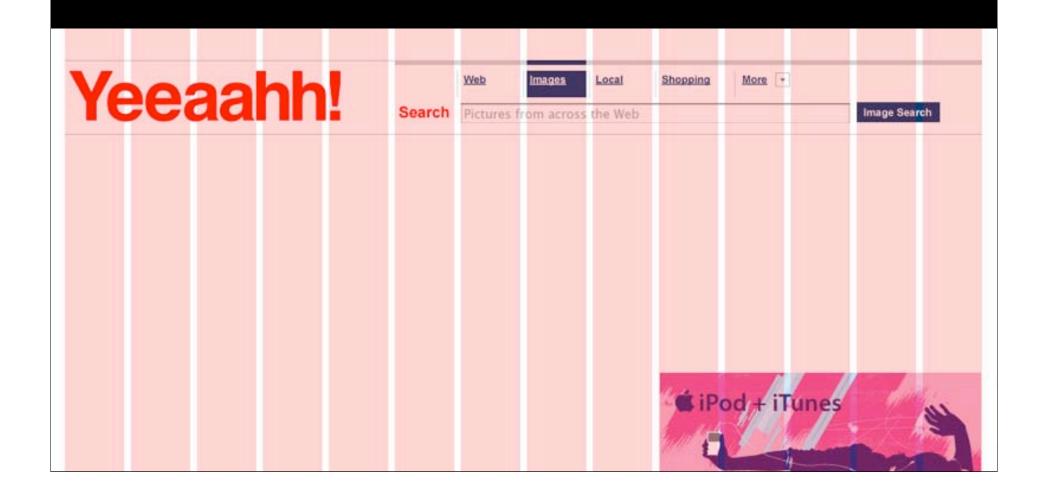
Admittedly, probably not the most usable display, but it'll do for now.



#### **Roll-over Behavior**



Note the roll-over state aligns with the grid.

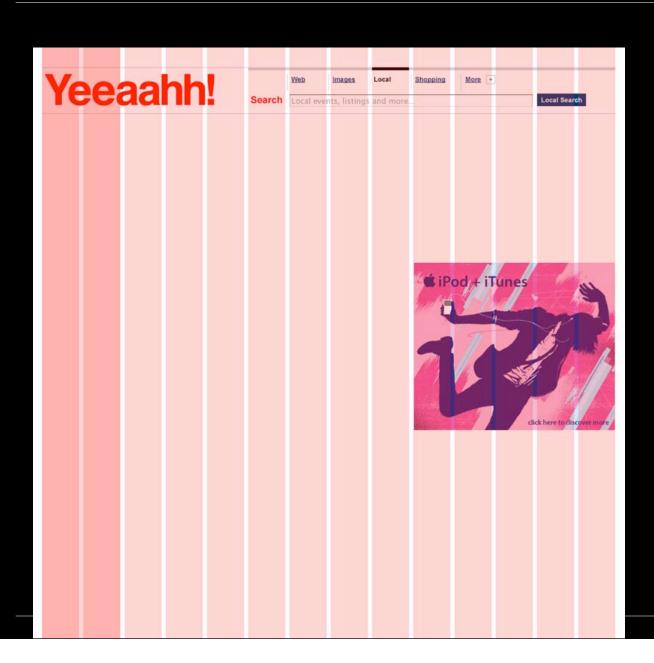




**Navigation (and Framing)** 

#### **Left-Hand Navigation Column**

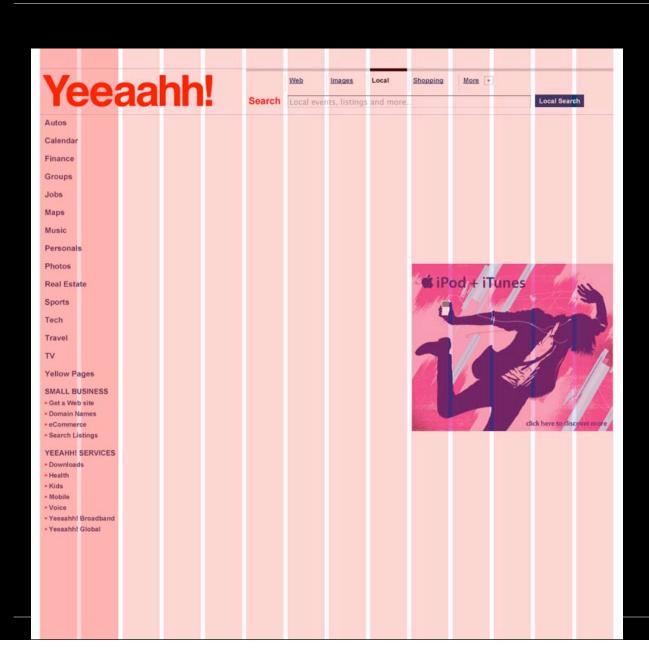




Consolidate two units to form the left-hand navigation column.

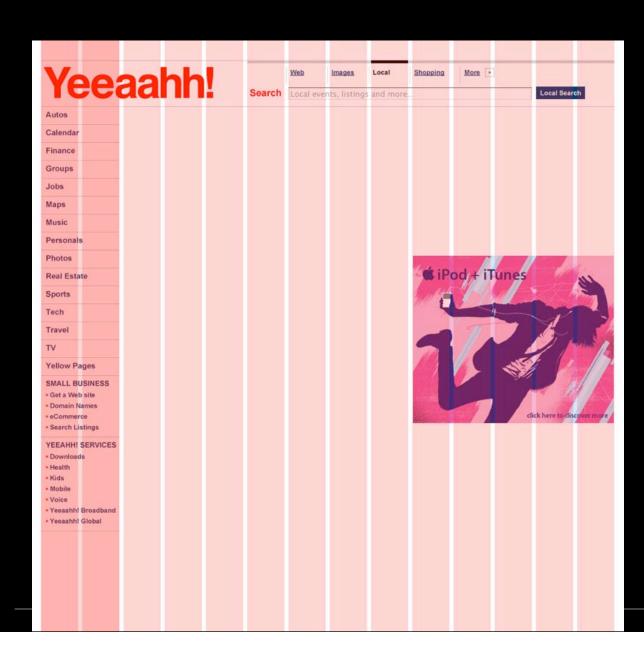
#### **Nav Items in Place**





#### **Visual Grouping through Rules**





Add rules between most nav items and to visually combine multi-item groups like Small Business and Services together.

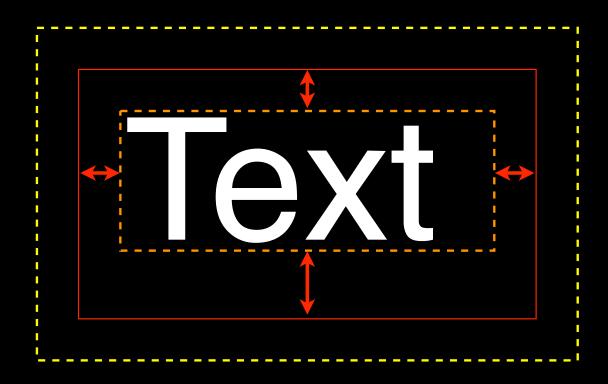
#### **Items and Rules**

Take a closer look at the placement of rules.



#### **Adjunct to the Box Model**

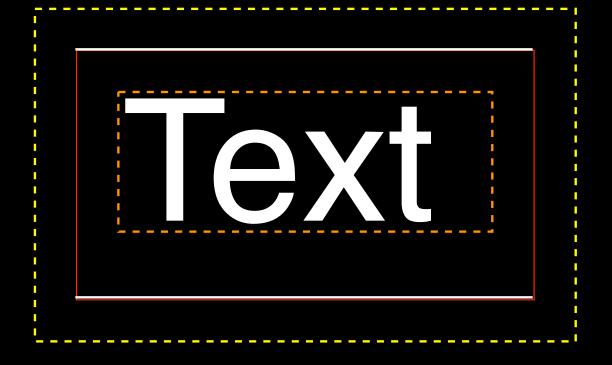




Every box should be laid out using the same principles as used in framing.

Padding for all sides should be **visually equal**. But only the top, right and left padding should be mathematically equal. The bottom should be taller.







The result is visually balanced.

## ext

#### **Applicable to All Elements**



## Text

The illusion of visual equality is enhanced when elements are stacked.

## Text

#### **Items and Rules**

Even multi-item groups should be treated the same way.

#### **Photos**

#### **Real Estate**

#### **Sports**

#### **Tech**

#### **Travel**

#### TV

#### **Yellow Pages**

#### **SMALL BUSINESS**

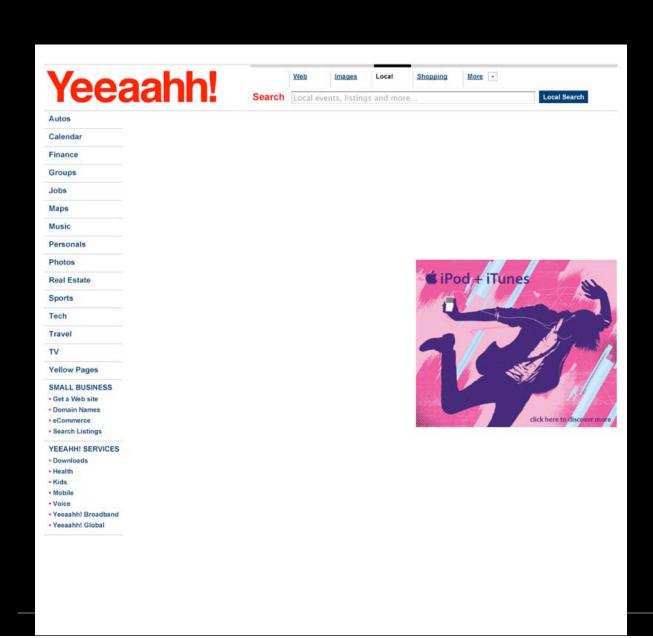
- · Get a Web site
- Domain Names
- eCommerce
- Search Listings

#### **YEEAHH SERVICES**

- Downloads
- Health
- Kids
- Mobile
- Voice
- · Yeeaahh! Broadband
- · Yeeaahh! Global

#### **Nav in Place**







Widgets





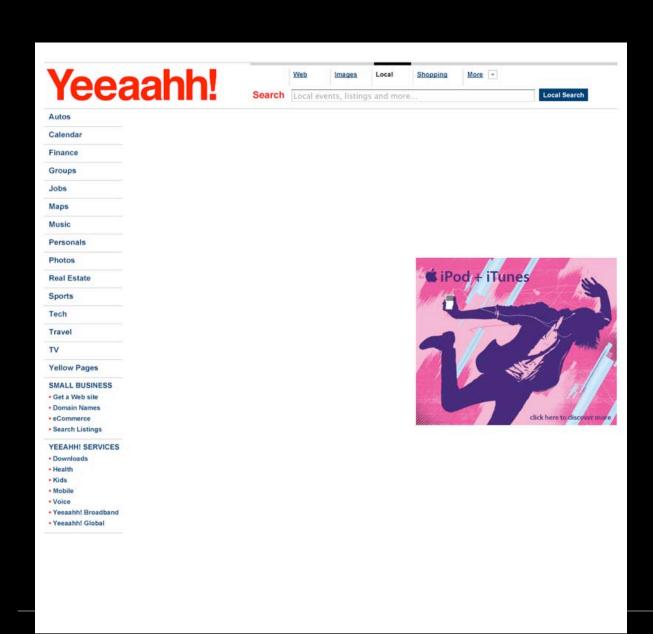
#### **Hidden Functionality**





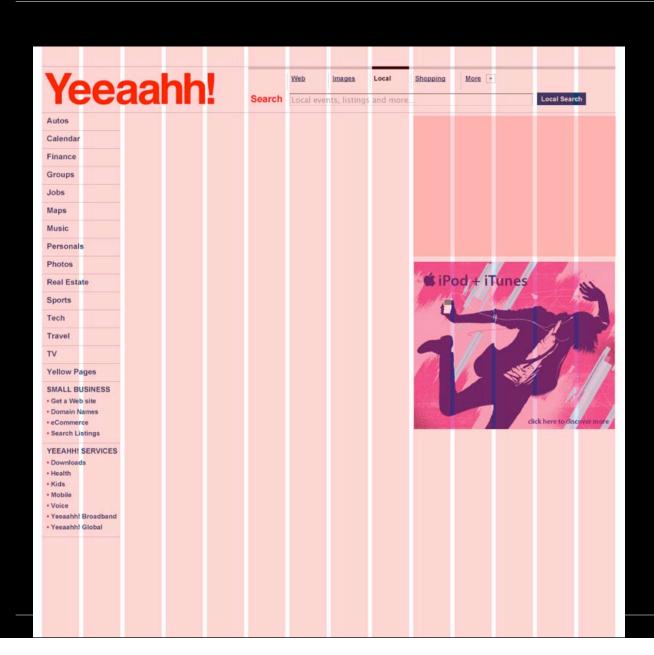
#### **Nav in Place**





# **Widget Region**





# **Alternate Region**





Carve out a layer across the top and shift navigation down lower.

### **Dress Up the Layer**





Add a light yellow layer and divide up the area into equal areas — except the number of units don't easily divide.

# **Asymmetry Isn't Bad**



Yeeaahh			mages Local	Shopping	More +		
1 CCddi II	Search	Local events	s, listings and m	lore	Local Search		
Autos							
Calendar							
Finance							
Groups							
Jobs							
Maps							
Music							
Personals				iP	od + iTunes	111	
Photos				Same Land	Segment of the second		
Real Estate						The said	
Sports							
Tech						Je facion	
Travel					W 41		
TV				550	-		
Yellow Pages							
SMALL BUSINESS						click here to discover more	
Get a Web site							
Domain Names     eCommerce							
Search Listings							
YEEAHH! SERVICES							
Downloads     Health							
• Kids							
• Mobile							
Voice     Yeesahh! Broadband							
Yeeaahh! Global							

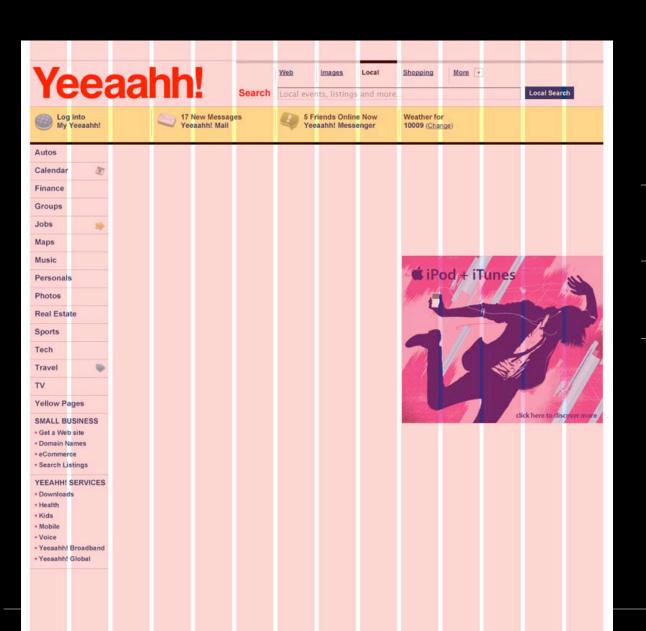
#### **Add Labels**





#### **Add Icons**





Icons from IconBuffet.com.







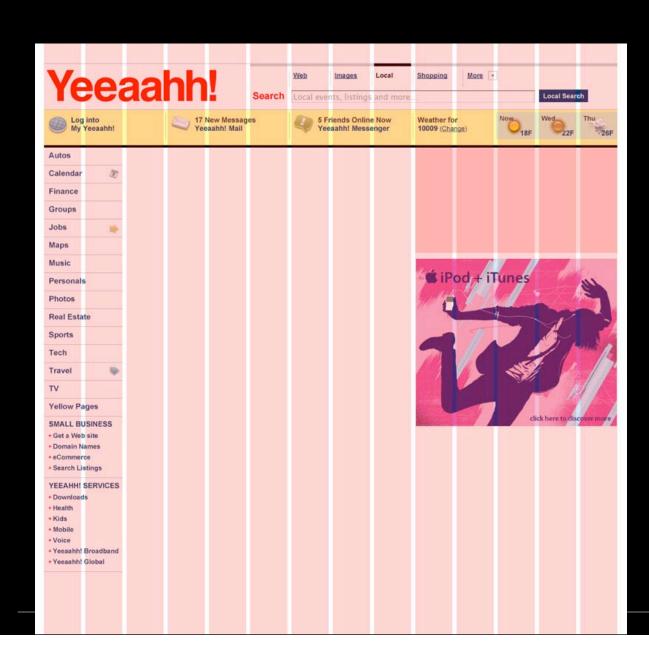
#### **Odd-size Column for Weather**





# **Remaining Widgets**





Horoscope, local info and radio.

# **Less Visual for Right Column**

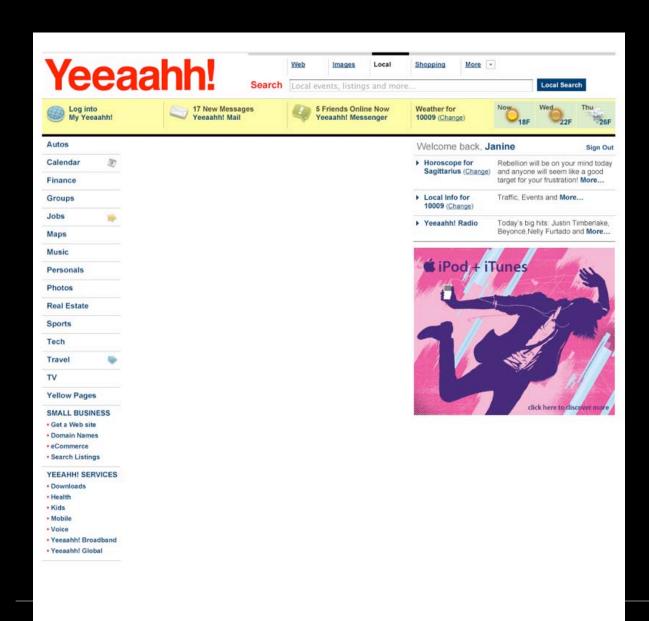




Users have learned to regard colorful imagery in far right column as advertising.

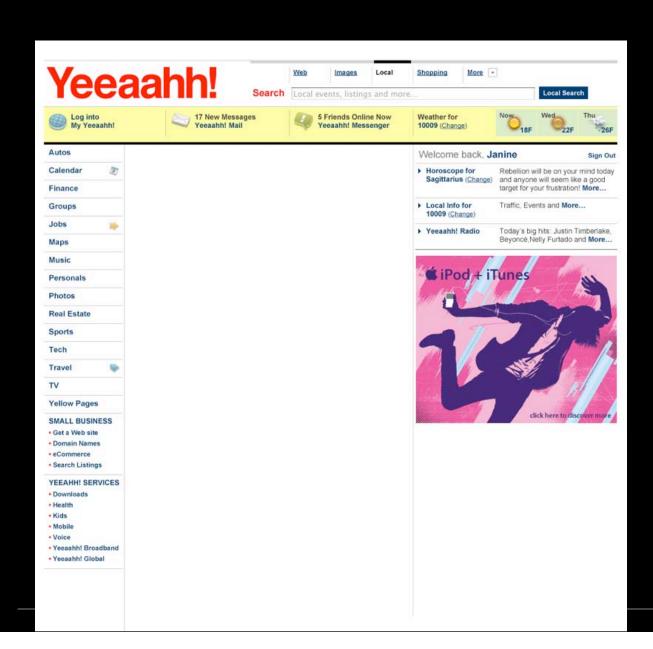
# The Story So Far





#### **Add Grid Lines**







**Features Area** 

#### **Features Area**



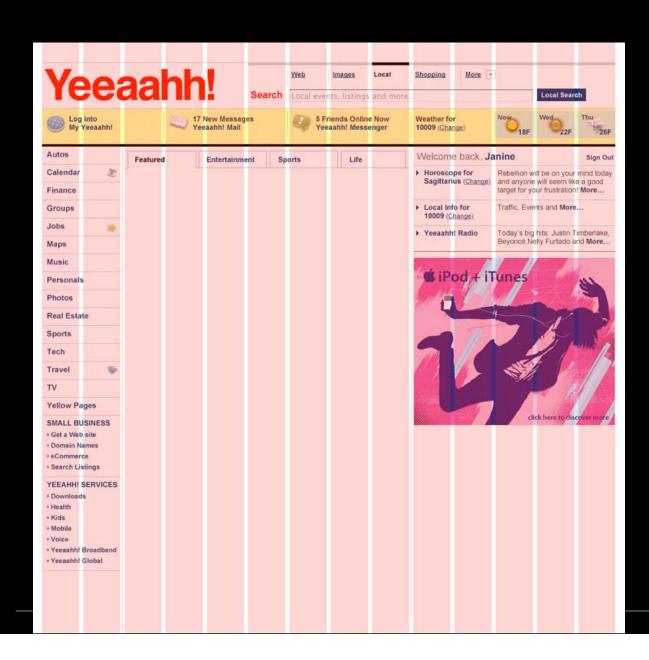


Consolidate seven units into a Features marquee area.

Tabs for four main areas: Features, Entertainment, Sports, Life.

### **Add Tabs**







Tabs are off the grid.

Let tabs be tabs.



# **Lead Story Layout**





#### **Image Sizes**



Consolidate three units into a 200 px width. Height is 120 px.



#### **Marquee Image**



Breaking out of tabs for more interest.



#### **Other Stories**



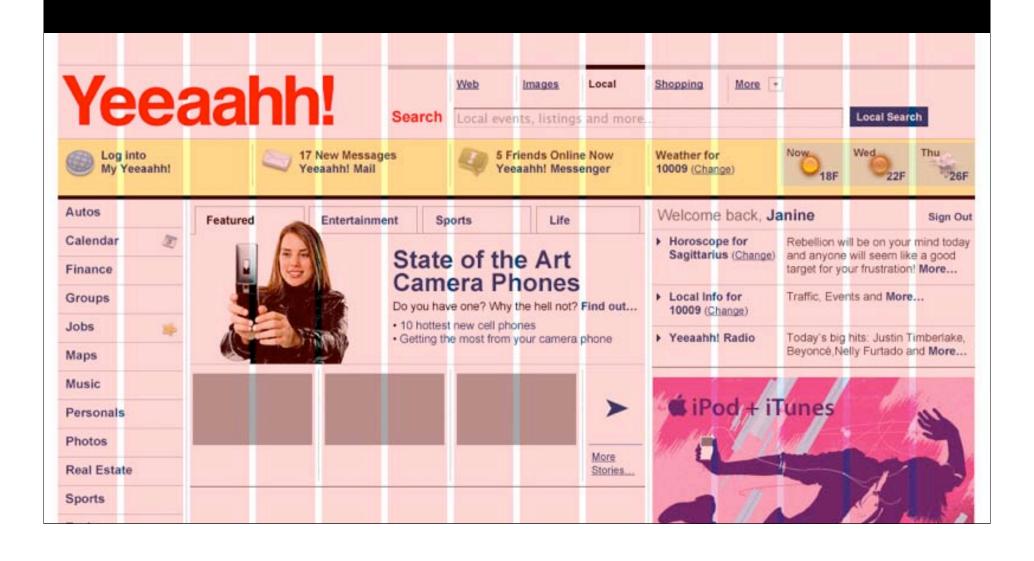
Proportional photo regions below.



# A Use for the Spare Unit



Large 'More Stories...' area.



#### **Nearly Complete**



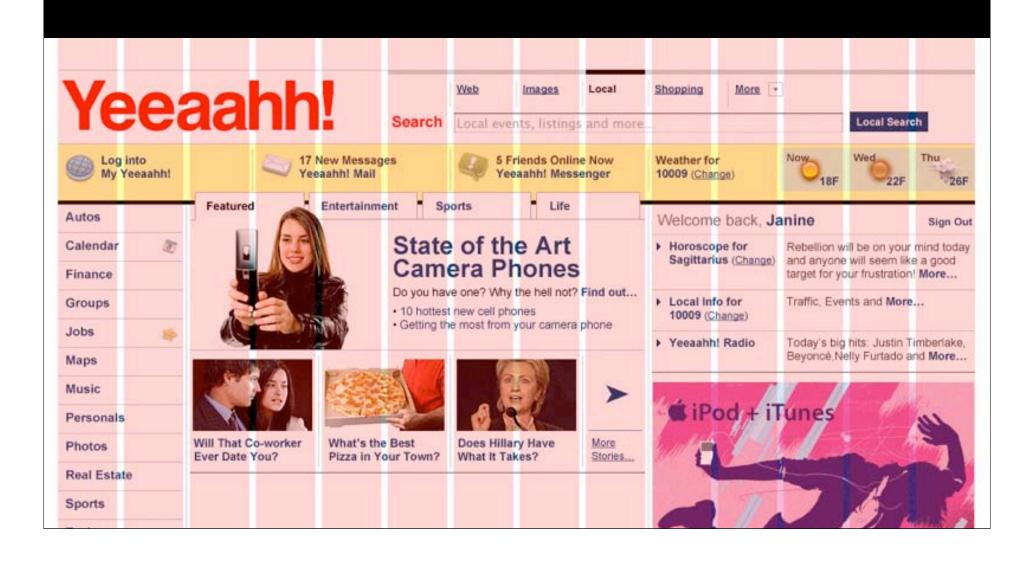
With images in place.



#### **Add More Interest**

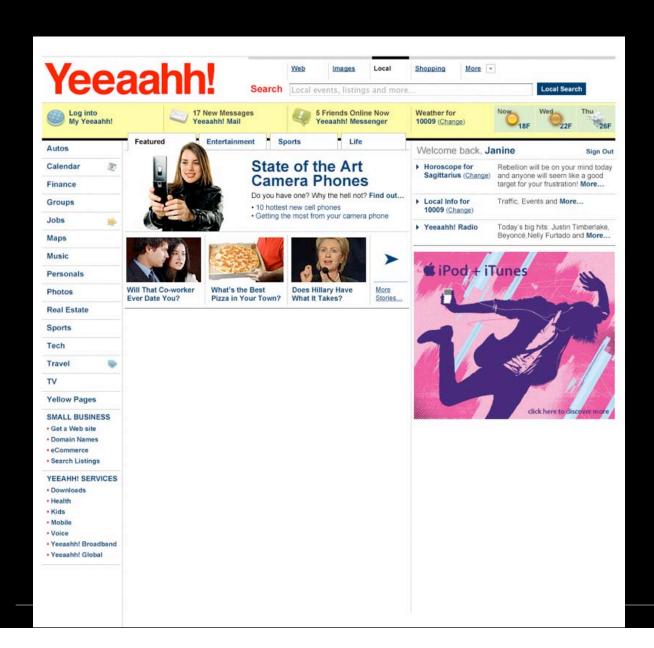


Shift tabs up to 'pop' them.



# **Completed Feature Stories Area**







**Headlines & Other Modules** 

### **Replicate Tab Structure**





#### Flow Headlines in a List





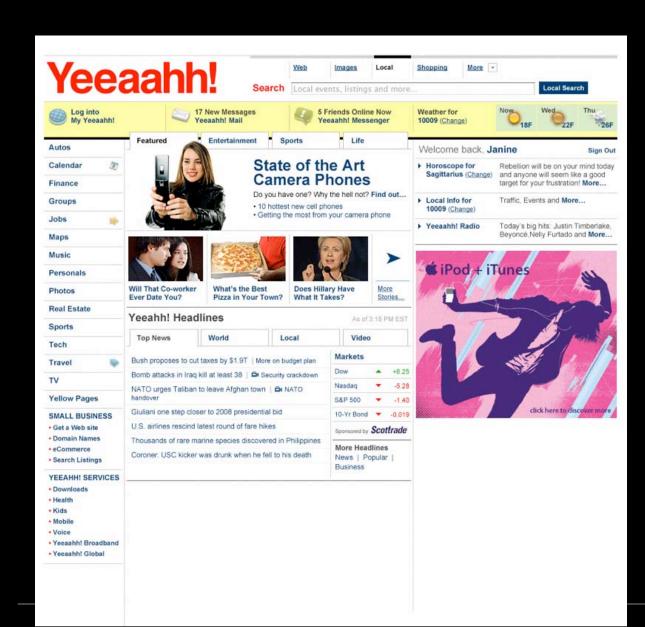
# Markets Data in Right-Hand Column





#### **Appraise the Overall Effect**

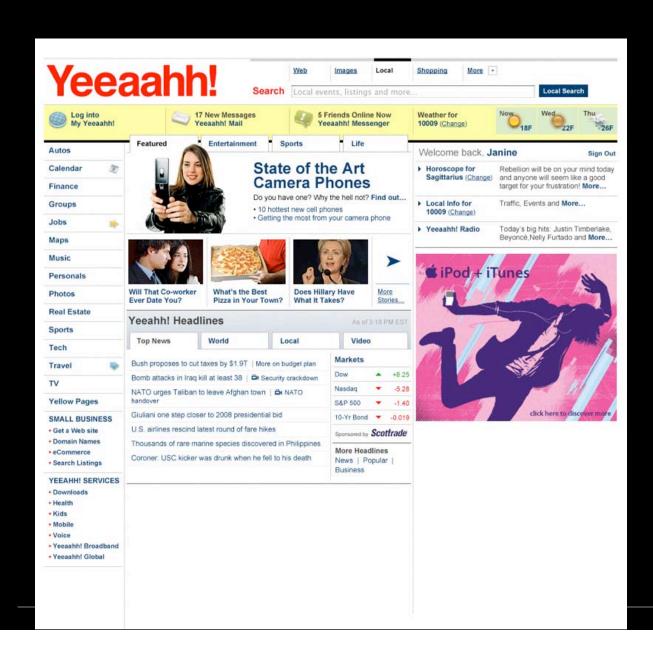




Problems parsing the Headlines tabs from the marquee above.

#### **Embellish with a Subtle Background**





#### **Similar Approach for Markets Area**





#### **Autos**





Four un-aligned columns.

#### **More Features**





Not necessary to stick too closely to the grid here.

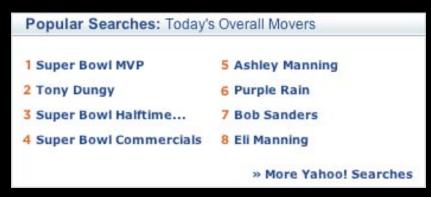


**Most Popular** 

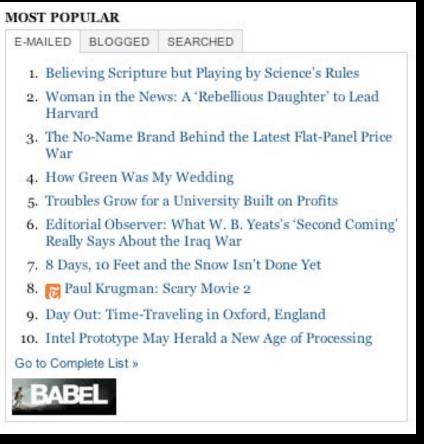
#### Simple, Familiar



# Straightforward lists. Can we make it more interesting?



Yahoo.com



NYTimes.com

#### **A Different Orientation**





Change orientation to change up display.

#### **Horizontal Ordered Listing**





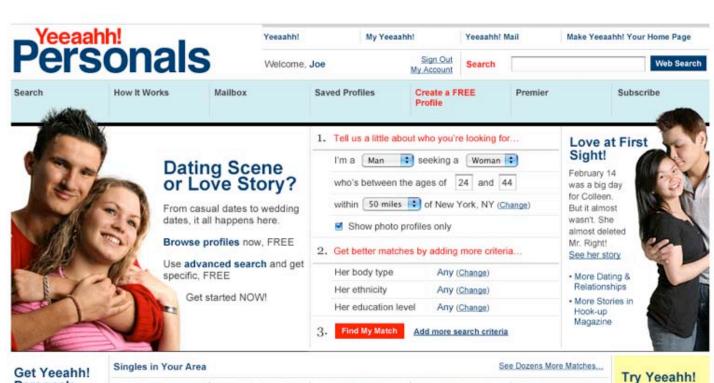
#### Done!





**Sibling Sites** 





#### Get Yeeahh! Personals To Go!

Now available for your mobile phone! Get started now



Country Mouse in the Big City New York, NY



True Love, Playas Need Not Apply New York, NY



Boo! It's the Girl Next Door New York, NY



Cute, Cool, But Not Conceited New York, NY



Uh-Huh, Uh-Huh, Oh Yeah New York, NY

#### Try Yeeahh! Personals Free for a Week!

Get started in less than 5 minutes



#### **Same Units**





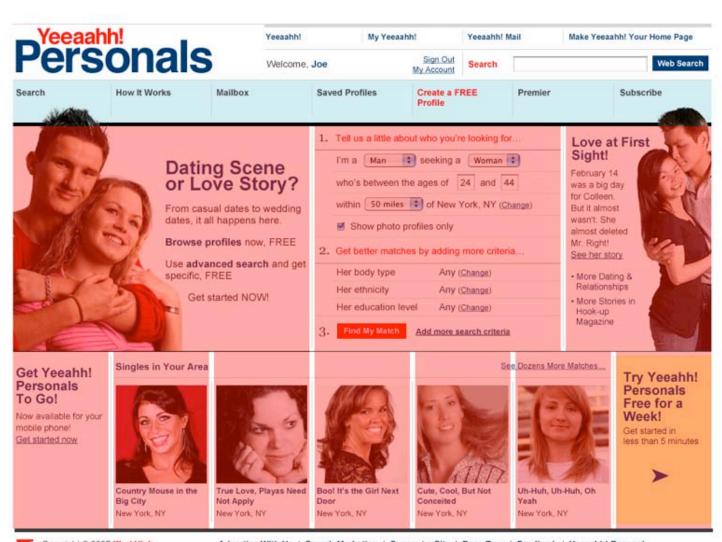
# **Mixing Column Structures**





#### **Mixing Column Structures**







End

#### **Special Thanks**



www.iconbuffet.com