# Hydrant

## The Development of a Typeface.

This book celebrates the completion of the Hydrant Font Family.

Design by Lee Fasciani 2011.

The concept behind Hydrant was to create a utilitarian typeface that contains many unique and interesting idiosyncrasies that distinguish the font from any other, whilst maintaining a consistency of form and structure.

Hydrant needed a greater variation in characteristics to achieve the intended robust quirkiness but enough integral similarity to be accepted as a working typeface.

Many of these initial, obscure characteristics have been refined over a four year period to help harmonise the family, and crucially, aid in its usability.

LOWERCASE 'O'

THE LOWERCASE 'o' ORIGINALLY CONTAINED A MIS-PRINT INK BUBBLE FEATURE.

THIS WAS REMOVED IN LATER VERSIONS OF THE FONT TO SIMPLIFY THE GLYPH.

LETTERFORMS


## The Early Stages

Some early ideas introduced varying line thicknesses and interesting character detailing. Although not aesthetically pleasing, the strength of the 'O' and 'C' in particular gave the font some gravitas.

# EARLY CONCEPTS & LETTERFORMS

LETTERFORMS

LOWERCASE 'a'


LOWERCASE 'e'

# The Search for Character

There were too many ideas within the broadening array of letterforms, so while developing the lowercase glyphs I felt there was a need for a consistent characteristic.

I attempted to introduce a diagonal stroke that would run through many of the lowercase glyphs and possibly aid in the development of some uppercase letters.

After many design revisions the diagonal rule became troublesome and was causing difficulties.
To combat this, I revised the angle of the diagonal and thus creating a more subtle design. The concept of the original angular features can still be seen throughout the design.

# EARLY DEVELOPMENT

LOWERCASE 'g'

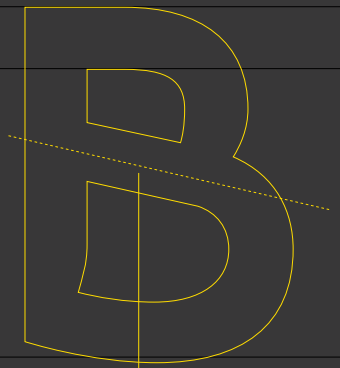
ATTEMPTED INTRODUCTION OF THE DIAGONAL FORM IN THE 'g'.

VARYING INDENTS STARTING TO BECOME 'UGLY' CHARACTERISTIC

FINAL GLYPH DESIGN

MODERN 'g' SHAPE WITH 'EAR' DERIVED FROM LOOP STYLE 'g'. UPPER BOWL SITS ABOVE BASELINE FOR LEGIBILITY AND BALANCE.

UPPERCASE 'B'



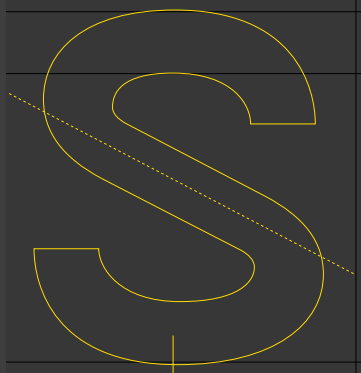
DIAGONAL FEATURE

FINAL GLYPH DESIGN

# EARLY DEVELOPMENT

UPPERCASE 'S'

FINAL GLYPH DESIGN



DIAGONAL FEATURE
CAUSING DIFFICULTIES

UPPERCASE 'S'

FINAL GLYPH DESIGN

ALTHOUGH THE BOTTOM SWEEP OF THE UPPERCASE 'C' DIDN'T MAKE THE FINAL CUT, IT DID START TO INFORM OTHER CHARACTERS LATER ON, SUCH AS THE 'S'

UPPERCASE 'S'

FINAL GLYPH DESIGN

IT WAS BECOMING APPARENT THAT MOST DIAGONAL STROKES HITTING THE BASELINE REQUIRED A FLAT TERMINAL TO STRENGTHEN THE DESIGN.

LETTERFORMS – UPPERCASE


## Creating Definition and Recognition

After years of refinement and in most cases, simplification, many of the letterforms retain some element of unique identity. Special care was taken to reduce these features so they would not impact on usability but were apparent enough to give character.

LETTERFORMS – LOWERCASE

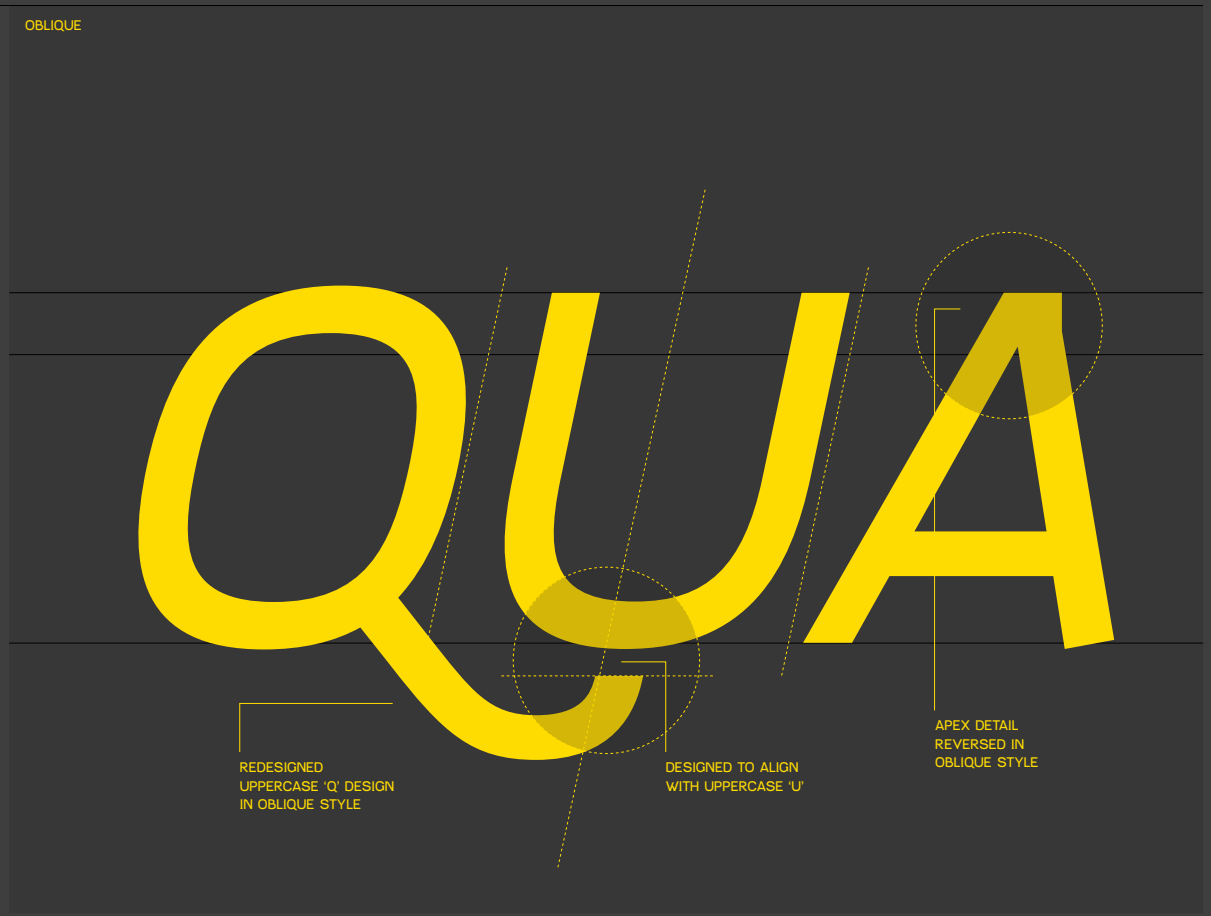

## Creating Definition and Recognition

The intention from the start has been to create a solid typeface with distinct, quirky characteristics. The lengthy development process and continuous need to smooth out anything that seemed 'ugly' concluded in a typeface that contains many of the original ideas but in a subtle and refined manner.

## OBLIQUE CHARACTERISTICS

REGULAR


OBLIQUE




# Being Oblique

As an extra detail and to add some finesse to an otherwise obligatory weighting output, I decided to alter some of the characters that seemed to suit the oblique style. An extreme example of this is the uppercase 'Q' with its extended tail.

## ADDITIONAL WEIGHTS

LIGHT

REGULAR

BOLD

EXTRA BOLD


# Putting on Some Weight

Creating true weight variations within a font family is deceivingly more difficult than it first appears, and this was one of the main reasons why I wanted to produce eight weights.

To design the lighter and heavier weights correctly, most characters have to be deconstructed and redrawn (the computer can be used as a starting point but the results can be erratic and somewhat ugly).

INCREASED APERTURE ON LIGHTER WEIGHTS

EXTENDED SPUR FEATURE ON LIGHTER WEIGHT FOR BALANCE

THICKNESS OF DIAGONAL BAR ON LOWERCASE 'a' IS MANUALLY ADJUSTED OF OPTICAL BALANCE

SLAB FEATURE FROM ORIGINAL CONCEPTS INCREASES IN SIZE ON BOLDER WEIGHTS

A SLIGHT STRESS ON HORIZONTAL WEIGHTING IS ADDED ON THE HEAVY WEIGHT

# Putting on Some Weight

The example above illustrates the delicate nature of creating various weights for a typeface.

Each character must retain its basic shape, but this must be adapted incrementally from thin to thick strokes.

The lighter weight has a longer spur to give a more balanced letterform but heavier weights were given an increased slab style serif.

Also, as a the stroke increases in thickness more care needs to be taken with the negative space within the glyph. The stroke becomes thinner when horizontal to allow for the diagonal element – which does not increase in thickness to the same ratio as the other strokes – otherwise the character would look too heavy.

# FINAL HYDRANT TYPEFACE

HYDRANT REGULAR

# FINAL HYDRANT TYPEFACE

HYDRANT REGULAR

# FINAL HYDRANT TYPEFACE

FULL CHARACTER SET

AaBbCcDdEeFfGgHhIiJjKk
LlMmNnOoPpQqRrSsTtUu
VvWwXxYyZz
0123456789

!?¿¡”’’#$§¢£€%&()*+,–./:;=@[]{}∽†§¶°®©‰
<>…——“”‘’øØƒµæÆœŒßfifláàâäãåçéèêë
íìîïñóòôöõúùûüÿÄÅÀÃÂÁÇÉÊËÈ
ÍÎÏÌÑÓÔÒÚÛÙŸÐðÝýÞþŁł

# FINAL HYDRANT TYPEFACE

HYDRANT LIGHT

AaBbCcDdEeFfGgHhIiJjKkLlMmNnOoPp
QqRrSsTtUuVvWwXxYyZz 0123456789
!?¿i”’#$§¢£€%&()*+,–./:;=@[]{}~†§¶•®©
‰<>…——“”‘’øØfμæÆœŒßfifl

HYDRANT LIGHT OBLIQUE

*AaBbCcDdEeFfGgHhIiJjKkLlMmNnOoPp*
*QqRrSsTtUuVvWwXxYyZz 0123456789*
*!?¿i”’#$§¢£€%&()*+,–./:;=@[]{}~†§¶•®©*
*‰<>…——“”‘’øØfμæÆœŒßfifl*

# FINAL HYDRANT TYPEFACE

HYDRANT REGULAR

AaBbCcDdEeFfGgHhIiJjKkLlMmNnOoPp
QqRrSsTtUuVvWwXxYyZz 0123456789
!?¿i”’#$§¢£€%&()*+,–./:;=@[]{}⌣⁺§¶°®©
‰<>…——“”‘’øØƒµæÆœŒßfifl

HYDRANT OBLIQUE

*AaBbCcDdEeFfGgHhIiJjKkLlMmNnOoPp*
*QqRrSsTtUuVvWwXxYyZz 0123456789*
*!?¿i”’#$§¢£€%&()*+,–./:;=@[]{}⌣⁺§¶°®©*
*‰<>…——“”‘’øØƒµæÆœŒßfifl*

# FINAL HYDRANT TYPEFACE

HYDRANT BOLD

AaBbCcDdEeFfGgHhIiJjKkLlMmNnOoPp
QqRrSsTtUuVvWwXxYyZz 0123456789
!?¿i”’#$§¢£€%&()*+,–./:;=@[]{}⌣⁺§¶°®©
‰<>…——“”‘’øØƒµæÆœŒßfifl

HYDRANT BOLD OBLIQUE

*AaBbCcDdEeFfGgHhIiJjKkLlMmNnOoPp*
*QqRrSsTtUuVvWwXxYyZz 0123456789*
*!?¿i”’#$§¢£€%&()*+,–./:;=@[]{}⌣⁺§¶°®©*
*‰<>…——“”‘’øØƒµæÆœŒßfifl*

# FINAL HYDRANT TYPEFACE

HYDRANT HEAVY

AaBbCcDdEeFfGgHhIiJjKkLlMmNnOoPp
QqRrSsTtUuVvWwXxYyZz 0123456789
!?¿¡”’’#$§¢£€%&()*+,–./:;=@[]{}⁓†§¶•®©
‰<>…——“”‘’øØƒµæÆœŒßfifl

HYDRANT HEAVY OBLIQUE

*AaBbCcDdEeFfGgHhIiJjKkLlMmNnOoPp*
*QqRrSsTtUuVvWwXxYyZz 0123456789*
*!?¿¡”’’#$§¢£€%&()*+,–./:;=@[]{}⁓†§¶•®©*
*‰<>…——“”‘’øØƒµæÆœŒßfifl*


# Hydrant