

Document Design

Collected Process Books

Conlon Novak

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| Introduction

This is a collection of process books was taken from my time in Carnegie Mellon University course 05-899F Document Design, taught by professor Karen Kornblum in the fall of 2020.

The course was presented remotely for the first time, and these (slightly condensed, but otherwise unaltered) process books were our primary deliverables month to month.

On a technical level, I hope the improvement of my skills and visual design understanding throughout the semester is clearly demonstrated.

More importantly, I hope they provide some insight into how I approach open-ended design problems, respond to critique, reflect on my work's strengths and flaws, and improve from there.

Conlon Novak, October 2022

Texture Studies

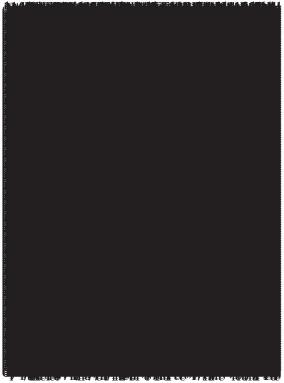
*“...push the limits of familiar typographic styling
in order to create wildly different visual textures
for each swatch.”*

Study A: Serif Textures
Conlon Novak



TYPOGRAPHY, IN THE NEWTONIAN VIEW, IS NOTHING VERY INTERESTING OR MYSTERIOUS; IT IS SIMPLY MECHANIZED WRITING. NOW THAT THE SILICON CHIP HAS JOINED THE WHEEL, THE LEVER, AND THE INCLINED PLANE, TYPOGRAPHY IS ALSO COMPUTERIZED, DIGITIZED WRITING: MORE COMPLEX THAN IT WAS, BUT NO MORE MEN WITH BESPOKE EYES OR FROM A WALTER PERSPECTIVE. TYPOGRAPHY STILL EVOKES THE WONDER AND FEAR WITH WHICH IT STARTED THE MEDIEVAL WORLD. IT IS A BLACK ART THAT BORDERS ON ARTIFICIAL INSEMINATION, AND IT CAN POSE EQUALLY DIFFICULT MORAL QUESTIONS. TYPE IS WRITING THAT IS EDITED, SHAPED, DOCTORED, AND MADE TO REPRODUCE ITSELF THROUGH ARTIFICIAL MEANS; AND WRITING ITSELF IS A KIND OF GENE-BANK FOR IDEAS, CONFINED WITHIN THE SCHOOLS. TYPOGRAPHY IS A MEANS OF IMPLANTING THE FRUITS OF CHOSEN MINDS WITH THE MINDS AND LIVES OF OTHERS. SET LOOSE IN THE WORLD, IT IS AN UNCONTROLLABLE VECTOR, LIKE THE MALARIA-BEARING MOSQUITO, ABLE TO SPREAD IDEAS AS INDISCRIMINATELY AS VIRUSES OR GERMS. THE POSSIBILITIES FOR ITS USE ARE ENDLESS. AS ONE OF THE MOST POWERFUL ARTS, FROM MEDICINE TO MUSIC, TYPOGRAPHY ALSO DEMANDS BOTH CLOSE PROXIMITY AND DISTANCE. THIS IS NOT WHAT IT SOUNDS LIKE, A SCHIZOPHRENIC SENSE OF SCALE, BUT A KIND OF TAUT COMPLETENESS. TYPOGRAPHY IS A PROCESS, AFTER ALL, IN WHICH LARGE OBJECTS—EPICS, ENCYCLOPEDIAS AND BIBLES, FOR EXAMPLE—are built from minute components, such as the strokes and bowls of letters. IT IS WORK, THEREFORE, IN WHICH MACROSCOPIC AND MICROSCOPIC PERSPECTIVES CONSTANTLY CONVERGE. AS IF THAT WERE NOT ENOUGH, IT'S ALSO AN ENTERPRISE IN WHICH HISTORY IS CONTINUOUSLY PRESENT, AND

Typography, in the Newtonian view, is nothing very interesting or mysterious



Study B: Sans Serif Textures
Conlon Novak

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Typography, in the Newtonian view, is nothing very interesting or mysterious; it is simply mechanized writing. Now that the silicon chip has joined the wheel, the lever, and the inclined plane, typography is also computerized, digitized writing:

Texture Studies

Reflection

In retrospect, it's easy to see how the two swatches with the largest font size (bottom left of both Study A and B) are not "swatches of fabric made of text" in their own right, but at best something more similar to scraps of torn cloth.

In a potential revision, I would lean away from the semantic appeal of including only the first word or sentence in the swatch, and focus instead on the weave of the text—best exemplified (in my view) by the other three swatches in Study A.

Legibility Studies

“...make the text as legible and pleasurable to read as possible, while at the same time creating different visual textures in each swatch.”

Study A: Serif Textures

Typography, in the Newtonian view, is nothing very interesting or mysterious; it is simply mechanics of writing. Now that the silicon chip has joined the wheel, the lever, and the inclined plane, typography is also computerized, digitized writing: more complex than it was, but no more profound, and perhaps increasingly subject to fashion. Seen with fresher eyes, or from a warier perspective, typography still evokes the wonder and fear with which it started the medieval world. It is a black art that borders on artificial insemination, and it can pose equally difficult moral questions. Type is writing that is edited, shaped, doctored, and made to reproduce itself through artificial means; writing itself is a kind of gene-bank for ideas. Confined within the schools, typography is a means of implanting the fruits of chosen minds with the minds and lives of others. Set loose in the world, it is an uncontrollable vector, like the malaria-bearing mosquito, able to spread ideas as indiscriminately as viruses or germs. The possibilities for its use and abuse are potent and legion. Like the other arts, from medicine to music, typography also demands both close proximity and distance. This is not what it sounds like, a schizophalic sense of scale, but a kind of *taut completeness*. Typography is a process, after all, in which large objects - epics, encyclopedias and bibles, for example - are built from minute components, such as the strokes and bowls of letters. It is work, therefore, in which macroscopic and microscopic perspectives constantly converge. As if that were not enough, it's also an enterprise in which letters are constantly moving, like a kind of *metamorphosis*, able to spread ideas as indiscriminately as viruses or germs. Seen with fresher eyes, or from a warier perspective, typography still evokes the wonder and fear with which it started the medieval world. It is a black art that borders on artificial insemination, and it can pose equally difficult moral questions. Type is writing that is edited, shaped, doctored, and made to reproduce itself through artificial means; writing itself is a kind of

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Study B: Sans Serif Textures

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Texture and Composition Reproduction

“Students are assigned an existing historical document that they must reproduce [texturally and compositionally] as closely as possible”

A S P E C I M E N

By WILLIAM CASLON, Letter-Founder, in Chifwell-Street, LONDON.

First Iteration

- A-head and B-head reproduced with accurate content and font, but with spacing and height matching issues
 - ‘Lorem ipsum’ body text replicates general shape and texture of the rest of the document, but lacks spacing for chunks, header content
 - Missing footer glyphs and text

A S P E C I M E N

By WILLIAM CASLON, Letter-Founder, in Chifwell-Street, LONDON.

A B C D
A B C D E
A B C D E F G
A B C D E F G H I
A B C D E F G H I J K
A B C D E F G H I J K L
A B C D E F G H I J K L M N

French Cannon

Quoufque tandem abutêre,
Catilina, pati-
*Quoufque tandem
abutêre, Catilina,
patientia noſtra?*

Two Lines Great Primer

Quoufque tandem
abutère, Catilina,
patientia noſtra ?
quamdiu nos etiam
*Quoufque tandem a-
butère, Catilina, pa-
tientia noſtra? quam-
diu nos etiam furor*

Two Lines English

Quoufque tandem abutere, Catilina, patientia nostra? quamdiu nos etiam furor ifte tuus elu-

Second Iteration

- Adjustments to A-head, B-head spacing and weight bring it more closely in line with the original
 - First column and footer matches original on content, size, and style

A S P E C I M E N

By WILLIAM CASLON, Letter-Founder, in Chifwell-Street, LONDON.

ABCD
ABCDE
ABCDEFG
ABCDEFGH
ABCDEFGHI
ABCDEFGHIJK
ABCDEFGHIJKLMN
ABCDEFGHIJKLMN

French Cannon.

**Quoufque tandem abutêre,
Catilina, pati-**
Quoufque tandem abutêre, Catilina, pati-
mentia nostra?

Two Lines Great Primer.

**Quoufque tandem
abutêre, Catilina,
patiencia nostra?
quamdiu nos etiam**
Quoufque tandem a-
butêre, Catilina, pa-
tientia nostra? quam-
diu nos etiam furor

Two Lines English.

Quoufque tandem abu-
tere, Catilina, patientia
nostra? quamdiu nos etiam
furor ite tuus elu-
**Quoufque tandem abutêre,
Catilina, patientia nostra?**
quamdiu nos etiam furor

DOUBLE PICA ROMAN.
Quoufque tandem abutêre, Catilina, patientia nostra? quamdiu nos etiam furor ite tuus elu-

Pica Italick.
Quoufque tandem abutêre, Catilina, patientia nostra? quamdiu nos etiam furor ite tuus elu-

Pica Black.
Quoufque tandem abutêre, Catilina, patientia nostra? quamdiu nos etiam furor ite tuus elu-

GREAT PRIMER ROMAN.
Quoufque tandem abutêre, Catilina, patientia nostra? quamdiu nos etiam furor ite tuus elu-

Great Primer Italick.
Quoufque tandem abutêre, Catilina, patientia nostra? quamdiu nos etiam furor ite tuus elu-

Pica White.
Quoufque tandem abutêre, Catilina, patientia nostra? quamdiu nos etiam furor ite tuus elu-

ENGLISH ROMAN.
Quoufque tandem abutêre, Catilina, patientia nostra? quamdiu nos etiam furor ite tuus elu-

English Italick.
Quoufque tandem abutêre, Catilina, patientia nostra? quamdiu nos etiam furor ite tuus elu-

Pica Gothic.
Quoufque tandem abutêre, Catilina, patientia nostra? quamdiu nos etiam furor ite tuus elu-

PICA ROMAN.

Pica Gothic.

Pica Gothic.

Quoufque tandem abutêre, Catilina, patientia nostra? quamdiu nos etiam furor ite tuus elu-

Quoufque tandem abutêre, Catilina, patientia nostra? quamdiu nos etiam furor ite tuus elu-

Quoufque tandem abutêre, Catilina, patientia nostra? quamdiu nos etiam furor ite tuus elu-

SMALL PICA ROMAN.
Quoufque tandem abutêre, Catilina, patientia nostra? quamdiu nos etiam furor ite tuus elu-

Small Pica Italick.
Quoufque tandem abutêre, Catilina, patientia nostra? quamdiu nos etiam furor ite tuus elu-

Pica Gothic.
Quoufque tandem abutêre, Catilina, patientia nostra? quamdiu nos etiam furor ite tuus elu-

Long Primer Roman.
Quoufque tandem abutêre, Catilina, patientia nostra? quamdiu nos etiam furor ite tuus elu-

Long Primer Italick.
Quoufque tandem abutêre, Catilina, patientia nostra? quamdiu nos etiam furor ite tuus elu-

Pica Gothic.
Quoufque tandem abutêre, Catilina, patientia nostra? quamdiu nos etiam furor ite tuus elu-

Long Primer Roman, No. 1.
Quoufque tandem abutêre, Catilina, patientia nostra? quamdiu nos etiam furor ite tuus elu-

Long Primer Italick, No. 1.
Quoufque tandem abutêre, Catilina, patientia nostra? quamdiu nos etiam furor ite tuus elu-

Pica Gothic.
Quoufque tandem abutêre, Catilina, patientia nostra? quamdiu nos etiam furor ite tuus elu-

Long Primer Roman.
Quoufque tandem abutêre, Catilina, patientia nostra? quamdiu nos etiam furor ite tuus elu-

Long Primer Italick.
Quoufque tandem abutêre, Catilina, patientia nostra? quamdiu nos etiam furor ite tuus elu-

Pica Gothic.
Quoufque tandem abutêre, Catilina, patientia nostra? quamdiu nos etiam furor ite tuus elu-

Long Primer Roman.
Quoufque tandem abutêre, Catilina, patientia nostra? quamdiu nos etiam furor ite tuus elu-

Long Primer Italick.
Quoufque tandem abutêre, Catilina, patientia nostra? quamdiu nos etiam furor ite tuus elu-

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Pica Gothic.
Quoufque tandem abutêre, Catilina, patientia nostra? quamdiu nos etiam furor ite tuus elu-

This SPECIMEN to be placed in the Middle of the Sheet U a. Vol. II.

Final Iteration

- Final column chunking is reminiscent of original, but isn't exact and lacks matching weight, fonts, and styling in many places
- General adjustments to text weight bring the overall look of the reproduction in line with original

Texture and Composition
Reproduction/Interpretation

Reflection

While possibly straying too closely towards the “Reproduction” aspect of the assignment, I’m proud of the resulting work and thankful for the much-needed re-introduction to the finer details of inDesign.

If I had more time, I would go back and more carefully examine Caslon’s use of bold fonts and match those more closely, attempt to metaphorically iron out the visual wrinkles in my reproduction throughout the right three columns (all feel too dense, weighty, and dark despite matching chunking and content reasonably well), and spend more time matching the texture (if not the specialty fonts) of the fourth column, which was particularly difficult.

Grids and Chunks

Using a given grid, "...make thumbnails sketches of 3 possible page layouts... select one layout and [realize it as a] one-page document."

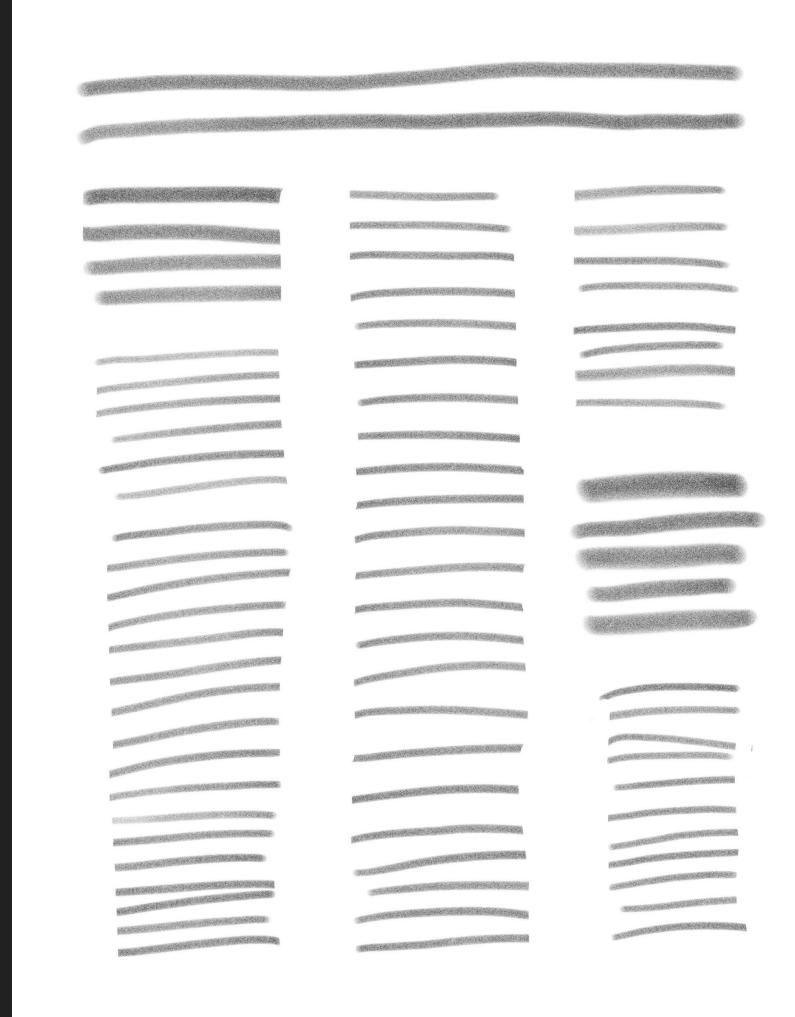
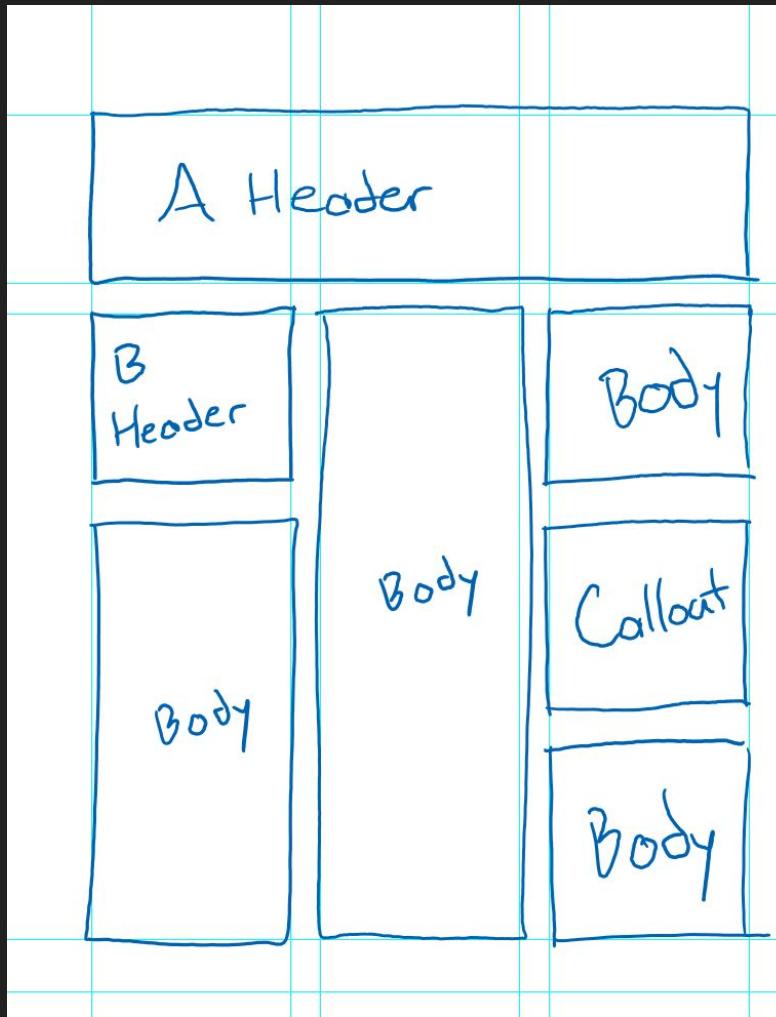
Grids and Chunks

Original Thumbnail

- Hand drawn in Microsoft OneNote over gridlines (cause for revision)
- Did not represent text or texture directly within the image
- Served more as a layout representation than a thumbnail

Revised Thumbnail

- Hand drawn in Adobe Fresco without rulers or guides
- Emphasis on weight and shading to differentiate different components while representing actual text
- Same overall layouts as originals
- Area for further improvement: better representation of text justification



Soil to Soil, Water to Water

This is ecology.
This is good design.

If we understand that design leads to the manifestation of human intention and if what we make with our hands is to be sacred and honor the earth that gives us life, then the things we make must not only rise from the ground but return to it, soil to soil, water to water, so everything that is received from the earth can be freely given back without causing harm to any living system. This is ecology. This is good design. If we use the study of architecture to go back in history, we will see that architects are always working with two elements, mass and membrane. We have the walls of Jericho, mass, and we have tents, membranes. Ancient peoples practiced the art and wisdom of building with mass, such as an adobe-walled hut, to anticipate the scope and direction of sunshine. They knew how thick a wall needed to be to transfer the heat of the day into the winter night, and how thick it had to be to transfer the coolness into the interior in the summer. They worked well with what we call "capacity" in the walls in terms of storage and thermal lags. They worked with resistance, straw, in the roof to protect from heat loss in the winter and to shield the heat gain in summer from the high sun. These

were very sensible buildings within the climate in which they are located. With respect to membrane, we only have to look at the Bedouin tent to find a design that accomplishes five things at once. In the desert, temperatures often exceed 120 degrees. There is no shade, no air movement. The black Bedouin tent, when pitched, creates a deep shade that brings one's sensible temperature down to 95 degrees. The tent has a very coarse weave, which creates a beautifully illuminated interior, having a million light fixtures. Because of the coarse weave and the black surface, the air inside rises and is drawn through the membrane. So now you have a breeze coming in from outside, and that drops the sensible temperature even lower, down to 90 degrees. You may wonder what happens when it rains, with those holes in the tent. The fibers swell up and the tent gets tight as a drum when wet. And of course, you can roll it up and take it with you. The modern tent pales by comparison to this astonishingly elegant construct. Throughout history, you find constant experimentation between mass and membrane. The challenge has always been how to combine light with mass and air. This experiment displayed itself powerfully in modern architecture, which arrived with the advent of inexpensive glass. It was unfortunate that at the same time the large sheet of glass showed up, the era of cheap energy was ushered in, too. And because of that, architects

no longer rely upon the sun for heat or illumination. I have spoken to thousands of architects, and when I ask the question, "How many of you know how to find true south?", I rarely get a raised hand. There are three defining characteristics that we can learn from natural design. The first characteristic is that everything we have to work with is already here—the stones, the clay, the wood,

"... everything we have to work with is already here—the stones, the clay, the wood, the water, the air. "

the water, the air. Everything is cycled constantly with all waste equaling food for other living systems. The second characteristic is that one thing allowing nature to continually cycle itself through life is energy, and this energy comes from outside the system in the form of perpetual solar income. Finally, the characteristic that sustains this complex and efficient system of metabolism and creation is biodiversity. What prevents living systems from running down and veering into chaos is a miraculously intricate and symbiotic relationship between millions of organisms, no two of which are alike.

First Iteration

- No paragraph breaks
- Bold serif header font
- Didn't use all of source text
- Many, many type crimes

Soil to Soil, Water to Water

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If we understand that design leads to the manifestation of human intention and if what we make with our hands is to be sacred and honor the earth that gives us life, then the things we make must not only rise from the ground but return to it, soil to soil, water to water, so everything that is received from the earth can be freely given back without causing harm to any living system. This is ecology. This is good design.

If we use the study of architecture to go back in history, we will see that architects are always working with two elements, mass and membrane. We have the walls of Jericho, mass, and we have tents, membranes. Ancient peoples practiced the art and wisdom of building with mass, such as an adobe-walled hut, to anticipate the scope and direction of sunshine. They knew how thick a wall needed to be to transfer the heat of the day into the winter night, and how thick it had to be to transfer the coolness into the interior in the summer. They worked well with what we call "capacity" in the walls in terms of storage and thermal lags. They worked with resistance, straw, in the roof to protect from heat loss in the winter and to shield the heat gain in summer from the high sun. These were very sensible buildings within the climate in which they are located.

With respect to membrane, we only have to look at the Bedouin tent to find a design that accomplishes five things at once. In the desert, temperatures often exceed 120 degrees. There is no shade, no air movement. The black Bedouin tent, when pitched, creates a deep shade that brings one's sensible temperature down to 95 degrees. The tent has a very coarse weave, which creates a beautifully illuminated interior, having a million light fixtures. Because of the coarse weave and the black surface, the air inside rises and is drawn through the membrane. So now you have a breeze coming in from outside, and that drops the sensible temperature even lower, down to 90 degrees. You may wonder what happens when it rains, with those holes in the tent. The fibers swell up and the tent gets tight as a drum when wet. And of course, you can roll it up and take it with you. The modern tent pales by comparison to this astonishingly elegant construct.

Throughout history, you find constant experimentation between mass and membrane. The challenge has always been how to combine light with mass and air. This experiment displayed itself powerfully in modern architecture, which arrived with the advent of inexpensive glass. It was unfortunate that at the same time the large sheet of glass showed up, the era of cheap energy was ushered in, too. And because of that, architects no longer rely upon the sun for heat or illumination. I have

spoken to thousands of architects, and when I ask the question, "How many of you know how to find true south?", I rarely get a raised hand. There are three defining characteristics that we can learn from natural design. The first characteristic is that everything we have to work with is already here—the stones, the clay, the wood, the water, the air. Everything is cycled constantly

"... everything we have to work with is already here—the stones, the clay, the wood, the water, the air. "

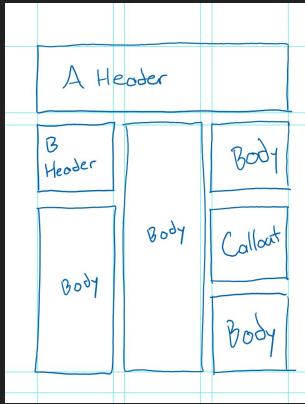
with all waste equaling food for other living systems. The second characteristic is that one thing allowing nature to continually cycle itself through life is energy, and this energy comes from outside the system in the form of perpetual solar income. Finally, the characteristic that sustains this complex and efficient system of metabolism and creation is biodiversity. What prevents living systems from running down and veering into chaos is a miraculously intricate and symbiotic relationship between millions of organisms, no two of which are alike.

From 'Design, Ecology, Ethics, and the Making of Things' by William McDonough

Final Iteration

- Paragraph breaks, without indents
- Increased tracking to remove orphans in first paragraph
- Added attribution in bottom right to use all source text
- Increased leading, reviewed line length and point size for readability
- Increased size of first character to provide a better point of entry
- Adjusted spacing after B-head

Iteration Progression



ORIGINAL



REVISED



Soil to Soil, Water to Water

This is ecology.
This is good design

If we understand that design leads to the maximization of human intention and if what we make with our hands is to be sacred and honor the earth that gives us life, then the things we

ground but return to 1,000 ft. soil to water, so everything that is received from the earth can be freely given back without causing harm to any living system. This is ecology. That is good design. If we use the

lasting, we will see that architects are always working with two elements, mass and atmosphere. We have the walls of cities, towns, and we have trees, meadows. Ancient peoples practiced the art and science of living in balance with nature.

The modern solar panel by comparison to the thermoelectrically heated panel has found its market niche in the field of space exploration where the need to be the best at the design stage, and how well it can withstand the extremes of space, is the ultimate in the outcome. They will be the first at the top of the mountain, and the last to come down. The cost of getting there is the cost of getting there, and the cost of getting back. The cost of getting there is the cost of getting there, and the cost of getting back.

ORIGINAL

FINAL



This is ecology.
This is good design

If we understand that design leads to the manifestation of human intention and if we believe with our hands to be sacred and honor the earth that gives us life, then the things we make must not only rise from the thoughts of our minds, but also from temperatures often closest to 100 degrees. There is no shade, no movement, no change. The black Bolotin tent, when pitched, creates a shade that brings one's sensible temperature down to 95 degrees. The tent has a very coarse

“... everything we have to work with is already here—the stones, the clay, the

If we use the study of architecture to go back in history, we will see that architects are always working with two elements, mass and membrane. We have walls of mass and membranes. Ancient peoples practiced the art and wisdom of building with mass, such as an adobe-walled hut, to anticipate the scope and scale of the environment. How thick a soil would need to be to transfer the heat of the day into winter the night, and how thick had to be to transfer the coolness outside into the interior in the summer? They dealt well with what we call "resistance" or "capacity," which refers to the inherent capacity of a material to withstand compression, tension, or shear forces even when bent, broken, or twisted.

Throughout history, you find constant experimentation between mass and membrane. The challenge has always been how to combine light weight mass and membrane, and how to display and manifest them. This is the challenge, which arises with the advent of

They worked with resistance, stave, in the root to protect from heat loss in the winter and to shield the heat gain in summer from the high sun. These were very sensible buildings within the climate in which they are located.

Grids and Chunks

Reflection

While I'm not confident in my ability to design, lay out, and execute on high-quality documents (yet), it's remarkable to me how close I was able to come on my own, even before some of the pointed feedback in class.

I'm starting to get a feel for what to look for when reviewing my own work for type crimes, while still occasionally missing a few.

The final product isn't perfect (for example, I feel that the lack of a byline near the header is a significant error on my part) but wouldn't seem out of place printed next to a full-page glossy image of a woven tent, which is more than I expected at this point in the semester.

Here's to further progress!

Overall

Reflection

These exercises helped to re-familiarize me with inDesign, type crimes, and general best practices when it comes to designing for print, which I've only had limited practice with over the past several years.

The most striking improvement in my work visible in this process book is between the last two iterations of the final Grids and Chunks document, where with only minor changes, my work went from nearly unreadable to what might pass and read as a page from a magazine at first glance.

What was especially eye-opening to me was the fact that laying out that initial document and making the following changes took approximately the same amount of time, despite the progressively more minute and granular nature of the work. Better budgeting my time to allow me to address both the macro and micro aspects of documents will improve the quality of my work significantly.

Resumé Design

“...create a unique professional resume using the typographical rules covered in class so far.”

Conlon Novak

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EDUCATION

Carnegie Mellon University

Master of Human-Computer Interaction

B.S. in Information Systems and Human-Computer Interaction

Minor in Film and Media Studies

Dean's List, Honors or High Honors: F16, S17, F18, S19*, F19 Semesters*

Pittsburgh, PA

December 2020

May 2020

3.74/4.00 QPA

SKILLS & COURSES

Programming Languages, Frameworks, and Software

Python, HTML, JS, CSS, React, Flask, Ruby on Rails, Adobe Suite, Java, MongoDB, SQL, Docker, C++

Relevant Courses

mHCI Capstone (Client: GovTech Startup), IS Consulting Project (Client: Holocaust Center of Pittsburgh), Application Design and Development, Interaction Design Studio, Programming User Interfaces, User-Centered Research and Evaluation, Imperative Computing

INTERNSHIP EXPERIENCE

Accenture, Technology Development Program

Advanced App Engineering Analyst, RPA and Machine Learning

Boston, MA

June - August 2019

- Designed and developed internal automation tools that will save ~90 effort hrs/year for the RPA Value Team
- Assembled, cleaned, and classified a dataset of 1,700 inputs to support a machine learning (ML) proposal
- Proposed a statistical model to classify semi-structured inputs per their alignment with client goals

Software Engineering Institute, Tactical Technologies Group

Full Stack Development Intern, Video Summarization

Pittsburgh, PA

May - August 2018

Machine Learning Technical Intern, Video Summarization

May - August 2017

- Developed and styled an internal web application to automate TTG's Video Summarization (VidSumm) pipeline, which allowed non-experts to analyze video datasets using pre-trained and containerized ML algorithms
- Implemented machine learning algorithms for real-time activity detection in UAV surveillance video

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT & RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

CMU Office of First-Year Orientation, Orientation Staff

Head Orientation Counselor (HOC), Donner House

Pittsburgh, PA

December 2018 - August 2019

Orientation Leader (OL), Donner House

March - August 2018

Orientation Counselor (OC), Donner House

April - August 2017

- Designed, implemented, and facilitated over 80 hours of Orientation training for 130 staff members in preparation for ~300 academic, developmental, social, and cultural events over the nine-day program
- Implemented a daily feedback collection system that facilitated next-day responses and long-term analysis
- Transitioned 250+ staff and campus partners from ad-hoc messaging solutions to a Slack workspace

Human-Computer Interaction Institute, The ArticuLab

Lead Intern for Science Annotation, Cultural EduTech

Pittsburgh, PA

October 2016 - May 2017

- Designed a linguistic annotation scheme for science reasoning features that achieved high inter-rater reliability
- Implemented a pictorial pre- and post-test evaluation application for elementary school students in Python

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Phi Beta Kappa Honors Society, Upsilon Chapter, Member

Mortar Board Senior Honors Society, Eta Chapter, Member

CMU Oakland Review Literary Journal, Prose Editor and Executive Board Member

Competed in 11 Hackathons and received 8 sponsor and performance awards

CMU Information Systems Dept. TA, 67-262 Database Design and Dev. Teaching Assistant

2018

CMU Alpine Racing and Freestyle Team, Slalom and Giant Slalom Ski Racer

2017-2018

FIRST Robotics Competition Team 4150, Vice President and Programming Team Lead

2012-2015

Previous Résumé

- Comprehensive, detailed, and well-written content
- Very dense, busy, and cluttered visual design
- Many bullets, especially under 'Extracurricular Activities' where they don't contribute to readability
- Content isn't focused solely on a single desired domain, and is in need of modernization and curation

Conlon Novak
Impact-Centered Developer and Designer (Alt: Impact-Focused Design Practitioner)
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Python, HTML, JS, CSS, React, Flask, Ruby on Rails, Adobe Suite, Java, MongoDB, SQL,
Docker, C++

Relevant Courses
mHCI Capstone (Client: GovTech Startup), IS Consulting Project (Client: Holocaust Center of Pittsburgh), Application Design and Development, Interaction Design Studio, Programming User Interfaces, User-Centered Research and Evaluation, Imperative Computing

EXPERIENCE
GovTech Startup, Service Delivery for State Benefits Programs (Pittsburgh, PA)
Developer, Designer, and Videographer, MHCi Student Consultant (January-July 2020)
Spent 7 months on a team of 5 Masters students researching, deriving insights, ideating, and prototyping designs to increase equity and accessibility in state benefits applications in PA.
Lead development and user testing of an accessible, text-based conversational agent experience that performed well in UMUX-Lite assessments (5.2 for usefulness and 6.8 for usability out of 7, n=7 for final of three rounds of iterative testing). Conducted large-scale remote user research on technology use, smart-speaker ownership, and benefits enrollment in Pennsylvania, identifying under-supported groups (students, seniors, and single parents) for co-creation, interviews, and user testing (n=415).

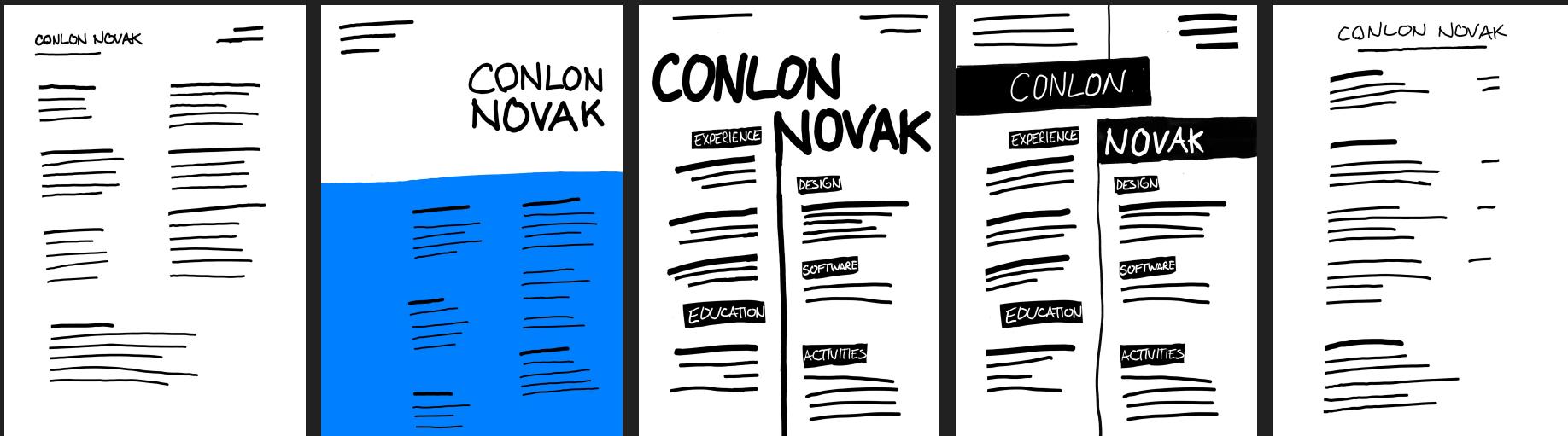
Accenture, Technology Development Program Boston, MA
Advanced App Engineering Analyst, RPA and Machine Learning June - August 2019
Designed and developed internal automation tools that will save ~90 effort hrs/year for the RPA Value Team. Assembled, cleaned, and classified a dataset of 1,700 inputs to support a machine learning (ML) proposal. Proposed a statistical model to classify semi-structured inputs per their alignment with client goals

Software Engineering Institute, Tactical Technologies Group

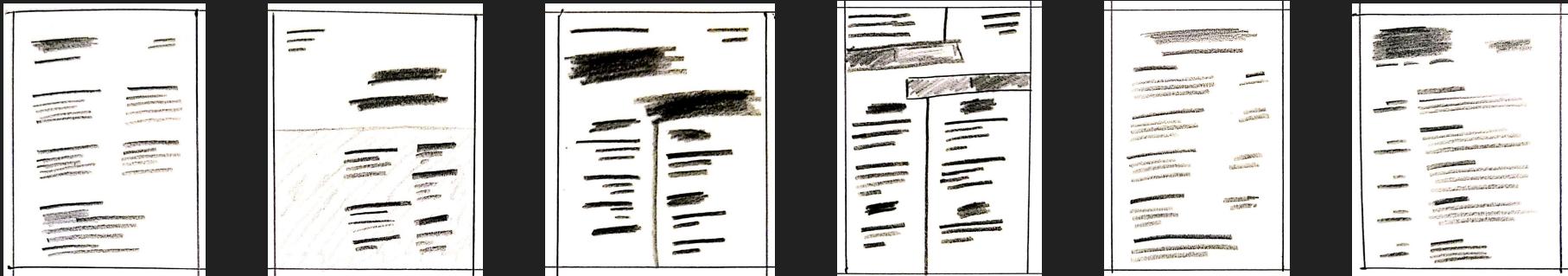
Content Preparation

- Tagline tailored towards roles at social impact design firms like Greater Good Studio
- Core themes are change and impact (“multiply capacity of users”, “empower clients and communities”), humanity (“deeply respectful, empathic, and human-centered”), and diversity (“advancing equity”, “inclusive”, “[individual] agency”)
- Included mHCI capstone project

Thumbnail Sketches

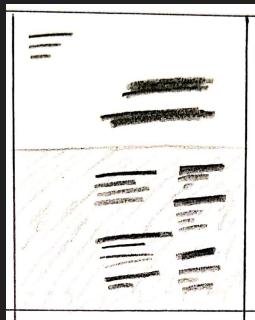


Thumbnail Sketches, Revised



Revised based on feedback to hand draw thumbnails at a smaller size and lower fidelity.

Digital Sketches



THUMBNAIL

SKETCH

CONLON NOVAK
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EXPERIENCE

Developer, Designer, and Videographer, GovTech Startup (January—July 2020)
• Spent 7 months on a team of 5 Masters students researching, deriving insights, ideating, and prototyping designs to increase equity and accessibility in state benefit applications in PA.
• Lead development and user testing of an accessible, text-based conversational agent experience that performed well in UX/UIX-Lite assessments (5.2 for usefulness and 6.8 for usability out of 7).
• Conducted large-scale remote user research to identify under-supported groups (students, seniors, and single parents) for co-creation, interviews, and user testing (n=415).

Advanced App Engineering Analyst, Accenture (June—August 2019)

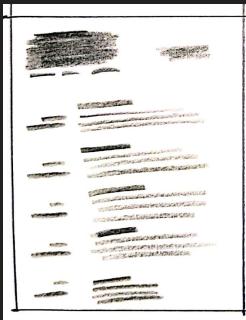
• Designed and developed RPA automation tools that will save ~90 effort hrs/year.
• Assembled, cleaned, and classified a dataset of 1,700 inputs to support an ML proposal.
• Proposed a statistical model to classify semi-structured inputs per alignment with client goals.

Full Stack & Machine Learning Engineer, Software Engineering Institute (May—Aug. 2017, 2018)
• Developed an internal web application to automate TTG's Video Summarization pipeline, allowing non-experts to analyze videos using pre-trained and containerized ML algorithms.
• Implemented machine learning algorithms for quasi-real-time activity detection in video.

Orientation Staff, CMU Office of First-Year Orientation

Head Orientation Counselor (HOC), Donner House (Dec. 2018—August 2019)
Orientation Leader, Donner House (May—August 2018)
Orientation Leader, Donner House (May—August 2017)
• Designed, implemented, and facilitated 80+ hours of Orientation training for 130 staff members in preparation for ~300 academic, developmental, social, and cultural events over the nine days.
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• Transitioned 250+ staff and partners from ad-hoc messaging solutions to a Slack workspace.

Phi Beta Kappa Honors Society, Upsilon Chapter, Member (2020—Present)
Mortar Board Senior Honors Society, Eta Chapter, Member (2019—Present)



THUMBNAIL

FINAL

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Designer and consultant
with a focus on **impact**.

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Accenture

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June—August 2019
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CMU Office of First-Year Orientation

April 2017—Aug. 2019
• Designed, implemented, and facilitated 80+ hours of Orientation training for 130 staff members in preparation for ~300 academic, developmental, social, and cultural events over the nine days.
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• Transitioned 250+ staff and partners from ad-hoc messaging solutions to a Slack workspace.

ACTIVITIES

2020—Present Phi Beta Kappa Honors Society, Upsilon Chapter, Member
2019—Present Mortar Board Senior Honors Society, Eta Chapter, Member
2016—Present Competed in 11 Hackathons and received 8 sponsor and performance awards
2012—2015 FIRST Robotics Competition Team 4150, Vice President and Programming Lead

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- Transitioned 250+ staff and partners from ad-hoc messaging solutions to a Slack workspace.

Phi Beta Kappa Honors Society, Upsilon Chapter, Member (2020-Present)

Mortar Board Senior Honors Society, Eta Chapter, Member (2019-Present)

First Iteration

- Black text on solid, dark blue background contributes to poor contrast and readability
- Inconsistent spacing around headers
- White space feels unintentional
- Lacks a clear point of entry
- Intended to have more color than the average resumé, but lacked a strong document design to build from first

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(May 2020)

Minor in Film and Media Studies (3.74 QPA)

Dean's List, Honors* or High Honors: F16, S17, F18, S19*, F19 Semesters

EXPERIENCE

Developer, Designer, and Videographer, GovTech Startup

(January—July 2020)

Spent 7 months on a team of 5 Masters students conducting user testing, deriving insights, developing, and prototyping to increase equity and accessibility in benefits applications in PA.

Advanced App Engineering Analyst, Accenture

(June—August 2019)

Designed and developed RPA automation tools that will save ~90 effort hrs/year.

Assembled, cleaned, and classified a dataset of 1,700 inputs to support an ML proposal.

Proposed a statistical model to classify semi-structured inputs per alignment with client goals.

Full Stack & Machine Learning Engineer, Software Engineering Institute

(May—Aug. 2017, 2018)

Developed an internal web application to automate TTG's Video Summarization pipeline,

allowing non-experts to analyze videos using pre-trained and containerized ML algorithms.

Implemented machine learning algorithms for quasi-real-time activity detection in video.

Donner House Orientation Staff, CMU Office of First-Year Orientation

(April 2017—Aug. 2019)

Designed, implemented, and facilitated 80+ hours of Orientation training for 130 staff members in preparation for ~300 academic, developmental, social, and cultural events over the nine days. Implemented a daily feedback system, facilitating next-day responses and long-term analysis. Transitioned 250+ staff and partners from ad-hoc messaging solutions to a Slack workspace.

ACTIVITIES

Phi Beta Kappa Honors Society, Upsilon Chapter, Member

(2020-Present)

Mortar Board Senior Honors Society, Eta Chapter, Member

(2019-Present)

Competed in 11 Hackathons and received 8 sponsor and performance awards

(2016-Present)

FIRST Robotics Competition Team 4150, Vice President and Programming Lead

(2012-2015)

Second Iteration

- White text on blue header provides a strong point of entry for the document
- Use of color sets the document apart from others, but still too colorful for a professional resumé
- Body text is more readable, but feels dense and cluttered
- Whitespace still lacks intentionality

CONLON NOVAK

@CMU.EDU | .COM | 412-402-8888

Designer and Consultant
with a focus on **impact**.

EDUCATION

Carnegie Mellon University Aug. 2016—Dec. 2020
Master of Human-Computer Interaction
B.S. in Information Systems and Human-Computer Interaction
Minor in Film and Media Studies (3.74 QPA)
Dean's List, Honors* or High Honors: F16, S17, F18, S19*, F19 Semesters

EXPERIENCE

GovTech Startup January—July 2020
Developer, Designer, and Videographer

Spent 7 months on a team of 5 Masters students conducting user testing, deriving insights, developing, and prototyping to increase equity and accessibility in benefits applications in PA.

Accenture June—August 2019
Advanced App Engineering Analyst

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Proposed a statistical model to classify semi-structured inputs per alignment with client goals.

Software Engineering Institute May—Aug. 2017, 2018
Full Stack & Machine Learning Engineer

Developed an internal web application to automate TTG's Video Summarization pipeline, allowing non-experts to analyze videos using pre-trained and containerized ML algorithms.
Implemented machine learning algorithms for quasi-real-time activity detection in video.

CMU Office of First-Year Orientation April 2017—Aug. 2019
Donner House Orientation Staff

Designed, implemented, and facilitated 80+ hours of Orientation training for 130 staff members in preparation for ~300 academic, developmental, social, and cultural events over the nine days.
Implemented a daily feedback system, facilitating next-day responses and long-term analysis.
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Mortar Board Senior Honors Society, Eta Chapter, Member	2019—Present
Competed in 11 Hackathons and received 8 sponsor and performance awards	2016—Present
FIRST Robotics Competition Team 4150, Vice President and Programming Lead	2012—2015

Third Iteration

- Maintaining the strong point of entry and (now only splashes of) color, the header now flows better into the body of the document
- Distribution of content across two columns gives ample breathing room
- Colored employers on the left column are implicitly associated with the colored header text
- Right-aligned text in the bottom right feels out of place

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Aug. 2016—Dec. 2020

EXPERIENCE
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ACTIVITIES
2020—Present Phi Beta Kappa Honors Society, Upsilon Chapter, Member
2019—Present Mortar Board Senior Honors Society, Eta Chapter, Member
2016—Present Competed in 11 Hackathons and received 8 sponsor and performance awards
2012—2015 FIRST Robotics Competition Team 4150, Vice President and Programming Lead

Final Iteration

- Largely an editing pass on the previous iteration
- Tightened up spacing and line breaks for consistency, sense-breaks
- Moved dates in ‘Activities’ section to the left column for consistency
- Changed B-head capitalization to sentence-style, rather than proper case
- Missing geographic locations of ‘Education’ and ‘Experience’ items

Iteration Progression

THUMBNAILS



INITIAL

CONLON NOVAK
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EDUCATION
Carnegie Mellon University
Master of Human-Computer Interaction (Expected December 2020)
Bachelor of Science in Human-Computer Interaction (May 2020)
B.S. in Information Systems and Human-Computer Interaction
Minor in Film and Media Studies (3.7 QPA)
Honors: Phi Beta Kappa Honors Society, Psi Chi, ASCE, F19 Semesters
Dean's List, Honors* or High Honors: F16, S17, F18, S19*, F19 Semesters

EXPERIENCE
Developer, Designer, and Videographer, GoTech Startup (January—July 2020)
Designed, prototyped, and tested 10 designs, involving wireframing, drawing mockups, sketching, and prototyping designs to increase equity and accessibility in the health applications in PA.
Gained experience in user-centered design, user testing, and user feedback. Implemented machine learning algorithms for quasi-real-time activity detection in video.
Preferred tool in CMU's IDE environment: QT. The medallions used is for availability of QT.
Gained experience in user-centered design, user testing, and user feedback. Implemented machine learning algorithms for quasi-real-time activity detection in video.
Searched, analyzed, and prioritized user needs to create, interview, and user testing (ICAT).

Advanced App Engineering Analyst, Accenture (June—August 2019)
Used Python and Java to build ML models to predict the likelihood of a loan being approved before it was even applied.
Assimilated, learned, and classified a dataset of 1,700 inputs to support an ML proposal.
Developed a semi-structured input model for a client to use in their ML pipeline.

Full Stack & Machine Learning Engineer, Software Engineering Intern (May—Aug. 2018)
Developed an internal web application to automate TTG's Video Summarization pipeline.
Also developed a ML pipeline to automatically generate video summaries from video files.
Implemented machine learning algorithms for quasi-real-time activity detection in video.

Orientation Staff, CMU Office of First Year Orientation (June—Aug. 2018)
Trained over 100 Orientation Leaders (OL) to facilitate orientation training for 130 staff members.
Orientation Leader (OL), Donner House (July—August 2018)

Orientation Leader (OL), Donner House (July—August 2019)

Donner House Orientation Staff, CMU Office of First Year Orientation (July 2019—Aug. 2019)
Designed, implemented, and facilitated the hours of orientation training for 130 staff members to prepare them for the academic year.
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REVISED

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EXPERIENCE
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Designed, implemented, and facilitated the hours of orientation training for 130 staff members to prepare them for the academic year.
Donner House Orientation Staff, CMU Office of First Year Orientation (July 2020—Aug. 2020)
Implemented a daily feedback system, facilitating next-day responses and long-term analysis.
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FINAL

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Resumé Design

Reflection

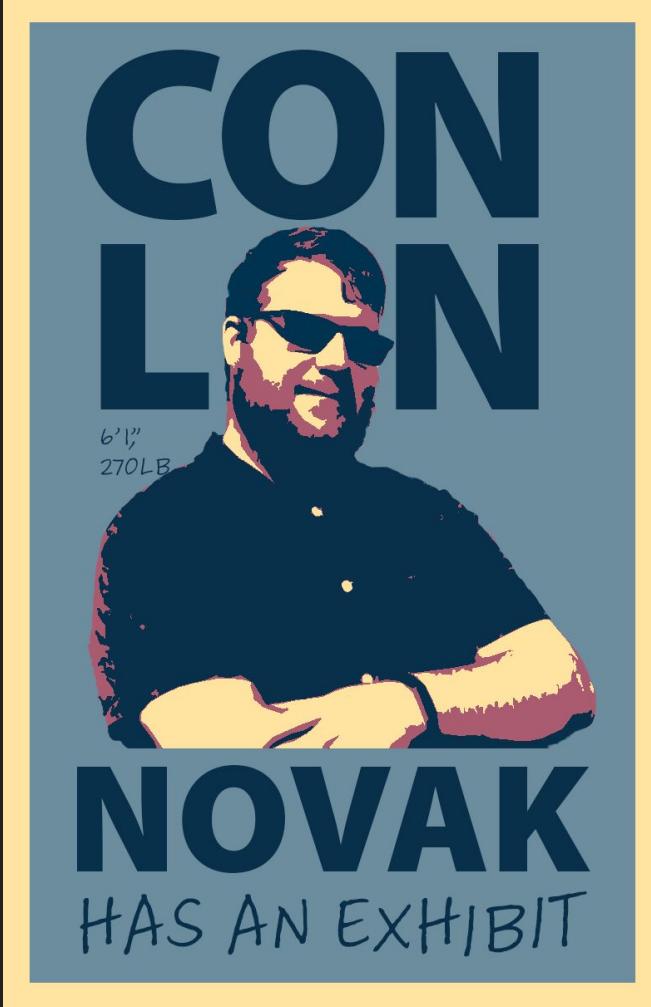
I came into this assignment thinking of it as an exercise to create a non-standard but functional resumé, but not one that would necessarily replace my previous resumé. After all, my existing resume had been sufficient to land me two internships and grad school. How bad could it have been?

In short: pretty bad. I didn't realize just how bad until I began comparing my work to that of my classmates and received feedback from Professor Kornblum (sometime around when I began work on the second iteration).

In future revisions, I'd like to examine and try different amounts of spacing between the header and body to try to balance the document, which currently feels top-heavy. Additionally, I'd like to re-add some of the important metadata (e.g. geographic locations) that was lost while curating prior content.

Self-Promotional Poster

“...create a self-promotional poster in the style of [Shepard Fairey] ... to advertise an exhibit about your life.”



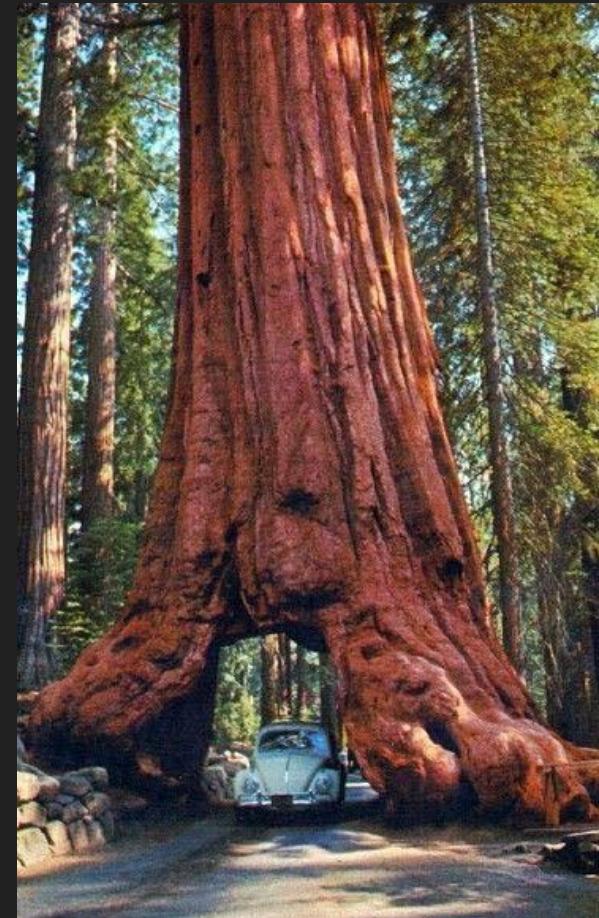
Self-Promotional Poster

- An homage to Fairey's style, this combines the general color scheme of the Obama poster, the strong sans-serif text of 'Obey', and the hand-annotations of the original Andre the Giant sticker
- Overlaying my head over the second "O" in my name is both an interaction between text and image as well as a joke about the most common misspellings of my name

Large Poster

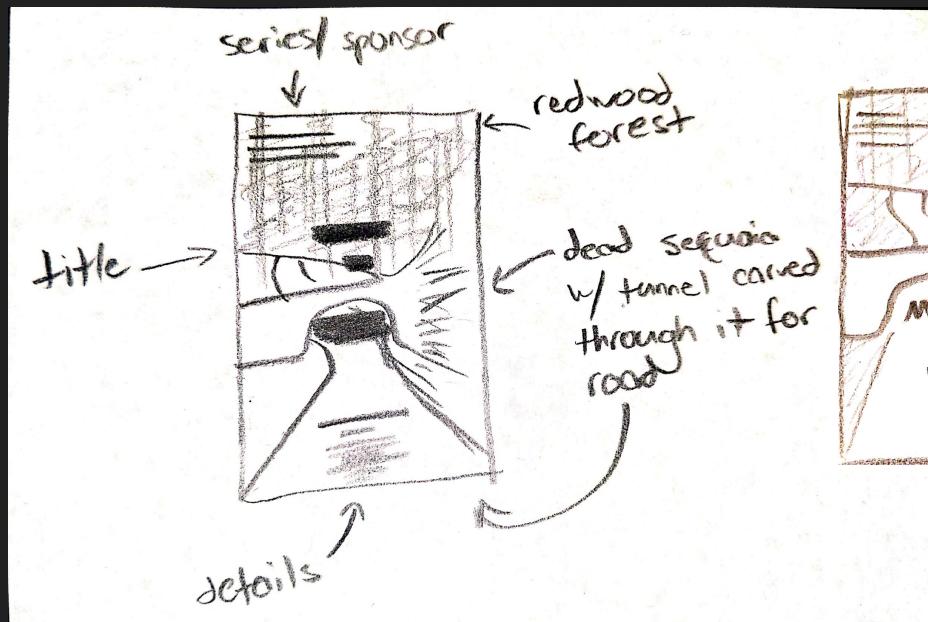
“...create a large poster to promote a lecture that is part of a distinguished speaker series at a university.”

Content Preparation



The use of strongly metaphoric imagery captures the themes of Lin's work regarding human-caused habitat disruption.

Thumbnail Sketches



Iterations on the Sequoia tree tunnel design,
featuring changes to layout, fidelity, and contrast.

Digital Sketches



THUMBNAILS

SKEETCHES

Distinguished Speaker Series
University of Michigan
Rackham Auditorium
915 Washington St., Ann Arbor, MI 48109

Maya Lin

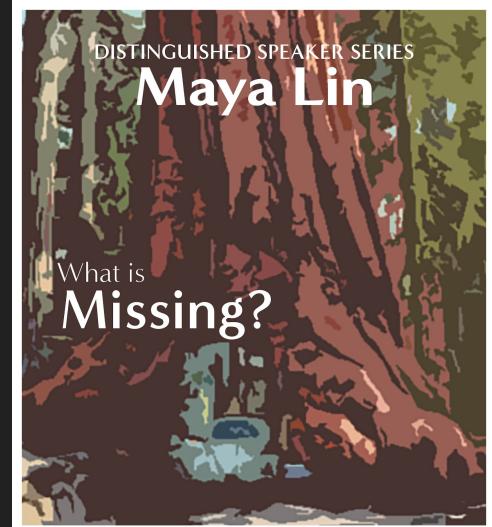
What is **Missing?**

Friday January 15, 2021 @ 8pm

Designed as her last memorial, What is Missing? is not a singular static object, but a work that can exist in multiple sites simultaneously.

Artist and designer Maya Lin interprets the natural world through history, politics, and culture. She has designed several of the most significant and best-known works of public art in the United States and abroad. She is an articulate and compelling speaker, who talks freely about the meaning of her works, her goals in creating them, and her working methods.

Maya Lin's goal is to create, through science-based artworks, an awareness about the disappearance of species due to habitat degradation and loss. By creating artworks that utilize sound, media, and science, people of all ages connect with the species and places that have disappeared or will likely disappear if we do not protect them.



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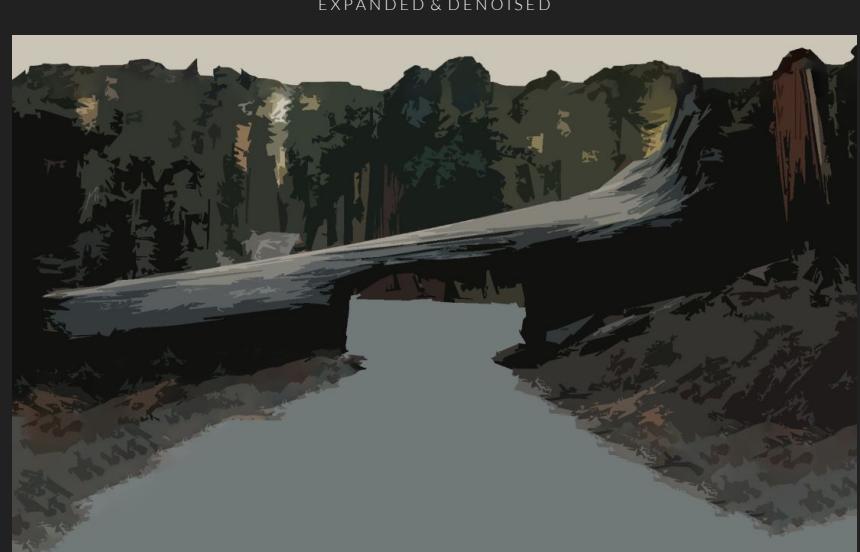
University of Michigan
Rackham Auditorium
915 Washington St., Ann Arbor, MI 48109

Posterizing, Expanding, and Denoising Images



ORIGINAL

POSTERIZED



Using Photoshop's content-aware fill tool and a custom posterize filter, smaller images can be upscaled and expanded to hide the edges of the original frame and cleaned to reduce visual noise in the foreground.

University of Michigan
Rackham Auditorium
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DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER SERIES

Maya Lin



Friday January 15, 2021 @ 8pm

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Artist and designer Maya Lin interprets the natural world through history, politics, and culture. She has designed several of the most significant and best-known works of public art of the late 20th century. Unlike many artists, she is an articulate and compelling speaker, who talks freely about the meaning of her works, her goals in creating them, and her working methods.

First Iteration

- Combining elements of the digital sketches, this design draws heavily from the style of '30s-era WPA National Park promotional posters in font choice, color scheme, and art style
- The progressive disclosure of the poster is meant to draw the eye downward from Lin's name, through the title of the talk, and finally to the date and time (the three most important pieces of information for on-campus flyers), reducing competition among these elements

University of Michigan
Rackham Auditorium
915 Washington St., Ann Arbor, MI 48109

DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER SERIES
Maya Lin



Friday, January 15, 2021 @ 8pm

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Second Iteration

- Adjusted the color of less prominent metadata (address, sponsor, description) to reduce competition with desired takeaways (speaker, title of talk, date and time)
- Reflowed description text into two more equal paragraphs (about the work and the author respectively)
- Adjusted both the placement and size of the background image and talk title to improve contrast and readability while overlaid

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Maya Lin



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Third Iteration

- In class, feedback focused on the conflict between the size and intent of the title's placement on the background image.
- As a result, the text was reduced in size, placed entirely within the tunnel (no longer “bracing” or obscuring it), and entirely capitalized
- This partially relieved, but did not eliminate, the illusion of a box popping out towards the viewer due to the background of the tunnel

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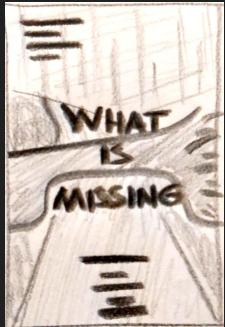
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Final Iteration

- Background image simplified to reinforce negative space, removing shadows under and behind the tree tunnel, as well as recoloring the tree trunk to suggest continuity
- Slightly tilted title text to suggest alignment with the background rather than the foreground, further encouraging perceived negative space
- Font changed from Minerva Modern to Optima, per assignment constraints

Iteration Progression

THUMBNAILS



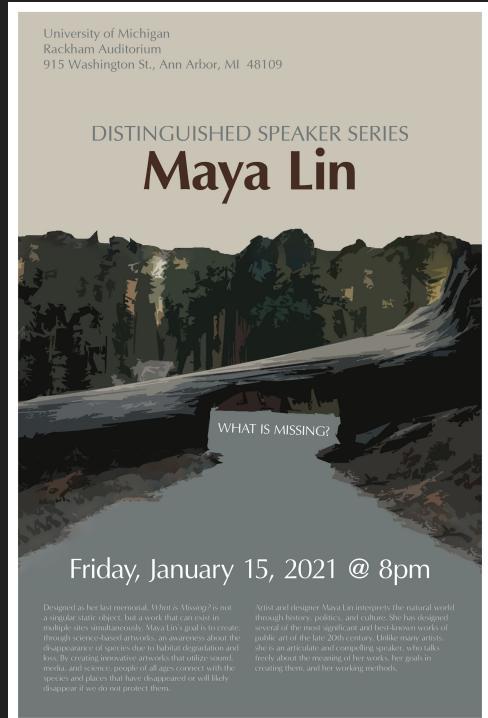
INITIAL



REVISED



FINAL



Friday, January 15, 2021 @ 8pm

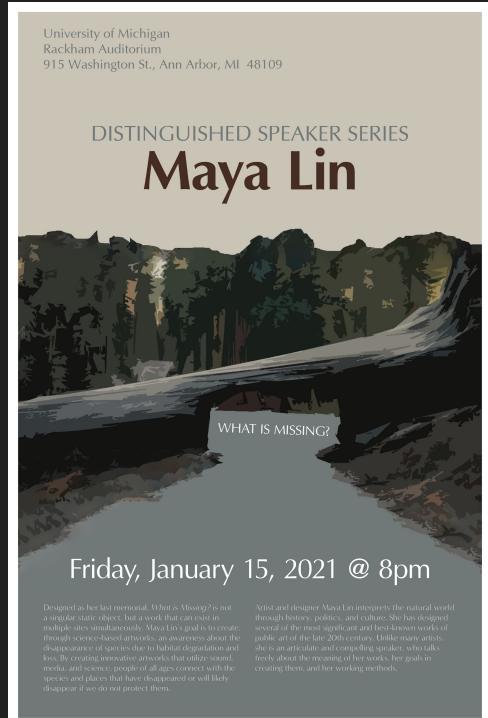
Designed as her last memorial, *What is Missing?* is a singular static object, but a work that can exist in multiple sites simultaneously. Maya Lin's goal is to create something that can serve as a reminder of the threat of the disappearance of species due to habitat degradation and loss. By creating innovative artworks that utilize sound, media, and science, people of all ages connect with the issue of environmental degradation and what will likely disappear if we do not protect them.

Artist and designer Maya Lin interprets the natural world through history, politics, and culture. She has designed several of the most significant and best-known works of our time, including the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. She is an articulate and compelling speaker, who talks freely about the meaning of her works, her goals in creating them, and her working methods.



INITIAL

REVISED



Friday, January 15, 2021 @ 8pm

Designed as her last memorial, *What is Missing?* is a singular static object, but a work that can exist in multiple sites simultaneously. Maya Lin's goal is to create something that can serve as a reminder of the threat of the disappearance of species due to habitat degradation and loss. By creating innovative artworks that utilize sound, media, and science, people of all ages connect with the issue of environmental degradation and what will likely disappear if we do not protect them.

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Large Poster Design Reflection

This assignment pushed me not only to leverage and improve upon my skills from prior units and courses, but it asked me to design for a context and function that I was not initially comfortable with. Most posters I recall seeing on campus were varying shades of obvious Microsoft Word documents or commercial-grade spam, so aiming for somewhere in the middle of that spectrum while respecting the prior work and current topics of the speaker's work became the primary challenge.

While this is clearly not the poster that Maya Lin would design for her own work, both in terms of imagery (mine is likely too specific) and quality (I lack her 40+ years of experience as a designer), it is certainly the best manifestation of my most interesting thumbnail sketch I could manage in the given timeframe.

In filmmaking, a subtle but powerful editing tool is to pose a question, usually explicitly voiced by a character, followed immediately by a cut to a different scene which visually answers that question. What made the initial thumbnail so interesting, and the late-stage class feedback so valuable, was a similar interaction between the semantics of the question and the visuals of the image, answering it.

“What is missing? asks the text. *The natural world that stood in the way of human expansion and profit*, says the image of the tunnel carved into the fallen tree. “The species that have gone extinct ... because we destroyed their habitats,” says Maya Lin.

Representing that dynamic in a clear, obvious, and striking way was the goal of the many iterations with such seemingly minor changes, with breakthroughs around visual simplicity, vanishing points, and gravity.

The posterize filter has a tendency, at higher levels of fidelity, to replicate complex colors and patterns as noisy, jagged shapes. Maintaining visual simplicity while still presenting a recognizable image was a defining struggle for me throughout this project, until eventually realizing I could simplify more and more of the road to a single, high-contrast color. This removed ambiguity, noise, and distractions from the background image without sacrificing recognizability or metaphoric meaning.

The point of entry is designed to be Maya Lin's name, and then to draw the viewer's eye downward to the logistical information towards the bottom. The focal point of the image, however, is the tunnel and its superimposed text. Disappearing into this space, and swimming against the visual gravity of the poster, are the two lines that make up either side of the road that disappears off the bottom of the poster. Cropping out non-parallel lines (my breakthrough between iterations 1 and 2) helps to reinforce the impact of these lines and maintain a single, powerful vanishing point.

Book Design

“...design and print a twenty-page book about environmental issues that are specific to [the Northwest United States, as]... one in a series of books about environmental issues around the world.

”

Book Design

Content Preparation

“...find resources for text and images about The Environment of [the Northwest United States.]”

This book is designed to be *an educational and informational resource for community organizers and grassroots activists*, highlighting the most immediate and impactful issues involving the *environment of the Pacific Northwest* and proposing solutions that can be pushed for at various levels of government.

The book is organized (most critical to slightly-less urgent) as follows:

- Tectonic Plate Activity (earthquakes, esp. those causing tsunamis)
- Climate Change (wildfires and hydrology)
- Plant Life (grouped with wildfires as a proposed solution)
- Biodiversity (grouped with hydrology as a serious side-effect)
- Natural resources and Renewable energy solutions
- Animal life and the Sustainable fishing of freshwater salmon

Content Preparation

Table of Contents

- Tectonic Activity
 - Earthquakes, Tsunamis, and “The Really Big One”
- Climate Change
 - Wildfires
 - Growing Healthier Forests
 - Preserving Coastal and Marine Habitats
- General Solutions
 - Incentives for Renewable Energy
 - Preservation Strategies for Freshwater Salmon

Tectonic Activity	1
Solution: Inland Migration	4
Climate Change	5
Wildfires	6
Solution: Active Fuel Management	7
Growing Healthier Forests	8
Solution: CO ₂ Capture Technologies	9
Preserving Coastal Habitats	10
Solution: Lowering Sea Levels and Temperatures	11
Solution: Renewable Energy	12
Solution: Sustainable Fishing	13

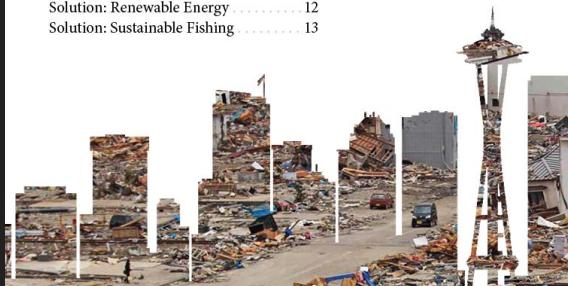


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[WORK IN PROGRESS]

Content Preparation

Featured Images



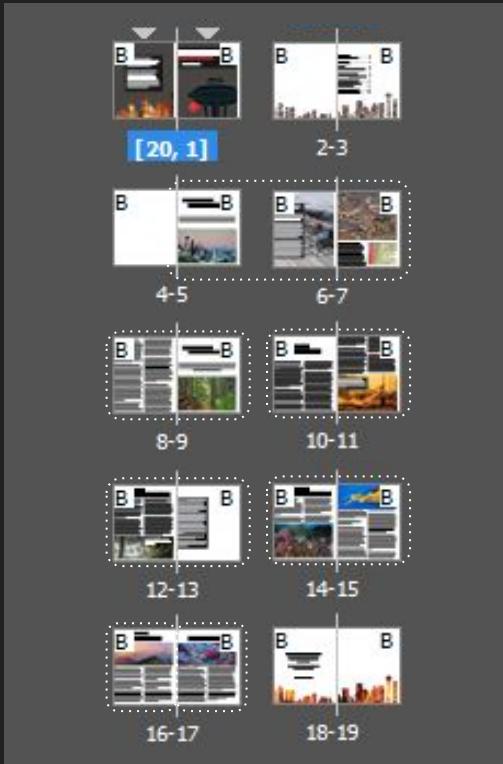
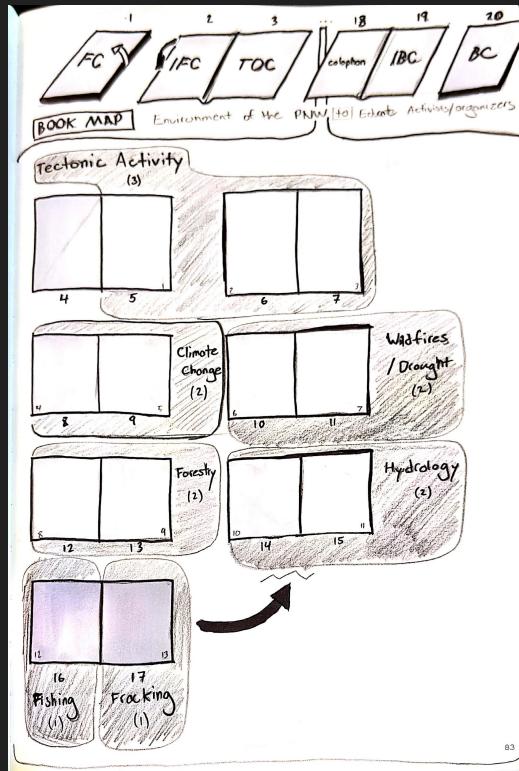
Content Preparation

Cover Art



Double exposures of the Seattle skyline over wildfires, fire damaged structures, and tsunami aftermath developed for use as cover art.

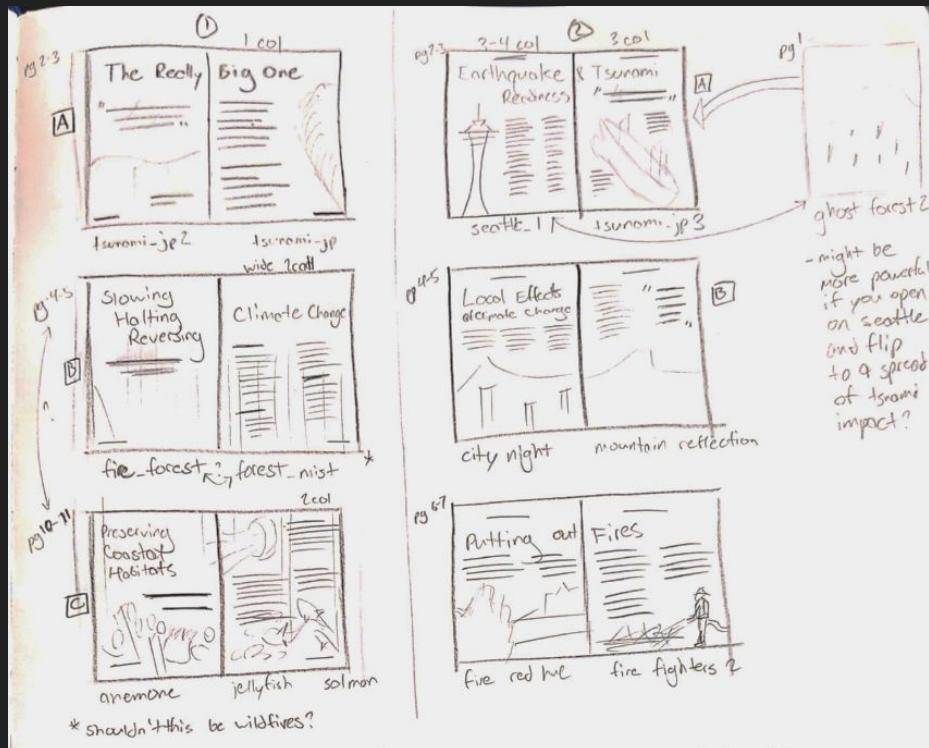
Content Preparation Book Map



Initial book map (left) and work-in-progress InDesign spread view (right) with topical groups marked with bubbles and dotted lines, respectively.

Content Preparation

Thumbnail Sketches



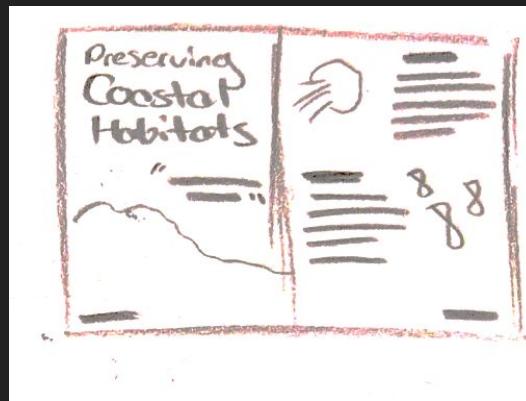
Two different styles of spreads, with the left column featuring full bleed images on the left of each spread, and more dense images on the right.

The right column features designs with text and images flowing around images cropped and placed towards the centers and bottoms of pages.

- Sketch 1:
- ① In the PNW, the area of impact will cover... Seattle, Tacoma, Portland, Eugene, Salem, and Olympia.
"Our operating assumption is that everything west of Interstate 5 will be toast."
 - ② Virtually all future climate scenarios predict increases in wildfires ... east of the cascades
 - ③ Virtually every major biological function has been shown to respond to acidification changes in sea water

Content Preparation

Revised Thumbnail Sketches



Revisions of pgs. 2-3, 6-7, and 10-11 to better represent different typographic elements, such as callouts and headers, as well as overall hierarchy.

Systems and Page Design

Style Sheet

The Really Big One

CLIMATE CHANGE

Annals of Seismology

When the 2011 earthquake and tsunami struck Tohoku, Japan, Chris Goldfinger was two hundred miles away, in the city of Kashiba, at an international meeting on seismology. As the shaking started, everyone in the room began to laugh. Earthquakes are common in Japan—that one was the third of the week—and the participants were, after all, at a seismology conference. Then everyone in the room checked the time.

Seismologists know that how long an earthquake lasts is a decent proxy for its magnitude. The 1989 earthquake in Loma Prieta, California, which killed sixty-three people and caused six billion dollars' worth of damage, lasted about fifteen seconds and had a magnitude of 6.9. A thirty-second earthquake generally has a magnitude in the mid-sevens. A minute-long quake is in the high sevens, a two-minute quake has entered the eights, and a three-minute quake is in the high eights. By four minutes, an earthquake has hit magnitude 9.0.

No early warning system

When the Cascadia earthquake begins, there will be, instead, a cacophony of barking dogs and a long, suspended, what-was-that moment before the surface waves arrive.

"There aren't many injuries in the tsunami zone," one seismic expert with the Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries, or dogmat, told me at the time. "People just die."

WHEN THE 2011 EARTHQUAKE AND TSUNAMI STRUCK TOHOKU, JAPAN

14 Novak | Running Footer

A-head

Optima
Font Size: 41
Font Weight: Bold
Leading: 50
Tracking: -10

Font Size: 35
Font Weight: Medium
Leading: 42

Font Size: 25
Font Weight: Regular
Leading: 30

Minion
Font Size: 10
Font Weight: Regular
Leading: 15

Optima
Font Size: 16
Font Weight: Bold
Leading: 20
Tracking:

Font Size: 12
Font Weight: Normal
Leading: 16

Font Size: 12
Font Weight: Italic
Leading: 15

Minion Pro
Font Size: (17) 10
Font Weight: Bold
Font Style: All Caps
Leading: 15

Myriad
Font Size: 12
Font Weight: Semibold
Leading: 15
Tracking: -25

Font Size: 12
Font Weight: Light
Leading: 15
Tracking: -25

B-head

C-head

Paragraph text

Callout title

Callout Text

Image caption

RUN-IN HEADING WITH CAPITAL FIRST LETTER

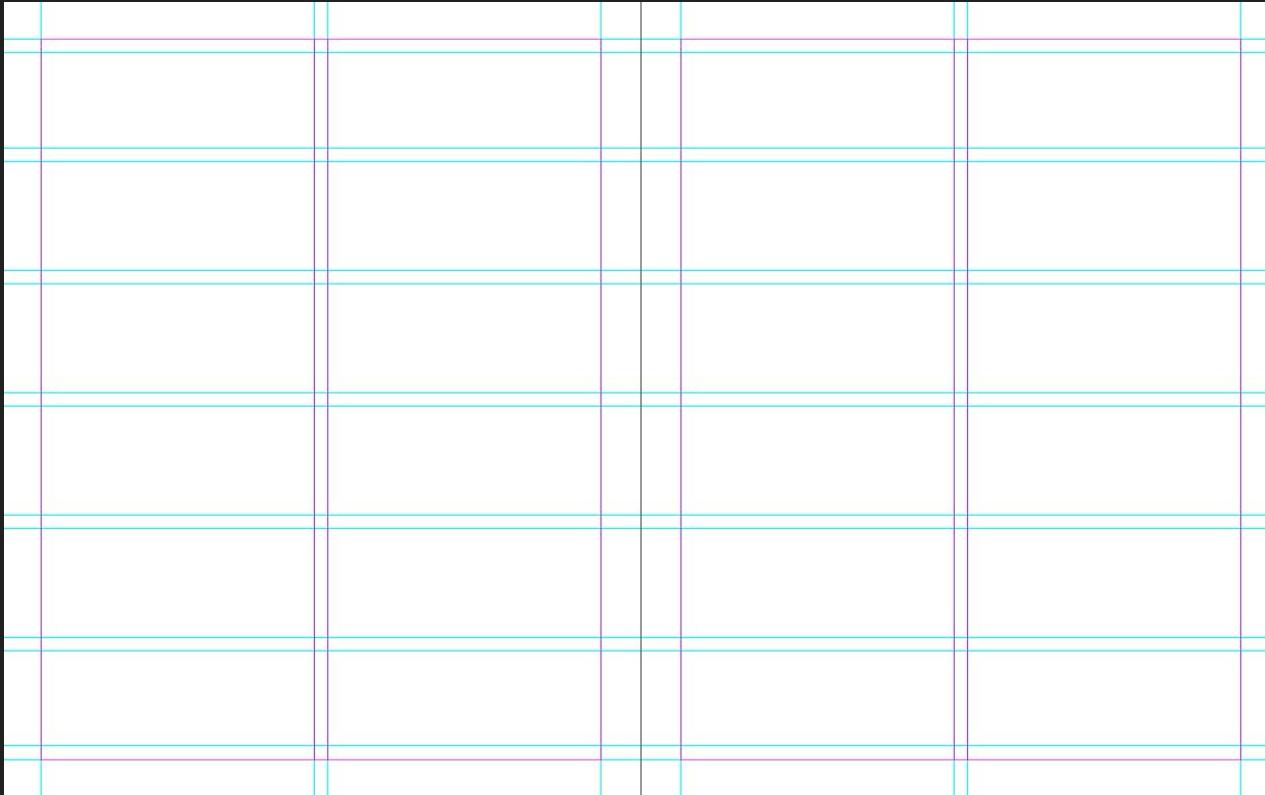
15 Folio | Running Footer

Optima, Myriad, and Minion were chosen as font families for the headers, running feet, and paragraph text respectively to play to each font's strengths.

Optima bold and medium make for striking title and header text, while Myriad semibold and light give the running footer a different texture from the rest of the text.

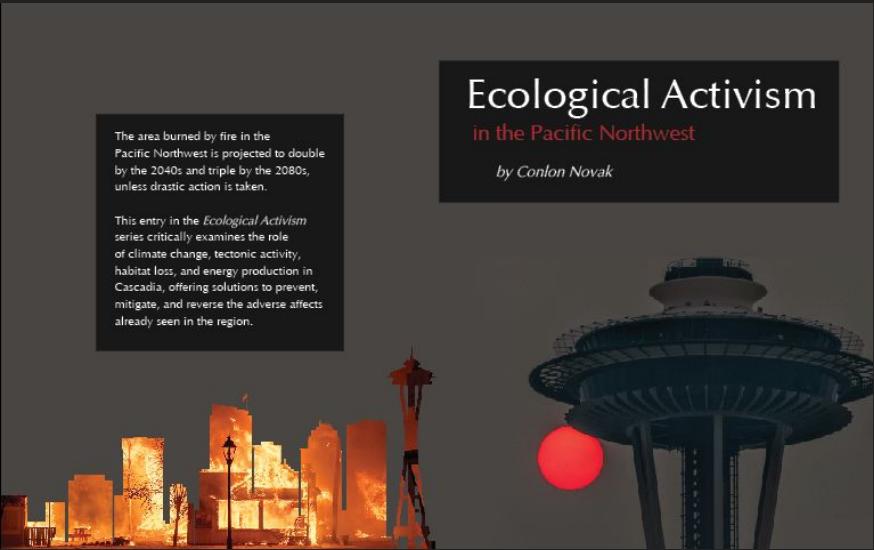
Systems and Page Design

Master Grid



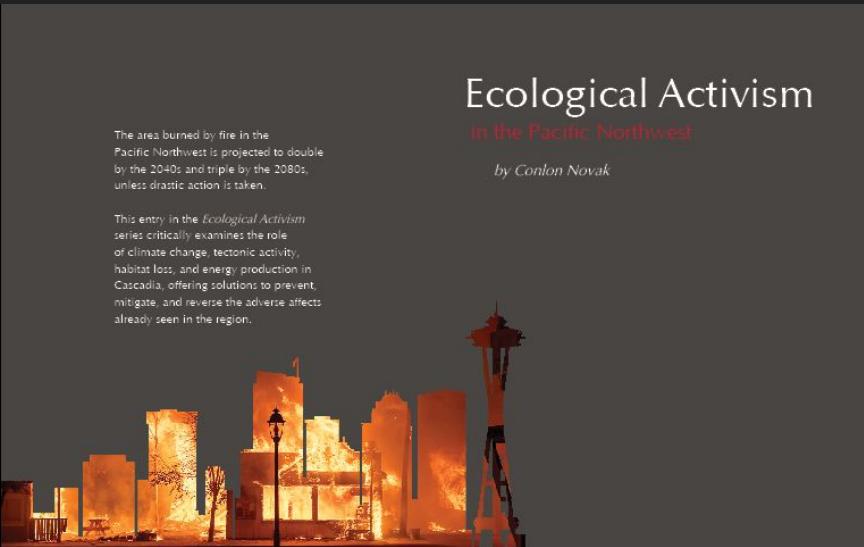
A two column grid allowed for a high level of design flexibility while not overcomplicating the structure of the book in the process.

Covers First Iteration



- Building off of the imagery of Seattle's Space Needle partially eclipsing a blood-red, smoke occluded sun, the initial cover spread designs utilized the color palette of the image for the grey of the background and the red of the subheading
- Black boxes used to increase contrast and improve readability of the text, borrowing elements from within earlier versions of the interior spread designs

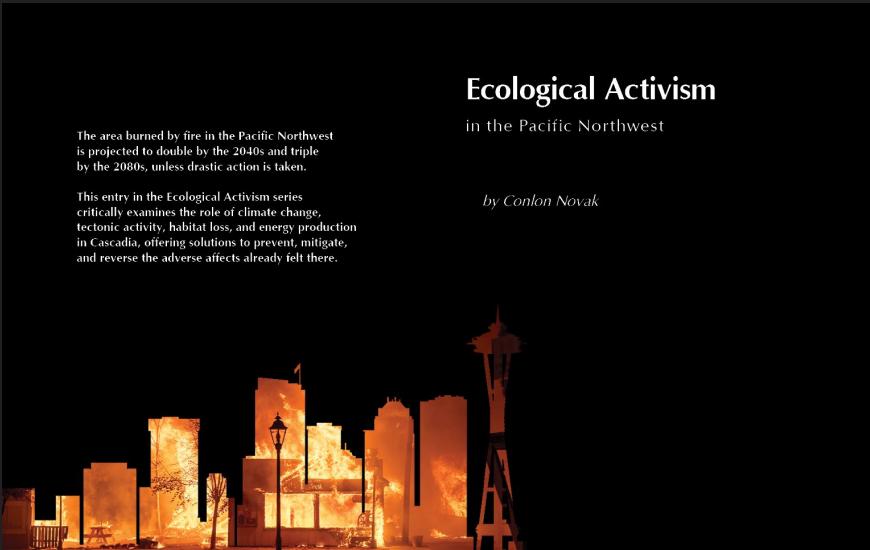
Covers Second Iteration



- Removed cover image in favor of double-exposure illustration wrapping around the spine to the back cover text based on class feedback
- Color palette (esp. of background, subtitle) is now no longer tied to primary cover image, no longer holds meaning and impairs readability

Covers

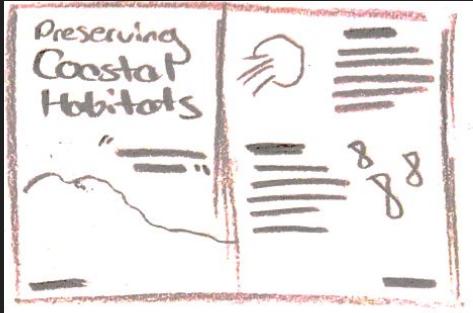
Final Iteration



- Improved contrast with new background color allows the title to better pop off of the page while making better use of white space and a “less is more” design philosophy
- Adjusted placement of the back cover text allows for improved readability and better sense breaks between lines
- Further revisions might investigate how the double exposure art might be adjusted to make the Space Needle more prominent against the background

Interior Spreads

Iteration Progression



THUMBNAIL

Climate Change: Preserving Coastal Habitats

IN THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST, CLIMATE CHANGE IS AFFECTING COASTAL ENVIRONMENTS BY INCREASING OCEAN TEMPERATURES AND ACIDIFICATION. THESE CHANGES ARE HAVING A MAJOR IMPACT ON COASTAL MARINE ECOSYSTEMS, WHICH ARE CRUCIAL TO THE ECONOMY AND WAY OF LIFE FOR LOCAL FISHERIES AND COMMUNITIES. THEY ARE ALSO HAVING A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON THE CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION PLANS OF THE REGION. THE PICTURE SHOWS A JELLYFISH SWIMMING IN THE OCEAN, WHICH IS BEING STUDIED AS PART OF A RESEARCH PROJECT TO UNDERSTAND HOW IT IS BEING AFFECTED BY CLIMATE CHANGE.

Upwelling brings cold, nutrient-rich water from deep in the ocean to the surface in nearshore areas, supporting highly productive food webs. However, too much wind may transport planktonic organisms offshore and away from coastal areas. These changes affect the marine environment and are a concern for local communities and industries.

Solutions: Lowering Sea Levels and Temperatures

Leading crop in the Northwest, salmon populations are declining due to climate change. The Northwest Climate Adaptation Science Center is working to develop solutions to protect salmon populations and their habitats. The center is also working to protect other species, such as steelhead trout, which are also threatened by climate change.

The Fish and Wildlife Service's 2009 5-year review of the Marbled Murrelet (pp. 42-45) contains a thorough evaluation of climate change affects to the marine environment. The review concludes that climate change is likely to result in changes to the murrelet's marine environment. While

Ecological Activism in the Pacific Northwest | 10

A close-up photograph of a vibrant orange and yellow moon jellyfish swimming in clear blue water. The image is part of a larger spread on climate change and coastal habitats.

Ecological Activism in the Pacific Northwest | 11

INITIAL

CLIMATE CHANGE Preserving Coastal Habitats

IN THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST, CLIMATE CHANGE MAY AFFECT THE COASTAL MARINE ENVIRONMENT BY INCREASING OCEAN TEMPERATURE, increasing the vertical stratification of the water column (reducing mixing which is important to the marine food chain), and changing the intensity and timing of coastal winds and upwelling. Wind-driven coastal upwelling and mixing are particularly important to productive marine ecosystems that support diverse marine life, major fisheries and seabirds.

coastal systems are highly variable in both locality and time. Natural changes can occur daily, weekly, seasonally, yearly or even every ten years. And upwelling can vary greatly, yearly or even every ten years. As well as decadal shifts known as cool or warm phases of the Pacific Decadal Oscillation. For example, El Niño events often result in reduced upwelling and productivity. (Litt et al., 2009)

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Solution: Lowering Sea Levels and Temperatures

THERE ARE WAYS TO SLOW THESE CHANGES. Leading crops are blackberries, hazelnuts, loganberries and grass seed. Beef and dairy products are important, as are salmon, tuna, shrimp, crabs and oysters. Oregon and Washington together contain 17 National Forests that provide timber, grazing, wildlife habitat and recreation. Washington's mineral resources include sand, gravel, crushed stone, portland cement, gypsum, magnesium and gold. Oregon contains the only producing natural gas field in the Pacific Northwest and mines sand, gravel and crushed rocks with wheels. Goldfinger, who is tall and solidly built, thought, No way am I crouching under one of those for cover. At a minute and a half, everyone in the room got up and went outside.

He was thinking about sushi. The speaker at the lectern was wondering if he should carry on with his talk. The earthquake was not particularly strong. Then it ticked past the sixty-second mark, making it longer than the others that week. The shaking intensified. The seats in the conference room were small plastic desks with wheels. Goldfinger, who is tall and solidly built, thought, No way am I crouching under one of those for cover. At a minute and a half, everyone in the room got up and went outside.

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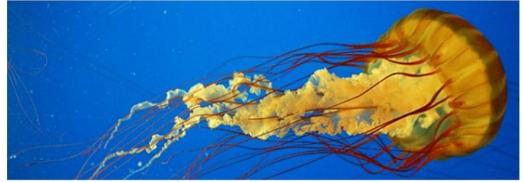
Coral reefs are especially prone to damage from ocean acidification, and can take years to begin to recover.

Ecological Activism in the Pacific Northwest | 10

A photograph of a coral reef ecosystem, showing various corals, anemones, and other marine life. The image is part of a larger spread on climate change and coastal habitats.

Ecological Activism in the Pacific Northwest | 11

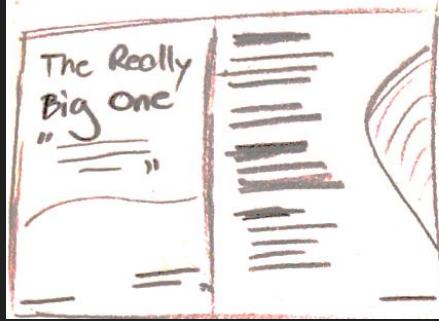
FINAL



Aquatic wildlife, like this native "Moon Jelly," will face the brunt of the effects of coastal habitat destruction in the PNW.

Interior Spreads

Iteration Progression



THUMBNAIL



Tectonic Activity: The Really Big One

"...the odds of the big Cascadia earthquake happening in the next fifty years are roughly one in three. The odds of the very big one are roughly one in ten. Even those numbers do not fully reflect the danger—the very few times in the past when we've experienced the Pacific Northwest is far less."



INITIAL

TECTONIC ACTIVITY The Really Big One

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Ecological Activism in the Pacific Northwest | 1

FINAL

WHEN THE 2011 EARTHQUAKE AND TSUNAMI STRUCK TOHOKU, JAPAN, CHRIS GOLDFINGER WAS TWO HUNDRED MILES AWAY, IN THE CITY OF KASHIWA, AT AN INTERNATIONAL MEETING ON SEISMOLOGY.

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When Goldfinger looked at his watch, it was quarter to three. The conference was wrapping up for the day. He was thinking about sushi. The speaker at the lectern was wondering if he should carry on with his talk. The earthquake was not particularly strong. Then it ticked past the sixty-second mark, making it longer than the others that week. The shaking intensified. The seats in the conference room were small plastic seats with wheels. Goldfinger, who is tall and solidly built, thought, No way am I crouching under one of those for cover. At a minute and a half, everyone in the room got up and went outside.



Interior Spreads

Iteration Progression



Climate Change: Putting Out Fires

VIRTUALLY ALL CLIMATE SCENARIOS PREDICT INCREASES IN WILDFIRE IN WESTERN NORTH AMERICA, ESPECIALLY EAST OF THE CASCADES, due to higher summer temperatures and earlier spring snowmelt. Fire frequency and intensity have already increased in the past 50 years, and most notably the past 15 years in the shrub steppe and forested regions of the West. The area burned by fire regionally is projected to double by the 2040s and triple by the 2080s. The probability that more than two million acres will burn in a given year is projected to increase from 5% (observed) to 33% by the 2080s. USFS and CIG researchers have linked these trends to climate change. Drought and hotter temperatures have also led to an increase in outbreaks of insects, such as the mountain beetle, increasing the risk of fire.

In addition to the climate change, Goldfinger has been working on a research project to better understand the effects of climate change on the Pacific Northwest's forests. The project involves monitoring tree rings to determine how they respond to changing conditions. Goldfinger has found that trees in the Pacific Northwest are becoming more sensitive to climate change, which could lead to more frequent and intense fires. He is also studying the impact of climate change on the region's ecosystems, including the impact on wildlife and the environment.

On the CIG website, Goldfinger's research is described as follows: "We are investigating the effects of climate change on the Pacific Northwest's forests. We are monitoring tree rings to determine how they respond to changing conditions. Goldfinger has found that trees in the Pacific Northwest are becoming more sensitive to climate change, which could lead to more frequent and intense fires. He is also studying the impact of climate change on the region's ecosystems, including the impact on wildlife and the environment."

The area burned by fire in the Pacific Northwest is projected to double by the 2040s and triple by the 2080s.

Ecological Activism in the Pacific Northwest | 7

INITIAL

CLIMATE CHANGE Putting Out Fires

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bearings rather than directly on its foundation. Goldfinger lurched over to take a look. The base was lurching, too, back and forth a foot at a time, digging a trench in the yard. He thought better of it, and lurched away. His watch swept past the three-minute mark and kept going.

Solution: Active Fuel Management

WILDLAND FIRES CAN BE DEVASTATING, BUT NOT ALL FIRE IS BAD. Oh, shit, Goldfinger thought, although not in dread, but in amazement. For decades, seismologists had believed that Japan could not experience an earthquake stronger than magnitude 8.4. In 2005, however, at a conference in Hokkaido, a Japanese geologist named Yasutaka Ikeda had argued that the nation should expect a magnitude 9.0 in the near future—with catastrophic consequences, because Japan's famous earthquake-and-tsunami preparedness, including the height of its sea walls, was based on incorrect science. The presentation was met with polite applause and thereafter largely ignored. Now, Goldfinger realized as the shaking hit the four-minute mark, Cassandra was right.

For a moment, that was pretty cool: a real-time revolution in earthquake science. Almost immediately, though, it became extremely uncool, because Goldfinger and every other seismologist standing outside in Kashiwa knew what was coming. One of them pulled out a cell phone and started streaming video from the Japanese broadcasting station NHK, shot by helicopters that had flown out to sea soon after the shaking started. Thirty minutes after Goldfinger first stepped outside, he watched the tsunami roll in, in real time, on a two-inch screen.

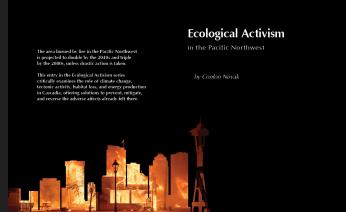
In the end, the magnitude-9.0 Tohoku earthquake and subsequent tsunami killed more than eighteen thousand people, devastated northeast Japan, triggered the meltdown at the Fukushima power plant, and cost an estimated two hundred and twenty billion dollars. The shaking earlier in the week turned out to be the foreshocks of the largest earthquake in the nation's recorded history. But for Chris Goldfinger, a paleoseismologist at Oregon State University and one of the world's leading experts on a little-known fault line, the main

The area burned by fire in the Pacific Northwest is projected to double by the 2040s and triple by the 2080s.



FINAL

Final Spreads



COVERS



TABLE OF CONTENTS

CLIMATE CHANGE Putting Out Fires

Seattle's city government has been working to combat climate change through its Climate Action Plan, which includes measures like increasing energy efficiency and transitioning to renewable energy. But one of the most effective ways to combat climate change is to prevent fires from starting in the first place. This spread explores how Seattle is working to reduce the risk of野火 (wildfires) through better land management and fire prevention efforts.

Solutions: Arctic Fuel Management, Preserving Coastal Habitats, Sustainable Island, Sustainable Fishing

CLIMATE CHANGE Growing Healthier Forests

Seattle's forests are facing significant challenges due to climate change, including increased temperatures and more frequent droughts. This spread explores how Seattle is working to protect and restore these forests through better management practices and research.

Solutions: Arctic Fuel Management, Preserving Coastal Habitats, Sustainable Island, Sustainable Fishing



TECTONIC ACTIVITY The Really Big One



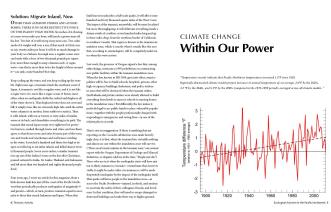
Seattle skyline at sunset



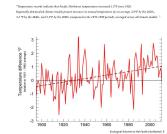
CLIMATE SOLUTIONS Renewable Energy

Seattle is leading the way in renewable energy, with a goal to become carbon neutral by 2050. This spread explores how Seattle is working to transition to renewable energy sources like wind and solar power.

Solutions: Arctic Fuel Management, Preserving Coastal Habitats, Sustainable Island, Sustainable Fishing



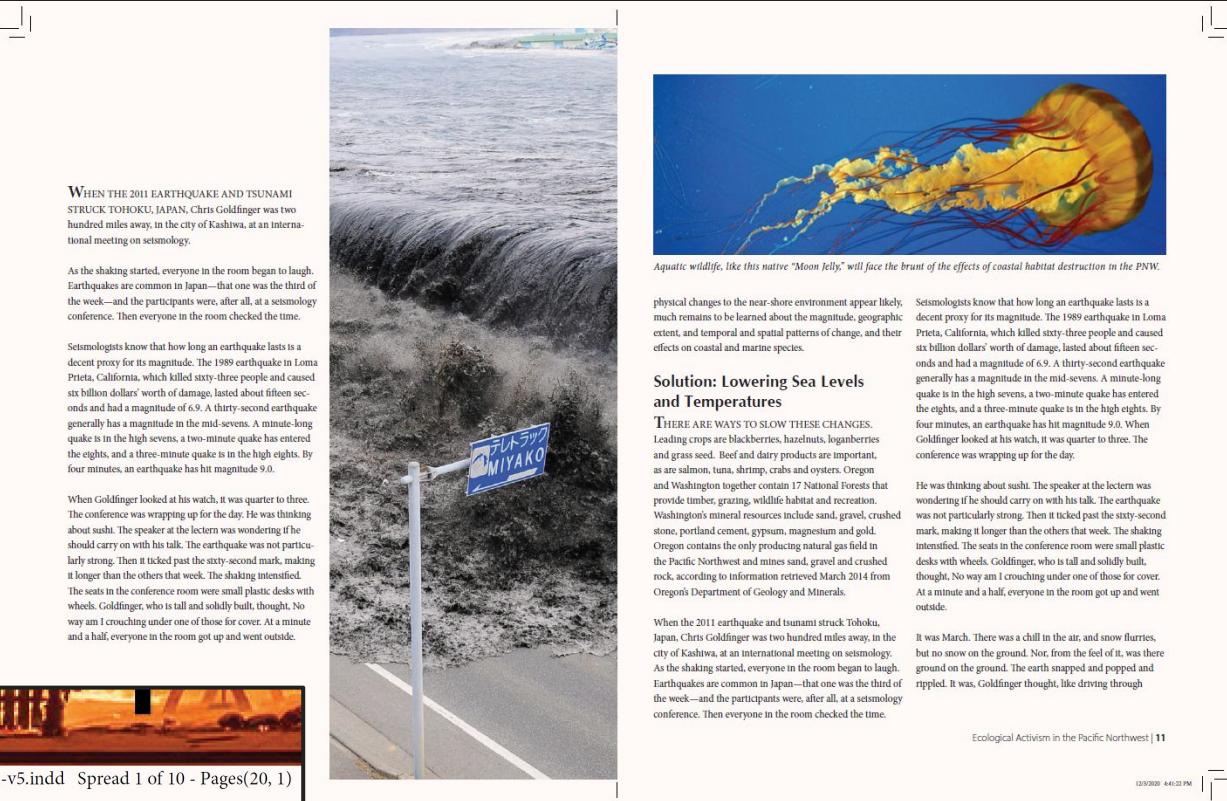
CLIMATE CHANGE Within Our Power



Excerpt from the article "Climate Change Within Our Power" by Gordon Novak. The article discusses the impact of climate change on Seattle and the Pacific Northwest, and explores solutions to combat it.

COLOPHON

Printing and Binding Crop Marks and Bleeds



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Solution: Lowering Sea Levels and Temperatures

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Physical changes to the near-shore environment appear likely, much remains to be learned about the magnitude, geographic extent, and temporal and spatial patterns of change, and their effects on coastal and marine species.

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Ecological Activism in the Pacific Northwest | 11

12/3/2020 4:42:22 PM

Printing and Binding Final Book



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Ecological Activism in the Pacific Northwest | 1



CLIMATE CHANGE Putting Out Fires

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and CG research and better temperatures have also led to an increase in outbreaks of insects, such as the mountain pine beetle, increasing the risk of fire.

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6 | Wildfires

Solutions: Active Fuel Management

With the help of a team of researchers, Goldfinger developed a plan to reduce the amount of fuel available to a wildfire. The team found that the best way to do this was to thin out the trees in a forest, leaving only the largest and healthiest ones.

The team's work has been adopted by the U.S. Forest Service and other agencies across the country.

When Goldfinger looked at his work, he was surprised to find that it had been adopted by the Forest Service. He was wondering if he should carry it forward or not. The next second, Goldfinger realized that he was wrong. “It was a good idea,” he said.

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Book Design

Reflection

This project was easily the most challenging that I've taken on as a graphic and document designer, combining elements of all of the previous projects in this course (visual design, page layouts, typographic design, and more) with a production element that I had no prior experience with.

This project also became, as it ballooned in size, scope, and effort required during the hardest time yet of this awful year, an exercise in managing sunk costs, return on investment, and scope creep. The result, I am happy to say, is one that I'm proud of—but not because of its ambition, but rather because of its consistent improvement and timely completion.

Going forward, I'd like to find ways to incorporate the physical production of otherwise virtual media into my workflow. Having the booklet proof in my hands gave me an entirely different perspective on some of my design decisions in a way that was both valuable for further improvement and a tangible reminder of how far I had come.