Portfolio project

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MI 349-Web Development

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Portfolio Website

The project I chose for my final experience in MI 349 is a website that can display who I am and what I do. This portfolio will demonstrate my experience throughout my career and time at MSU. The website has different pages, each explaining parts of my MSU experience and who I am as a person. Here is a look at my original pitch board that explains what this website will accomplish:

Pitchboard for Aidan Marentette's Portfolio Website

Project Overview:

The portfolio website will serve as a personal platform to showcase my professional achievements, skills, and personal projects in information science, UX design, and web development. It will highlight key sections such as my resume, project work, outreach activities, and personal interests

Goals & Objectives:

- **Showcase Skills & Experience:** Present academic and professional accomplishments in a visually engaging format.
- **Increase Online Presence:** Create a central hub for potential employers and collaborators to learn about my work.
- **Demonstrate Technical Skills:** Build the website from scratch, showcasing web development, design, and content creation skills.

Target Audience:

- **Primary:** Potential employers, recruiters, and professional connections.
- **Secondary:** Academic peers, instructors, and anyone interested in technology, design, and investing.

Key Features:

1. **Homepage:** Overview of my professional identity and a personal introduction.
2. **Resume Section:** Downloadable resume link with a styled button.
3. **Projects Page:** Display completed academic and personal projects, with detailed descriptions and visuals.
4. **Outreach Page:** Highlight involvement in university organizations such as the Supply Chain Management Association and Personal Investing Club.
5. **Personal Page:** Share hobbies and interests like cooking, event planning, and landscaping.

Design Considerations:

- **Visual Theme:**
  - **Color Palette:** Green, blue, orange, pink, white, gray, and black for text.
  - **Typography:** Clean, modern fonts like Arial, Helvetica, or Roboto.
  - **Style:** Minimalist, professional, and easy-to-navigate.
- **Layout Design:**
  - Use a responsive grid layout with Flexbox for multi-device compatibility.
  - Create visually distinct sections with clear navigation.

Technologies:

- **Design Tools:** Google Slides (for wireframes), Photoshop (for image editing)
- **Development Tools:** HTML5, CSS3, JavaScript
- **Hosting Platform:** Netlify

Timeline & Milestones:

1. **Week 1:** Research and gather inspiration
2. **Week 2:** Create wireframes and design comps
3. **Week 3:** Build and style core pages (HTML/CSS)
4. **Week 4:** Implement interactivity and finalize content
5. **Week 5:** Testing and deployment

Success Metrics:

- Positive feedback from peers
- Functionality across devices
- Visually appealing design

Design Process

I took inspiration from a couple portfolios I researched online. The aspects that looked best to me had easy navigation and were minimalistic in nature. Here is an example of a website that I took direct inspiration from:
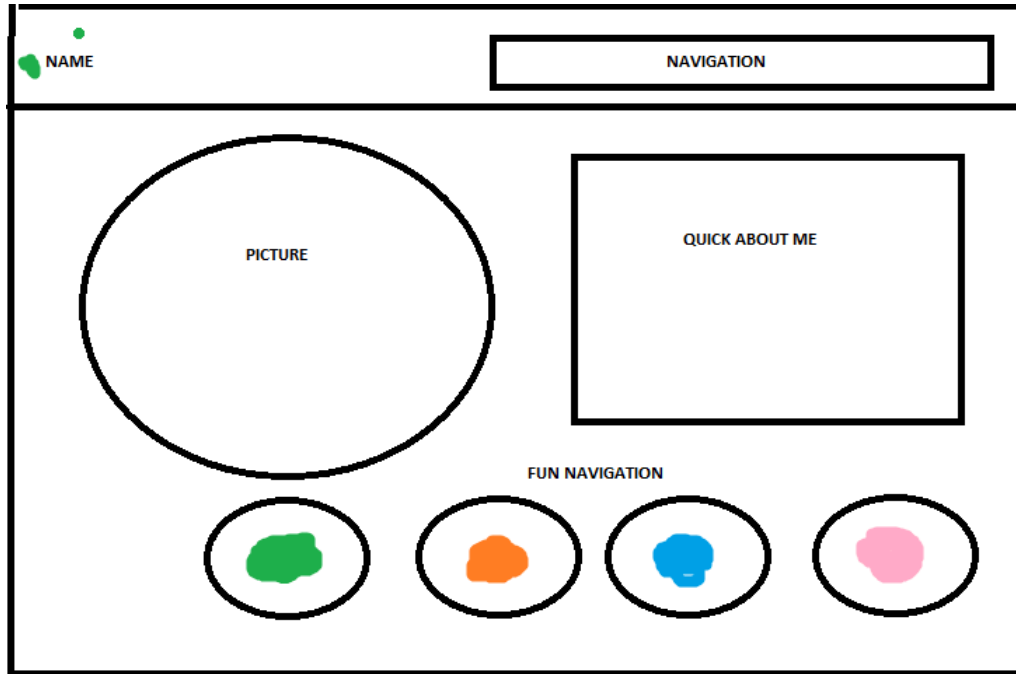

What I really liked about this portfolio was the easy-to-read name and large headshot. I felt as if this minimal design was enough to have the reader remember the face and name, which is my goal for potential employers, peers and anyone interested in my work.
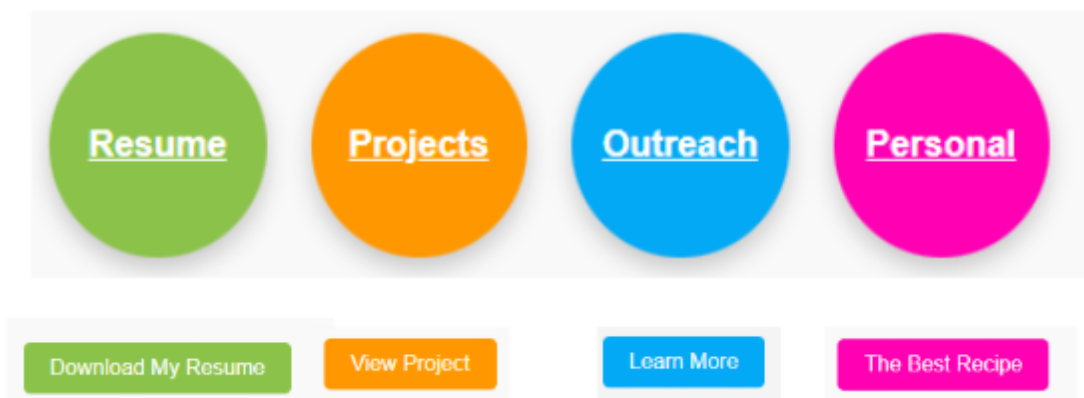
Wire Frames

At the beginning of my design process, I tried to capture the minimalistic design of previous websites that I had seen. I came up with very low fidelity sketches with google slides.

This wire frame ended up becoming a very accurate representation of what my final website would turn out to be. After the early fidelity stages were completed, I soon thought about what would appeal to the target audience and created a higher fidelity prototype of the home page.

The home page prototype had design elements that needed to be included in my project, such as color coordination and how my layout would be through the website. I designed the color scheme for each page having very minimal, but noticeable color choices. Each of the "Fun Navigation" buttons were assigned a color, which meant each of the pages that the buttons would navigate to would also include that color.

On each of the pages, they include the same color as the initial homepage button in a very minimalistic approach. For all the buttons in each page, they resemble the same 4 colors as the buttons themselves. I thought that this would help engage the audience and have a consistent color palette to the website.

Challenges

While finalizing my finished website, I found it extremely hard to find the resources to help me find the specific code for having interactive features, a lot of the problems arising from coding with CSS. I found extra help, however, when looking at stack overflow, which gave me the ability to see other people's ideas and how they dealt with the same problems I was having. I was also debating whether to keep the fun navigation throughout the entire website, but I decided it wasn't entirely user friendly thus, I left the other navigation in the top right of the website.

Resume   Projects   Outreach   Personal

Significance

Overall, this was a fun project to work on and with more development I would highly consider this website to be impactful for future job hunting. Within this semester I was able to learn how a professional looking website is developed and strategies to complete them. It's fun to compare my previous websites to the professional looking websites I can create now.