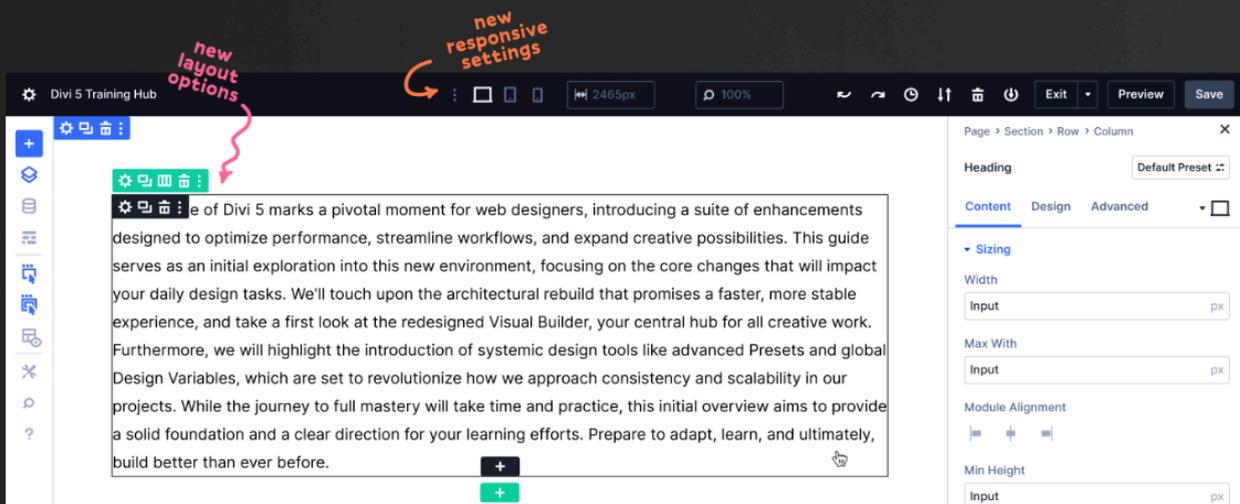




Divi 5

Exploration Guide

Your step-by-step action plan to master the new Divi with clarity and confidence



What is this guide?

This isn't just another tutorial - it's your practical roadmap to exploring Divi 5 safely and effectively. Whether you're curious about the changes or ready to dive in, you'll get hands-on experience that builds real confidence.

Divi 5 represents the biggest evolution in Divi's history. New layout possibilities, streamlined responsive editing, design systems with variables, and a completely rebuilt interface. It's exciting, but it can also feel overwhelming. That's exactly why this guide exists - to give you a structured, step-by-step approach that turns curiosity into competence.

The best way to learn Divi 5 is by doing - not just watching.

What you'll accomplish with this guide:

You'll have a working Divi 5 test site, understand the key features that will transform your workflow, and feel confident making decisions about your transition. Most importantly, you'll gain hands-on experience - not just theoretical knowledge.

Step 1

Set Up Your Divi 5 Playground

Goal: Create a safe space to explore without breaking anything important.

Your Action Items:

- Create your test environment** using one of these options:
 - [Local by Flywheel](#) (free and recommended for beginners)
 - Your hosting provider's staging feature
 - Subdomain on your hosting account
- Install Divi 5** (latest available version).
You can download Divi 5 from your [Elegant Themes member area](#).
- Double-check** this is NOT a client site or live website.
- Add a browser bookmark** with a clear name like "Divi 5 Lab". Name your test site something memorable like "divi5-playground" - you'll be coming back to it often!

Success Check:

- You can access your test site and see Divi 5 activated.
- You have quick and easy access to test things out anytime.

Step 2

Get Comfortable with the New Interface

Goal: Feel at home in the redesigned Visual Builder.

Your Action Items:

- Create a new page** and launch the Visual Builder
- Test the new toolbars:**
 - Top toolbar: Page settings, responsive controls, undo/redo
 - Left toolbar: Layers, Wireframe view, X-Ray mode
 - Right toolbar: Element settings and breadcrumbs
- Switch between Light & Dark mode** using the toggle in the top toolbar
- Try Wireframe View and X-Ray mode** from the left toolbar
- Use breadcrumbs** in the Settings panel to navigate between elements easily
- Using the plus icon from the top of the left toolbar, **import a premade layout** and explore how it's structured
- Check the **Layers panel** to get a quick overview of your page structure to easily find what you want.
- Use the Quick Actions Menu:** right-click on any element and explore options like duplicating elements and copying, pasting and extending attributes.
- Test one-click editing:** click anywhere on a module to instantly open its settings

Experiment with panel docking:

- Float panels (like Divi 4)
- Dock them left or right
- Group multiple panels into tabs

Success Check:

- ✓ You can navigate the interface without getting lost.
- ✓ You can add and modify basic elements confidently.

Step 3

Explore Revolutionary Layout Features

Goal: Understand the structural freedom Divi 5 gives you.

Your Action Items:

- Test Nested Rows:** add a row inside a column (game-changer!)
- Play with Custom Column Widths:** set specific percentages (like 65% / 35%)

- Explore Module Groups:** create a module group, add a few modules within it, and experiment with the design settings that apply to the entire group.

- Try modern CSS units and functions in spacing/sizing fields:**
 - `clamp(16px, 4vw, 32px)` for fluid and responsive font sizes
 - `2rem` instead of `32px` for spacing that adapts to the user's font size preferences, improving accessibility
 - `calc(100vh - 80px)` for hero section with full viewport height minus a fixed header height

- Test Flexbox settings** for aligning elements (*coming soon*)

- Rebuild a previous website section or page** within your Divi 5 test site, consciously utilizing nested rows, custom column widths, and module groups. Observe and note how these new structural elements simplify the layout and potentially reduce the number of sections and rows needed compared to the original build in an older Divi version.

Success Check:

- You've created nested rows and grouped modules successfully
- You understand how these new structures simplify complex layouts
- You feel confident experimenting with modern CSS units

Step 4

Master Responsive Editing

Goal: Learn Divi 5's streamlined approach to responsive design.

Your Action Items:

- Switch between views** using the Devices Icons in the top toolbar
- Try canvas scaling:** drag the panel edges to resize the canvas and see different screen sizes within breakpoints. Experience proportional scaling when breakpoint width exceeds canvas size
- Enable/disable breakpoints** using the toggle switches in settings. Notice the difference: Up to 7 breakpoints vs. Divi 4's basic 3! Remember - custom breakpoints settings affect your entire website, not just individual pages.
- Explore All Available Breakpoints:** test the new breakpoint structure:
 - Phone: < 767px (smartphones)
 - Phone Wide: < 860px (landscape phones)
 - Tablet: < 980px (portrait tablets)
 - Tablet Wide: < 1024px (landscape tablets)
 - Desktop: > 981px (standard desktops)
 - Widescreen: > 1280px (larger laptops/monitors)
 - Ultra Wide: > 1440px (high-res monitors)
- Customize a breakpoint:** set phone breakpoint to 360px for smaller devices

- Create a text module and adjust font sizes for multiple breakpoints. Notice **Desktop First Approach** and how all breakpoints inherit design settings:
Phone < Phone Wide < Tablet < Tablet Wide < **Desktop** > Widescreen > Ultra Wide
- Document which breakpoints matter most for your typical projects
- Compare your workflow to Divi 4 - notice how much smoother everything feels?

Success Check:

- You can confidently make responsive adjustments and understand the "active view" logic and desktop-first approach
- You have a plan for adjusting custom breakpoints to optimize your workflow

Step 5

Build Your First Design System

Goal: Use Variables and Presets to work smarter, not harder.

Your Action Items:

- Create a **Number Design Variable**: consider values for consistent container spacing or font sizing, utilizing the CSS `clamp()` function for a fluid and responsive sizing.

- Optionally, Create a **Text Design Variable**: think of reusable text snippets like a business name, tagline, or contact detail
- Create an **Image Design Variable**: think of your secondary logo variations or a commonly used icon or background decoration.
- Optionally, create a **Link Design Variable** for any external URLs used repeatedly. This allows you to update them in one place if they ever change
- Define **Color Design Variables**:
 - Define your base colors (primary, secondary, heading and body text).
 - Add brand colors and consider adding multiple color variations.
- Create **Font Design Variables** for your main typographic styles by assigning font families to heading font and body font. Consider creating variables for specific uses like accent font or monospace font.
- Create an **Option Group Preset**:
 - Style a specific group of options within a module (e.g., the "Border" settings or "Box Shadow" settings).
 - Click on the Group Preset icon next to the control and **Add New Preset** for this option group (e.g., "Subtle Card Border" or "Standard Drop Shadow"). Remember to use your Design Variables (like color variables) when styling!
- Create an **Element Preset**:
 - Thoroughly style an entire module (e.g., a Text module, or Blurb).
 - Use your newly created Design Variables for its colors, fonts, spacing, etc.
 - Click on the Preset dropdown and create **New Preset From Current Styles**
- Apply your Presets**: add new, unstyled modules and apply both your Option Group and Element Presets to see them in action.

- Test the Global Power of Variables:
 - Go back to your Variable Panel and change the value of one of your core Design Variables (e.g., update font size number variable or accent color variable).
 - Observe how this change automatically updates any Presets and module instances using that variable across your page.

- Create a **Brand Style Guide** Page:
 - On a new page, add examples of all your key styled elements: headings (using font variables/presets), body text (using font variables/presets), buttons (using presets), color swatches (using color variables), etc. Create a layout to visually represent your design system.

🌟 **Important Tip:** don't try to build your entire design system at once! Start with a few key variables and presets for your most common elements. You can always expand it later.

- Try Exporting Your Style Guide Page:
 - Use the Divi Builder's export layout feature from the Top Bar to save your Style Guide page as a .json file.
 - Note: this exported file will contain your Presets and Design Variables, making it a great starting point for new projects. (You can test importing it onto a blank page or new site to see what transfers).

Success Check:

- ✅ You can create different types of Design Variables in the Variable Panel.
- ✅ You've created and applied at least one Option Group Preset and one Element Preset that use your Design Variables.
- ✅ You've seen how changing a Design Variable can globally update your styles.
- ✅ You've started a basic Brand Style Guide page.

Step 6

Enhance Your Control with CSS Basics

Goal: Understand why CSS is still valuable with Divi 5 and take first steps to build your confidence.

Your Action Items:

- Add simple custom CSS to a module:** try giving a link within a Text module a unique hover effect. For example, make it change the background color on hover.

✨ **Important Tip:** Remember to add your custom CSS to the "Custom CSS" area of the specific module (Advanced tab > Custom CSS > Free-form CSS), or for more global changes, to your Child Theme's style.css or Divi > Theme Options > Custom CSS. For module-specific tweaks, starting in the module itself is often easiest!

✨ **Hint:** Divi uses the keyword `selector` in its Free-form CSS fields to refer to the main element you're styling. To target links (`a` tags) inside that element and change their hover background, you could use:

```
selector a:hover {  
    background-color: #eee;  
}
```

- Use AI to Understand CSS:** find a simple CSS rule online or in Divi's output. Ask an AI tool (like ChatGPT) to explain what that CSS does and how it works. Focus on understanding, not just copying.
- Explore clamp() for Fluidity:** take the time to fully grasp how this CSS function works to confidently work with Divi 5's responsive sizing system.

- Get Familiar with Flexbox Basics:** read one short introductory article or watch a quick (5-10 min) video explaining the basic concepts of CSS Flexbox. This will prepare you for when it fully arrives in Divi.

✨ **Important Tip:** If CSS feels intimidating, commit to exploring just one new CSS concept or property each week. Small, consistent steps build lasting skills!

Success Check:

- ✓ You've successfully applied a small piece of custom CSS.
- ✓ You've used AI to better understand a CSS rule.
- ✓ You have a good idea of what Flexbox is about.

Final Thoughts

Congratulations on completing the Divi 5 Exploration Guide! You've taken significant first steps into understanding the power and potential of this incredible update. Remember, this journey of learning is ongoing, and every bit of practice builds your confidence and skill.

What you've explored here is just the tip of the iceberg. Divi 5, with its new architecture, design systems, and responsive capabilities, opens up a new era for us as Divi designers. The key is to keep learning, keep experimenting, and find a supportive environment to grow.

Ready to Go Deeper?

Master Divi 5 and Transform Your Web Design Workflow with `divi.stylist{academy}`



Hi, I'm Ania!

For over a decade, I've lived and breathed Divi, not just as a designer but as an educator and tool creator (you might know my Divi Toolbox plugin!). What really gets me excited is turning your web design overwhelm into those beautiful "AHA!" moments.

Through Divi Stylist Academy, I've helped hundreds of designers master their craft with less stress and more confidence, and I'd love to help you too!

This Exploration Guide has given you a fantastic launching pad into Divi 5. You've seen the potential, you've taken the first steps. Now, imagine what you could achieve with a structured, supportive, and truly transformative learning experience...

[Discover Divi Stylist Academy](#)

***DSA isn't just another course - it's a unique live program where we work together to rebuild your design process with Divi 5 at its heart, equipping you with the skills and systems to thrive as a modern web designer.**

divi.stylist{ academy

This is more than just a Divi 5 features course. It's a comprehensive, 12-week live program designed to help you rebuild your web design workflow with Divi 5 and gain a modern, practical skillset. Inside DSA, you will:

✓ **Strengthen Your Design Foundations**

Learn timeless design principles that elevate your work, regardless of the tools you use.

✓ **Master Divi 5 In-Depth**

Go beyond the surface and learn how to strategically leverage every new feature – from the supercharged Visual Builder and advanced responsive controls to building powerful design systems with Presets and Design Variables.

✓ **Become a CSS Whiz (for Divi!)**

Gain practical CSS knowledge tailored specifically for customizing Divi, allowing you to break free from theme limitations and add unique touches with confidence.

✓ **Leverage AI Tools Effectively**

Discover how to use AI as your creative assistant to speed up your workflow and overcome design challenges.

✓ **Build Efficient Systems**

Learn to create reusable assets, starter templates, and streamlined processes that save you time and make your business more profitable.

✓ **Benefit from Live Learning & Support**

Get your questions answered in real-time during weekly live Q&A sessions and receive personalized feedback. With Divi 5 evolving, live support is more valuable than ever!

✓ **Join an Amazing Community**

Connect with like-minded Divi designers for 12 months of ongoing support, collaboration, and encouragement. You're never alone in DSA!

[Discover Divi Stylist Academy](#)