DESIGNING SYSTEMS

“We’re not designing pages, we’re designing systems of components.”

– Stephen Hay

DESIGN SYSTEMS

Interfaces are built on combinations of smaller components

Reduces repetitive tasks

Ensures consistency across project(s)

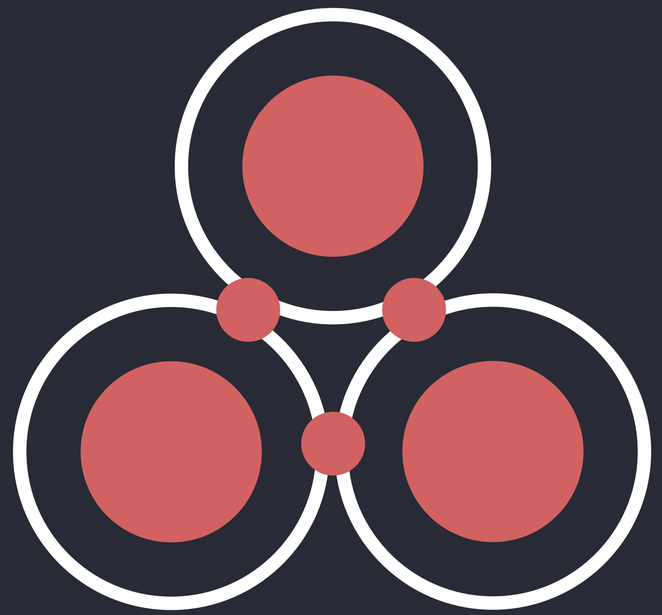
ATOMIC DESIGN

ATOMIC DESIGN

1. Atoms

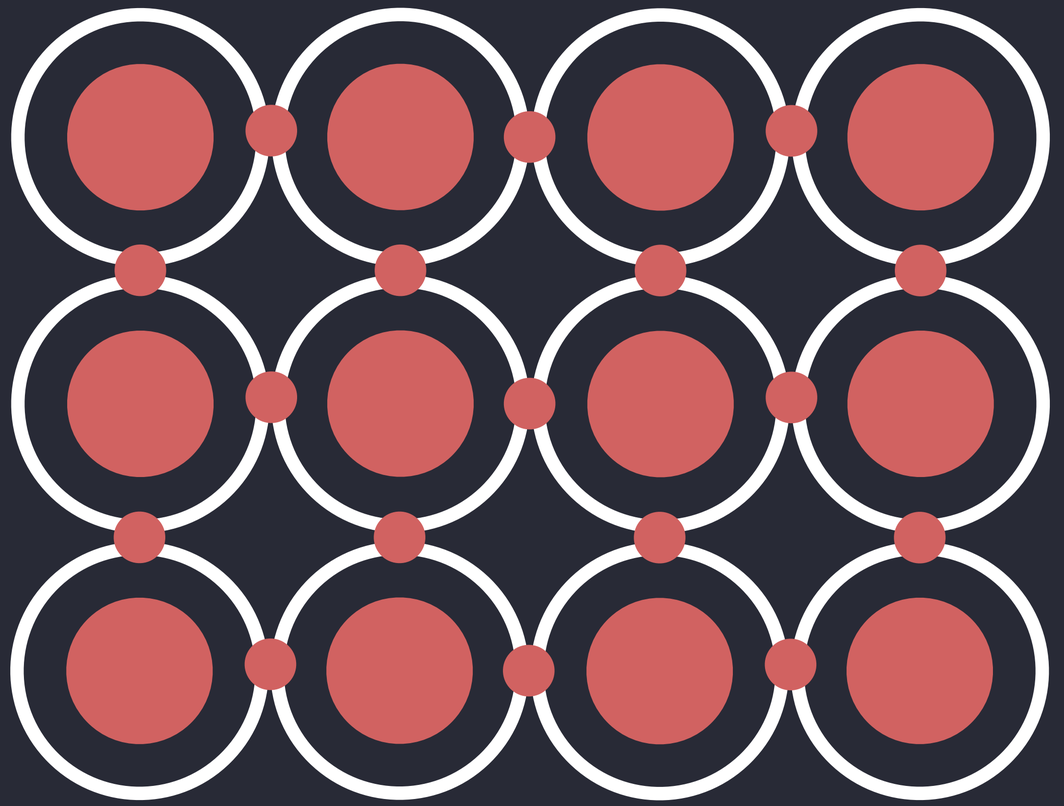
ATOMIC DESIGN

1. Atoms
2. Molecules



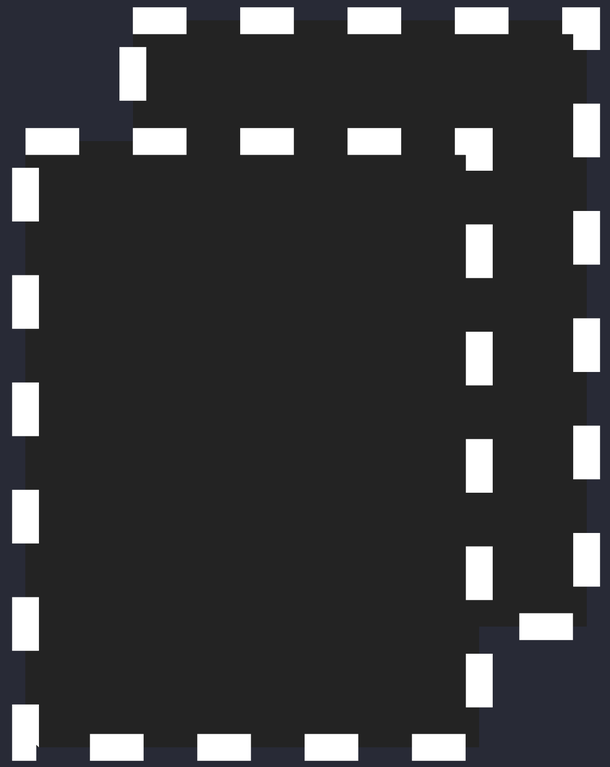
ATOMIC DESIGN

1. Atoms
2. Molecules
3. Organisms



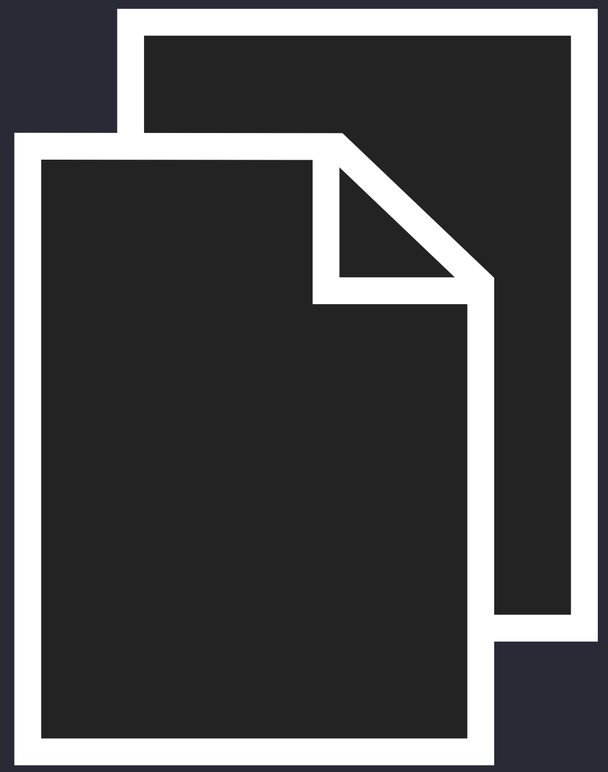
ATOMIC DESIGN

1. Atoms
2. Molecules
3. Organisms
4. Templates



ATOMIC DESIGN

1. Atoms
2. Molecules
3. Organisms
4. Templates
5. Pages



ATOMS

Smallest of the building blocks

Similar to HTML tags

Fundamental elements to which visual styles are applied
(color, fonts, animation)

e.g. A form label

MOLECULES

Combinations of **atoms**

Commonly referred to as components

Backbone of design systems

Built for reuse

“Do one thing and do it well”

e.g. Combining a form label, input and button creates a search component

ORGANISMS

Combinations of **molecules**

Commonly referred to as patterns

Relatively complex

Create distinct sections of an interface

e.g. Combining a logo, navigation component and search component creates the header for a site

TEMPLATES

Combinations of **organisms**

Concrete and provide context to abstract molecules and organisms

Begin as grayscale wireframes (HTML)

Over time increase fidelity

Eventually become final deliverable (see **pages**)

PAGES

Specific instances of **templates**

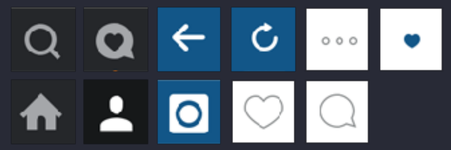
Placeholder content replaced with real content

Accurate representation of final deliverable

Essential to testing the effectiveness of the design system

Test the extremes of the design system
(a headline with 40 characters vs. 340 characters)

ATOMS



PHOTO

XXXXXX likes

thisistheusersinstagramhandle

2h

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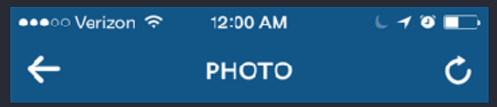
150 x 150

1080 x 1080

MOLECULES



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1080 x 1080

XXXXXX likes

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ORGANISMS

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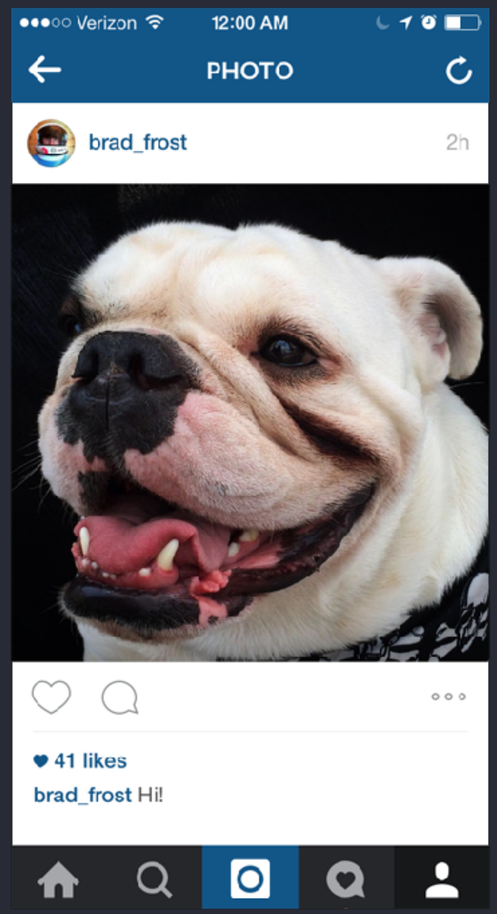
TEMPLATES

PAGES



EXAMPLES IN THE WILD

Apple’s Human Interface Guidelines
developer.apple.com/ios/human-interface-guidelines/

Google’s Material Design
design.google.com

MailChimp
ux.mailchimp.com

Salesforce
lightningdesignsystem.com

Shopify Polaris Design System
https://polaris.shopify.com

QUESTIONS?