

Get In it with InDesign

Nowadays, software knowledge has expanded beyond mere understanding of Microsoft Office. This issue, we enlist the help of Adobe Certified Expert Marianne Young to try to enlighten you on Adobe InDesign.

As the Solutions Engineer with Adobe, South East Asia, Marianne Young specialises in a wide range of technology solutions from PDF, Print Engine, Flash to Device Central and Acrobat. "I also deliver training and workshops on Creative Suite products and all related technologies in web, print and mobile. [In addition], I work closely with the developers in the region to provide effective technology solutions to ensure successful client engagements."

The outgoing lady who also loves cooking, diving and dancing says, "[outside of work,] I do use Adobe InDesign. I like that it is easy to use, a lot of features and functionality to make laying out more efficient. Also the typography is handled beautifully and accurately. I like that the pages always prints without any problems."

"In fact, anyone who needs to print an attractive page (print designers, catalog, books, magazines, brochures, posters, pamphlets, menus, newsletters, annual reports, journals, newspapers) [will use Adobe InDesign," says Marianne, who has lectured at De La Salle University – College of St Benilde, Philippines and also been an instructor at Philippine Centre of Creative Imaging. With that, who better to give us a crash course on InDesign than her?

CRASH YOUR WAY INTO INDESIGN

We are newbies to InDesign. Can you list out a few (at least 3, if not more) essential features for us?

- Creative possibilities through creative effects, finer transparency controls and gradient feather
- Layout tools: multi-file place, advanced find change, quick apply, visual pages panel, table formatting
- Automation feature: long document creation with automated bullets and numbering, text variables and flexible XML



If we were to compare InDesign and Pagemaker, what are the differences?

InDesign works the way you do.

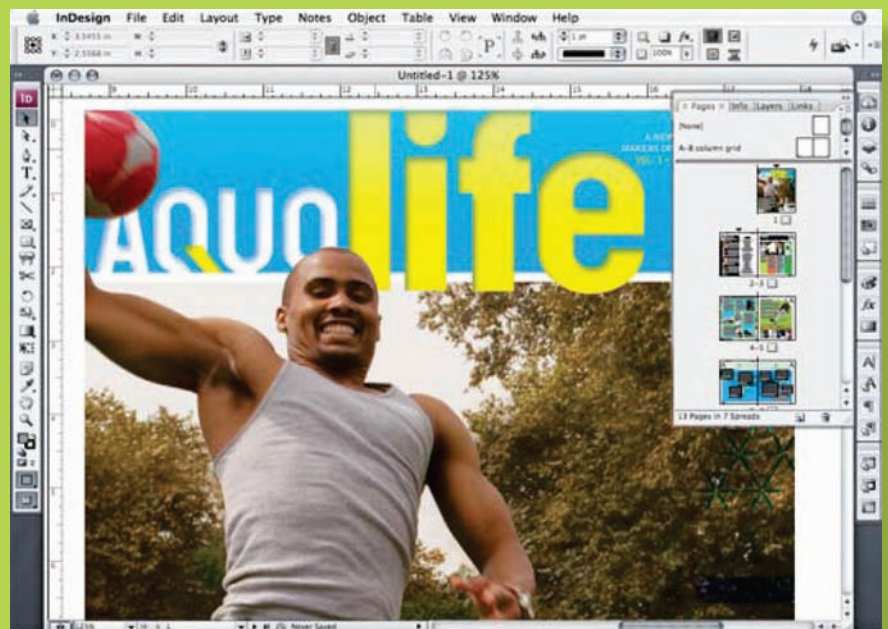
It looks and works like Adobe Photoshop® and Illustrator® software, so you can get right to work. The new interface in all of these Adobe applications is more intuitive than ever, with self-adjusting panels that dock out of the way when not in use to free up your workspace.

InDesign plays well with other Adobe products.

InDesign has better integration with Adobe Photoshop, Illustrator, Dreamweaver®, InCopy, and Acrobat® software than any other page layout program. You'll learn InDesign quickly because it already feels familiar. Easily import and export your Adobe PDF files. Effortlessly work with Photoshop and Illustrator files in your layouts.

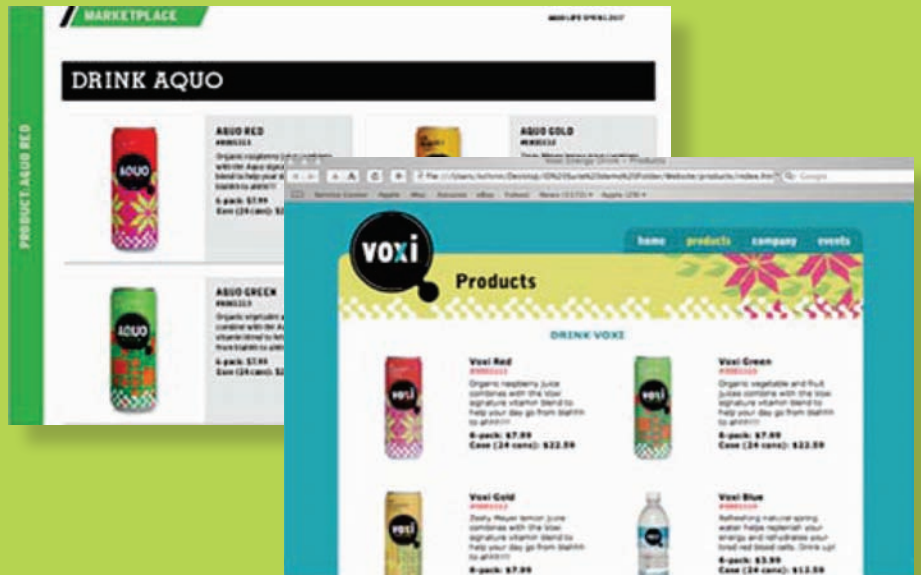
InDesign is at the creative edge.

InDesign was the first page layout application to introduce editable drop shadows, feathering, and transparent effects; the first to import styled Microsoft Word and Excel tables; and the first to fully support OpenType® fonts or to automate hanging punctuation, kerning, and paragraph-level composition for truly professional typography. Now InDesign CS3 sets the bar even higher with its new creative effects, including inner glow or bevel and emboss, which let you specify options using an interface that's consistent with Photoshop. And new, finer transparency controls let you adjust transparency and blending modes on entire objects or on individual strokes, fills, and content.



Interactive pages are a snap to create.

If you think page layouts are static, think again. With InDesign CS3, you can author rich, interactive Adobe PDF files that include SWF, movie, and sound files, as well as interactive buttons to play movies or turn pages.



Powerful collaboration results in efficient design processes.

InDesign is ideal for fast-paced publishing environments where multiple team members work on design and layout simultaneously. Powerful features that allow you to design pages more effectively and speed up the editorial workflow include new placed InDesign files, InDesign snippets, and support for a parallel workflow using InDesign CS3 and Adobe InCopy® CS3.



InDesign enables you to automate your publishing workflow.

Automate workflows by minimizing repetitive tasks so that you can focus on what you love to do — design pages. Use text variables to dynamically create running headers and footers and automatically generate advanced bullets and numbering as well as tables of contents. InDesign also provides flexible XML support to enable a wide variety of XML-based publishing workflows, including a new XML rules engine that uses scripts to automatically build formatted page layouts from XML content.

