

MOSS UI Development

Applying custom visual design to a MOSS website using Master Pages and CSS

09: Tips for Styling the Navigation Control

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MOSS Dynamic Nav

The menu control in MOSS (`<SharePoint:AspMenu>`) is similar to the menu control in .NET (`<asp:Menu>`). You can use the same properties to style a MOSS menu as you would to style a .NET menu.

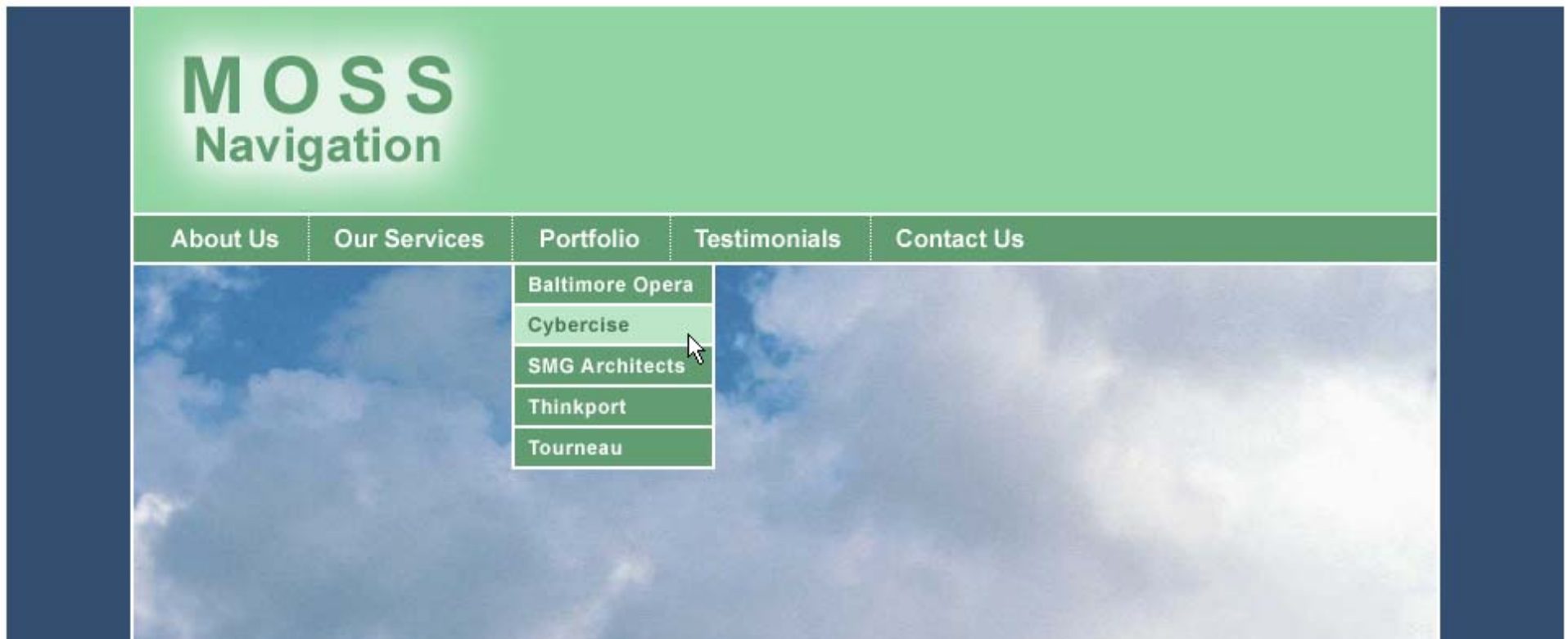
However, most of the styling can be done with CSS.



Static and Dynamic Items

In the menu control code, you will see Static item properties and Dynamic item properties.

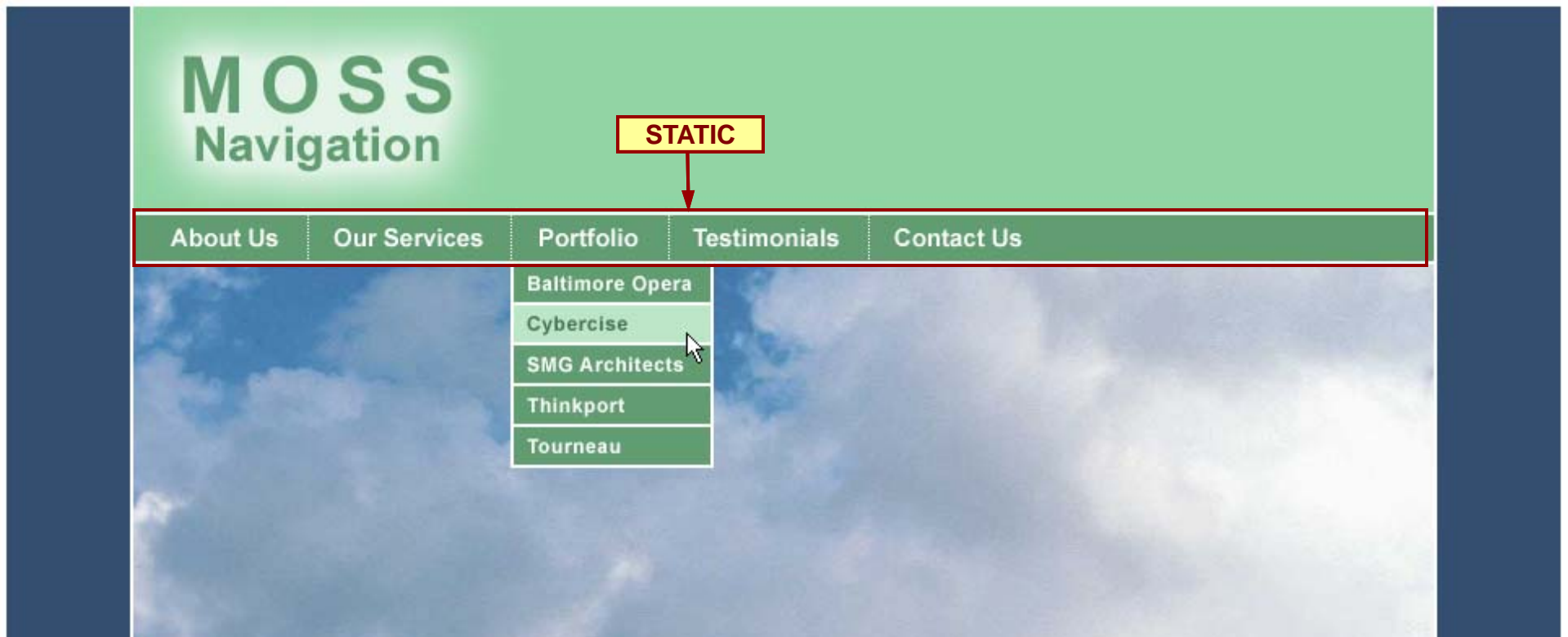
Static refers to the root navigation items and **Dynamic** refers to the flyout navigation items.



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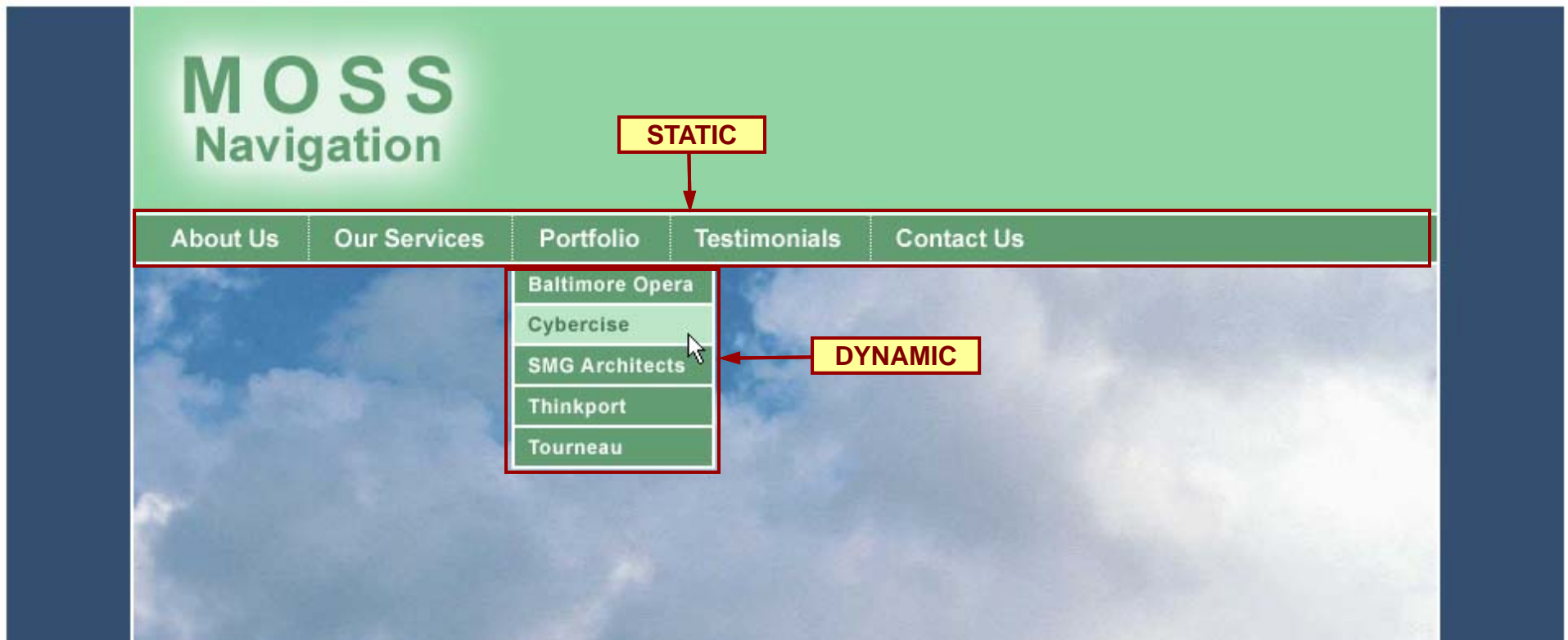
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CSS Classes

In the master page, look for the <SharePoint:AspMenu> control. Several CSS classes have been already assigned to the Static and Dynamic items of the navigation menu.

```
<SharePoint:AspMenu ... >  
  <StaticMenuItemStyle CssClass="CLIENT_staticNavItem" />  
  <StaticSelectedStyle CssClass="CLIENT_staticNavSelected" />  
  <StaticHoverStyle CssClass="CLIENT_staticNavHover" />  
  <DynamicMenuStyle CssClass="CLIENT_dynamicNav"/>  
  <DynamicMenuItemStyle CssClass="CLIENT_dynamicNavItem" />  
  <DynamicHoverStyle CssClass="CLIENT_dynamicNavHover" />  
  <DynamicSelectedStyle CssClass="CLIENT_dynamicNavSelected" />  
</SharePoint:AspMenu>
```



CSS Classes

Change the class names to the prefix that you have been using for the project. Then you can use these classes in your custom stylesheet and begin styling the navigation.

```
<SharePoint:AspMenu ... >  
  <StaticMenuItemStyle CssClass="EMAG_staticNavItem" />  
  <StaticSelectedStyle CssClass="EMAG_staticNavSelected" />  
  <StaticHoverStyle CssClass="EMAG_staticNavHover" />  
  <DynamicMenuStyle CssClass="EMAG_dynamicNav"/>  
  <DynamicMenuItemStyle CssClass="EMAG_dynamicNavItem" />  
  <DynamicHoverStyle CssClass="EMAG_dynamicNavHover" />  
  <DynamicSelectedStyle CssClass="EMAG_dynamicNavSelected"/>  
</SharePoint:AspMenu>
```



Rendered Navigation

- In a browser, the **AspMenu control will be rendered as nested tables**, whether you choose to have a horizontal or vertical navigation. The navigation items should be styled with this in mind.
- In the rendered code, MOSS applies the same class name to different nested elements, such as `<table>`, `<tr>`, `<td>`, and `<a>`.

Code rendered by MOSS:

```
<table class="EMAG_dynamicNavItem zz1_TopNavigationMenu_6" cellpadding="0"
cellspacing="0" border="0" width="100%">
  <tr>
    <td style="white-space:nowrap;width:100%;">
      <a class="zz1_TopNavigationMenu_1 EMAG_dynamicNavItem
zz1_TopNavigationMenu_5" href="/Pages/default.aspx">Home</a>
    </td>
  </tr>
</table>
```



MOSS CSS Tips

Because MOSS applies the same class to different nested elements, you will need to pinpoint these elements in the stylesheet. For example:

```
table.EMAG_dynamicNavItem {  
    ...  
}  
a.EMAG_dynamicNavItem {  
    ...  
}
```



MOSS CSS Tips

For rollover effects in the nav, it is useful to add a **display: block** property to the class that is applied to the `<a>` tags. This overrides the default inline behavior of an `<a>` tag and allows you to style it as a block element (with padding, margins, etc.):

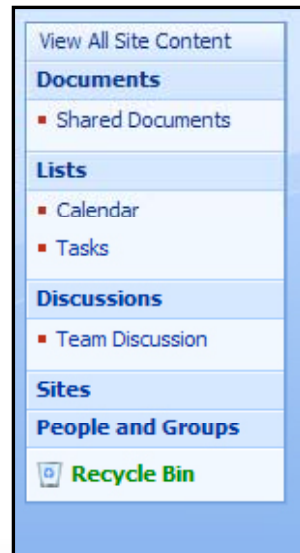
```
a.EMAG_dynamicNavItem {  
    display: block;  
    ...  
}
```



Quicklaunch Menu

The Quicklaunch Menu is often used for subnavigation on a page. This control may be styled with the same methods used for the main navigation.

**DEFAULT
QUICKLAUNCH
MENU**



**QUICKLAUNCH
MENU WITH
CUSTOM CSS**



**END of 09:
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