

05-430: Programming Usable Interfaces
050223
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Visible Mending: PUI Write-up

Purpose: My website is an educational tool aimed at helping demystify textile crafts, fabric restoration, and how these skills go hand in hand with sustainability and co-design practices. The target audience of my website is anyone interested in learning textile crafts, but especially those in my age range (18 through mid-20s). Crafting and DIY hobbies have gained more traction throughout the duration of the pandemic, but learning where and how to start often remains somewhat difficult for beginners. In my website, I convey reasons why I believe that textile restoration and fabric arts are not only fun, but worthwhile and valuable skills to pick up.

Site Interactions:

- I embedded a clickable quilt on the website's landing page that changes patterns when interacted with! (This can be seen on the right side within index.html)
- The user can orient themselves through the site utilizing the left side navigation bar. (All pages)

External Tools:

- I utilized an external JS library called p5. p5 is a creative coding library specifically made for artists to integrate code into their mediums and practices. I used to create a generative quilt block for the splash page. j5 helps add a layer of fun and interest to the site.

Prototype Iteration:

- While my core idea remained the same, I ended up switching around the topics discussed within the site and expanding or shortening them to create a more cohesive experience. My overall site layout didn't change much, but I did a lot of iterating on the quilt designs, how interactions should work, as well as how to functionally set up the split screen and cross navigation.
- My introduction page was originally supposed to be a collapsible button when I showed the site to other users, they felt it was too confusing to have it respond differently than the rest of the pages. Instead, I decided to utilize the right side of the screen and have it fade from the quilt block to regular text.

Screen Sizes:

- The main screen size utilized for my site is 1920x1080.

Challenges: The biggest challenges I faced while building my site were the generated quilt block and the implementation of the quilt block. While creating the clickable quilt block and learning p5 itself was largely trial and error, figuring out how to embed the quilt block and position it properly within the site was much more difficult. I often found that it behaved differently than expected

(background not rendering, showed a loading screen, would infinitely loop) or sometimes wouldn't even show up at all depending on its locale. I ended up creating a specific function in sketch.js solely to position the canvas.