

For the website development class, we were asked to create a website that reflects information about us. This website can be used as a resume for companies to look at our experiences and knowledge to help with the hiring process. Having built websites before, it felt like it should have gone quickly and efficiently without any hiccups. Until reality kicks in and there are always unexpected problems.

Having dealt with angular in the past, it felt fun to try out a new technology with react. Having just started using react, it has already won me over. Angular feels like more work to do the same things in react. Everything can be quickly accessed in React by quickly including the script in your project. Being able to build components quickly and include them directly into the HTML felt very satisfying. I spent probably too much time creating things like the links and then afterward converting them to be their own separate component. This did free up a lot of code by reducing the time of retyping the same code multiple times.

To try and help speed up the design process, I ended up using Balsamiq. This was required for another class I was taking, so I thought I would give it a try for the website. It actually did a great job allowing me to throw content in and play with ideas to make the website look great. I am glad that I got my website very close to where my design is. It was fun looking at a design and trying to recreate it with CSS. I can see how Balsamiq is great for phones and desktop GUI's as you are creating more static pictures. Since the browser gets resized a lot, it would take much longer to recreate all the images for the different sizes of your screen. Because of time constraints, I only laid out the information for when the screen was at a max-width.

For organization, I used a lot of grids. I would take a component that was sized to the height and width of your browser, then using grids with a color background would layout all the spots for the component content. Once I saw all the background spots filled correctly, I would try to add content. One would assume that the grid locations' width, depth, and location should not change. Unfortunately, as soon as I added an image, everything would go crazy on me. I spent too much time trying to re-align pictures within the grid locations as a picture would just try and take up the entire screen. This can be corrected by giving a static size to the picture, but it looks more dynamic to have the picture and content grow with your web browser.

In the about me section, I was planning on using a lot more pictures, but it became exceedingly time-consuming. The pictures are still a little blurry and not sized perfectly, so this is an area that needs correcting. My biggest problem with the site is now the project section. It took many hours fighting with the about me and experience sections that I ran out of time trying to handle my projects. In place of pictures, I used a simple background and red text. This does not look the best, unfortunately, but I plan to continue working on this site in the future as it does feel extremely beneficial while searching for a job.

I am really happy with how the links turned out. I found some tutorials that allowed me to add a shadow over the link when your mouse hovers over it. Then it scrolls down to the location on the page instead of instantly appearing in that location. This made the website feel more fluid and fun.

Some of the pictures were really bright and made it difficult to write text over them. To keep eyes from straining at the text, too much pixelied.com was used to darken pictures. Also, a CSS property for filtering brightness was used as well.

It would have been nice to have the projects section have fun pictures in the grid locations, and I apologize for not giving myself enough time to complete this. I estimate I worked around 26 hours on this project, including the design time in Balsamiq since last week.

I really enjoyed this class, and I have learned a lot. I am still fighting with CSS, but it felt nice to be able to use different layouts like a grid. In the past, I would spend much longer getting items to line up, relying entirely on the left, right, top, and others. Even though I still am not the quickest in web development, I am much more confident in creating websites now.

## References

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