Project scope:

Fix an existing child theme to work with current version of the Enfold theme, or created new child theme that includes the features currently used.

The child theme functions with the live version of the Enfold Theme, but the last update of that theme broke the main function of the child theme.

The main function was a change to the default portfolio masonry grid overlay function to create an Orange overlay and add new data to the overlay text.

New data fields were added to the WordPress DB and new scripting was added to specific pages by id in order to power the desired feature.

\* Page-id-115 is featured properties both new and sold

<http://vanwyckandporter.com/featured-properties/>

<http://vanwyckandporter.com/sold-properties/>

\* page-id-89 is company page with team member overlay

<http://vanwyckandporter.com/company/#03>

CSS styles were and should remain accessible since the font choices will change for the new update and sizing may need to be fussed with.

One unique issue was that the theme at that time (it may have changed) made it difficult to segregate the addition to the database from the theme update process. In order to retain the new data fields added a file needed to be saved and replaced after a theme update. This was done several times successfully until the theme itself broke the overlay function and updates to the theme were halted.

Updates overwriting child theme:

The child theme is in wp-content/themes/ so now it shouldn't be overwritten when the enfold theme is updated. However, after each update one file in the parent theme will need to be replaced in order to edit subtitles. That file is ../wp-content/themes/enfold/includes/admin/register-portfolio.php . There is a file by the same name in enfold-child/includes/admin/ directory.

To edit the subtitle, open "Screen Options" under Edit Page (upper right) and check "Custom Fields".

This theme, while very popular, has been around a very long time and has made many css changes and code changes without going back to change unused or confusing elements. It may be that the current version of the theme solves some of these issues, but it may well be that it merely added new complexity for those wishing to understand the foundations that are real vs vestigial elements that are not used.

This package included a zip file with the entire child them folder and the single file that was needed in the Enfold parent folder in order to power the added data fields for subtitles.

Process:

A clone of the current live site can be created as a staging site on the host. This can then be updated to the current version of Enfold, so that the site breaks. At that point the child theme can either be fixed to work with whatever new systems enfold uses or a new child them that faithfully replicates the functions of the live site is created. It us understood that reverse engineering can often be more time consuming that building from scratch. However, the previous coder who is unable to assist at this time, is good at documentation and the code may prove a better starting point than square one.

The overlay feature aside from needing to be fixed so it works with the new theme needs to be altered to fit a new design format of width and size. It may be best for these changes to be made first by the design team then given over to the programmer to make needed changes to conform to the new design. This is dependent upon the programmer’s interaction with the theme.

Summary:

The Enfold theme goes through periodic updates usually in response to changes in WordPress that break the Theme. The last major update cause considerable issues with the installed base, but such disruptions are usually liked to one or two of its complex sub-systems so they do not affect everyone, just everyone who uses a specific feature. Fixing this current theme and child theme issue may well be temporary, but should be done before any major update to this existing theme be undertaken to minimize duplication of labor.

We have not kept track of the update cycle for several months as the client was of the opinion that since the site worked no need to update the theme and fix the child theme. The support for the purchased theme can be found under my account here:

<https://kriesi.at/support/forum/enfold/>

My account with Enfold is

stevenleith  
VGwQwpPI8LTx

It might well prove useful to catch up on the support threads to see the current state of the Enfold version.