

## NYT Product Design Cover Letter

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My most recent work with UI/UX was this month (December), for a group project at the end of my 2D Game Engines class. For some background, the idea of the class was to build an engine (framework) for games in Java, essentially from scratch—this meant that any UI elements had to be of our own design. In our four-person team, my role was to design, and then code, all of the menus, buttons, and screens that weren't explicitly part of the physical (logical) game.

Thankfully, we had previously developed a Button class as part of our UIKit, so we had something off of which we could work. The challenge for me was designing a UI that was functional, intuitive, and simple enough that it could be developed without spending too much time coding (not to mention visually appealing!).

I went straight to Figma, of which I am a huge fan (love their interface), and started moving elements around to get a general idea of what I wanted, and where I wanted them. I had to keep popping back to the code to make sure that what I created was actually doable. The design process was definitely different than other projects I had worked on. For example, we could add images, but the limitations of our engine meant that the most we could do was move them around (anything fun like parallax, or even simpler effects were out of the question). I remember spending a good amount of time trying (I *eventually* succeeded) to make the buttons have corners which were round instead of sharp.

I'm really glad I got this experience, because although I don't see myself doing too much UI/UX work in Java in the future, I developed a better appreciation of what "simple" means for a design, and how to flourish in that constraint.

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If you would like to take a peek at some of the process (and the finished screens, the darker 4 at the top right), feel free to look at our Figma:

[https://www.figma.com/file/3mLf1bKhj8v1BrDGtDktem/2d\\_final\\_proj?node-id=0%3A1](https://www.figma.com/file/3mLf1bKhj8v1BrDGtDktem/2d_final_proj?node-id=0%3A1)