Web Design Reflection

Used Multiverse by HTML5 UP

<https://html5up.net/multiverse>

Changes:

Altered headers in html file

Altered body in html file

Deleted facebook/other social media site html objects

Added alt-text to pictures

Added links to social media accounts

Changed photos-resized to fit margins

Deleted Facebook, other social media site options and added links to mine

Changed the header in main.css at line 1399 to #8a8a8a;

Changed background in main.css at line 986 to #8a8a8a;

Changed font color in main.css at line 170 to #000000;

Changed font size in main.css at line 172 to pt. 17

Changed background color in main.css at line 1476 to #8a8a8a;

#Header nav> ul > li a. active

For my web design project, I proposed a profile gallery for everyone in the group. I used the website template “Multiverse” by HTML5 UP. I wanted to create a framework or basic concept of what I wanted my website pitch to be and explain my idea through the site. I selected “Multiverse” because it was minimal in design and was a good representation of what I would want the site to look like.

Initially I opened up the index.html file and changed all of lorem ipsum text templates to actual words whether they pertained to my project or to “empty text” placeholders instead. Next, I grabbed some pictures from my Google Photos cloud to insert as examples. I chose four pictures: a drawing, photo of my dog, a picture of a campfire, and a photo of me and my friends on Halloween. These pictures were supposed to be examples of things that you could post to your profile gallery. I had to edit the photos in preview to match the general dimensions of the template photos for them to display properly. I cropped them all and renamed them so that they would be recognized by the .html file. I left the “empty” template images in to keep the scrolling functionality of the site, which kept the bottom header and background stagnant while the images would scroll down.

The template site functions by clicking on the thumbnail of the picture, which will then bring up the full, higher resolution, uncropped image with a title and description. I used the description for each picture to describe what the hypothetical user could upload, what would normally go in the description, and the goals for the site. I wrote that the description would serve as a place to name the author and describe the photo.

The main focus for the site was for it to serve as a straightforward gallery and focus on aesthetic rather than number of features. I picked the template site because it was eye-pleasing and provided smooth and interactive navigation. If the group working on it wanted to be more ambitious we could maybe integrate a like/share option to each picture, tagging other profiles, and other features that are common to social media sites like Instagram.

The main drawback to using a template site was that I was completely unfamiliar with the organizational format of the .html and .css files. In order to find things like body color and font size I had to inspect the specific elements in the web browser to locate the specific line the code was on. Also the fact that editing major things in large .css files (the main .css file for this template was 1995 lines of code) often causes a cascading effect that can cause unintended changes and formatting errors. I tried adding a separate header and couldn’t get it to format in a way that it appeared in an aligned formation with the other headers.

In the .html file I altered the text and edited a few things in the “Pitch” portion of the website, which was accessed by clicking on pitch in the bottom right corner. This brought up a display over part of the site and included a description of how profiles on the site would function. There were options in the template to list social media sites with the icons present. I kept the Instagram, Github, and Twitter options and deleted the Facebook and other site options since I don’t have profiles for those sites. I went into the .html file and inserted a link to my profiles for Instagram, Github, and Twitter into the icon link so that if the user clicked on the appropriate icon they would be taken to my social media profile. On the right of the new display was a “send a message template” interface that allowed the user to input their information and press either the send or reset button. The send button didn’t have any functionality beyond refreshing the page. I thought this was really cool and interesting so I left it in the template. I also edited the alt text of the images to a more in depth description that differed from the title as per described by the reading we looked at earlier.

In the .css file I altered the background colors of the site from a darker bluish-gray to a lighter shade of grey. I decided on this color by using the technique of bringing up the color wheel in the browser inspector showed to us by Professor Miller. I had to do this at line 986, 1399, and 1476 because the site had different colors depending on whether certain elements in the code were active or not. I also changed the font color on the secondary display of the site to dark gray from its original lighter color to better contrast with the background. Otherwise, I was already happy with the style of the font and general layout of the headers.

The process of coding html and css were all completely new to me. They differ greatly from java coding, which even then I had little to no experience coding as I’m just now taking an intro to programming course. The tutorial was clear and using examples helped greatly with the learning process. In hindsight I wish I didn’t use a template because of how confusing and overwhelming it can be. I accomplished my goal of presenting a framework for a gallery that resembled what the final product would look like but I kind of wanted more control over what the site looked like without having to change and worry about unintentionally compromising other parts.