ASSIGNMENT 8
IMPLEMENTING A WEB TOOL PROJECT
[City Gates of Beijing Second Ring Road]
(Final Project Pt.2)

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Part 1 Description of Website

1. **What is the purpose of your website?**
   The goal is to introduce the City Gates of Beijing.

2. **What information do you convey with your website?**
   From my website, the audience will be able to learn about certain joints (e.g. XIZHI Gate) and the things happened on the site of Gates after their destruction.

3. **How is it interesting and engaging?**
   The most interesting part is that audience is able to learn from an animation-based format. It is more vivid and efficient than reading pure text.

4. **Who is the target audience?**
   The target audience was supposed to be my classmates who are not from Beijing.

Part 2 Interaction of Website

1. **The interaction types you implemented**
   - Clicking
   - Hovering
   - Adjusting screen size
   - Switching across different devices (desktop/tablet/mobile)
   - Scrolling (when adapted to mobile view)

2. **How TA should reproduce**
   [Step 1] Watch
   From the Loading Page file, you will see "loading year 19XX".
   This is the entrance of interaction. Instead of saying "loading" with percentage process bar, I associate the process with "year" to indicate that my website is about the history.
   [Step 2] Watch
   On the same page, a logo of "City Gates of Beijing" with appear. Viewing in Chrome, you will see the icon comes first as outline then filled with color.
   [Step 3] Click
   Click on the icon to jump to the Main Page.
   [Step 4] Read, Hover and Click
   Now you are at the Main Page. On the top, brief introduction of Beijing City Gates appears in form of a typewriter style (one-by-one character).
   On the bottom, there are four City Gate joints in circles. Without hovering, they are displayed as lines.

Once hovered, the images will be switched into colored illustrations. They give the audience a clue of what this Gate joint is about, but not into detail. They need to click the button.

Please click on the first icon (XIZHI Gate) to next page.

[Step 5]
Once you click the first icon (XIZHI Gate) on previous page, you'll be guide to the XIZHI Gate introduction page.

First, please click on the years one by one to learn the story along the timeline. You will see the animation to show what happened to the site of Gate in different time spots. On the bottom of the images, a line of text will appear to let audience know specifically what is the change at that time.

Enjoy! And…
- You could click "restart" to refresh it into initial interface (none building).
- You could click "collage" to see all elements collaging together!
- You could click "back" to the previous page.

Part 3 External Tools

1. **Name of tools**
   I mainly used animation to implement my web design.

2. **Why you choose to use it?**
   The dominant reason is that I use dynamic images of the same scene to show the historical transition. Based on that, I chose animation because it works the best to guide my audience learn about the City Gates in an acceptable way. It's engaging, interesting.

3. **How you used it?**
   I tried different types of animation to achieve my ideal effects.
   - SVG
     I drew the logo in Illustrator, exported as SVG path and used JavaScript function to achieve this.

- Typewriter
  I used JavaScript function to achieve this.
- Illustration Animation
  I drew a low-fi draft of my idea, and used Illustrator to polish the design into vector form. Then I exported layers of elements into After Effect and did the animations (gif).

4. **What it adds to your website?**
   It makes my website a fun and engaging experience to navigate my website. It can give my audience a new perspective of the history of City Gates in Beijing.

Part 4 Iteration on HW7

1. **Bullet Point of Changes (required 2-4 sentences)**
   [change 1]
   In HW7, I told audience the story beginning from the current condition (the bridges of Beijing Second Ring Road); while in HW8 final design, I rephrased my storytelling so that my audience learn about the site from City Gates and then dive into the current condition.
   [change 2]
   In HW7, I used map (master plan) as reference of my content; while in HW8 final design, I'm using section drawing as reference of content to better demonstrate space and elements.
   [change 3]
   In HW7, the page structure was based on scrolling, which is good for mobile but not so well for desktop and tablet; in HW8 final design, I redesigned the overall layout structure to find a balance point across different platforms.
   [change 4]
   Based on TA's feedback (THANK YOU FANGLIN!) , I carefully rethink what is the main content I want to show my audience, or what is the point I want to deliver to them, instead of building a website to throw whatever I've done during my previous thesis project to my audience.

Part 5 Challenges in Implementing

1. I redesigned my website after coded for a while so that my storytelling method is most clear to my audience.

2. The design for SVG effect took relatively long work flow (Illustrator – SVG – html – JavaScript) so I spent a lot of time testing the effect to make it perfect.
3. To make my design responsive enough, I adjusted my design for rounds so that both mobile and desktop platform can have acceptable touch button and image display.
4. Finding out the proper JavaScript function for my expected effect is challenging at first.