## Dos and Don'ts of Designing in Drupal

George DeMet Drupalcon Szeged 2008





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- A best practices-driven workflow for designing and building Drupal themes
- Tips n' tricks for working with designers

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- How to create cool layouts using fancy tools like Panels
- Fundamentals of design



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- Developing Web sites since 1994



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- Created the Internet's first 2001:A Space
   Odyssey fan site (not updated since 2001)





### Chicago, Illinois, home of the Bat-Man



George DeMet, Tiffany Farriss, and some guy





Collaborations with design firms

### What we do

- Collaborations with design firms
- End-to-end design and development projects

### What we do

- Collaborations with design firms
- End-to-end design and development projects
- Web applications using custom and out-ofthe box themes



Indianapolis Museum of Art



### Arts & Sciences at Washington University in St. Louis

### IUPUI INDIANA UNIVERSITY-PURDUE UNIVERSITY INDIANAPOLIS



### Herron School of Art and Design



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Community. Creativity. Home.

Ragdale is an artists' retreat located on the

grounds of Arts and Crafts architect Howard

Van Doren Shaw's 1897 summer home in





SUPPORT

CONTACT US

phote (847) 234,1063

### Mission:

The Ragdale Foundation supports writers and artists in a retreat setting and makes the arts more accessible to the public through three core program areas:

Artists' ensidency program

Community programs

Preservation of the historic site

The artists' community, which is situated just 30 miles north of Chicago and overlooks 50 acres of prairie, now hosts over 200 emerging and established artists of all

Lake Forest, IL.

disciplines each year.

The Regulate Powerdation

These writers, artists, and composers come from around the country and the world to work and experience Ragdale's remarkable gifts of community, tranquility, and creativity.



2008 Resident: Rhonda Wheatley

#### News and Events...

1260 North Grean Bay Road, Lake Porest, Illinois 60048

- Ragdale announces the Alice Hayes
  Fellowship More info>
- Arts Ragdale Announces New
  Arts Fellows More Info>
- A Novel Affair October 3 & 4 More info>

**Ragdale Foundation** 



Kohl Children's Museum of Greater Chicagoland



We Put Community First."

FirstBank Express: Business Express: Trust Reporter: Lagin Hore Infa Lagin Hore Infa Lagin Hore Infa

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### WHAT'S NEW:

#### Small Banks, Big Competition

Big banks have landed on the front pages of business sections with billion dollar writedowns and losses, while fears at smaller banks like IndyMac have also caused problems. So, given the current banking environment, does size really matter?.../ more

### Electronic Statements are Now Available

Are you tired of waiting for your statement to arrive in the mail?.../ more

#### Going Green

First Bank & Trust has been studying the opportunities to increase our position as a "green bank.".../ more

### First Bank & Trust

## So, how do you do it?

Listen to the client

- Listen to the client
- Think about the users

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- Talk to your creative partners and/or team

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- Wireframe





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- List of modules, block regions, content types, views, panels, taxonomy
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- List of modules, block regions, content types, views, panels, taxonomy
- Using this, a developer should be able to begin building the site without any idea what it will look like





 Helps the designer understand what functionality will be on the site and how it will work



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- Helps the developer understand the context for the site's functionality



- Helps the designer understand what functionality will be on the site and how it will work
- Helps the developer understand the context for the site's functionality
- Helps the themer understand what block regions will be used on the site before they start building

Search

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#### The Collection



#### AIC Collections: before Drupal

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#### The Collection

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#### AIC Collections: After Drupal

 Layered Photoshop or Illustrator design files

- Layered Photoshop or Illustrator design files
- Content

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- Content
- Style guide

BBC style guide

BBC style guide

 http://www.bbc.co.uk/guidelines/newmedia/ desed/visual\_language.shtml How do you bring together design and functionality?

#### Design implementation document

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 A marked-up PDF of the design templates that has comments targeted at both the client and the internal development team

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- A marked-up PDF of the design templates that has comments targeted at both the client and the internal development team
- A mash-up of the design concept and the data model

 GRAYCOR
 Building something more\*
 Search
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 Graycor Industrial
 Graycor Blasting
 Graycor Construction
 Graycor International
 Projects

#### Graycor Industrial

Graycor Industrial is a heavy industrial construction loader throughout North America in metals, power and process. From forging ahead with new generation power projects to rebuilding blast furnaces, we take on tough jobs of all sizes.

#### Graycor Blasting

Graycor Blasting has been a world-class provider of industrial cleaning and maintenance services since 1925. We know what it takes to keep your business running smoothly, and our approach is tailored to meet your needs.





#### Latest news

Graycor Industrial Constructors build strength in the greater Pittsburgh/Ohio River Valley areas. Full story >

Graycor Industrial Constructors completes record-breaking projects in the steel industry. Full story >

Mike Kulik of Graycor Construction Company named Outstanding Estimator of 2007-08 by ASA Chicago. Full story >



#### TOGETHER. That's true partnership.

ACHIEVING.

That's Graycor. (nity: again)

#### Graycor final site

So now we can start theming, right?

Wrong!

Zen is more than just a "starter" theme, it's a theme development framework

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- Hacking Zen is like hacking core, don't do it!



Public Service Announcement courtesy of Greg Dunlap (heyrocker)

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- Real sitemap, real page titles, some real content

# Okay, now it's safe to start theming

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- Always build for the future, even if you aren't there today
- Even if elements aren't being used on the site at launch, make sure that they get styled so that they won't look ugly when turned on

## Sit back, relax, and let Drupal run the show for a while
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- Drupal is supposed to make your life easier; don't fight with it!

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- Use Google Docs for feedback

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- Provide client with orientation, training and documentation
- When everyone has signed off, push it live!

Insist on consistency

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- Watch your profiles

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- Progressive enhancement is your best exit strategy

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- Colleen Carroll on sustainable theming: http://www.palantir.net/blog/sustainablemarkup-how-be-a-themer-drupal

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