I would like to think of my smart phone UI concept to be something of an Android 8.2 release. My design is heavily influenced by the UI decisions of Android’s latest 8.1 release, but also comes with a suite of features I wish I could have on my current Google Pixel device. For starters, let’s talk about general app layout first.

In terms of app placement, there is not much I redesigned in my concept. There are, however, two things I would like to point out: first is the lack of subtext under each icon. Preferably, I think the app’s name under the icon is redundant. Sure, adding it there in the settings is a possibility, however out of the box I think that app names under their icons should be removed. Lastly are the SMS and phone call app icons on the left and right. My idea with this is as follows: SMS and phone calls are the primary function of a phone, however instead of opening the entire app, the user can slide the icons out from the edge and get a quick preview of their most recent messages or phone calls. If the user wishes, they could also just tap the icons and open up the full app for each feature as well.

The efficient Google search field and control center at the bottom of the phone comes directly from current Pixel UI layout. The search bar and control center are paramount in how I navigate both around the internet and my phone. This already established feature, as well as my introduced SMS and phone access features, bring together the best of what I would love to add to my own homescreen and the great features Google provides.

For the smaller side of the design, I decided to keep the information bar at the top very simple, showing nothing but time, signal, and battery life. I do like how Android currently offers small icons in the information bar to notify you of SMS, Snapchat, and other notifications, however it can get very crowded over time if the user is not on top of marking notifications as read. My concept implements that in some way, however if the user did have multiple notifications at the top, I would not allow for too many that later eat into the real estate of the more important things like time and battery life. Although this is not fully fleshed out in my final design, it is a feature that all mobile OS’s would benefit from, whether Android or iOS.

Putting my design into production would require a couple preliminary steps. Firstly, even though my design may be familiar to average Android users, simplifying the information bar and introducing the SMS and phone preview options would take some getting used to. I would certainly prefer user testing and feedback on those features. Next would be to add features to the OS’s settings, such as add subtext under app icons or completely remove the SMS and phone options (which at this time would be permanently placed where you see them). Once these are sorted out, the rest of the Android OS should run similar in look and feel to the current Oreo (Android 8.1) release, and therefore easy to streamline into the mobile market.