

All about divi

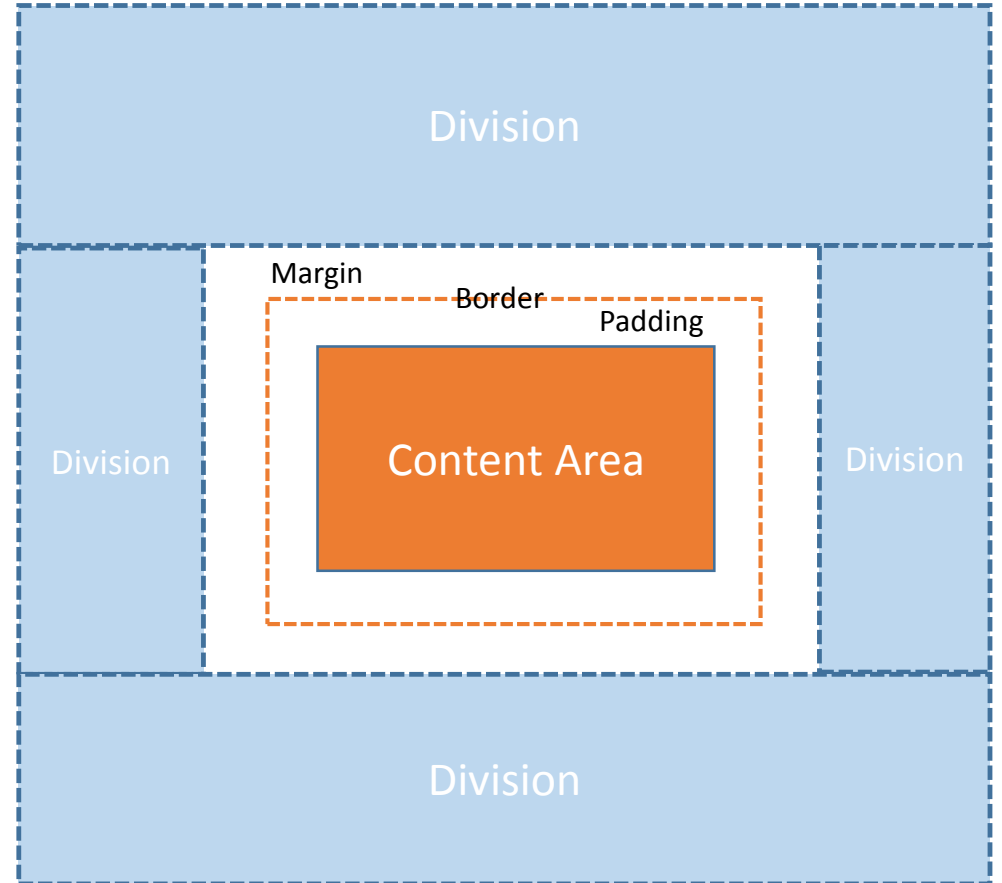
An introduction to the basic building block for websites and how it works in the Divi Template.

Wingrove-Media.com

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Concepts: Divi = Division

- A division is the basic building block of websites
- It is defined by a height and a width (generally adaptive and automatic)
- A **Margin** which is a space around the element
- A **Border** which may or may not be visible
- **Padding** an area between the border and the content area
- The **Content** area which may contain images or text or both.
- Divisions can be surrounded by Divisions, and Divisions can contain divisions within them.
- Think of them as building blocks



Responsive or Adaptive

- The division dimensions change automatically depending on the screen width of the viewing device.
- Wholly controlled by the template, but you can influence what it looks like.
 - At the extreme end of what is available you can define three websites based on your content; wide screen, tablet or smartphone.
 - In practice we are selective where tailoring is required
- Images generally scale in size. **The area changes.**
 - So avoid very wide letter box images that are not very high for mobile screens
- Text will wrap and adapt within the space available. It does not change in size, **the area remains constant.**
- A multi column layout for a wide screen will collapse to a single column for a smartphone view.

Three Building blocks in the Divi Template

- The Section
 - Full width of the screen, generally you do not need to worry about a section other than it is a container for Rows and may be used to differentiate between rows such as controlling the spacing and having a coloured/ shaded background
- The Row
 - A row exists within a Section. It is a container for Columns. A row can contain one or multiple columns in a fixed relationship. If the relationship needs to change a new row is created.
- The Column
 - One or more columns per row, within each column is a building block space where you can add a Module
- Sections, Rows and Columns...
 - Are all forms of a Division, each has a margin, border, padding and content areas

Sections are in **Blue**

All sections contain **Rows** which are in **turquoise**

Rows contain **Columns**

The **Columns** contain grey blocks called **Modules**

Front Page Header (special to this page) full screen version

Single column

We are a Christian compassion organisation dedicated to restoring hope to Filipino children and their families who live in poverty.

Introductory Video

Hands of Mercy Video (from Youtube)

Explore our website to find out more about Hands of Mercy

Blurb: Make a Donation | Blurb: Sponsor a child | Blurb: Sponsor a family

Additional Compassion Programmes | Blurb: Prayer (news section) | Blurb: About Us

Divider

Next Navigation (reqs editing)



Welcome to our website

We are a Christian compassion organisation dedicated to restoring hope to Filipino children and their families who live in poverty. This is achieved through programmes of compassion that minister to people's basic needs. Hands of Mercy Philippines is affiliated to the Hands of Mercy International charity (Registered Charity No. 1097436) in England, which represents the interests of Hands of Mercy Philippines.

There are thousands of children in the Philippines who are trapped in poverty, who have yet to discover the life changing difference Christian compassion can make. By becoming a Hands of Mercy sponsor, you can give a desperate needy child the start for a new life and a new hope for the future. [Find out more](#)

Introductory Video

Click on the play button in the window below to see the introductory video from Hands of Mercy.



Explore our website to find out more about Hands of Mercy

Make a Donation
Can you help us to restore the hope for a needy child or family in the Philippines? Every pound you give helps to change the life of someone living in abject poverty.
[Find out more...](#)

Sponsor a Child
Children are young and so have a long life ahead of them. They have enough to eat, but they can't afford to buy food so they can eat just once a day.
[Find out more...](#)

Sponsor a Family
Some parents want to give their children a better life. They have enough money to feed themselves, but not enough to buy food for their children. Many families resort to scavenging just to survive.
[Find out more...](#)

Other Compassion Programmes
Hands of Mercy operates several additional compassion programmes including: Prescription Medicines, Disabled Therapy, Surgical Treatments, Home Improvement.
[Find out more...](#)

News Updates and Prayer
In this section we share with you progress in the Philippines and offer them for prayer and reflection.
[Find out more...](#)

About Hands of Mercy
Hands of Mercy is a Christian compassion organisation, working with other good organisations in the Philippines. Through a range of compassion programmes, we provide a range of support including food, education, hygiene and medicine to children and families.
[Find out more...](#)

You have control.....

- Divi allows a very fine level of control of many things through a series of tabs on each element.
- Unlike earlier forms of template, no coding knowledge is needed, it is up to your imagination, the controls are intuitive and aimed at non-technical users.
- Colours, padding space, margin space, border colour, background colour, gradient colour, shadow, font size, font type.... And the list goes on, are available to you.
- Animation is also available to you
- It is possible to build a really ugly website with this system!
- **So everything in moderation**

Style Sheet

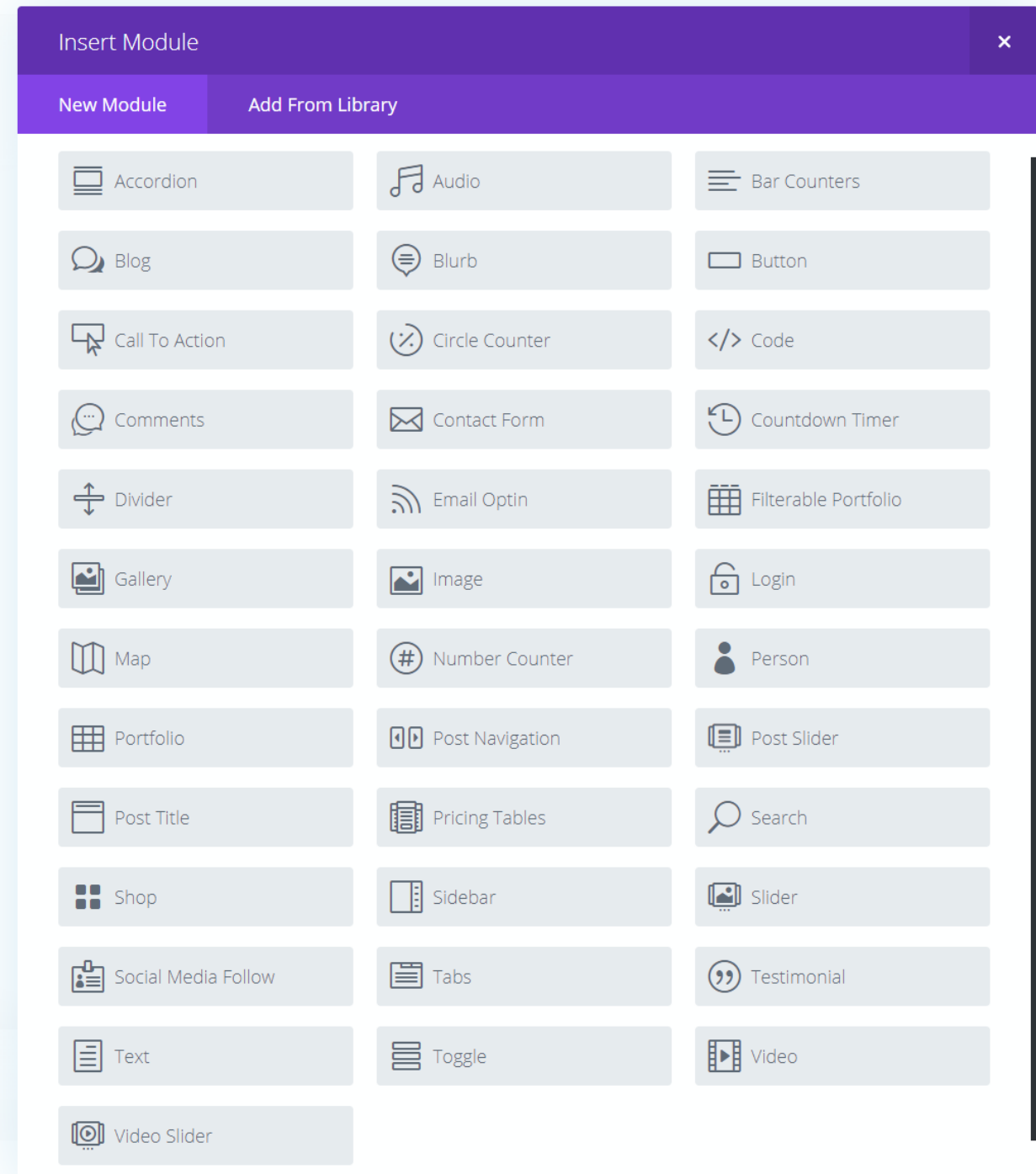
- Your website contains style information which is applied globally, this is what makes your website look professional rather than a disconnected set of ideas
- Colours are important, and are generally based on a small set of colours
- Fonts are consistent, sizes are consistent, colours are consistent
- Headers and footer areas are consistent
- Layouts will be in empathy with each other, even if they are different.
- While you **can do** anything does not mean you **should do** anything. Websites that deviate from the stylesheet do not look consistent or professional.
- Your website speaks about your organisation. Take care editing, do it in moderation and seek the opinions of your colleagues if you are going to do something different!

Modules

- Having defined the layout in terms of sections, rows and columns you can now decide what **Modules** to use.
- There are 37 different types of **Modules** available
- ***I do not use all of them***; On around 30 sites I have used:
 - Accordion, Audio, Bar Counters, Blog (news page), Blurb, Button, Call to Action, Circle Counter, Code, Countdown Timer, Divider, Gallery, Image, Number Counter, Post Title, Slider, Social Media Follow, Tabs, Testimonial, Text.
- The most common are: Text, Image and Gallery
- Do experiment, they are largely self explanatory, and there is comprehensive online help

Modules

- Screen showing the available modules that can be added to a column
- Each one performs a particular function
- Each one has editable parameters
- Gallery, Image and Text are the three most important for the editing work you will do

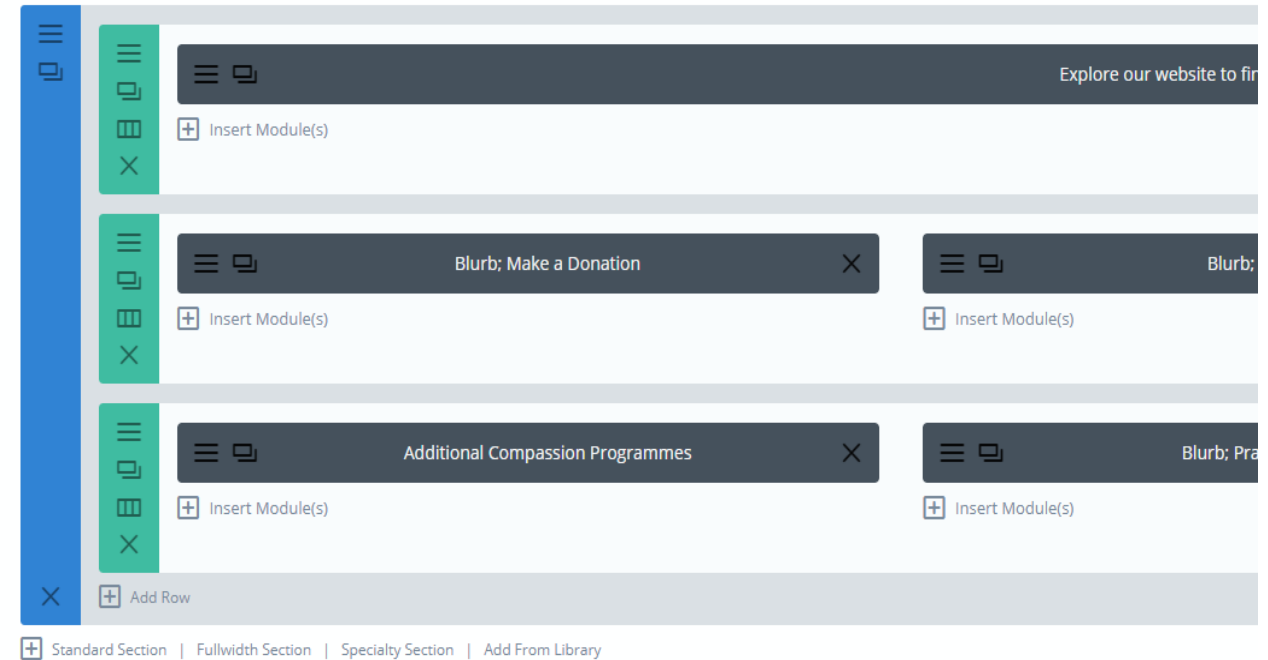


The editor

- The standard WordPress editor works at the page or post level.
- You open a page or post and can edit the content directly.
- In Divi when you open a page or a post you view the **layout** of the page or post first, before you see the detail.
- You then have to isolate the module that contains the things you wish to change and open it **to see the detail**
- Once open it is very similar to the standard editor
- This means text based content needs to be broken down into sections if you wish to use Divi as a layout tool
- On exit, you need to save the module AND save the page before exiting

Modules and layout

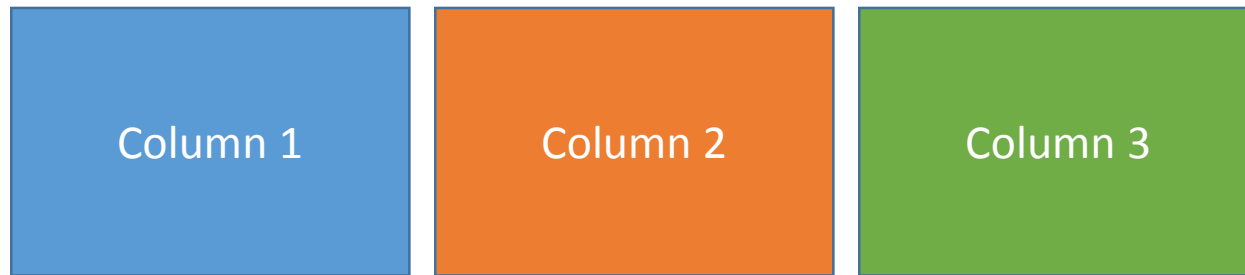
- Each module has a user definable label
- The label will have something on it which gives a clue about what it contains
- Often it is the starting text for a paragraph, or image description
- You need to correlate between the user view of the website and the editor to detect where something is before you can edit it.



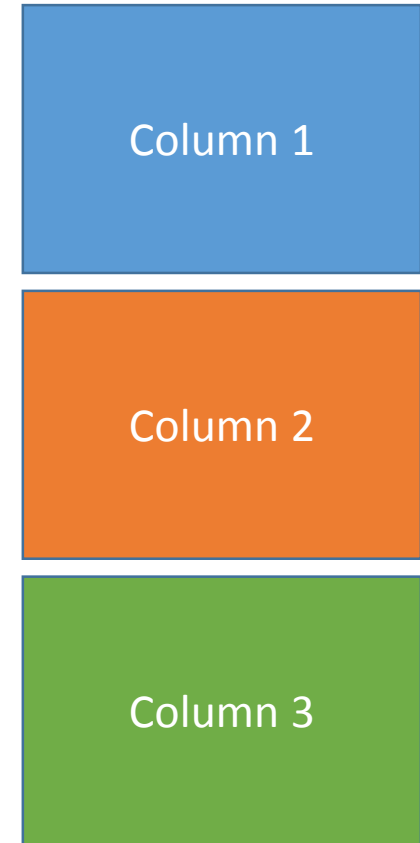
Modules and Layout

- It is easy to copy and replicate a layout in a section, row or module which will also copy any customisation you have done
- It is also possible to modify a single column layout to have multiple columns, so it is easy to experiment
- For complicated or highly formatted modules, get one right, then duplicate it, and edit the contents in the subsequent ones
- If you are working in one or more columns across a row, note that they need to balance on a widescreen (roughly the same height)
- Check any amendments on a Laptop/ Desktop, a tablet and a smart phone. They will all be different. All of them need to work as layouts.

Row behaviour for multiple columns



Widescreen layout (Desktop and laptop)



The same content viewed on a smart phone

WYSIWYG

- Divi also includes a visual editor which allows you to tweak the layout on the screen. Adjust the screen width to suit the layout you wish to modify.
- You may find this very useful for minor edits to the content
- I do not tend to use it for anything other than adjusting the margin (white space) around elements in the layout
- It is not really WYSIWYG but it is close for most elements apart from external functions you may add like contact forms
- To use it view the page as a user sees it while logged in and then click on the icon for the visual editor.

Divi in practice

- Divi makes many claims, and it is without doubt a great system which is why I exclusively use it now. It offers so much flexibility.
- But.....
 - It changes regularly often once a week, and there are often bugs introduced, so things that worked last week don't work this week. I am more likely to see this than you.
 - If it is not behaving how you would expect it to behave, then spend 5 minutes checking and then let me know. Do remember to clear your local cache first.
 - Bugs are generally resolved on the next release of code. Make sure your site is up to date. You may have to wait a few days.
 - There is a growing user base of developers, and they are quick to raise support tickets, so someone somewhere will have addressed it.

Divi in practice

- I don't know everything in Divi, to explain it all would take several days
- I am assuming you will know enough to EDIT a site, but not enough to DESIGN a site. Knowing how it works though is important.
- Don't be afraid to experiment, set up a hidden page and have a play before you change a live page just in case something goes wrong.
- All websites are backed up using **Updraftplus** each week, so we can always go back. Initiate a backup before you start editing, then you can always restore it and go back if it goes wrong.

Divi Cautions!

- When I build a site there will be some elements I create that sit in a library. Once I create them and am happy with them I save them so they can be recalled for use (rather than created again). An example is a header.
- If you see a section or element that is bright green it means it is a **global** library element. If you edit that, it changes all of the website where that element is used. This is good and bad.
- Good
 - You can change all examples of that single element across the website where it is used.
- Bad
 - If you do it by accident and delete something, you may have deleted it across the whole website, to reinstate it may take a long time.
- Do take care when editing!
- It is quite safe to edit the dark grey modules, they only exist in a page or post

Instant elements and pages

- If you want to create a new page, it is highly likely that one exists in the library. It will create a page (probably with some content in it).
- Apply Divi, load a page and then edit the page to suit your content.
- Add the page to the menu.
- Custom elements like buttons that fit in with your colour scheme may also be available in the Divi library on your site. So before you have to add something in, check to see whether there is something similar as an example that you can add and then customise for your use.

Divi support and tutorials

- There is an introduction to Divi and other guidance which can be located here:
 - <https://www.elegantthemes.com/gallery/divi/>
- There is comprehensive set of tutorials for Divi and other guidance which can be located here (Indirect link from my site):
 - <https://wingrove-services.co.uk/elegant-themes-divi-documentation/>
- You can also find hints and tips on my website
 - <https://wingrove-services.co.uk>

The Blog

- Unlike your previous WordPress website, this one has the ability to show a blog on a page along with other content. The “Posts” page is unassigned in the configuration of your site.
- Where you need to show the news (or equivalent page title) it is a discrete page which contains a module called “Blog”
- You have additional controls, so where you are assigning categories to posts e.g: News, Fundraising, Volunteering, Events.... You can now set up blog pages that ONLY SHOW Fundraising News, or Volunteering News. You could not do that easily before.
- In practice on some sites there is a news page that shows everything, and there may be a page under volunteering and/or fundraising that shows just the news related to that category. In other words filtered news.

Keep It Simple Stupid (KISS)

- For POSTS (aka News) I recommend the following process which is really easy:
 - Open a new post (Do not apply Divi, keep it as a conventional post)
 - Enter your text as you did before
 - Try to add a “Featured Image” to the post 3:2 Aspect ratio (landscape) on most posts
 - Set one or more categories for the post
 - Publish it
- There are two blog layouts, one is a grid, in general I use the grid. It will create a page that appears to look like a newspaper in three columns.
- The settings are all automatic. Anything you add will go to the top left of the page.

Can I use Divi in a Post?

- Yes you can, it is entirely up to you
- If you choose not to, then the process is exactly the same as it was before, the only change is to use a “featured image” which is treated in a special way.
- If you want to use Divi this gives you more options including animation, colours, different fonts etc.