A screenshot of a cell phone

Description automatically generated

# Project Exam 1

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Word count:

## Design

### **Overall, I think the design part went pretty well in general. When we received the task specifications, I decided that I was going to create a travel-themed blog and started browsing the web for inspiration. I quickly decided that I wanted to make a design that would look lush and inspire the readers to travel, and at the same time be simple and clean. It was also important to me that the user flow was clear and concise, so that it would take minimal effort to navigate the website. The color palette is fairly simple and consists of white, a dark grey, and a matte, light green. I tought that, since it is a travel blog, it would consist of a lot of colorful pictures, and therefore, I did not want the colors to be so bright and all over to place. I also figured that since traveling is largely synonymous with nature, green was the natural choice.**

### **For the home page, I wanted a large, green banner to cover the whole viewport, which I think turned out pretty well. I did however have to replace the original picture due to contrast issues. Besides the main content I also added a list of top 5 travel locations just to give the home page a little extra content. I choose to go with the Montserrat font for headings and paired it with Lato for paragraphs and smaller text, which I think looks elegant and clean but also not too serious. When I had finished the design I started to send the link to the prototype around to friends and family for user testing and feedback.**

### **As mentioned above, I did run in to some problems with contrast when I started to develop the website. The banner on the homepage had a lot light and white areas and this did cause the text to be difficult to read when the screen was resized because the text would end up over the white areas, which made it somewhat difficult to read. The original green color I used was did also have to little contrast against the white text and I did end up changing it to a darker shade of green.**

### **Next time I design a project I will take things like contrast and other accessibility related issues more into consideration from the beginning of the process, so I do not need to go back and spend time changing it later.**

## Technical

### **When I started to develop the website I started by planning out the structure of the HTML and spent the first days adding all of the static content to the pages, and made sure all of the navigation worked properly. Then I created a WordPress installation and added all of the dynamic content, and compressed all of the images. Then I made the blog headless, using the headless plugin. After that I went back into my project and set up a API call to fetch the blog data and target the individual posts using the query string parameter. Once all of the content was coming through I started to build the layout by taking the mobile first approach. When the all of the pages looked well on mobile devices I added some small modifications to tablet sized screens, before I created the web layout. Overall I think the early development phase went pretty well and after the first two weeks I had the basics down and could now focus on adding some of the features that demanded the use of Javascript.**

I spent the next 2 weeks trying to figure out how I was going to create the different functions like the image carousel, image modal and how to load in more content on the blog page. When I had figured out ways to solve this, I added validation to the contact form. I also made the mobile dropdown to display on click using Javascript to switch between a version of the menu positioned outside of the viewport to a active class that was positioned inside the viewport.

When I had had a website that worked roughly how I wanted it to work I started started to user-test it with family and friends and made sure I tested it on as many different devices that I could. I also tested it on several different browser, and ran it through firefox’s accessibility tester and google lightroom. This is when I discovered the contrast issues and had to make changes to the banner on the homepage and also the shade of green I had used several places on the website. Based on the feedback I got I also made some minor tweaks to some of the functions and design.

### **One of the first things that was difficult on this project was figuring out how to handle all of the data from the Wordpress API. Eventually I found a plugin called better featured images, which creates a custom endpoint for the image you select on the featured tab in Wordpress. Another problem was that I think I used images that was unnecessary large, which created some issues where some of the images cut out parts of them when rescaling the website. When it comes to the Javascript, the most difficult part was figuring out the image carousel and the load more function. Even though I did manage to get it to work, I am not convinced it is the best solution taken scaleabilty into consideration. It works because it is adjusted to the exact amount of content that I have on the website, but if I suddenly where to add 100 or even just 10 more posts, it would probably be a lot of work to make it function properly.**

### **Next time I will definitely take scaleability more into consideration and try to make solutions that work regardless of the amount of content I have. I will also spend more time planning out how I am going to scale and compress the images I am using, because this time, as I mentioned I did use large images and because they were so large, I lost a lot of quality when I compressed them down to under 200kb.**

## WCAG guidelines, content management and SEO

### **What went well on the project**

### **What was difficult/didn’t go well on the project**

### **What would you do differently next time**

## References

(place references to websites, books, forums etc. that helped you in the project)