

Simple Web Design Past and Present	
<p>In the past, websites were designed with simple HTML (hypertext markup language) statements. Organizing text and images on the page was done with tables.</p> <p>For the past few years, the semantic structure has stayed in the HTML. But, the presentational has migrated out to CSS (cascading style sheets). This has happened for a number of reasons. The web author has much more control of the position and the "look and feel" of the elements of the web page.</p> <p>ESPN changed to CSS in 2002 and immediately found that their network traffic decreased by 2 terabytes a day!</p>	

This small amount of XHTML code using no tables ...	
<pre>&lt;!DOCTYPE html PUBLIC "-//W3C//DTD XHTML 1.0 Strict//EN" "http://www.w3.org/TR/xhtml1/DTD/xhtml1-strict.dtd"&gt; &lt;html xmlns="http://www.w3.org/1999/xhtml"&gt; &lt;head&gt; &lt;meta http-equiv="content-type" content="text/html; charset=iso-8859-1" /&gt; &lt;title&gt;Lucid Works Home&lt;/title&gt; &lt;style type="text/css" media="all"&gt;@import "common.css";&lt;/style&gt; &lt;/head&gt; &lt;body id="body"&gt; &lt;div id="header"&gt;&lt;/div&gt; &lt;div id="content"&gt; &lt;h3 id="homepagepic"&gt;&lt;/h3&gt; &lt;p&gt;Fleeting things, typically seen out the corner of the eye, are what I find fascinating and beautiful.&lt;/p&gt; &lt;p&gt;Lucid Works images are on display in homes and businesses both locally and abroad. There's even one hanging in the home of an inter- national rock star!&lt;/p&gt; &lt;/div&gt; &lt;div id="menu"&gt; &lt;a href="index.htm"&gt;Home&lt;/a&gt;&lt;br /&gt; &lt;a /&gt;&lt;br /&gt; &lt;a href="g_floral.htm"&gt;Florals&lt;/a&gt;&lt;br /&gt; &lt;a href="g_landscapes.htm"&gt;Landscapes&lt;/a&gt;&lt;br /&gt; &lt;a href="g_people.htm"&gt;People&lt;/a&gt;&lt;br /&gt; &lt;a href="g_beasties.htm"&gt;Beasties&lt;/a&gt;&lt;br /&gt; &lt;a href="g_composites.htm"&gt;Composites&lt;/a&gt;&lt;br /&gt; &lt;a href="g_constructs.htm"&gt;Constructs&lt;/a&gt;&lt;br /&gt; &lt;a /&gt;&lt;br /&gt; &lt;a href="g_giftcards.htm"&gt;Gift Cards&lt;/a&gt;&lt;br /&gt; &lt;a href="s_biography.htm"&gt;Biography&lt;/a&gt;&lt;br /&gt; &lt;a href="s_statement.htm"&gt;Statement&lt;/a&gt;&lt;br /&gt; &lt;a href="s_purchase.htm"&gt;Purchase&lt;/a&gt;&lt;br /&gt; &lt;/div&gt; &lt;div id="footer"&gt;Copyright 2005 Hal Work. All rights reserved.&lt;/div&gt; &lt;/body&gt; &lt;/html&gt;</pre>	<p>yields this web page. An external CSS style sheet controls the "look and feel" of the page.</p>

June 25, 2005

Hal Work

## Contents of external CSS file

```
body {
height: 100%;
overflow: hidden;
margin: 0;
padding: 0;
font-family: verdana, arial, helvetica, sans-serif;
color: #333;
background-color: #ccc;
}
a {
color: #777;
font-size: 12px;
text-decoration: none;
font-family: verdana, arial, helvetica, sans-serif;
}
a:link {color: #777;}
a:visited {color: #999;}
a:hover {background-color: #ddd; border-bottom: 1px
solid #777;}

h1 {
margin: 0px 0px 15px 0px;
padding: 0px;
font-size: 28px;
line-height: 28px;
font-weight: 900;
color: #888;
}

h2 {
margin: 0px 0px 15px 0px;
padding: 0px;
font-size: 20px;
line-height: 20px;
font-weight: 900;
color: #888;
}

p {
font: 11px/20px verdana, arial, helvetica, sans-serif;
margin: 0px 0px 16px 0px;
padding: 0px;
}

#body {
overflow: auto !important;
}
#BottomFrame {
width: 100%;
padding: 0px;
height: 110px;
}
#container {
width: 600px;
margin: 120px 0px 0px 90px;
}

#content {
margin: 120px 50px 50px 120px;
padding: 10px;
}
#footer {
background-color: transparent; color: #777;
border-top: 1px solid #777;
text-align: right; font-size: 85%;
padding: 0.33em 1em 0em 0em;
font-style: italic;
}
#header {
background: #ccc url(images/SkyLogo.gif)
no-repeat center;
position: absolute;
top: 0px;
left: 50%;
width: 480px;
height: 100px;
margin-left: -240px;
}
#homepagepic {
background: #ccc url(images/FernCanyonSpike.jpg)
no-repeat;
width: 379px;
height: 350px;
margin-left: 30px;
}
#imageInfo {
font: 11px/20px verdana, arial, helvetica, sans-serif
!important;
}
#menu {
position: absolute;
top: 170px;
left: 0px;
width: 105px;
padding: 0px 0px 0px 10px;
background-color: #ccc;
line-height: 17px;
/* Again, the ugly brilliant hack. */
voice-family: "\}\}";
voice-family: inherit;
width: 77px;
}
/* Again, "be nice to Opera 5". */
body>#Menu {width: 77px;}

#price {width: 550; padding: 15px;}
#price td {
border: 1px solid grey;
font: 11px/20px verdana, arial, helvetica, sans-serif;
}

#TopFrame {
width: 600px;
padding: 0px;
height: 420px;
}
```

## **Recommended Reading**

HTML & XHTML, The Definitive Guide by Musciano & Kennedy published by O'Reilly

Cascading Style Sheets, The Definitive Guide by Eric A. Meyer published by O'Reilly

The Zen of CSS Design by Shea & Holzschlag published by New Riders

Eric Meyer on CSS by Eric A. Meyer published by New Riders

More Eric Meyer on CSS by Eric A. Meyer published by New Riders

CSS Cookbook by Christopher Schmitt published by O'Reilly

Designing Web Usability by Jakob Nielsen published by New Riders

## **Recommended CSS Design Web Sites**

<http://www.csszengarden.com/>

<http://www.w3.org/Style/CSS/>

<http://www.dezwozhere.com/links.html>

<http://glish.com/css/>

<http://bluerobot.com/web/layouts/default.asp>

<http://www.positioniseverything.net/>

<http://www.alistapart.com/>

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