**Intro**

Good afternoon. We are group 7. Before we start, I’ll introduce the team. I’m Bomy, this is so in so…

With a show of hands, who here visited RPI before moving in as a freshman?

Who just searched for information online instead?

Personally, I did the latter and I looked at RPI’s official website for any information on the dorms. They had the dimensions and floor plans for the buildings but the information presented was at a bare minimum.

You guys might be familiar with RPIrooms which is a website developed by a group of former RPI students back in 2010. It helped me a lot more than RPI’s website but the website’s design is very outdated.

We thought we could make it better and created RPIdorms.

RPIdorms is a website we created with the purpose of helping students at RPI, more specifically incoming freshmen, so they can swiftly transition from high school to college.

Instead of looking into so many different resources like the two I mentioned before or discord or even reddit, students can head over to RPIdorms and find it all there making it super accessible.

We believe that sharing our experiences and knowledge on an easily accessible platform serves as an essential resource for incoming students.

*Transition - I’ll pass the mic to Mei who will describe the design and development of RPI dorms.*

**Design/Dev**

1. *In designing this project, one of our top priority was to make our site visually appealing and easy to navigate.*
2. For the general design and layout of our site, we took inspiration from real estate website such as zillow and realtor.com.
3. These sites seems to have a structure of listing properties in individual boxes with an image of the property on each boxes.
4. We’re able to implement something similar to this in our main and dorms pages using html/css grid, and each boxes has a cover image for that dorm.
5. Something else we did for the development of the dorms page is that we used json to store and ajax to output all general info for each dorm to the dorms page.
6. Next, I want to talk about the design of the specific dorms pages.
7. We agreed having a lot of images of different dorm is an essential feature of our site, each dorms has at least 5 images.
8. To the right, there’s a gallery of all the images for that dorms(implemented with html/css grid), this is something you see often on zillow. To the left we have some html tables with dorm information.
9. The next thing I want to show is our map page and upload images page. We felt the need to add a map because it helps user better visualize the true distance between some dorms and certain places. We were able to embed a map that shows all the freshman dorms’ location.
10. Now for the upload image, we thought this will be an important addition to our site because it would allow us to get access to more photos to display on our site.
11. We believe this will enhance the overall photo quality of the site overtime.
12. *Transition - Now, I’ll pass the mic to Shelly who will show a demo of how users might use the website*

**Demo**

Here is a quick demonstration of our website and some of its functionality.

* Introduce personas:
  + First we have Boblino, who is an incoming freshman from California. He is used to the hot temperatures and is therefore looking for a place with air conditioning. Boblino also enjoys working out and is looking for good roommates. He is curious about the different dorms that RPI offers and hopes to get a good idea of the dorms so that his first year is most enjoyable
  + Then we have Boblina, who is a mother that has a daughter going to RPI. However she has some concerns about cost and her daughter's allergies so she is going to do some research about dorms.
* Demo:
  + Boblino searches RPI dorms in the search engine and sees the RPI dorms covered. Then, he immediately goes to the dorms page and sees a variety of different dorms and small descriptions about the dorm listed. He quickly skims through and clicks on one that lists “no air condition”. Boblino decides he really likes this dorm and the photos are appealing. He then goes to the map and sees the distance from campus. This is perfect as it is close.
  + Boblina is a concerned mother that has many questions to be answered. She is worried about the allergies to animals that run in the family and also the financial cost of the dorms as her family is struggling during covid. Therefore, she immediately goes to the FAQ section in hopes to get some of her concerns out of the way. Moving on to the dorms section, she sees the

**Results/Conclusion**

As this project is coming to an end, I wanted to talk about some of the things we learned while doing this project.

One area that we focused on during the project was the use of a data file to build our website. Originally, our dorm page was purely built in html and was around 300 lines in length and we were able to condense it down to just over 63 lines.

Another area that we focused on was Area 1: HTML, CSS, and graphics for page layout and design.

For page layout, we utilized grids throughout the website to organize the dorms and about us page. Using a grid allowed us to organize the layouts horizontally and vertically, making them super convenient.

For a portion of our website we utilized embeds to display forms for students to ask unanswered questions or upload images of dorms and a map to display the relative locations of each dorm.

Related to these embeds comes some of our shortcomings.

Originally we wanted to create a search bar for students to search for a specific dorm. However, after doing research into how it would be implemented requiring more PHP and Javascript, we decided that it was better to focus on our main 2 areas. It ultimately does not affect a majority of the targeted users because they will be looking at each dorm to find their favorite but is a small quality of life change that could eventually be implemented.

Similarly, we wanted to create our own forms for unanswered questions and uploading images but we would’ve needed a database to store the questions and images. Once again, we wanted to focus on the html/css aspects of the project so we decided to use formfacade from google in order to create these forms. Ultimately, it still achieves our goals but we could eventually implement our own forms in the future if we wanted to make it more personal to our website and get rid of the watermark.