Technical Report

Re-Cycle
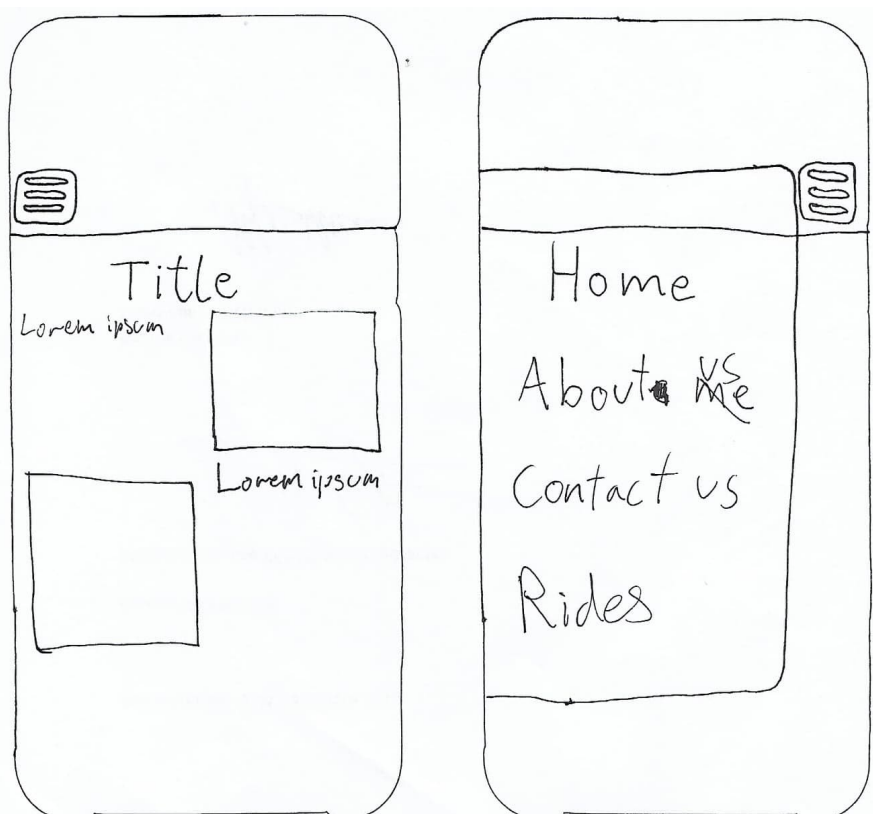
Marek Fischer

1.1. Introduction
This report describes the process I went through to build the website Re-Cycle, the challenges faced and the corresponding solutions to fix them. The goal for this assignment was to show understanding in all topics covered so far in this course. I also took the liberty to experiment with a more dynamic style of navigation. Because of a huge lack of time, I had to compensate by rushing through important steps in the planning of the website and lead to poorly planned design full of inconsistencies.

1.2. Main section of report
The first step in development was spent briefly browsing similar websites. I had some troubles understanding what the point was in "eco-friendly" guided cycling tours, and after looking through enough sites I decided to go for a classic approach to a normal cycling tour website. I chose to focus on Paris, the city I live in and imagined a light green and grey colour theme to represent the eco-friendliness and the pavement.

I then started to sketch out some ideas of a layout and put a lot of focus on the navigation bar which I wanted to do a bit differently from what I have made on earlier assignments.

For this assignment I also made use of PHP to display all pages as includes inside the index page and I could therefore split the pages into modules and even added a getter script which reduces the path into something a bit more neat looking.

I therefore jumped straight into the development of the header and footer module. I experimented with some transitions, some opacity and margins

to make a sliding navigation bar which appears when clicked. I then used a script using JQuery to add and remove style elements to the nav bar to make it appear and disappear. I also spent way to much time trying to make the nav bar appear on top of the site content and make it adapt to larger screens. The discovery of the screen type feature in the chrome inspect tools helped a lot to visualize the nav bar at different sizes and eventually managed to make it all work without making the CSS too messy.

At this point, after moving and a lot of time wasted on a stupid nav bar, I ended up having very little time for the rest of the assignment. Certain pages were simply improvised and others were briefly sketched. The about us and contact us pages were amongst the improvised pages and I tried to sketch to last two, but with very little inspiration and time, a lot of details was left for later.
I opted for a very basic two-row flex list of rides with a title, description, picture and map using Google maps. The list wraps into a single row on smaller screens.
The home screen was the last page I made, because I was not looking forward to trying to explain the concept of an "eco-friendly" bicycle ride. Sadly, I did not even have the time to invent basic texts for the website and "lorem ipsums" were left instead.

I ended up using the last 30 min trying to figure out how to make an image scale vertically relative to a parent height and make that responsive for different heights and ended up taking some short-cuts and made it work.

1.3. Conclusion

All in all, this was a rushed project. The only element I am happy about is the navigation bar as it was the first and last element I worked on before all my other obligations popped up at once. The green and grey theme was not a good colour choice and looks dirty and not very serious. The website is boring and the dynamic nav bar does not make sense on larger screens. The header and footer pictures does not fit well with the colour theme, and the fancy picture scrolling only works on PC.

2. Acknowledgements

I am generally disappointed with the results of this assignment. I was confronted with a completely blank mind with no inspiration for any part except the navigation bar. This was made worse by the fact that I've lost a huge amount of time because of moving to a new flat and this is why I rushed important steps and is why I got even more stuck later on with elements that just did not look right.