Final Report: Roommate Finder

Team

- Cheick Oumar: Prototyping, task analysis, general project management

- Ebsa Jarso: Prototyping, conducting user research drawing sketches

- Missingo Ben: Interviewing participants, writing assignment text

Problem and Solution Overview:

University students often face challenges in finding compatible roommates, leading to stressful living situations. Roommate finder is designed to alleviate this by providing a user-friendly platform for students to create profiles, search for roommates based on shared interests and preferences, and initiate safe communication through the app. By matching students with compatible roommates, we aim to enhance their living experiences and create harmonious living environments.

Design Research Goals, Stakeholders and Participants:

Design Reasearch Goals:

Our primary objective in conducting design research was to gain a deep understanding of the needs and preferences of university students seeking roommates. By interviewing 20 current students from diverse backgrounds including freshmen, transfer students, and international students, we aimed to uncover insights into their roommate-finding experiences, preferences, and challenges.

Stakeholders:

- University Students: Primary users of the roommate finder app, including freshmen, transfer students, and international students.

- University Housing Departments: Stakeholders interested in improving the roommate selection process for students.

- Administrators: Those overseeing student housing and welfare.

Participants:

We interviewed a diverse group of 20 current university students to gain insights into their roommate-finding experiences. The participants included freshmen, transfer students, and international students. These individuals provided valuable feedback on their preferences, challenges, and desired features in a roommate-matching platform.

Design Research Results and Theme

- Safety and Comfort: Students prioritize feeling safe and comfortable with their roommates, highlighting the need for a secure platform.

- Shared Interests and Habits: There is a strong desire for roommates with similar interests and habits, such as hobbies, study habits, and lifestyle choices.

- Ease of Use: Current methods like social media are overwhelming and lack personalized matching, indicating a need for a simpler and more efficient solution.

Answers To Ask Analysis Questions

Create a Profile:
- Users can easily set up profiles with basic information such as name, university affiliation, interests, and preferences.

Search for Roommates:
- Users can filter potential roommates based on location, budget, age, gender, interests, and lifestyle preferences.

View Roommate Profiles:
- Detailed profiles display pictures, bios, interests, and lifestyle preferences, aiding users in assessing compatibility.

Initiate Communication:
- Users can easily send messages through the app's secure messaging system, ensuring a safe and convenient way to connect with potential roommates.
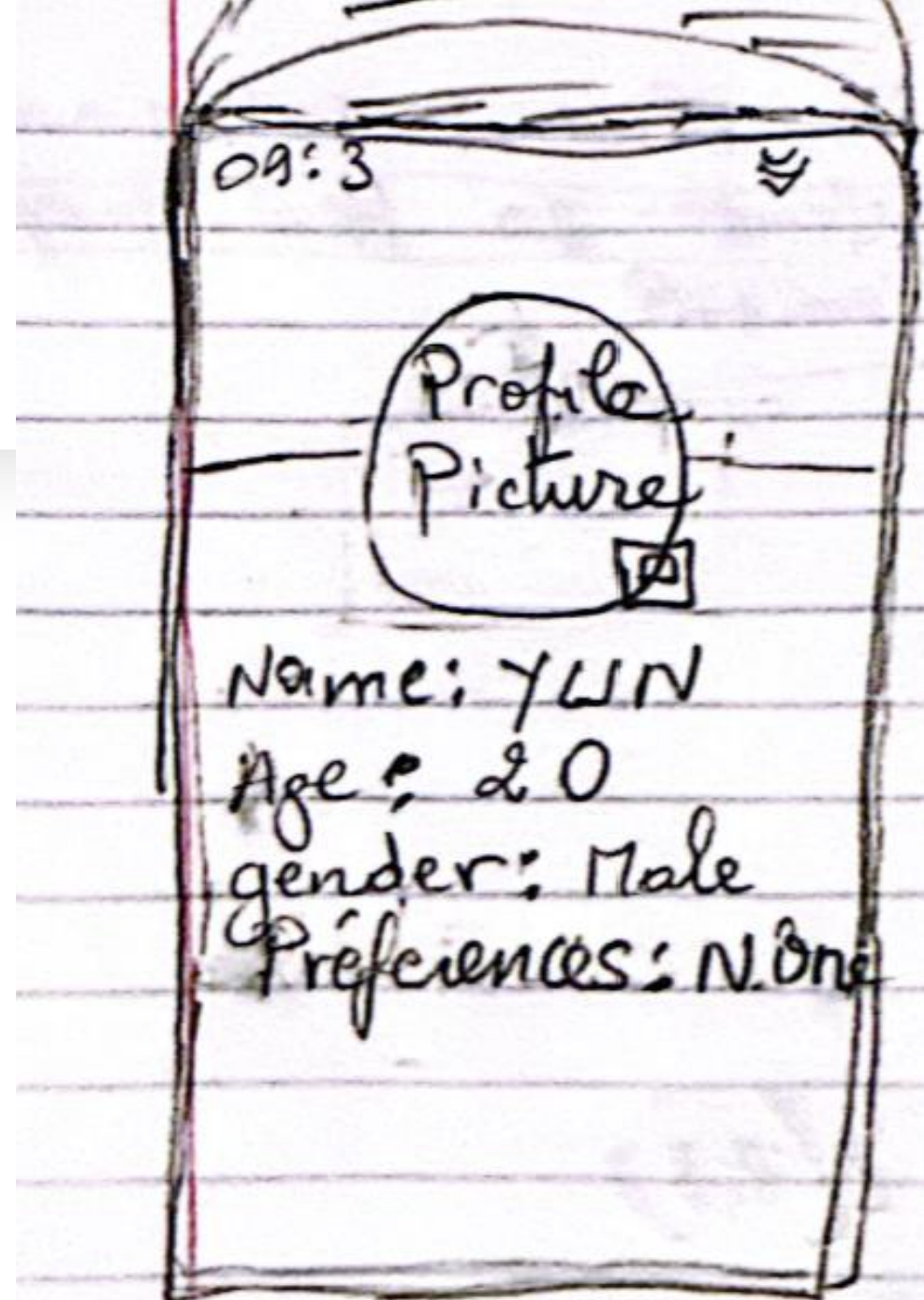
Verify Identity:
- To prioritize safety, users are required to verify their identity through university email authentication, adding an extra layer of trust.
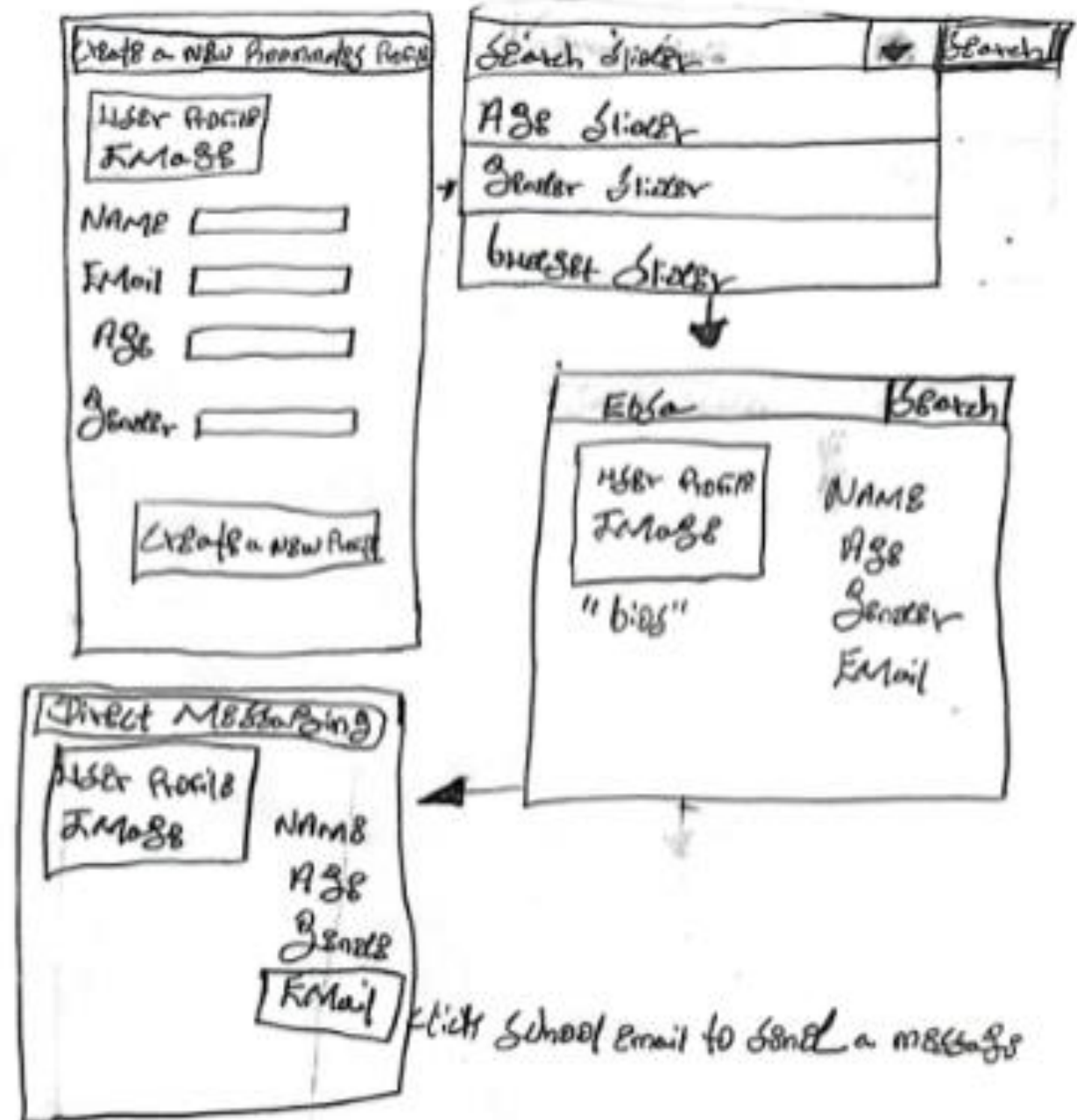
Proposed Design Sketches:

Design 1: Swipe-Based Matching

- Users are presented with a stack of roommate profiles.

- They can swipe right to like and left to pass on a profile.

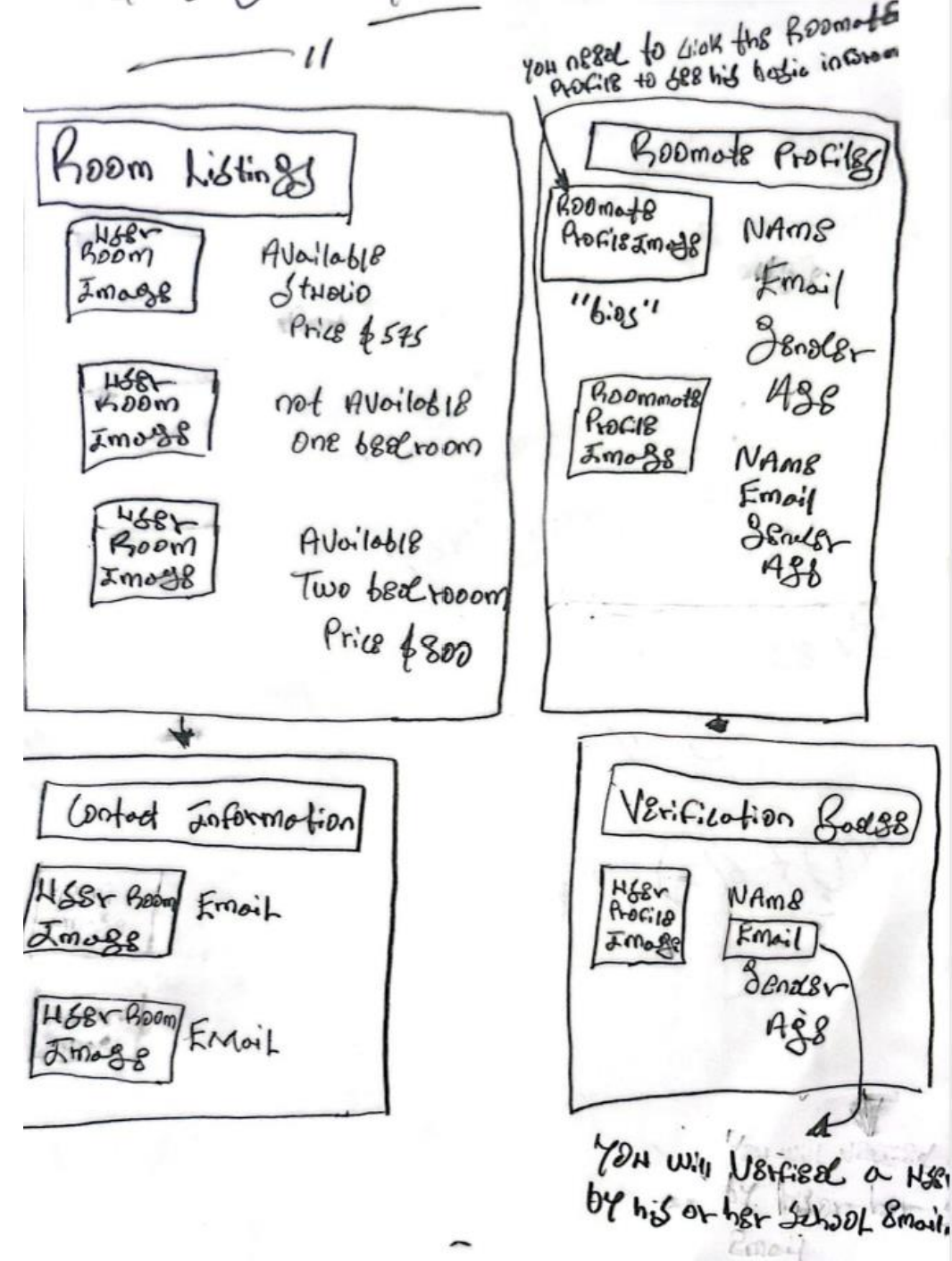- Mutual likes result in a match notification.

Design 2: Profile-Based Matching

- Users create detailed profiles with pictures, bios, interests, and lifestyle preferences.

- The search feature allows users to filter roommates based on specific criteria.

- Users can view comprehensive roommate profiles before initiating communication.

Design 3: community Board

- Users can post listings for available rooms with descriptions, pictures, and preferences.

- A communal board displays all available listings for easy browsing.

- Users can directly message or contact potential roommates through the platform.

Design Choice and Tasks:

We selected Design 1: Swipe-Based Matching as our primary focus, as it offers a visually engaging and efficient way for users to find compatible roommates. This design simplifies the process by allowing users to quickly browse and match with potential roommates based on their preferences. The tasks we will further pursue are:

Finding Compatible Roommates:

- Mohamed sets his preferences and swipes through profiles.
- He matches with a potential roommate who shares his interest in soccer.

Initiating Communication:

- Sarah receives a match notification with Yun, who shares her interest in art.
- She initiates a conversation through the secure messaging system within the app.

Written Scenarios:

Scenario 1: Finding Compatible Roommate

- Mohamed logs into Roommate finder and sets his preferences for interests, budget, and lifestyle.
- He swipes through profiles, liking those with shared interests in soccer and similar study habits.
- After a few swipes, he receives a match notification with Yun, who shares his interests.
- Mohamed taps on the notification, and they start chatting about potential living arrangements and interests.

Scenario 2: Initiating Communication

- Sarah receives a match notification with Huda, who has a similar interest in art and quiet study environments.
- She navigates to Huda's profile to learn more about her interests and lifestyle.
- Impressed by the detailed profile, Sarah decides to initiate communication by sending Huda a message.
- Within the app's messaging system, Sarah introduces herself and expresses interest in potentially rooming together.

Storyboards Of the Selected Design

Storyboard 1: Finding Compatible Roommates

- Mohamed sets his preferences and swipes through profiles.
- He matches with a potential roommate who shares his interest in soccer.

Storyboard 2: Initiating Communication

- Sarah receives a match notification with Yun, who shares her interest in art.
- She initiates a conversation through the secure messaging system within the app.

Conclusion

Roommate finder is designed to revolutionize the roommate-finding experience for university students. By focusing on safety, shared interests, and ease of use, we aim to create a platform