

# **Designing with CSS for a Beautiful Web**

***By Andy Clarke***

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***Review by Mary Jane Blommel***

Andy Clarke, in ‘Designing with CSS for a Beautiful Web’, advocates doing the majority of your Web design in the browser using html and CSS rather than doing the majority of it Photoshop. You will have greater flexibility, a true representation of what the real Web site will look like and how it will function for your customer. In the end, this is the place your work will be displayed. It’s faster and more efficient for yourself and your customer.

He goes through all the steps of putting a Web site together including layout, color, html, and typography and he does a fine job of it. Andy points out free text editors as well as sites that help with laying out your Web page. He advises coming up with ‘your message’ (i.e. content) first, then working on adding the ‘pretty’ design, not the reverse.

Although a bit slow at times, there are tips that are gem-like in their application. A good example of this is the use of RGBA values for color contrast in Section 7. It can make a div with images and text look like they are printed on frosted glass against a colored background. This is a really neat trick!

My only concern is in Section 10, Putting It All Together. There is supposed to be an ‘unstyled’ html document that you can access and style along with him in the DVD. Unless I am mistaken, this document is missing from the DVD files as is the grid.png file. I anticipate that this missing information will be available on his Website, ‘<http://forabeautifulweb.com/>’ soon.

Andy gives great advice for designing a Web site from start to finish. There is a lot of information. It is almost too much to absorb at one sitting so plan on going back to it again and again. However, the person who makes a careful study of this DVD will be well rewarded. I highly recommend it to novice and master alike.