Production Journal
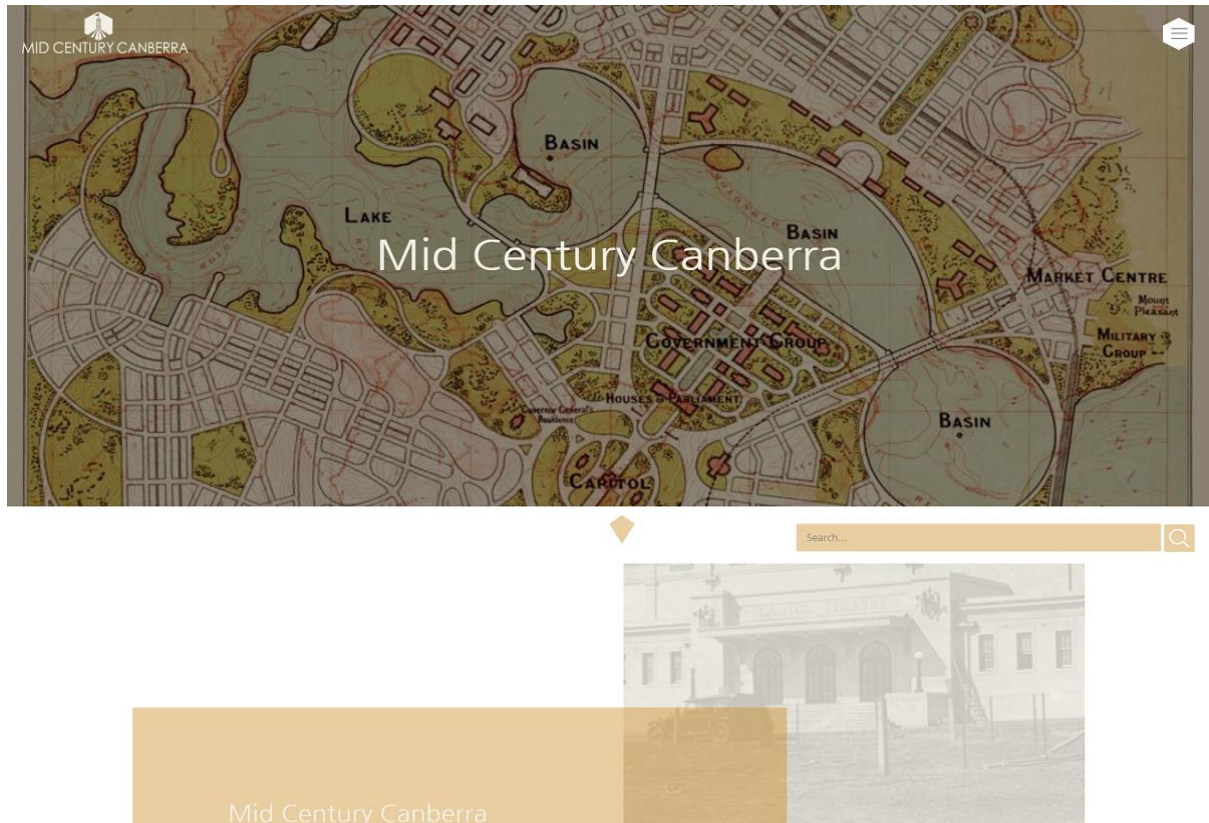
Back-end Web Development (11058)

Content Management System Website

GitHub Repository Link:

https://github.com/54x1/54x1.github.io/tree/master/Mid-Century-CBR

Live Website:

https://nathant.sgedu.site/mid-century/

Live Website Login: test:test123

Backup Website:

https://mid-century-cbr.wordifysites.com/

Backup Website Login: wordify:wpsite@2020

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Aim

The aim of this project is to ensure that you are able to successfully create a functional industry-standard CMS based website.

Task

In this project you will work in small groups (2-3 people), to create a website using a current industry-standard CMS. At a minimum, this will require CMS setup; 6 pages of content; theming; use of plugins; versioning control and deployment.

This is a group work project that will be managed by employing the SCRUM methodology, and supported with Trello. You will be assessed for your individual contribution, and it is your responsibility to keep track of these contributions.

Applying the SCRUM methodology, each group will work through developing their projects in a number of "sprints".

Each group will present their project in week 12 to the class.

The Team and Communication

I initially wanted to do this project solo but one of the requirements for this assignment is to have at least two members working on the assignment. So, I viewed the discussion forum to see if anyone made a post about group work. I was ahead of time so didn't expect to see David Grant's post. Before the assignment 2 had begun we were already in contact as early as 31st of August, near the end of assignment 1. In this group assignment I took the lead role as SCRUM Master as well as the main web developer, while David took the role of content creator and manager. I led the group's core decisions on the WordPress template since I had made a WordPress template before. Our main channels of communication were generally over Discord, which was more for brainstorming ideas and keeping each other updated. But we used Trello to keep track of updates on the WordPress template and core ideas of the design.
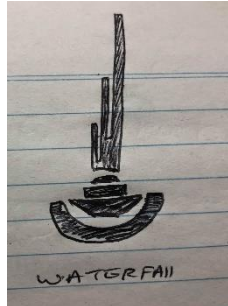
The Project

Week One
14/09/2020 – 20/09/2020

During week one I had made a Trello Board. We decided on the colour scheme of the website and the logo ideas. The site's colour scheme was initially tone down colours such Mid Century Canberra – CP1 and black/grey colour scale. But in the end we decided to go with the colours based of the Canberra's flag which are white, blue and golden-yellow.

For the design of the logo we initially had thoughts of iconic Canberra icons such as the War Memorial, the Waterfall and lastly Parliament House. After all the designs and drafts we went with Parliament House icon.

Logo Ideas

Draft 1

Draft 2

Draft 3

Draft 4

Final Logo Design

I used a LAMP stack called Laragon which helped me set up a local WordPress site. At this stage of the assignment I was developing the WordPress template from scratch. Initially for the first few days I only had some of the home page done such as the navbar and hero image. But the image was hard coded and the site had a temporary simple black scaled momo/achro-matic colour scheme. By the end of the week I had made the hero image and other images compatible with IOS devices by replacing "background-attachment: fix" to "background-attachment: scroll". As well as I fixed the hero image by making it a dynamic changeable background image based on the featured image. I changed the colour scheme to the pallet of Canberra's flag. Finally, I added a basic blogging post style that features dates, authors, contents, tags, categories, page titles, category titles and a non-styled comment section. The navigation and hero image work responsively on android and IOS.

For the font of the website we chose the Google Font Nanum Gothic Designed by Sandoll. This was primary choice as we wanted a clean san serif easy to read font.

Regular 400

Mid Century Canberra

Bold 700

Mid Century Canberra

Extra-bold 800

Mid Century Canberra

WordPress Template Updates:

- Found a navigation animation I liked and modified it for this assignment
- Navigation icon animation inspiration - https://codepen.io/sreisner/pen/yOOOjx

Week Two
21/09/2020 – 27/09/2020

WordPress Template Updates:

- In settings, I added auto, approving comments. So, there was no need for comments to be approved. This was only for testing purposes.
- Added a plugin to regenerate image thumbnails (was messing with image resizing).

- Added a search function.
- Added a widget function.
- I was still deciding on whether to place the navigation in the footer or use a widget function in footer.
- Fixed the display bug on mobile where the comment Textarea box was too large.
- I was able to modify a function I found on stack overflow to import the contents and the title from other pages.
- Added CSS to search.

Week Three
28/09/2020 – 04/10/2020

WordPress Template Updates:

- Fixed the search icon on apple devices since the alignment was off.
- Updated and made a layout for the template on both mobile (Bootstraps) and desktop (custom CSS gird).

Week Four
05/10/2020 – 11/10/2020

WordPress Template Updates:

- Updated layout for desktop which looks something similar to the current layout. Background images are on the right. The main content on the left and text overlaying on top of the background image.

- I made read more, next page and previous page links all into buttons.

WordPress Template Updates:

- Added and fixed parallax scrolling effect on the hero images.
- Finished search bar compatibility on both mobile and desktop.
- Fixed the styling of the buttons while highlighting on hover.
- Migration of the WordPress website had finished. The initial setup on wordify made it hard to migrate to SiteGround as all the plugins failed. They required SFTP while site ground only had FTP. So finally, with the research I did, I manually migrated the WordPress site from wordify to SiteGround. The only plugin I used on wordify was web access to phpMyAdmin to export the database. Then I manually FTP the whole site to SiteGround. On SiteGround I imported the database from wordify and changed the wp-config to match the new hosts database. With the help of https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wROa37k_RQA I managed to migrate the website.

During this week we had to present and walk through our website. It was a valuable tutorial as some of the students made comments on the design of the website. The tutor was very helpful in guiding me on what to fix and implement on the website. Some suggestions were changing the line height, fixing the search results, adding images to the main content and adding a location or map of some sort on the page Houses. Lastly fixing minor bugs like moderating comments before posting and making the background images compatible for smaller screens.

Conclusion

I developed this template from the ground up without buying a template or using a frame worked template or an already build template. This assignment was very challenging but I was lucky I had so much help with the content creation side. The reason I was the primary developer is because of the database conflicts as well as I wanted to challenge myself and luckily David accepted that I would take the role of coding and he would take the role of content creation.

I found it hard to implement plugin features such as maps and custom fields without actually having to pay. There were hardly any free plugins to do those features so I did my best without paying. I made sure every post had a featured image by installing a plugin called Require Featured Image to limit the errors on posting.

Our Mid-Century Canberra CMS WordPress theme template website has met the required content such as News, Houses, Architects, Locations and About page. It is fully mobile compatible, comments are moderated and content searching is available. I've set up a working Contact Form with the aid of

Contact Form 7. I've implemented an interactive gallery in the home page on mobile using the Smart Slider plugin because there isn't enough room for all the background images. I learnt a lot on this assignment, communication and being on the same page is very important.