

The Quilting Bee Project Summary

This was a fun project that I feel helped me to grow my skills and knowledge of website design and coding. One of the things I am most proud of is the landing page. I think it looks nice and catches the eye, as well as accomplishing one of the client's main goals: to display her skill and abilities. This is achieved by the carousel of a few of her best quilts.

While this part of the website looks good, I feel like if I had more time, I could do better by adding functionality to the gallery page so users can click on an image, and it will open full screen. The logo could also be redesigned.

For this project, I used Google Fonts to choose the typography. I chose "Aref Ruqaa" because it gives a feminine, artsy feel to the website, and I chose "Noto Sans" because it is easy to read, and the line height is similar to the "Aref Ruqaa" font. It gives a nice clean, modern look. I chose a complementary color scheme for this website, and chose my colors based on the client's request to have the main color be a 'deep purple'. I think the honey yellow color I have for the website buttons and links in the footer help those action items to stand out, as well as tie in the logo colors.

I used Bootstrap as a framework for this project, which I used to help me build the navbar, picture carousel, services accordion, and basic spacing and grid system. I customized the Bootstrap elements by changing many of the navbar default variables. I also changed the variables for the carousel, adding shading and changing the shape of the indicators.

I incorporated a couple advanced features into the project, such as the contact form and the JavaScript functionality on the gallery page to add more results to the page. I also added CSS transitions to the buttons, to make the hover effect smoother.

I made several changes to the project from the first initial deployment, based on the feedback I got from a few people. I changed some of the semantics in the HTML code, such as making <div> elements into <section> where appropriate, and changing some of the <h1> and <h5> I had to <p> since they didn't need to be headers. I changed the placement of the logo in the navigation on mobile screens, so it was on the left side of the screen like it is on the desktop sizes. I changed the layout of the footer, so the links didn't look unbalanced on the desktop size screen. I changed the layout of the home screen, so the carousel was full screen as people would expect it to be. I also made the hover effect on the navigation less bold and closer to the word. I made the size of the button on the contact page smaller, so it didn't take up the full screen and feel out of place. I changed the font sizes to be a little smaller, so users with normal eyesight wouldn't be overwhelmed. I added more space between the logo and the navigation, so it wasn't as squishy. I tried making the logo seem more part of the navigation by giving it some margins, although it is hard as the logo has a white background. I redesigned the services and pricing page to have the sections inside of accordion items, to help reduce the cognitive load on users. Now they can quickly see what sections there are, and only read the ones they are interested in. I made the accordion items stay open so they could remember what they want for their quilts, and if they so desire, calculate an estimated cost without having to open each one again. I think this page could be better with some images or graphics, but I don't have any resources from the client for that right now. Finally, I added a More Results button to the gallery page so that when more pictures are added, the user can

decide if they want to look at more pictures or not. It also disappears when there are no more pictures to load.

Throughout the coding process, some problems that I had were with the carousel component especially, with trying to customize the Bootstrap variables and make it my own design. I struggled with getting the z-indexes to be right so all the content was laid out properly and the indicators could still be clicked on. I also had a little trouble customizing the accordion so that the individual items had margins in-between and the borders and border-radius for the elements worked right. I also had a little trouble deciding how I should go about adding new quilt photos to the gallery page using JavaScript, but was able to figure out a system I can use as more photos are added.

I really enjoyed this project, and it tested my skills and knowledge of HTML, CSS, SASS, JavaScript, and Bootstrap. I think it will make a fine addition to my portfolio!