ERDivaLook

What is Div#a Look?

Much like ExcelLook, that vends excel pages, Diva look generates a Web 2.0 interface for DirectToWeb.
More specifically, it generates pages that are:

- **Tablesless** or use Semantic markup
- (x)HTML5 compliant
- Sans images, inline styles or presentation attributes

They make use of:

- CSS **themes**
- Scriptaculous **effects**
- Javascript **widgets**
- **Ajax**

Why Table-less Markup?

Scriptaculous, jQuery effects, etc work by manipulating CSS attributes.
Mostly they don't work very well on tables, if at all.
Furthermore, the more sophisticated widgets (like accordions) make use of effects and so don't function as they should without.

This is even more true for unobtrusive javascript for which table-less markup is usually a prerequisite.
Like jQuery, which takes this a step further, by applying functionality via CSS selectors.
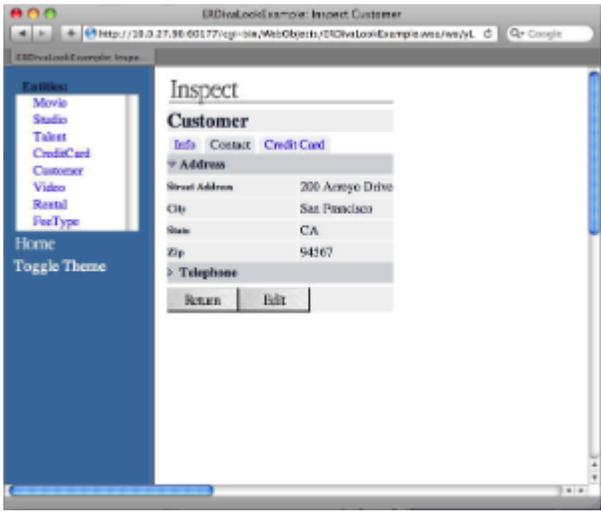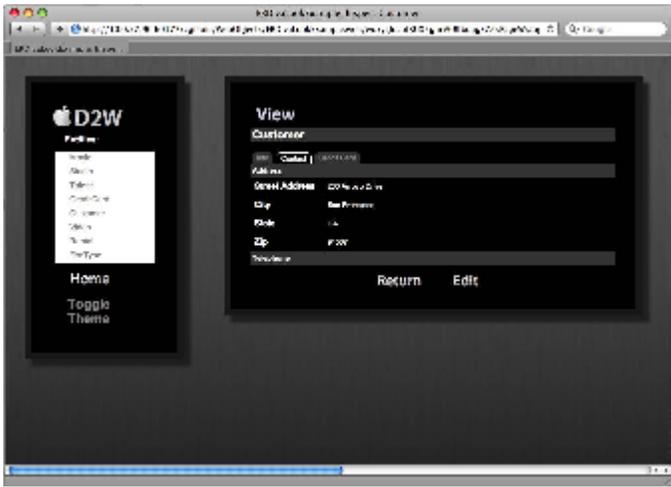(So for jQuery it is an absolute requirement).

Therefore, if you are developing a Web 2.0/Ajax UI, the transition to table-less markup is an imperative.

What is a Diva Theme?

In ERDivaLook, or Diva for short, your application is not complete without a CSS theme.
All images, layout, colors and font information are maintained in the CSS.

All your customizations to the look and layout of your application is also done in the CSS (and via D2W rules).

Examples:

Neutral	WebObjects	Simple
D2W Neutral look reverse engineered as a Diva Theme	D2W WebObjects look reverse engineered as a Diva Theme	*Simple* th
Included in ERDivaLookExample	*Included in ERDivaLookExample*	Shawn Cl

The above are a sample of themes for Diva look. The first two are included in the `Wonder/Examples/Ajax/ERDivaLookExample` app.
The graphics designer Eduardo Cesario wrote up his experience of developing his *Organica Creativa* design for an early prototype of ERDivaLook on his blog.

HowTos

- How to debug a D2W application
- How to set the Theme of a Diva Look app
  - Layout of a Diva Look Page
- How to set up the Properties of a Diva app
- How to test a Diva app with Selenium
- How to use a Detail List Page
- How to use an Embedded D2WList
- How to use CSS and D2W Rules Instead of Custom Components
- How to use Dynamic D2W
- How to Write D2W Rules

Features

1. CSS Themes

CSS theme you give your application is **fully-customizable**.
However, Diva lacks CSS theming tools (such as jQuery ThemeRoller).

Instead, the CSS themes need to be hand-rolled.

2. Scriptaculous Effects

The effects library used for ERDivaLook is Wonder's choice - Scriptaculous.

3. Javascript Widgets

The widgets are all in the Prototype+Scriptaculous family.

4. Well-Formed Semantic Markup

The pages produced by Diva look will pretty much validate as (x)HTML5. Features of the DOM:

- Unique IDs for elements
- Unique form control names
- Use of multiple CSS classes
- Table-less markup (except for tabular data)

5. Ajax Page Configurations

Prototype provides the Ajax functionality in Diva in the form of ERPrototaculous.
Diva look introduces the concept of **Ajax pageConfigs**.
Example page configurations:

- `AjaxQueryMovie`
- `AjaxEditStudio`
- `AjaxListTalent`

6. Dynamic D2W

Ajax + *delayed* D2W rules = dynamic D2W.

External Links

WOWODC 10' - DirecToWeb 2.0