

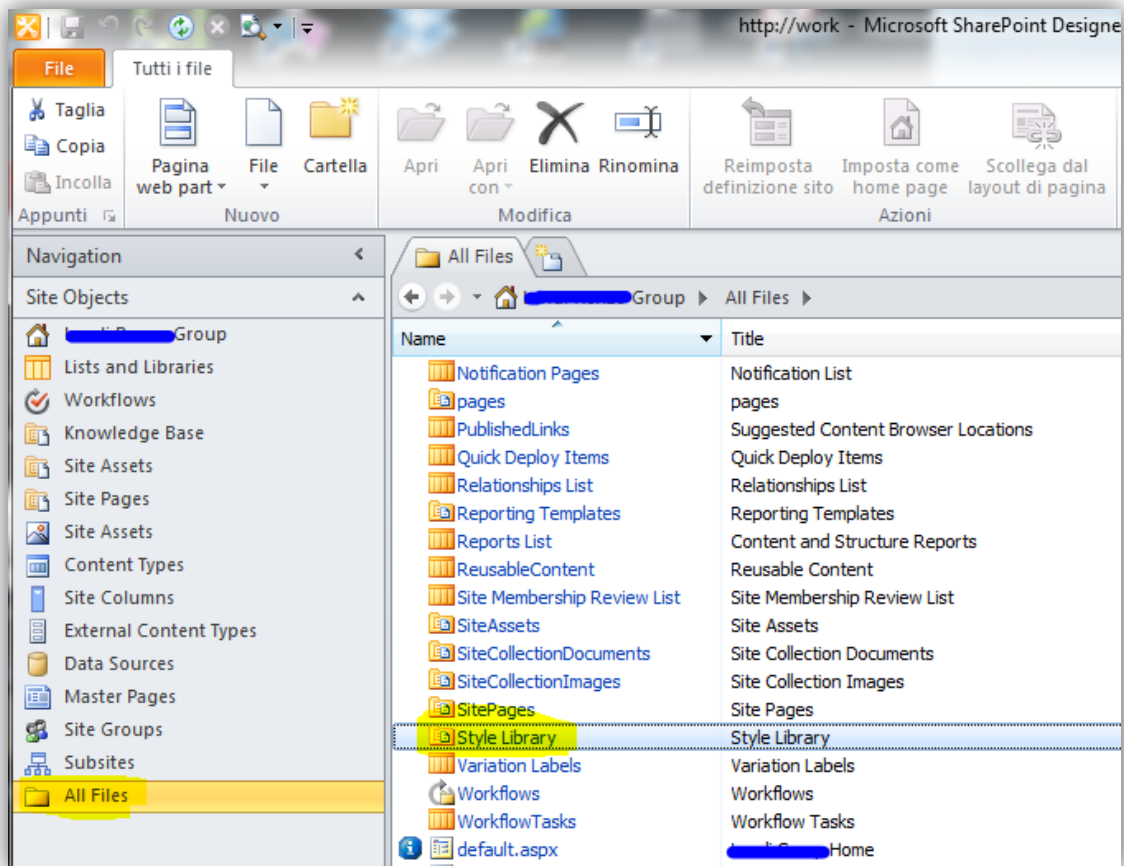
SHAREPOINT – THE BEST WAY TO ADD CUSTOM CSS

To thoroughly customize your **SharePoint** site, you'll need to use a custom **CSS**. **SharePoint** offers a way to specify a single **CSS** file to use via the "**Master page**" settings for the site. However, using this approach still limits you to customizing only those IDs and classes that are included on the pages by **SharePoint**. Moreover, using this setting applies to both site and system pages, which may not be desirable.

With these downsides in mind, the best approach is to create a custom master page and include references to one or more custom **CSS** files. Follow the steps below to include a custom **CSS** file in your master page.

1. Open **SharePoint Designer (SPD)** and connect to the root level of your site's site collection.
2. In **SPD**, open the "**Style Library**" folder.
3. Create a new **CSS** file and name it (e.g. "**customstyles.css**").
4. Open your master page file in **SPD**.
5. In the **<head>** tag add a link to your custom **CSS** just above the content place holder named "**PlaceHolderAdditonalPageHead**" as follows:

```
<link href="/Style%20Library/customstyles.css" rel="stylesheet" type="text/css" />
```



Your custom master page is now using your new CSS file in addition to all of the CSS files **SharePoint** uses out-of-the-box.

The idea is that you are taking advantage of the "**cascading**" property of cascading style sheets by layering your custom styles on top of what **SharePoint** creates in order to alter the **SharePoint** look-and-feel as desired—like a **skin**.