Conversations with Architects about Drupal
Research, Documentation, and Process
Jeff Traynor, Solutions Architect
In his book De Architectura, Marcus Vitruvius Pollio describes three fundamental principles of what great architecture should accomplish:
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- **Firmatis**: It should stand up robustly and remain in good condition — it should be durable.
- **Utilitas**: It should be useful and function well for the people using it — it should be functional.
- **Venustatis**: It should delight people and raise their spirits — it should be beautiful.
History
Conversations with Architects about Drupal

Architecture

• The Craftsman

Web Development
History
Conversations with Architects about Drupal

Architecture

• The Craftsman
• The Master Builder
History
Conversations with Architects about Drupal

Architecture

- The Craftsman
- The Master Builder
- The Architect

Web Development
History
Conversations with Architects about Drupal

Architecture

• The Craftsman
• The Master Builder
• The Architect

Why?
History
Conversations with Architects about Drupal

Architecture

• The Craftsman
• The Master Builder
• The Architect

Why?
• Technology

Web Development
History
Conversations with Architects about Drupal

Architecture

• The Craftsman
• The Master Builder
• The Architect

Why?
• Technology
• Standardization

Web Development
History
Conversations with Architects about Drupal

Architecture

• The Craftsman
• The Master Builder
• The Architect

Why?

• Technology
• Standardization
• Specialization
History
Conversations with Architects about Drupal

Architecture
• The Craftsman
• The Master Builder
• The Architect

Why?
• Technology
• Standardization
• Specialization

Web Development
History
Conversations with Architects about Drupal

Architecture
• The Craftsman
• The Master Builder
• The Architect

Why?
• Technology
• Standardization
• Specialization

Web Development
• The Developer
History
Conversations with Architects about Drupal

Architecture

• The Craftsman
• The Master Builder
• The Architect

Why?
• Technology
• Standardization
• Specialization

Web Development

• The Developer
• The Webmaster
History
Conversations with Architects about Drupal

Architecture

• The Craftsman
• The Master Builder
• The Architect

Web Development

• The Developer
• The Webmaster
• The Site Builder

Why?
• Technology
• Standardization
• Specialization
History
Conversations with Architects about Drupal

Architectures

- The Craftsman
- The Master Builder
- The Architect

Why?
- Technology
- Standardization
- Specialization

Web Development

- The Developer
- The Webmaster
- The Site Builder

Why?
## History
Conversations with Architects about Drupal

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Architecture</th>
<th>Web Development</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• The Craftsman</td>
<td>• The Developer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• The Master Builder</td>
<td>• The Webmaster</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• The Architect</td>
<td>• The Site Builder</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Why?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Architecture</th>
<th>Web Development</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Technology</td>
<td>• Technology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Standardization</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Specialization</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
History
Conversations with Architects about Drupal

Architecture

• The Craftsman
• The Master Builder
• The Architect

Why?
• Technology
• Standardization
• Specialization

Web Development

• The Developer
• The Webmaster
• The Site Builder

Why?
• Technology
• Standardization
History
Conversations with Architects about Drupal

Architecture
• The Craftsman
• The Master Builder
• The Architect

Why?
• Technology
• Standardization
• Specialization

Web Development
• The Developer
• The Webmaster
• The Site Builder

Why?
• Technology
• Standardization
• Specialization
The (Obvious) Differences
Conversations with Architects about Drupal
The Role of Documentation
Conversations with Architects about Drupal

Clarity

• “If you can’t explain it to a six year old, you don’t understand it yourself” – Albert Einstein
The Role of Documentation
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Accountability

• Budgets & Scope creep
• “Being an Advocate for the Owner”
The Role of Documentation
Conversations with Architects about Drupal

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• “Being an Advocate for the Owner”

Collaboration
• A shared understanding
• A tool creative process
Feasibility Study
Conversations with Architects about Drupal
User Personas
Conversations with Architects about Drupal
Schematic Design
Conversations with Architects about Drupal
Information Architecture
Conversations with Architects about Drupal
Wireframes
Conversations with Architects about Drupal
Design Mockups
Conversations with Architects about Drupal

Friday, January 31, 14
Contract Administration
Conversations with Architects about Drupal

• Proprietary Specifications
• Performance Specifications
Technical Design Document
Conversations with Architects about Drupal
“Seek to understand a design problem before chasing after other solutions.”
“Don’t force-fit solutions to old problems onto new problems.”
“Remove yourself from prideful investment in your project.”
A Process Oriented Approach
Conversations with Architects about Drupal

“Be slow to fall in love with your ideas.”
A Process Oriented Approach
Conversations with Architects about Drupal

“Make design decisions conditionally, with the understanding that they might not work as you continue towards a solution.”
A Process Oriented Approach
Conversations with Architects about Drupal

“Know when to change and when to stick to previous decisions.”
A Process Oriented Approach
Conversations with Architects about Drupal

“Accept as normal the anxiety that comes from not knowing what to do.”
A Process Oriented Approach
Conversations with Architects about Drupal

“Always ask ‘What if...?’ regardless of how satisfied you are with your solution”
A Process Oriented Approach
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“Properly gaining control of the design process feels like losing control of the design process.”
“An improved design process is the most important thing you’ll take with you to your next project.”
Thank You

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