

Team Name: Buckeye Bed and Breakfast
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Summary

I explored each of these websites as if I were shopping online for a place to stay. I have based most comments on my initial reactions to the design of each website as well as how the features compliment the customer experience.

Competitors Evaluated

Red Maple Inn (<http://www.redmapleinn.com>)

This site is well layed out and features appealing imagery of the space as well as the surrounding area. Off the bat I notice promotional buttons are pushed forward on the page.

Hawthorne Park Bed and Breakfast (<http://www.hawthorneparkbnb.com/>)

Features and overall appealing page design and a list of ammenities right on the home page. This site features a blog with consistent updates about the home or deals/events they might be hosting.

The Mill House Bed and Breakfast (<http://themillhouse.com>)

Website has a simple yet intuitive design. Features a 3D virtual tour video that allows the user to explore each room of the house.

Willow Brooke Bed and Breakfast (<http://www.willowbrooke.com>)

This website features stylized type options and styled boxes for a decorative aesthetic. The house offered is a manor so naturally this draws attention. The website designer took advantage of this and a large beautiful image of the house envelopes the entire home screen on initial load of the website.

The Barn Inn (<https://www.thebarninn.com/>)

The Barn Inn features a welcoming home page with warm colors and large easily understood content areas and buttons.

Comment: each website had easily accessible navigation buttons some more than others, though, were well designed making the overall experience that much better.

Navigation and Labeling

Common

Home, Explore/Local Attractions, Rooms

Competitor

Amenities (this is a feature our website lacks), Social Media links, Contact button for easy communication with home owners, Gift Certificate button

What features and types of functionality do competitors offer their users?

An amenity tab that lists all features of the house such

as 'free wifi', or 'hot tub'

Contact button or social media links for staying up to date with potential clients

What types of content is available on the sites.

Images, Models of space, maps of local attractions, "Virtual Tours" or videos of the space

What content is missing on the sites that would be helpful.

Many of the websites did not have a 'Calender' section or navigation button. This is important for a quick path to see what days are or are not available.

Voice and Tone

What is the common "voice" of the competitors (friendly, serious, helpful, excited, boring)

Many of these websites attempt an inviting/welcoming voice with some splashes of excitement in headlines or subheads.

Is there consistency in voice and tone across the sites?

Consistently 'welcoming', yes.

Design Aesthetics and Layout

What are common design choices across the sites (colors, typography, layout)

Script typefaces. Red, Brown, Beige and sometimes Blue are common. Large Images on home screen.

How does the design contribute to the usability of the site on various devices?

Design is often aiding in functionality. The better designed websites often have more successful approaches to hierarchy and functioning elements.

Which design pieces (patterns) could be utilized on our website?

Some color elements, quilted or blanket pattern, better approach to hierarchy.

Show side-by-side screenshots of each website evaluated.

Recommendations and Strategy

Our website needs an identity. One that stands out and meets our desired needs. We should create platforms for contact and interaction between the potential customer and the home owner/the home itself.

