Shelter Finder App

Group 27

SYSTEM DESCRIPTION

The Shelter Finder system is a mobile application designed to connect individuals in need of temporary shelter with those willing to offer their properties as shelters during emergencies. The major components/tasks of the system include:

- **Listing a Place for Shelter Finder:** Allows users to post their property as a shelter, providing details such as amenities, capacity, and images.
- **Booking a Place on the App:** Enables shelter seekers to search for available shelters, view listings, and book a shelter for a specified period.
- **Searching and Filtering Options:** Provides users with a search feature and filters to refine their search based on preferences.
- **Review and Rating System:** Allows users to leave reviews and ratings for shelters, enhancing transparency and reliability.
- **Adding an image from gallery:** Allows users to add images to the app from phone's gallery.
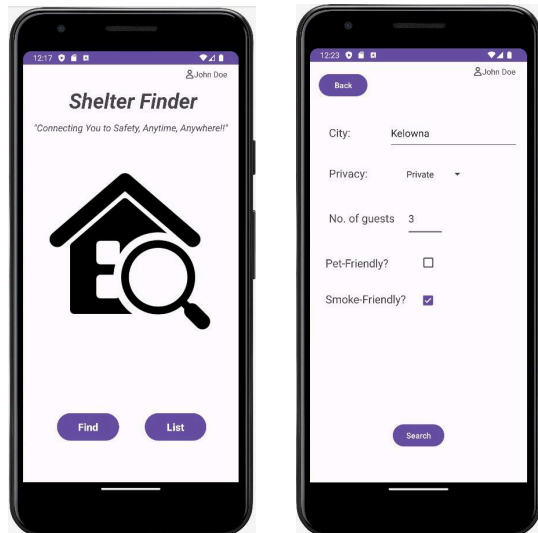
Design changes from the final paper prototype based on user feedback include:

- Addition of smoking-friendly options for listers.
- Improved homepage with added slogan.
- Enhanced app navigation with back buttons and scroll bars.
- Option for users to input a comment as text for additional information.
- Modifications to the confirm booking page for user input.
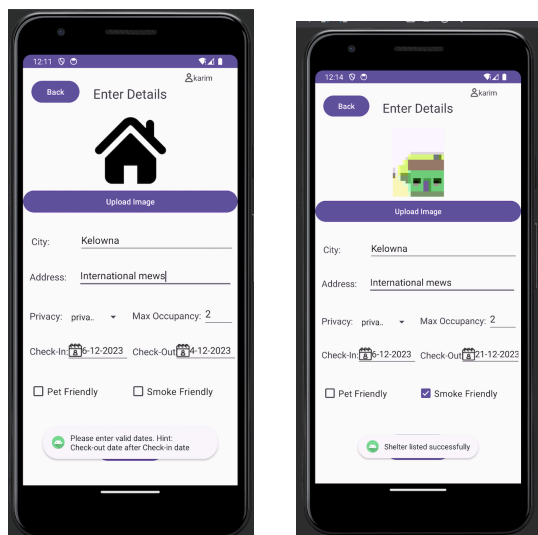
DESIGN PRINCIPLES APPLIED

1. Visibility

Visibility is maintained through clear navigation buttons, consistent icons, and a well-organized layout. Screenshots:
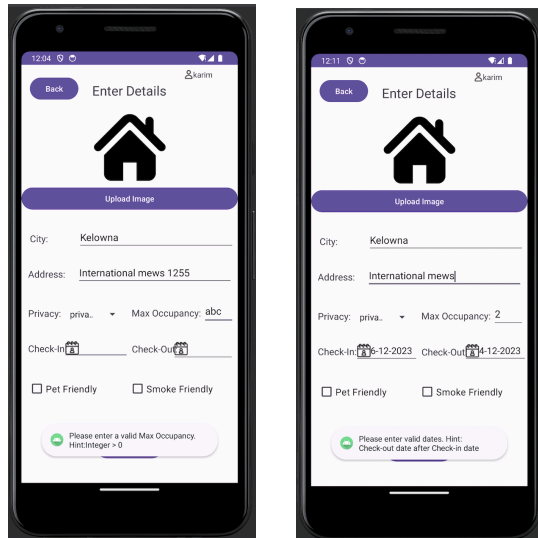

2. Feedback

Feedback is provided through interactive elements, error messages, and status updates. Screenshots:

3. Constraints

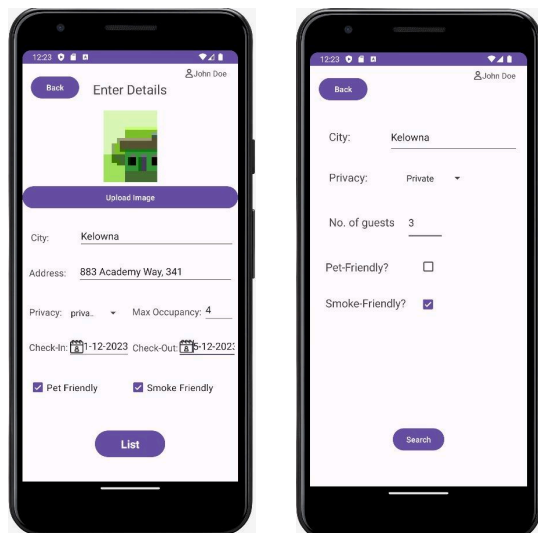Constraints are implemented to guide users in the booking process and prevent errors.
Screenshots:
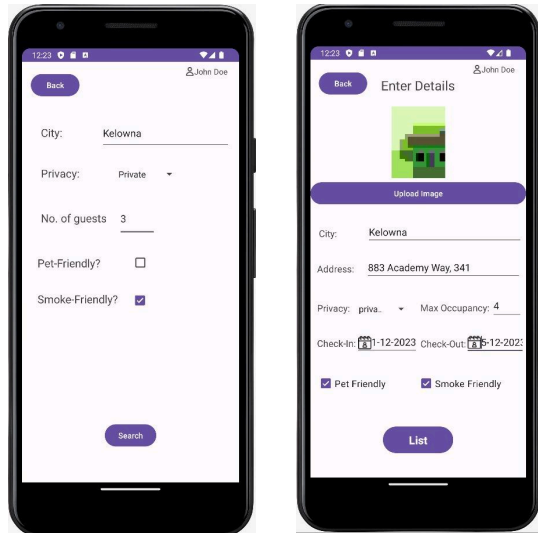

4. Consistency

Consistency is maintained in the use of icons, color schemes, and navigation elements.
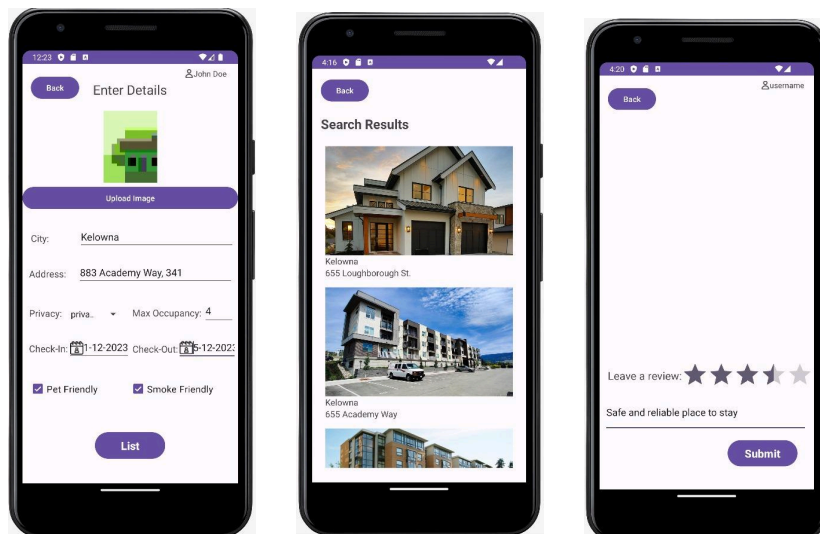Screenshots:

5. Affordances

Affordances are evident in the use of buttons, dropdown lists, and checkboxes for user interactions. Screenshots:
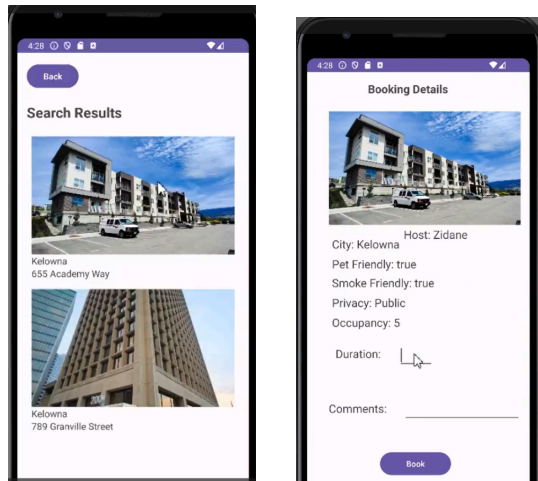

6. Simplicity

Simplicity is achieved through a clean and intuitive interface with minimal complexity. Screenshots:

7. Matching

Matching is ensured by aligning user expectations with system behavior. Screenshots:

HEURISTIC EVALUATION

The usability heuristic evaluation for the app, conducted through Google Form questions aligned with key heuristic categories, reveals insights from three users. Overall, the app excels in providing a clear system status, using familiar language, enabling easy navigation, and delivering precise error messages. User 1 suggests potential improvements in minimizing information users need to remember and enhancing efficiency for experienced users. User 2 expresses high satisfaction with visibility, language use, and consistency but suggests slight improvements in error prevention. User 3 offers positive feedback, highlighting the app's effectiveness but suggests room for improvement in error prevention. User 4 highly praises the app's visibility, language use, navigation, and design consistency, with a minor suggestion for improvement in design consistency.

HEURISTIC VIOLATED

1. **Consistency and Standards**

To address the heuristic violation in "Consistency and Standards," we have implemented significant improvements by standardizing the size and placement of buttons across all interfaces within the app. This enhancement ensures a cohesive and uniform user experience throughout the application, promoting predictability and familiarity. Users will now encounter consistent visual elements, reducing cognitive load and enhancing overall usability. By adhering to a standardized design approach, we aim to create a more seamless and intuitive interaction for users, fostering a sense of confidence and efficiency in navigating the app's various features.

2. **Recognition Rather than Recall**

To address the heuristic violation related to "Recognition over Recall," we have implemented crucial improvements to enhance user memory and recognition within the app. Upon user login, the addition of a prominently displayed user profile at the top right of each UI provides immediate and easily accessible recognition of the logged-in status. Additionally, we've strategically positioned buttons in familiar locations, aligning with widely adopted practices in various apps. This approach not only minimizes the need for users to recall where specific functionalities are located but also leverages their existing mental models from interacting with other applications. These improvements aim to create a more intuitive and user-friendly experience, reducing cognitive load and fostering a seamless navigation flow throughout the app.

SUMMARY OF CHANGES MADE

Key Points on Changes Made to the Shelter Finder App:

- **Enhanced Navigation:** The app's navigation has been refined with the incorporation of back buttons and scroll bars, providing users with more intuitive and user-friendly controls.
- **User Input Comments:** Users now have the option to input comments as text, offering a valuable means of providing additional information or context during the booking process.

- **Confirm Booking Page Modifications:** The confirm booking page has undergone modifications based on user input, ensuring a more user-centric design and improved interaction.
- **Consistency in Button Size and Placement:** To address consistency and standards, the size and placement of buttons have been standardized across all app interfaces, promoting a cohesive and familiar user experience.
- **User Profile Visibility:** To enhance recognition over recall, a user profile is now prominently displayed at the top right of each UI upon login, providing immediate recognition of the user's logged-in status.

These changes align with key design principles, including visibility, feedback, constraints, consistency, affordances, simplicity, and matching, contributing to an improved and user-centric Shelter Finder App.

VIDEO LINK

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yuwmnohoPY8&ab_channel=thivinaratnayaka