

SANDBOX DESIGNS COMPETITION

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INTRODUCTION

Not since the two failed WordPress 2.0 competition held more than one year ago have there been an organized, engaging public activity for the WordPress theme community. Since the ArenaWP.com competition debacle, the WordPress theme community has seen little organized activity, excluding the launching the official WordPress theme viewer. Many of those active since that time and currently in the WordPress theme community may feel that it has stagnated, and that would be an opinion.

The Sandbox Styles Competition provides a simple, enjoyable platform for the WordPress theme community (and interestingly, a community involving both wp.com and wp.org users) to participate in low-impact, high-interest competition. Participants would not be required to develop and test whole WordPress themes, but instead design style sheet(s) for use with the Sandbox theme, version 1.0. That means this is a wholly design-oriented competition, and not one interested in PHP coding skills nor personal knowledge of the WordPress API. This is for designers or, as Andy calls them, CSS artists.

This competition has the following goals:

1. To be transparent, organized, and enjoyable
2. To solicit and produce excellent designs for benefit of the WordPress community
3. To drive creative energy into the WordPress theme community
4. To provide a enjoyable competition appropriate for experienced and novice designers

ABOUT THE SANDBOX

The Sandbox is truly unique. It is a theme that aims to be anything and to be the best at being anything. It degrades beautifully. It embraces the best available practices in blog design.

So actually the Sandbox is a lot of things:

- Very beautiful on the inside
- For WordPress 2.0.x through 2.2.x
- Valid XHTML 1.0 Transitional
- Widgets plugin-friendly

- The basis for innumerable designs, themes

More importantly, the Sandbox *can be* a lot of things. The real feature of the Sandbox is its markup. The use of class-generating functions in key elements (the BODY, post DIV, and comment LI elements) creates the most extensible WordPress theme available. And as Andy said, "Given straightforward markup with plenty of selectors, there isn't much that can't be accomplished with CSS and a decent browser."

DYNAMIC, SEMANTIC CLASSES

For those unfamiliar with the Sandbox, a quick introduction to its semantic class-generating functions will clarify why the Sandbox is so powerful—and so exceptionally easy to design for both novice and experienced designers.

The Sandbox generates semantic classes for the BODY, each post DIV, and each comment LI element, meaning the class names literally describe the content and are not designer-coder mumbo-jumbo. Classes are produced that reflect the author (*class="author-admin . . ."*), categories of the post (*class="category-breaking-news . . ."*), the date when published (*class="h09 d17 m05 y2007 . . ."*), and many, many more. Using these classes as selectors in CSS style sheets means that you can design a theme that is based on both structure and content.

You could use the CSS selector *div.category-asides* to do everything an asides plugin does, but without a plugin or editing the CSS files. You could use date selectors to style your whole blog for a special day or month. You could use entirely different layouts depending on whether a page, single post, or index is being display. The base amount of unique class combinations is around 24,000 (not including date-based classes). You would not, of course, use that many selectors. But you would have enough to do practically anything you would want to.

For more information on the three different class-generating functions and tables showing the semantic class name structures, download the Sandbox and view its [readme.html](#).

NEW AND OLD STANDARDS

For the most part, the WordPress community is quite friendly towards Web standards, such as W3C validation. The Sandbox is valid XHTML, but it also embraces new tools that make content more accessible, like the hAtom and hCard microformats. Microformats are markup that help express and share blog content.

WordPress has one microformat built-in to its core: XFN, which provides information as to the relationships of linkees to linkers (if that makes sense). There are numerous tools for users to take advantage of various Microformats, including many WordPress plugins. Most notably, the blog superpower Technorati is incorporating Microformats in to its search, which should interest every blogger.

COMPETITION DETAILS

The competition would be held at www.sndbx.org and sponsored by Scott of www.plaintxt.org with initial cash prizes totalling US\$500; however, additional supporters would be openly solicited for a target cash prize total of US\$1000. Even with only the base cash prize of US\$500, this would still be the largest total prize for a WordPress design competition.

As designs will be based on the Sandbox theme and participants will only submit CSS file(s) and image(s). No modifications may be made to the Sandbox PHP theme files—or at least, none will be accepted in submissions. Participants may submit multiple designs so long as each is submitted separately and in accordance with SUBMISSION GUIDELINES.

Submissions will be collected by Scott and released to judges immediately after submissions close. Judges then will have the allotted time to judge each design and submit their scores. Scores will be tallied by Scott and possibly verified by a third-party non-participant (see JUDGING PROCEDURES). Results will be announced on www.sndbx.org on 12:00 AM (GMT), Friday, July 20, 2007. Winners will be issued their cash awards via Paypal within 36 hours of final results. Cash awards are as listed:

- First prize: US\$250 (Target: US\$500)
- Second prize: US\$150 (Target: US\$300)
- Third prize: US\$100 (Target: US\$200)
- Runner-up: Honorarium (Target: Something nice)

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Before submitting a design to this competition, please read the following guidelines carefully. Also, you are required to review the OFFICIAL CONTEST RULES AND SUBMISSION AGREEMENT before submitting your entry.

1. Designs will be created for the Sandbox theme, version 1.0, with standardized dummy content
 1. All designs will be limited to style sheets (CSS) and images (no core Sandbox mods)
 2. Submissions must be in full accordance with SUBMISSION PROCEDURES
2. Designs must be wholly original, sole works of the submitting designer(s)

1. Designs must be released with GNU General Public License (or compatible)
2. Designs may not be included in judging if deemed offensive or inappropriate
3. Submissions must be submitted by 12:00 AM (GMT), Wednesday, July 11, 2007
 1. All submissions are final, ie, you may not later resubmit a revised version
 2. Designs may only be released publicly after submissions close
4. Results will be announced at 12:00 AM (GMT), Friday, July 20, 2007
 1. Judgments shall be considered final and complaining left to a minimum
 2. Winners shall receive cash awards at a verified Paypal account within 36 hours

The phrase "wholly original" in item 2 excludes submitting any existing public designs, such as themes or templates for WordPress, Movable Type, Typo, "site rips," updated designs, etc. Failure to comply with these guidelines and OFFICIAL CONTEST RULES AND SUBMISSION AGREEMENT may result in disqualification from the competition.

SUBMISSION PROCEDURES

Submissions will be separately emailed to submissions@sndbx.org. The subject line must read "Submission: [Title]", where [Title] is the name of the design. The submission attachment must be a ZIP archive with the following file structure:

```
sandbox-[title].zip:  
  /sandbox-[title]/  
    style.css  
    image01.png  
    image02.jpg  
    other-style.css  
    readme.txt  
    screenshot.png
```

Each design submission will contain a minimum of:

- one folder titled "sandbox-[title]", where [title] is the name of the design, containing a
 - style.css, which may include relative links to any images or secondary CSS files
 - readme.txt, which must include at least contact and license information
 - screenshot.png, which must be exactly 400px by 300px

A few important points before submitting your design:

- Submissions containing a screenshot in a format other than PNG will be ignored.

- Submissions in archive formats other than ZIP will be ignored.
- Submissions lacking an explicit GNU General Public License license (or compatible) will be ignored.

A sample submission ZIP archive will be available at www.sndbx.com/submissions/sandbox-sample.zip.

Judges will view designs by placing the design folder in the root directory of the Sandbox theme, ie, each design folder will be at the same level as the designs included with the Sandbox theme, eg, /sandbox-kubrick/; therefore, all links within a design style.css file must be relative to this structure. Broken links may result in your theme not displaying properly during judging.

JUDGING DETAILS

Judges will be from within and outside the WordPress theme community. Participants may not be judges. Judges should have proven web design backgrounds and possess the ability to articulate and explain aesthetics-based decisions. Basically judges must be credible.

• **JUDGING OUTLINE**

- CSS will be validated using <http://jigsaw.w3.org/css-validator/>; validation is strongly encouraged.
- Designs will be judged on overall experience and judgements will be based on quantifiable and qualifiable opinions.
- Designs will be judged using latest stable version of WordPress and standardized dummy blog content.
- Designs will be judged using stable releases of Internet Explorer, Firefox, Opera, and Safari.

In addition but not limited to the judging outlines above, more specific criteria that may be considered at the discretion of the judges will be:

• **JUDGING CRITERIA**

- appropriateness of elements
- completeness of design
- editorial judgment in design
- effective use of color
- effective use of typography
- quality of style sheet coding
- uniqueness/originality of design

Judges will be asked to provide a short, one- to two-sentence statement as to their decisions for first, second, and third places, and runner-up. After explicit permission is sought from a judge, this statement may be provided, with or without attribution per request of the judge, with the results. This provides an additional qualifiable element to the results, instead of only quantifiable results (see JUDGING PROCEDURES).

JUDGING PROCEDURES

Within 24 hours of submissions closing at 12:00 AM (GMT), Wednesday, July 11, 2007, judges will be emailed with FTP access information for downloading a single ZIP containing all accepted submissions. Judges will be responsible for having a secure, operational installation of WordPress available using the provided dummy blog content and the Sandbox theme, version 1.0.

Judges will use the judging outline and criteria as a foundation to their process. After making final submissions, judges will submit an email to Scott with final scores in strict accordance with the scoring schedule described below.

Judges will receive a total of 13 points to distribute (in whole integers only, ie, you may not award "3.43" points to a theme) to a minimum of four designs and a maximum of seven. The four designs receiving the most points will be considered the judge's choices for first, second, and third places, and runner-up, respectively. If the four top designs receive equal points, then they must explicitly be labeled as first, second, and third, and runner-up.

For example, I have given 5 points to the design "Happyness," 3 points to the design "Monkey Time," 3 points to the design "Funky Town," and 2 points to the design "BusyBee" for a total of 13 points, distributed as follows:

1st — Happyness, 5 points
2nd — Funky Town, 3 points
3rd — Monkey Time, 3 points
Runner-up — BusyBee, 2 points
Total points: 13

Points will first be tallied by Scott and then verified with a to-be-determined, and possibly anonymous, third-party non-participant. Judges may only be asked to rescore when their total points do not equal 13 or if choices for first, second, and third places, and runner-up are not explicit.

Individual, specific scoring by judges will not be disclosed by Scott or a third-party non-participant involved in verifying results. Judges may disclose their own scorings at their discretion but only after

results have been announced on www.sndbx.org.

SPONSORSHIPS

In order to supplement the base cash prizes of US\$500, third-party sponsorships are being sought for the SANDBOX DESIGNS COMPETITION and SNDBX.ORG to increase the the total cash prizes by 100% for a total of US\$1000. The larger the total cash prizes are, the more interest there will be in the competition, which results in greater visibility of sponsorships.

Sponsorships are exclusive rights for persons and/or companies to affiliate themselves with the SANDBOX DESIGNS COMPETITION, hosted on SNDBX.ORG. The competition and website will be strictly non-commercial, that is there will be no targeted advertising and "Ad Servers" operating on SNDBX.ORG, eg, no Google AdSense ads, text link ads (TLA). Sponsorships are being solicited in order to provide contestants with the best possible prizes, which helps promote the best possible designs, which benefits the WordPress community.

A single sponsorship of US\$500 or more may be allowed to be the sole sponsorship for the entire SANDBOX DESIGNS COMPETITION; however, this is contingent discussion with Scott and whether prior sponsorships have been confirmed. If you are interested in sponsoring US\$500 or more, please email sponsorships@sndbx.org.

- **GOLD SPONSORSHIPS (US\$150)**

- Sidebar, featured sponsorship linked image: 125x125px, PNG or JPG
- About the Sponsors page, titled copy: 75 words maximum; may contain a link
- About the Sponsors page, linked image: either 225x65px or 125x125px, PNG or JPG

- **SILVER SPONSORSHIPS (US\$100)**

- About the Sponsors page, titled copy: 50 words maximum; may contain a link
- About the Sponsors page, linked image: either 225x65px or 125x125px, PNG or JPG

- **CORE SPONSORSHIPS (US\$50)**

- About the Sponsors page, titled copy: 25 words maximum; may contain a link

The "About the Sponsors" page will feature information on sponsorships in the order of the schedule above, eg, GOLD sponsorships will appear at the top of the page in alphanumeric order, then followed by SILVER sponsorships in alphanumeric order. This also applies to images appearing in the sidebar. Placement of any linked images and copy shall remain in the specific locations set forth in the schedule above for a minimum of 12 months after results have been announced.

Sponsorships may be obtained by visiting www.sndbx.org/sponsorships/. All payments must be transferred with Paypal and any payments coming from a non-verified Paypal account will be subject to

any delays caused while funds clear.

Sponsorships are subject to the OFFICIAL CONTEST RULES AND SUBMISSION AGREEMENT and TERMS AND CONDITIONS. Sponsorships and any sponsorship affiliates are encouraged to raise awareness of the design competition and positively support it and its organizers and participants but may have absolutely no influence on any of the competition processes.

OFFICIAL CONTEST RULES AND SUBMISSION AGREEMENT

Welcome to SANDBOX DESIGNS COMPETITION Official Contest Rules and Submission Agreement (the "Rules") set forth the rules and regulations of SANDBOX DESIGNS COMPETITION (the "Contest") presented by Scott Allan Wallick (the "Sponsor"). Scott Allan Wallick is the administrator of the Contest (the "Administrator"), the principal place of business is 4730 59th Street, Woodside, New York, 11377. Please read the Rules carefully before submitting an entry or participating in the Contest as the Rules contain important information about eligibility to enter the Contest, where the Contest will be held, the rules of the Contest, the rights to any submitted entries and other important information. By submitting an entry form, you accept the Rules agree to be bound by all of its terms. If you do not agree with the Rules, please do not submit an entry.

A. ELIGIBILITY AND PARTICIPATION

This contest is void where prohibited. Contestants are responsible for compliance with applicable laws in jurisdictions where they reside.

You must have access and rights to use equipment and software that meets the technical requirements necessary to submit an entry through the Contest web site located at www.sndbx.org (the "Contest Site").

The Contest is subject to all local, state and federal laws and regulations. By entering the Contest, all entrants agree to be bound by these Rules and to comply with all federal, state and local laws and regulations.

B. SUBMISSION OF ENTRIES; DEADLINES

To be eligible to participate, you must successfully submit your entry in accordance with the

SUBMISSION PROCEDURES of the Contest Site. All submitted design entries must be submitted in a ZIP file and must including a screenshot (PNG), necessary CSS and image files, and the contestant's valid email address. All entries must comply with all technical specifications as described in greater detail on the SUBMISSION PROCEDURES of the Contest Site. The Sponsors shall have no liability or responsibility for any technical malfunction or failure of any Internet or network connection, regardless of cause, which prevents or materially adversely effects the participants ability to submit an entry in a timely manner or at all.

The Contest begins on Wednesday, May 30, 2007, and **all entries must be submitted no later than 12:00 AM (GMT), Wednesday, July 11, 2007**. In completing the entry form and submitting your design, you must provide your name, valid email address and other required information.

Each submission must be the property of and an original work of the entrant. Each contestant may submit multiple designs.

By submitting any design entry, you agree to be bound by the Rules, including, without limitation, the Submission Agreement provisions set forth in §E below. Entries must not include images that are unlawful, harmful, vulgar, obscene, hateful, or racially, ethnically or otherwise objectionable, the determination of which is up to the sole discretion of the Administrator.

C. WINNER SELECTION AND NOTIFICATION

1. Judging. All eligible entries will be reviewed by a panel of judges selected by the Administrator. The judges shall have the sole discretion to select the winner in each style Category and the grand prize winner in their sole discretion and the decision of the judges shall be final and binding on all parties. The winners will be selected by the judges based on such criteria as they determine to be appropriate, including but not limited to: (a) adherence to the submission guidelines, (b) uniqueness and originality of design, (c) creativity of design, (d) completeness of design and (e) appropriateness to design categories.
2. Date of Judging. The judges will select the winners before 12:00 AM (GMT), Friday, July 20, 2007. This date is subject to change depending upon the number of qualified entries and contest participants.
3. Notification of Winners. Winners of prizes shall be notified immediately following the selection of the winners by the Contest judges. As a condition to receipt of their prize, prize winners may be required to sign, notarize and return an Affidavit of Eligibility and Liability/Publicity Release and

provide any additional information (such as social security number), that may be required by the Sponsors, except where prohibited by law. It is the sole responsibility of an entrant to maintain his/her contact information as current. There will be no liability for any potential winner notification that is lost, intercepted or not received by the potential winner for any reason.

D. PRIZES

1. First prize. The Contest champion will win US\$250 in cash; Pending sponsorships, US\$500 appx.
2. Second prize. The Contest second-place winner will win US\$150 in cash; Pending sponsorships, US\$300 appx.
3. Third prize. The Contest third-place winner will win US\$100 in cash; Pending sponsorships, US\$200 appx.
4. Runner-up. The Contest runner-up will receive an honorarium only.

Odds of winning a prize will vary depending upon the number of actual Contest participants. In the event any entry is deemed ineligible, the Administrator may award the prizes to alternate entries as it deems suitable. Winners may be required to pay customs, duty charges and/or taxes.

E. SUBMISSION AGREEMENT

1. Original Works. All entries must be the original creations of the entrants, not contain any intellectual property not owned by the entrant and must never have been published or professionally developed unless written authorization from the intellectual property owner is provided at the time of entry submission. Contestants agree to indemnify and hold harmless sponsors from any copyright, trademark or other intellectual property infringement claim or liability with regard to their submissions.
2. License for Submitted Material. All design entries (the "Material") must be licensed with the GNU General Public License, <http://www.gnu.org/copyleft/gpl.html>, or compatible license; By submitting any design entry for the Contest, the contestant grants SNDBX.ORG perpetual, irrevocable, non-exclusive, world-wide rights to use, copy, modify, reproduce, publish, distribute and otherwise exploit the style, fonts, look and feel, images and other materials submitted as an entry in accordance with the GNU General Public License, <http://www.gnu.org/copyleft/gpl.html>, including, modifying the Material, copying the Material, improving the Material, making derivative works thereto, reproducing the Material, and distributing the Material.
3. Representations. The contest represents and warrants to the Sponsors that: (a) the reproduction, exhibition, or any use thereof or any of the Material shall not defame any person or entity nor violate any copyright, right of privacy or publicity, or any other right of any person or entity; and (b) the Contestant is sole owner of the Material, together with the title thereof,

and no rights in the Property have been granted to others or impaired by the Contestant, except as specified, if at all, in these Rules.

4. Protection of Material; Confidentiality. It is the sole responsibility of Owner to register his or her rights in and to the Material. The Sponsor shall be under no obligation to maintain confidentiality of the Material.

F. GENERAL

1. Releases. All entrants, as a condition of entry into the Contest, agree to release each of the Sponsors, their respective parents, subsidiaries, divisions, affiliates, suppliers, subcontractors, printers, distributors, attorneys, agents and advertising, promotional or other agencies, from and against any and all liability, claims or actions of any kind whatsoever for injuries, damages, or losses to persons or property which may be sustained in connection with accessing the Contest, submitting an entry or otherwise participating in any aspect of the Contest, the receipt, ownership or use of any prize awarded, or while preparing for, participating in any Contest-related activity or any typographical or other error in these Rules or the announcement of offering of any prize. The Sponsors make no representations or warranties of any kind concerning the appearance, safety or performance of any prize. Each prize winner bears all risk of loss or damage to his or her applicable prize after it has been delivered.
2. Limitation of Liability. The Sponsors assume no responsibility or liability for (a) any incorrect or inaccurate entry form information, or for any faulty or failed electronic data transmissions; (b) any unauthorized access to, or theft, destruction or alteration of entry forms or submissions at any point in the operation of this Contest; (c) any technical malfunction, failure, error, omission, interruption, deletion, defect, delay in operation or communications line failure, regardless of cause, with regard to any equipment, systems, networks, lines, satellites, servers, computers or providers utilized in any aspect of the submission of an entry or the operation of the Contest; (d) inaccessibility or unavailability of the Internet, or; (e) any injury to or death of participants which may be related to or resulting from any attempt to participate in the Contest or download of any materials in the Contest.
3. Force Majeure. In the event that any of the Sponsors are prevented from continuing with the Contest, or the integrity and/or feasibility of the Contest is undermined by any event beyond the Sponsors' control, including but not limited to fire; flood; epidemic; earthquake; explosion; labor dispute; strike; act of God and/or Jesus, Mohammad, Buddha, et al; public enemy act, but not limited to Flavor Flav; satellite or equipment failure; riot or civil disturbance; war (declared or undeclared); terrorist threat or activity; any federal, state, or local governmental law, order, or regulation; order of any court or jurisdiction; or other cause not reasonably within sponsors' control, the Sponsors will have the right, in their sole discretion, to abbreviate, modify, suspend, cancel, or terminate the promotion without further obligation or liability to you.
4. Disputes. You agree that you will submit any dispute you may have with regard the conduct of the Contest, interpretation of the Rules, and/or awarding of prizes to the Administrator, whose

decision regarding such dispute shall be binding and final.

5. Winner List. For a list of prize winners, email your request before July 23, 2008, to info@sndbx.org and in the subject line reference "Sandbox Design Competition" which list will be made available within five (5) business days following the completion of the Contest. A list of prize winners will also be available at the Contest Site.
6. Sponsorships. Each sponsorship is subject to approval. If a sponsorship does not receive initial approval and a confirmation, all money will be returned within seven (7) days. Any sponsorships and/or their affiliates may have no influence on the Contest, including, but not limited to, influence on procedures, judging processes, judges themselves, final results. Copy provided for the "About the Sponsors" page by sponsorships may be edited for spelling, grammar, and style in so much as meaning is not altered. Confirmed sponsorships may be cancelled without refund with notification in writing if found in violation of Rules, Terms, or at the discretion of the Administrator.
7. Miscellaneous. The Contest and the Rules shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of New York, exclusive of its provisions on conflicts of laws. In respect of any dispute relating to the Contest and/or the Rules, such dispute shall be brought exclusively in a court of competent jurisdiction sitting in Queens County, New York. The Contest and entry therein is void where prohibited. Unclaimed prizes will not be awarded. No substitution of prize is offered, and non-cash prizes may not be redeemed for cash value, except as determined by the Sponsors in their sole discretion. Each prize winner will be solely responsible for all applicable federal, state and local taxes on prizes. All other expenses on the receipt and use of each prize not specifically mentioned herein are the sole responsibility of each applicable prize winner.

PRIVACY POLICY

SNDBX.ORG is solely owned by a human being named Scott Allan Wallick.

The postal address is

47-30 59th Street
Woodside, NY 11377

The email address is

info@sndbx.org

- For each visitor to our Web page, our Web server automatically recognizes no information regarding the domain or email address.
- We collect aggregate information on what pages consumers access or visit, information volunteered by the consumer, such as survey information and/or site registrations.
- The information we collect is used to improve the content of our Web page and never shared

with sponsorships or other organizations for any purposes.

- With respect to cookies: We do not set any cookies.
- With respect to Ad Servers: We do not partner with or have special relationships with any ad server companies.
- Upon request we provide site visitors with access to all their information stored in relation to the Competition and SNDBX.ORG.
- Consumers can have this information corrected by sending us email at the above address or writing to us at the above address.
- With respect to security: We have appropriate security measures in place in our physical facilities to protect against the loss, misuse, or alteration of information that you have provided to our Site.
- If you feel that this site is not following its stated information policy, you may contact Scott at the above addresses.

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violate any law, contained in any such locations on the Site.

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- are inaccurate, incomplete or misleading;
- are not merchantable or fit for a particular purpose;
- do not provide adequate security;
- contain viruses or other items of a destructive nature; or
- are libelous or defamatory.

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If you believe that content appearing on the Site constitutes copyright infringement of another party's rights, please contact us at info@sndbx.org.

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