

# T1A2 Portfolio Website

By Mitchell Fernandez

## Components

1. Responsive Navigation bar that uses checkbox to drop down for mobile.
2. Main content container that displays information boldly from the background that is easy to read and soft on the eyes.
3. Social icons - social icons that link to social accounts, interactive.
4. Blog posts - using blog posts combining images and text styled for easy viewing.
5. Contact Page - an Interactive form that actually sends an email to my personal email.
6. Using icons to link to my work projects mixing graphical and text.

I wanted the components to use a soft dark contrast as to stand out from the light background.

Each main component has a darker container to push it out and make it viewable.

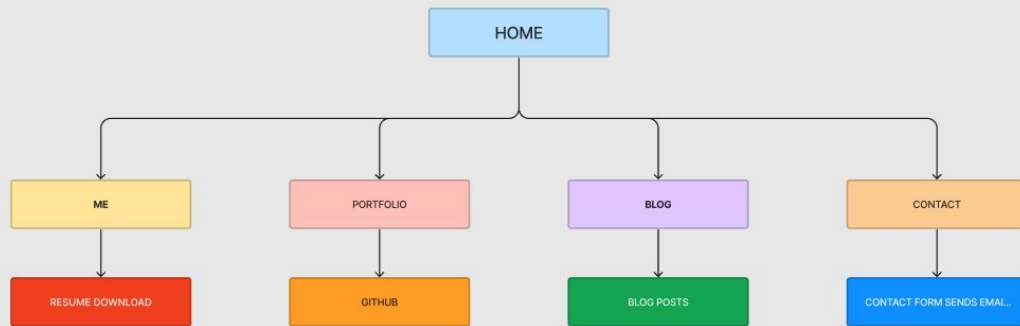
Used highlighting to make it more interactive for the user.

Used links to social accounts and resume download to make it extra interactive.

A contact page form instead of just adding my contact details to make it more engaging for the user.

The overall style is minimal with soft darker tones, I think it looks professional but with an ease of use.

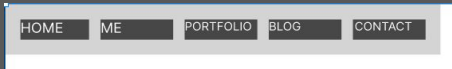
## Site map



The site needed to be a simple navigation nothing complicated, as you can see everything is connected to the home or index.html. With 4 more htmls all linked using the navigation. ME, PORTFOLIO, BLOG and CONTACT. The ME page has a hyperlink and icon to open my resume in a new window and its available for download as a PDF. The PORTFOLIO has links to my Github projects. The BLOG page links to a BLOG POSTS HTML after clicking the japan blog. The CONTACT page has a form that after filled in and pressed send it sends an email directly to my personal email.

## The Navigation Bar

### Wireframe



### Desktop



### Mobile Wireframe



### Mobile



I wanted the Navigation to be simple but effective, for the desktop I decided to use a floating text approach as to keep minimalistic style on the page. When the icons are hovered they turn a nice blue color.

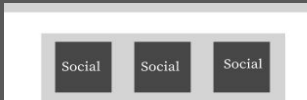
For mobile I decided to use a checkbox responsive Navigation, as we are only using HTML and CSS and no Javascript this seemed to be the most effective way to make the mobile navigation responsive simple and cool! It still has the effect of a nice drop down menu, this was not easy and I ran into a few blocks like my page behind showing when scrolling, but this was fixed by adding a Z-index to my navbar UL items.

I decided to use a simple hamburger icon as it is well known as a menu icon.

The navigation was maybe the most difficult part of my portfolio. There was a lot of trial and error to make it correct and a lot of research to make it responsive, in the end it came out very clean. It is the part of my portfolio I am most proud of.

## The Social Footer

Wireframe



Desktop



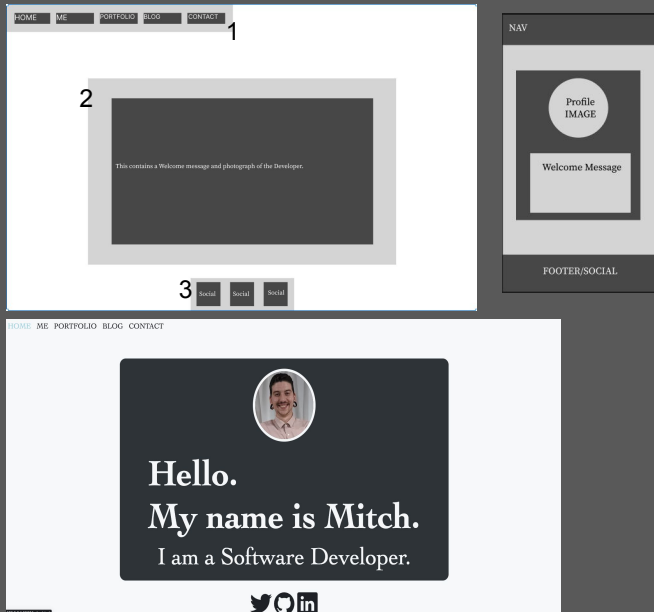
For the Social Footer I wanted to use icons rather than text to add a better user experience.

The icons highlight a nice light blue matching the navigation highlight to be consistent with the minimalistic theme, and upon clicking the icons you will be taken to my social pages Twitter, Github and LinkedIn.

I made the icons quite large on all pages to not be missed by the user. I used a webpage called [Ionicons.com](https://ionicons.com) to retrieve my icons.

My social footer is responsive and fits nicely on mobile and Tablet devices. The goal was to use icons instead of text to add effect. The icons feature a hover pseudo element to make them more interactive and are quite large as to stand out to the user.

## Homepage Design

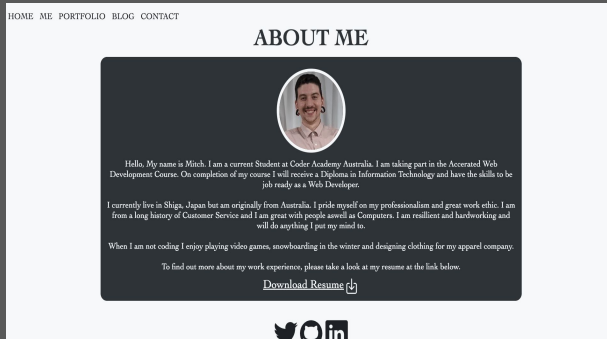
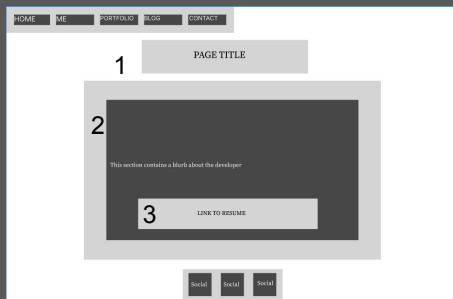


1. Navigation bar. The navbar is very important feature of the website design it needs to be simple and easy to use, on my desktop view the navigation bar appears as floating text i chose this as to avoid my page being too blocky. In mobile view the it takes the hamburger icon form and drops down.
2. Content Box: this box is used across most pages it gives a feature in the center of the screen to hold content that will stand out to the user.
3. The social icons: I wanted links to socials on each page so making a simple footer using clickable social icons that highlight for user experience and effect.

I wanted the homepage to be simple but effective adding only what needed to be displayed, a picture of myself, a welcome message, the navigation and my socials.

I wanted my site to be simple and easy to navigate something not to flashy so the main content stuck out from everything else. I used this color scheme across my whole website to appear minimalistic and nice soft pastel colors to show professionalism.

## ME Page Design

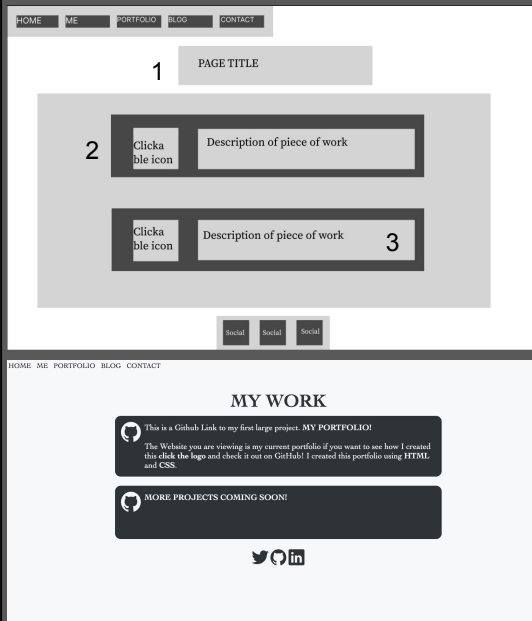


1. Starting from the me page I wanted my website to have titles so the user new what the information displayed would be before reading. Simple but effective way of letting the user know what page they were visiting.
2. Content Box: The content box is the same style as the homepage. Using a picture and text within the container to write about myself and my hobbies. This lets the user know about me in a brief statement.
3. Resume link: On the Me page I wanted the user to be able to Download a resume to learn more about my work experience and skills. I achieved this by using text as well as an icon which is also highlighted on hover to the light blue. When clicked My resume will open in a new window and the user can choose to download if they wish, to this I used a target "\_blank" attribute to the href and it was quite effective.

The me page is simple a brief description of myself to let the user know about me and a link to my resume that can be downloaded. I followed the same color scheme to keep my pages consistent.

The Me page follows the same basic design layout as the homepage but also adds some flare with the title and downloadable resume.

## Portfolio Page Design



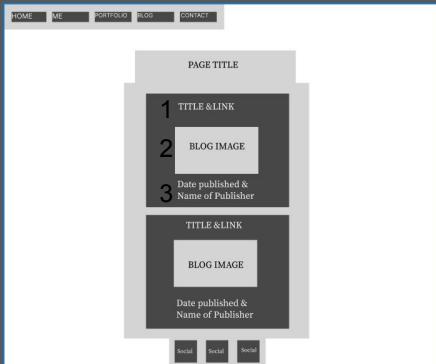
1. The Title: to let the user know their current page and what information would be displayed.
2. Content Boxes: INstead of one content box I utilised flexbox to make 2 boxes listing some of my work. Each box included a github icon that is clickable to take you to my work on github. I added links to portfolio and stated more work would be coming soon. I kept to the same color scheme as the previous pages to keep the styling consistent.
3. To the right of the icon was a short Description of what they would find after clicking the icon. I wanted to keep it brief to avoid cluttering the page but informative.

The Portfolio page is brief simple and professional stating that my work could be found by clicking the appropriate links and implying that more work would be added in the future. Icons are highlighted the same light blue for consistency.

A simple page with icon links to view my work on github using multiple containers to obviously separate the pieces of work and implying that there is more to come.



## Blog List Page Design



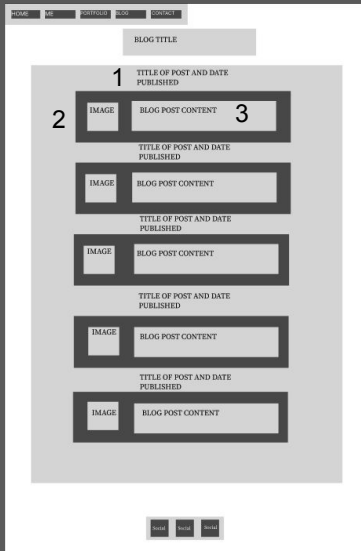
1. Blog Title: This shows the name of the blog as a clickable text also stating to click to enter into the blog posts page.
2. I chose to use an image here in the blog list container to make it more appealing to the user and give them a visual idea of what the blog is about.
3. Underneath the image is the Date Published and by myself.

This page also utilised flexbox to set the image title and date information. I wanted everything to be contained within the main container so that the container stood out from the background to the user. But also keeping it very simple and minimalistic. The title text is highlighted on hover and also underlined to state that it is a link to the blog posts page.

This page has more content but I wanted it to stand out so I chose the scrolling option for the page so as you scroll down you can see the different blogs and of course the footer social link at the bottom.

All in one container idea to have all the content within the container to stand out that each one is separate.

## Blog Post Page Design

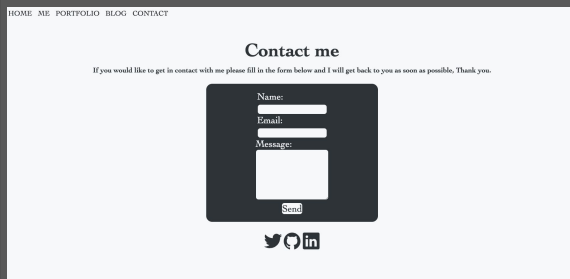
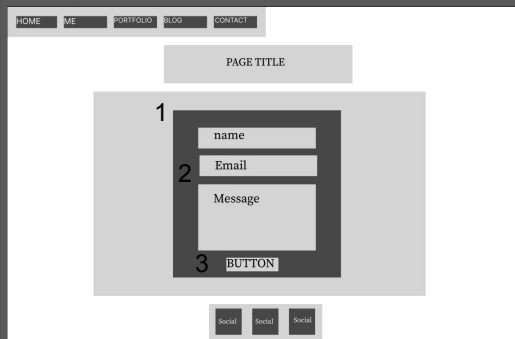


1. Shows the title of the blog post, Date published and publisher. This was intentionally left outside of the Blog post container to make the Blog post image and content stand out more to the user.
2. Container: The container Contains the Blog image and blog content.
3. Blog post content, currently using placeholder text as I have no written blogs but need to show blog posts and the effect they have on the website.

I used flexbox to make the blog posts order in a column, responsive to all devices and in order of newest to oldest. The page is scrollable and smooth to use following the same design patterns as the rest of the site but adding images for effect.

When making the blog page I originally had some issues with flexbox, at first I made it so the image was outside of the container and the container only held the text. I realised I wanted it to be all in one component, so after changing the image into the content i had to redesign my containers to make it usable. Eventually utilising research and going through flexbox lessons i got it right making the posts stand out and easily readable.

## Contact Page Design



1. Container: I wanted the contact form to be in a same colored container to match with the rest of the website, putting it in a container also allowed me to use flexbox to position it and make it responsive.
2. Content: The Contact form is simple using formspree.com i got a basic form which i then had to edit with CSS to make it styled with my website. All it requires is name email and message. This is kept simple so that people do not have to give me too much information for privacy reasons. Straight to the point.
3. SEND BUTTON: Exactly as it sounds, after the form is completed and the send button is hit the content of the form is sent directly to my personal email address. I thought this was better then putting my contact details directly as it is more interactive for the user.

Simple but effective. Using flexbox to center and color theory from the rest of the website to make it match, I also used border radius as a common factor on everything to make it stay within the same style.

Using formspree.com this sends an email to my personal email directly! Very simple and cool!

# REVIEW

The overall development of my website was a great experience I learnt a lot putting CSS into action for myself and learning new concepts. I learnt CSS is very broad and there is a lot you can do with it. I am excited to make changes and more projects with CSS.

Challenges: Of course I ran into many challenges along the way which has made me want to learn more. For example flexbox is complicated to start with and many things come into factor. I think for me the Navigation bar was the biggest challenge making it took me by far the longest of anything on the project. But after going back and learning about flexbox also researching checkbox navigation it became more simple. Another challenge was my blog posts page as i changed style after creating the first draft as it did not stand out how I wanted it. It was harder than I thought to put my image into something physical, but in the end I am happy with the result.

Favourite parts: The whole assessment was challenging but rewarding. I still have lots to learn but I am very happy with the outcome for the knowledge I have so far. I think i enjoyed making my site come to life with my own ideas. It was a great first project which really amplified my interest for this course and web Development as a whole .