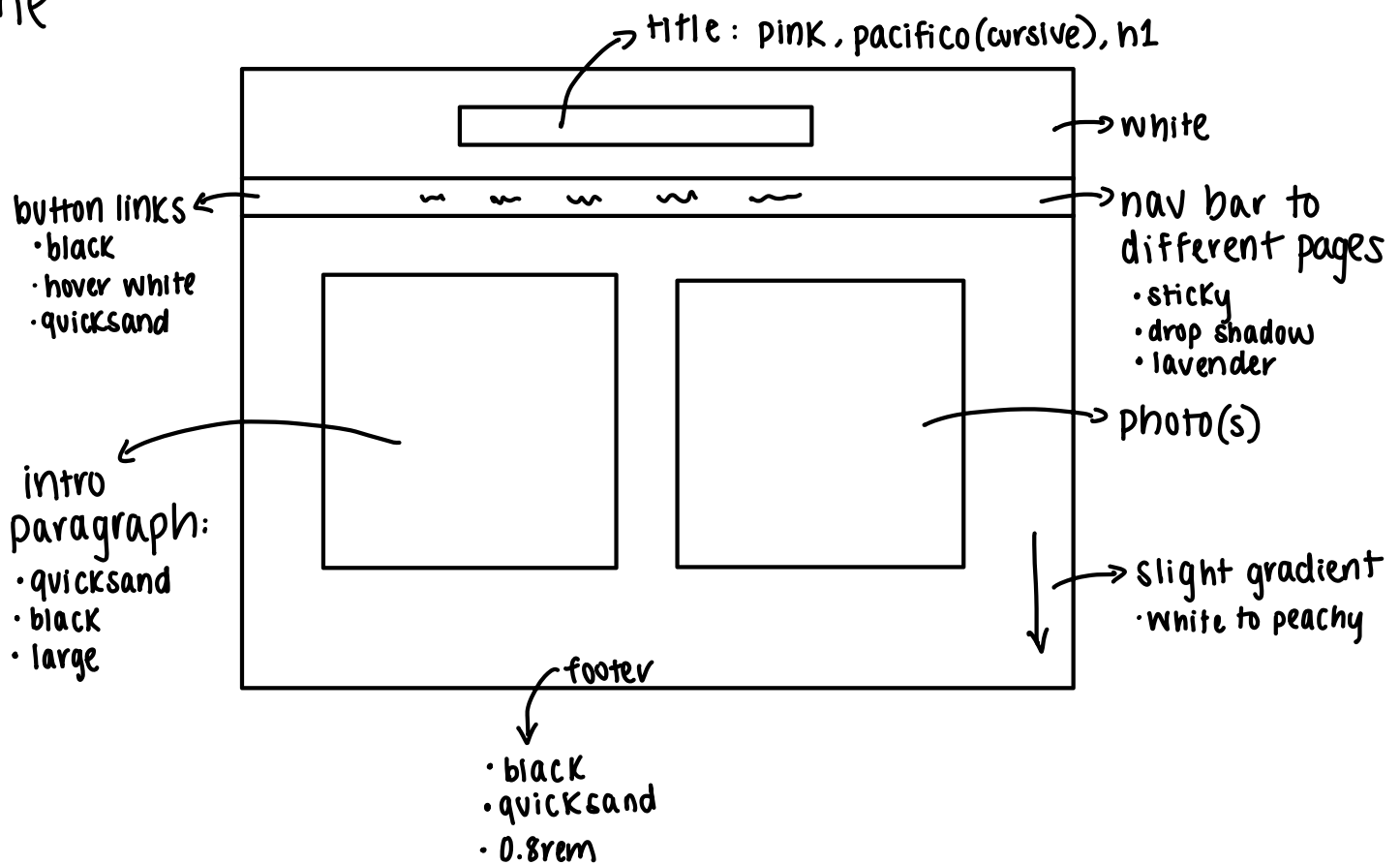
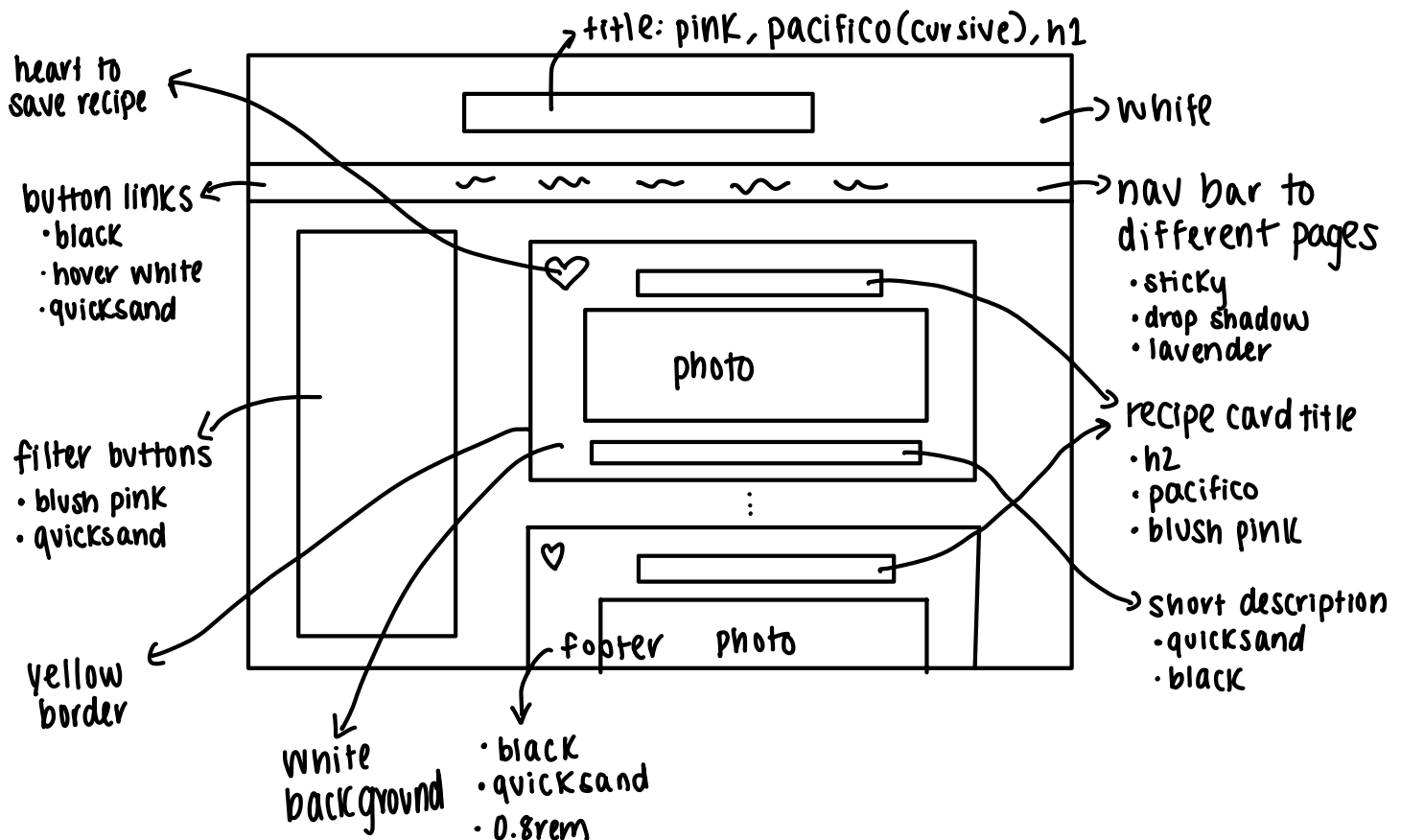


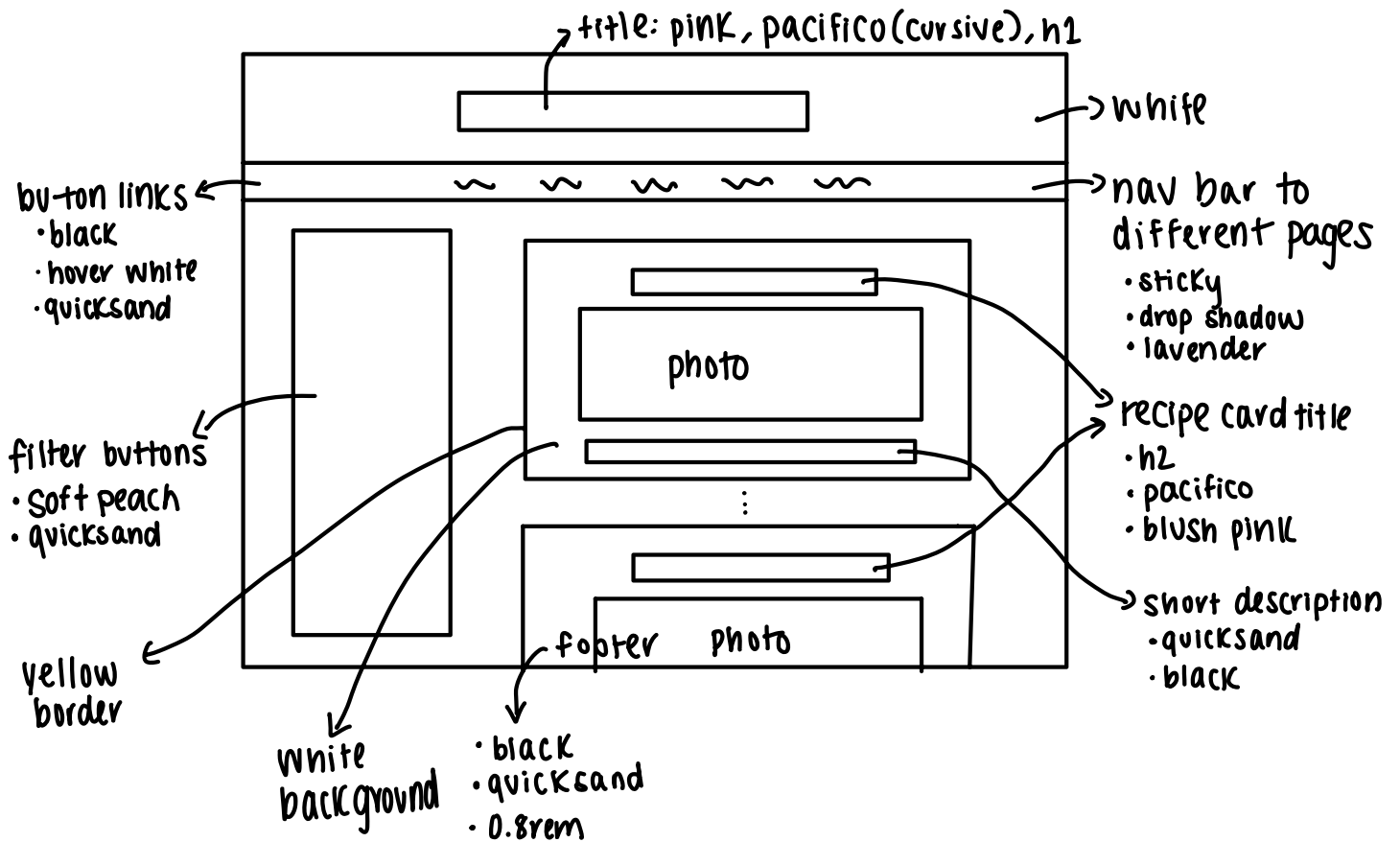
Home



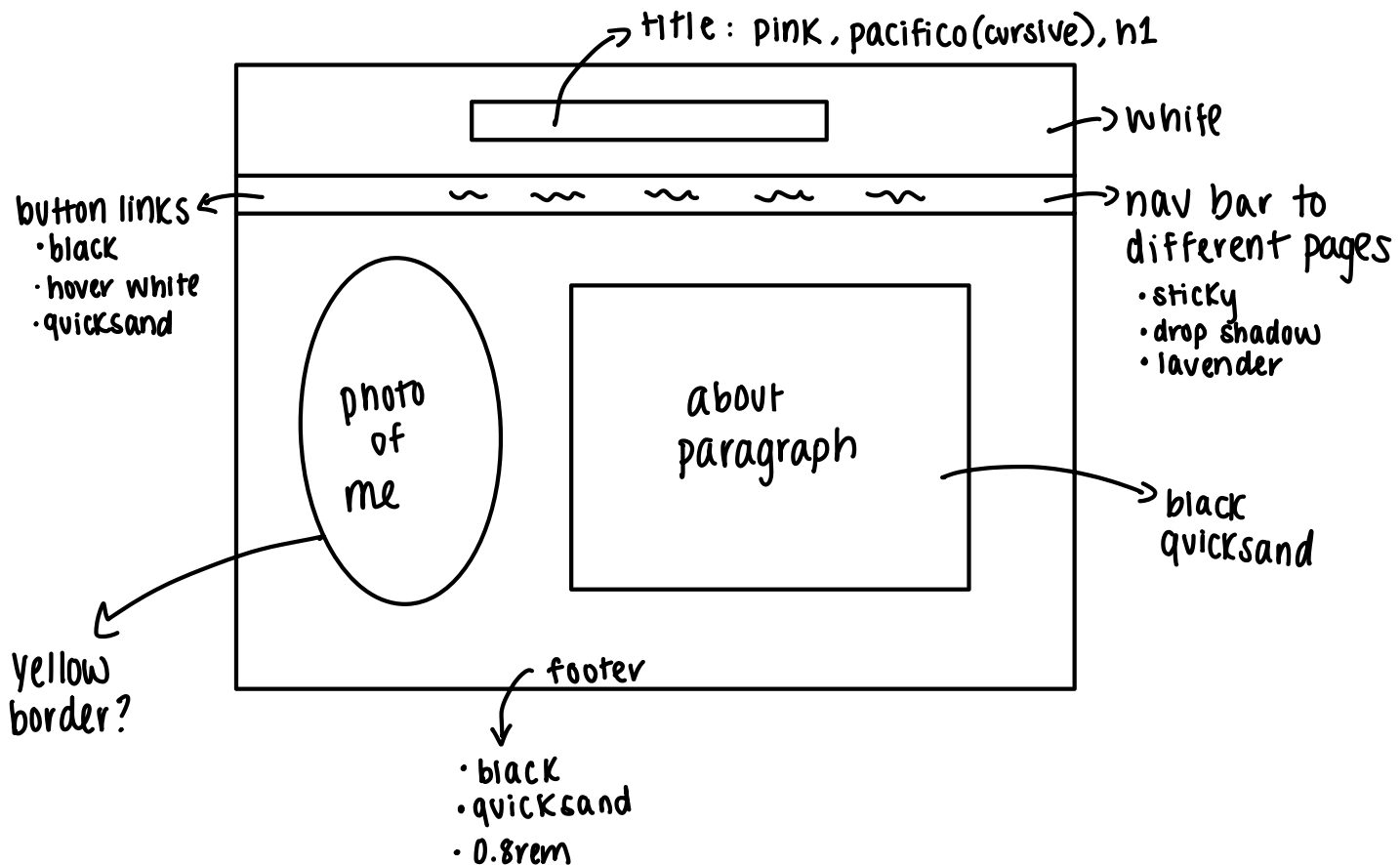
Recipes



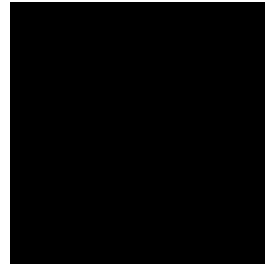
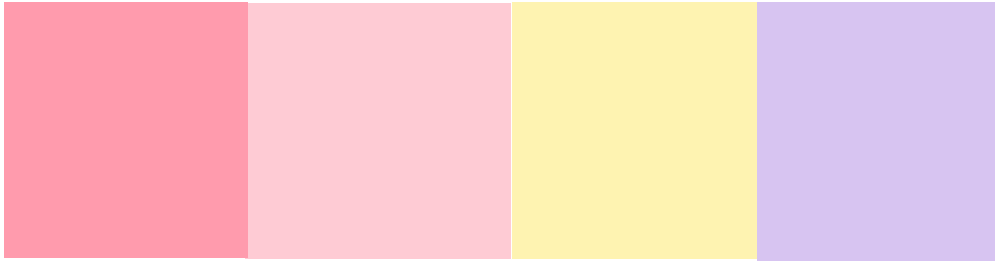
My Recipes



About



Color Palette



fonts:



1:

The idea behind my website was to create a comfortable and welcoming environment specifically for college students, like myself, to access quick, easy, and affordable recipes using ingredients from Trader Joe's. Knowing that a large part of my audience is likely to be women, I leaned into a soft, "girly" aesthetic to better resonate with them. I chose pastel colors and gentle, rounded fonts to create a cozy and approachable vibe — something that feels like a digital safe space. These design elements work together to evoke calmness and friendliness, making users feel at ease as they browse.

My website includes five main pages: Home, Recipes, My Recipes, and an About section. The Home page introduces the purpose of the site and sets the tone. The Recipes page displays all available recipes and features filters to help users find what they're craving. Each recipe card includes ingredients and directions, with a save button for easy access later. Saved recipes are stored under the My Recipes page, where users can view all of their favorite recipes in one spot.

While designing the site, I ran into a few layout challenges, particularly on the Recipes and My Recipes pages. I debated whether the recipe filters should appear horizontally under the navigation bar or vertically along the left side. Each option had its pros and cons in terms of visual balance and usability. Accessibility was a key consideration in my design process. I used high-contrast color combinations to aid visibility and included alternative text for all images to support screen readers. I also chose clear, easy-to-read fonts for the majority of the content. However, I used a cursive font for the main headers, and while it adds personality, I recognize that I may need to revisit it in future iterations to ensure it remains fully legible for all users.

This design is a true reflection of my personal style: playful, calm, and user-friendly. It aligns perfectly with my goal of offering a simple and comforting space where college students can find meal inspiration without stress. Whether users are new to cooking or just trying to make the most out of their Trader Joe's run, the site is designed to inform, support, and inspire them in a friendly and aesthetically pleasing way.

2:

To ensure consistency across the site, I defined custom CSS variables under the `:root` selector for all primary colors. This approach improves maintainability, as I can update a color throughout the entire site by changing it in just one place. It also enhances readability by giving each color a semantic meaning tied to its role in the design.

I was intentional with my use of class and ID selectors. ID selectors, like `#main-title`, `#description`, `#filter-dropdown`, and `#filter-select`, are reserved for elements that appear only once

per page and need unique styling. This made sense for key page-specific elements. For reusable styles applied to multiple elements—such as `.recipe-card`, `.category-buttons`, and `.about-content`—I used class selectors. This helps maintain consistency, reduces code duplication, and allows for easier management of similar components, like multiple recipe cards.

Sticky elements like the header and `h1#main-title` enhances usability by keeping important navigation and controls visible as users scroll. The category buttons are fixed as well. This is especially useful on the Recipes page, where users might want to change filters while browsing without having to scroll back up.

The overall layout is designed with readability and ease-of-use in mind. I used Flexbox for centering and spacing elements, keeping the layout adaptable and visually clean. Max-widths were set on cards and content blocks to prevent them from stretching too wide on larger screens, maintaining a comfortable reading experience. Rounded borders, pastel color tones, and soft shadows all contribute to the welcoming, cozy aesthetic that supports the brand's “girly” and comforting personality.

Subtle hover effects on buttons and cards (such as a slight scale-up and shadow on `.recipe-card:hover`) add an extra layer of interactivity. These small touches make the interface feel responsive and intuitive, enhancing the overall user experience.

For typography, I used high-contrast text on soft backgrounds and established a clear typographic hierarchy. Headers use the cursive 'Pacifico' font to inject personality and charm, while body text uses 'Quicksand', a clean sans-serif font that is highly legible. This balance between playful branding and readability ensures the site is accessible without sacrificing style.