

## Smashing Magazine Newsletter

Folgende Beiträge wurden von **Talita Telma Stöckle** zwischen September 2011 und Februar 2013 geschrieben:

### Issue #58

#### Should I Check My Emails?

The ubiquitous connection to the Web through diverse devices—computers, tablets, smartphones, or even TVs—makes it irresistible to look up your emails every now and again. But have you noticed an increase in the frequency you look at your inbox lately? If the answer to that question is "yes", then we have a solution for you. To check or not to check: that is the question behind [the email flowchart](#) by Wendy Macnaughton. In a very well-humored way, it helps you decide how urgent a peek into your inbox is depending on the situation you are in. Reading between the lines will show you (literally) that most of the time constant checking is unnecessary. Think twice before opening your email client next time! *(tts)*

#### Beautiful Slide Decks On Note & Point

Imagine this situation: you have an opportunity to develop a design project and have to prepare a proposal. There are so many ideas for the content of the proposal, but how do you present them properly? Should you invest time for developing an extra design just for this presentation? Well, [Note and Point](#) can help you find the starting point you need. On their site, Dave Ruiz and Christian curate beautiful presentations from Keynote, PowerPoint and SlideRocket, and provide a PDF deck for each presentation. You can reach for reference anytime, or if you have a beautiful presentation that you made yourself, just submit it and enrich the collection with your design! *(tts)*

### Issue #57

#### Art In My Coffee

Coffee is the world's most consumed beverage, and we bet this is reality for you, too. Just picture your meetings, breaks, brainstormings, or the long nights working, and you'll find a cup of coffee in the scenario. Indeed, coffee can be very inspiring—it accelerates the brain activity, can help prevent some diseases, and plays a social role of binging people together. Jina Bolton and Megan Fisher saw the artistic side of this beverage and created the Tumblr blog [Art In My Coffee](#), which gathers photographs from beautifully prepared cups of coffee. You'll see faces, hearts, teddy bears, flowers and many other decorative foam shapes. It's amazing to see how people's creativity can be applied in such a specific area. *(tts)*

#### Decorated Playlists

The idea of creating personalized playlists is not new. Cassette recorders first allowed creating mix tapes, followed by self-burned CDs, but these practices have become obsolete. The growth of online mixes and playlists have allowed the creation of personalized cover designs for those lists. The Web Designer and former DJ Simon Foster shows how music and design are closely related through a collection of mixes and covers called [Decorated Playlists](#). The mixes are classified by the content, and each design is consistent to the theme chosen for the playlist: with "Ca\$h is King", all the songs are related to money. In "Shapes" you'll hear "Bizarre love triangle", "Four Corners" and "Square Dance Rap". *(tts)*

### Issue #56

#### Free Font: Plastic Type

How creative can you become with type design? Since ancient times up to the digital era, many possibilities and techniques were developed to make written communication not only possible, but also effective and versatile. Besides of its functionality, other qualities of typography were spotlighted throughout time. The designers Luis Armesilla and Christian Del Moral chose to explore the "fun" aspect of it, and created the [free font PLSTK](#). The design was inspired by the plastic industry; the designers wanted to explore how they can use the various forms, shapes and imperfections of plastic within their design. The result of their experiments is a freely available, beautiful, playful font, which is released under Creative Commons Attribution Share Alike license. You can use

the font for commercial as well as non-commercial purposes. Explore another playful side of design with this typographic toy. *(tt)*

## Positive Messages Through Illustrations

There are many ways to give good advice: nice words, a lovely melody, poetry... and sometimes a simple illustration can help to deliver the message. This project features posters that were designed by artists and designers worldwide with one simple purpose: to send a good message out into the world. [Positive Posters](#) is an Australian-based non-profit organization that aims, with the support of designers, to raise international awareness for global social issues. Among many examples you will see graphics about women's rights, social equality, anti-smoking, democracy, campaigns against nuclear energy, etc. Each of them is accompanied by a small tagline that makes sure the audience gets the message—beautiful messages presented in a beautiful way. *(tt)*

### Issue #55

#### Squared Superheroes

How well do you know the characteristics of your favorite superheroes? What kind of weapons do they fight with? How do their masks look like? The graphic designer René Schiffer seems to know all of this very well... at least that is the impression you get when you see his drawing project [Squared Superheroes](#). Instead of following the common tendency for drawing small details (e.g. facial expression, hair, shadows, or even special visual effects), René chose to draw them in a rather laconic, minimal style. He gathered the most important characteristics of each superhero and represented them as squared schemes. When placed side-by-side, the superheroes form a great composition. Now, try to figure out if you recognize your childhood idols! *(tt)*

#### Shoebox Dwelling

Gone are the days in which physical space was an abundant element. Modern life has provoked the growth of population in big cities, and consequently, the rise in square-meter prices. To make it affordable for the majority of their inhabitants, rooms, houses, offices (and even transport packages) have become smaller. But thanks to talented designers, our experiences in small spaces can be very pleasant. Some of rather inventive compositions of objects can be seen at [Shoebox Dwelling](#). The blog, curated by the design journalist Natalia Repolovsky, presents solutions on how to fill the limited space you have with creative compositions of furniture, architecture, storage and decoration accessories. Each post brings information about who designed the feature, how to use it, and where you can find it around the world. This proves that an uncomfortable situation may also be the starting point for creativity. *(tt)*

### Issue #54

#### Color Encyclopedia

As designers, we work with colors, their nuances and combinations every single day. However, sometimes we need more information than specific values, be it CIE-Lab, Hunter-Lab, CIE-Luv, CIE-LCH, XYZ and xyY values, color shades or appropriate color schemes. If you're working with colors regularly, you might be interested in [ColorHexa](#), a free color encyclopedia. You can use it to convert the color code to other systems, blend two or more colors, create a gradient between two colors, and match schemes with complementary colors. Even if you don't need to create a palette, it's fun to study each color and their possibilities. *(tt)*

#### A Quote A Day

What once began as a simple idea of posting a new image with a related quote every day became a huge project named [365 Days of Tumblr](#). Aaron Christopher Judd gathered beautiful photos and artworks and assigned each picture with a quote that fits perfectly to the picture's mood—for every day in a year. In this showcase, all images are tagged and have notes from the author himself as well as by the readers of his tumblog. Now, that's a dedication worth pursuing! *(tt)*

### Issue #53

#### Things Organized Neatly

Being organized may be very helpful in our everyday lives. Some people are naturally organized, and without noticing it, create patterns and rules for systemizing their objects. In case you're one of those talented people who makes a hobby out of this mania, you'd certainly like to visit [Things Organized Neatly](#). In the blog curated by Austin Radcliffe, you'll observe perfectly harmonized compositions that vary in shape, size, material, color, category and related objects. Some examples are vintage matchboxes, headphones, keys, cups, to name a few. There's also the possibility of posting one of your compositions, in case you'd like to show your friends that organization can also be an art in itself. *(tt)*

## Issue #52

### Design Seeds: For All Those Who Love Color Palettes

Our universe offers us a huge variety of tones and hues, but we seem to pick similar palettes every time we start a new design. Does this happen to you, too? Then maybe it's time for you to explore the endless possibilities of [color palettes on Design Seeds](#). In her blog posts, Jessica — a passionate lover of colors and color palettes — features palettes for various situations: travel, fashion, furniture materials, decoration, among others. You can search by color value or the overall theme of a palette. So for your next project (or even your new house) this may be a site worth revisiting for a delightful color combination. *(tt)*

### Get Inspired With Paul Roger's Artwork

Artistic inspiration can arise from different channels: music, sports, work, leisure. But when it comes to graphic art, the majority of people will get their ideas through visual stimuli. If you are among those who need daily creative input, you might find what you are looking for among [these illustrations by Paul Roger](#). These posters are beautiful examples of vintage style graphic design mixed with a refined metaphoric spice. And if you're looking for carefully curated collections of inspiration, take a close look at [designworklife](#), a side project by the creative minds behind the design agency Seamless Creative. *(tt)*

## Issue #51

### Showcase Of Typographic Posters

When the subject of typography comes up, the first things that come to most people's minds are text, fonts and arrangement of space. Indeed, the main function of typography is to make language visible and understandable. But this function can also be applied to expressive artwork. André Felipe, a graphic designer who loves typography and its unorthodox uses. The project features literally hundreds of posters, a great resource that could be either a new platform to show your talent or a reference for your next design project. *(tt)*

## Issue #50

### Color Palette Generator: Color Thief

Starting a new design concept takes creativity, talent and special skills. Sometimes all your new client gives you is a single picture, from which you have to create an entire color palette. Due dates are always too soon, and you would always like more time to invest in conceptual development. Does this sound like a common predicament? How about easing the process with the help of [Color Thief](#)? Created by Lokesh Dhakar, this tool uses a script to identify the dominant color from a picture and the adjacent colors with which to compose the palette. Try incorporating this little service in your workflow next time and you'll find you have more time for creative brainstorming sessions. *(tt)*

## Issue #49

### Boomerang for Gmail

Over the years, Google Mail has kept gaining popularity, now becoming one of the most popular mail providers worldwide. Many features have been added over time, yet in addition to the functionality offered by the provider, developers are creating tools to improve the user experience. One good example of that is [Boomerang for Gmail](#). The tool is a Firefox / Chrome plugin that lets you take control of when you send and receive email messages. It helps you manage your inbox, schedules emails for later, sets follow-up reminders for important messages, and advises you of messages that haven't been responded to. Its developers keep track of new

technologies, and the tool has recently become available for mobile, too. Put it to the test and you'll find that you never lose conversations again. (tt)

## Issue #48

### Iconic Tribute

There are many ways one can interpret a movie. The creative heads at *DKNG Studios* have designed a poster as a tribute to Bill Murray representing every movie in which Bill Murray has acted — from 1975 until today. The [poster](#) features icons that are designed with remarkable elements which synthesize the movie, accompanied by the year in which the movie was released. You'll be able to recognize "*Ghostbusters*", "*Charlie's Angels*", "*Coffee and Cigarettes*" at one glance. But in case you don't manage to guess all of them — don't worry! You can check the titles at the bottom of the poster. Another memory game to question how well your own memory serves you! (tt)

## Issue #47

### Meaningful Interface Transitions

In the last couple of years, the possibilities in interaction design have become more sophisticated and the difficulty in explaining their process to your client still remains. Does this sound like your reality? Then try to include some of the [meaningful transitions](#) created by Johannes Tonollo in your next UI design presentation and you'll see how helpful they are. There are different categories in [UI motion graphics](#) which include orientation, spatial extension, awakening controls, highlight, feedback and feedforward. In each category, you will find more details and possibilities which are shown in a simple yet concise way. One thing is for sure: your next brainstorming session with your client will surely have a whole new perspective. (tt)

## Food Illustrations By Lana Porter

You've most probably seen a great variety on food artworks, such as paintings, drawings and even photographs. If you've had fun exploring these possibilities of food art, you will certainly provide your eyes with a treat by checking out this postcard exhibition by [Simplifood](#). With quite simple shapes and colors, Lana Porter manages to show the everyday items we usually have on our menus by adding little details which help differentiate a bagel with cream cheese from a slice of pineapple or a hot dog from a bratwurst. The perspectives and colors used are also very appetizing, so mind the warning: you might get very hungry by the end of the album! (tt)

## Issue #46

### Testing Your Typography Skills

If you are passionate about typography and have fun experimenting with glyphs, then you will certainly like the rather unusual type-design game created by the interaction designer Mark MacKay. This JavaScript-based letter-shaping game is called [Shape Type](#). The idea is simple: you get 10 modified letters from various classic typefaces, and you have to try to make them right by dragging curves along their axes. You can hold `Shift` to snap to an axis and hit `Alt` for a quick preview. After adjusting a letter, you can compare your results with the original letter and measure their similarity. Once you have passed the 10 levels of the game, you can tweet your final score. It's an engaging way to explore what makes or breaks a glyph. (tt)

## Issue #45

### Online Garage Sales

Perhaps you still remember this: some years ago, when it was time for spring cleaning, yard sales popped up around the neighborhood. Used books, toys, clothing, even furniture from nearby families were made available at appealing prices and in good condition. With the help of online technology, nowadays you will find such sales online, as in the personalized store [Copious](#). Unlike regular online stores and auction websites, Copious tells you the story behind each product, who it belonged to and, occasionally, why they want to sell it. Put a social network on top of this model, and you've got quite an amusing experience for selling and buying stuff with people you are connected to on Twitter and Facebook. And you might even find those limited-run shoes you were looking for, who knows? (tt)

## Making Your Ideas Happen With the Finish Weekend

Being a creative person is not always easy. Have you ever passed a due date or even abandoned a project just because you couldn't find the time for it in between your ongoing projects? Do creative ideas sometimes pop into your head, but you feel that turning them into a reality would be too great a challenge? If you've answered yes to any these questions, then you've got to join the [Finish Weekend](#) project. The guys from Collective Idea have announced November 12 to 13 as the official Finish Weekend, and they are encouraging everybody to commit to launching something. The team is inviting everyone to join them at their office and to ship whatever it is they're working on. Perhaps you could invite everyone to your office, too, and spend a weekend working together on creative side projects? (tt)

### Issue #44

#### Instances of Popular Typography

In the days of old, when photography was purely analog, you had to wait patiently until your film was processed to see the results of your shots. A bit later, Polaroid became the secret weapon of instant photography. After the boom of digital cameras, Polaroid became an art tool, as you can now see in the artwork featured in the [Vernacular Typography Polaroids](#) photoset on Flickr. In this photo gallery, you will find over 130 images, each a composite of four photographs. Each image is a mixture of hand-made signs, local advertising and popular vintage typography. It's interesting to see the variety of writing styles and the way that regular people used them. Vernacular art can be indeed fascinating. (tt)

#### A Curiosity a Day

Did you know that Apollo 11 had only 20 seconds worth of fuel left when it landed? Or that the tone for an incoming message on a Nokia phone is "SMS" in morse code? Or that the first smiley ever written was in 1982? Or that Pablo Picasso was accused of stealing the Mona Lisa? If you are eager to learn more curiosities like these, you should check the website [Learn Something Every Day](#). Two years ago, the designers of Young studio started gathering information about various areas of interest, such as popular personalities, the natural sciences and worldwide curiosities. Every day until August 2011, they published a new illustration, presented as a humorous comic with a vibrant colorful illustration. You can check out most of them online, but they are also released as special paperbacks. A simple idea, yet so many surprising facts. (tt)

### Issue #43

#### Navigate Streets as They Appeared in the Past

Have you ever thought what you could do with those photos from your grandparents that are sitting in the attic? Before time and dust do them in, you could pick out pictures of buildings, parks and monuments and assign geographical locations to them on the map. Curious to see what your neighborhood looked like a hundred years ago? Check out [WhatWasThere](#), a resource that allows users to navigate familiar streets as they appeared in the past. Just enter the name of your city, state or country, and the pins will show you locations for which old photos are available. Click on the photo and see other details, such as the year the picture was taken and the address or name of the building. You can even connect it to Google Street View to get a realistic view of what this location looked like in the past. (tt)

#### Small Is Good: Showcase of Tiny and Beautiful Stuff

Almost everyone collects something that they have a fondness for: postcards, coins, key holders, stamps. Even without consciously thinking about it, we start collecting whatever we find beautiful, interesting or special. In most cases, these objects are a reflection of our personality. If you feel part of the "collecting community," then you will certainly like [LessThan100g](#), a blog dedicated to tiny and beautiful stuff. Specially developed to showcase objects that weigh less than 100 grams, this website presents a unique selection of bottle caps, vintage erasers, old stamps, buttons and even little paper animals. Every issue comes with a brief history of the collection, including the owners' names, curious facts and conversation starters (such as "Is bigger really better?"). A wonderful small resource that makes us think about the elegance of the simplest things that surround us every day. (tt)

## Issue #42

### Creating Buzz With Launch Effect

It just happens sometimes: suddenly, you get a vision for a new product, service or store. You'll have to hash out the details of implementation, but the main idea is there, and you know exactly what to do. So, what's the first step? You could start by registering the domain and putting a pre-launch page online. As a matter of fact, the WordPress theme [Launch Effect](#) is freely available for this very purpose. The theme enables you to tease your audience with your idea while building up a great number of promoters of your product. The one-page theme lets visitors sign up using their email. Upon signing up, the page generates a special URL for them to share with their friends, so that you can track your most active promoters and reward them for spreading the word. What more do you need from a pre-launch page? This is a good tool to bookmark for your next creative breakthrough or start-up idea. (tt)

### Typing With Style Requires Inspiration

Typography is one of the most important elements of design. It can make all the difference, turning your product either into a useful, usable delight or the audience's worst nightmare. Rather than commit the common mistake of setting type randomly, why not study and explore resources on typography offered by [Typetoken](#)? Typetoken offers not only examples of good typography, but also interviews with designers, discussion on typography, visual language artwork, typefaces, and book announcements. It certainly is a goldmine for explorations in typography for your next design. (tt)

## Issue #41

### Easy Scheduling With Doodle

The name may be familiar, recalling that famous search engine, but the product is different. [Doodle](#) is a tool that helps you pick the best time to schedule a meeting or event. There are no restrictions if you are a sporadic user and want to invite friends over for the occasional barbecue. Choose a name for your party, suggest a date and time, add a location, and then invite your friends (via email) to choose a time slot. The address is conveniently linked to Google Maps. There are other options for those who need daily organization support. MyDoodle is the free account for frequent users. MeetMe allows you to coordinate meetings with other users. And Doodle Mobile connects your account to your iPhone or Android. One can also combine the Doodle Calendar with Google Calendar, Outlook Express, Exchange, Lotus Notes and other calendars. A simple and useful tool than can save you a lot of time and frustration. (tt)

### Your Brand on the Line with the Tag!neGuru

If you want to boost your business and are looking for resources on branding, you'd better consult the [Tag!neGuru](#). The website offers helpful information on various techniques for writing slogans for companies and products. It describes the various kinds of tag lines, explains what to do and what to avoid, and revisits famous tag lines such as "I'm loving it," "Think different" and "Just do it." One downside: most of the tag lines cited from politicians, athletes, musicians, companies and cities are US-based. The creators should have recognized that the market reaches beyond national boundaries. (tt)

## Issue #40

### World Time Buddy: Simplified Coordinated Universal Time

Companies with collaborators around the world, as well as people who live far away from their dear ones and people who simply have many friends abroad can now count on a new tool. [World Time Buddy](#) is a tool that helps you coordinate time zones. Choose a home zone, and add up to nine other places. The interface is easy to use and shows concise information: the days and times of the locations you have selected are conveniently listed in a column. To help you avoid scheduling a video conference at 3:00 am, the hours of the day are differentiated by color. Working hours are shown in light yellow, early morning and evening hours are in light blue, and nighttime hours are in dark blue. Once you've decided on a time by clicking on the relevant column, you can send it via Gmail, insert it in your Google calendar, copy it to your clipboard or share a Web page that lists the details. Another simple idea that works. (tt)

## An Unconventional Puzzle

Show us what's in your bag and we'll tell you who you are. That is the motto of Jason Travis's photographic project [Persona](#). The home page shows a mosaic of people and their personal effects. Click on a segment to get a closer look. Each picture consists of two parts. The upper half is a portrait of a person, standing against a background that matches their style. The lower half of the image shows the person's belongings, sitting on a surface that matches the objects themselves. Although we all know how diverse the people of the world are, the variety of colors, faces and styles presented by Travis is still surprising and beautiful. (tt)