Project Exam 1

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Design
What went well on the project

I think I have too integrated norms regarding how a web page should look, what it should do and how it should feel. When messing around with fun, creative javascript snippets, I have found my favorite layout and feel. Just going back to the basics with white and black, and thick borders - I like it. So this was the starting point in my design, which is very different from the previous projects.

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

I realize more and more that I'm not a content creator.
I always start out with too many ideas and have too much of trouble deciding. If I have a theme for the blog, I have no problem imagining a design. Getting the feel for it, how to make the most of it. But that is just me personally. So to get started I actually had to go about it a bit backwards.
I looked for Wordpress plugins that made AI content. A totally useless path for this project. But I made random blog posts and started on the technical.

What would you do differently next time

I look forward to actually designing a website for customers, who have a brand, and content, so I can get a vision. Working back and forth with the prototype. But now the prototype ended up very basic. Since I can't play back and forth with other people all I needed were wireframes.
I felt like the design fell behind in a way. When I can't move forward, I go back to basics.

Technical

What went well on the project

It was very fun diving into the Wordpress API, fetching and manipulating the data I needed for this project.

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

I started writing out the javascript I needed for my blog, right there and then, in an index.js file. Like a story. So I had trouble when time was running out and I wanted to refactor everything into modules. Now Im fetching once per page, which seems unneccessary.

I still struggle with deciding between the innerHTML and createElement methods. The zoom meeting didn't make it any clearer.

Another thing I had trouble with was deciding what to render using javascript and what to render using HTML, what to remove and what to keep. I ended up rendering the elements that are reliant upon the api to work, with javascript, and the rest in HTML.
I was also very unsure about fetching the about page through Wordpress, or just doing it locally. I ended up doing it locally.

Since Contact Form 7 was mentioned in our classroom on Discord, I quickly decided to use that for my contact form. Fetching with get requests is easy, but when it comes to the post method - I haven't used it a lot.
And especially since Contact Form 7 relies on receiving the data as formdata, it was all very new to me.
I found I learned a lot of new things though trial and error, which is nice when I succeded.

Before trying Contact Form 7 I was hoping for a «native» way to do it using the Wordpress API. So somehow I started with getting the comments, which is no problem. But posting new comments, especially as an anonymous user (which everyone is on this headless site). I researched all over, but eventually moved on.

What would you do differently next time

WCAG guidelines, content management and SEO
What went well on the project

I took a deep dive into accessibility for this project.
There has been so much uncertainty for me regarding accessibility. So many different ways of doing it. So many different screen readers working in different ways.
But I felt like I finally got a good grip on navigation, aria-controls, aria-expanded and of course aria-current.

User testing was almost unneccessary with this simple design. Some of the issues are listed below.
WCAG and design is too simple.

I added meta tags with javascript to make the SEO reliable, which is great.

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

In some way I can never wrap my head around one right way of doing accessibility, and I don't like it.
I wish I had a template for the one right way..

Endless research doesn't make it clearer.
One thing I've struggled with is form validation. The struggle is that there is no right way and I want it to be.
So what I find easiest is to put the requirements as placeholders and disable the submit button before all the validations pass.

Accessibility for the modal and slider/carousel was especially hard and took a lot of time to get «right».

I also couldn't decide on putting a close icon on the modal, but I ended up not doing it as the assignment says to close it «while clicking outside the image».

What would you do differently next time

Next time I will create all the content before doing anything at all with accessibility and SEO. Its hard to do when you don't know what to «highlight.

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

- https://webdesign.tutsplus.com/tutorials/how-to-build-a-simple-carousel-with-vanilla-javascript--cms-41734

- https://tympanus.net/codrops/2014/01/21/dot-navigation-styles/

- https://www.w3.org/WAI/tutorials/carousels/

- https://www.aleksandrhovhannisyan.com/blog/image-carousel-tutorial/

- https://css-tricks.com/headless-form-submission-with-the-wordpress-rest-api/

- https://www.w3schools.com/howto/tryit.asp?filename=tryhow_css_modal_img
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