

elizabeth bruski
design portfolio

summer & fall 2023 edition



README

Thank you for taking the time to experience my design portfolio! This features designs made in figma, Illustrator, and Indesign for personal, school, and research projects.

I'm a junior computer science major at Stevens Institute of Technology in Hoboken, NJ. Home is the greater Seattle, Washington area, and I love both places--the hustle of the city juxtaposed with the mountains and outdoors in the pnw.

I love art--I'm always painting, crafting, going to exhibitions, or diy-ing my way through some project that would probably be easier to buy online. When my schedule opened up as an upperclassman at Stevens, I started exploring basic design classes in the art school alongside my web and user design courses. I loved my studio-based design class, where we printed our designs weekly for our projects and discussed them as a class, learning from each other and our well-versed professor

Now, armed with both programming and design skills, I'm excited to keep trying, messing things up and learning exactly why things feel "off" as I curate my design knowledge, style, and taste.

Cheers,
Liz

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PyKidz

PyKidz welcomes students to the programming world by introducing them to common concepts and terms in an interactive web app.

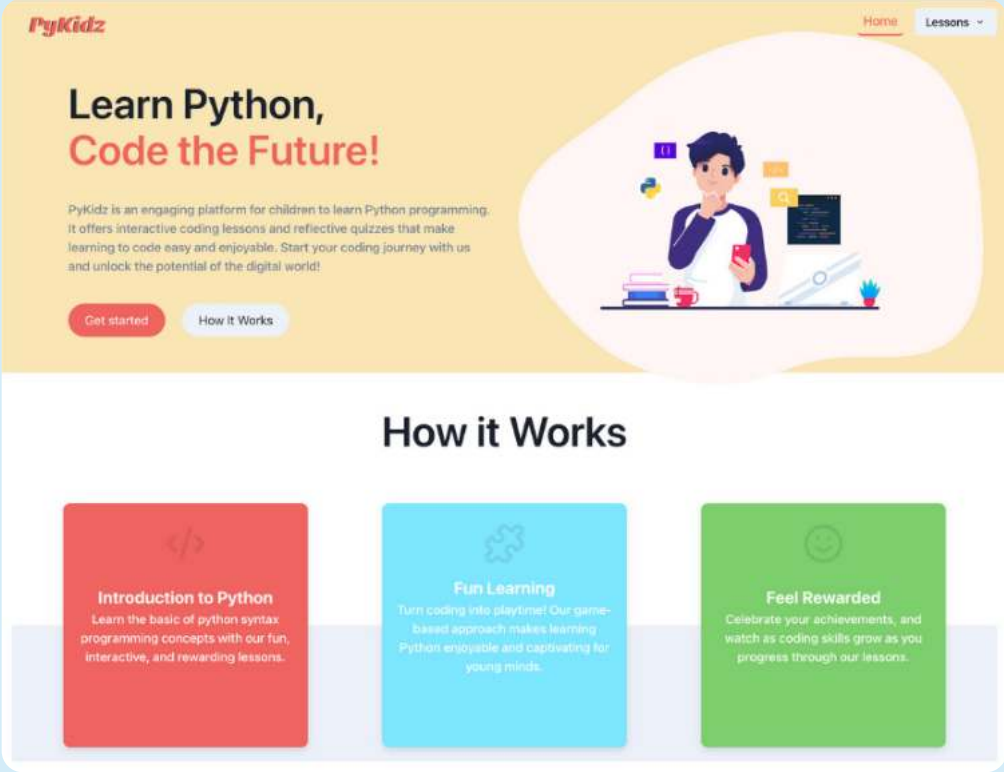
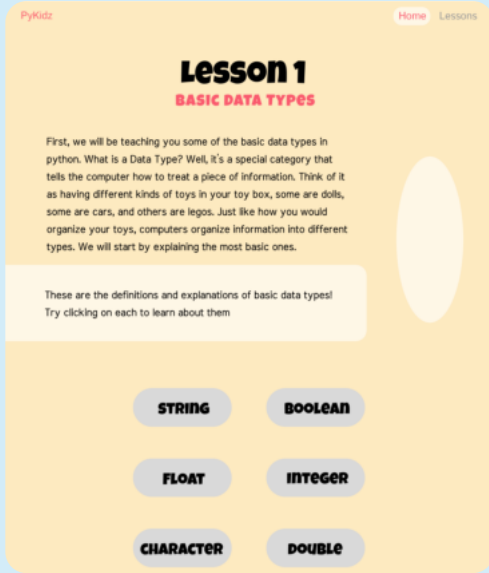
This was a collaborative team project as a part of a semester-long graduate level Human-Computer Interaction course. The professor lectured weekly about design principles from a functional, interactive perspective, which we implemented into our application.

Over 10 weeks we found a client and iterated prototypes to create a final, functional app. We focused on content accessibility and measured improvements as the score the user received on the quiz, since this reflects how easily digestible our information is.

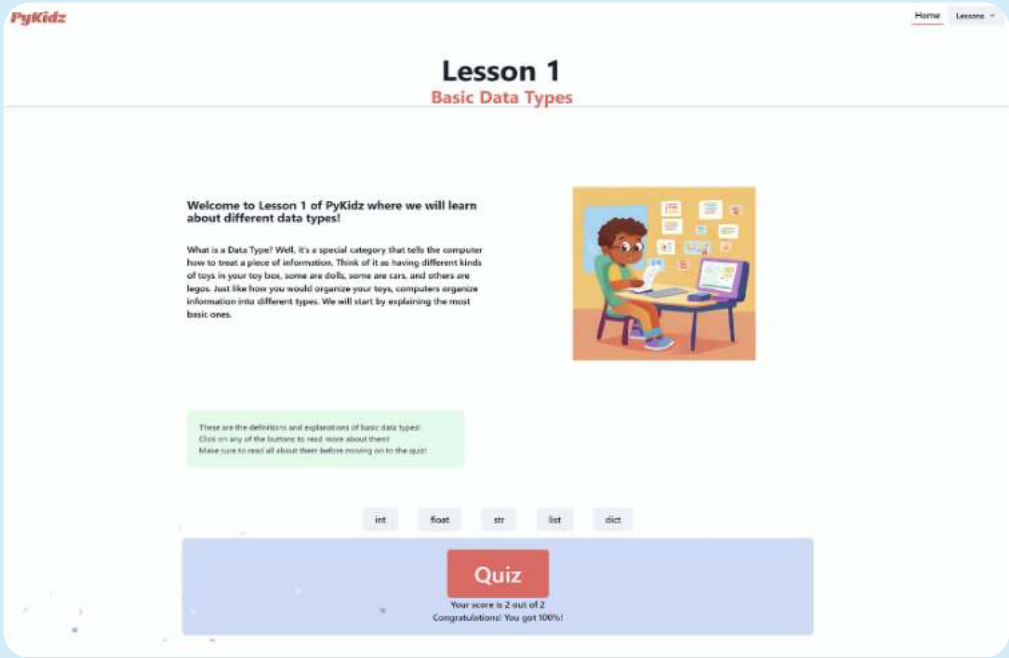
This flow demonstrates some iterations made and tools we used. Due to the extended development timeline, we could all develop our design, programming, and leadership skills.



Between “Lesson 1” and “Lesson 2” we preferred “Lesson 1”, with its bold titles and many buttons. We found the increased required interactivity kept students engaged as their quiz scores increased.



Nearing the final designs we kept getting feedback that the children hated the yellow background and wanted more pictures and buttons, so we changed the aesthetic appearance and added images and confetti to the quizzes. We programmed last two iterations using React and Chakra UI and shared code on Github.



Code & Presentation Links:
Repository: <https://github.com/ebruskii/PyKidz>
Presentation: https://www.canva.com/design/DAF2HpWmAtw/e_jNWRZLWetD-s09uioPT8Q/edit?utm_content=DAF2HpWmAtw&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link2&utm_source=sharebutton

NUKEMAP

is a website to see effects of theoretically detonated bombs. It receives more than 60% of all hits via mobile devices, but prior to redesign:

- if you tapped the map, the menu disappeared completely.
- the font was nearly illegible.
- there was an overwhelming amount of variables.

Improvements:

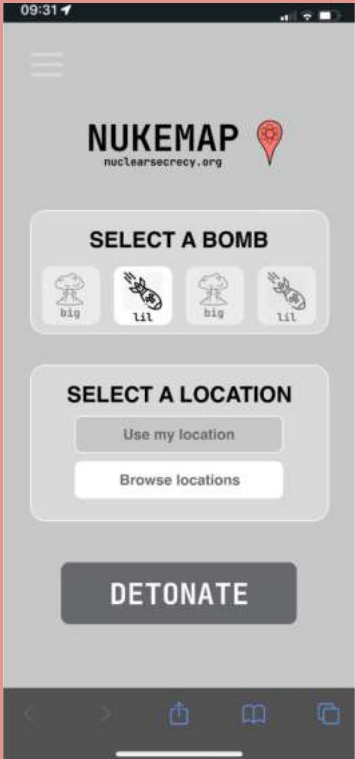
- a “use my location” feature
- the ability to layer detonations
- the ability to share detonations via a link, using saved then pre-set parameters

current site: <https://nuclearsecrecy.com/nukemap/>

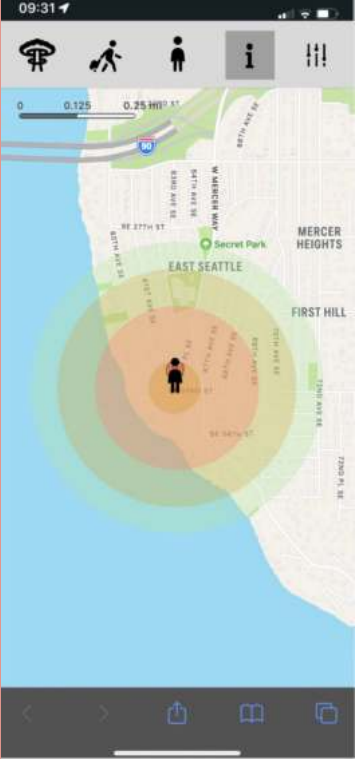


initial designs

final designs



landing page



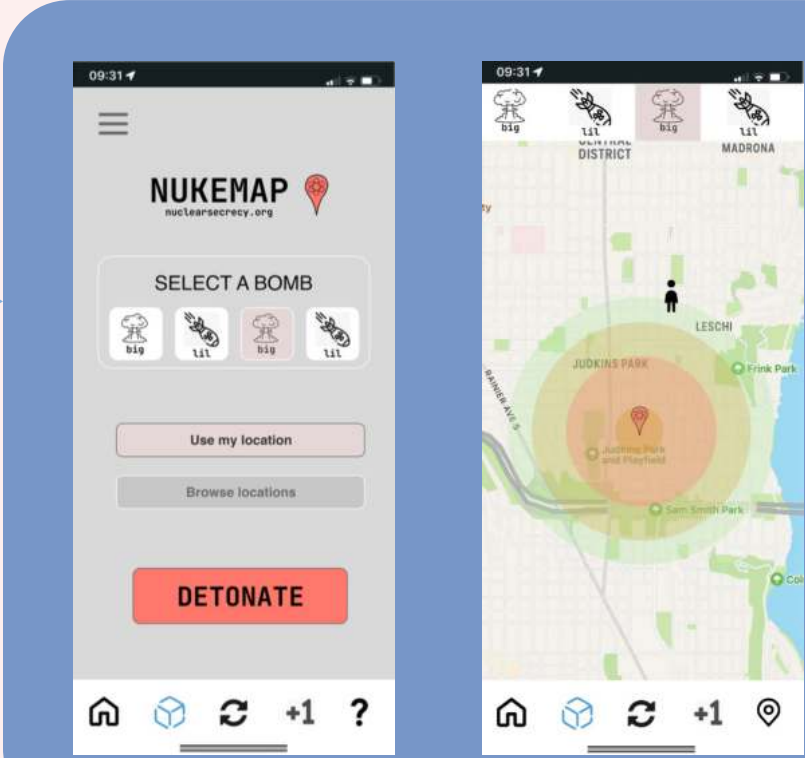
effects page

The final design features a home page with the most basic categories to manipulate, which calculates into a single “effects” page. The icons at the top are clickable and reveal a variety of overlays for effects data and manipulation abilities.

Improvements:

- only three necessary clicks to detonation
- legible text (increased accessibility)
- clearly animated effects
- options remain for “research mode”, where users may revert to the version with many options
- allows for a link holding session-generated variable adjustments

figma link: <https://www.figma.com/file/GT3FhvSpv9ZoBhHPmVTXp1/mobileprototype?type=design&node-id=269%3A505&mode=design&t=ScZyDnkbwdgwfCU2-1>



intermediate designs

icons



the person icon allows detonation relocation by locking the character to the center of the screen while the user moves the map behind it



this feature documents a series of detonations, where the older ones appear monochromatically and the most recent is standard

BEST OF 2023: MAGAZINE DESIGN

As a 3 week project in my design class we studied New York Times Magazines then generated 500 word stories about a top moment of our 2023 using ChatGPT. After learning about Gestalt and other design principles, we applied these skills in this Indesign project to arrange our text in certain shapes, avoiding trapped whitespace. We discussed these designs weekly in studio as a class, learning from each others' patterns and redesigns.

Best of by Elizabeth Brusk & ChatGPT

CARVING TURNS ON
MT HOOD IN JULY

IN the shadow of the Pacific Northwest's towering volcanic peaks, the last place you might expect to find skiers in the heart of summer is on the slopes of Oregon's iconic Mount Hood. Yet, every year, thrill-seekers and snow enthusiasts alike converge on this majestic mountain to partake in an exhilarating, adrenaline-pumping summer adventure: skiing in July.

Mount Hood, renowned for its perennial white-capped crown, has long been a playground for winter sports enthusiasts. But as the sun climbs high in the sky and temperatures rise, the mountain transforms into a unique destination for those who crave the thrill of skiing even when most of the world has packed away their winter gear. It's a summer paradise

for skiers who refuse to let the warm months deter them from carving turns down its snow-clad slopes.

The prime location for summer skiing on Mount Hood is the Timberline Lodge and Ski Area. At Timberline, skiers can enjoy the surreal experience of descending the slopes against a backdrop of lush green forests and wildflower dotted meadows while the sun bathes the mountain in its golden glow.

The summer skiing scene on Mount Hood is a testament to the resilience and creativity of the skiing community. Here, skiers and snowboarders don

shorts and t-shirts under their winter gear, and on a warm July day, it's not uncommon to see some enthusiasts in Hawaiian shirts and flip-flops waiting in line for the ski lift.

Summer skiing at Mount Hood is not just for seasoned professionals, either. The laid-back atmosphere encourages skiers of all levels to come and experience the thrill of carving down the mountain. For beginners, ski lessons are readily available, and they can enjoy the exhilaration of skiing with seasoned veterans, sharing the slopes and the spirit of adventure.

While skiing on Mount Hood in the heart of summer is undoubtedly a unique experience, it's not without its challenges. The sun's intense rays can make

the slopes a bit slushy in the afternoon, and the weather can change in the blink of an eye. There's a camaraderie among summer skiers, a shared understanding that they're embarking on a rare and special adventure.

Skiing on Mount Hood in July is a testament to the indomitable spirit of the skiing community, a gathering of people who



A person in a white snow suit, with one leg propped up, sits on the ski lift. The person is looking down at the mountain. The background shows a dense forest of evergreen trees.


32 10.23.23

Best of by Elizabeth Brusk & ChatGPT

CELEBRATION
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won't let the changing seasons keep them from pursuing their passion. It's a celebration of the enduring allure of the mountains, the snow, and the thrill of carving turns, even when the rest of the world is savoring the summer sun. For those who have experienced it, skiing on Mount Hood in July is a timeless adventure that reminds us that the mountains will always be there, waiting for those who seek to conquer them, regardless of the calendar date.

In the heart of summer, on the slopes of Mount Hood, these intrepid skiers remind us that the pursuit of adventure knows no bounds and that, sometimes, the most unexpected places offer the most extraordinary experiences.



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A large, scenic view of Mount Hood with a forest in the foreground. The mountain is covered in snow and has a few trees on its slopes. The foreground is a lush green field with many small flowers.

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Mt Hood in the Summer, showcasing the wildflowers and abundant sunny days



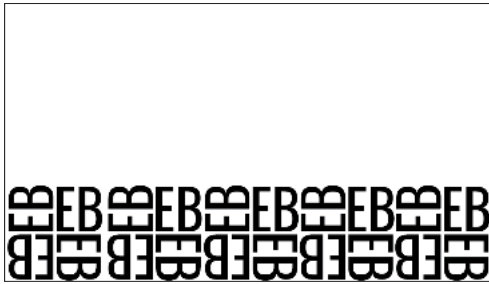
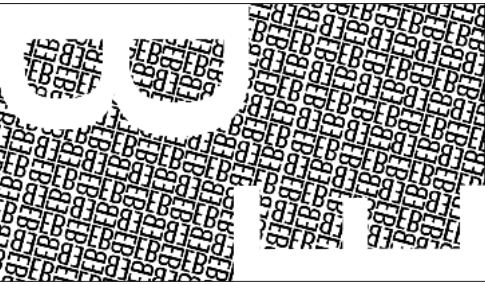
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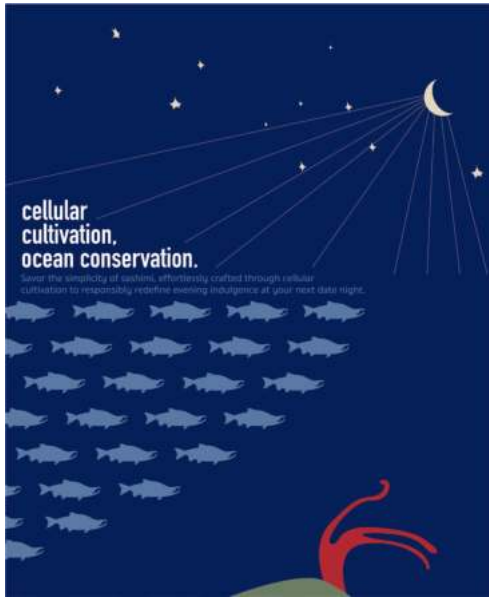
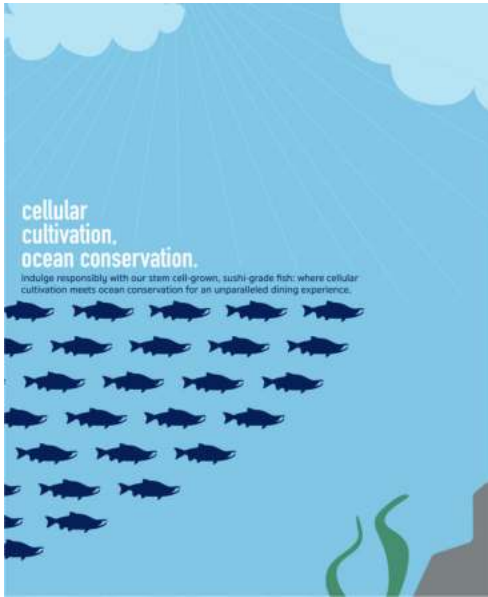
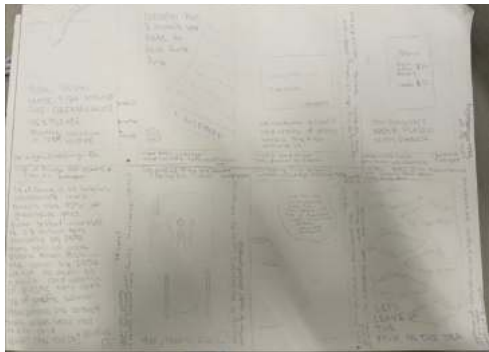
typography

This is a series of projects using my name and initials to reflect myself, first professionally then realistically. We iterated a variety of business card designs, then selected a couple final prints to make physical cards. We also cut letters, 6-8 inches tall, then typeset them to familiarize ourselves with different letterforms and serifs.



Climate Change Technology

I made a series of three 14x17 posters and social media posts to promote a climate change technology. Initially inspired by Wildtype, a company growing salmon from stem cells in San Diego, I researched the field, sketched and prototyped designs, then created this final collection over a three week process. Throughout the process the designs moved away from promoting the brand to promoting the technology and became more coheisve. As a class we discussed each of our collections weekly, learning from each others' successes and spaces for improvement.



LINKS & THINGS

my github: <https://github.com/ebruskii?tab=repositories>

my linkedin: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/elizabeth-bruski-47536120a/>

email: ebuski@stevens.edu

phone: 425.623.4023

The projects in this portfolio are further explained, with code, in those repositories.

I hope you enjoyed the most recent edition of my portfolio! This is a space for me to showcase my recent “softer”, uniquely creative skills that complement my technical programming skills and degree.
Website coming soon ;)

- liz