Description

I created a portfolio website as my final project. The main goal of the website is to present my previous projects and design works and show my design abilities. The information I want to convey through my website is that I'm interested in the field of UI/UX. Also, I want to prove that I have enough expertise and experience for jobs like UI/UX designers and so on. The targeted audience is anyone who is interested in my previous experiences in UI/UX, especially my future interviewers and employees. Hence, the most important thing about the website is to ensure that the pages are concise and make sure that the users could understand the projects in a short period of time. On the other hand, I tried to make the website as interesting and engaging as possible. I have many links and animations throughout the website that the users could try. The animations make the pages more interesting so that the users could play with them, while the links and gallery animations help the users choose what they want to see and even connect with me, which could make the experience more engaging.

Interaction

Navigation Bar
- Click on the name -> get to the home page
- hover on "UI/UX" -> get the drop-down menu
- click on specific projects / "Design" / "About Me" -> get to the specific page

Botton Bar
- Click on "back to top" -> Get to the top of the website
- Click on "sijiaf@andrew.cmu.edu" -> write an email to me

Home Page
- Hover on the project title -> See the color change
- Hover on the project image -> See the color change
- Click the project title or project image -> Get to the specific page

BetterNotes Page
- Click on the video -> play the video and change the settings
- Click on "Contact with me" -> write an email to me

Pelican App Page
- Hover over the prototype images -> See the zoom-in animations of the images

Design page
- Hover over the different images -> See the animations

About Me Page
- Click the "resume" -> get the resume page in a new tab
- Click the "email" -> write an email to me
- Hover over the fun facts images -> see the animations and the full version

External Tool

I used animation in this project. As I mentioned before, I want to make sure that the website is simple enough so that the viewers could understand the projects easily. However, the problem I'm having is that the website is too static and boring. Hence, animations could properly make the whole website more interesting and animated. I use animations in different places. On the home page, there is an interesting animation switching text. As this part should be the main theme of the portfolio and the information I wish to convey to my users, I'm using animations to make it more eye-catching. Another interesting usage of the animations is the image gallery on different pages. I try to use animations here to allow the users to choose what they want to see and make it not so boring. Animations make the whole website more interesting. It helps me highlight the important information, provide perceptual affordance for the users, and add some engagement to the website.

Iterations

The whole project isn't very different from my initial prototypes. I tried to make the theme more simplified and minimalist, as I don't really like the initial complex design. Less is more, which is always correct. Besides, some critique I got was that putting all the prototype screens is a little bit too much. Hence, I choose to incorporate an image gallery with animations to allow the users to pick what they want to see.

Challenges

The biggest challenge I faced is not knowing how to incorporate the animations properly. I have a little bit problem with the coding. If I was given more time, I could make the code better. Besides, it is hard to reach a perfect balance between content richness and minimalism.

Appendix

I don't know why. Wave shows there are no images lacking alternative texts, but it still reports one error of lacking alt.