

Perpendicular Angel Design

Organizing and simplifying, one illumination at a time

An Event Apart 2017: New CSS Layout Meets the Real World by Rachel Andrew

Posted on [April 6, 2017](#)

Rachel Andrew's presentation was all about CSS Grid. It was fantastic, very enlightening, and let's be honest here, I only captured really about a third of it in the notes because otherwise I would have had to screen capture like every slide and by that point you have no reason to go see it yourself.

Go see it yourself.

Oh and you'll notice that Rachel's one of those speakers who is so well-rehearsed she can set up tweets on a timer to go out during her presentation, which she did, so they're in here too.

Meantime, here's what we've got.



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Almost 16 years ago people were complaining how boring websites were becoming [#AEASEA](#)

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“The state of the use of Cascading Style Sheet on the web is really beginning to get boring. Why haven't designers begun exploiting its benefits yet?”



A Brave New

@abravenew

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In a few moments [@rachelandrew](#) is going to show this slide at [#aeasea](#) any guesses as to the year of this quote?

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Rachel Andrew

@rachelandrew

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I'm at [#aeasea](#) today. Here come the links! My collection of grid code examples and video tutorials is at buff.ly/2nYrYzv

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Almost 16 years ago people were complaining how boring websites were becoming [#AEASEA](#)

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An awful lot of things we call web design now came from technical limitations from CSS years ago [#AEASEA](#)

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We were doing the same “use someone else’s code” back in 2001 [#AEASEA](#)

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When [@rachelandrew](#) saw grid layout in IE 10 years ago, she knew this would help... [#AEASEA](#)

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Last month CSS grid shipped into every major browser except Edge [#AEASEA](#)

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I wrote comprehensive Grid Layout documentation for @MozDevNet which starts here buff.ly/2oynZdY #aeasea

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CSS Grid Layout

CSS Grid layout has been designed to provide a two-dimensional layout method for CSS, with the ability to lay out items in rows and columns. A CSS grid can developer.mozilla.org

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the older IE spec is totally usable (just not up to spec) #AEASEA

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CSS Grid support #aeasea

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But what about the old browser!? Even @rachelandrew has to support IE 9 #AEASEA

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We don't not-use media queries because sites look different on a phone, we shouldn't not-use CSS grid #AEASEA

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Flexbox
CSS Grid Layout
Box Alignment
CSS Shapes
CSS Feature Queries

All new layout tools #AEASEA

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.@rachelandrew has been working with Fractal by Clearleft to work on design patterns and components, mini-responsive-designs #AEASEA

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the media object:

Photo, title, blurb, footer.

we see this all over the place#AEASEA

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Contains an image plus content

Is flexible

Should stack on mobile

Box should clear contents

Image can be left or right#AEASEA

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Avoid pre-emptying the need for markup as styling hooks. Just use
divs because we don't know content yet #AEASEA

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Don't add too many extra divs "just in case". New layout elements
often show you don't need them #AEASEA

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At #aeasea I mentioned Fractal you can find a write-up of how we used it for @grabaperch here buff.ly/2nYjWqd

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Rebuilding the Perch UI - creating a pattern libr...

A post about our decision to use Fractal to build the pattern library for the Perch UI.

rachelandrew.co.uk

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Grid is a good choice for this object because we're controlling layout in two dimensions. It has 3 rows and 2 columns #AEASEA

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Grid layout kicks in when layout is >600px wide. #AEASEA

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(This talk is code-heavy so if you have access to the slides, you want to access the slides.) #AEASEA

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As we move to new layouts, we probably don't need so many divs.
Don't put markup in your component for the sake of markup.

#aeasea

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Greg Whitworth

@gregwhitworth

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Goodness, @rachelandrew takes something as complex as grid
and explains it in such an elegant and intuitive way. #aeasea

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CSS Grid stacks things if you don't tell them what the positions are
#AEASEA

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Stephanie @seaotta

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As we move to new layouts, we probably don't need so many divs.
Don't put markup in your component for the sake of markup. #aeasea



Stephanie

@seaotta

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Start with the minimum markup you need and if you need to add
more later, it's not the end of the world. #aeasea

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Grid template areas method - assign names to elements, then put them in the grid-template-areas property [#aeasea](#)

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Grid automatically adds implicit rows [#AEASEA](#)

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The value “auto” is a very useful value, and highly misunderstood. [#AEASEA](#)

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In flexbox, if you set a basis of “auto” if nothing has a width becomes the size of the element [#AEASEA](#)

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When creating fallbacks and sizing things, auto is special and important [#AEASEA](#)

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Grid-template-areas makes it easy to understand what the layout looks like [#AEASEA](#)

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You can mix fr units with absolute values and they grab whatever's left after assigned space [#AEASEA](#)

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fr stands for “fraction” – if you have a row that contains two cells and each of them is sized at 1 fr, they’ll split the space as 50% each.

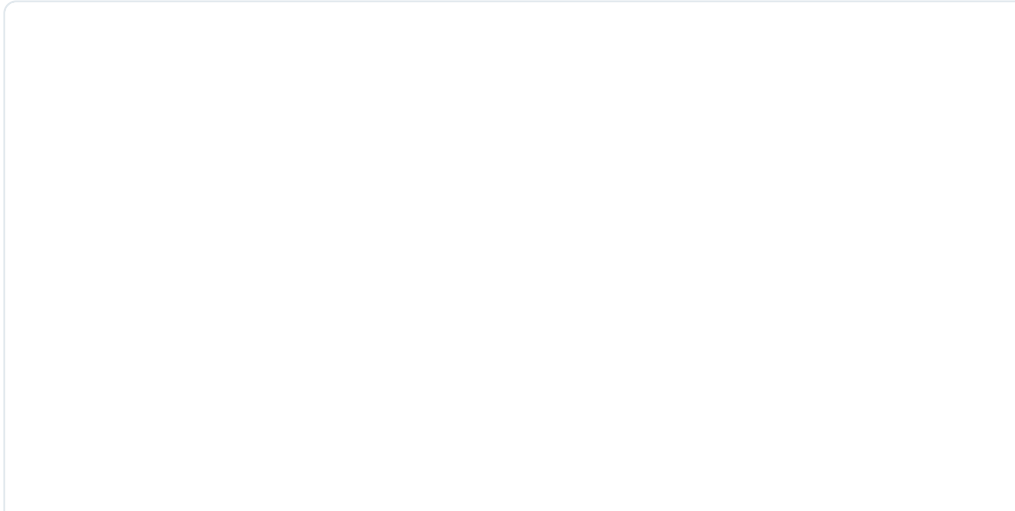


Zeldman
@zeldman

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Demo of CSS Grid value auto for flex-basis:
[codepen.io/rachelandrew/p...@rachelandrew #aeasea](#)

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Demonstration of the value auto for flex-basis

...

[codepen.io](#)

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There is no need to clear or use a clearfix with CSS Grid. Huzzah!
[#aeasea](#)

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Flipping the image from the left to the right is redefining the grid-template-areas and that's pretty much it [#AEASEA](#)

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If we're nesting one media object inside another, we'd get everything in the first cell.... [#AEASEA](#)

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A quick change to the CSS by putting a media object in a media object and it's fixed. [#AEASEA](#)

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Line-based methods respect the reading order of the language, so keep in mind when laying out for multiple languages [#AEASEA](#)

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Another element we might want to create: magazine-style layout
[#AEASEA](#)

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Sometimes we don't get gorgeous large photos. Mixing them
together can be quite nice [#AEASEA](#)

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A half-border box (border on top, border halfway down the left) uses
minmax() [#AEASEA](#)

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Minmax allows a minimum and a maximum
Minmax(400px, 1fr)
To make sure things don't collapse too far [#AEASEA](#)

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Adding border to top left cell of a grid. Can't do that directly to the grid cells, so use a `::before` of content: "" to do it #AEASEA

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We want the content in row one as well as the line, so define the `.inner` element to pull up over the first row #AEASEA

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There's a lot of stuff you can do by stacking things - you can use `z-index`, etc. similar to absolute positioning #AEASEA

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If you want to use the grid implementation in IE10, 11 and current Edge, you'll find this post helpful buff.ly/2oyzgLh #aeasea

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Edge starts work on their Grid implementation ...

The Microsoft Edge team have started work on updating their CSS Grid Layout implementation to the current spec.

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Row tracks look complicated when we use minmax, but we'll get used to it (@rachelandrew is still working on best way herself #AEASEA

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Because things can be stacked, we can have images overlap, etc. #AEASEA

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All sorts of things can be done with CSS grid that look fancy and cool #AEASEA

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Josh Vickerson
@joshvickerson

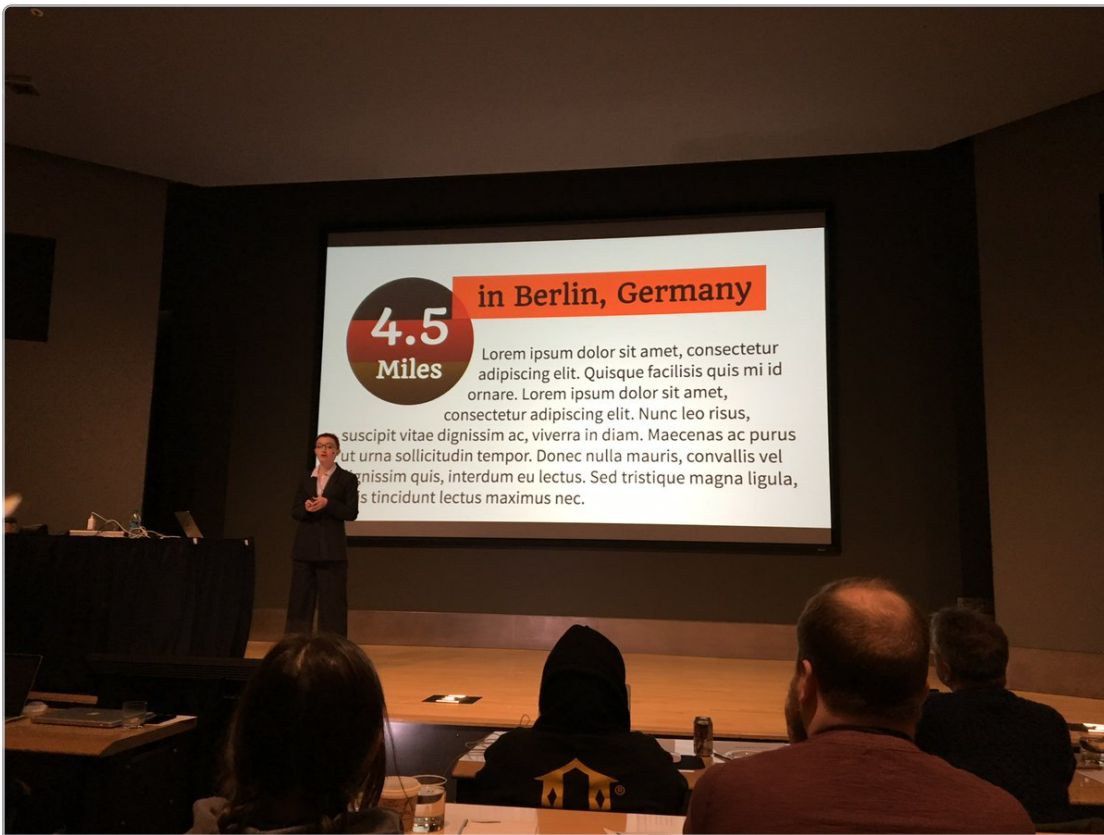
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.@rachelandrew shows us how to build a magazine-inspired, responsive layout with #cssgrid. Powerful stuff! #aeasea

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Fancy headers with circles [#aeasea](#)

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A cheatsheet to help with Grid fallbacks and overrides plus other resources [#aeasea buff.ly/2nYtGRz](#)

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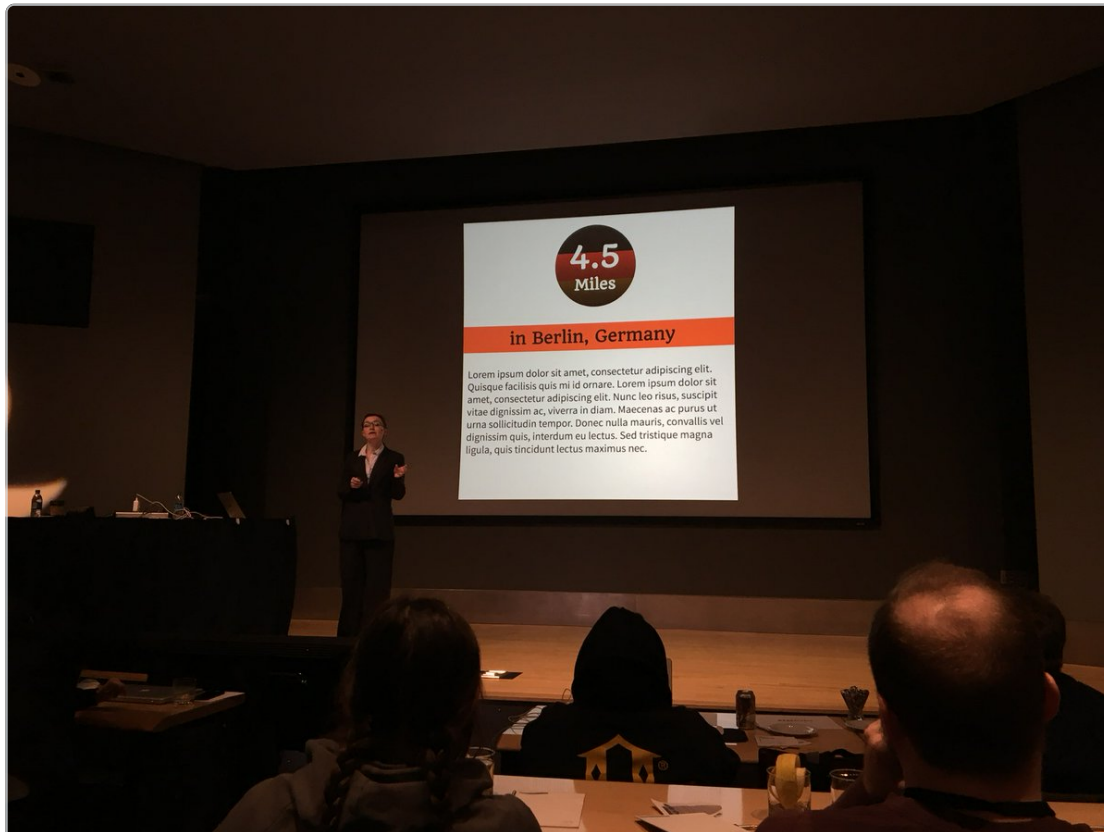


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On small devices, the fancy layout would be a bit cramped, so
[@rachelandrew](#) started there [#AEASEA](#)

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Display for smallest screens [#aeasea](#)

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CSS Shapes are wonderful and add some very nice touches to floated elements [#AEASEA](#)

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Old internet explorer is still steamrolling layouts [#aeasea](#)

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Design for the extreme edges of the experience: start with solid markup, then best experience, *then* worst #AEASEA

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Don't limit creativity by IE 9. The middle between best and worst is constantly changing. #AEASEA

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The shape-outside property fails really well, so use it and don't worry #AEASEA

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CSS has backwards compatibility built in. Browsers ignore CSS they don't understand #AEASEA

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It's always an option to do nothing for support. They'll fall back to simpler experience #AEASEA

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Things do not need to look the same in all browsers #AEASEA

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CSS Feature Queries will become your new best friend #AEASEA

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Feature queries have fantastic browser support. You don't have to worry about what happens if they're not supported #AEASEA

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If you don't have shapes, you can set one design, and use feature query to say if you do have shapes, do this other thing [#AEASEA](#)

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Write CSS for browsers without support
Override those with feature queries
Component-based approach helps to keep in check [#AEASEA](#)

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For the magazine layout, we really don't want the fallback to go to nothing [#AEASEA](#)

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Wrap the half-border in [@supports](#) (display: grid)

And above that give it a full border [#AEASEA](#)

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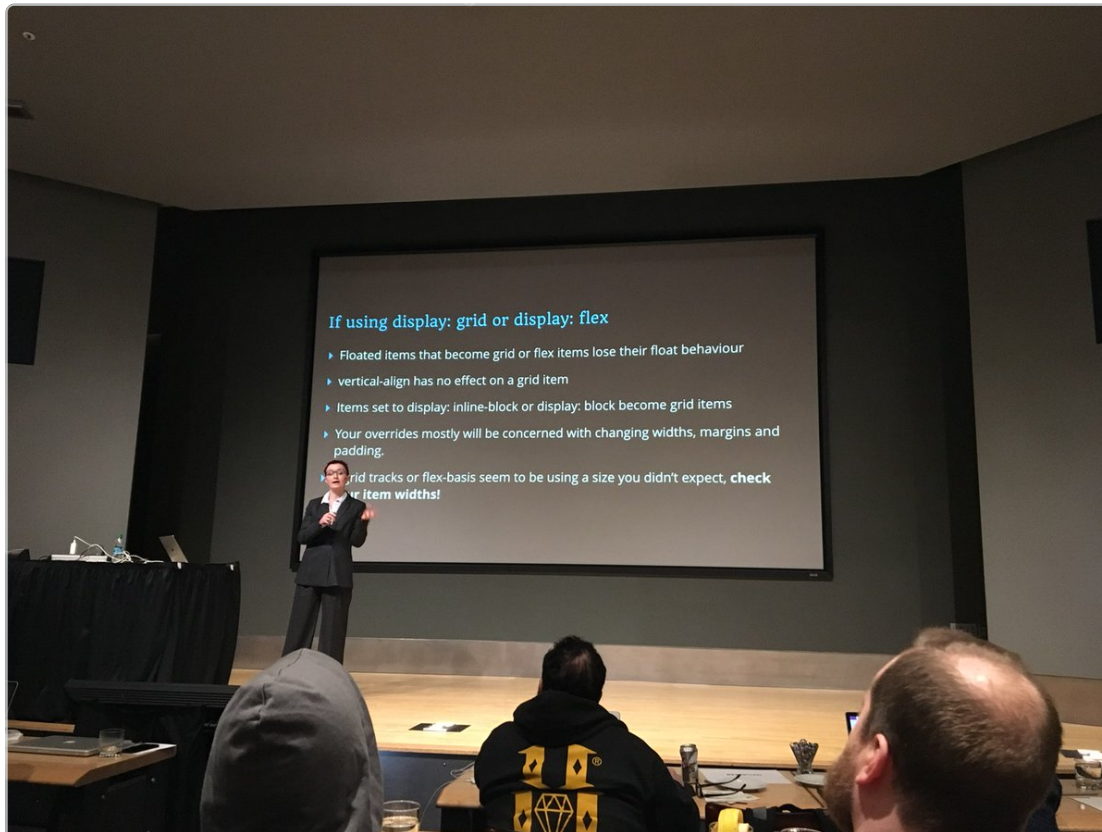
@rachelandrew

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To keep up to date with news and tutorials on CSS Layout, subscribe to my CSS Layout News [#aeasea buff.ly/2oyhWpW](https://buff.ly/2oyhWpW)

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Guidance for grid and flex [#aeasea](https://buff.ly/2oyhWpW)

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A cheat sheet by @rachelandrew for grid and flex
rachelandrew.co.uk/css/cheatsheet... #AEASEA

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You have to look at your browser stats to make decisions on what
you support #AEASEA

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What your browser stats look like today is not what they'll look like
in a year's time #AEASEA

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If you're separating source and display you need to be very careful
not to harm the end users #AEASEA

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Got grid questions? Look at the answered ones and post yours at my Grid AMA buff.ly/2oVrDez #aeasea

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rachelandrew/cssgrid-ama

Ask me anything about CSS Grid Layout. Contribute to cssgrid-ama development by creating an account on GitHub.
github.com

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What happened to vendor prefixes? They're going away #AEASEA

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CanIUse will tell you what you need prefixes for. #AEASEA

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Just enhance a few little things with Grid - components - not full pages yet, until support and experience are better #AEASEA

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Most things are pretty simple in isolation - small components are very very simple, and you can build up from there #AEASEA

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Your component is already a reduced test case. Easier to debug, easier to report bugs #AEASEA

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This is not twice the work - that was back when we wrote one site for IE and one for Netscape #AEASEA

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This is about creating experiences for different devices, not about fallback support #AEASEA

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we can make good experiences for people wherever they are. And what they experience today may change tomorrow [#AEASEA](#)

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Evergreen design enhances itself as the platform it lives on improves [#AEASEA](#)

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Have fun with it, see what you can do, and let [@rachelandrew](#) know what you can't do so they can move the platform forward [#AEASEA](#)

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Rebecca Watson

@RVivusArtDesign

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So many interesting layouts are possible with Grid! Thanks for the great talk @rachelandrew & for advocating for browser adoption.

#aeasea

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[CSS Grid Garden: for learning CSS Grid.](#)

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