SPECTRUM

Masthead Design

SPECTRUM

A MAGAZINE OF AUTISM, IDENTITY, AND INCLUSION

The SPECTRUM masthead is bold, modern, and versatile, creating a strong and recognizable identity for the magazine across all issues and formats.

CLEAR SPACE & ALIGNMENT



Maintain clear space equal to the height of the "S" (X) around the masthead to ensure legibility and visual impact.

DESIGN ELEMENTS

Aa

Typeface
Montserrat (Bold, All Caps)
Modern, clean, and highly legible.

Signature Mark
A dynamic diagonal accent that adds movement and energy.

Tagline
A concise statement of the magazine's focus and purpose.

MASTHEAD VARIATIONS

SPECTRUM

Primary (Full Color)

SPECTRUM

Reverse (Dark Background)

SPECTRUM

One-Color (Print / Limited Use)

COLOR PALETTE (BRAND)

#073F69 #0874C5 #E65325 #F6F8FA

USAGE & CONSISTENCY

Use the masthead consistently on the cover, section openers, and key brand materials to build a unified and recognizable magazine identity.

People. Perspectives. Possibilities.

SPECTRUM explores the many experiences, strengths, and perspectives within the autism community, highlighting stories of identity, inclusion, and growth across every stage of life.

SPECTRUM

A MAGAZINE OF AUTISM, IDENTITY, AND INCLUSION

FALL 2027
VOL. 01 • NO. 04

9 781234 567897

SPECTRUM | FALL 2027 | VOL. 01 • NO. 04

VOL. 01 • NO. 04 | FALL 2027

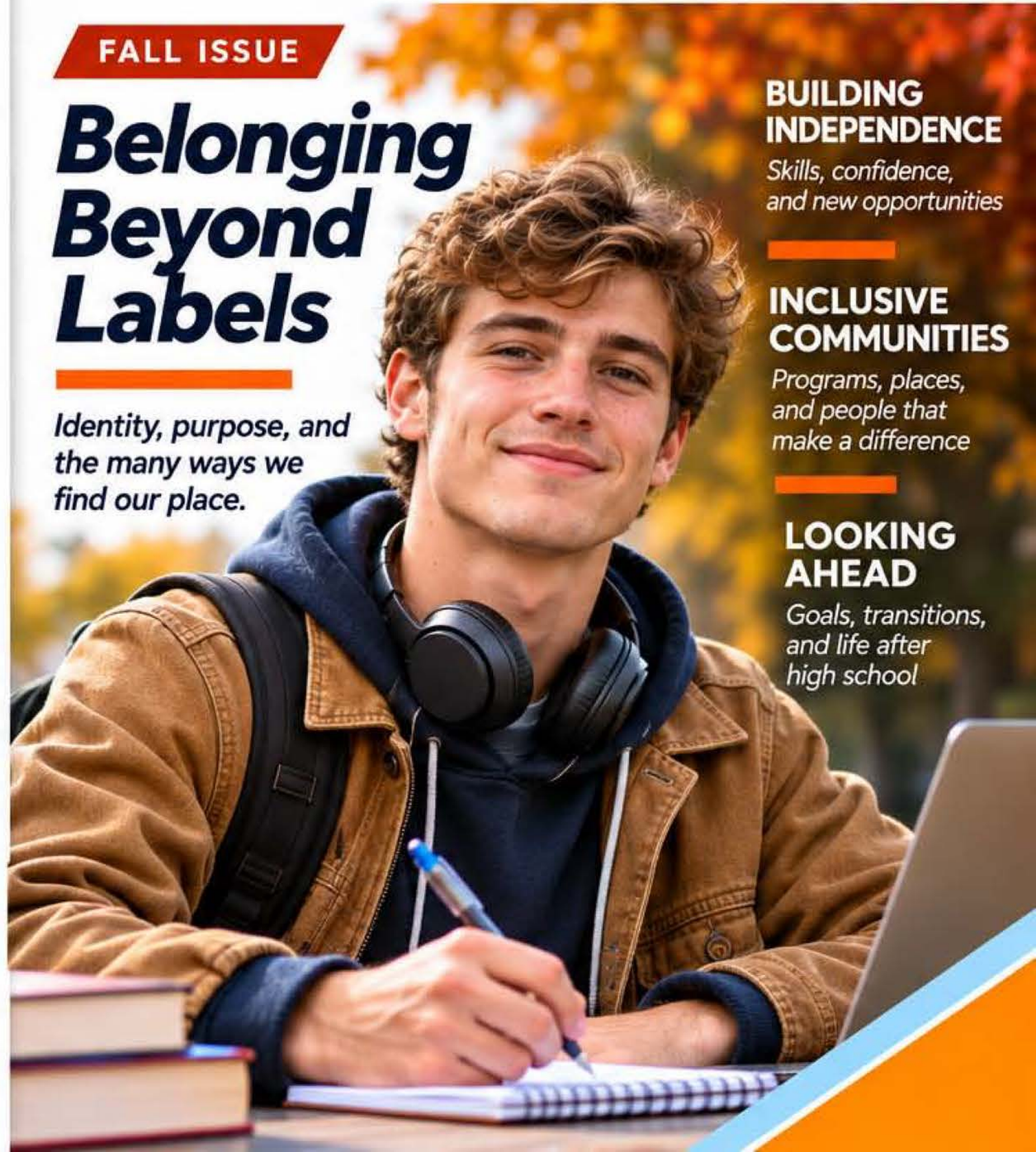
SPECTRUM

A MAGAZINE OF AUTISM, IDENTITY, AND INCLUSION

FALL ISSUE

Belonging Beyond Labels

Identity, purpose, and the many ways we find our place.



BUILDING INDEPENDENCE
Skills, confidence, and new opportunities

INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES
Programs, places, and people that make a difference

LOOKING AHEAD
Goals, transitions, and life after high school

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SPECTRUM

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SUMMER 2027
VOL. 01 • NO. 03

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SPECTRUM | SUMMER 2027 | VOL. 01 • NO. 03

VOL. 01 • NO. 03 | SUMMER 2027

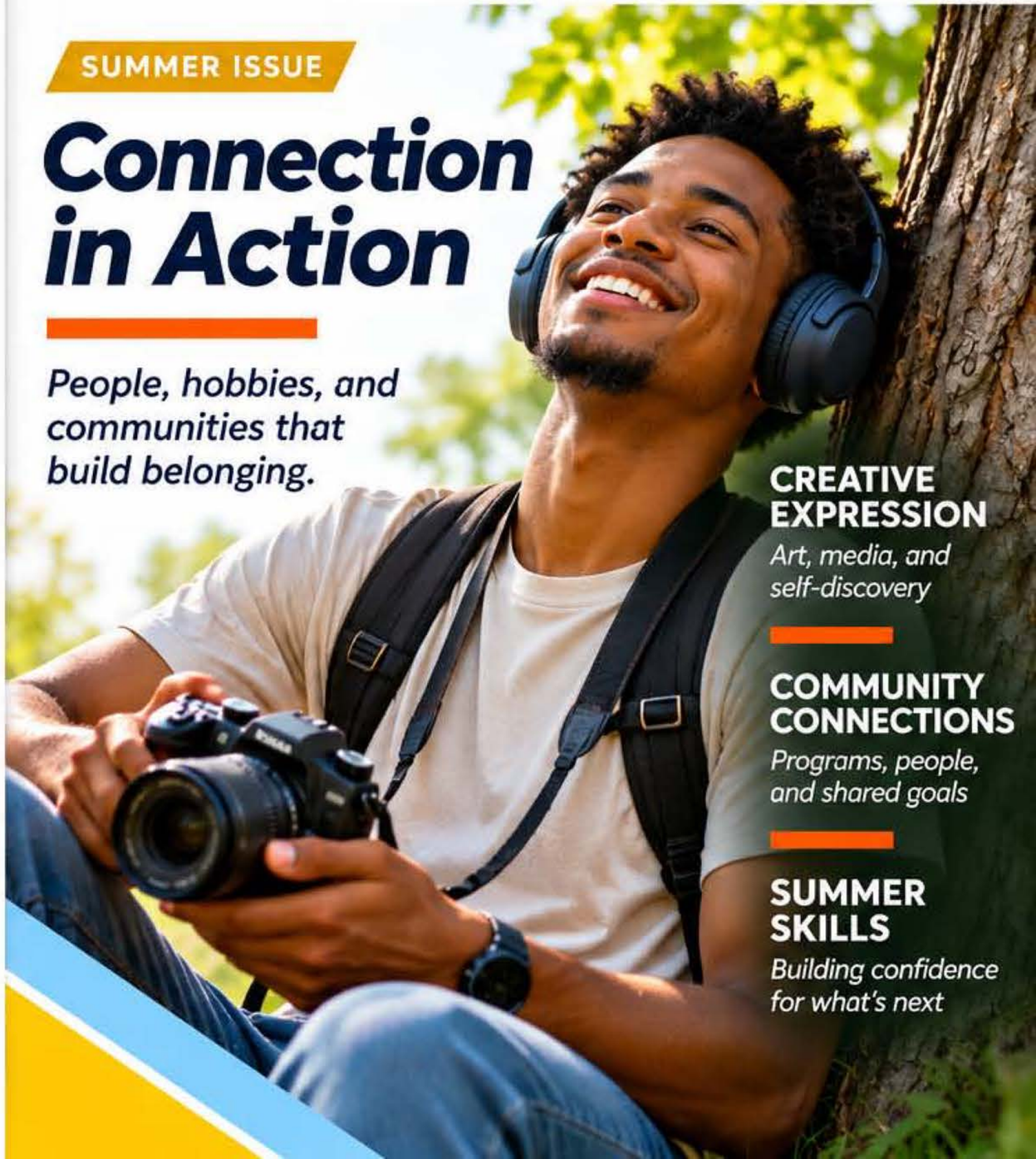
SPECTRUM

A MAGAZINE OF AUTISM, IDENTITY, AND INCLUSION

SUMMER ISSUE

Connection in Action

People, hobbies, and communities that build belonging.



CREATIVE EXPRESSION
Art, media, and self-discovery

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS
Programs, people, and shared goals

SUMMER SKILLS
Building confidence for what's next

People. Perspectives. Possibilities.

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SPECTRUM

A MAGAZINE OF AUTISM, IDENTITY, AND INCLUSION

SPRING 2027
VOL. 01 • NO. 02

9 781234 567897

SPECTRUM | SPRING 2027 | VOL. 01 • NO. 02

VOL. 01 • NO. 02 | SPRING 2027

SPECTRUM

A MAGAZINE OF AUTISM, IDENTITY, AND INCLUSION

SPRING ISSUE

Growth on the Spectrum

New skills, greater independence, and brighter possibilities.

LEARNING DIFFERENTLY
Strategies that work

A STRONGER SUPPORT SYSTEM
Family, school, and community

FINDING WHAT FITS
Education, work, and life after high school

SPECTRUM

A QUARTERLY MAGAZINE OF
AUTISM, IDENTITY, AND PERSPECTIVE.

OUR MISSION

Spectrum explores autism through personal stories, informed perspectives, and contemporary visual storytelling.

Our mission is to foster understanding, challenge misconceptions, and celebrate the diversity of autistic experiences.

A YEAR OF PERSPECTIVE • 2027

WINTER	SPRING	SUMMER	FALL
Identity	*Growth*	*Connection*	*Possibilities*

9 781234 567897

SPECTRUM | WINTER 2027

VOL. 01 • NO. 01

SPECTRUM

VOL. 01 • NO. 01

WINTER 2027

IDENTITY

Understanding the Spectrum
A clearer view of autism today

What I Wish People Knew
Five truths beyond the stereotypes

Education and Identity
Growing up autistic and finding my path

More Than a Diagnosis

A QUARTERLY MAGAZINE OF AUTISM, IDENTITY, AND PERSPECTIVE.



SPECTRUM

VOL. 01 • NO. 01 | WINTER 2027

CONTENTS

04 | **From the Editor**
Why SPECTRUM begins with identity

06 | **Beyond the Diagnosis**
Opening the conversation

08 | **More Than a Diagnosis**
A personal journey from childhood to college

12 | **Understanding the Spectrum**
Autism, individuality, and different experiences

16 | **What I Wish People Knew**
Five reflections beyond the stereotypes

18 | **A Different Perspective**
A visual essay about individuality

20 | **Resources & Further Reading**
Continue exploring the conversation

21 | **Looking Forward**
Reflections on identity and possibility

DIFFERENT MINDS. SHARED HUMANITY.



CHAPTER 02

UNDERSTANDING THE SPECTRUM

A clearer look at autism and individuality

By Steven Boyd

Autism is not a single fixed experience. The spectrum includes different ways of communicating, learning, processing sensory information, and navigating daily life. Understanding autism begins with recognizing individuality rather than relying on stereotypes.



IDENTITY

More Than a Diagnosis

By Constance Pritchard

An autism diagnosis can provide answers, but it is not the whole story. It describes a set of traits, not a person's potential, personality, or value. Each person on the spectrum brings a unique mix of experiences, strengths, and perspectives that shape who they are.

For many, the diagnosis is a starting point for greater self-understanding. It can explain why certain situations feel overwhelming, why interests run deep, or why social communication may feel different. With that insight, individuals can build strategies, seek support, and create environments where they can thrive.

Most importantly, **autism is not a limit.** People on the spectrum are students, artists, problem solvers, coworkers, friends, and family members. They contribute in meaningful ways and help make our schools, workplaces, and communities richer and more inclusive.

> ***An autism diagnosis can open the door to self-understanding, self-acceptance, and new possibilities.***

PASSIONS

Interests, Strengths, and Creative Pursuits

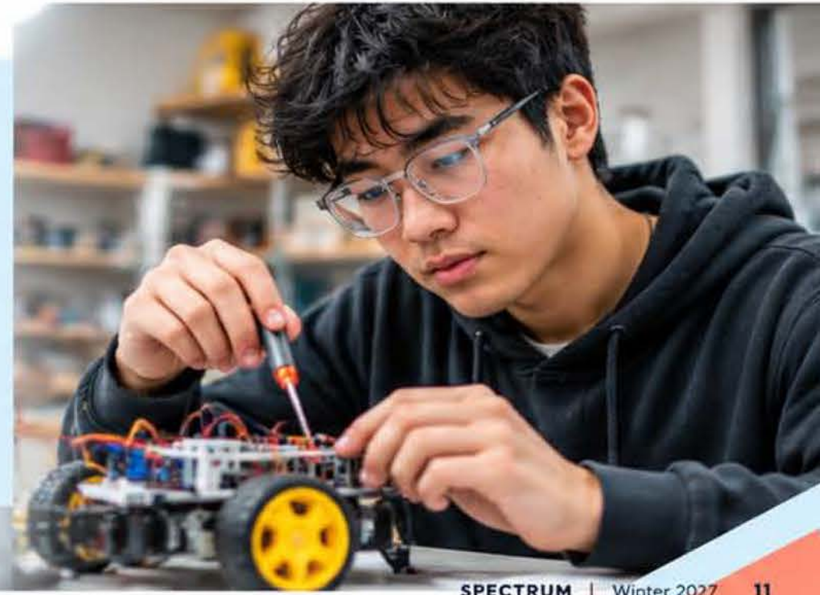
By Markus Davenport

Focused interests are a common and valuable part of the autistic experience. Often called "special interests," these deep, lasting passions can lead to impressive knowledge, practical skills, and creative achievements.

These interests are more than hobbies—they can be sources of focus, motivation, and confidence. A passion for technology might lead to coding or game design. An interest in art, music, or writing can spark creativity and self-expression. Even collecting, building, or exploring a specific topic can build important skills such as research, organization, and problem solving.

When families, educators, and employers recognize and support these interests, they create opportunities for growth. What might look like intense focus to some is often a powerful strength—one that can open doors to learning, meaningful work, and a fulfilling life.

> ***A deep interest isn't just a hobby—it can be a source of skill, creativity, confidence, and future opportunity.***





SPECTRUM

Magazine Spine System

A clean, flexible spine design that keeps the SPECTRUM brand consistent across all years and seasons.

SPINE LAYOUT (TEMPLATE)

SPECTRUM | *Season Year*

SEASONAL COLOR SYSTEM (SCALABLE)

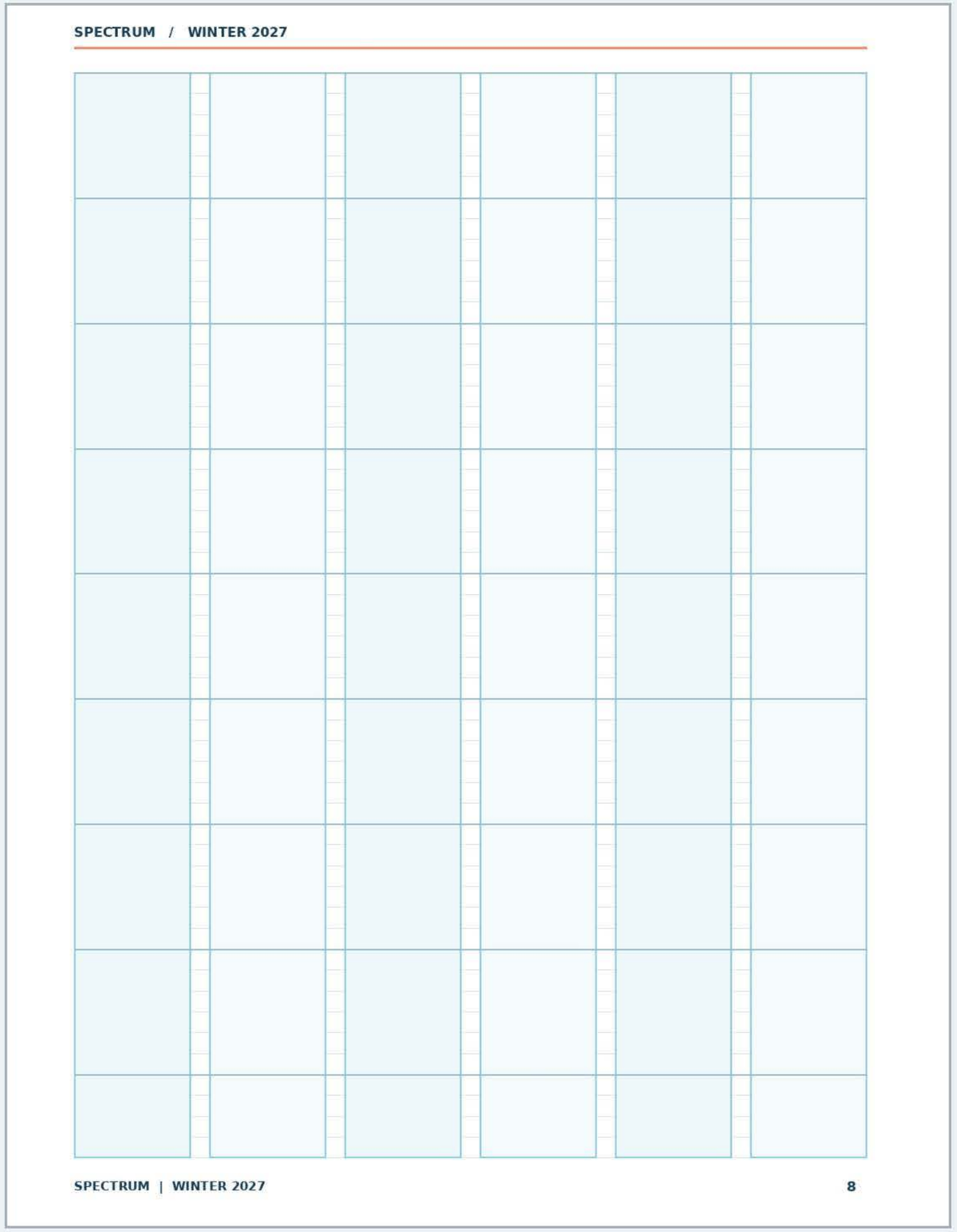
Winter	Fall	Summer	Spring
(e.g., 2027)	*(e.g., 2027)*	*(e.g., 2027)*	*(e.g., 2027)*

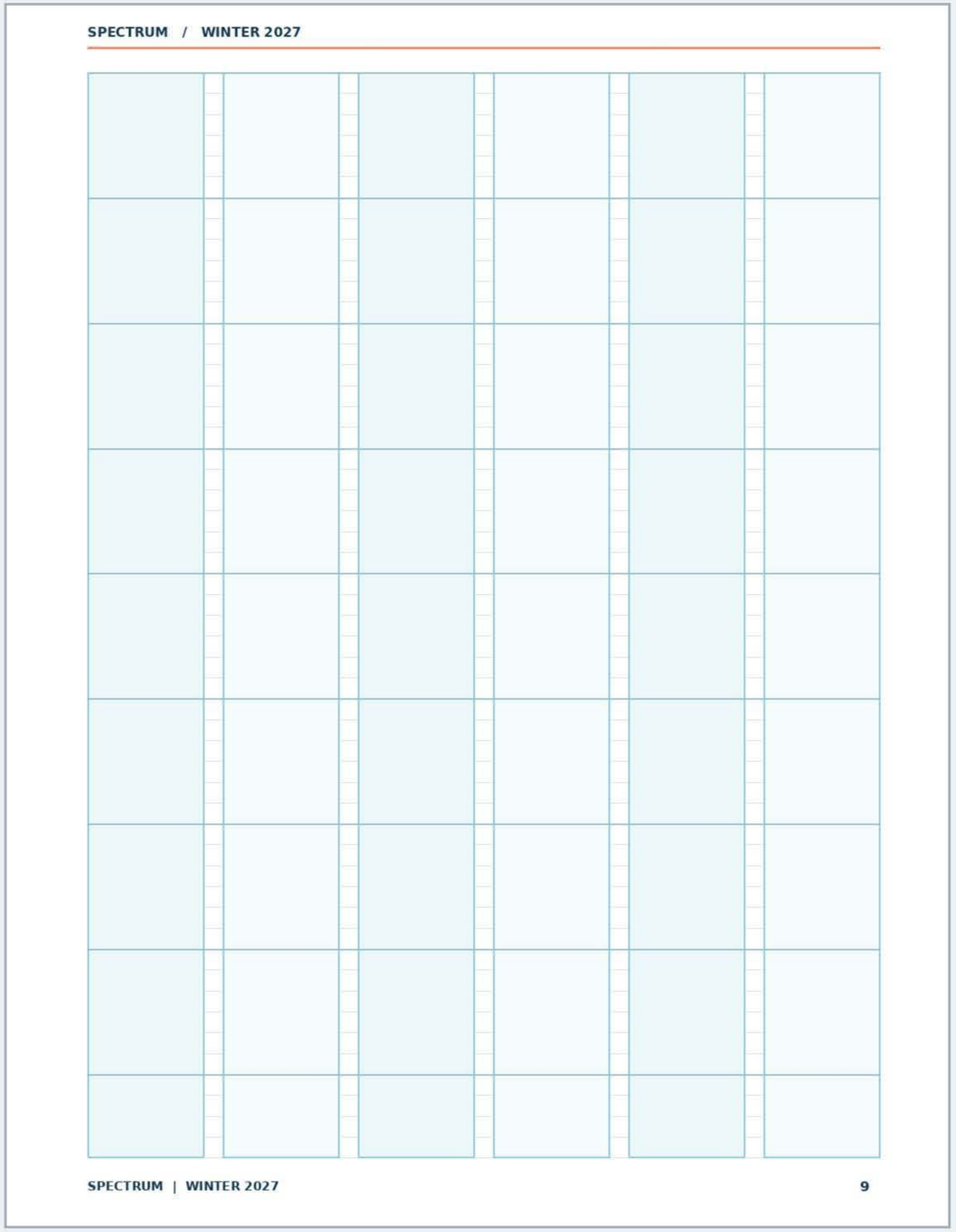
KEY FEATURES

- Consistent title treatment: SPECTRUM
- Clear seasonal identifier and year
- Distinct, repeatable color coding for each season
- Clean, modern, and highly legible at print size
- Scales easily to future years (e.g., 2028, 2029, 2030, etc.)

SPECTRUM / EDITORIAL GRID SYSTEM

WINTER 2027 • 8.5 × 11 IN • SIX COLUMNS PER PAGE





LEFT / VERSO

RIGHT / RECTO

CONTENT COLUMNS

BASELINE / MODULE GUIDES

BRAND ACCENT

SPECTRUM — Article Grid

Emphasis on Readability

Article headline
Clear, informative headline that introduces the topic and sets reader expectations.

Subheading
Optional subheading that adds context, depth, or a key takeaway.

Supporting image
A contextual photo or graphic that reinforces the content without overpowering it.

UNDERSTANDING THE SPECTRUM

Understanding Autism in Context

What it is, why it matters, and how inclusion benefits everyone.

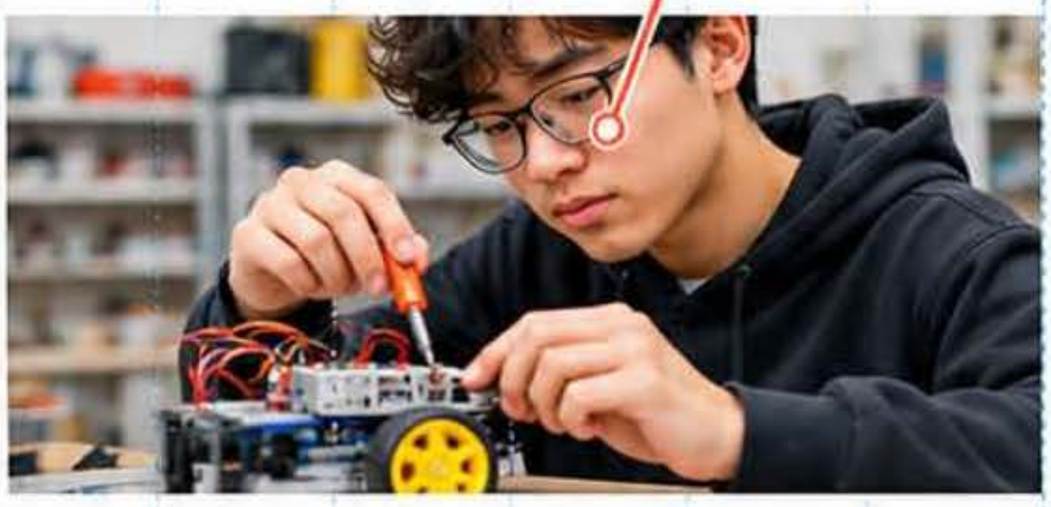
By Constance Pritchard

Autism is a naturally occurring neurological difference that influences how a person experiences, processes, and interacts with the world. It is not a disease and not something to be "fixed." Instead, autism represents a different way of thinking, learning, and communicating.

While every autistic individual is unique, many share common experiences, such as sensory sensitivities, focused interests, and a preference for routine. Understanding these traits can help us build more supportive environments at school, work, and in our communities.

A RANGE OF EXPERIENCES

Autism exists on a spectrum, which means it includes a wide range of strengths, needs, and support preferences. Some people may need more assistance in certain areas, while others live independently and thrive with minimal support. What they share is a different, often valuable, perspective that can enrich the people and places around them.



THE VALUE OF INCLUSION

Inclusive spaces give autistic individuals the opportunity to use their strengths, share their interests, and contribute in meaningful ways. When we focus on abilities rather than limitations, we create environments where everyone can learn, work, and belong.

> ***Inclusion creates opportunities for individuals to thrive and for communities to grow stronger.***

A SHARED RESPONSIBILITY

Building a more inclusive society is a shared effort. It starts with awareness, continues with understanding, and grows through everyday actions—listening, being open-minded, and valuing different perspectives.

Six columns (left page)

Six columns (right page)

Body text (multi-column)
Readable, well-structured text organized into two or three columns for a smooth reading flow.

Section heading
Descriptive subheadings that break up the content and guide the reader.

Pull quote (optional)
A highlighted quote that emphasizes a key idea and adds visual interest.

GRID & LAYOUT KEY

- Page margin (safe area)
- Column grid (6 columns per page)
- Primary accent (SPECTRUM coral)
- Secondary accent (ice blue)
- Pull quote or highlight area (optional)

Best used for in-depth articles.
Prioritizes clear, organized reading, with a balance of text, subheadings, and supporting visuals.

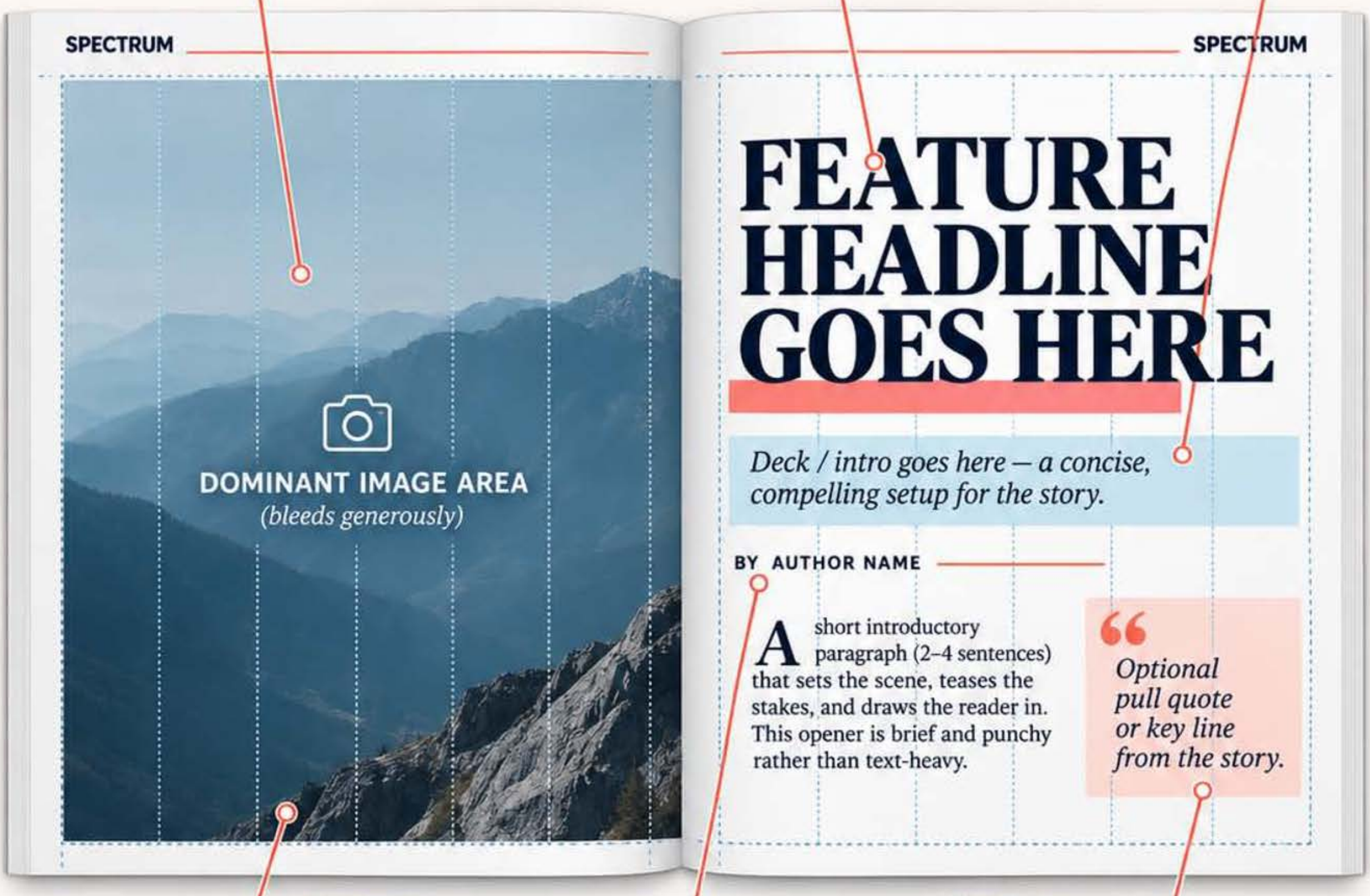
SPECTRUM — Feature Grid

Emphasis on Visual Impact

Dominant image
Large, high-impact photo that bleeds generously to create scale and immediate visual impact.

Feature headline
Bold, oversized headline that makes a strong, expressive first impression.

Deck / intro
A concise, compelling summary that sets up the story.



Six-column modular grid
A flexible six-column grid per page (12 columns across the spread) that supports bold, image-led layouts and expressive headline treatment.

Byline
Clear author credit, positioned below the deck and above the intro.

Optional pull quote
A highlighted quote, key idea, or standout line to add voice and emphasis (optional).

GRID & LAYOUT KEY

- Page margin (safe area)
- Column grid (6 columns per page)
- Primary accent (SPECTRUM coral)
- Secondary accent (ice blue)
- Optional highlight (e.g., pull quote)

Best used for opening a major story.
Prioritizes strong photography, scale, and first-impression impact.

SPECTRUM — Visual Grid

Emphasis on Visual Storytelling

Primary visual
A large image or visual anchor that leads the spread and creates emotional impact.

Short headline or label
A concise title or section label that frames the visual theme without overpowering it.

Image sequence / gallery
A series of supporting visuals that expands the story through observation and detail.





Creativity can be a powerful way to process and communicate experience.



Sketching, painting, and visual routines offer focus, expression, and calm.

Creative Perspectives

How autistic artists use creativity to explore identity and belonging.

For many autistic individuals, creativity offers a unique way to understand the world, express identity, and build connection.

> *"Creativity gives me a way to be myself on my own terms.*



Six columns (left page)

Six columns (right page)

Captions
Brief captions provide context, interpretation, or narrative links between visuals.

Minimal body text
Use short text blocks to support the imagery while keeping the spread open and visually driven.

Optional pull quote
A highlighted line can add emphasis, mood, or a key idea without crowding the page.

GRID & LAYOUT KEY

- Page margin (safe area)
- Column grid (6 columns per page)
- Primary accent (SPECTRUM coral)
- Secondary accent (ice blue)
- Caption / highlight area (optional)

Best used for visual essays or image-led storytelling.

Prioritizes photography, sequence, captions, and visual rhythm, with only enough text to guide the reader.

SPECTRUM

A MAGAZINE OF AUTISM, IDENTITY, AND INCLUSION

Layout Process Sketches

1 Concept Sketches

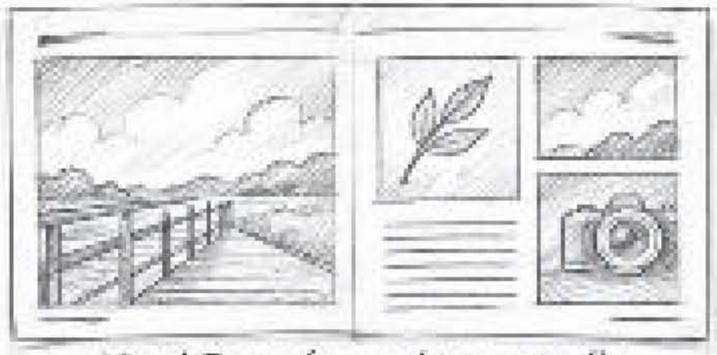
Early hand sketches exploring layout ideas, content placement, and visual balance.



Feature (opening spread)



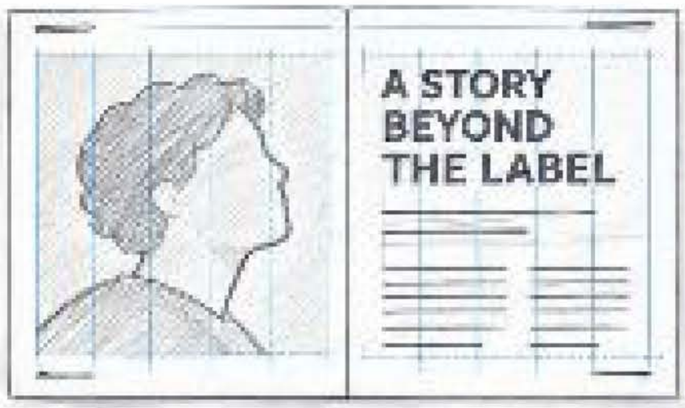
Article (text-focused spread)

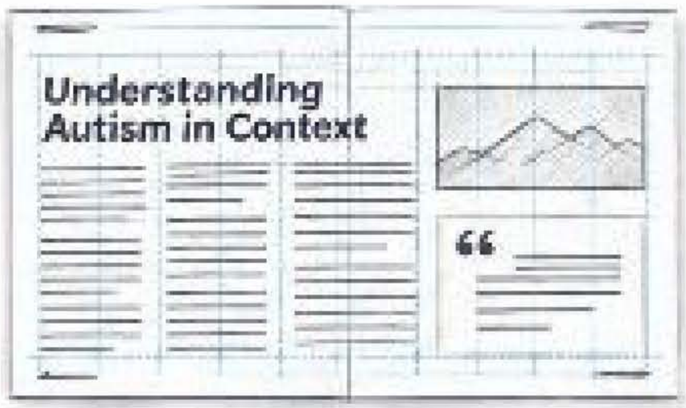


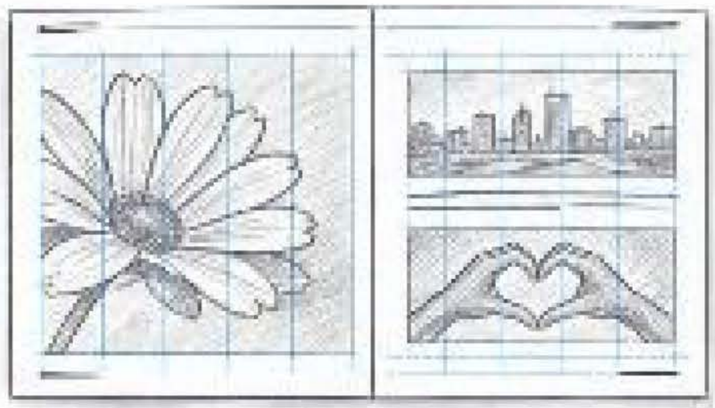
Visual Essay (image-driven spread)

2 Refinement Sketches

Developing the selected layouts with a clearer grid, stronger hierarchy, and consistent elements.

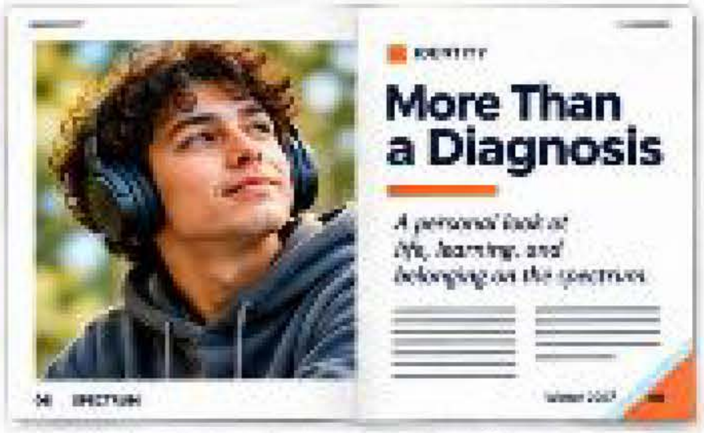




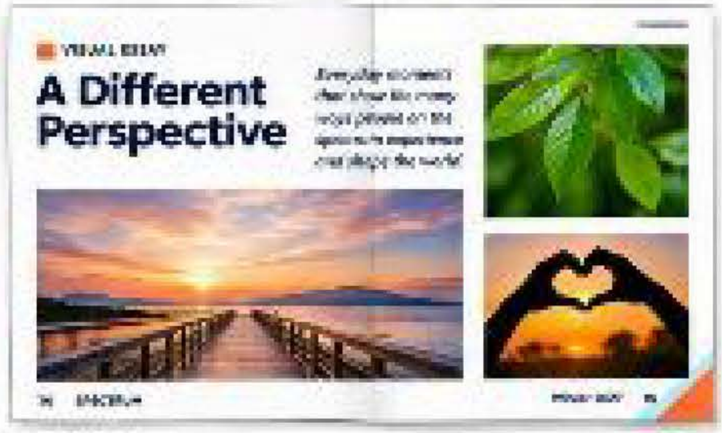


3 Final Layouts *(Concept)*

Polished layouts showing the final direction for each grid type used in SPECTRUM.







Feature Layout — Visual Impact

The Layout Process

Sketch
Explore ideas and content placement.

Refine
Apply the grid, improve hierarchy, and test options.

Finalize
Create polished, consistent layouts for the magazine.