



Noroff

School of technology
and digital media

TECHNICAL REPORT

PROJECT EXAM

TALES OF PALESTINE

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2.INTRODUCTION

In the heart of this project lies a journey of discovery and empathy, culminating in the creation of a digital space dedicated to Palestinian poetry and culture. This website serves as a testament to the resilience and strength of the Palestinian people, amidst the backdrop of ongoing conflict. My aim was not to amplify the aggression that already saturates our world, but to illuminate the power of resilience, the beauty of culture, and the depth of human emotion through the art of poetry.

The decision to focus on Palestinian narratives emerged from a deep-seated desire to bring attention to their enduring spirit in the face of adversity. Poetry, with its profound ability to express the inexpressible, became the medium through which this resilience is celebrated. It is a form of resistance, a declaration of existence, and a celebration of identity.

By intentionally using Arabic fonts and elements, crafted by local artists, the website not only pays homage to the rich cultural heritage of Palestine but also stands as a symbol of solidarity, aiming to amplify the voices and talents of Palestinian creators in more ways.

This project is more than just a compilation of blog posts; it is an invitation to explore a rich tapestry of experiences, stories, and reflections that resonate with the universal quest for dignity and peace. Through this website, I aspire to offer a window into the soul of a culture defined by its unyielding resilience.

3. FUNCTIONAL SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

VERSION 2.0

This report presents a comprehensive overview of my project exam for the Frontend Development course, conducted in the winter of 2024. The aim of this document is to provide a detailed account of the project, the methodologies adopted, the rationale behind design and development decisions, an overview of the progression from initial sketches to the final deployment on Netlify, closing with a reflective evaluation of the experiences and knowledge gained.

GOAL

The primary objective of this project is to design and implement a fully functional blog website. The site will serve as a platform to publish a variety of content, providing an engaging user experience through interactive elements and a clean, responsive design.

BRIEF

The task involves developing a blog site comprising several key pages: a welcoming home page with a carousel of latest posts, an informative about page, a comprehensive list of blog posts, detailed pages for individual blog articles, and a contact page with a functional form.

SCOPE

The scope of this project is to offer users a seamless and enriching journey through the realms of poetry and resilient art. Each page is crafted to immerse the visitor in a narrative that celebrates creativity and perseverance, ensuring a captivating and smooth user experience that resonates with the soulful essence of the content.

RESOURCES

- 5 weeks

4. PLANNING AND RESOURCES

The importance of good planning in the execution of any project cannot be overstated, in my opinion. It serves as the blueprint that guides the project from its early stages to fruition, ensuring that all elements are aligned with the project's goals and objectives.

For my project, I once again choosed Trello, a versatile project management tool. This approach allows me to maintain clarity and focus, efficient workflow and ensure the timely completion of project milestones. Link to Trello board is attached to report.

Recognizing my challenges with JavaScript, I strategically allocated most time in my project to tackle this. This approach was aimed at ensuring reasonable time to prioritize the technical aspects that might need more attention, rather than design and content creation. By dedicating more time to JavaScript, I aimed to not only overcome my hurdles but also to demonstrate my growing proficiency. This prioritization allowed me to focus on showcasing my abilities in web development while ensuring that design and content, though tackled later, were still executed to the standard I aim for.

5. TARGET AUDIENCE

I encountered challenges in pinpointing the exact audience for the blog site due to the multifaceted nature of the theme and content.

The target audience for the blog site encompasses individuals passionate about literature, art, and cultural resilience, with a specific interest in Palestinian poetry and culture. It caters to those seeking a platform that not only showcases art, but individuals with a penchant for social justice causes and a desire to amplify marginalized voices.

Overall, the blog site aims to engage a broad audience. Here to show two different personas from the target audience:

Layla: Poetry Enthusiast

- Background: Layla is a 25-year-old graduate student majoring in literature with a interest in Middle Eastern cultures and languages.
- Interests: She enjoys exploring poetry and literature, particularly those that shed light on social and cultural issues.
- Reasons for Visiting: Layla visits the site to discover new Palestinian poets.

Omar: Activist

- Background: Omar is a 30-year-old social activist and advocate for human rights, particularly in conflict-affected regions like Palestine.
- Interests: He is passionate about raising awareness about social justice issues, supporting marginalized communities, and amplifying diverse voices.
- Reasons for Visiting: Omar seeks out the site to stay informed about the Palestinian struggle, find inspiration in stories of resilience, and share compelling narratives with his network to advocate for change.

6. VISUAL PROFILE

I used Canva as a tool to create a vision board, to visualize the design elements and layout of the website effectively. This process was instrumental in translating abstract concepts into concrete design idea, serving as a guideline throughout the project.

The design of the website aims to evoke a sense of calmness and warmth, drawing inspiration from Palestinian culture and poetry. the design gives a sense of mystery and curiosity, inviting visitors to explore. With its distinct colors and elements, the website provides a safe and welcoming space for users,



7. FUNCTIONAL REQUIREMENTS

GENERAL

- The content of the website should be stored on a WordPress installation used as a Headless CMS
- The website is user-friendly and easy to navigate for all ages (UI and UX)
- Website is responsive and designed and should be displayed properly on various screen sizes

NAVIGATION

- Should include navigation links to all pages clearly
- Should consist on all pages, mobile and desktop
- A back button for safe navigation
- Should include a search bar
- Should show active state on pages
- Should turn into a hamburger menu on mobile
- Should stay on top
- Should toggle between main-head and sub-head for design purposes using JavaScript
- Should contain a copyright (footer)

MODAL

- Should appear when user clicks inside post
- Should include title, image, full poem
- Image should be clickable leading to specific blogpost
- Should disappear when user clicks outside
- Should include an X symbol to disappear

INDEX.HTML

- Feature a 'Latest Posts' section, designed as a carousel (slider) for the desktop version
- The latest posts should lead to the specific blogpost dynamically by fetching by ID
- A truncated version of the about content and leading to specific about page
- A contact form using JavaScript for validation, showing error messages if the values in the textboxes do not meet the requirements.
- A newsletter submit bar
- Ensure :focus state on all hover-effects for accessibility
- The grid should be built by using CSS grids

BLOGPOSTS

- Should at least have 12 blogs
- Should have dynamically fetched title, image, subtitle, truncated version of the poem
- A modal should appear when clicking inside the post
- A read more button leading to the specific blogpost dynamically by fetching by ID
- Should include a filtering function to filter blogposts based on categories from API
- Should be neatly put into a grid

SPECIFIC BLOGPOST

- Should include title, subtitle, image, poem, quote, bio and portrait fetched from API
- Should include more information about author

ABOUT

- Should include content dynamically fetched from API using wordpress ‘pages’
- Should include at least 2 images showcasing Palestine
- Should include real link to email, instagram and donations page

CONTACT

- Should include 4 textboxes in form
- Should use JavaScript for validation, showing error messages if the values in the textboxes do not meet the requirements.

7.1 NON-FUNCTIONAL REQUIREMENTS

- WCAG compliant
- Project is well organised and files are well formatted
- HTML is bug-free and semantic
- CSS follow the DRY-principles
- Each page has a unique title
- Each page has a unique description
- Each page has a unique h1
- Images are below 200kb
- SEO optimalization

8. HIGH FIDELITY WIREFRAMES

After sketching initial design concepts on paper, I transitioned to Figma for further work.

Given the dynamic nature of the project and the likelihood of design changes as functionalities evolve. I chose to keep the design elements in my Figma prototype relatively simple and open-ended to maintain flexibility throughout the project. This decision was particularly important as it allowed me to assess how the actual artwork of the authors would be presented on the site, but also wouldn't overly constrain my design options, ensuring I'm not being constrained by lack of skills. As a first-year student, while my skills are still developing, maintaining a simpler design approach provided me with the necessary flexibility to iterate and refine without feeling overwhelmed by complex design structures.

Additionally, it helped me stay aligned with my original idea while facilitating smooth adaptation to evolving requirements. You can access the complete Figma prototype via the attached link.



HOME SCROLL

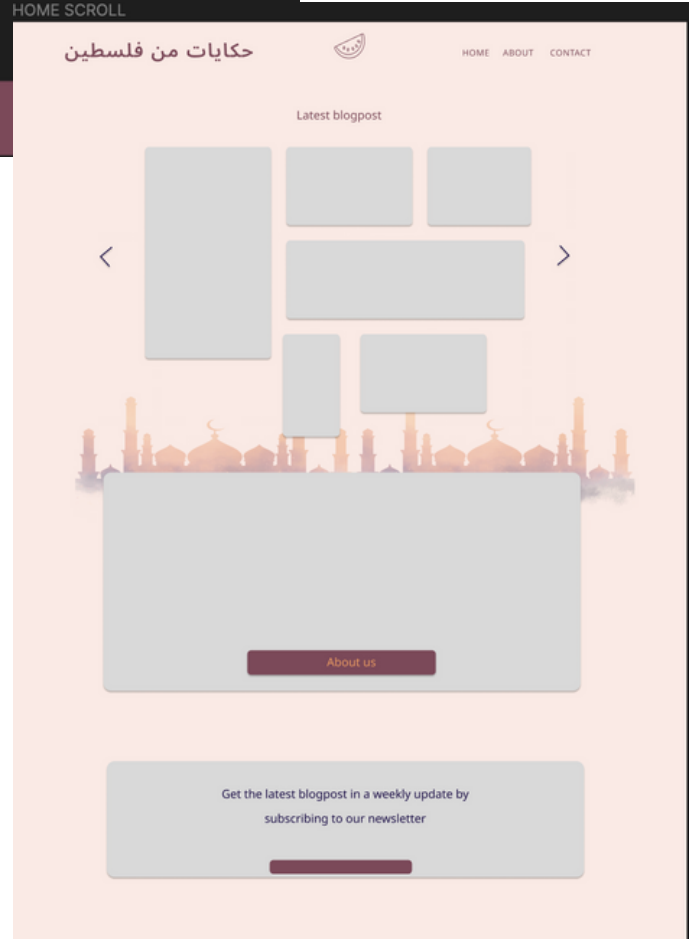


FIGURE 5.2

9. DEVELOPMENT APPROACH

I prioritized a naturally responsive design, emphasizing responsive sizing and flexible layouts that adapt to various screen sizes. This approach ensured a consistent user experience across devices. For particularly on the smallest screens, I utilized media queries.

Modularity and Maintainability: Adopting the DRY (Don't Repeat Yourself) principle. This strategy not only enhanced consistency throughout the site but also simplified theme customization and scalability.

Modular design;In JavaScript I found segmenting the code into reusable utilities for components like modals, navigation menus, and carousels to be beneficial. This organization streamlined development, making the codebase more navigable and easier to maintain.

Dynamic Content Retrieval: I implemented dynamic content retrieval methods to eliminate hardcoded content, thereby increasing the site's adaptability and easing content updates. T

Enhanced Code Readability: By employing type=module in JavaScript, I further improved code structure. This method facilitated the separation of concerns by allowing me to export functions from utility modules into the main script.

Safety: I opted for a dual approach to tackle safety measures, prompted by the challenges encountered with code sanitization. This strategy involved a combination of custom code sanitization efforts and the integration of a WordPress plugin to enhance REST API security. The decision was driven by the realization that, despite facing difficulties in achieving good, manual sanitization, it was essential to establish a foundational layer of security.

10. USER TESTING & FEEDBACK

For user testing, I employed Hotjar to conduct two rounds of evaluations with a total of eight diverse testers. In the initial round, six testers were assigned specific tasks (Tasks 1, 2, and 3), ensuring comprehensive coverage of key functionalities with two individuals testing each task. Following this structured approach, we gathered valuable insights into user interactions and pain points. Subsequently, in the second round, two additional testers explored the site more freely, allowing for a broader assessment of overall usability and user experience.

10.1 FINDS

During the user testing process, several pain points, but also positive aspects, were identified:

Pain Points

- The logo was not clickable to navigate back to the home page, potentially causing frustration among users trying to return to the main page from other sections of the site.
 - Implemented: The logo was updated to be clickable, allowing users to easily return to the home page from any section of the site.
- The "Get to Know Us" section was non-clickable, hindering users from accessing additional information about the website or its creators.
 - Implemented: The "Get to Know Us" section was made clickable, providing users with the ability to access more information about the website and its creators.

Positive Findings

- Functionality works as expected shown in task-test
- Overall site functionality was satisfactory, with users able to navigate between pages and access content as expected.

Neutral Observations:

- A cleaner design aesthetic to maintain focus on the artwork and create a visually pleasing environment for users.
 - Improvements: Design adjustments were made to enhance the overall visual appeal of the site while maintaining its functionality and user-friendliness.
- Increasing the size of blog posts was considered a neutral adjustment aimed at enhancing the presentation of content without significantly altering the user experience.
 - Improvements: The size of blog posts was increased to improve the presentation of content and enhance user engagement.

10.2 GENERAL TESTING

I conducted general testing using WCAG WAVE tool, HTML validator, and PageSpeed Insights, which all gave favorable results. The reports from these tests are attached to demonstrate compliance with accessibility standards, valid HTML code, and excellent performance scores, affirming the website's high quality and adherence to best practices.

11. CONCLUSION

This report outlines the completion of a frontend development exam being the creation of a blog site dedicated to Palestinian poetry and culture. The primary goal was to show sufficient web development practices to design a user-friendly, aesthetically pleasing, and responsive website. The focus was on practical application of web development skills, emphasizing responsive design, dynamic content loading, and user interaction.

The project's success hinged on the adept utilization of HTML, CSS, and JavaScript to seamlessly integrate content, design, and functionality. Implementing responsive design principles ensured the site's adaptability across various devices, while dynamic content loading mechanisms enhanced user engagement. Additionally, prioritizing intuitive user interaction facilitated seamless navigation and exploration of the site's rich cultural offerings

The project embraced a more flexible design approach, allowing for greater creative freedom and adaptability in the design process. This approach facilitated exploration and experimentation, ultimately leading to a more organic and dynamic design journey. Delving deeply into the material enabled a thorough understanding of the cultural nuances, informing decisions on color palettes and design elements. However, this approach also posed challenges, particularly in terms of maintaining structure and clarity in the development process. The intricate nature of JavaScript and coding presented unforeseen challenges, often requiring more time than initially allocated. A more structured approach to scheduling, perhaps with dedicated time blocks for problem-solving and debugging, could have mitigated delays and ensured smoother progression through the development phases. Incorporating lessons learned from this experience into future projects will undoubtedly lead to more effective time management strategies.

12. REFLECTION

REFLECTION

Reflecting on this project, it's evident that it provided a rich learning experience, deepening my understanding of frontend development within a meaningful context. The integration of cultural content into the technical framework introduced a layer of complexity and significance, making the technical challenges more rewarding to overcome. Dealing with JavaScript intricacies, in particular, was a demanding but enlightening aspect, offering valuable insights into problem-solving and code optimization.

The technical challenges encountered, especially in the realm of JavaScript, underscored the nonlinear nature of learning and the value of persistence. The experience of dedicating significant time to overcoming these challenges enhanced my technical skills greatly, as well as my patience. The project period was a reminder of the realities of working under pressure and the necessity of time management, planning, and acceptance of imperfections. Learning to navigate these challenges was a crucial part of the experience, teaching me not only about web development but also about the importance of flexibility, patience, and perseverance.

In conclusion, the project was a testament to the dynamic nature of frontend development, highlighting the balance between technical proficiency and creative expression. It has not only enhanced my skills in web development but also underscored the potential of digital platforms to celebrate, as well as to protest. This experience has been instrumental in my growth as a developer, affirming the importance of merging technical skills with meaningful content to create impactful digital experiences.