Step 1: Reflection

Which existing websites out there most inspired your web site design thus far?

I pulled elements from a few different websites, but I've bookmarked Saveur.com and localpalate.com, both food magazine sites, and keep going back to see how they tackled challenges like having a variety of content types such as hero images, news, recipes, videos, events, etc…

For the homepage, I wanted to create a newsfeed that pulls in content from the other pages onto individual "cards". While the design will differ from the other pages, it will share the same navigation, type styles and "card" design.

Which parts of the design are you most proud of?

It's really responsive!! Other than that I like the distinct type styles and am looking forward to seeing how the news cards look once I add an image and a tag to each one to complete the idea.

What struggles did you encounter in your design process?

My site is work related, so I've adopted styles from our design library, including the color palette, specs for rounded corners, typefaces, and so on…but am struggling to branch out and add my own flair. It's clean, modern and kind of boring right now!

The hero image also takes up too much of the page, so I'm working on a new approach for the feature story…

Which struggles did you encounter during page development?

The page feels really fragile—I'm terrified that if I change a single thing by one pixel, it will all fall apart! That includes the size of the cards that float as well as the wrapper and margins that are keeping everything centered horizontally.

What did you learn from making your project responsive?

I'm wondering why we would create non-responsive sites these days? It helped to have a mockup to help define what needed tweaking in the media queries.

Step 2: Reviews

Review a website from group 1 and a website from group 2 of the following list, commenting on each website's layout, typography, navigation, and overall flow.

https://medium.com/

Layout
At first glance, it looked interesting with the hero illustration, but below that, there's a lot going on. The main content on the left flows well and each story is distinct, but the right column is fighting for attention.

Typography

The type for the posts is bold, which I like, it helps distinguish one from the next since the rest of the elements (photo, copy) are less consistent.

Navigation
The navigation is at the top and I would describe it as quiet, you might miss it. Luckily there are enough links in the right column between tags and other posts that help you get where you need to go.

Flow
It's pretty basic, but the one column moving and the other static (kind of) is bugging me.

http://mimarch.net/

Layout
I liked the grid at top, and the approach for the various categories individually, but they don't seem to go together, especially with the style of the navigation tabs. Modern architecture meets corporate America files and folders.

Typography
I'm a fan of small caps, but have never a site that used the style for all type. Makes each type of type seem equal as in no hierarchy.

Navigation
Interesting. The bars takes me to each topic, but when I click "to the top", it goes to the grid at the top rather than back to the navigation.

Flow
Nice to stay all on one page.