

Elementor and Core Framework – My Approach

1. Colours

CF has a great mechanism for creating variable for colours but Elementor does not allow the ability to assign a global colour to a variable I reset all the Elementor default colours and don't use them.

a) Create your colour palette in Realltimecolors.com because its really easy to check the colour contrast and generate the light and dark modes. Note the default values for text and background are good choices as they are not quite black or white. Export the variables by enabling Themes. Create a `--text-title` variable if you want your titles to have a different colour to the body text.

b) In CF turn dark mode on for the default colours then assign the Realltime colours to CF default colours: primary, secondary, accent, background (`--bg-body`) and text (`--text-body`) for both light and dark modes.

c) Under `--bg-body` variable enable Tints and Shades (generate 8 shades). Take the first shade `var(--bg-body-d-2)` colour and use that for `bg-surface light` mode. Take the first tint `var(--bg-body-l-2)` and use this for `bg-surface dark` mode. This will give you a darker or lighter background if you want to make a card background stand out.

d) Switch Tints on for the Primary colour and this will give you additional colours to work with for backgrounds – create global colours in Elementor and copy these colours into them for those you need.

e) Make sure you have a `--shadow-primary` colour like `#00000080`

f) Set the default colours for headings and to brighten images in dark mode by creating these classes. Note the H1 elements are assigned a `--text-title` variable colour.

body	background-color	var(--bg-body)
h1, h2, h3, h4, h5, h6	color	var(--text-title)
p	color	var(--text-body)
html.cf-theme-dark img	filter	brightness(.8) contrast(1.2)

2) Typography

a) In CF select a scale for titles(Perfect Fourth) and a max and min px size

b) Create 3 variables for Text sizes (from a previous use of scaling)

--text-s	clamp(0.89rem, calc(0.09vw + 0.87rem), 0.94rem)
--text-m	clamp(1rem, calc(0.23vw + 0.95rem), 1.13rem)
--text-l	clamp(1.13rem, calc(0.41vw + 1.04rem), 1.35rem)

c) In CF Disable the Line Height Classes (you can't use them) but create Variables for Line Height instead.

--line-height-xs	1.1
--line-height-s	1.2
--line-height-m	1.3
--line-height-l	1.4
--line-height-xl	1.5

3) Spacing

Leave off the generation of Padding and Margin classes (I prefer to create my own)
Add a Padding Group with these classes

.pad-0	padding	0px
.pad-4xs	padding	var(--space-4xs)
.pad-3xs	padding	var(--space-3xs)
.pad-2xs	padding	var(--space-2xs)
.pad-xs	padding	var(--space-xs)
.pad-s	padding	var(--space-s)
.pad-m	padding	var(--space-m)
.pad-l	padding	var(--space-l)
.pad-xl	padding	var(--space-xl)
.pad-tb-s	padding-top padding-bottom	var(--space-s) var(--space-s)
.pad-tb-m	padding-top padding-bottom	var(--space-m) var(--space-m)
.pad-tb-l	padding-top padding-bottom	var(--space-l) var(--space-l)
.pad-tb-xl	padding-top padding-bottom	var(--space-xl) var(--space-xl)

Gaps

Create these classes in CF

.gap-4xs	gap	var(--space-4xs)
.gap-3xs	gap	var(--space-3xs)
.gap-2xs	gap	var(--space-2xs)
.gap-xs	gap	var(--space-xs)
.gap-s	gap	var(--space-s)
.gap-m	gap	var(--space-m)
.gap-l	gap	var(--space-l)
.gap-xl	gap	var(--space-xl)
.gap-2xl	gap	var(--space-2xl)
.gap-3xl	padding-top	var(--space-3xl)
.gap-4xl	padding-top	var(--space-4xl)

4. Layouts

Disable all default CF Groups

Create these Site Variables in CF

--site-content-width	75rem
--container-padding	0px
--container-gap	25px (or rem if you prefer)

5. Design

Disable all default CF Groups

Create the following Border Radius Vars

--radius-xs	Min 4	Max 4
--radius-s	Min 6	Max 8
--radius-m	Min 10	Max 12
--radius-l	Min 16	Max 20

Create the following Border Radius classes

.radius-xs	border-radius	var(--radius-xs)
.radius-s	border-radius	var(--radius-s)
.radius-m	border-radius	var(--radius-m)
.radius-l	border-radius	var(--radius-l)

Create the following Border Radius classes

--border-width-s	1px
--border-width-m	2px
--border-width-l	3px

Create the following Border class

.border .elementor-button	border-width	var(--border-width-s)
	border-style	solid
	border-color	var(--primary)
	border-radius	var(--radius-m)

Create the following Box Shadow variables

--shadow-xs	0 1px 2px var(--shadow-primary)
--shadow-s	0 1.5px 3px var(--shadow-primary)
--shadow-m	0 2px 6px var(--shadow-primary)
--shadow-l	0 3px 12px var(--shadow-primary)
--shadow-none	none

Create the following Shadow classes

.shadow-xs	box-shadow	var(--shadow-xs)
.shadow-s	box-shadow	var(--shadow-s)
.shadow-m	box-shadow	var(--shadow-m)
.shadow-l	box-shadow	var(--shadow-l)

In Elementor

During development I output the CSS from CF and copy and paste it into Site Settings → Additional CSS if I am using Elementor Pro. Once the website is ready to go live I add it as a CSS file into the head section of the HTML using Code Snippets.

Initial setup in Elementor

Under Site Settings → Global Colours reset all colours to default (not used)

Under Site Settings → Layout

Set Content Width to `var(--site-content-width)`

Set Content Padding to `var(--container-padding)`

Set Gaps to `var(--container-gap)`

In Site Settings → Global Fonts create new fonts to match the CF variables eg. Title 4XL, Title 3XL, etc. Set the font family to your chosen font

Font Name	Calc Size	Line Height	Font Weight
Title-4xl	<code>var(--title-4xl)</code>	<code>var(--line-height-xs)</code>	700
Title-3xl	<code>var(--title-3xl)</code>	<code>var(--line-height-s)</code>	700
Title-2xl	<code>var(--title-2xl)</code>	<code>var(--line-height-m)</code>	700
Title-xl	<code>var(--title-xl)</code>	<code>var(--line-height-s)</code>	700
Title-l	<code>var(--title-l)</code>	<code>var(--line-height-xs)</code>	600
Title-m	<code>var(--title-m)</code>	<code>var(--line-height-xs)</code>	default

You could assign the variables above to H1, H2 etc. elements but I prefer to keep the style separate from the HTML tags.