When initially looking to design my portfolio I spent some time looking at various websites. These inspired some early ideas such as a parallax based layout or unconventional menu system.

The first portfolio I looked at was Kromatech which is clean and simple but effective in displaying his work. By displaying these large images in a slider it is easy to scroll through all of his work. By hovering over these images it would also display some brief details without detracting from the work itself. Other elements that made the website interesting was the ability to switch from night mode to day, it was a nice addition and helped to make the website less static. When trying to move through the portfolio you are given a number of means to do so, mouse wheel being the primary, followed by animated arrows that appear once the cursor is close. There is also an indicator at the bottom of the screen to highlight your position whilst scrolling through the work. Using an indicator when viewing images in a slider was something that i wanted to include in my own portfolio, i achieved this through the use of dots at the bottom of my slider.

Another portfolio I looked at was by Crusader Arts, the website was again simplistic and featured a looping video as the background. The design was the polar opposite of Khromatech as all the content did not reside on the same page. This added a level of dynamics to the page but also hindered performance as clicking specific links would have to load another page, whilst Khromatech displayed almost all of the content in one go.

When creating my portfolio I looked at the responsive nature of both of these websites. Crusader arts portfolio had been designed for mobile first and was easy to navigate when using a mobile device. However, Khromatech’s portfolio had not been designed for mobile first, this made the content difficult to view and also lead to content being overlapped.This led me to designing my portfolio for mobile first and then adapting it for desktop use after. Using css grids and media queries I was able to display my content correctly no matter what device it was being viewed on. This used in combination with a javascript file allowed the user to navigate through sections smoothly. The script broke up a single page into multiple sections and allows you to jump between certain areas of the page quickly by using the scroll wheel.

Taking inspiration from these websites for both their pros and cons helped me to sculpt a smooth and mobile friendly website that allows the user to navigate and view content quickly.

Khromatech, 2017, *Khromatech* [ONLINE] Available at: <http://khomatech.com/>

Crusader arts, 2017, *Crusader arts* [ONLINE] Available at: <http://www.crusaderarts.com/>