The layouts editor

The basics of layouts: zones and blocks, opening a layout, adding and arranging blocks, publishing, and which pages a layout is used on.

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This page is for editors and site builders who arrange pages with **Exponential Layouts**. A layout decides what a page is made of and where each part goes; the content items still hold the text and images.

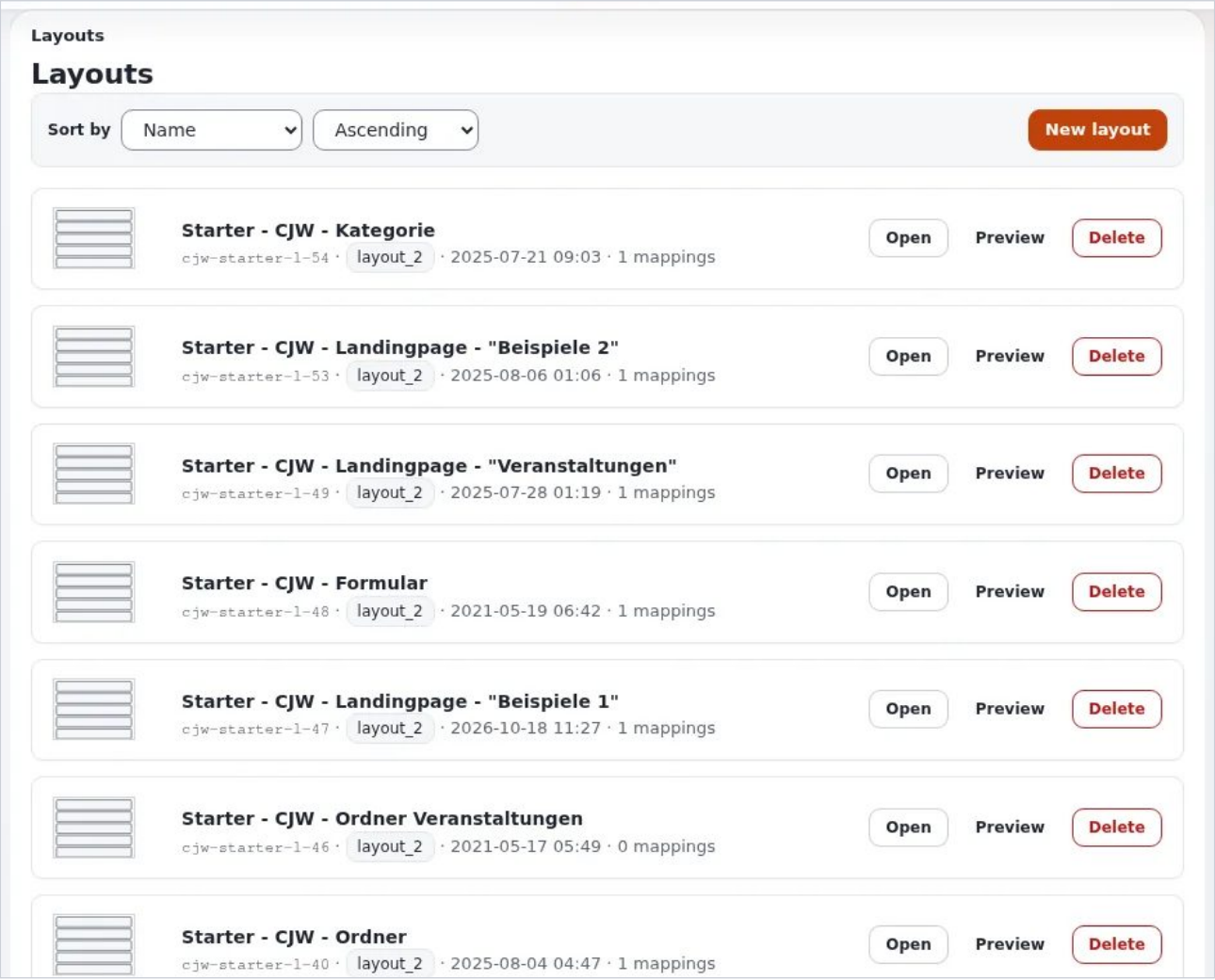
The **Layouts** tab is shown only to roles that may work with layouts. If you do not see it, ask an administrator.

Layouts, zones and blocks

- A **layout** is the plan of a page, for example *Landing Page / Home*.
- It has **zones**: areas such as *left* and *right*, or *header*, *main* and *footer*. The **layout type** (*1 column*, *2 columns*, *Sidebar left*, *Hero + 3 columns* ...) decides which zones there are.
- Each zone holds **blocks**, one under the other: a title, a piece of rich text, an image, a list of articles, a gallery, a hero banner and many more.
- A **mapping** (also called a rule) decides on which pages a layout is used, for example *the page Fit & Healthy* or *every recipe below it*.
- A **shared layout** holds blocks that many pages use, such as a header and footer. Other layouts link a zone to it instead of copying the blocks.

Find a layout

The **Layouts** tab opens the **Layouts Dashboard**: the numbers of layouts, zones, blocks and mappings, the recently changed layouts, and buttons to **New layout**, **Layouts** and **Rules** (the mappings).

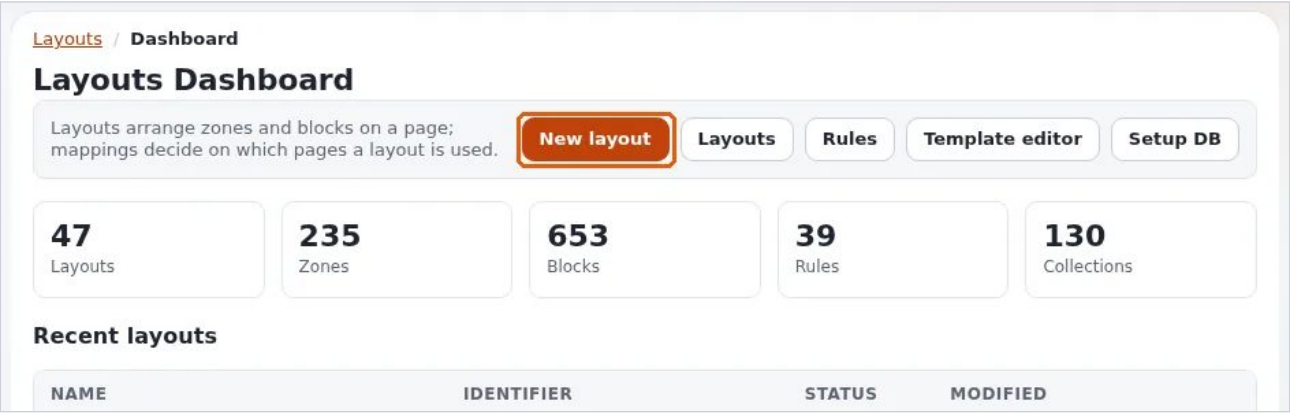


Layouts, the list of layouts with their type, status and the button to open each in the editor

Layouts lists every layout with its identifier, type, date and number of mappings. Each has **Open** (edit it in the editor), **Preview** and **Delete**. **Sort by** and **Order** arrange the list.

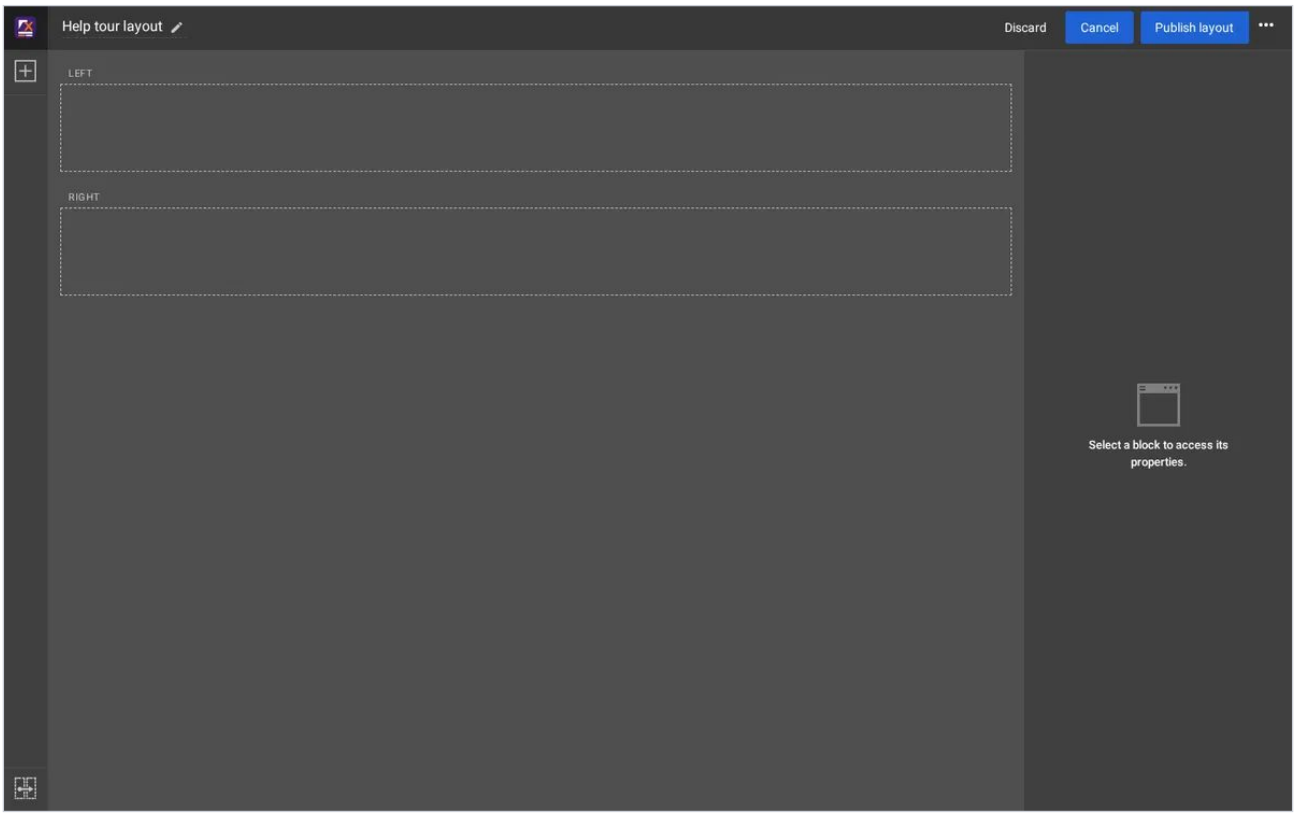
Create a layout

Press **New layout**, choose a **Layout type**, give it a **Name** (the **Identifier** and **Description** are optional) and press **Create layout**. The editor opens with the empty zones of that type.



The Layouts dashboard with the New layout button outlined, next to Layouts, Rules, Template editor and Setup DB

The editor



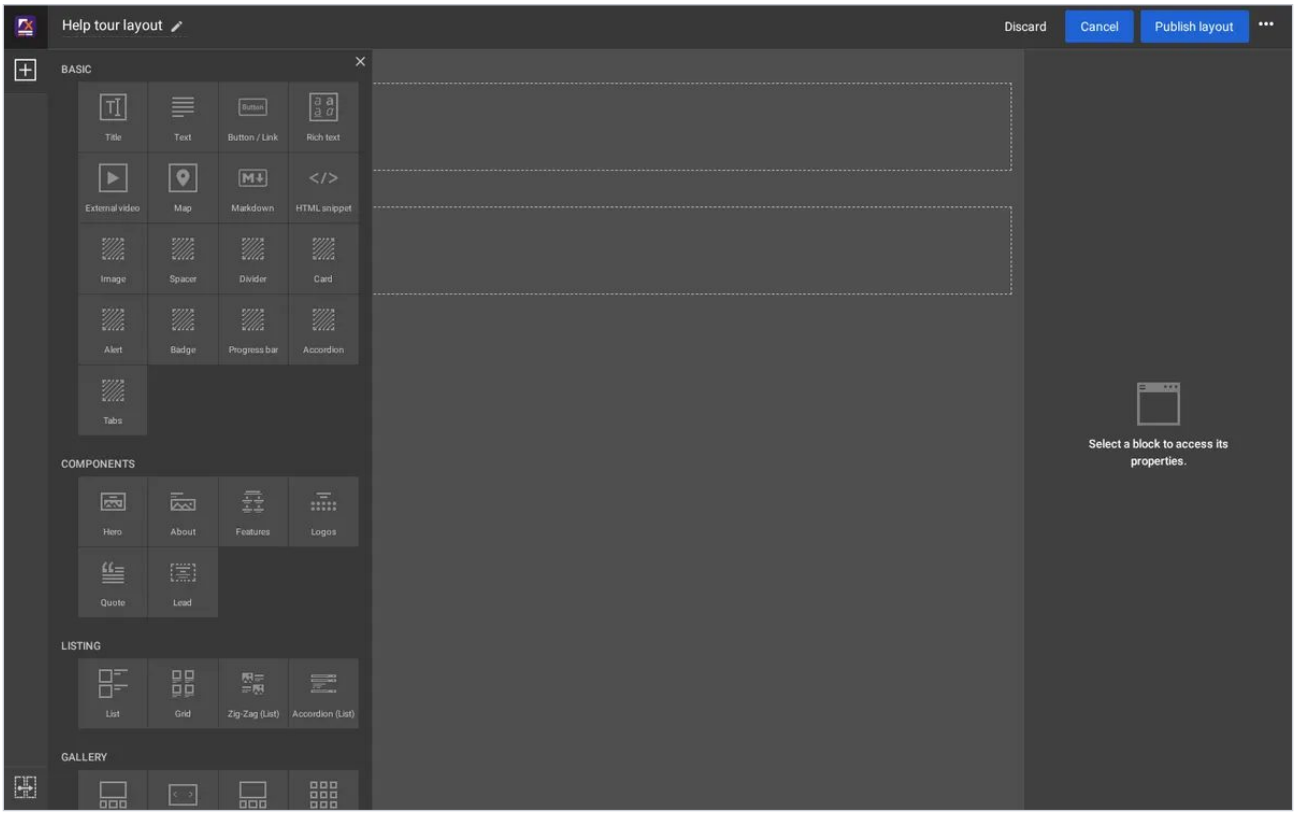
The layouts editor with an empty two-column layout

- **At the top**: the layout's name (click the pencil to rename it), **Discard**, **Cancel**, **Publish layout**, and the menu with three dots: **Publish and continue editing** and **Save draft and close**.
- **On the left**: the plus button, **Add a block**, opens the list of block types; the button at the bottom links a zone to a zone of a shared layout.
- **In the middle**: the zones, with their names (*LEFT*, *RIGHT* ...) and their blocks.
- **On the right**: the properties of the selected block. Nothing is selected at first: *Select a block to access its properties.*

You always work on a **draft** of the layout. Opening a published layout makes a draft of it; the site keeps showing the published layout until you publish.

Add a block

1. Press **Add a block** (the plus button). The block types appear in groups: **Basic** (Title, Text, Button / Link, Rich text, Image, Markdown ...), **Components**, **Listing**, **Gallery**, **Containers** and **Placeholders**.
2. Drag a block type into a zone, to the place where it should go.



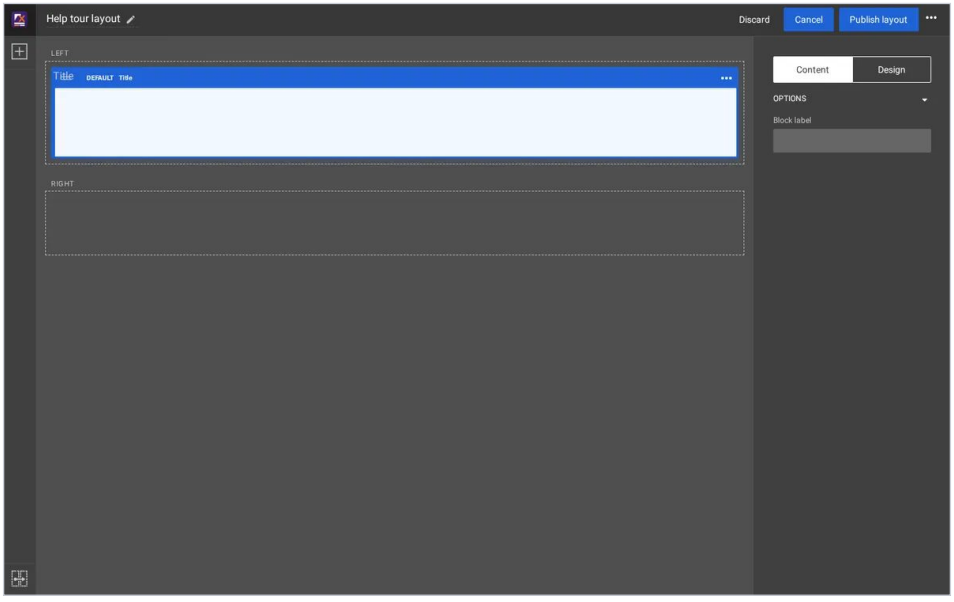
The list of block types

Change a block

Click a block to select it. On the right, its properties appear in two tabs:

- **Content**: what the block shows, for example the text of a title, or which items a list shows and how many.
- **Design**: how it looks, for example the view type and style.

Changes are shown in the block in the middle. The menu with three dots on a block has **Duplicate block** and **Delete block**. To move a block, drag it by its handle to another place or zone.



A Title block added to the left zone

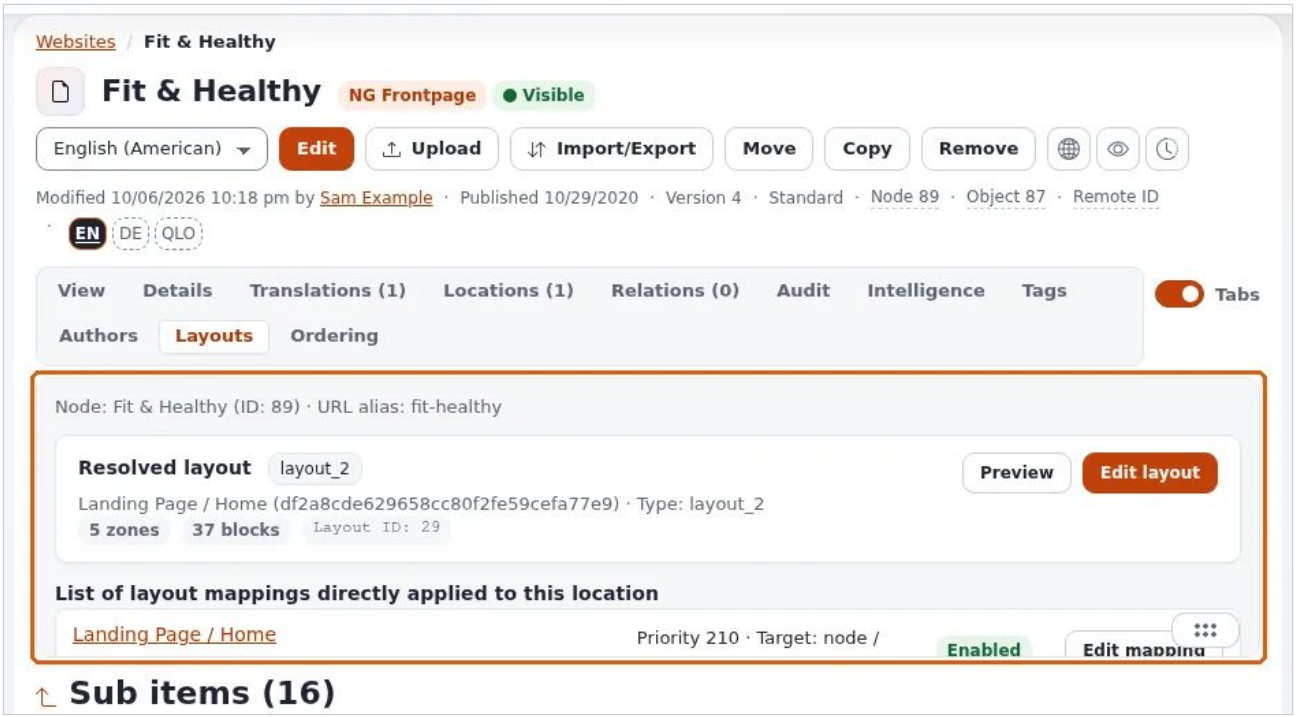
Publish, keep or throw away

Button	What it does
Publish layout	Publishes the draft and closes the editor. Pages that use the layout show it at once.
Publish and continue editing	Publishes and keeps the editor open with a new draft.
Save draft and close	Keeps the draft for later and closes the editor; the published layout is unchanged.
Discard	Throws the draft away, after you confirm, and closes the editor.
Cancel	Leaves the editor and goes back to where you came from; the draft stays.

Where a site does not clear its caches by itself after a publish, the editor asks whether to clear them; choose **Clear caches** so visitors see the change.

Which pages use a layout

Rules (on the dashboard; **Layout mappings** in the menu) lists the mappings: each says its layout, whether it is **Enabled**, its **Targets** (a location, a subtree, a module page) and its **Conditions** (for example a content type or a siteaccess). The first enabled mapping by priority whose targets and conditions match a page wins. **Edit layout** opens the layout of a mapping; **New mapping** adds one.



The Layouts tab of a page: the layout it resolves to, with Preview and Edit layout, and the mappings applied to this location

Changing mappings decides what whole parts of the site look like. If you are not sure, ask a site builder.

Learn more

- Exponential Layouts in the administration, for the layouts that arrange the administration itself.
- A tour of the administration

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