Design document portfolio

Introduction

I made this document to explain my design choices and to show the different stages that my portfolio has gone through.
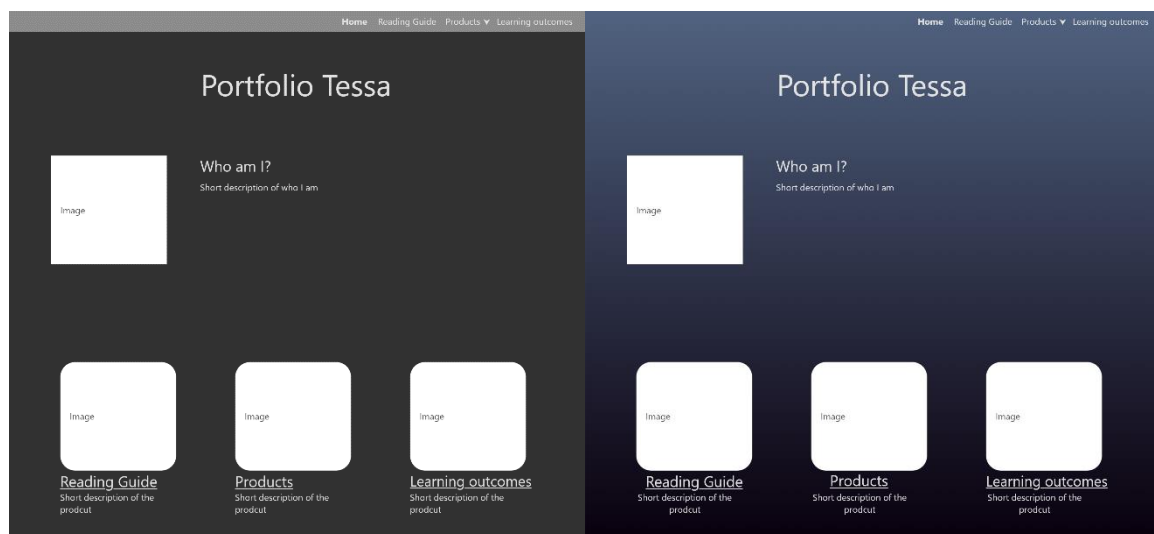
Criteria

Before starting the making of the portfolio I set myself some criteria that the portfolio has to follow. These are:
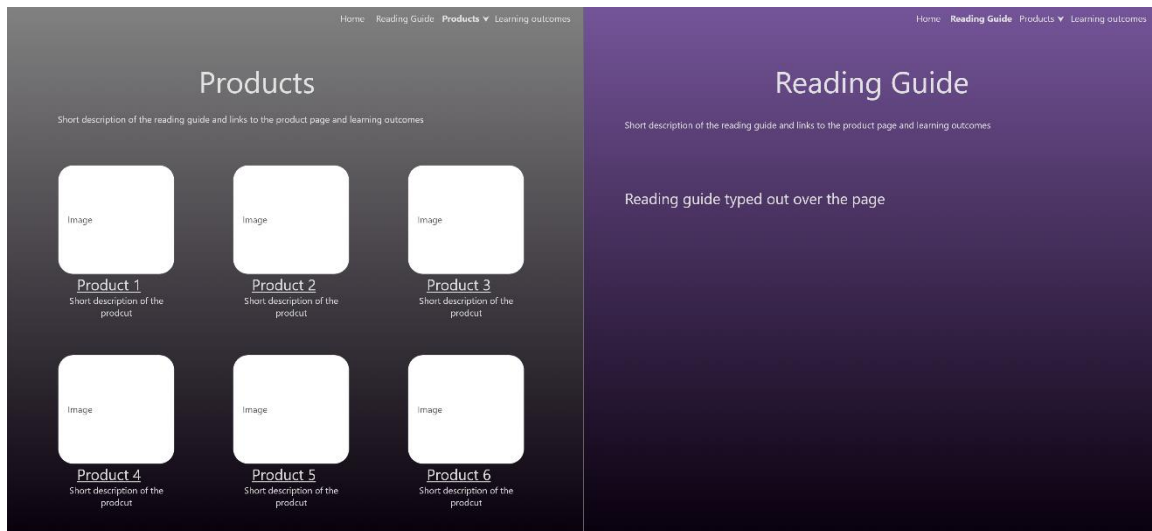
- Make the portfolio work on both Chrome and Firefox, with the main focus being on Chrome.
- Make the portfolio work on desktops, it won't be optimized for mobile.
- Make all the pages accessible from any position in the portfolio.
- Make the framework (background, main buttons and navbar) monochrome grey, so the framework doesn't distract from the work.
- Make all the main pages clear immediately when you see the home page.
- Have an overview of all the products on one page.
- Make the learning outcomes immediately accessible from the main page.

Design choices

Background

I first started by making mock-ups in Adobe XD. I wanted my portfolio to have a dark monochrome theme, because I don't want the background to distract from the work as well as I personally like dark websites better than very bright ones. I did test a bit with more colour in the webpage, like dark purple and dark blue. They would both have a gradient that would go from the colour to dark grey. I also made a variant that had a light grey to dark grey gradient. I liked the gradient with the light grey and the dark grey the most. This is because the website isn't the same everywhere, but the colours don't distract you from the work on the page.
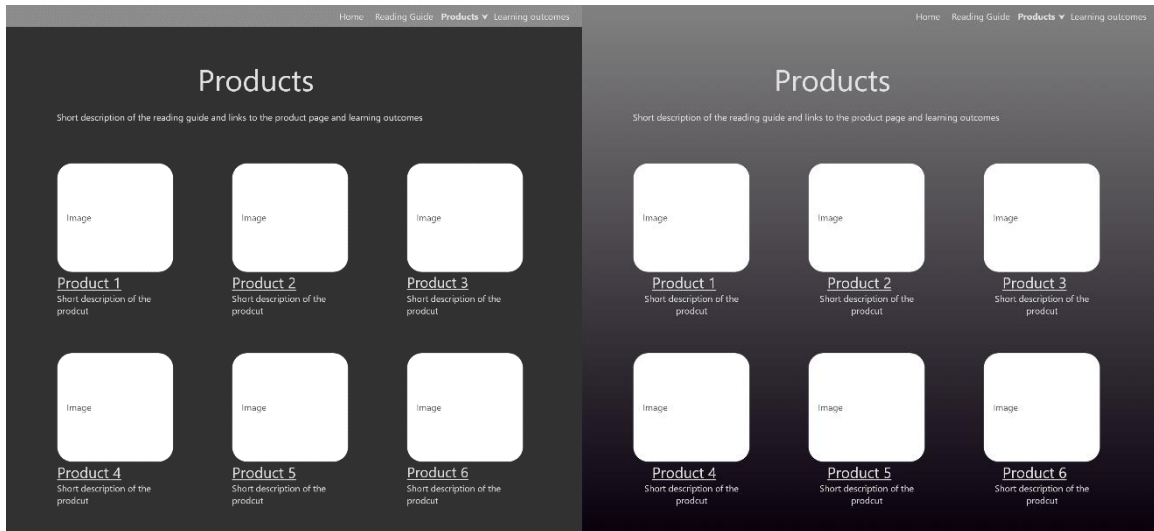
Navbar

I also made a navbar so that navigation in the portfolio would be easier. The was debating to make the navbar transparent or not. The transparent version looked better with the grey gradient, so I went with that one. I also wanted to have a dropdown navbar. The reason for that is that during previous portfolio versions a lot of people liked the dropdown. They said that it was easier to quickly go from product to product instead of having to go back to all the products page. I created the navbar in a JavaScript file, so I only have to update it in one spot and then have the html pages get the navbar from the script. This way I won't forget to update a navbar on a page.

Alignment

I made two different versions of the text alignment on the products page. One which had the text centre aligned and the other which had the text left aligned. I then did some research on readability of alignment of text and found that large paragraphs of text should always be left aligned. However very small bits of text, like the ones on my products page can be centre aligned (The Website Architect, 2020).
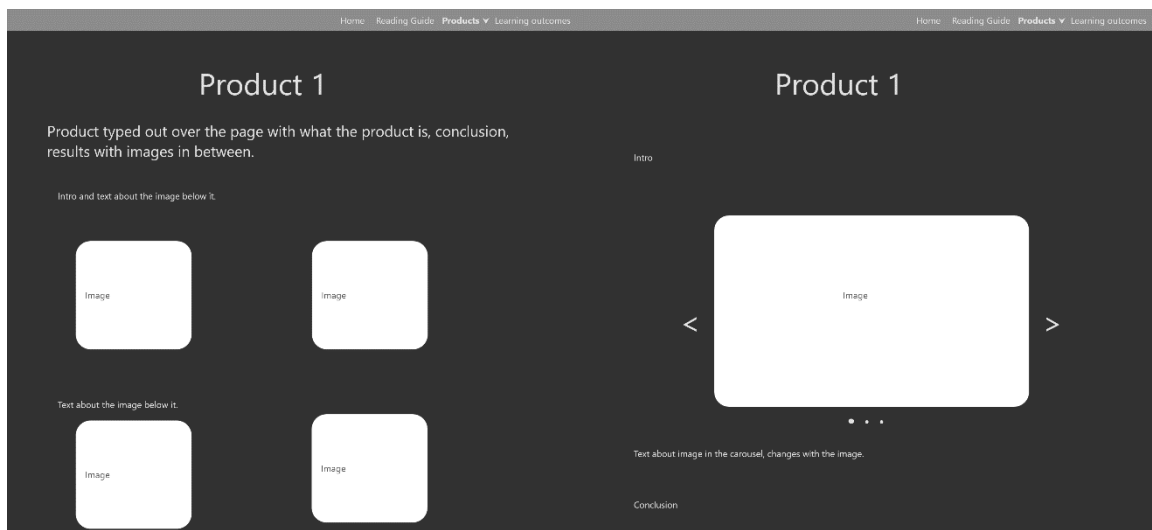
Text font

I chose the font Montserrat for my normal text and the font Baskerville for the heads and titles. In a previous semester I got the feedback to have both a serif font on my portfolio page and a sans-serif font. This is to differentiate from titles and normal text, which makes the page easier to read. Montserrat is the sans-serif font that I chose. It is a very rounded font, which I personally like in my reading fonts. The serif font that I chose was Baskerville. I found that this font has a good contrast to Montserrat.

Show images

I tried two different ways to show images on the products page. One was having a bit of text about the images and then showing all the images related to the piece of text above it. The other version was having the images in a carousel and having the text below it. When you would press the arrow buttons both the text and the images would then change. I decided to go with having the text above it and showing the images at all times. This way you can quickly scroll through a page and see what the page is about and have a visual instead of having to go through a carousel.

Bibliography

The Website Architect. (2020, September 2). *Does text alignment matter for accessibility and usability*? Retrieved November 10, 2023, from https://thewebsitearchitect.com/does-center-aligned-text-matter-for-accessibility/