

05-630 PUI Final Project

**C L A R A ' S
T R A V E L
P H O T O G R A P H Y
J O U R N A L**

Clara Jiao Deployed website

Part 1: Design Statement

The primary goal of my website is to present and share my photographs and journals from my experiences living and traveling across the globe. Photos are organized into albums by location, and within each album, they are further divided into sections based on specific themes.

I envision this website as a playground for personal expression, serving as one part of my portfolio as a product designer, providing a glimpse into my interests, hobbies, and day-to-day life. The target audience for this site includes anyone who is interested in exploring my UX portfolio, such as my classmates, friends, potential employers, and clients.

One of the most captivating features of this website is the use of dynamic, colorful, interactive bubbles. The hues of these bubbles are derived from the colors present in the adjacent photographs. As users hover their mouse over these bubbles, the displayed text and images change accordingly. To maintain the bubble theme throughout the site, I've transformed the mouse cursor into two bubbles – a larger one constantly chasing a smaller one. Another engaging element is the interactive world map, which highlights the countries and cities I have visited.

Overall, my goal is for the website to be a delightful, enjoyable, and playful experience for visitors. I plan to continue updating and expanding the site even after the conclusion of this semester, ensuring it remains a vibrant and engaging reflection of my personal and professional journey.

Part 2: Interactions

Homepage: albums.html

- Hover on any link: cursor bubble enlarges
- Hover on album images or title: image opacity changes, cursor bubble enlarges
- Click on an album image or title: go to the corresponding album

Clara's Photographs



Clara's Photographs



Part 2: Interactions

Homepage: places.html

- Hover on any link: cursor bubble enlarges
- Hover on highlighted countries: show country name & cities visited
- Click on highlighted countries: show albums' names which are the same as cities' names
- Click on an city's name: go to the corresponding album



Part 2: Interactions

About Page: about.html

- Hover on any link: cursor bubble enlarges
- Hover on colorful bubbles: bubble's size enlarge, photo and large intro text change

CLARA



ALBUMS PLACES ABOUT

I'm Clara, a product designer care
about humanity and beauty.

As a travel enthusiast, avid photographer, and passionate writer, my love for exploring new places, capturing beautiful moments, and sharing my experiences with others has led me to create this personal travel photography journal website. I'm excited to take you on a journey through my lens and share with you the wonders of the world.

So come along and join me on this adventure!

CLARA



ALBUMS PLACES ABOUT

Despite not pursuing a career in architecture, my passion for it still burns strong, as I found myself captivated by Carol Scarpa's yard.

As a travel enthusiast, avid photographer, and passionate writer, my love for exploring new places, capturing beautiful moments, and sharing my experiences with others has led me to create this personal travel photography journal website. I'm excited to take you on a journey through my lens and share with you the wonders of the world.

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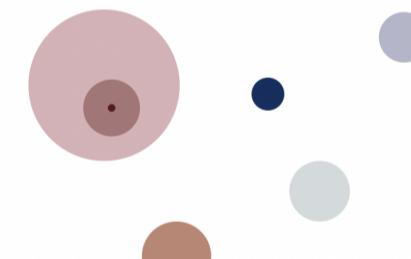
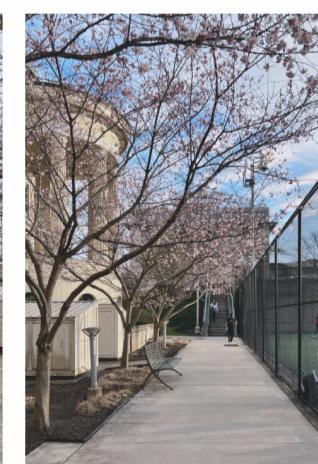
Part 2: Interactions

Homepage: 01_pitts.html

- Hover on any link or image: cursor bubble enlarges
- Hover on colorful bubbles: bubble's size enlarge, photo and journal text change
- Hover on any image: show description texts

2022-2024, Pittsburgh

Try to HOVER the bubbles!



● Spring Flowers

Having spent six warm, and some would argue hot, years in Hong Kong, I ventured to Pittsburgh to embark on my graduate studies. Though I hail from a northern Chinese city, the cold has always been a source of trepidation for me. The climate in Hong Kong was perfectly suited to my liking, so I couldn't help but feel a bit anxious about the weather in my new home. I had heard rumors that the snow would start falling as early as November, and winter would drag on until April. Fearing the worst, I stocked up on two down jackets, two pairs of winter boots, and an array of hats, gloves, and scarves to see me through the impending winter months.

2022-2024, Pittsburgh

Try to HOVER the bubbles!



● Spring Flowers

I remember a Tuesday afternoon in late March when I strolled from home to a favorite spicy hotpot restaurant near the University of Pittsburgh. The meal wasn't really about the food; it was about soaking in the sunshine and breathing in the fresh air. Coming from Hong Kong, a bustling metropolis, to Pittsburgh - a place I would almost call a 'village' - most of the leisure activities, like shopping, watching movies, and dining out, vanished almost instantly. The majority of my time was spent hunched over my computer, working on assignments, portfolios, and applications for internships, during my first semester. I was curious about my new environment, but also under immense pressure to change careers and find a meaningful internship. In the final weeks of the term, as I walked to class one day, I suddenly felt an overwhelming sense of boredom and suffocation, like being trapped in a cage. Luckily, the end of the semester meant a two-week trip to New York and Boston, which helped me shake off the malaise. But it also made me realize that I may be better suited or more accustomed to the noisy and busy city life.

Part 3: External Tools

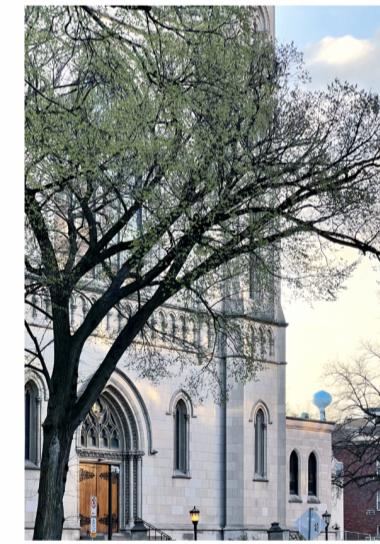
Animate.css

- I decided to use the Animate.css library to draw attention to the interaction "Try to HOVER the bubbles!" for users to understand what to do.
- I utilized the "heartBeat" animation in CSS to make the text "Try to HOVER the bubbles!" pop up multiple times, grabbing users' attention. I used this animation twice, once on the landing page and again under the album title, to emphasize the interaction method. By doing so, I believe it will enhance the website's usability and clarity.



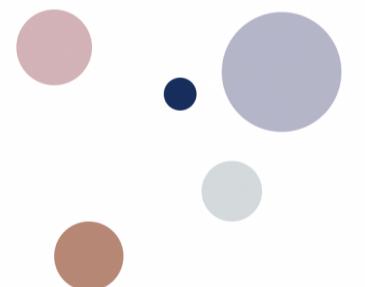
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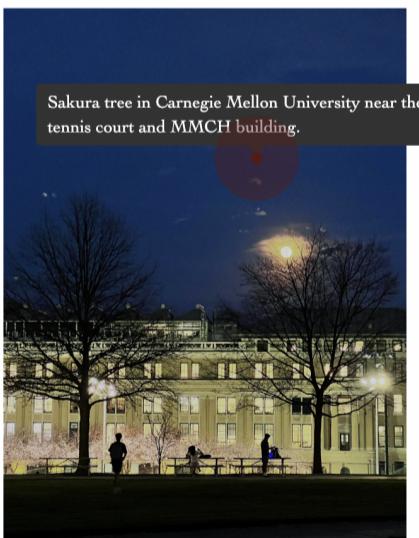
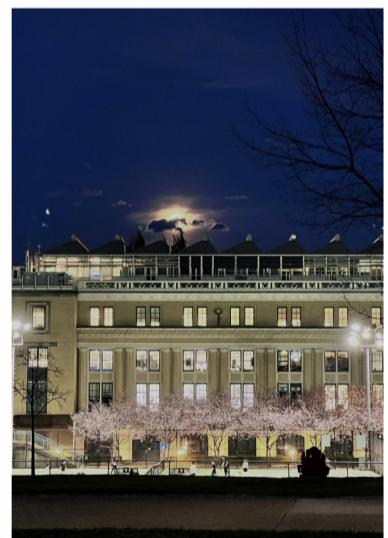
Part 3: External Tools

Tippy.js

- I integrated the Tippy.js library into my website to display descriptions for each photo when users hover over them with their mouse.
- This feature improves accessibility for people with vision disabilities who may use screen readers, as well as aids in organizing and expressing my thoughts for each image.

2022-2024, Pittsburgh

Try to HOVER the bubbles!

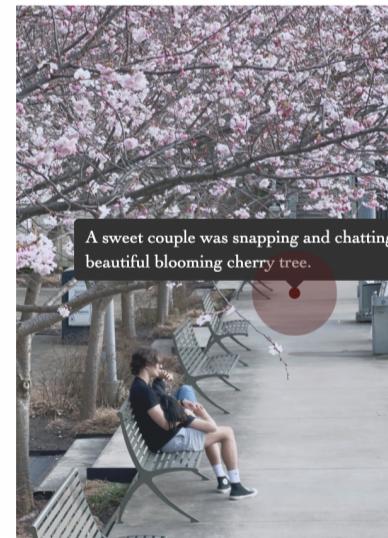
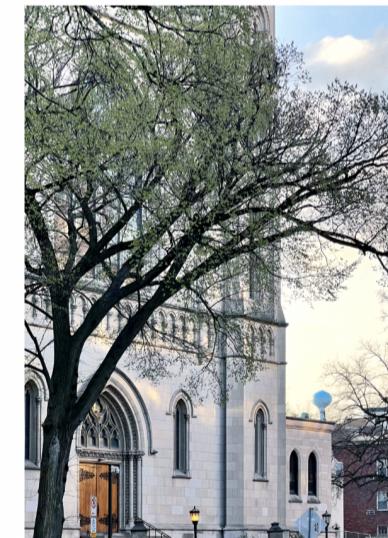


● Spring Flowers

Yet, to my pleasant surprise, the winter in Pittsburgh proved to be far more manageable than I had anticipated. The heating was more than adequate, and spring arrived at lightning speed - with temperatures in the double digits Celsius making a welcome appearance in February and flowers blossoming by mid-March. By the end of the month, the surroundings of Carnegie Mellon University, the University of Pittsburgh, and my neighborhood of Shadyside were bursting with an array of colorful blooms, filling me with elation and joy. I couldn't resist taking pictures every day on my way to school or during my walks, such was the beauty of my surroundings. It was at this moment that I realized the true wonder of the four seasons! Compared to Hong Kong, where the lush greenery reigns all year round, the summer's verdant green, autumn's golden hues, winter's pristine white, and spring's riotous colors in Pittsburgh make one appreciate nature even more and experience the fleeting nature of time. The collision between flowering trees and ancient buildings is a sight to behold, and its visual complexity makes for photographs that exude texture and depth.

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Part 3: External Tools

Custom Dot Cursor

- I adapted the "Custom Dot Cursor" code from Codepen to create a playful and consistent design for the website. I changed the color of the dots so that it will be white on red background and red on white background.
- The double-dot cursor expands when hovering over images and links. As bubbles are the main design concept, this cursor reinforces my intention and adds a touch of fun and uniqueness to the website.

Clara's Photographs

The screenshot shows a website titled "Clara's Photographs". At the top right are navigation links for "ALBUMS", "PLACES", and "ABOUT". Below the header, there are two photo cards. The first card, titled "Pittsburgh, 2022 - 2024", features a yellow bridge over a river. The second card, titled "New York City, Dec 2022", features a sunset over the Empire State Building. A quote by Mark Twain is displayed in the center: "Travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry, and narrow-mindedness. Broad, wholesome, charitable views of men and things cannot be acquired by vegetating in one little corner of the earth all one's lifetime." The quote is attributed to Mark Twain.

The screenshot shows a website with a white background and a decorative pattern of overlapping colored circles (yellow, blue, red) in the upper left corner. In the center, there is a large yellow circle. To its right are three photographs of autumn foliage. The top photograph shows a street lined with trees with yellow and orange leaves. The middle photograph shows a similar scene with more green leaves. The bottom photograph shows a street with a "STOP" sign and a car. Below the photographs is a section titled "● Yellow Autumn" with a descriptive text: "During my first autumn break of the first semester, I went sightseeing in downtown with my friends for the first time. It had been a while since I had seen towering skyscrapers, and I suddenly felt like I had 'entered the city'."

Part 3: External Tools

Google GeoChart

- I adapted Google's Region GeoChart to implement the design of the Places page.
- I customized the hover effect to display the number of cities I have visited in each country. When a user clicks on a highlighted country, a div containing country and city/album names will be displayed. This adds to the geographical visualization and helps users better understand the content, which enhances usability and engagement.



Part 4&5: Iterations and Challenges

Iterations

I made some minor changes to the design and layout of my website in the implementation stage to improve its uniqueness, usability, and accessibility. These changes include:

1. Adding the "Try to HOVER the bubbles!" text in both the landing page and under the album title to remind users that the bubbles are interactive based on feedback from classmates and friends.
2. Incorporating the Tippy.js library to improve usability after attending the A11y lecture.
3. Implementing the Custom Dot Cursor to add an element of fun and uniqueness to the website.
4. Creating a mobile version layout for all pages (except for the Places page) to make it more responsive.

Challenges

To achieve a more artistic and free layout for my website, I initially used absolute position in CSS to display the images randomly. However, this caused trouble in making the website responsive, as I had to write different CSS for large screens (>1200px), medium screens (768-1199px), and small screens (<767px), adding extra work to ensure the website is fully responsive.

Another challenge I faced was the complexity of the programming part of JavaScript due to the large number of images. I initially planned to code all the albums, but after working on the Pittsburgh one, I found it overwhelming and decided to focus on it and make it more interesting and accessible, leaving the remaining pages for future development.