

Creative Layout Design for Web and Mobile Apps

Design engaging, attractive layouts for websites and mobile apps, moving beyond simple boxes in 2026.

[Web & Mobile Design](#) Instructor: Cameron Brooks • 5 sections • 51 lessons • 12.25h total

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About this course

Tired of repetitive boxed layouts that fail to capture user interest? Many designers fall into the trap of using basic grids, missing the chance to create memorable experiences. This course will guide you through creative layout techniques that make your designs stand out. You'll explore principles like visual hierarchy and user psychology, learn core techniques for asymmetric and fluid layouts, and master responsive strategies for modern devices. The course includes video lessons, practical case studies, and exercises to apply what you learn directly to your projects.

Course curriculum

Introduction to Layout Design Principles

- **Why Layouts Matter: Beyond Basic Boxes (12m)**
Understand the impact of layout on user engagement and why simple grids aren't enough.
- **Understanding Grid Systems: The Foundation (18m)**
Learn the basics of grid systems and how to use them as a starting point for creativity.
- **Visual Hierarchy: Guiding the User's Eye (15m)**
Discover how to arrange elements to direct attention and improve usability.
- **User Psychology in Layout Design (10m)**
Explore psychological principles that influence how users interact with layouts.
- **The Role of Whitespace and Balance (8m)**
Learn to use whitespace effectively to create balanced and breathable designs.
- **Case Study: Successful Non-Boxed Layouts (20m)**
Analyze real-world examples of creative layouts that break the mold.
- **Tools for Layout Experimentation (25m)**
Get practical with design tools to prototype and test layout ideas.
- **Setting Up Your Design Workflow (10m)**
Establish a workflow that encourages creativity and iteration in your projects.

Core Techniques for Non-Boxed Layouts

- **Breaking the Grid: Asymmetric Design Basics (18m)**
Step-by-step guide to creating asymmetric layouts that draw the eye.
- **Fluid Shapes and Organic Layouts (15m)**
Use curved and organic shapes to add visual interest and flow.
- **Dynamic Spacing and Margins (12m)**
Experiment with spacing to create rhythm and emphasis in your designs.
- **Overlapping Elements for Depth (10m)**
Learn to layer elements to add dimension and focus.
- **Using Negative Space Creatively (8m)**
Turn empty space into a design element that enhances clarity.
- **Layering and Z-Index Management (15m)**
Manage overlapping elements with practical z-index techniques.
- **Implementing Diagonal and Curved Lines (12m)**
Incorporate lines and angles to guide movement and break monotony.
- **Tools: Figma and Sketch for Non-Boxed Designs (20m)**
Explore features in Figma and Sketch tailored for creative layouts.
- **Practical Exercise: Design an Asymmetric Homepage (25m)**
Apply techniques by designing a homepage with an asymmetric layout.
- **Reviewing and Refining Your Layout (10m)**
Get feedback and polish your design for effectiveness and appeal.

Responsive and Adaptive Layout Strategies

- **Principles of Responsive Design in 2026 (12m)**
Review core responsive principles updated for current devices and trends.
- **Flexible Grids with CSS Grid and Flexbox (18m)**
Master CSS Grid and Flexbox to build fluid, adaptable layouts.
- **Media Queries and Breakpoints (15m)**
Set up media queries to adjust layouts for different screen sizes.
- **Mobile-First vs. Desktop-First Approaches (10m)**
Compare strategies and choose the best approach for your project.
- **Adaptive Images and Media Handling (12m)**
Optimize images and media for various devices and resolutions.
- **Testing Across Devices and Screen Sizes (8m)**
Use tools and techniques to test layouts on multiple devices.
- **Using Modern CSS Frameworks like Tailwind CSS (20m)**
Use frameworks to speed up responsive layout development.
- **Case Study: Responsive Layout for E-commerce (25m)**
Walk through a real e-commerce site's responsive design process.

Advanced Visual Composition and Interaction

- **Integrating Animations for Engagement (15m)**
Add subtle animations to enhance user interaction without distraction.
- **Micro-Interactions in Layout Elements (12m)**
Design small interactions that provide feedback and delight users.
- **Multimedia Integration: Video and Audio (18m)**
Incorporate video and audio elements seamlessly into layouts.
- **Creating Narrative-Driven Layouts (20m)**
Use layout to tell a story and guide users through content.
- **Scroll-Based Storytelling Techniques (15m)**
Implement scroll effects to reveal content progressively.
- **Parallax Effects and Motion Design (12m)**
Add depth and motion with parallax scrolling techniques.
- **Accessibility in Interactive Layouts (10m)**
Ensure animations and interactions are accessible to all users.
- **Performance Optimization for Complex Layouts (8m)**
Keep layouts fast and efficient with optimization tips.
- **Designing for Dark Mode and Theming (15m)**
Create layouts that adapt to dark mode and user preferences.
- **Using SVG and Custom Graphics (12m)**
Incorporate scalable vector graphics for crisp, creative elements.
- **Interactive Prototyping with Tools like Framer (20m)**
Prototype interactive layouts using advanced tools.

- **Practical: Build an Immersive Product Page (25m)**
Apply all techniques by creating a product page with rich interactions.

Innovative Trends and Mastery

- **AI Tools for Layout Generation and Suggestion (15m)**
Explore AI-powered tools that assist in creative layout design.
- **Inclusive Design Patterns for All Users (12m)**
Design layouts that are accessible and inclusive by default.
- **Exploring 3D Elements in Web Layouts (18m)**
Add depth with 3D elements and techniques for modern browsers.
- **Variable Fonts and Typography in Layouts (10m)**
Use variable fonts to enhance typographic hierarchy in layouts.
- **Data-Driven Layout Design (15m)**
Make design decisions based on user data and analytics.
- **Design Systems for Consistent Creativity (12m)**
Build and use design systems to maintain consistency across projects.
- **Advanced CSS Techniques: Container Queries (20m)**
Use container queries for more responsive component-based layouts.
- **Performance Monitoring and Analytics (8m)**
Monitor layout performance and gather insights for improvement.
- **Collaborative Design Workflows (10m)**
Work effectively with teams using collaborative tools and methods.
- **Portfolio Development: Showcasing Creative Layouts (15m)**
Create a portfolio that highlights your layout design skills.
- **Future Trends in Layout Design for 2027 (12m)**
Look ahead at emerging trends and prepare for the next wave.
- **Applying Techniques to Real Projects (20m)**
Plan and execute a full project using the course techniques.
- **Course Wrap-up and Next Steps (10m)**
Review key takeaways and outline paths for continued learning.

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