Personal Website Reflection

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I really enjoyed completing this assignment, despite some difficulties I experienced throughout the process. One of the things I loved most was being able to visualize a brand for myself and create a website that modelled my vision from scratch. When I conceptualized my website, I knew that it had to reflect who I am. I wanted my website to be clean, professional, elegant, yet visually appealing. Before I even began coding my website, I put a lot of thought into what I wanted it to look like. My inspiration came from my lifelong love of editorial fashion magazines. I have always adored the clean and minimalist text and layouts of high fashion magazines with their captivating uses of engaging visuals to draw in readers’ attention. This felt like the natural direction for me to go in and I am glad that I chose this aesthetic for my website because it feels true to who I am.

One of the most challenging components of this assignment was making the layout look polished and clean. As I inputted certain elements into my code, I would often observe my website displaying incorrectly or not exactly as I visualized it to look. For example, I coded my “about” and “education” sections to display and image beside the text, but then the image was first too large, then too small. I wanted it to look a very particular way as I envisioned it clearly in my head, so I had to go back and forth between my Visual Studio Code, viewer, and browser trying out different things to make it look exactly how I pictured it to. This took a lot of troubleshooting on my end, which required tremendous patience and dedication at each stage.

Another difficulty I found was ensuring continuity and responsiveness across different device screens. This was tough because although my website looked good from my own laptop, it looked different when I was viewing it from a mobile device. I also wanted my website to remain looking clean and professional no matter what device my website is being viewed from. I felt that it was important to my vision to maintain that continuity. I knew I had to change the media query settings in my code to ensure seamless transitions across different devices, so I added different media query settings, going back and forth between my code and browser until it looked good from every device.

One thing that is important to note about my website is that I did not include links. Although I initially wanted to for my “Contact Me” section, I quickly realized that I do not have my LinkedIn profile set up yet, which means that if I included my GitHub link, the section would not look uniform. I made the decision to opt out of including links until the next Unit of the course, where we will be adding interactivity to our website. There, I will be adding links to my “Contact Me” section after I set up my LinkedIn profile with my career coach. Eventually, I will include links in my “Projects” section, where users can click different projects I have worked on to view them from a different page.

Overall, I am proud of the long hours I spent making my website because it reflects my aesthetic, vision, and values, which is what I set out to achieve. It was definitely challenging at times, but the labour of love in this project was well worth it. I would consider my finished project a win!