

What I am most proud of about the project: I'm particularly proud of the overall design and functionality of the website, especially the blog section. It was one of the most challenging parts of the project, particularly when it came to implementing the filter and sorting mechanism to organize posts by date. After many iterations and debugging, I was able to create a dynamic, user-friendly experience.

What I could have done better with more time: If I had more time, I would focus on refining the gallery filter feature. It doesn't work right now, which means my skill is not perfected yet. I want to improve the filtering mechanism and ensure that it handles all cases seamlessly. Additionally, I would dedicate more time to optimizing performance and ensuring that all elements, especially with lazy loading, work smoothly across all devices.

Changes made in response to critiques: Based on the feedback from three critiques and my instructor, I made several key adjustments:

- Increased contrast in various sections for better readability and accessibility.
- Implemented lazy loading and smooth scrolling to improve the user experience, particularly on the blog page where content loads dynamically.
- Focused on improving accessibility features, such as keyboard navigation and screen reader support.

These changes helped ensure the project was not only aesthetically pleasing but also functional and accessible to a wider range of users.

Resources/assets and their use: I used several frameworks and libraries to streamline development:

- **JavaScript:** Used extensively for dynamic functionality, such as the blog post sorting/filtering and lazy loading.
- **EMAILJS:** Integrated for handling the contact form, allowing users to submit inquiries without needing a backend.
- **Bootstrap:** Used for layout and responsive design. It provided a solid foundation, particularly for the grid system and pre-built components like modals, buttons, and carousels.

I also leveraged various **code snippets**, **templates**, and **icons** to enhance the design, particularly with the use of Font Awesome icons for a polished and professional look.

Justification of key design decisions: Many of my design choices were driven by the client's needs and preferences. My sister, who is the client, provided feedback throughout the development process, ensuring that the design reflected her vision. The use of icons and custom colors were important to make the website feel personal and aligned with the brand's identity. Additionally, I focused on making sure the layout was clean and easy to navigate, with a balance of text and visuals.

Ways that I customized the framework design: I customized Bootstrap's components to match the client's branding. This included:

- Modifying default color schemes to create a more unique and vibrant design.
- Customizing the blog cards with distinct styles and hover effects to make them more interactive.
- Adjusting the grid layout to fit the specific content structure of the website, making sure it was both aesthetically pleasing and functional.

Advanced features incorporated into the project: One of the advanced features I incorporated was **lazy loading** for images and posts. This significantly improved page load times and the overall user experience. I also worked on the **filtering and sorting mechanism** for the blog posts, which was a challenging task but ultimately helped to organize content in a meaningful way for users.

Problems experienced along the way: One of the major challenges I faced was with the **gallery filtering feature**. I spent a lot of time troubleshooting and debugging, as I had to make sure that it worked dynamically with the content. This process was frustrating at times, but I learned a lot about JavaScript and working with DOM manipulation in the process.

Despite these challenges, the project allowed me to explore new areas, especially with JavaScript, and it gave me the opportunity to push my skills forward in terms of both development and design.