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PUI Assignment 5: HTML and CSS

Link to Live Site:
https://divmohan7.github.io/homework_5/index.html
Link to Repository:
https://github.com/divmohan7/divmohan7.github.io/tree/main/homework_5

The first UI bug I noticed in revisiting my design had to do with the recognition versus recall heuristic. I realized that there wasn't a clear indicator of which page the user was on once they had clicked around. The link to the product page said "shop" but the page title read "our products," which may not translate fully to let users know they are on the correct page. I decided to add a light pink background on the selected link to inform users of what page they were on while they were on it. This is noticeable on the "about" and "shop" pages when you are on the page and provides clearer mapping of the site without the user having to remember their previous clicks.

The next change I decided to make was more clarity regarding the ordering process, since it is arguably the most important part of the site. I noticed that an easy mistake for a user to make would be to only make one of the choices before adding the item to their cart. II broke down the process into steps to indicate how to complete the ordering process.

The final heuristic change I decided to make was related to aesthetic and minimalist design. I scaled back much of the decorative elements of my original prototype on realizing that the addition of pictures in the initialization of the site added more color and content in general. Other decorative elements began to impact the signal-to-noise ratio. The heuristics video also emphasized to "communicate, not decorate." The colored shadows I had originally added to my project page alternated between mint green and light pink and added much busier visual elements but served no purpose. I removed these to focus further on the content – the images and flavors that defined the product page.

I have had some experience with HTML and CSS previously. I was initially surprised by how intuitive they were. Coding seems like a huge undertaking when not coming from a computer science background, but unlike programming languages, I find the basic rules of HTML and CSS to be fairly straightforward, accessible, and intuitive to follow.

This doesn't mean I didn't struggle with implementing these rules into a more functional site. One of the first, immensely frustrating bugs I came across was when my HTML was simply not connecting to my CSS via the link in the HTML head. I spent

a large amount of time trying to locate the source of this issue, thinking it was my file name, or the process I used to link it. Finally, I realized that a missing end quote was the source of the problem. This solution was indicative of a lot of the problems I encountered with CSS, much frustration and searching for a root cause that was seemingly obvious towards the end. The "inspect" tool was what I found most helpful. The crossed-out CSS text in the side panel allowed me to view which stylistic choices were getting overridden by others so I could get to the root of the problem.

Overall, I have immense appreciation for the variety of stylistic choices that CSS provides within a relatively simple format. I'm also grateful to the community surrounding introductory HTML and CSS. While I've become familiar with many of the properties simply by using them for multiple elements, there was an endless number of resources for other formatting choices and changes. I was initially struggling with centering text within a div for the "Order Now" circle on my index page. Within a few minutes of googling, I was able to find out a hack to do this – increasing the line-height of the text to be the size of the div.

Many of my design choices remained the same between my Figma prototype and the website created with HTML and CSS. I used the same color palette of a dull red, teal blue, and light pinks for hovers. These playful pastels reminded me of confectionary and sprinkles, which felt in line with the branding for a bakery. The circular images were also chosen to be a softer, more organic shape. I wanted the website to be distinct from something you might see to communicate news or important information. I wanted to avoid harsh lines and instead invoke a light, airy feeling. I also thought the circular images would nicely reflect the distinct, swirling shape of cinnamon buns. The background is a cream color and was chosen over a stark white. It was a warmer color that reminded me of frosting. Comfortaa was also chosen as a font because of its soft, rounded edges. The swirls in the logo also intentionally mimicked the swirls of icing. Overall, I had chosen the Bun Bun Bake Shop because I thought it would allow for a whimsical design in line with the brand and I hope to put this forth in my prototype.