



Noroff

School of technology
and digital media

Project Exam 1

Student Name

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Word count

2122



Design

What went well on the project

Logo:

I wanted to have logo which gives information about author, bit more personal brand, something simple, something short with some colour. I made few logos to choose from and finally, I went on to design my first logo in XD and saved as SVG. It came out absolutely brilliant, from scaling to colours, I was all satisfied.

Layout:

I created my site map starting with header, main and footer. Header consists of navigation, footer for my icons and copyright information and main section for main content of page.

After, I went on to add introduction banner section following header. I thought just to highlight my "h1" a bit with background image to make site interesting.

Aside was added eventually during production phase. I thought it would improve user experience in general. It also makes sense for my users to choose from different categories and since I am not writing about one specific theme.

In footer section, I added subscribe container in production phase and highlighted with bright yellow background with pencils. According to user research, it was stand out in my design.



What was difficult/didn't go well on the project

Most difficult part for designing, was to choose theme for blogging site, to match colors and typography. Since I did not have specific topic to blog about. I did not wanted to use dummy text for blog. So, I decided to blog about general, sports, vegetarian food because I follow the diet and learning different languages.

It made it difficult to choose colors and fonts. Cta would also be different, I wanted generally colorful website, but since it was blog-site which talks about not specific topic, I had to change my theme color twice during design. Specially, font-family for my headings didn't bring that heirarcy which I wanted. I thought was too formal headings. So I went on to change heading fonts three times. And gone on with "Meriende Sans".

Placement of aside section for mobile layout:

I wanted to have smooth user experience, specially navigation to different pages. It was challenging to find place for "aside section" for mobile layout. It didn't make sense for me to move down under "main". Because then user will have to scroll all the way down to find and then select from different categories. So, eventually I moved aside on top of main for all the pages. That user first gets to see it and can choose already if they want.

I had to hide aside out from contact-page, again I found it unnecessary to have on contact page. But decision to remove from blog-specifice page and contact page was quite difficult.



Introduction section:

I have introduction section on all the pages except contact and blog-specific. I again found it unnecessary to have in all the pages. Introduction background banner mostly is for styling purpose and would rather be too much on page, so after all the struggle and thoughts, I finally made bold decision to hide from user specifically from contact and blog-specific page.

What would you do differently next time

I used about 12 days in design and still had to make changes in design after production and user research. I would definitely need to spend more time in design phase next time. Because I lacked idea of filling content on home page I filled up content with testimonies section with dummy text where I would liked some more real content. But because lack of time and idea I just had to go with it. So definately, I would need to spend more time on lay out.

Technical

What went well on the project

After finishing layout in design, I started with hard coded texts and images in almost all pages and created html and css pages. I planned my total layout with grid for body.



Grid& flex:

I made grid and flex global class and went on to use same classes almost on all pages. Which helped me to not repeat myself by declaring all the time display grid and flex. I used grid area for body and then added extra rows and removed columns for my media queries. Job done quite easily for mobile and tablet screens since grid gives so much of flexibility. I loved the idea so much of grid-area that I also blog about in my site.

CSS pages:

To make it easy for readability of my code, I divided my CSS files. It made so much sense because mostly, I was using general grid and flex classes and implemented extra styling only where was necessary.

I declared variables for my color pallet and fonts in style.css and many classes like success, hidden , error etc. And used them thoughtout.

Modal for user feedback:

To let user know about error or feedback when user submit comment or form, I created modal which would give user feedback right under header and I positioned absolute and pushed main down with higher margin. Which gives user immediate feedback with red background for error and green background for success. I also used loader on page load to give user feedback that it's loading in-case it takes time to fetch or load.



Javascript files

Once html and CSS was ready with hardcoded content, I created script.js file for my general functions like for hamburger bars for mobile screen, loader for on page load, search-input event listener, "displaymsg" function to display error or success to user since all of this functions follows in all pages.

I choose not to work on local host when I first started with Wordpress instead I installed Wordpress straight on domain since all I wanted, was to fetch posts.

To fetching posts I added "_embed" at end of URL which allowed me to fetch also images and alt text from same request. I made first fetch for homepage and same fetch for blog page while blog-specific fetches data using query string where "id" of posts will be passed. "try" and "catch" method also was added while error would only console log and user would get site's default message.

I then created fetch request for user to choose categories and display posts according to categories. Originally, I didn't plan to have this option to choose from categories since I already have search functionality in header section but added later in production stage to improve user experience.

I started to write separate JS files for each html page. I then made functional contact form wrote functions which checks length and created labels under each input to show error. Made another function which checks for "null" values and gives user error message.

Later in production I made also post request for comments, where user will be able to comment and once refreshed page comment will show up on page.



What was difficult/didn't go well on the project

Post data from Contact form:

As mentioned in optional level process 2 where we can save user data or send message through contact form with post requests. I made post request with async function after learning bit about it from LinkedIn. I used Contact form 7 and tried to use rest api of Contact form 7. But It continuesly gave me error from contact form 7 rest api, user however gets message that data is posted but I didn't successfully managed to save data with rest api.

After lots of online research and lots different way trying, I got help from one of online teacher, and we managed to correct contact form and use multipart/form-data method to post data. But again that didn't work out request was sent with status 200 but no success. At last, one code example from stack overflow, I added action url, method and multipart/form-data in html and followed and all worked out. Finally, my contact form is sending email and I was receiving emails. One different thing is in code example was that they didn't pass in response.json() and almost everything as I had same

Slider/Carousel:

Slider was another challenge I came across. Since I never really made this. But one of online lessons from Noroff where teacher built image slider gave me idea on how to go about. I tried to toggle class but didn't work I think because my data was coming dynamically. After lot of research, I found one method called "scrollBy", which made sense for me. I added that function with hardcoded 1000px slide on



click. But for mobile and tablet would work well. In one of online video on internet I saw property called "clientWidth" and "clientHeight". Made sense immediately so implemented straight away. I first used on individual article but didn't work. So added clientWidth on whole container which I think works fine with flex.

What would you do differently next time

One thing which I will definitely need to improve is to give more time in designing phase. Because lots of expects in site was not planned at beginning in designing phase.

After my contextual inquiries and user research, I did have to make lots of changes during production phase like,

- Adding extra functionality where user can choose from categories
- Heading fonts changed to sans.
- Didn't have plan where I would show my aside section for mobile screens
- How will look my navigation for mobile section.

Many of these aspects in production phase are time consuming and takes lots of changes in code file in general. I would like to improve my slider also for mobile screen, it works fine on mobile, but some more improvements.



WCAG guidelines, content management and SEO

What went well on the project

WCAG and SEO:

From beginning I followed some of the WCAG standards and had nice contrast throughout for text and colours. I have site Meta in head section where I added author name following up with keywords. I also added site description and unique site description t about site for every individual page.

I used header, main, aside and footer. While main section divided in different sections. Aria-label for links of social icons according WCAG standards.

Content Management:

It was quite easy setup with CMS. Since, I installed from beginning Wordpress to main domain. I used JWT authentication to post comments and collect form data of user. I didn't manage to activate anonymous comment posting. I also used JWT authentication for contact form, which worked eventually after lots of struggle. Endpoints for categories and search was quite easy to use, I also optimized my search input in header section.

What was difficult/didn't go well on the project

WCAG:



To follow WCAG standards I used "Site Improve" and "validator.w3" which checks HTML markup. My HTML markup had problem so corrected it, labels was missing for form and select. Anchors tags in navigation moved inside "li". Line height was improved accoring to font-size.

CMS:

The most challenging part was with setting up for posting formdata. I used Contact form 7 for posting form data. I found out after lots of struggle that it needs email which should end with same domain at the end. I did that and I could post message and started receiving emails. Rest api for CF7 also is challenging part without a help from teacher and online research I wouldn't have achieved.

What would you do differently next time

After running lots of validator and site check, there are things I learned specially with HTML markup, which I will need to improve. I think eventually it helps user with disability to navigate easily through site. Labels are another important part in forms which helps user fill up data, and aria label for links which previously I did not think about. Going further those are the things will be in my priority list when I start new project.



References

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

- Websites that helped :
 - <https://developer.mozilla.org/>
 - <https://www.w3schools.com/>
 - <https://validator.w3.org/>
 - <https://stackoverflow.com/>
 - <https://www.linkedin.com/>
 - Siteimprove Accesibility Checker
 - <https://www.youtube.com/>
- Icons: <https://fontawesome.com/>
- Color-pallet: <https://color.adobe.com/create/color-wheel>
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 - Blog vegetarian: <https://unsplash.com/photos/4MEL9XS-3JQ>
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