CSS has come full circle

@CSSence

🗣️ Matthias Zöchling

CSS in Graz

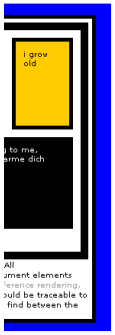
🌐 Graz, Austria

📅 2025-06-10

> CSS was first proposed by Håkon Wium Lie on 10 October 1994. At the time, Lie was working with Tim Berners-Lee at CERN. Several other style sheet languages for the web were proposed around the same time, and discussions on public mailing lists and inside World Wide Web Consortium resulted in the first W3C CSS Recommendation (CSS1) being released in 1996. In particular, a proposal by Bert Bos was influential; he became co-author of CSS1, and is regarded as co-creator of CSS.
>
> — en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CSS#History

```
selector {
        property: value;
}
```

Chapter 1: Chaos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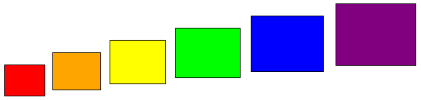

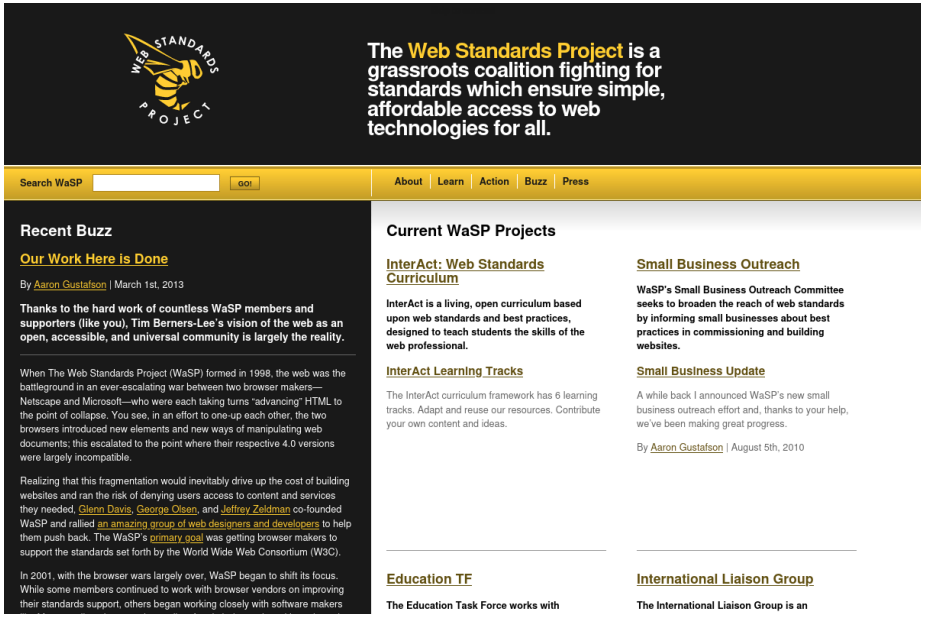
WEB STANDARDS PROJECT
The Web Standards Project is a grassroots coalition fighting for standards which ensure simple, affordable access to web technologies for all.
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Our Work Here is Done
By Aaron Gustafson | March 1st, 2013
Thanks to the hard work of countless WaSP members and supporters (like you), Tim Berners-Lee's vision of the web as an open, accessible, and universal community is largely the reality.
When The Web Standards Project (WaSP) formed in 1998, the web was the battleground in an ever-escalating war between two browser makers—Netscape and Microsoft—who were each taking turns "advancing" HTML to the point of collapse. You see, in an effort to one-up each other, the two browsers introduced new elements and new ways of manipulating web documents; this escalated to the point where their respective 4.0 versions were largely incompatible.
Realizing that this fragmentation would inevitably drive up the cost of building websites and ran the risk of denying users access to content and services they needed, Glenn Davis, George Olsen, and Jeffrey Zeldman co-founded WaSP and rallied an amazing group of web designers and developers to help them push back. The WaSP's primary goal was getting browser makers to support the standards set forth by the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C).
In 2001, with the browser wars largely over, WaSP began to shift its focus. While some members continued to work with browser vendors on improving their standards support, others began working closely with software makers
Current WaSP Projects
InterAct: Web Standards Curriculum
InterAct is a living, open curriculum based upon web standards and best practices, designed to teach students the skills of the web professional.
InterAct Learning Tracks
The InterAct curriculum framework has 6 learning tracks. Adapt and reuse our resources. Contribute your own content and ideas.
Small Business Outreach
WaSP's Small Business Outreach Committee seeks to broaden the reach of web standards by informing small businesses about best practices in commissioning and building websites.
Small Business Update
A while back I announced WaSP's new small business outreach effort and, thanks to your help, we've been making great progress.
By Aaron Gustafson | August 5th, 2010
Education TF
The Education Task Force works with
International Liaison Group
The International Liaison Group is an

We used tables for layout, turned fonts into images, used JavaScript for …

Or, we did everything in Flash.

🤨🤔

We used floats for layout, fought browser inconsistencies, spent way to much time creating image sprites.

HTML `<font>` and `<center>`

CSS hacks `* + html b { zoom: 1; *padding: 1px; }`

```
-khtml-property: …
-ms-property: …
-moz-property: …
-o-property: …
-webkit-property: …
property: …
```

Chapter 2: Hope

CSS ZEN GARDEN

return to css zen garden

About

Let's take a trip back 20 years. With memories the dot-com boom and bust looming over the industry, those of us lucky enough to still have work hunkered down and kept using the hacky table layouts and font tags that typified web development in the late 90's. The industry stagnated, and by 2003 CSS still wasn't being using beyond controlling basic fonts and colours.

Those who understood the capabilities of CSS were rarely designers, and designers largely hadn't embraced it yet. And so the widespread perception of CSS was as a language capable only of boxy and boring design. Few understood it was capable of more, and those who did were unable to convince their clients and their teams to take the necessary risks required to use it.

It was around this time that a few pivotal events occured: Chris Casciano ran a month-long exercise restyling his website with

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Translations

CSS ZEN GARDEN

return to css zen garden

All Designs

Wicked Grove
by D. Keith Robinson

Blood Lust
by Dave Shea

arch4.20
by Dave Shea

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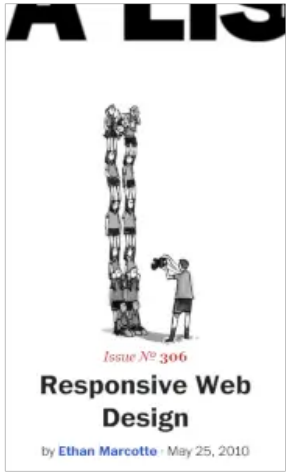

Issue № 306

Responsive Web Design

by Ethan Marcotte · May 25, 2010

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Published in CSS, Interaction Design, Layout & Grids, Mobile/Multidevice, Responsive Design

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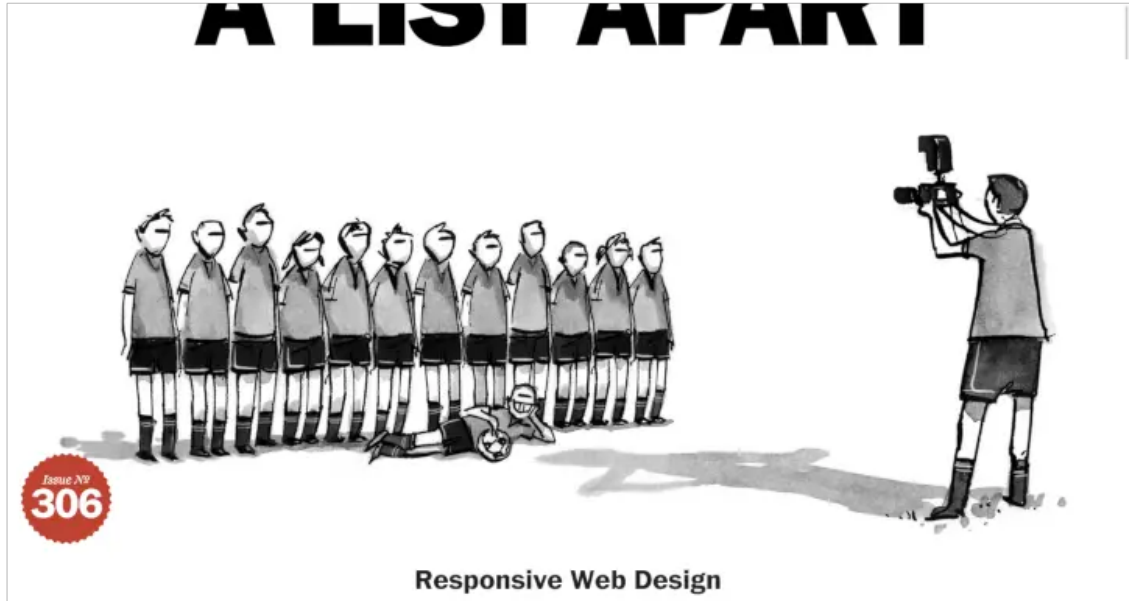
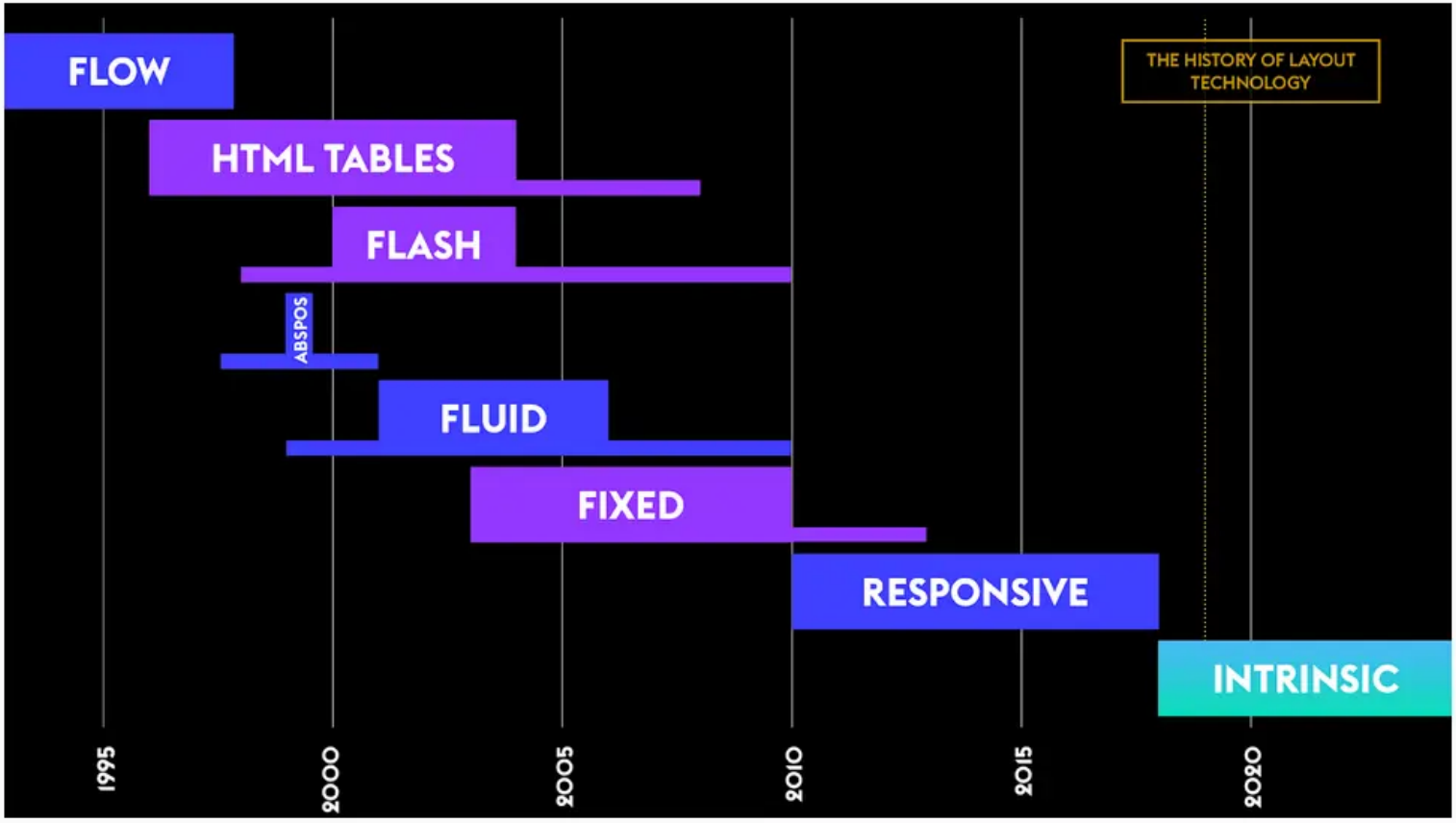


Issue № 306

Responsive Web Design

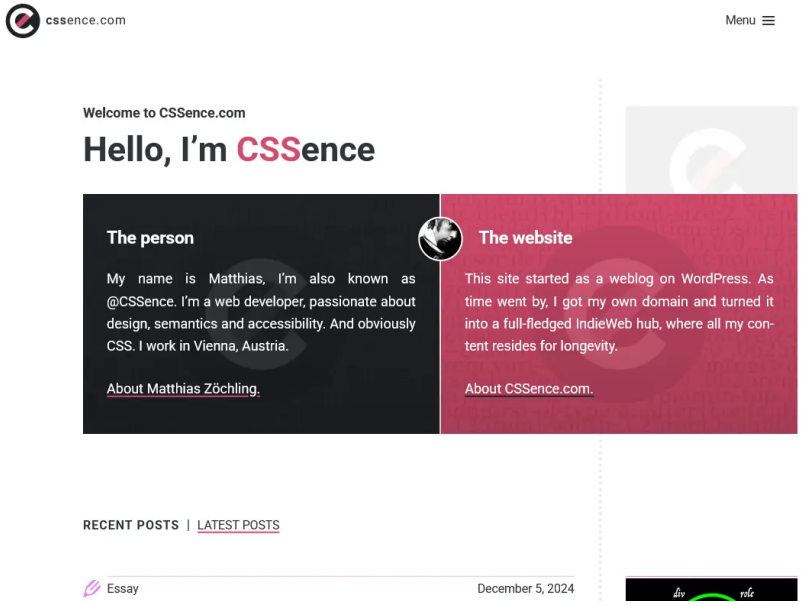
Designing Intrinsic Layouts



JEN SIMMONS
@jensimmons

- Interop
- Baseline

Chapter 3: Interplay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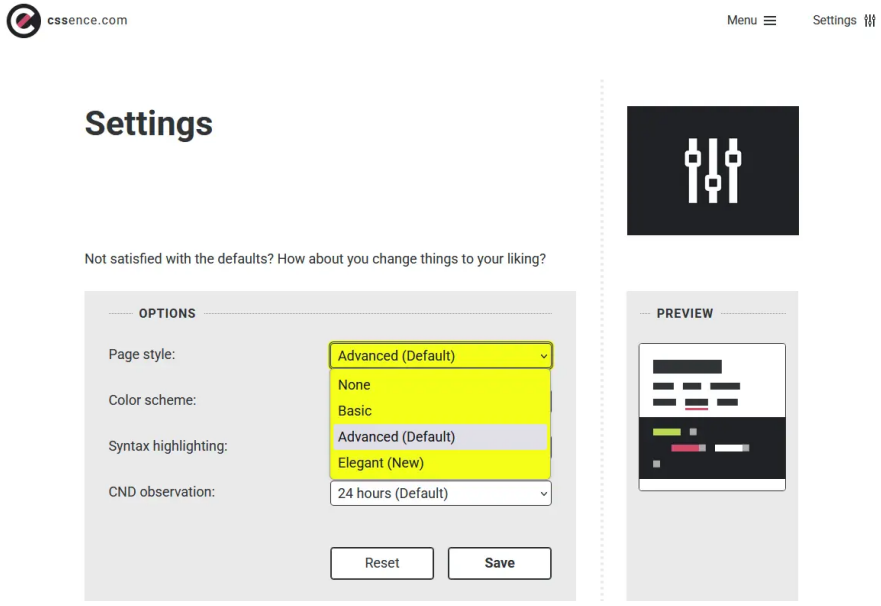
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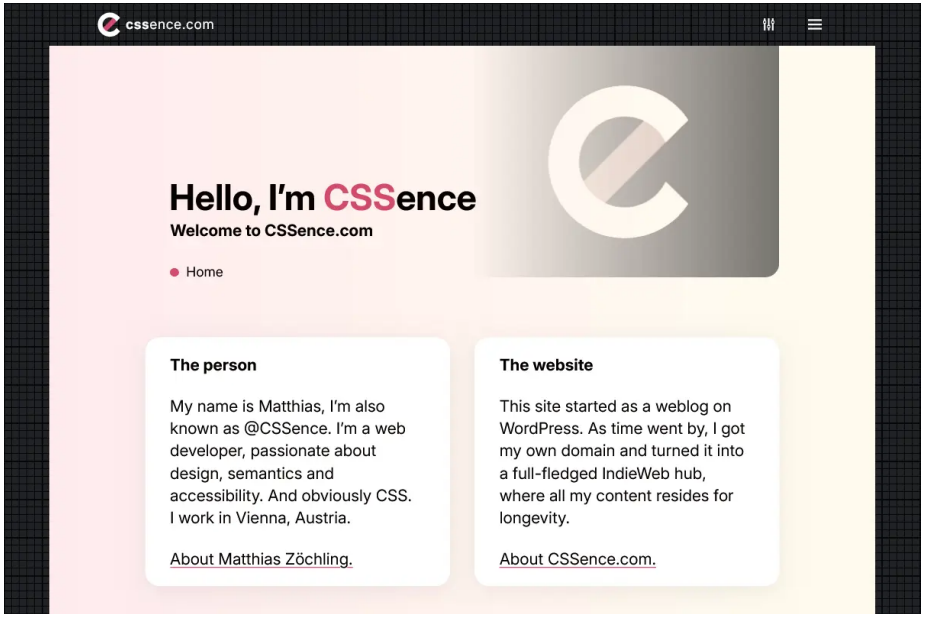
Not satisfied with the defaults? How about you change things to your liking?
OPTIONS
Page style:
Advanced (Default)
None
Basic
Advanced (Default)
Elegant (New)
Color scheme:
Syntax highlighting:
CND observation:
24 hours (Default)
Reset
Save
PREVIEW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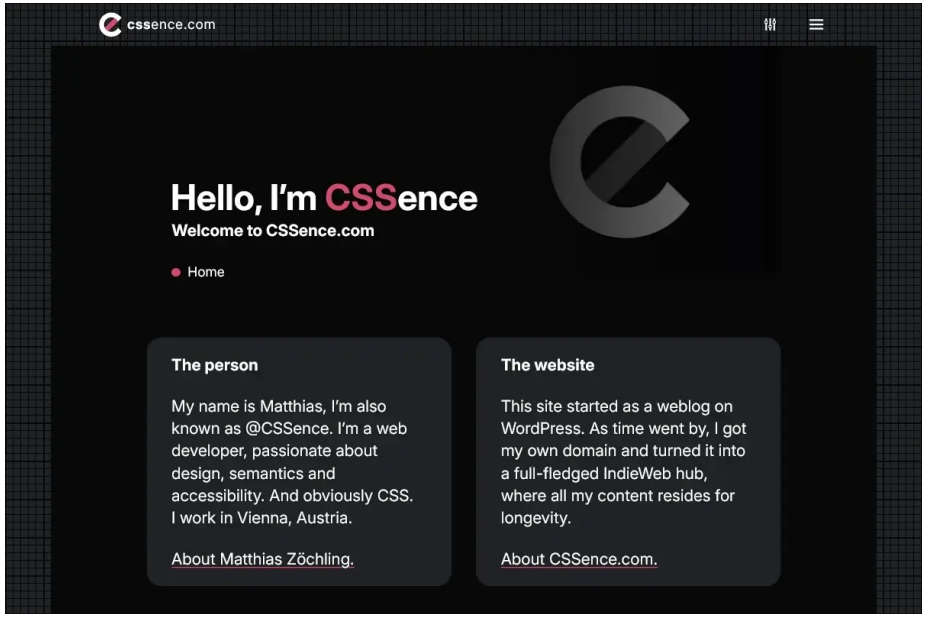
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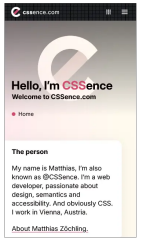

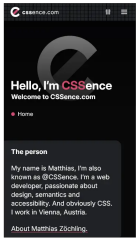

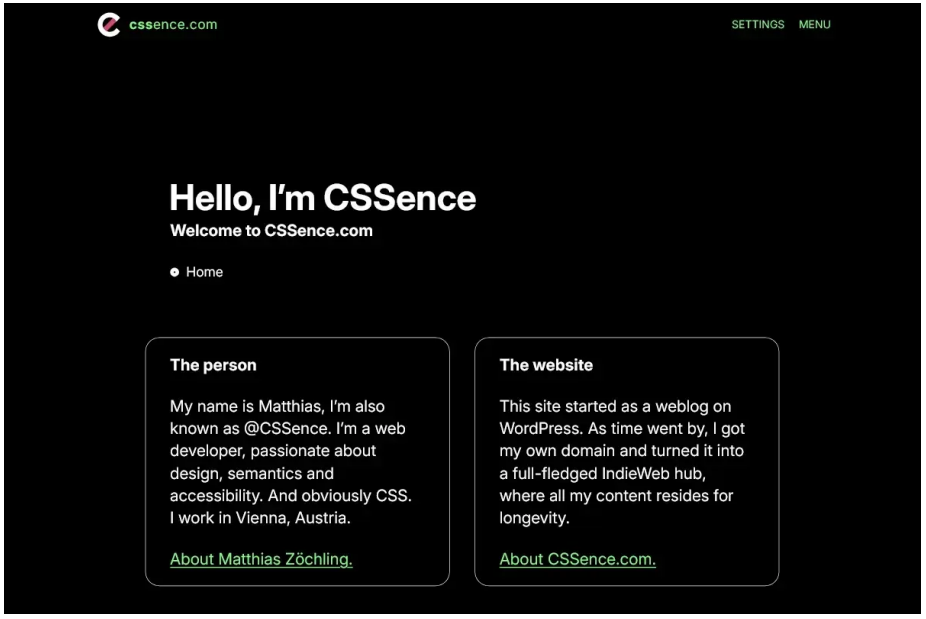
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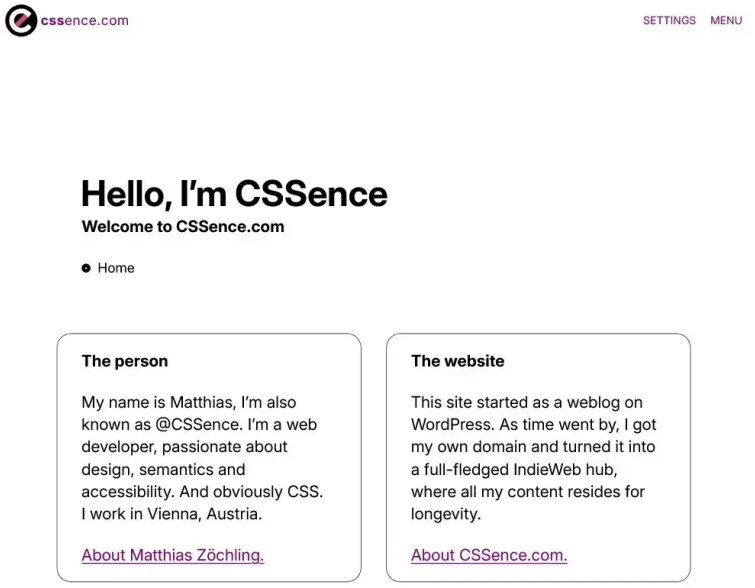
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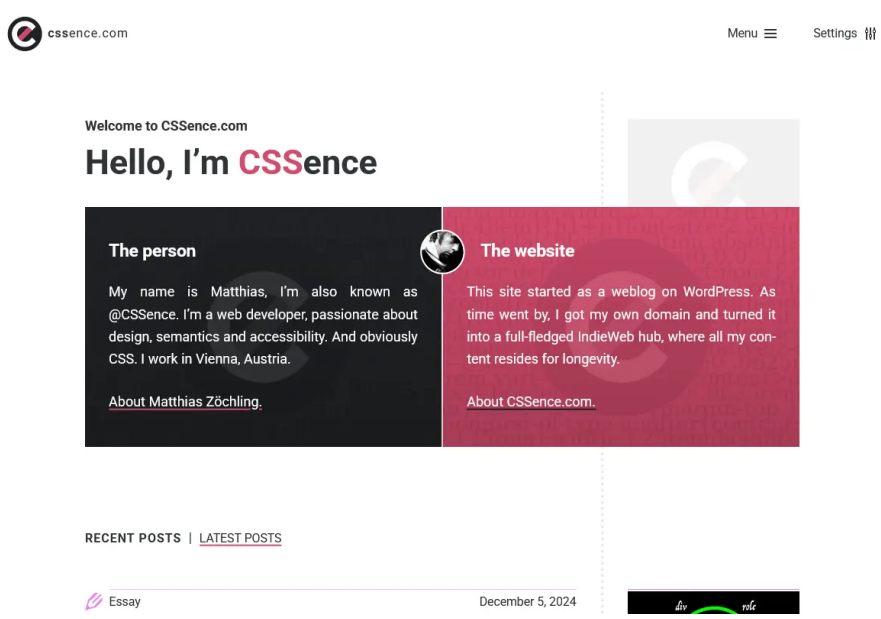
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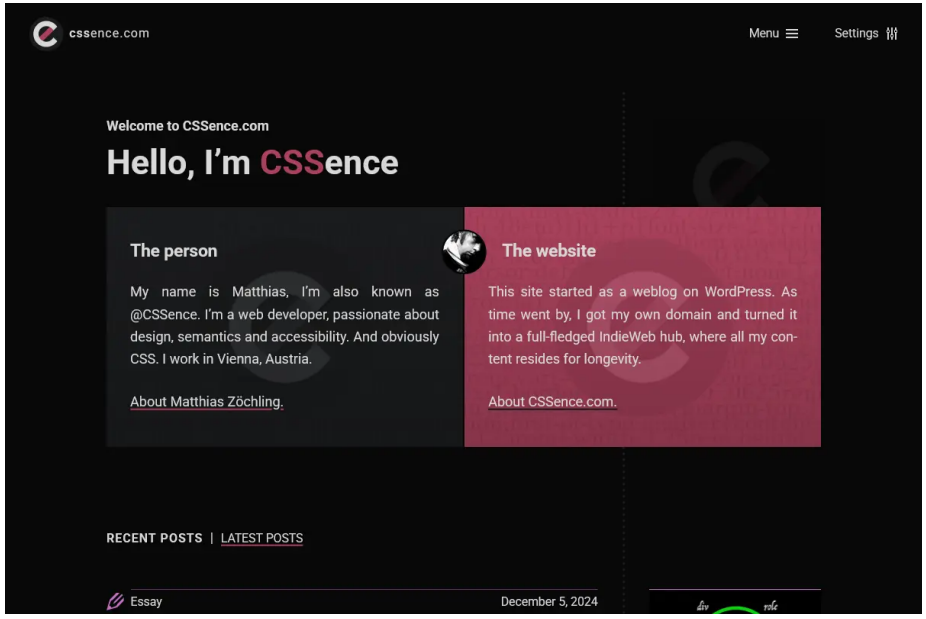
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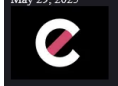

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  Blog questions challenge

  Jeremy Keith tagged all of his readers to write about why they write.

  Editorial — February 3, 2025

- https://cssence.com/2025/pure-css-image-reveal/

  Pure CSS image reveal

  Actually, the HTML needs to help out here, a lot.

  Extra — April 7, 2025

- https://cssence.com/2024/cssday/

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  CSS Day 2024

  @CSSDayConf 2024, returning to Amsterdam after six years.

  Event — June 6, 2024

- https://cssence.com/2025/blog-questions-challenge/

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  Editorial — February 3, 2025

- https://cssence.com/2025/css-naked-day/

  CSS Naked Day 2025

  For this year's #CSSNakedDay my site should be on autopilot.

  Note — March 28, 2025

- https://cssence.com/2025/pure-css-image-reveal/

  Pure CSS image reveal

  Actually, the HTML needs to help out here, a lot.

  Extra — April 7, 2025

- https://cssence.com/2025/artifical-regurgitation/

  Artificial regurgitation

  Ethan Marcotte rightfully states that generative AI is doing nothing but hallucinating; and there's more.

  Link — May 27, 2025

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Curated by Matthias Zöchling.
Last revised on May 29, 2025.

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