

# Estée Goel - Personal Portfolio

## Part 1:

The purpose of my website is to serve as a refined and creatively designed portfolio that showcases my design projects, while seamlessly integrating the essence of my 9-year journey in rowing. The website conveys not only my design work, but also explores the profound impact rowing has had on my life, encapsulating key values and lessons learned. What makes it interesting and engaging is the dynamic boat animation that scrolls up and down the pages, creating interactive "puddles of information." This unique feature captivates users while effectively communicating the desired information.

The target audience for the website includes colleagues and potential employers within the design and HCI industry. By infusing personal experiences and passions, the portfolio aims to connect on a deeper level, providing a holistic view of both my professional and personal identity. The use of a visually enticing color scheme, clear navigation through scrolling puddles, and clickable icons enhances user experience, making the website not only informative but also visually appealing. The design choices prioritize engagement, ensuring that users are not only presented with a static display of projects but are taken on an interactive journey through both my design work and the formative influence of rowing on my life.

## Part 2: *(this website should be tested on desktop & mobile phone)*

- Home Page
  - Scrolling Interaction:
    - Parallax scrolling for the boat animation on the homepage.
    - Navigate to the home page and scroll down to the bottom to see the boat + puddles animation
      - Scroll back up or up/down to play with the animation and the puddles fading in/out
  - Hover + Click:
    - Clickable elements for navigation placed within interactive puddles.
    - Hover over the "information puddles" to make them grow
    - Clicking anywhere on the puddle, or on the words inside them to navigate to the corresponding page
- About Page
  - Shadow:
    - Hover over either of the two buttons to see the shadow
  - Click:
    - Click on either of the two buttons to navigate to the corresponding page
- Design/Projects Page
  - Hover:

- Hover over any project image or project button to watch it grow in size and the button to have a shadow
      - Play around by moving the mouse over and around the page to watch the icons resize
  - Click:
    - Click anywhere on any project image or project button to navigate to the corresponding page
      - Some take you to my old portfolio, some are “under construction”
- Menu
  - Click:
    - Navigate to any page
    - Clicking on the social media icons take you to my LinkedIn or my Art Instagram
    - Clicking on the logo in the top left corner brings you back to the home page.

### **Part 3:**

I chose to use a custom JavaScript scroll animation to make the website more dynamic and engaging for users. Traditional scrolling can be static, and I wanted to add a visually interesting element that aligns with the rowing theme of the website. I thought an animation would be the best way to integrate rowing into my portfolio, as a lot of the sport relies on movement. This would also be understood by people who are less familiar with the sport, reducing any barriers that may have been incurred.

The scroll animation is applied on the home page, where the boat moves up and down the screen in response to the user's scroll. Additionally, as the boat “rows” down the page, puddles fade in, signifying the end of a “stroke” and allowing users to navigate and click on different pages within the portfolio. This feature adds a layer of interactivity, making the website stand out and providing a unique user experience. The animation serves as a pivotal element in the website's design strategy. By incorporating this dynamic feature, the website not only stands out from more static portfolios but also communicates the passion and creativity inherent in the designer's work. It offers users a unique journey through the content, hopefully creating a memorable and engaging experience. This plays a crucial role in reinforcing the thematic elements of rowing, making the website not just a portfolio but a narrative journey for the audience.

### **Part 4:**

After my final prototype in FP2, I made a few changes through the design and building processes. First, I got rid of the “fine art” page entirely, which then changed the homepage to only have 3 “puddles of information,” which made it cleaner and easier to read. I thought adding fine art would be an information overload, and as I continue to refine my portfolio I will look at

ways to integrate it. The about and design pages stayed mainly the same, and I chose to link my projects to my world portfolio for convenience, so I could focus on the other “bigger” aspects of the project.

After the showcase, some feedback was about improving color contrast, so I changed the background color to a darker blue, and changed it in all my imported and drawn images as well. I refined the design by working on making project images more uniform. I also began exploring the animation of the boat and considering alternative backgrounds for improved visual appeal. The feedback served as a valuable guide in making informed decisions during the implementation phase, ensuring that the final design not only aligns with my creative vision but also provides an engaging and accessible user experience.

## **Part 5:**

During the implementation of my website, I encountered challenges related to the animation of the boat, particularly in achieving the desired smooth and dynamic motion. Integrating interactive elements and ensuring consistent alignment across different projects posed additional difficulties. Addressing these challenges required a combination of experimenting with code, seeking assistance, and refining the design iteratively to achieve the desired user experience.

The process to animate the boat was a long one, marked by challenges in bounding its motion within the page and viewport. I also had to navigate issues with z-index to ensure proper layering and overcoming overlapping elements. To preserve the integrity of CSS hover and JavaScript functionalities, I had to strategically set pointer integrations to none, especially when dealing with transparent images. Adapting the color scheme based on feedback proved to be a nuanced task; while I initially favored the original palette, I recognized the importance of enhancing accessibility for individuals with colorblindness or other visual impairments. The ultimate hurdle in the implementation process was integrating the design seamlessly for mobile devices, demanding an extended effort to align every element effectively.

## Accessibility Check:

SummaryDetailsReferenceOrderStructureContrast

✖ 0  
Errors

🔴 0  
Contrast Errors

⚠ 4  
Alerts

✅ 5  
Features

🏠 3  
Structural Elements

📄 0  
ARIA

[View details >](#)

Congratulations! No errors were detected! Manual testing is still necessary to ensure compliance and optimal accessibility.

Click to go back, hold to see history1-23-4

SummaryDetailsReferenceOrderStructureContrast

✓ 1 X Link to PDF document

✓ 5 Features

✓ 1 X Alternative text

✓ 3 X Linked image with alternative text

✓ 1 X Language

✓ 3 Structural Elements

✓ 1 X Heading level 2

✓ 1 X Header

✓ 1 X Navigation

SummaryDetailsReferenceOrderStructureContrast

✖ 0  
Errors

🔴 0  
Contrast Errors

⚠ 16  
Alerts

✅ 13  
Features

🏠 3  
Structural Elements

📄 0  
ARIA

[View details >](#)

Congratulations! No errors were detected! Manual testing is still necessary to ensure compliance and optimal accessibility.

HomeDetailsReferenceOrderStructureContrast

✓ 12 X Redundant link

✓ 13 Features

✓ 12 X Linked image with alternative text

✓ 1 X Language

✓ 3 Structural Elements

✓ 1 X Heading level 2

✓ 1 X Header

✓ 1 X Navigation

SummaryDetailsReferenceOrderStructureContrast

✖ 0  
Errors

🔴 0  
Contrast Errors

⚠ 3  
Alerts

✅ 4  
Features

🏠 6  
Structural Elements

📄 0  
ARIA

[View details >](#)

Congratulations! No errors were detected! Manual testing is still necessary to ensure compliance and optimal accessibility.

Details

HomeDetailsReferenceOrderStructureContrast

✓ 3 Alerts

✓ 4 Features

✓ 6 Structural Elements