Blog Archives and Categories

Hello and welcome to the next lesson where we are looking at the blog functionality. In the previous video, I walked you through creating a single post layout, and this time we are going to focus on blog archives and categories and any other index-type content such as pack archive outdoor archive and of course, the main blog page. As you probably remember, the blog page is not a standard static WordPress page but a page we devoted as the post's page in the WordPress dashboard. On that URL WordPress will no longer display the content of the selected page but it will list all your latest posts and we can edit that content using the Theme Builder by creating a new Theme Builder template and assigned it to the blog. We could also use the same template for all archives and also search results. That is what I am going to do.

Creating the Template

I will select blog, which is my posts page and all archives and that would include all this as well and also, the search results that could use the same layout. Let's create our template and we need to create custom body template. And I would like this body for my archives to look similarly, to this section from the homepage. Here I would show the archive title, such as category name, for example, and then category description, and below we would list the grid of latest posts. I will copy that section from here and simply paste it inside the Theme Builder. And now I can remove the default one.

Adding Dynamic Content

Now I would want to replace that with dynamic content because I assigned this template to multiple different types of archives. I want this to display the title depending on the archive that is shown. Here we have both the heading and the paragraph text, and I could use dynamic content and put that paragraph as the after element, but instead, I will duplicate that and use two separate attacks modules, one with the title and the second with the paragraph for the category description. Here in the first one, I will remove that paragraph. And now instead of that title, I will simply show the post archive title, and in the before, and after I need to make sure I'm using my H1. And also I want to remove any unwanted space here so we have that class no-bottom-space. That will not show any bottom padding that I have inside my custom CSS. And that's it, that would be the first module. And in the second module, I will remove the heading. And now, this uses that maya-zigzag-before and also dark zigzag classes. I will copy that. And now in the dynamic content, we could show category description and also before at a paragraph tag and closing tag. Okay, great. Now, I will leave this for a moment but what I would like to do is basically below that title the next row would display my blog. We need to use a blog module anytime we are designing an archive-type template inside the Theme Builder. In the new row, blog, and what's important is that we want to select Posts for Current Page that will make sure to show a correct type of posts from correct category. And here, let's change some of these elements. Now, I want to show Featured Image and the Read More Button, but this blog will only have one author really, so I don't see the point of displaying the author name below each post, but we can show the date and maybe the comments count to kind of encourage commenting, but not necessarily categories. I could show excerpt and also pagination. Now, I will be using the full-width layout, as I mentioned in the previous lesson when

we're doing this related posts section when using grid, it creates very complex structure with columns, which is quite difficult to change using CSS grid or flexbox. That's why choosing the full web layout here will make it easier for us to define our own grid. Let me change some of this text styling here. And as usual, I would choose a font size for each device size, make sure my line height is correct and use my selective fonts for each of the elements: different font for meta and you know, just basically assign all the styling as much as I can use the blog module settings. This would be my default text styles here and for now, I won't change anything except for adding CSS and I will use ID just to make sure my CSS works because I won't be using multiple blog modules here. If I would then using ID wouldn't be recommended, ID needs to be unique, but since I know that my blog module with this style will always be displayed only once on the page I can go ahead and use a blog ID. So maya-blog. This is how my category page looks now. And this description here is taken from the category description. So anytime we're adding a new category, we can also include a description or just add it, a current category, and add a description here so that we can have different text for different categories without having to create separate layout for each of the categories. That is something that can be useful, but on the blog page blog is not a category. This text module, that paragraph will be empty, and I'm fine with that. If I wanted to display some text here, I would need to create a separate Theme Builder template for blog and separate for other archives, and then just use a standard text module to display any additional text here.

Editing with CSS

I do want this to be displayed in this nice equal grid. And to do that, we have to use CSS. I know it will be using both CSS grid and flexbox a lot

Divi *Stylist* **Academy**

during this lesson so I hope this will be helpful. Looking at our HTML structure, we've already did that in a previous lesson, this is the same module. The div with ID maya-blog has a direct child element with a class et_pb_ajax_pagination_container and that is the parent container of our articles, each post inside. That is what we are want to target as the parent element, within maya-blog ID. And this time, instead of using Flex for the main container we will choose to display the content as a grid. That doesn't change anything at first but as soon as we defined grid template columns. If once we decide how many columns we want to have this layout will change. So grid-template-columns and here we can use the repeat function, so repeat. And then by using the repeat we are specifying the number of times we want to repeat this size of the column. Instead of writing - 300 pixel, 300 pixels, 300 pixels we could just use a repeat three comma, three hundred pixels. But here instead of defining the number of columns, we can use the auto-fit value and then for the column size min/max. It is a bit advanced but once you understand the syntax here you'll see that it's super useful. In a min-max function, we specify the minimum and maximum width of each of the column. I'm guessing that my post grid tile wouldn't look good if it would be narrower than 350 pixels, that's my minimum size for the column size. And then maximum would be 1fr, which is available space. And by using auto-fit, I'm not defining how many columns I want I'm just saying use as many as you will fit. By using that and let's also add a grid gap so we can see it better. Let's try with 50 pixels for now. Now if I close that it will show three columns when there's enough space.

Adjusting for Different Screen Sizes

For larger screen sizes, let me show you. If my row wouldn't be limited

to 1200 pixels for example. If my row here, this uses maximum width of 1200. If it would have 2000. Then that's how many of these grid columns fit in that container. And then as I resize my browser as soon as the column doesn't fit, while being at least 350 pixels wide, then the column count changes. So we don't need to use any media queries, the layout will adjust for us and we could even increase that maximum width. We have all these tiles for larger displays, but I would do that only if there is a lot of this blog post, because if I only have like 10 then there's no point of making that grid fit five in a row, you know, if there is a lot of content to this play, I would go ahead and increase that maximum width, but I think we can stay with the maximum 1200 and display three in a grid at most. Looking at it I know I want to limit that post excerpt. I will go back here, and inside this module settings, here's the excerpt length. Let's try 130 characters, that would be, I think better. I'm adding the CSS to the stylesheets so that we can refresh the page. The grid looks fine on desktop and then on smaller screen sizes, it changes too soon to a single column layout. In the Theme Builder, I would increase the width of the row for tablets and decrease the grid-gap for smaller screen sizes as well. So back here inside the row settings, let's change the sizing and width on the mobile. Tablet, it could be 90% and phones as well. And now if we save that and in the stylesheet, if we add a media query, to change the grid-gap for tablets and below. Let's try with 35. Now this should show two columns a bit longer. Now it goes to a single column view at 800 pixels. We will see if maybe we can do horizontal layout at that breakpoint for. Now, let's focus on making this grid look better and align better.

Editing Individual Articles

If we look at individual article it has a bottom margin that we have to

remove for sure. That the grid is equally aligned but if I wanted to add a background color here on that single post, I cannot do that in the Builder, but I can do that with CSS. The article itself inside maya-blog, I want us to have a white background like this and I also, don't want this to have any bottom margin. That is already looking better but I do want to insert padding but simply adding the padding-right here. Let me show you, padding 15 pixels will also move the image inside which I do not want. To add padding we have to target every element inside of that article except for that first link with the image inside. Everything which is not a link has to be targeted. And we can use that not selector here. In the maya_blog_container we have articles and we want to target every immediate child element like this, which is not and A with a entry-featured-image URL class. We're targeting every immediate children of an article which are not A type elements with entry-featured-image. And now we can add right and left padding, padding-left: 25 pixels, and padding-right: 25 pixels. Now this padding at the bottom could be added to the article. So article padding-bottom won't hurt any other elements.

Button Editing

Now, let's try to make this "Read more" look like a button and position it at the bottom here. So now the link is inside the div post-content and it's an A element with a class more-link. So A more-link inside maya-blog, and to make it look like a button we basically display this inline-block. We have to add padding, border: 3 pixels var gray 8, I think, solid, okay? A border-radius. Let's try with 50 pixels and definitely some space at the top, some margin-top let's try also with 25. That's a great start. Let's see how that looks. Here would be the problematic moment or this. Depending on the length of our titles the "Read more" could go back up because it is connected with the rest of these elements. And I want this

to be positioned at the bottom. And to do that, I will need to use flexbox on the article itself is so the article needs to have display: flex, flex-direction: column. We could try justifying the content with space between that would put the button at the bottom, but it would miss align other elements. Instead, let's use the default justify-content flex-start. The last element the div with a class post content has to fill the all available space. And to do that, we can use the flex-grow property, so post-content inside maya-blog, flex-grow: 1. And this will make sure that this last element is filling the available space. And now if we also display that flex, so flex inside the flex, and also has a flex-direction of the column. And align-items: flex-start. So it doesn't stretch the "Read more" and then justify-content: space-between. This will move it to the right to the bottom, that's how we want it. And the link itself could be aligned self. So, align-self: flex-end. Like this, I think this does look pretty nice.

Editing the Meta

I would add some more space below the meta here. It looks kind of crowded here. So the post meta is a simple paragraph. And now, if I target it inside maya-blog, I could add padding-bottom: 25 pixels. Okay, much better. I will copy that CSS into the stylesheet and then we can check how it looks. I noticed a few issues I would like to address first. I think if we change the width of that row it would allow for three columns to be visible a bit longer. If we do the same sizing as here in the header where the row is full-width and the section has this 35 pixels right and left padding, that would work better. I will do that. And also the "Read more" doesn't have any hover styles. We can fix that quickly inside our stylesheet. So a.more-link has to have a transition. And on hover, I would like to change some colors for that element. On hover

background: var and also border color. That should look nice. And another thing we need to fix is, if a featured image has a different aspect ratio, it doesn't align correctly. Here on the blog page, these images have different sizes and that causes that not very nice miss alignment. Obviously, it is always better to use the same size for your images, but it's not always possible, especially when you're heading over a site to the client. To make sure this is equal, we can simply use that object-fit property and define our desired height for that element. Enter featured image URL an image inside, we can target that image, which is inside maya-blog. And then we can specify the width which is 100% and height which could be based on the viewport width or just a pixel value, anything that works well with your images would be fine here. So, it's really up to you. I will try with pixels. Let's go for it - 400 pixels, that's too much, 250. Okay, something like that. And then it obviously stretches the image. So again, we can use the object-fit property, cover. That will work basically the same as background image, even though it is a standard image tag. And another thing is at the bottom here when there are three columns. This older entries link isn't positioned correctly. We want this to be to go below the grid, so we wanted this to always start at the beginning of the column grid. And to do that, this div doesn't have any CSS class, but we've already used that selector in the previous lesson. So it's basically div: last-child. Which is directly inside our et_pb_ajax_pagination_container, inside maya-blog. So, grid-column from first line to negative 1, okay, that will work.

Adding an Overlay

Now we could add some overlay over these images to make sure it is showing nice and unified even if the images are all over the place that the layout has this calm and smooth feel to it. We could add an overlay

over each of these images and then maybe hide that on hover. So to do that, we have to create a new element which would be inside that A tag, right? Covering the image. So we could use A after and that would be entry-featured-image-urlL, inside maya-blog. And then after, so we basically need to create that element. Content: empty display: block, position: absolute so that it is directly on top of the parent container which is the link itself. And to do that to make sure it's full-width and full-height we specify top: 0, left bottom, and right zero. And now, if I add a background color, we should be able to see it. Now I'm using one of my global colors, and to be able to make it a semi-transparent, I will use the opacity, let's try with 0.6. And now, if this would be a colorful overlay, it would be best to also desaturate that image. Our image could use a filter: grayscale, one fully grayscale. We will add a transition here because we want to remove that greyscale on hover and be able to remove it smoothly. That needs transition. And then when we will hover over the article element inside maya-blog, we want to target that image. So maya-blog article: hover when you hover over the main element and the image will no longer be grayscale, so filter: grayscale 0 and also the overlay, the after element will be trying to fully transparent. On article, hover the entry-featured-image: after, opacity: 0. Let's try that. This is not correct? Okay. And now, hovering. That overlay doesn't have transition. Back here our after has to have a transition, the same as the image. And let's also try zooming in on the image and we could do that by on hover changing the scale. With transform property, scale, maybe just a slightly 1.05. It does loses the overlay and I don't need to even hover over the image, it's when I'm hovering over the blog. But it gets too big. To prevent that overlap, all we need to do is make sure that the A element, the parent has overflow: hidden, our main featured-image-URL. needs overflow: hidden. Let's copy that, add it to my stylesheet.

Okay, the hover works. We have a nice hover effect on the blog featured image.

Editing Rows for Smaller Screens

I would also like to change this size of that row. For small desktops, it feels more space. The in the Sizing Width I want this to be 100% on the desktop, we set it to 90 for tablets and phones and I will add spacing to the section. Left and right padding only for the desktop just like we did for the header and the footer. It should give us more space just before the section changes the breakpoint to tablet. Now here this looks very nice and then at around 816 pixels. This goes to full with a single column layout and I would like to display that image on the left side and that text on the right. And making it happen is actually a bit tricky because these elements here. If we look at our HTML structure, we have a link and then these are all separate elements. If this would be inside a single container, we could position these two next to each other easily. And we could use JavaScript to wrap these elements inside the additional wrapper, but we can also use absolute positioning on that A element and then add padding the to display this next to each other. Let's try that. Here, for maya-blog a.entry-featured-image-URL, I will add a new selector and I would like to position it absolute and then make it only maybe half the screen. Width 50%, let's limit the height to match the rest of the container. The parent container and parent container height is dictated by the content inside, this content which is not absolute, right? If we set height 100%, it will match that article height. And now these elements, so we could use again that selector that selects everything but the entry-featured-image-URL. This would need left padding. So 50% left padding plus additional 25 pixels. We could say padding-left and then use calc to calculate how many pixels is 50% plus

Divi *Stylist* **Academy**

10

25 pixels, just like that. And we could also add padding to this H2 at the top. That entry-title inside maya-blog, padding-top: 25 pixels and now let's make sure this image - we want to stretch it. The A element is 100% and now the image inside also has to be 100%. So height like this, and it already uses that object-fit. It fits right in here, quite simple, really. And then if we in the inspector, if we will wrap this inside a media query, which directly targets that breakpoint, which was 816 pixels. And now, if everything goes inside here it should scale nicely. And it could look this way for quite some time. And then I would change that width when the breakpoint changes to, when the font size changes, we could give it a bit more pixel time and then somewhere around here, 850 pixels. We could change that sizing. A similar breakpoint with maximum-width of 650 and now, we only need to change the width and that padding. If the width is, let's say 30 pixels and then the padding would be 30%, plus 25 pixels. And that looks very nice if you ask me. And that could go on until - well I would say 467, that's also one of the common breakpoints so here I would switch it back to the standard full-width view. Again at maximum with 467, we wouldn't need that position absolute anymore. Width, or actually, we could, instead of trying to overwrite our own styling, we could change the media breakpoint. That only works from minimum width of 467 pixels and max-width 650 and that would need to include all these actually but width 30% here and here. And this would work from minimum width of 651 and up to 816 so 651 and then this anything below that breakpoint would be our default styling, okay, and we also need to fix that spacing here. Let's see. That post meta and entry title. I think the entry title has a bottom padding here. Yes, it has 10 pixels bottom padding, and then on here at the max-width 479, the padding is removed, so we could basically bring it back or we could target that post meta because that space could be a bit smaller. This on

he other hand using padding-bottom 25 pixels. Just to target that 479 max-width. And we will use this to add padding. We could use a shorthand. So 10 pixels from the top 0 on the sides and maybe 15 pixels at the bottom. And this needs to go inside media query, so max-width 479. I will add that to my stylesheet and I think we did pretty good job styling this blog module and now I wanted to show you one cool thing we can do with it.

Adding Any Element - Divi Builder Section

Wouldn't it be a nice idea to be able to display any element, any Divi Builder section, or a module instead of one of these blogs, one of these posts? We could add a section below that blog module and then use jQuery to detach it from its original place and place it for example as the right after the second element. As the third child here or maybe as the fifth one in the in the middle. Anywhere we like basically and let me show you how it can be done. That is kind of why I wanted to save that section because I will use that exact styling for that additional blog I want to put in between my posts. Here I will remove these two columns so that I can only have a single full-width row that I will use to insert inside that blog. And now here I will change that blurb to a call to action, so "Enjoying the content? Get in touch". Okay, we have to change the body text styling, it wasn't styled here. Just to quickly change the font sizes, to my standard body font sizes. And I will also change the alignment of the text. That would be it. I want to change the icon. Like this. And I will also want to add a button here inside. I'll actually add the new one. I think there's something wrong with this one. So let's add a simple button module - "Get in touch". Let's make it align this in the center, okay? So just simple as that. Now, if just okay, one last thing, just a bottom margin here. Let's try with 35 pixels. Okay, now it's perfect.

And now I want to make sure that I can identify that row easily. I don't think it needs that class, and I can use something like maya-blog-cta. And now here in the scripts JS, we want to target that row. That class I just added maya-blog-cta, and first, detach this, so detach, that would take it out of view, remove it, but keep all the styling, all the things associated with it and then we can insert after. And we only need to specify the selector we want to insert it after. That would be maya-blog article:nth-child. That's right. Added after the second one so as the third element and just like that, let's save that. Here's our row, right?

Final Adjustments

It does need some adjustments. Let's see what we can do. The row is set to 80% width, so that's one problem, and it also has spacing. Let's make sure it is using full width. Sizing - Width 100%. And also on phone and tablet. Okay. Let's save that. Let's see. Now let's see why it's not, let's inspect that. Why it's not filling the entire available space from top and bottom. So yes, the row it uses some... Let's see. We have some margin here. Let's find this. Margin-top. Okay, so it's margin: auto. So let's make sure our maya-blog-cta doesn't have any margin, so margin: zero. Lovely. Now, let's see. So this is now a part of our, one of our grid items. It does fill all available space by default, but that column here also needs to be full height. The et_pb_column which is inside maya-blog-cta let's set height 100%. And we can use display: flex here, flex-direction: column. and justify-content: center. Okay, lovely. Now, what is happening here with that SVG? Oh yes. This image is also using that maya-blog image, so this selector would need to be replaced with something more specific. Only target images inside an article container not any image here, right? And that would be, that should look good. Now let me copy that. It is very easy to manipulate your elements with

jQuery as you can see. And you could do different call to actions for different categories for example. If we are on the branding category, you could use a section like: "Would you like to design your logo?" Or for social media: "We can help you with your social media struggles" and things like that. You could use different templates inside the Theme Builder to add them for different categories. I will keep it simple but just to show you how it is, how it can be done. Let me see, do we have that zigzag, it could say here, it's a nice touch. I would only want to position it a bit differently so that it's not positioned from the top but from the bottom and now this should vertical offset negative 140. I think that should bring it to the bottom of the section. And then for tablet that would be negative 100 and negative 70. I think, not sure. And let's see if that row doesn't need this bottom padding so it could be last in a section. This is not there because it is being moved. And now, let's look at the bottom of our page here. It is how I wanted but the z-index is incorrect. We do need to make sure that this row with the row with the blog module has a higher z-index than the one with the zigzag. So let's just try changing the z-index. Position z-index, let's see. We won't be able to preview, let's try with 4, save. Lovely. That would be our blog design. I do need to copy that paste that into my stylesheet. So again. Okay, and I do need to change that image reference here. That it only targets images inside article, not any image tag in that section. Okay, so that would be all.

I think we've managed to create a quite nice blog section, and it would work for our blog, our categories and search results as well.