Module 4 Design Explanation

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WRA 210

As I drafted my sitemap and navigation guide, I considered what I saw in PW alumni's portfolios and what I did and did not like about their designs. I especially examined Izabela Babinska's portfolio because I interviewed her for Module 3. I liked the idea of a simple website with no extra frills, and I tried to replicate that in my own design. I did not include irrelevant information that a potential employer would not care to see. Unlike Izabela's portfolio, I added a navigation bar with a drop-down menu because I felt that that would help me organize my portfolio in a way that makes it easy for my audience to find specific pieces. Izabela's portfolio required more scrolling than I thought was ideal, and so I've implemented a menu navigation that will hopefully reduce scrolling.

When I created the digital versions of my sitemap and navigation, I used colors to depict the hierarchy of information. For instance, in my sitemap, the lighter orange color denotes a header/banner across the top of each page. Next, the dark orange denotes the navigation tabs, followed by the green and gray content within those pages. Using color to organize this information really helps me visualize how it might look and keep track of what I want to put and where. I found that a hierarchy chart in Microsoft Word was the easiest way to do that.

This module helped me visualize how I want my portfolio to function. I tend to jump into projects without too much forward thought, and this assignment made me take a step back and plan first. I realize that this planning ahead is an important step in the design process and will save me a great deal of headache later on.