# Divi Theme Builder

Introduction

Welcome to the lesson with the Divi Theme Builder overview. The Divi Theme Builder is a very powerful tool and it is crucial to understand exactly how it works and how to use it when creating websites with Divi.

As I mentioned earlier, Divi developers are working towards moving away from the Theme Customizer, and they will want us to work only within the Theme Builder
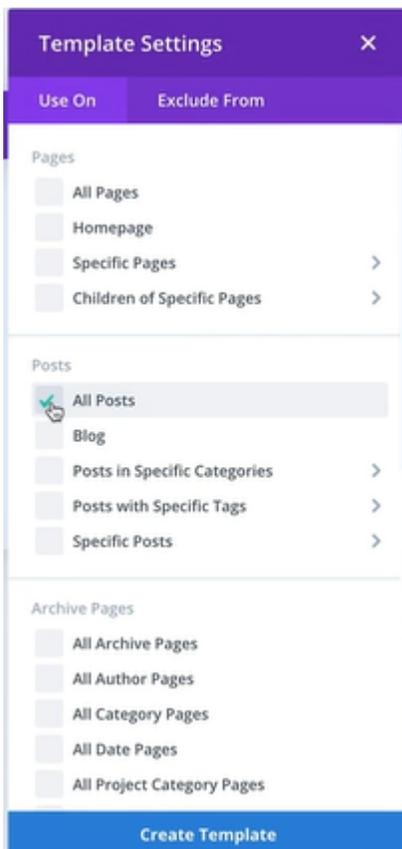
eventually. So we need to be able to use it, and it is much more powerful than the Theme Customizer. I will show you that in a moment.

Adding new templates

So when you first visit the Theme Builder, you see this one Default Website Template and an option to Add New Template.
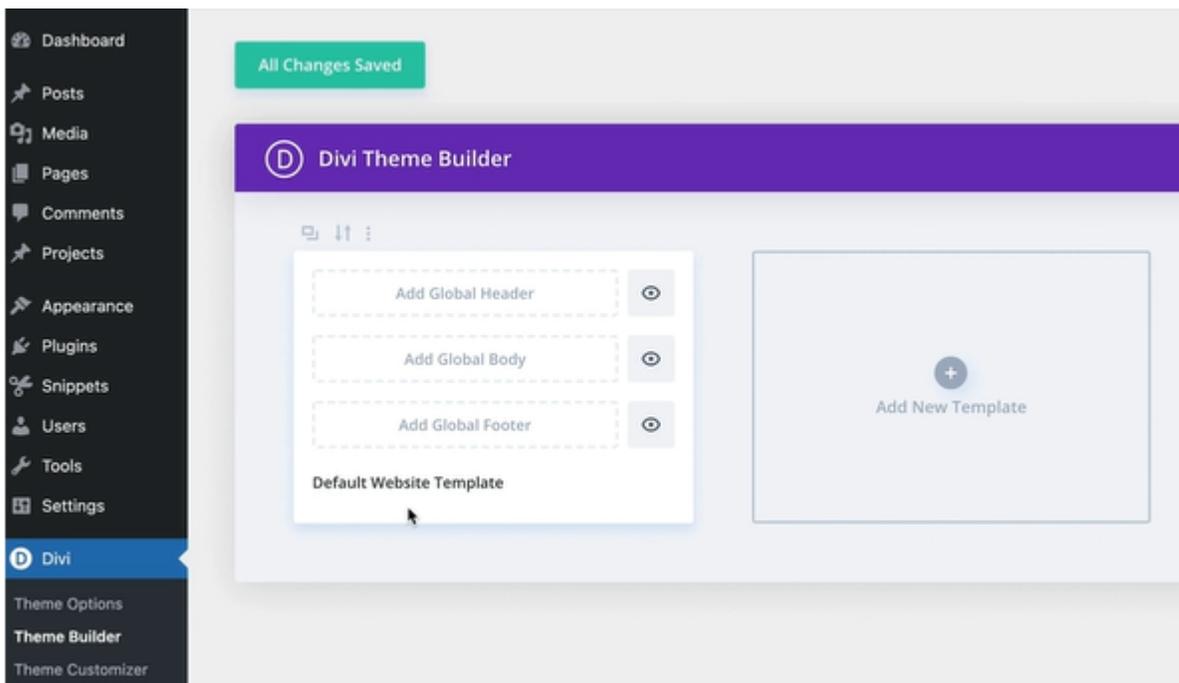

Here is what it looks like if we add a new template for all posts as an example:

We can add another one only for the Homepage, and the "Homepage" here means the page that is assigned in the Wordpress settings, not just any random page with the name "home page".

So, right now, none of these three templates are causing any changes to my website because there are no layouts inside, but you can see that the first template is a bit different as it gives us the option to add a Global Header, Global Body and Footer, while the other two allow me to add a custom layout.
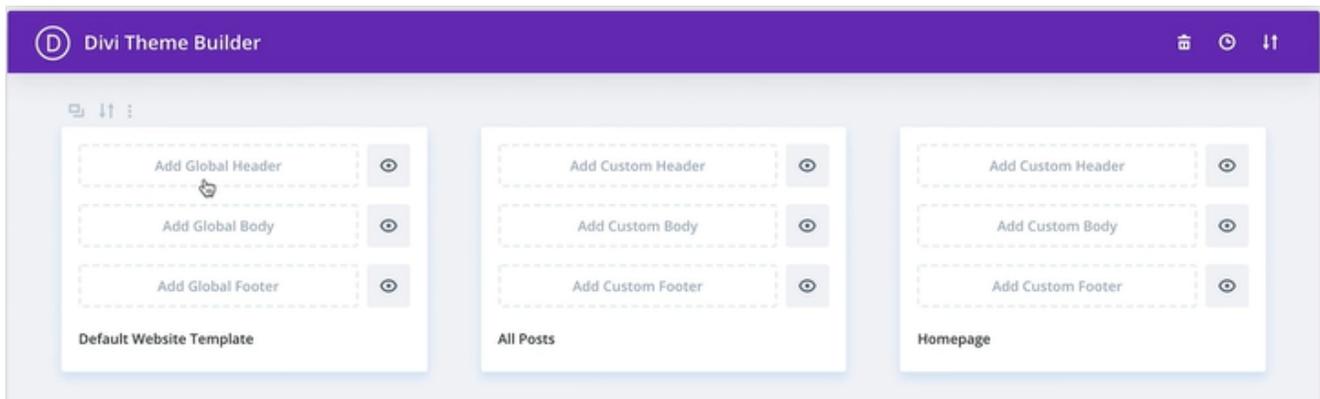
And it simply means that if I make a change to the first template, it will apply to the entire website. While these custom templates will only apply to a specific part of a website, the global template is a base, and we can create multiple variations of it for different pages.

Default Divi settings

As you can see above, each page template is made with the header, body, and the footer section. And first you need to understand what happens if there is nothing selected here. This is when the "default" Divi settings apply. So if you don't have a header created (either a global or for a specific part of the website), the Divi header will be displayed, and that is the header which we can customize using the Theme Customizer.

But once I add a new template for the header here, or if I disable it using the eye icon on the side, the default Divi header will not be visible.
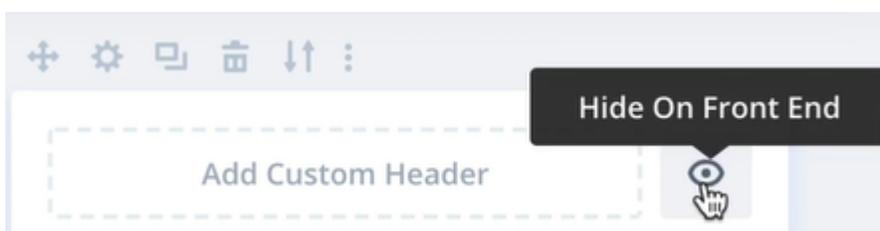

So just to show you, this is my default homepage. Now if I disable the header on the front-end, the default Divi navigation won't be visible.
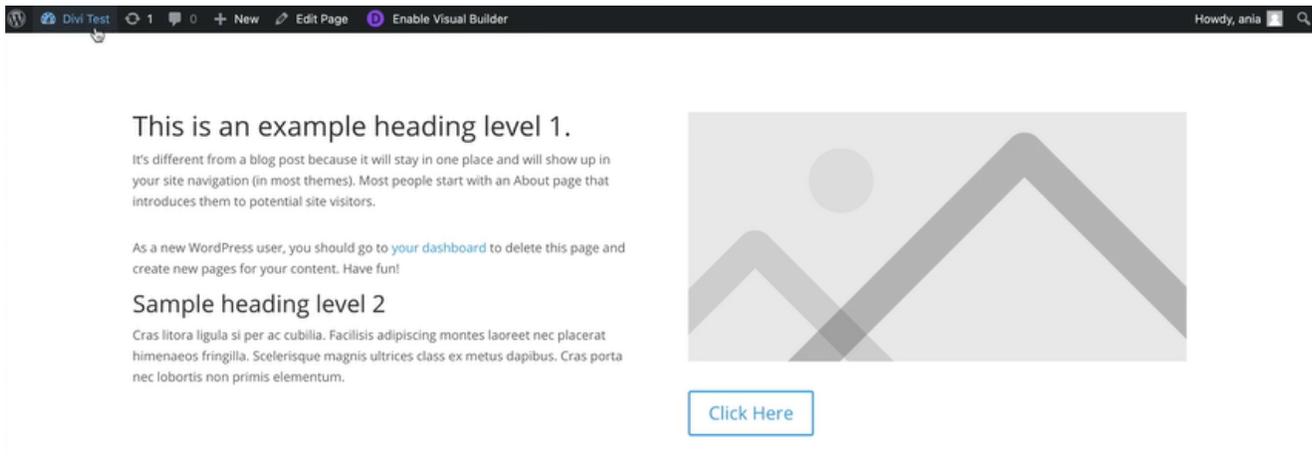
And what's even more, if I go to the Theme Customizer now, the Header options will not be accessible as well, but if I go to a different page outside the homepage, like the category, for example, I can still access the Header & Navigation settings in the Theme Customizer, because this part of my page is using the default Divi header.
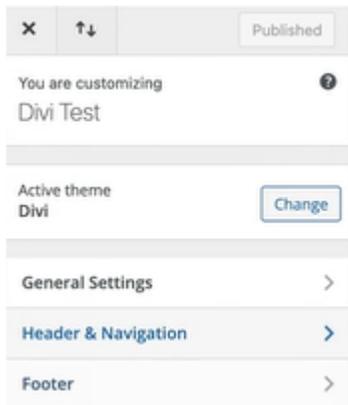

The same applies to the footer. If I create a sample footer layout in the Theme Builder, for example just an empty section with a blue background, and then go back to the homepage, my footer Theme Customizer section is no longer accessible because my homepage is using the Theme Builder footer.

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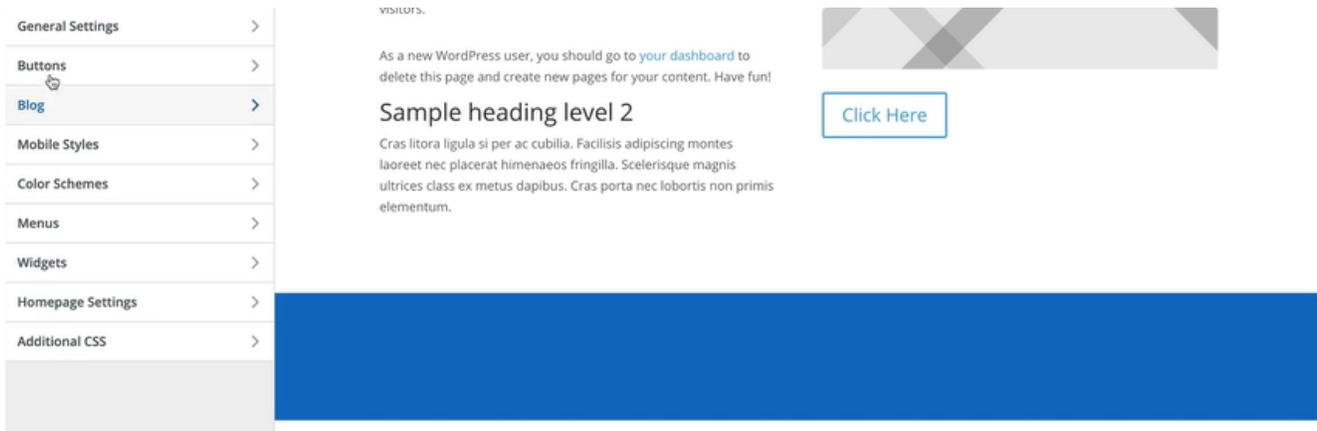
So it is important to understand the logic here. And as for the global template: anything we decide here will work across the entire website, unless there is a separate template which does something else.

Creating a global header

For example, I can create a custom header layout which I want to work globally. But I want my homepage to show the default Divi navigation. To do this, I can remove this header from my homepage template by clicking on the trash can icon.
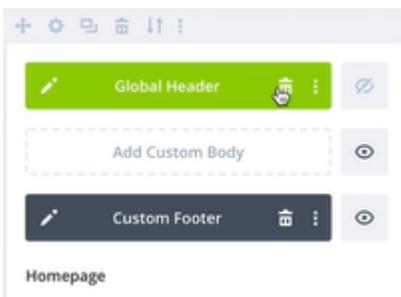

And another important thing: you cannot assign multiple templates to the same page. So it's not like there could be some conflicts here. If you try to assign a new template to the same area - so for example, if I create a new template and try to use it for the homepage as well, the Theme Builder will disable the previous assignment.
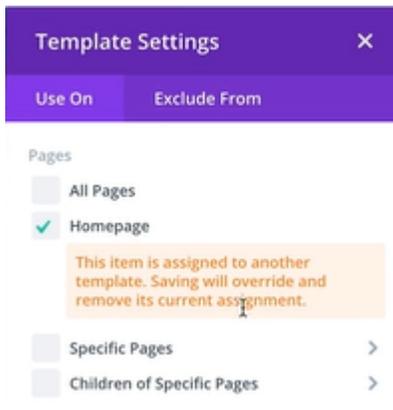
Managing templates

This is a quick overview of how you can manage different templates and layouts inside these templates. Let's say you have a global "something" assigned - so in this case, we have a global header. When I create a new template for a new area on the website, this global template will be copied onto my new template. And I can just (like we did for the homepage) remove that global header.

Or if I want to use it but make some changes to it without affecting different templates, I can right-click -> Disable Global, similarly to disabling global layouts inside the Builder.
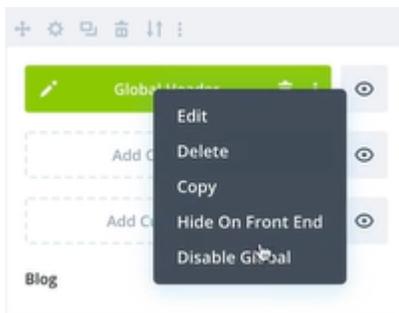
And after disabling, this header is exactly the same as the global one, but if I change this one, it won't affect the others.

Another thing we can do is to kind of copy: simply drag and drop templates in different positions. We can even move a header template onto the body section and switch it, so all those templates and layouts can go in various places.

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And now, each template comes with a set of controls. Except for the Default Website Template, which cannot be removed or moved.
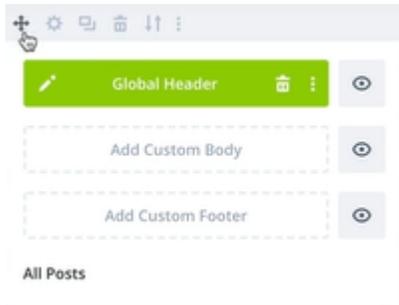

Using this first setting, we can move the templates and change their order to keep things organized. Using the gear icon, we can access the Template Settings and change the assignments.

Template assignments

If you open the Template Settings and have a look at the available options, you will see that we can create different templates for All pages, Homepage, specific pages - which would list all the pages you have created in the Pages section in WordPress. Or maybe if you're using children elements like assigning a page as a parent page, then you can only select those children of the specific pages.

Similar for the Blog: we can either target "all posts" with a specific category, tag, or just target one specific post and create a separate template for just a single post. And we have all sorts of different additional settings for Archives, Projects...

We can set a template here for our Search Results and the 404 error page. And whenever you're using additional plugins, like for ecommerce, for example, we could create templates for product pages, product categories, a shop page, and all these different areas of the website.
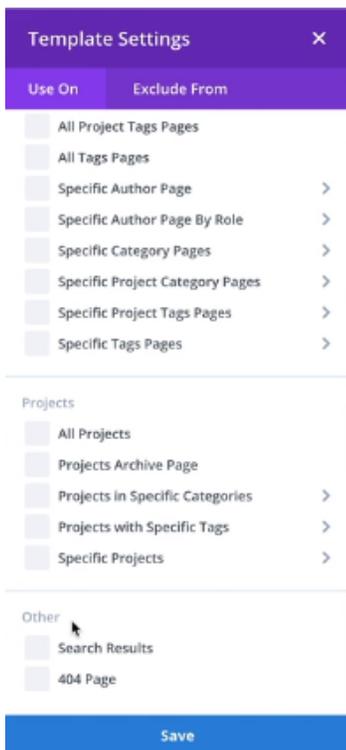
You will be able to create a different template for different pages, and each template can include a different header, a different body. The middle part can be different, or you can use a different version of the footer on specific pages.

So hopefully you can see how much more control you have over your website design using the Theme Builder. In the Theme Customizer, you could only define one header that would apply to all your pages and one footer that would also work across the entire website. So, by using the Theme Builder, we can customize each type of our page in a different way.

What is more, you can not only choose where to use your templates (in the Use On tab), but you can also exclude the templates from certain areas (in the Exclude From tab). So let's say you want to use a template inside all blog posts in a certain category, but exclude one specific post from it, or use a different logic. Just know that you can not only choose where you want to use a template, but also choose where you do not want to use it.
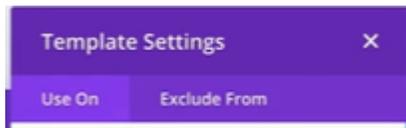
So these are the options to Use On and Exclude From, which give you total control over which template applies to which area of your site.

Going back to the controls: under the gear icon, you can change the assignment. The next icon lets you duplicate your template. Next, you can remove it, or export it, because these templates can be moved across different websites.
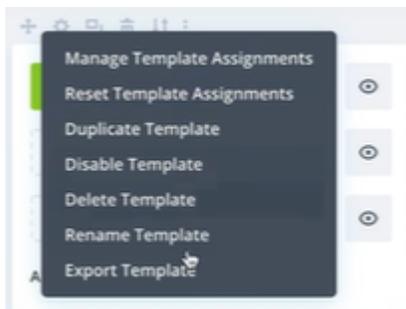

And in the contextual menu, we have similar options. In addition to that, we can disable a template. So the template will still be there, but you can temporarily make it not apply.

You can also change its name by picking Rename Template. Or you can just simply click on the template name and type a different one.
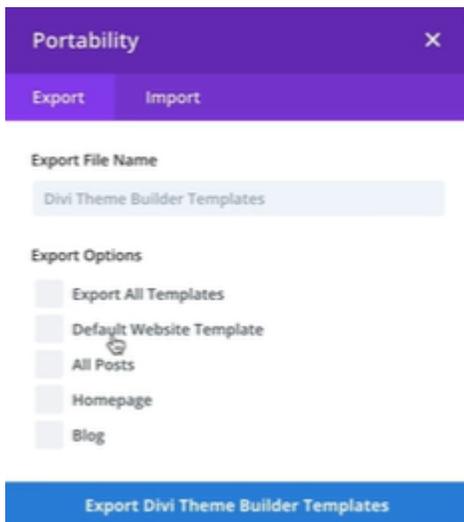
Exporting templates

And this option would export a single template, but you can also use the Portability option to export all templates.
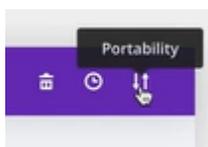
Or - if you uncheck Export All Templates - you can select and create a single file with a certain set of exported templates. So you have all these options in the Portability option in the right-hand corner.

These right-hand settings also include a History, where you can go back to a previous version of your Theme Builder settings while you're working. It is also useful to know that it's here in case we break something and we want to go back to how things were.
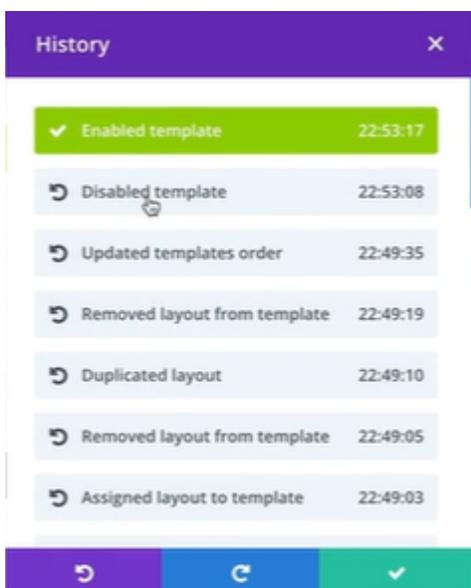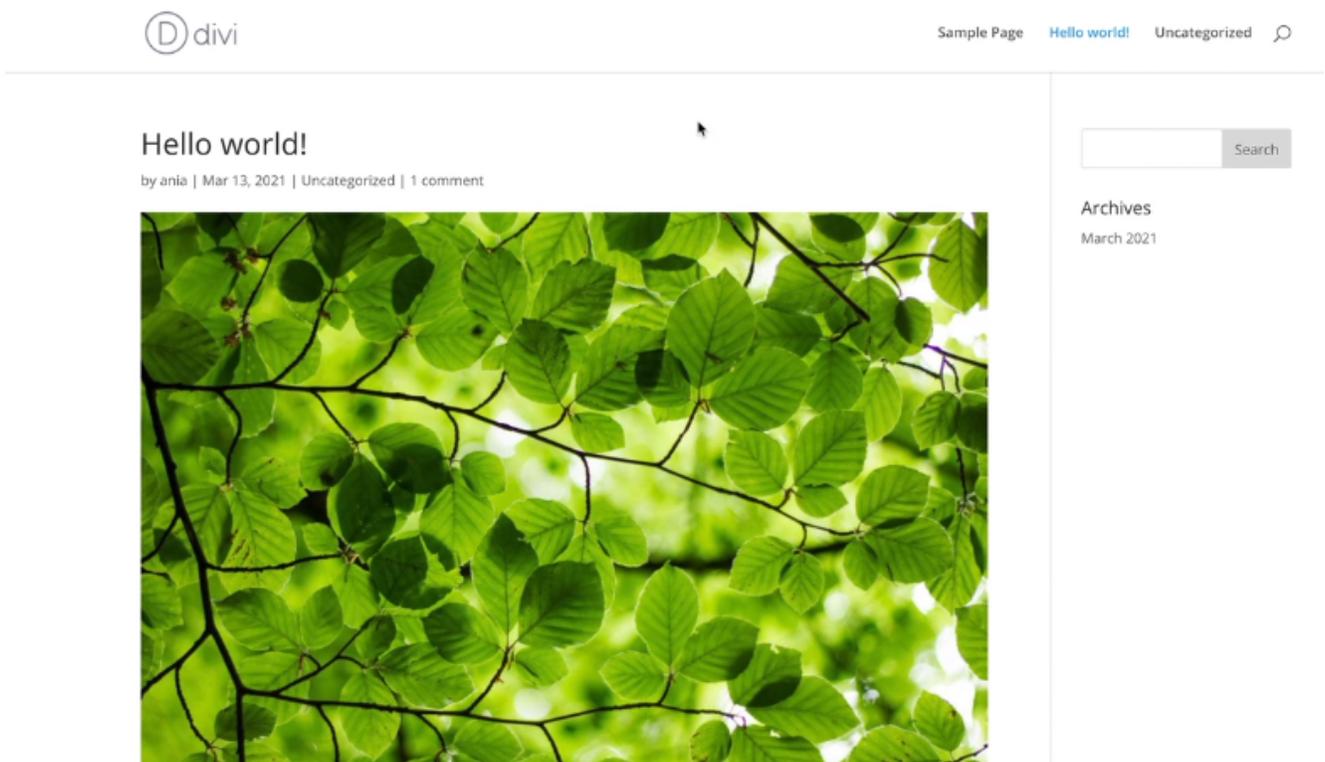
And with the trash can icon, you can clear all the templates and just start from scratch.
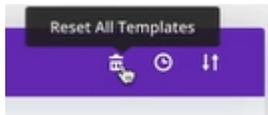
Single Post template

And let's have a quick look at the body section of each template. This is how the default Divi post looks:

And let me load a simple template here. Let's add a new Body template. This one is special, because we have one additional module we might need to use here: the Post Content module. And this name can be a bit misleading, but it relates to WordPress itself.

Post Content module

When we hear "posts", we immediately think of blog and blog posts, but pages in WordPress are also different types of posts, basically. And similarly to pages, projects are also posts, so post types include projects and any custom post types we might see in WordPress, such as: products, events, and so on. So that is why we should not think only about the blog when working with the Post Content module. This name is not a mistake. It makes complete sense from the WordPress core perspective.

So, to recap. The Post Content Module displays the content of any singular WordPress post type, and that includes single pages, posts, projects etc.

So we need that module to display the content of our Post inside the blog or post-type: page or post-type: product. Otherwise, each of the single products, for example, would look exactly the same, because they would have the same Body template. So the Post Content Module is very important, but let's have a look around this template, because it is using some very useful features.
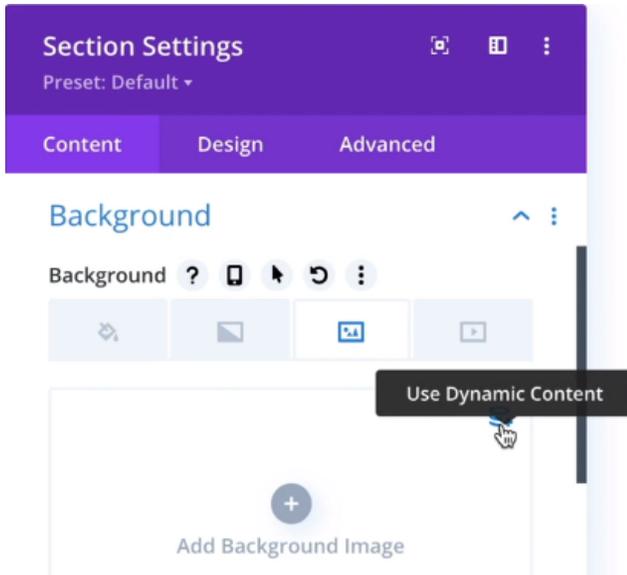
Dynamic Content in the Blog Post Layout

They are especially useful when creating a template for a single post type, in this case, single posts for the blog. I'll show you a blog post layout I prepared, and we'll take a look at its features.
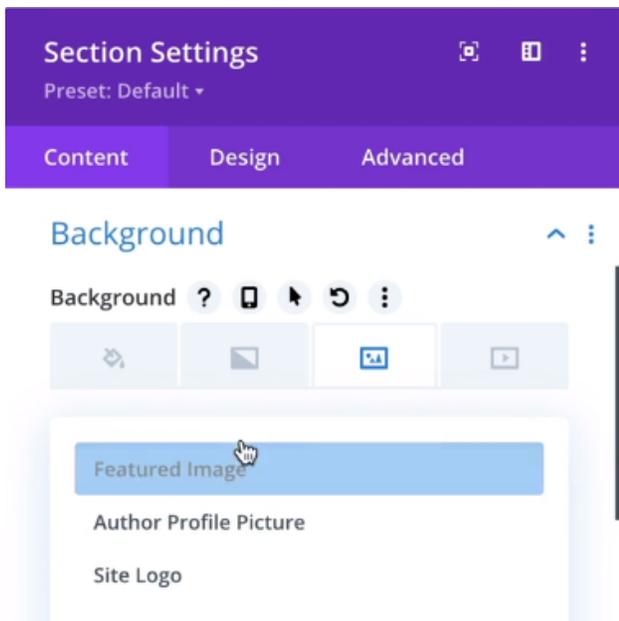
In the first section I included the Featured Image as a background.
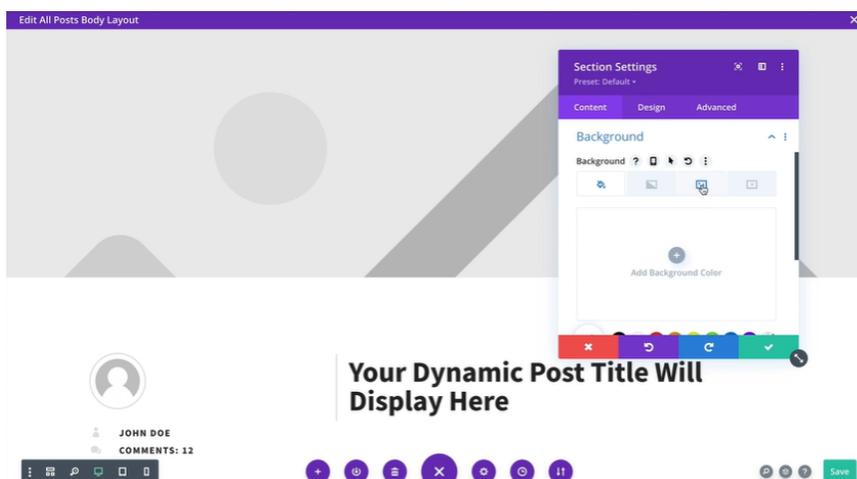
There is a background section with the Featured Image, and it uses the Dynamic Content feature.

So I can simply select the Featured Image in the Dynamic Content options so that for each blog post, it will dynamically pull the Featured Image that's assigned to that blog post.

And a similar situation happens with the Author Profile Picture: I have an image that uses our author profile picture that is pulled dynamically from WordPress settings.


And again, inside this Blurb with the Post Author, in the title I am using, instead of just typing a title in the field, I leave it empty and turn on the Dynamic Content, choosing Post Author. I can even use a link so that it links to the Author page.
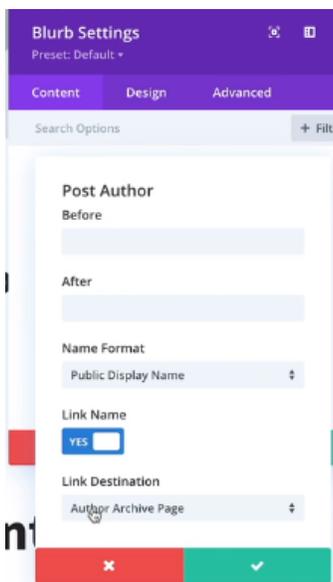

And for comments under the Post Author blurb, I'm showing Post Comment Count, also a Dynamic Content option. But if I click on the gear icon on the left-hand side of the Title field with my Post Comment Count, I can define my custom field. I've included the word "Comments:" in the Before field. If I hadn't done that, the field would only show the number of comments without any explanation.
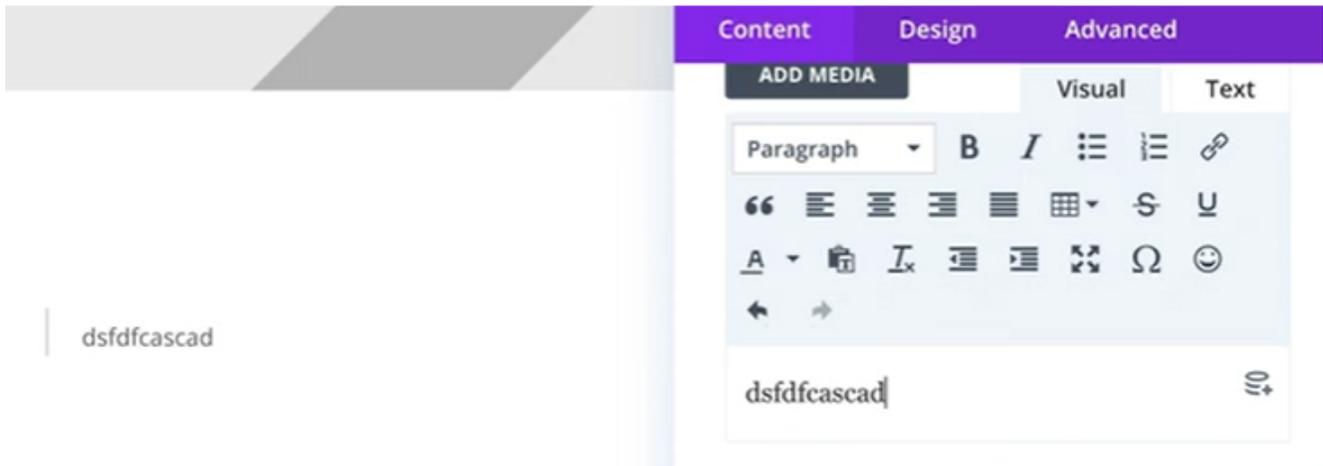
That's why I included the "Comments:" in the Before section.
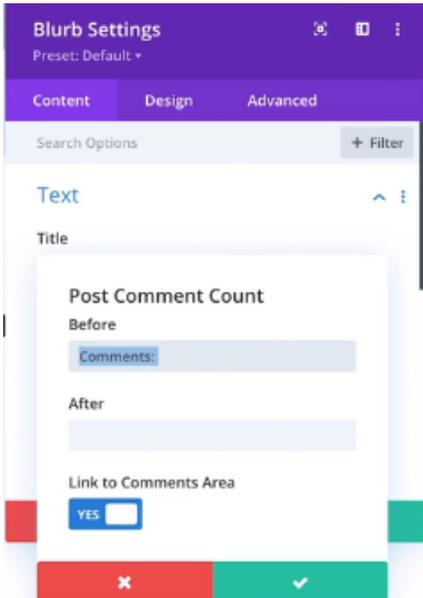
This Text module with the title of the post also uses the Dynamic Content feature for inside the Body template. It uses the "Post/Archive Title" dynamic field, and I wrapped it inside H2 tags.
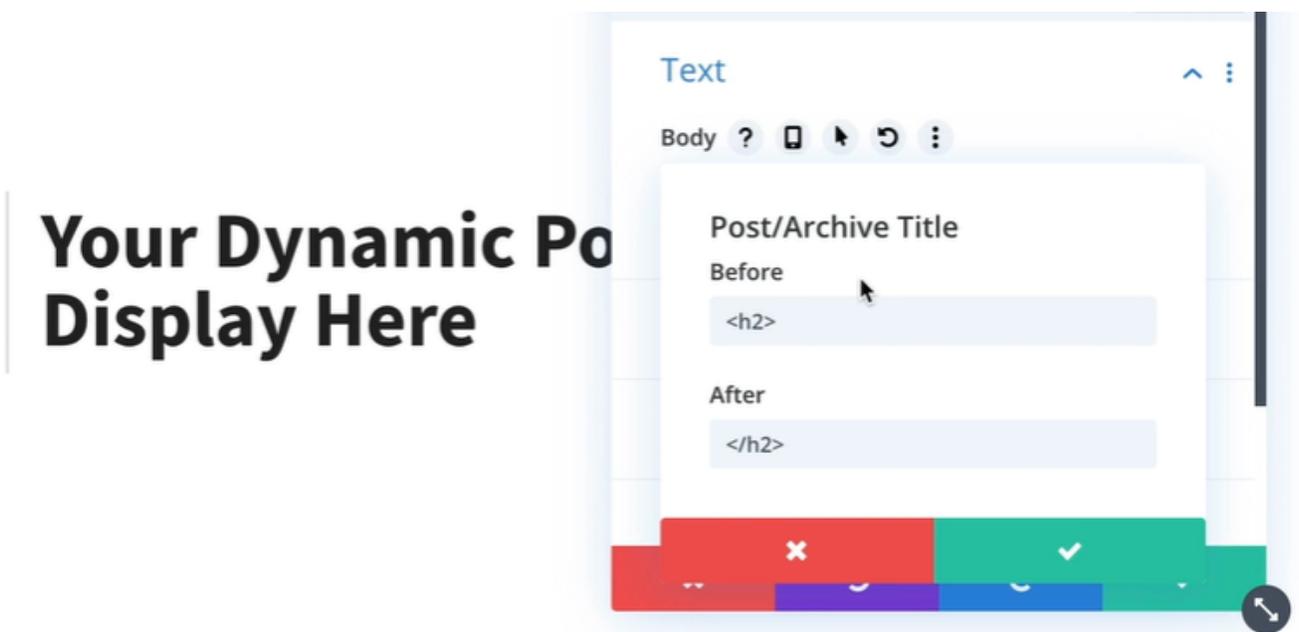
Let me show you how it's added. So here's the text content. I could just type the basic content here, like this:

But I want to use a dynamic post title. So I have the Post/Archive Title option, but that would display the title as a paragraph text. That is why I am using "before" and "after" so I can specify my HTML structure and make it display inside <H2> as a heading.
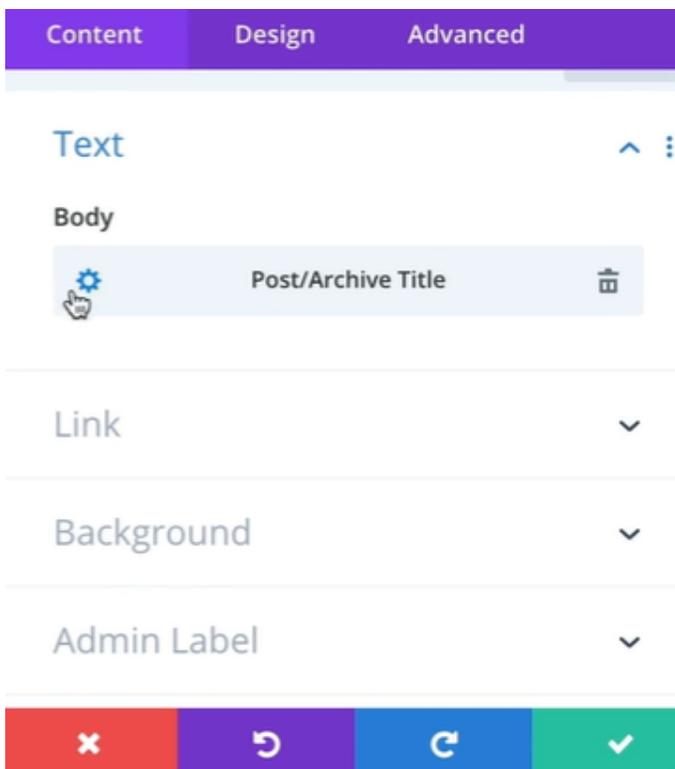
Below there's our Post Content module. And the preview here is not accurate. The spacing is a bit odd and it uses this white background, which can't be removed, I'm not sure why. So every time you're working with the Post Content module, make sure you preview how it looks on the front-end.

So further down below, we have the Comments module so that our single posts can also use comments if we save the module here.

And I also have to save my Theme Builder changes after uploading this layout. And if I go back to the blog post without refreshing it, it is still the default blog post, and as you can see by default, it displays the Image thumbnail. And it has the post meta - all the things that we can edit inside the Theme Options.

But since we assigned a Theme Builder template, if I refresh the page, it will be using my template.

So now I have this parallax background effect that uses my featured image. That's my post title, which is dynamic. It would be different for each post. That's the author's name. I have one comment on that post and I can set all the heading styles and paragraph text using the Post Content module, just like I would for the Text module.

And I have my comments. And if I go to edit the post, this post was not built inside the Divi Builder. It only uses the Gutenberg editor.


So I can create simple paragraphs here. I have my featured image, and that's all. I can design the content inside the Theme Builder to make sure that all of my posts share the same layout.

Blog Archives template

Now, for blog archives the situation is different, because here, we cannot use the Post Content module. We need to include a Blog module to display our blog items. So let's take a look. My blog page, just like all my pages, is using the global empty header. Let me remove that, and let's change the assignment of the Blog template.
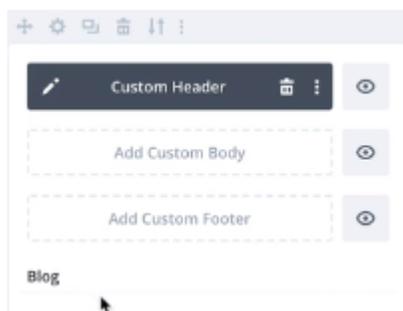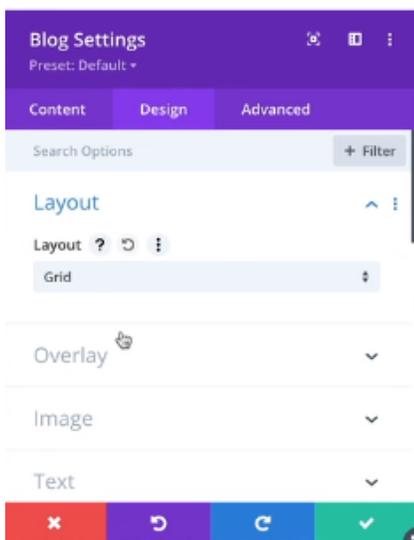

So let me show you, instead of Blog, let's choose "All Archive Pages". And save.
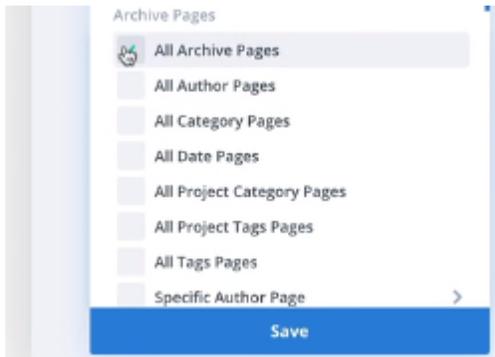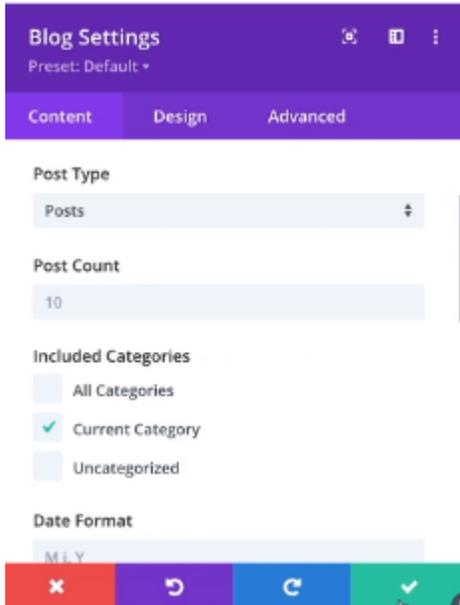
And for all archives, let's build a custom body.
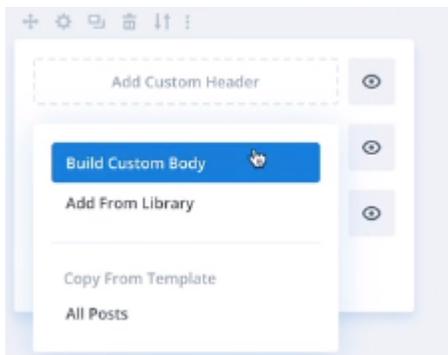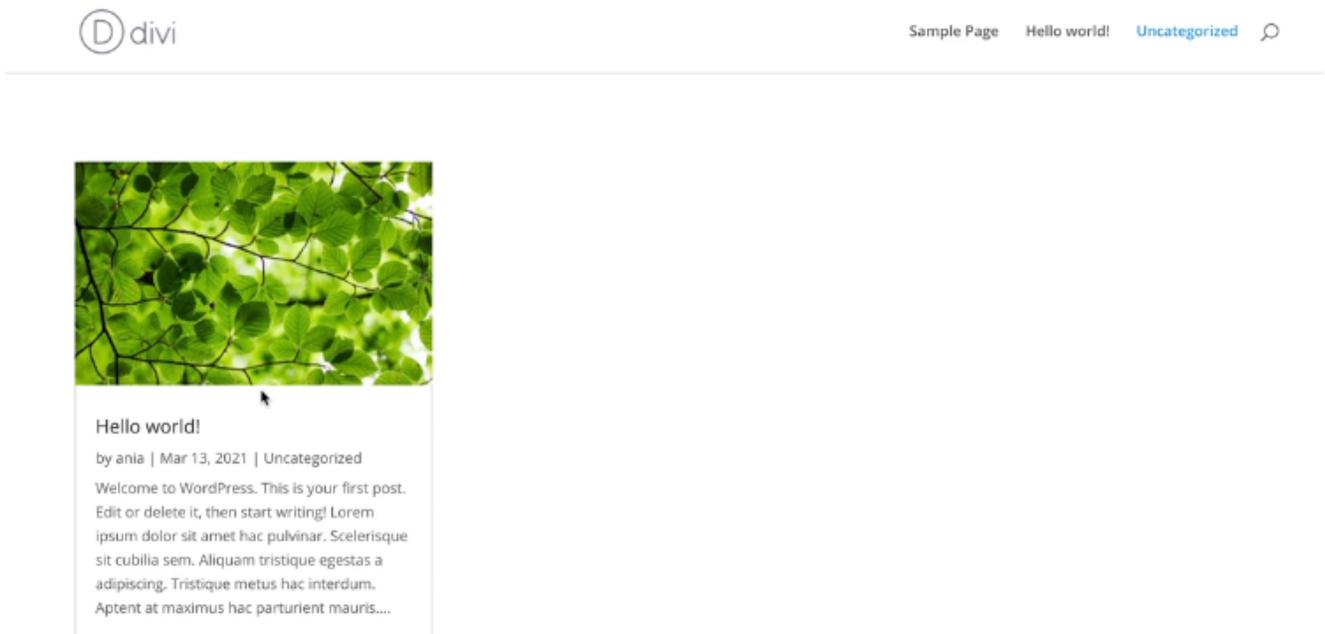

I will add a Row and inside, I'll use a simple Blog module. We'll do the Grid layout in Design -> Layout.

But what's important is that this Blog displays the Current Category in Content ->
Content -> Included Categories in the Blog module settings.

And now if I save, instead of the default archives, my website shows me my blog content
and is using the Theme Builder.

I can create a Text module that will display the archive title. If we add a Text module, and instead of the content here, dynamically, we can pull the Archive Title in the Dynamic Content.
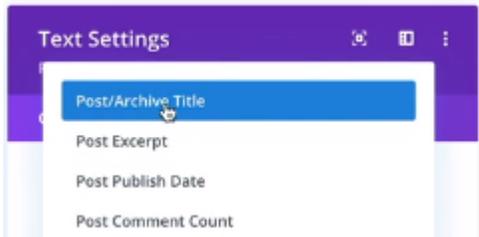
And similarly to our single blog post, let's do H1, and remember the closing tag.
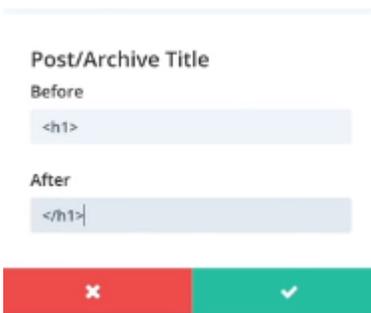
And now if I save here, that's the title of my category. If I also go to archives, that would be the title of our archives.

I could also display the date here, if it were a date archive, or the author's name to show the archive with the author's posts and so on. So as you can see, you can change your category layout, display different colors for different categories on the blog, for example, or build separate headings for your category pages. You have full control inside the Theme Builder, right?

You can edit different parts of your website. You just have to remember to use the Post Content module inside if you're building a body for a singular type of template - single post or page, or if it's an archive type page, you have to include a Blog module that displays the current category.

Final thoughts

So that's the end of this Theme Builder tour. I hope it was helpful. And I hope I kind of inspired you to work inside it and create different layouts for different parts of your pages. And hopefully, you'll see how powerful it is. If you haven't used it earlier, you'll see how much more control you have over your design as opposed to using just the Theme Customizer.

Resources

GET DESIGNING:

Blog Post Theme Builder Layout (available in the Downloads section of this lesson)

Action Items

☐ Download, unzip, and import the Sample Blog Post Theme Builder layout to test the Portability feature.

☐ Create your own template for a single blog post. Use Dynamic Content to display post Featured Image, title, and post meta (author, comments, etc.). Post a link or a screenshot inside the group for feedback.