

Create a Drupal theme

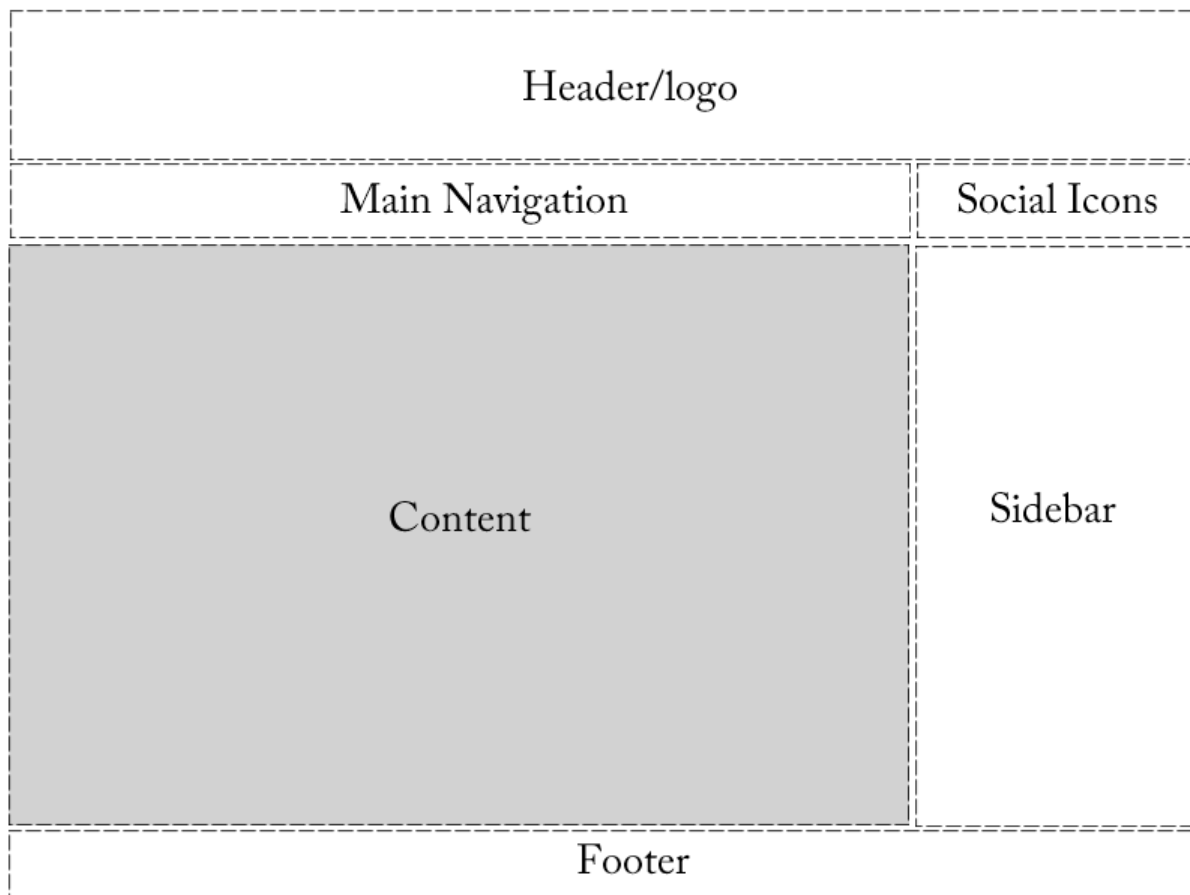
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You can download themes from drupal.org and modify them, or create a theme from scratch.

Detailed Graphic Design

If you've done your research, you'll have a firm idea of what you're going to create and the general look and feel of it. Before you start building it though, you'll need to come up with a few sketches. If you are working for a Client, they'll want to see what ideas you have (and they will want to contribute to it, so don't start building the site without their feedback on the design first). If you are creating a site for yourself, you may end up changing your design during the development stage, but it's still important to come up with site layout.

Create a basic wireframe of your main page (this can be as simple as boxes to divide your page, using elements. Identify the type of content that will sit within these elements



And last but not least, you need to create a graphic which accurately portrays the finished look and feel of the site.

Create the template files and add content

First thing's first, create a folder for your new theme. Make sure the name is in lowercase, such as **petrichor**, but don't use spaces and avoid uppercase wherever you can. Move this folder to your themes folder, inside drupal (websitesname\sites\all\themes\petrichor)

In this folder, we're going to create 3 fundamental files. These can be create in Dreamweaver or notepad++.

1. **petrichor.info** (the name of this folder *MUST* correspond with the name of your theme folder, *exactly*)
2. **page.tpl.php** (this is the main page template)
3. **styles.css** (your CSS sheet)

petrichor.info Page

Your **petrichor.info** sheet must contain the following:

name = alpha

description = A 2-column layout.

core = 7.x

engine = phptemplate

;CSS – this is comment

stylesheets[all][] = assets/css/styles.css

;JS – this is a comment

scripts[] = assets/js/modenizr.js

scripts[] = assets/js/selectivizr.js

regions[slideshow] = Slideshow

regions[content] = Content

regions[sidebar] = Sidebar

regions[social] = Social Icons

regions[footer] = Footer

regions[help] = Help

regions[page_top] = Page Top

regions[page_bottom] = Page Bottom

features[] = logo

features[] = name

features[] = slogan

features[] = mission

features[] = node_user_picture

features[] = comment_user_picture

features[] = search

features[] = favicon

features[] = primary_links

features[] = secondary_links

Read: <http://drupal.org/node/171205>

page.tpl.php

Below are some standard scripts you can include in your **page.tpl.php** page. Anything which is being referenced from your **.info** sheet must be rendered and will be written like this `<?php print render($page['content']); ?>`

Place the following scripts in the appropriate element tags!

<!--theme search box -->

```
<?php print $search_box; ?>
```

<!--BEGIN Header -->

<!--logo-->

```
<?php if ($logo): ?>
```

```
<a href="<?php print $base_path; ?>" title="<?php print t('Click to return to the Homepage'); ?>" />
```

```
" /></a>
```

```
<?php endif; ?>
```

<!--site name-->

```
<?php if ($site_name): ?>
```

```
<div>
```

```
<h1><a href="<?php print $base_path; ?>" title="<?php print t('Home'); ?>"><?php print $site_name; ?></a></h1>
```

```
</div>
```

```
<?php endif; ?>
```

<!-- slogan -->

```
<?php if ($site_slogan): ?>
```

```
<div>
```

```
<?php print $site_slogan; ?>
```

```
</div>
```

```
<?php endif; ?>
```

<!-- mission statement -->

```
<?php print $mission; ?>
```

<!-- Region: header -->

<?php print render(\$page['page_top']); ?>

<?php print render(\$page['slideshow']); ?>

<!--END header-wrapper -->

<nav>

<div id="main-menu">

<?php print theme('links_system_main_menu', array('links' => \$main_menu, 'attributes' => array('class' => array('links', 'menu', 'inline', 'clearfix')))); ?>

</div>

</nav>

<!-- BEGIN Centre Content -->

<!-- Region: sidebar -->

<?php print render(\$page['sidebar']); ?>

<!-- breadcrumb trail -->

<?php if (\$breadcrumb): ?>

<?php print \$breadcrumb; ?>

<?php endif; ?>

<!-- title -->

<?php print render(\$title_prefix); ?>

<?php if (\$title): ?>

<h1>

<?php print \$title; ?>

</h1>

<?php endif; ?>

<?php print render(\$title_suffix); ?>

<!-- tabs -->

<?php if (\$tabs): ?>

<?php print render(\$tabs); ?>

Create a Drupal 7 Theme

```
<?php endif; ?>
```

```
<!-- action links -->
```

```
<?php if ($actions_links): ?>
```

```
<ul class="action-links">
```

```
<?php print render($action_links); ?>
```

```
</ul>
```

```
<?php endif; ?>
```

```
<!-- help -->
```

```
<?php print $help; ?>
```

```
<!-- messages -->
```

```
<?php print $messages; ?>
```

```
<!-- Region: content -->
```

```
<?php print render($page['content']); ?>
```

```
<!-- END Content Area -->
```

```
<!-- BEGIN Footer -->
```

```
<?php print render($page['footer']); ?>
```

```
<!-- feed icons -->
```

```
<?php print render($page['social']); ?>
```

```
<!-- footer text -->
```

```
<?php print $footer_message; ?>
```

```
<!-- END footer region -->
```

```
<?php print $closure; ?>
```

Now you can create your CSS to customise the look and feel of your content

