



**Noroff**

School of technology  
and digital media

# **Project Exam 1**

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## Design

What went well on the project

All over I felt like the design was good (my own opinion of course), good contrast between text and background. I've tried to implement a "green-ish" colour I took from the "banner" in the header section and use it on buttons, <hr> tags and in the footer to make the colour design feel more like the blogs brand colour if I can say it that way.

What was difficult/didn't go well on the project

Getting all the photos for the site, is went on different fieldtrips in my nearest area to photograph my own images for the site, never made it to Oslo where most of the graffiti I planned to add to the blog posts. Instead, it was a lot of posts with my own art from my own sketchbook.

What would you do differently next time

Maybe work more on the responsive design in Adobe XD

## Technical

What went well on the project

Used the tools in my browser much more than before to design, look for errors and everything you can do with them.

What was difficult/didn't go well on the project

The hardest part for me was to create the slider/carousel for the latest post section. I watched to many tutorial videos on YouTube and I never quite understood how to get it to work to show different blog posts since almost every YouTube tutorial is about mainly about



images. At the end I found a nice step by step beginners video (link in references).

Then one day the solution came to me like a lightning from a clear sky. It was all about the URL we was fetching.

What would you do differently next time

The nav, I have created this responsive navbar before on my cross course project, and I feel like it is time to explore new ways to create navbars, challenge my self some more than I did in this exam.

## **WCAG guidelines, content management and SEO**

What went well on the project

I believe I've covered what I could cover when it comes to the WCAG guidelines, content management is also getting better and better for every project I make. More files, but shorter files, makes it easier for me and other to keep track of where to do changes.

What was difficult/didn't go well on the project

It is always hard to remember how to write perfect code for accessibility, i do not feel confident that my html is good enough yet, but I hope it is okay enough and don't exclude user from my site. Pretty sure it is fine, but not perfect.

What would you do differently next time

Read and learn more about SEO. We want user to find us.



# Summary

This report is taking us through the phases I worked on during our weeks working with the exam. Since I had the flu for four weeks and I was lucky to get one week extra extension for delivery my work bears the mark of two intense weeks of work.

To sum up I describe how I planned and found inspiration for the design, how coding went with focus on where I need to learn and what I learned from it, what feedback gave me in both learning and understanding of what the user needs.

## **The phases of the BODY section:**

- Planning
- Design
- Coding
- User testing/feedback



## Phase 1: Planning

Planning went well, coming up with a theme was not that difficult due to my private life passion (graffiti and art), I used trello to create checklists to easy track what I had done and what needed to do. Also I felt more comfortable setting deadlines for every task in Trello after our semester project.

## Phase 2: Design

When I started the design phase I spent hours searching for inspiration on internet, trying to find other blogs that had a unique look, at the end I realised blogs in general is quite boring and all kinda looks the same and follows the same recipe. Even the top bloggers in the world has no kind of unique design in their blog other than a lot of commercial. So I decided I go and try to make a “normal” type of blog without anything fancy and just put my personal touch with colours and theme to it.

Colour palette: Quite simple, black and white-ish since all my images would have a lot of colours in them, except the green colour on the footer, cta`s and <hr> tags. That colour was extracted from the banner to create something that was working from top of the page to the bottom.



Photos from the page is also mostly from my own collection except two posts from the artist Tare.



## **Phase three: Coding**

### **HTML**

Quite straight forward from top to bottom. Its much lesser html to write when we are fetching most of the content on the site from an API.

Only thing that comes in my mind that might not be very good for accessibility is that I made my header section empty and used it as a “banner” holder. This was the first thing I did when I started coding this project, and when I think back at it now, it seems like a strange thing to do to create a banner.

### **CSS**

Css files are mostly divided into separate files for easier control instead of using my beginner method of creating one big file for everything, exception is the design.css file but I made comments to divide that into sections and pages. Css files is still something that I struggle to keep clean at the end of projects, it always in my mind to keep them clean but for some reason that always slips at the end.

Media query section of my css is very small, I used mostly percentage width on my items that needed styling so having a lot of reworks on images and other items with fixed pixels within different media query`s is something I felt was not needed, if this is a bad way of writing css please let me know in the feedback.

### **JavaScript.**

This exam made me realize that wow I really need to practice more with JavaScript, I really found my weakness that I struggle to see how I can use what we learn in the courses to think in a way that I can create my own functions in my own way. It has been to much just solving earlier tasks in a way that says this is the way to do it and not see other paths to use the same methods in different ways.

My main struggle and time-consuming task during this exam were the carousel slider. This almost broke me, and I really hope it turned out well, I had to follow a step-by-step beginners tutorial video (link in references) to manage to create it. I tried to create many other carousels but when I implemented them on my site it broke something of the responsiveness on several items and I spent about 15 hours trying to solve this without any luck. Kept the old code so one day I will find out what the issue is.

One more thing to mention is fetching the wp rest api, getting all the post was easy, everything else was hard in the beginning but I learned so much in this exam, endpoints, pagination and much more. I really like the road from just fetching the api to learn how to use it in so many other ways.



## **Phase 5: User testing and feedback.**

For the first time this year I managed to find several and enough users to test my page. I got a lot of feedback and some of the issues I want to mention is:

- Text positioning on the blogposts
- Colour choice
- SoMe links
- Issues with the “cards” for my posts.
- Navbar

Some of the users mentioned that the copy on my blogposts was centered (every line) This was quickly fixed to match the rest of the side so every lines started from the left. “funny” thing about this was that I did not notice this my self and this is the reason we want feedback.

Colour choice in the design, 50% of my testers did not like the green-ish colour on my site, mainly on the footer. This is planned to be changed on a later point when we are working on out portfolio assignment. The reason why I used this colour is described in the design phase section in the same report.

SoMe links was wanted by many of the users, I checked hotjar and discovered that only 50% of the testers actually stopped scrolling when the footer of the page touched the viewport. So they never saw that I had a section in my footer that stated that the blog will be on SoMe soon. But this also gave me a good information about that SoMe links need to be much more visible on the site if I want users to notice. Its almost like user knows what a footer contains so they only go there if they are looking for specific information that they know is likely to be in the footer.

If this was a real blog, I would rework the location of my SoMe icons.

Issues with “cards” for my posts.

I got one report that there was trouble clicking the post in the carousel and one only, later the user said that tried viewing the blog on several devices and it was only on her phone the issue seemed to appear. I ask the other users if they had experienced the same issue and neither of them had. I will still look into this, and I have a pretty good idea that the issue is coming from the “box” around the next and prev buttons on the carousel.

Navbar/hamburger menu, my navbar when converted to hamburger menu was first at only 50% simply because my own opinion believed that it looked good , feedback from my testers proved me wrong, they rather have it at 100% width. I quickly changed this.

## **Hotjar**

Some quick facts from Hotjar is that 100% percent of the testers saw the first page, 83% of the testers scrolled all the way down and stopped when they saw the very beginning of the footer and 50% of the testers actually did scroll all the way down to the bottom to also see



the footer.

My guess that 83% scrolled down to see all the content before the footer I believe is explained by me also checking my own blog after it was live, and I did not need to go down to the footer.

Heatmaps also discovered most users seemed to quickly directly from the index to the blog instead of checking out other things. It's a blog so I am happy about that.

Last thing on the feedback as well is my contact form, I did not add a script that confirmed my contact form when submitted. This was noticed by every tester and gives me information about how important it is for users to receive feedback when clicking on different things on a webpage.

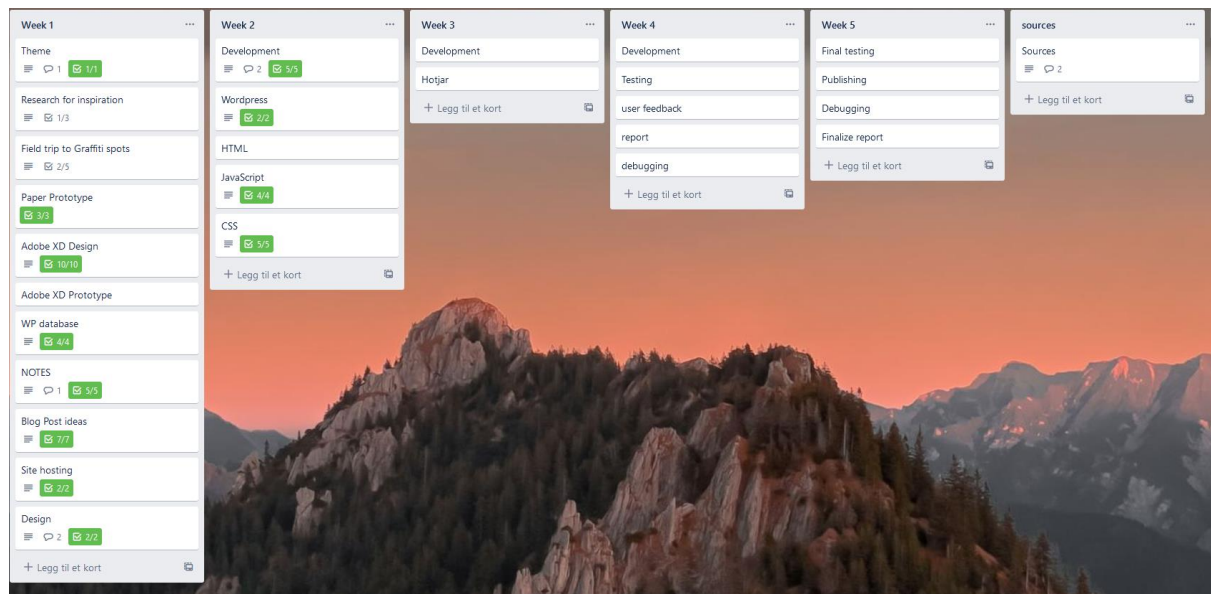
## **Conclusion**

The project exam for me was good if you take into account that I was ill with the flu much of the exam. I wish I had more time and could implement many of my "nice to have" ideas into the project. As always, I learn more from working on projects like this than any other way of learning. I had a great time adding knowledge and learning from mistakes. Can't wait to get my grade and feedback so I know what I need to focus on in the future.

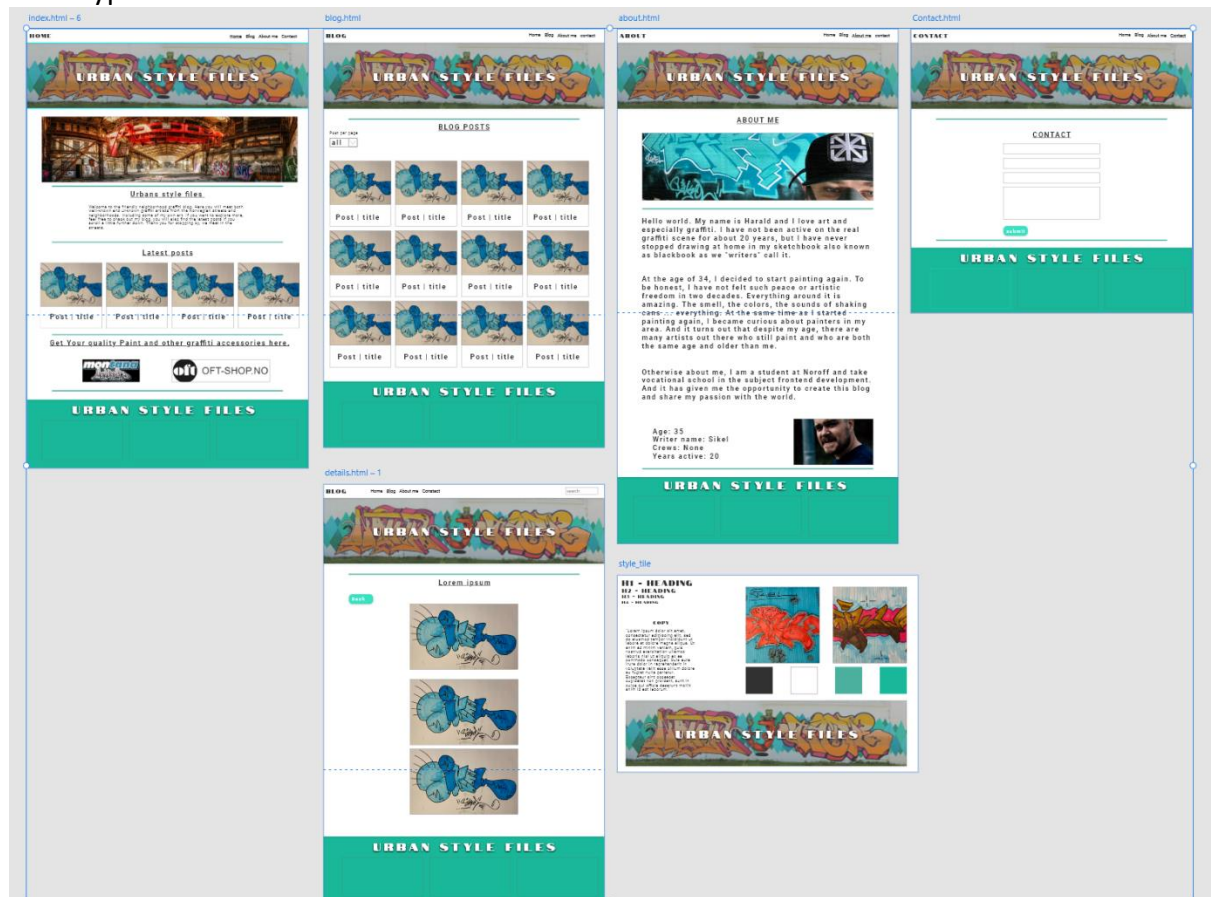




## Trello:



## Prototype:



## References

(place references to websites, books, forums etc. that helped you in the project)

- Art from Tare ([www.tarestyles.com](http://www.tarestyles.com)) all use of images have been approved by the owner.
- Carousel: Karl Hadwen - JavaScript Carousel Tutorial Step by Step - JavaScript Tutorials for Beginners <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gor5BvT2z88&t=113s>
- Fonts from <https://fonts.google.com/>
- HTML & CSS design and build websites – Jon Duckett

