

# SOFA QandA – Theme Manuals

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Sofa QandA demo site can be found here: <http://qanda.sofarider.com/>

*Thank you for purchasing Sofa QandA WordPress theme! For any questions you might have please contact me at [info@sofarider.com](mailto:info@sofarider.com).*

## 1. Introduction

If you need an instant Q and A (questions and answers) aka knowledge base website solution, look no further because Sofa QandA WordPress theme is exactly what you gonna need. Regardless the niche, it'll fit perfectly by letting you 'assemble' nifty community website in just a couple of minutes. It has built-in voting system, internal bookmarking (user favorites), user Reputation handler, personalized profile page for each user, Questions sharing on Twitter and Facebook, a couple of ready-made Widgets for spicing up the content, etc.

And it works really simple; anyone willing to participate either by asking Question or providing an Answer must be registered. Everything is done straight from the front-end which means site users will never access/see the Dashboard! Registered users (those who participate actively) collect Reputation points. When there's enough points, users are allowed to vote up (or down) other user Questions and Answers. Question owner is allowed to accept any Answer as a solution and thus make it trustworthy for other users (accepted Q becomes tagged as "SOLVED!").

I just hope that you gonna enjoy Sofa QandA WP theme!

## 2. Requirements & Compatibility

This theme has been tested on both PC and Mac. Each and every Browser that has a support for JavaScript will run it at no issue - including IE6. Of course, don't expect to see rounded corners on any IE below version 9.

### 3. Quick Setup

OK, let's spend a few minutes and make your WordPress work properly with this theme. Of course, before you start, don't forget to Activate Sofa QandA theme.

#### 3.1. Media Settings

From Admin menu select **Settings > Media**, take a look at illustration below and define new values. (Thumbnail: 225x150, Medium: 550x0, Large: 959x0).

**Media Settings**

#### Image sizes

The sizes listed below determine the maximum dimensions in pixels to use when inserting an image into the body of a post.

Thumbnail size      Width  Height   
 Crop thumbnail to exact dimensions (normally thumbnails are proportional)

Medium size      Max Width  Max Height

Large size      Max Width  Max Height

#### Embeds

Auto-embeds       When possible, embed the media content from a URL directly onto the page. For example: link

Maximum embed size      Width  Height

#### Uploading Files

Store uploads in this folder       *Default is wp-content/uploads*

Full URL path to files       *Configuring this is optional. By default, it s*

Organize my uploads into month- and year-based folders

**Save Changes**

## 3.2. Permalink Settings

WordPress default link structure is quite bad, especially for SEO so we are about to make it more search engine and user friendly. OK, from Admin menu select **Settings > Permalinks**, take a look at illustration below and apply to your own Permalink Settings (`/%category%/postname%`).

**Permalink Settings**

By default WordPress uses web URLs which have question marks and lots of numbers in them, however WordPress offers you compatibility of your links. A [number of tags are available](#), and here are some examples to get you started.

**Common settings**

Default `http://qanda.lh/?p=123`

Day and name `http://qanda.lh/2011/03/22/sample-post/`

Month and name `http://qanda.lh/2011/03/sample-post/`

Numeric `http://qanda.lh/archives/123`

Custom Structure `/%category%/postname%/`

**Optional**

If you like, you may enter custom structures for your category and tag URLs here. For example, using `topics` as your category base

Category base

Tag base

**Save Changes**

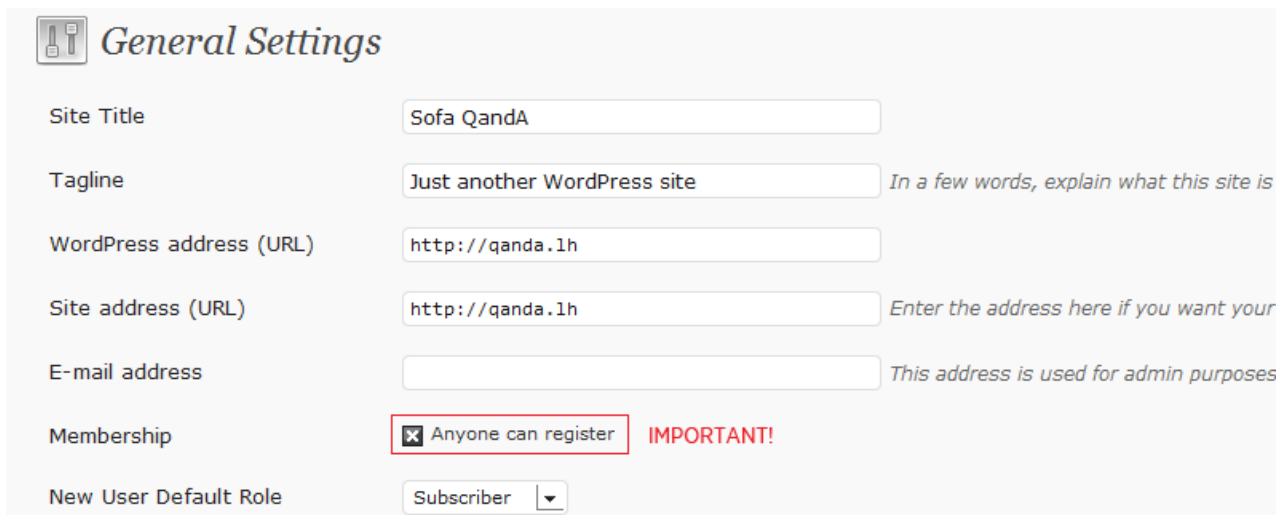
For a case you are unable to modify Default permalink structure, it means that your “.htaccess” file is not writable. This problem is commonly met on Windows IIS server although it's not a rule and may persist on both Unix and Linux servers. It can be fixed by changing write permission of “.htaccess” file to 755 (know as CHMOD 755) on Unix/Linux. Windows IIS server will probably not allow write permission change which means you'll have to contact your hosting provider.

### 3.4. General Settings and Discussion Settings

Hence the fact we are dealing with community website/WP theme, everyone should be able to register. Next, as you probably have noticed on QandA demo site, we are dealing with threaded (nested) comments that may go 2 levels deep only! So let's make a few mouse clicks and help your new theme run properly...

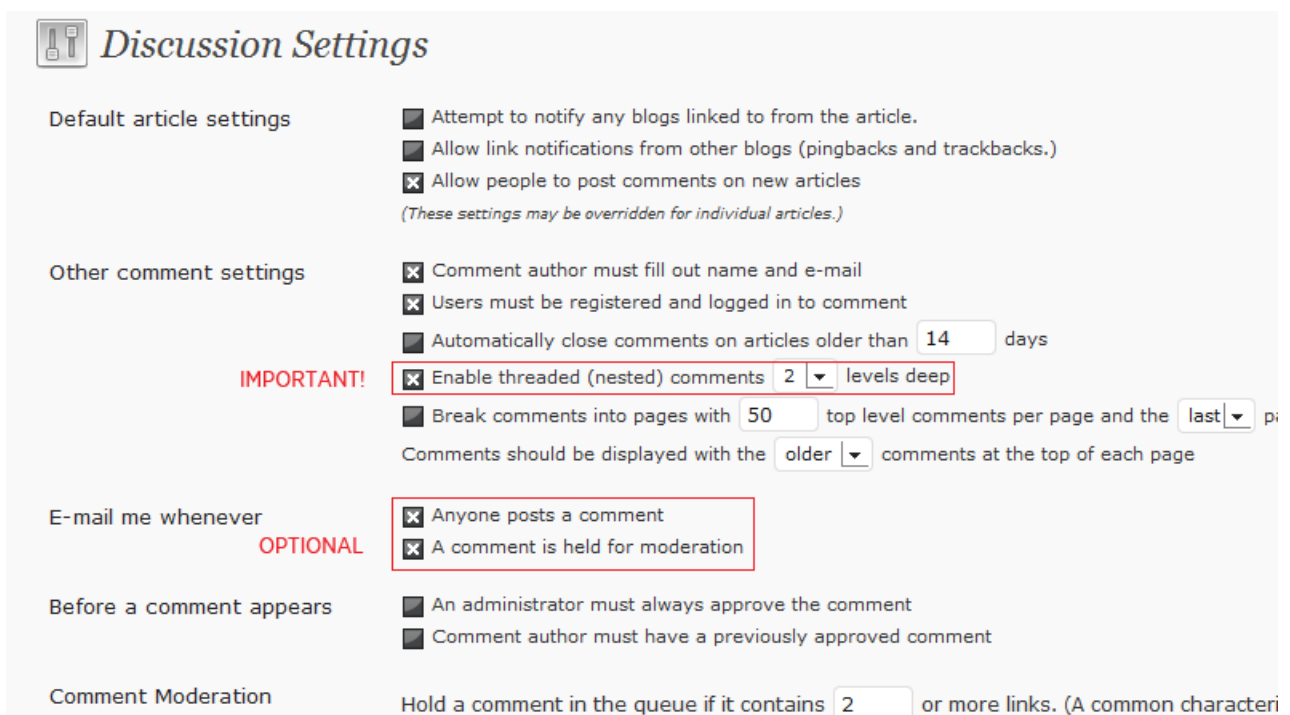
a) Login to WordPress Admin panel first

b) From main Admin menu select Settings > General and tick that "Anyone can register" checkbox (have a look the image below if you are lost)



The screenshot shows the 'General Settings' page in WordPress. The 'Membership' section is highlighted with a red box, showing the checkbox for 'Anyone can register' is checked, with the word 'IMPORTANT!' written in red next to it. Other settings include Site Title (Sofa Qanda), Tagline (Just another WordPress site), WordPress address (URL) (http://qanda.1h), Site address (URL) (http://qanda.1h), E-mail address, and New User Default Role (Subscriber).

c) From main Admin menu select Settings > Discussion and have it look like this:



The screenshot shows the 'Discussion Settings' page in WordPress. The 'Enable threaded (nested) comments' checkbox is checked and highlighted with a red box, with the word 'IMPORTANT!' written in red next to it. Other settings include 'Anyone can register' (checked), 'A comment is held for moderation' (checked), 'An administrator must always approve the comment' (checked), and 'Comment author must have a previously approved comment' (checked). The 'Discussion Settings' page also includes options for default article settings, other comment settings, and comment moderation.

### 3.4. Menus

This theme has support for 3 different menus: header, footer and sidebar aka Widget menu.

Now select **Appearance > Menus** from dashboard and create these three. You'll probably get back to this section later, as you add more categories and pages. Feel free to arrange menu items for each menu on the way you like.

**1. Use this button to create 3 menus**

Footer Menu Main Menu Widget Menu +

Menu Name Main Menu  Automatically

[Delete Menu](#)

Home CUSTOM

How it works? PAGE

Categories CUSTOM

jQuery CATEGORY

Miscellaneous CATEGORY

Full Width Page PAGE

**2. Declare all of them by selecting a namesake. Don't forget to Save!**

Save

Drag to re-arrange menu items

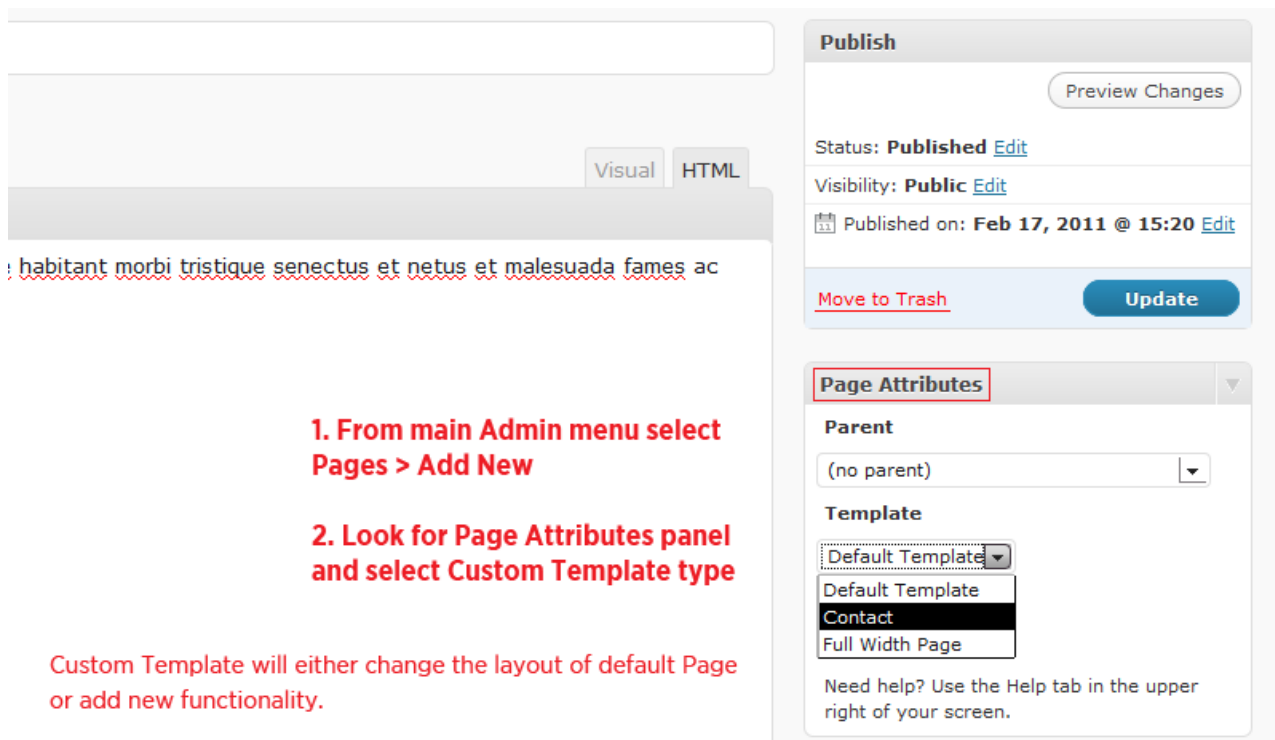
By creating your menus use “Main Menu”, “Footer Menu” and “Widget Menu” as menu names.

## 4. Custom Templates

In WordPress, Custom Templates are usually applied to Page. Custom means that such page is most probably made for certain functionality that is out of WP's default template possibilities. Of course, that's not a rule, for example Fullwidth page is nothing but a common page without sidebar and it does nothing unusual.

Anyway, Sofa QandA is equipped with 2 extra type of pages:

- **Fullwidth**
- **Contact**



The image shows a screenshot of the WordPress page editor interface. On the left, there is a text area with a placeholder text: "habitant morbi tristique senectus et netus et malesuada fames ac". Above the text area are two tabs: "Visual" and "HTML".

On the right side, there is a "Publish" panel with the following information:

- Status: **Published** [Edit](#)
- Visibility: **Public** [Edit](#)
- Published on: **Feb 17, 2011 @ 15:20** [Edit](#)

Below the "Publish" panel are two buttons: "Move to Trash" and "Update".

Below the "Publish" panel is the "Page Attributes" panel, which is highlighted with a red box. It contains the following information:

- Parent: (no parent) [▼](#)
- Template: [Default Template](#) [▼](#)
- Default Template
- Contact**
- Full Width Page

At the bottom of the "Page Attributes" panel, there is a note: "Need help? Use the Help tab in the upper right of your screen."

Below the text area, there are two red instructions:

1. From main Admin menu select **Pages > Add New**
2. Look for **Page Attributes panel** and select **Custom Template type**

Below the instructions, there is a red note: "Custom Template will either change the layout of default Page or add new functionality."

Custom Templates are not a must. Many people will probably use Contact template only in order to instantly add a contact form to their website.

## 5. Widgets

In order to access Widgets section of WordPress Admin select **Appearance > Widgets**.

On the right hand side you gonna find the list of 8 different sidebars which are widget-ready.

Now, on the Widget list (left hand side, larger area) you can see 8 different Widgets starting with 'QandA'. These are preferred theme Widgets! Drag and drop from left to any widget-ready sidebar or column on right hand side. That's how you add Widgets. And that's all you gotta know.

Of course, you can use other, default Widgets too or even create your own if you like!

### Things you should know about “QandA Adverts” Widget

This Widget is used to hold a chunk of HTML code which actually represents an array of 125x125px clickable banners. It means that you should add such code on your own. I guess it shouldn't be a problem for anyone and in order to ease your job, here's a sample code. Just copy and paste to widget body.

```
<a href="http://flashden.net/?ref=thename" title="ad1">

</a>
<a href="http://themeforest.net/?ref=thename" title="ad2">

</a>
<a href="http://audiojungle.net/?ref=thename" title="ad3">

</a>
<a href="http://graphicriver.net/?ref=thename" title="ad4">

</a>
```

\* Parts of text marked **red** is what you should replace with your own info!

## 6. Possibly Related Questions

As you already have noticed on demo site of Sofa QandA theme, Question details page contains the list of Possibly Related Questions. It'll always be there in case the system 'figures out' that a current Question might have similar content questions too. There's no need to worry about that because Question Tags are mandatory input field and each user will have to enter some by posting new question.

### Ask New Question

NOTE: Be sure all fields marked with \* are filled. Otherwise your Question will not be accepted!

\* YOUR QUESTION

UPLOAD FILE:

\* QUESTION TAGS - MUST BE COMMA SEPARATED; TAG1, TAG2, TAG3 ...

\* QUESTION CATEGORY:

\* Are you a human?

6 + 8 =

Whatever user enters here will be used as tag(s) according to which Possibly Related Questions are shown below each Question details.

## 7. Troubleshooting

### *How do I localize/translate this theme properly?*

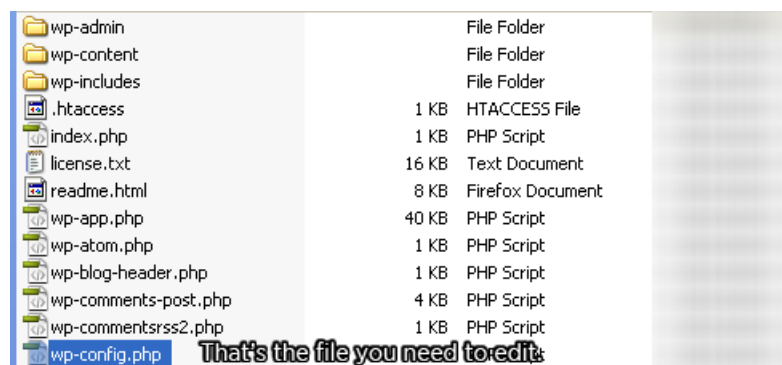
This theme takes behalf of WordPress' built-in GNU gettext framework (<http://www.gnu.org/software/gettext/gettext.html>) and can easily be translated in such manner.

How to start? It's quite simple. First of all go to <http://www.poedit.net/> and download this mini application made for the purpose of translation. It's free and cross-platform ready. After installation open '**sofa\_QandA**' theme folder and spot another folder inside named '**theme\_localization**'. It contains '**sofa\_QandA.po**' file which can be opened with Poedit – an app you just have installed. Translate all the phrases found in '**sofa\_QandA.po**' and save new file as locale. What is locale? A locale is a combination of language and regional dialect. Usually locales correspond to countries. For example, let's say you are translating this theme to French. You will have to save it as 'fr\_FR.po'. However, in case you translate it to Brazilian Portuguese, you gonna save it as 'pt\_BR.po'. Take a look for more examples here: [http://codex.wordpress.org/WordPress\\_in\\_Your\\_Language](http://codex.wordpress.org/WordPress_in_Your_Language)

After you save translated file, you'll find additional namesake with the different extension - “.mo”. That's the one we actually need! You can leave “.po” file in 'theme\_localization' folder but “.mo” has to be copied to '**sofa\_QandA**' root folder!

In case you already use localized version of WordPress and a locale of Sofa QandA theme corresponds to the locale of WordPress – your job is done. Otherwise you'll have to do the following:

1. open 'wp-config.php'. This file can be found **in root of your WordPress installation**. Have a look:



2. open '**wp-config.php**' in some text editor, preferably the one capable to display line numbers

3. go to line #67, it currently reads:

```
define ('WPLANG', '');
```

4. in case you have saved your translation file as 'fr\_FR.po', you gonna change it to:

```
define ('WPLANG', 'fr_FR');
```

...in case you have saved your translation file as 'de.po', you gonna change it to:

```
define ('WPLANG', 'de');
```

...in case you have saved your translation file as 'pt\_BR.po' you gonna change it to:

```
define ('WPLANG', 'pt_BR');
```

...etc, etc, etc.

5. save 'wp-config.php' and re-upload if required

Once again: In order to make your localization work, “.mo” file needs to be present in 'sofa\_QandA' root folder! In case you are stuck with it – don't hesitate to drop me an email!

### ***How do I change theme's default logo?***

- 1) Login to Admin panel
- 2) From main Admin menu select Appearance > Header
- 3) Click on "Remove Header Image" to delete default logo
- 4) Save Changes
- 5) Browse to your own 300x60px logo file and upload

TIP: If you like to change default width and height go to theme Options!

(Appearance > SofaQandA Options >> Logo Settings)

### ***How do I change recipient e-mail address to which contact form results are sent?***

By default Contact form results are sent to WP Admin. It means that whoever got WP installed should have email address entered too. Either way, in order to be sure at which email address your Contact form is about to end up, select **Users > Users >> ADMIN\_NAME** ... where ADMIN\_NAME represents user name provided by WP installation.

In case you want to use different email address, do the following:

- 1) In 'sofa\_QandA' root folder find the file named 'contact.php'. Open it.
- 2) go to line number #58 that by default reads **\$to = \$owner->user\_email;**
- 3) replace **\$owner->user\_email** with **'another\_recipient@domain.com'** so it reads like:  
`$to = 'another_recipient@domain.com';`
- 4) save 'contact.php' and re-upload to server if necessary

## ***How do I install additional/required database table columns manually if anything goes wrong?***

Well, you'll have to do it manually from **phpMyAdmin**. Most servers use Control Panel to allow users domain/hosting administration. There must be a link at your Control Panel that opens **phpMyAdmin** which is used to manage MySQL databases. Click on it, log in if required and from the list of databases (left hand side menu) select database that you use for running SofaQandA theme. Now...

**1.** From available top tabs select 'SQL'. It should be the second tab...

**2.** Paste and execute the following queries:

```
ALTER TABLE wp_posts ADD no_votes varchar(20) NOT NULL DEFAULT '0'
```

```
ALTER TABLE wp_posts ADD no_faves varchar(20) NOT NULL DEFAULT '0'
```

```
ALTER TABLE wp_posts ADD accepted_by varchar(10) NOT NULL DEFAULT '0'
```

```
ALTER TABLE wp_users ADD user_faves text NOT NULL DEFAULT ''
```

```
ALTER TABLE wp_comments ADD accepted_by varchar(10) NOT NULL DEFAULT '0'
```

Please note **wp\_** prefix marked red! Your tables do not necessarily have to share that prefix. In case other tables in database do not start with **wp\_** you'll have to replace it!

## 8. Sofa QandA theme Options

From main Admin menu select **Appearance > SofaQandA Options** first.

All of the options are well described in-place and there shouldn't be any questions of type "What is this option about?". Read carefully what is each option about and try to remember, that's the whole story.

## 9. jQuery plugins and icons used with Sofa QandA

### 1. DD\_belatedPNG

This brilliant (and probably the best one) plugin is used to handle transparency issue on IE 6. More info can be found here: [http://www.dillerdesign.com/experiment/DD\\_belatedPNG/](http://www.dillerdesign.com/experiment/DD_belatedPNG/)

### 2. Uniform (Sexy forms with jQuery)

Uniform masks your standard form controls with custom themed controls. It works in sync with your real form elements to ensure accessibility and compatibility. <http://pixelmatrixdesign.com/uniform/>

### 3. jQuery cookies - jcookie

It is used to handle open/close state of a main menu as well as theme Options multiple screens.

<http://plugins.jquery.com/project/jCookie>

### 4. jQuery Superbox! (lightbox like images view)

Many will say it's just another lightbox clone out there but I don't mind. I've tested at least 10 and none of them was so easy to set up, cross browser compatible and under 5kb. A big thanks to Pierre Bertet! Find out more about and read documentation here: [http://www.pierrebertet.net/projects/jquery\\_superbox/](http://www.pierrebertet.net/projects/jquery_superbox/)

### 5. jQuery markItUp!

It's universal markup editor written in jQuery. It allows you to turn any textarea into a markup editor. Html, Textile, Wiki Syntax, Markdown, BBcode or even your own Markup system. Extremely flexible, easy to setup and implement. Documentation and examples can be found here: <http://markitup.jaysalvat.com/home/>

### 6. Dropdown (main/top navigation drop-down)

This menu was available at Dynamic Drive but unfortunately it seems like it's removed for some reason.

### 7. jQuery tipTip (tool tips)

Sweet and simple custom tool tips by Drew Wilson. More details here:

<http://code.drewwilson.com/entry/tiptip-jquery-plugin>

### 8. Icons used with this theme

Social icons were downloaded from iconspedia.com, "readme" file can be found in "images" folder of Sofa QandA theme.

Enjoy Sofa QandA!