2022

Final Report

GALWAY HANDYMAN

LIAM GREANEY

GMIT

4/23/2022

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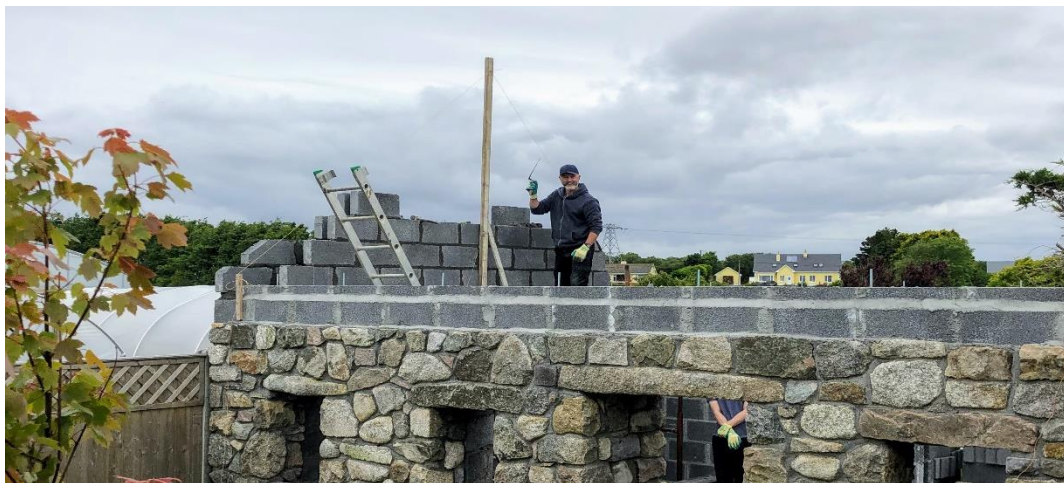
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1.0 Project Description

For my individual project I will be creating a website for my father's Handy Man business to advertise his skills and also gives interested customers the opportunity to both view his capabilities and the option to send him a request to get something of theirs fixed.

My father has been in this trade for a respectable 30+ years, getting jobs consistently due to the effort and output of his jobs. This has gained him the goodwill of the community and is often contacted by the use of word mouth advertising.

He has been in the business of Stone Masonry for 30+ plus years and has been moving into the Handy Man sector slowly as the Stone Masonry can be quite difficult physically. His experience in Handy Man work is unrivalled as he has many the positive feedback when working with estate contractors and the fact the family home is in tip top shape. (But the work there never ends as he says)

This Website would help spread his name in an industry he wishes to get started on independently instead of being a contractor to certain estate managements.

Customers who find his site will also be able to reach out to him via learning his phone number here and filling in the sites contact form. He can then view the contact form in the database and read up on his customers requests, which will help know more about specific jobs before calling the client and starting the job.

<h2 style="text-align: center;">1.1 – Content</h2>

The site went through a lot of changes from the prototype to the final version. I pretty much had to scrap everything because I felt like the design aspect I had before just wasn't up to standard or what was expected of me.

In the final version I created, I am much more proud of it. It could still use a lot of touch, but I feel it is appropriate enough as it stands.

Now into the site details:

- ❖ The Site has 4 pages, to keep things simple
- ❖ Each page carries the theme seen on the first page
- ❖ The colours are non-offensive and blend naturally
- ❖ The site contains a contact form
- ❖ Contact form uses PhpMyAdmin
- ❖ The site contains a gallery
- ❖ The about page shows past and present pictures of jobs
- ❖ The site has the standard navbar, content, and footer layout
- ❖ The site is hosted with GoDaddy
- ❖ Font choices remain the same between pages
- ❖ Each page is titled appropriately
- ❖ Each page features the Logo in the tab bar
- ❖ Most images on the site are modals which explain more when clicked
- ❖ The site uses Bootstrap Elements
- ❖ The site uses assets from FontAwesome for nice little icons
- ❖ The site is CSS ready, and the CSS is segmented by page order
- ❖ The HTML is human legible with comments and formal indentation
- ❖ The NavBar is sticky and follows the users scroll direction
- ❖ The NavBar consistently links to other desired pages
- ❖ Fonts are taken from GoogleFonts

The sites URL: http://www.galwaycityhandyman.com/

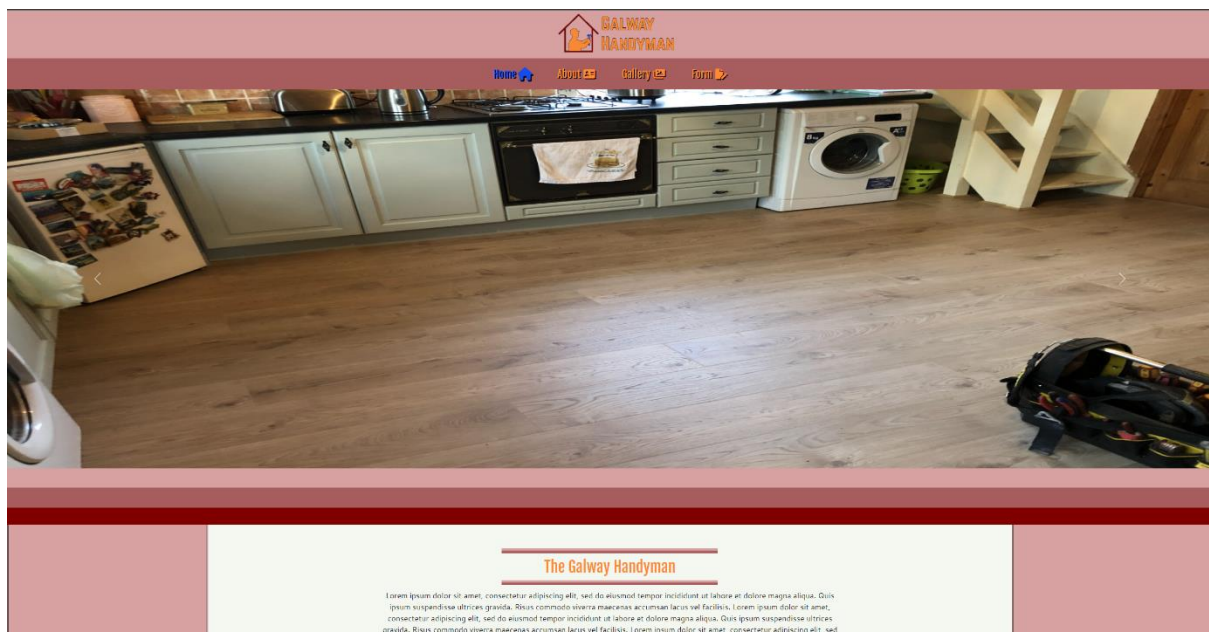Hosting Provide: https://www.godaddy.com/en-il
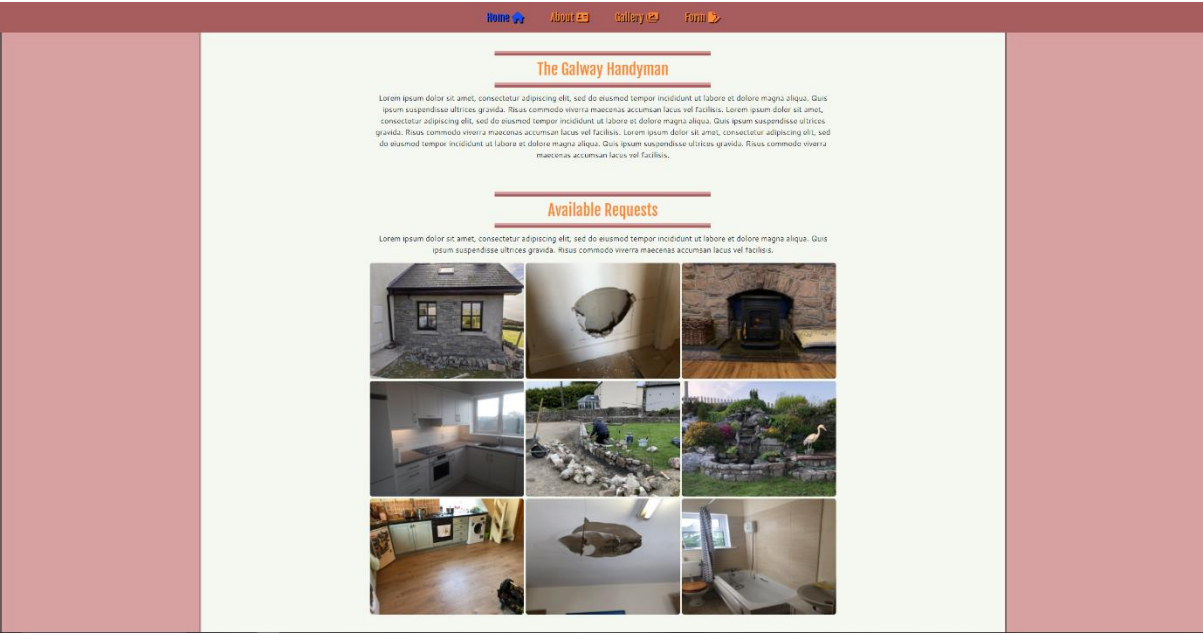
Database: PhpMyAdmin

1.2 – Home Page

The Home Page is what initially welcomes the user to the site. It shows off the header with its animated Logo and below it shows the NavBar which is colour coded by what page the user is currently on. It also uses assets from FontAwesome with its Icons. Whatever page the user is currently on, the font will "beat" like a heart.
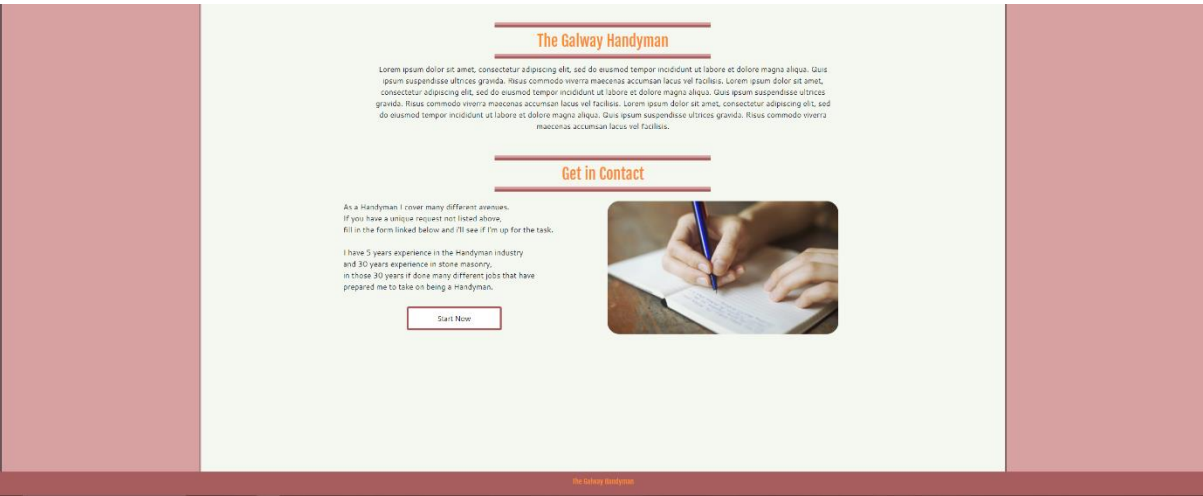

Below the header (that's featured on every page), is the carousel. It rotates through 3 previous jobs that my father has worked on. If I had to make any changes to would be to decrease by a little and maybe add borders to the sides so it wouldn't be as forced to stretch.

Below the carousel we have the main site content.

It details pieces of information about the business and shows which jobs are currently available. The pictures are all modals that show the name of the job when clicked on.
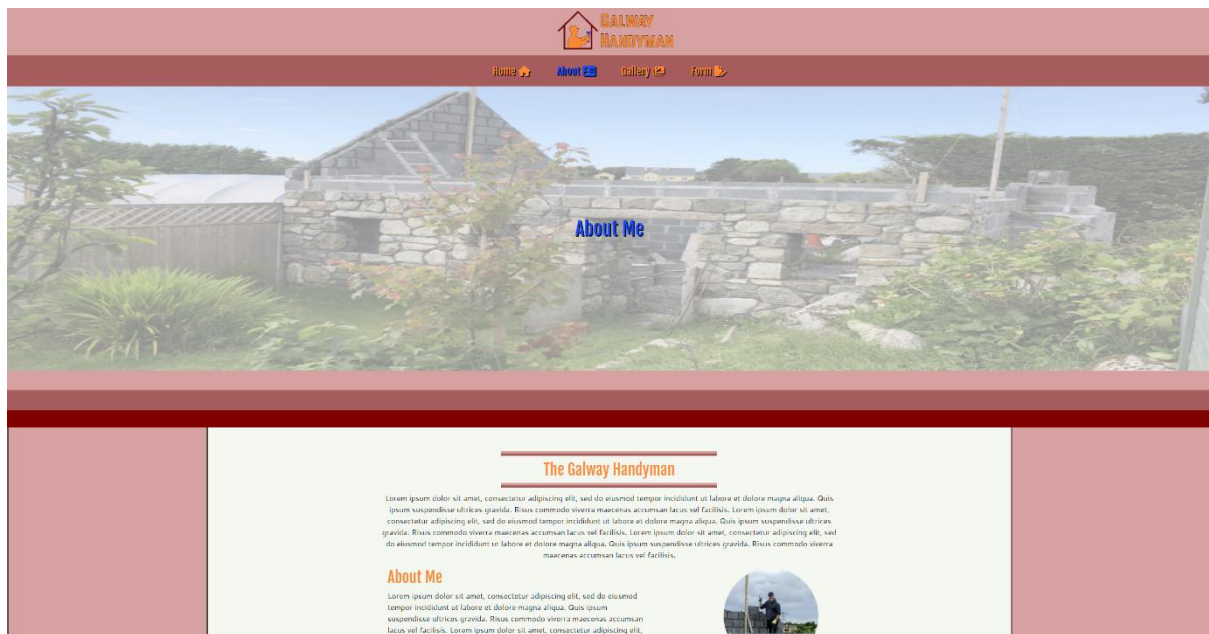

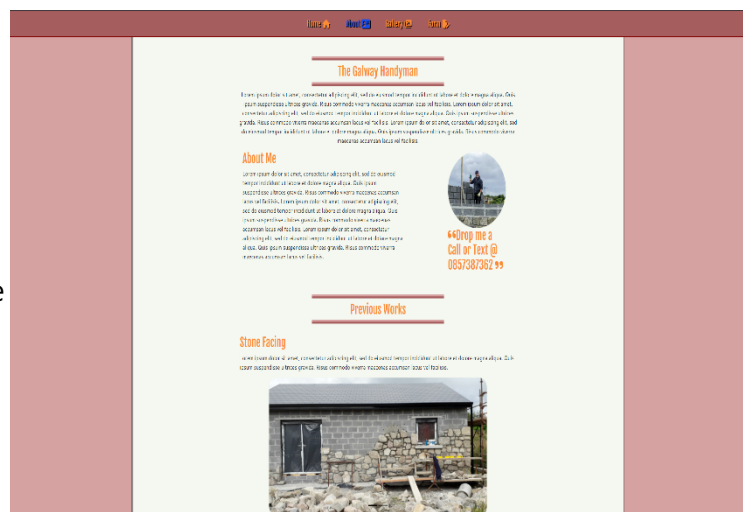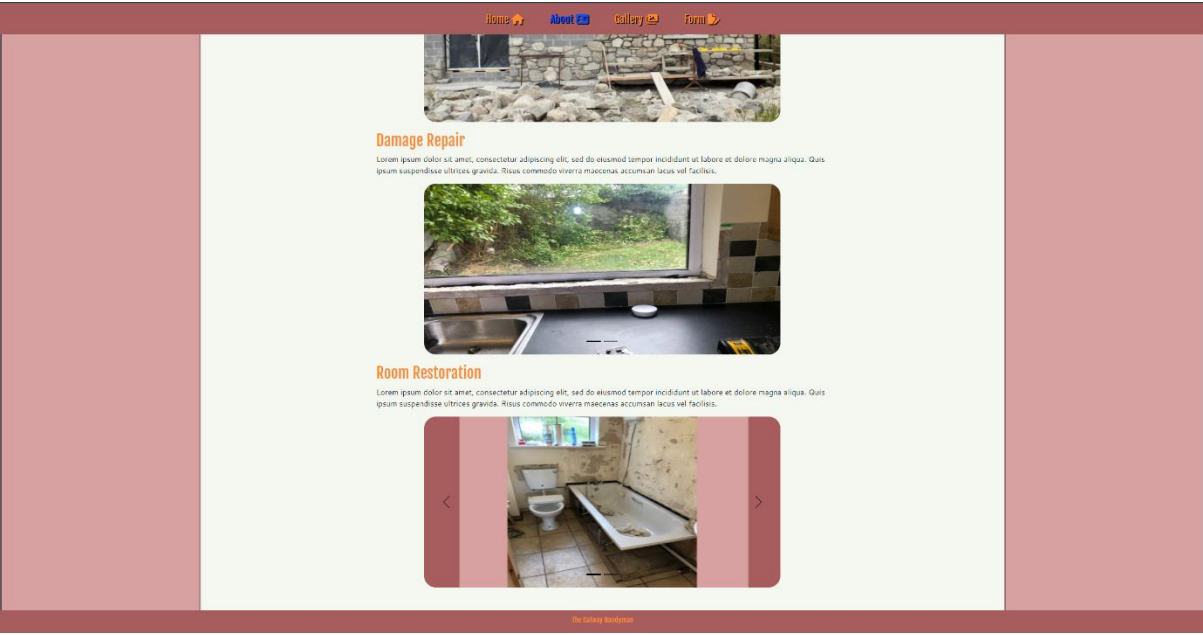Below again is another paragraph about the business and then a link to the contact form.

1.3 – About Page

The About Page (previously called Bio), details more information about my father and his experience. The page follows the same theme from the Home Page and to the rest of the pages. New to this page theme wise is the lack of the carousel and the new inclusion of a still image in place as a site header image. It's a low opacity white box with a picture behind it and with the Page name front and center.

Below the Header Image I Included a space for a block of text detailing my fathers experience and his expertise in certain areas.

Across from this block is an image of him at a job. Underneath that I included a quote with his phone number for any customers to make us of.

Moving on we have a section dedicated to showing of a select few of his previous works. This section details a bit about the job and then shows a before and after carousel so the customer can more easily understand his expertise and that they wont be disappointed by choosing him as their personal handyman.
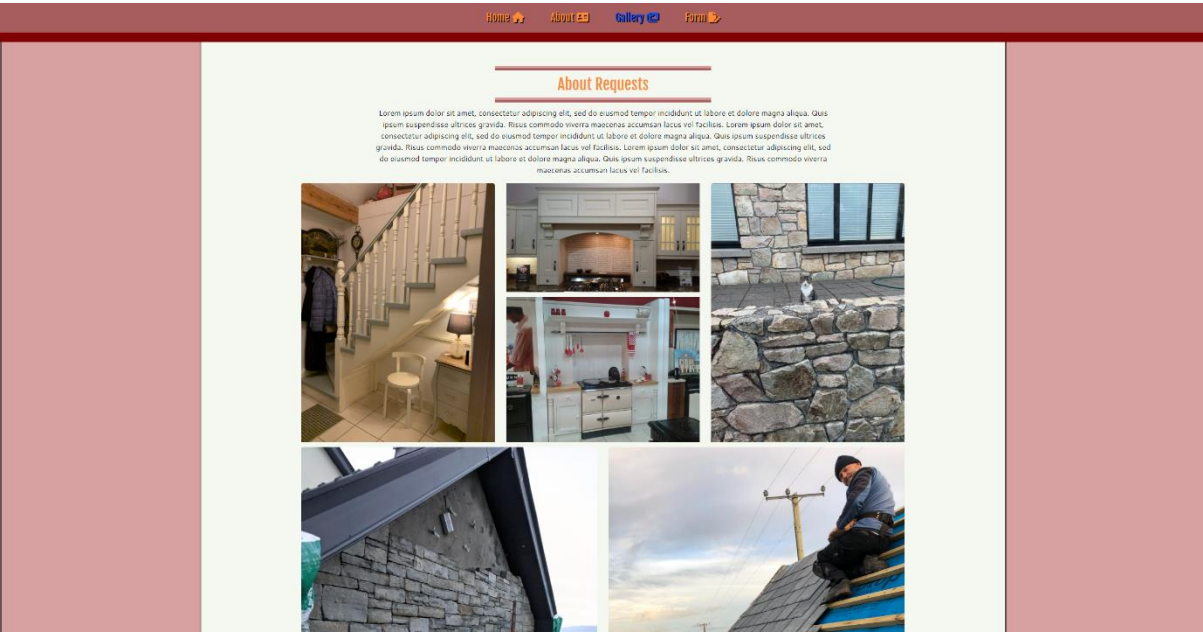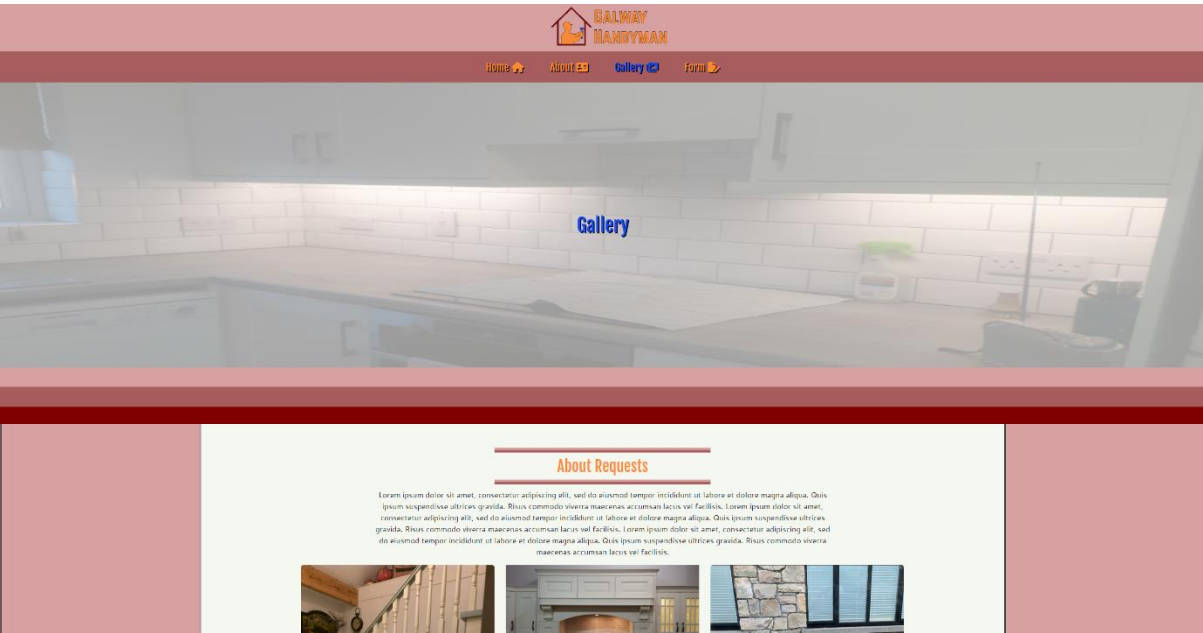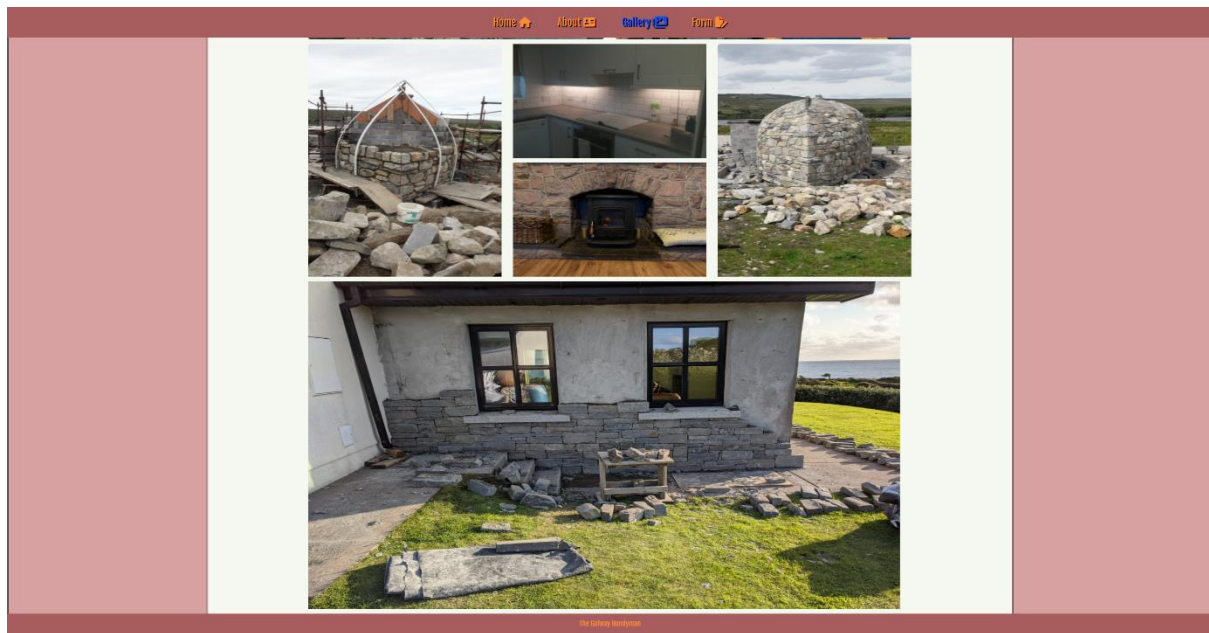
1.4 – Gallery Page

The Gallery Page features the same familiar themes from the previous pages, this cements the fact that the website has a recurring theme.
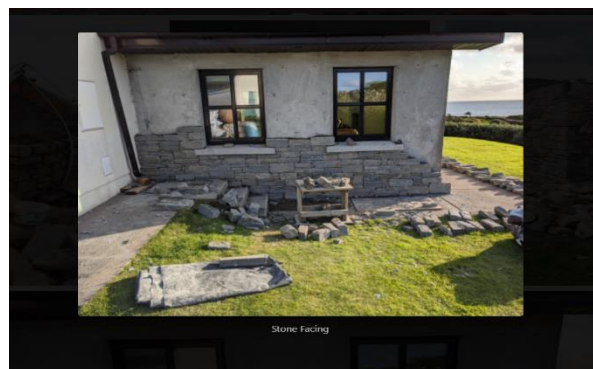
This page is all about showing works of his past, either in the process of being made or the complete work in a shot.

I made a simple row and columns layout in this. I'm pretty proud of the layout as it was surprisingly hard to implement. The one thing I couldn't quite edit was the image sizes, but I still feel the bigger images earn their place there and don't take up unwarranted space.
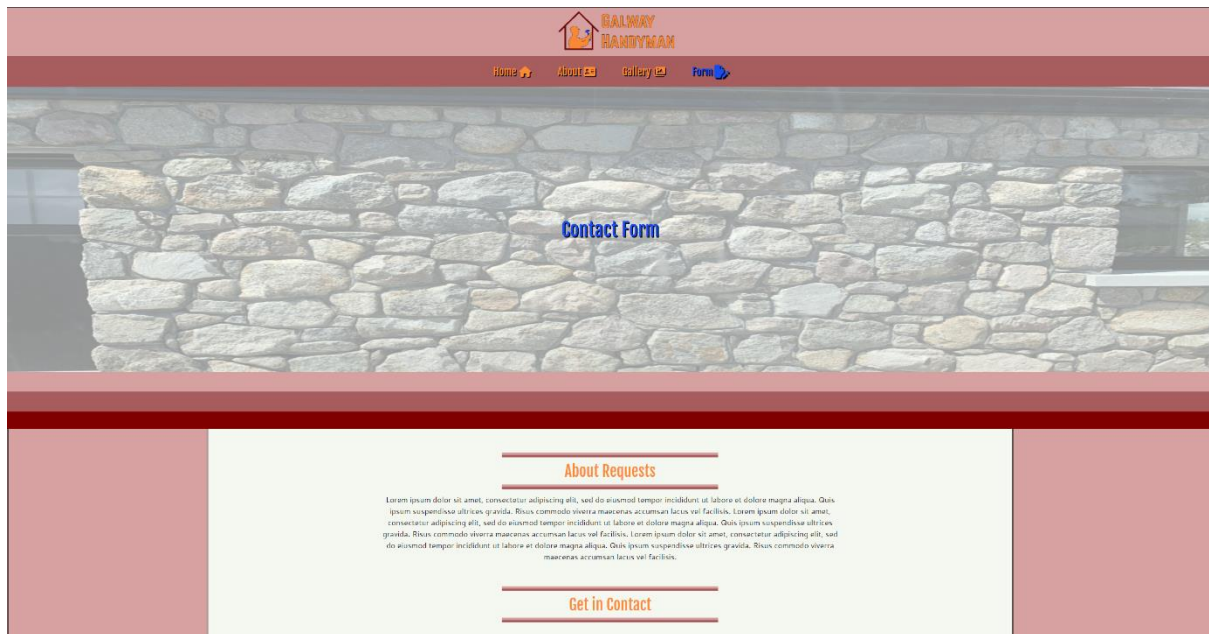
Each image here is a modal too, as first seen on the Home Page.

There were simply too many images to write text with so I couldn't feature much text inside the modals, but each modal does detail what the job is.
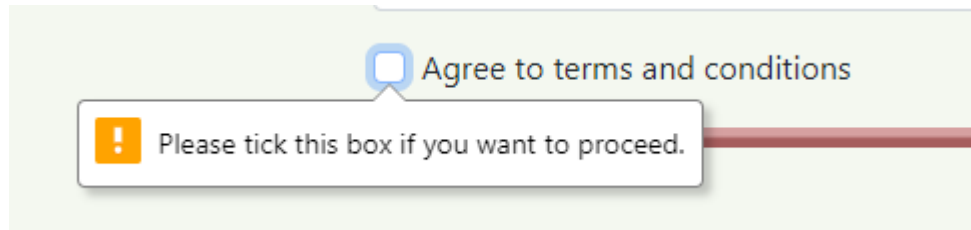
1.4 – Contact Page

The final page of the site is the Contact Page. This page of course retains the sites theme. The goal of this page is to inform the customer of the contact form process and then allow them to fill out the form if they so desire.

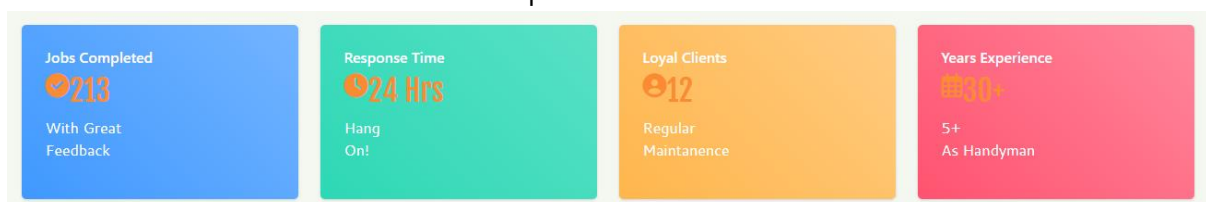The form takes in 10 inputs from the user:

#1: First name   **#5:** City   **#9:** Problem Description

#2: Last name   **#6:** State   **#10:** Terms & Conditions

#3: Phone Number   **#7:** Zip

#4: Address   **#8:** Problem Type

The form is also validated, this means the user needs to input information in each slot before they are able to submit. This helps stop any bloat and wasted information from coming into the system.

A helpful guide for the user is the Problem Type input box, this outlines all the available jobs my father is willing to do. If the user wants something different from this list of skills, they can choose Other and then use the Problem Description input box to write in their problem.

At the very bottom of the Contact Page the user can find 4 boxes which lists stats detailing my father experience in the business. These boxes can almost be like shopping aisle sweets, just when you're making your purchase (submit), you're more inclined to pick something else up. In this case it's being more sure about choosing Galway Handyman as you write up your details and seeing helpful stats which give good faith. These cards are all made with Bootstrap. I've referenced them below.
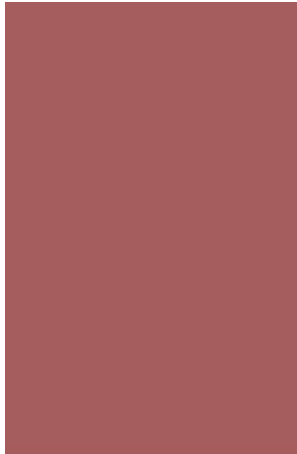
1.5 – Colour Scheme

The Colour Scheme of Galway Handyman is made up of 3 different colours. I felt these colours best shaped the brand and city they were mostly based in.
In execution I feel like they all came out very well and it's better than I previously had it for my Prototype.
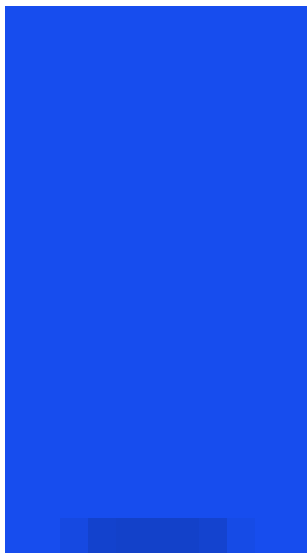
The Colours:

Maroon:

In my Prototype I used to feature a very harsh pure colour of Maroon, but for my final attempt I decided to soften down the colour and instead include different shades of it so the site would look less rigid and more welcoming.
The main factor behind the choosing of Maroon is that the are of course the Galway colours.
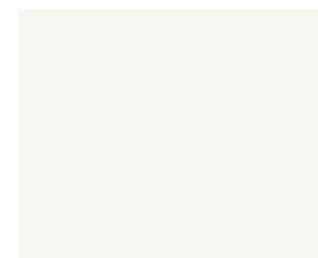
Blue and Orange:

These are colours I kept from my prototype as they were originally included inside my Logo. I used these colours because they are industrial colours often used in other Industrial businesses.
The thought process behind merging Maroon and these colours was to have the soft colours of Galway mixed with a familiar industrial colour scheme to know right away that this was a proper set up business.

While not particularly included in the colour scheme, I did paint the main page content a different colour of white.
I thought white was too harsh of a colour to blend with the soft Maroon borders so I thought this colour was the best shade to complement it.

1.6 – Logo

The Logo is largely unchanged from the Prototype in terms of design and idea.

In the final version I added animation to the arm and included the title of the company next to the shape.

I created this all in Photoshop.

For the animation I had the use the Photoshop timeline and keyframe the location of the arm hitting the wall and positioned away from the wall. These 2 keyframes allowed for a hitting action as seen on the site.

The shape of the man comes from a picture I took of my dad using a hammer against the wall with a hard hat on. I then brought this image into Photoshop and traced around the body with the paintbrush tool and the result can be seen here.
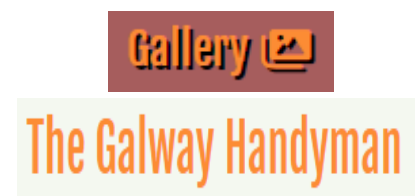
1.7 – Font Choices

I struggled to find a nice font combo, but found a nice one on Canva.

I used two fonts through out the entire site, those two were:

- ❖ Fjalla One
- ❖ Cantarell

I use Fjalla One for all the heading text on the site. A lot of text can look bad when scaled up and made bold, but this one maintained form and looked quite well.

My paragraph text was the Cantrell font.
I wanted one that was distinct from New Times Roman but also easily legible, I thought this was great for that.

2.0 Technologies and Software

As part of this project, I had to make use of a number of different technologies to create a great project.

These are all the technologies below that I made use off:

- ❖ Adobe Photoshop
- ❖ Notepad ++
- ❖ Wamp
- ❖ Web Hosting

Adobe Photoshop

I created my logo with the use of Photoshop.

It contains many tools which were useful for the logos creation.

An example of these tools would be shaping and drawing tools it offers, as well as the timeline feature for animation.
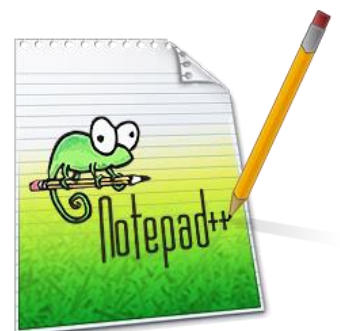
Wamp

While I'm new to Wamp and what it can offer, I managed to get a working database for the website.

With Wamp, I will be using Notepad ++ to edit PhP files to create a connection to Wamps localhost server on the provided Website Hosting service.

Notepad ++

This was an integral tool for this project as it made use of HTML, CSS, JavaScript, Bootstrap and PhP as Notepad ++ allowed me to edit each of these file types here.
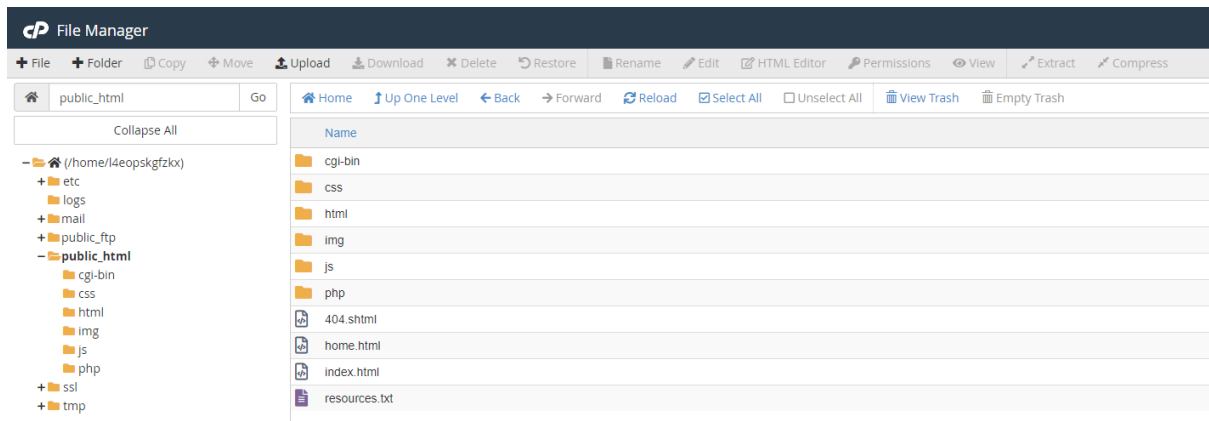
2.1 – Hosting Service

Go Daddy

Thankfully along the way I managed to get the hosting
service working. I was unsure which site to use as
I had previous experience with Reclaim Hosting, but
what turned me off was the extra fee to buy the
domain name + hosting rights.
My Father has already a domain registered under
"galwaycityhandyman.com" in GoDaddy so I tried
that site out. The site came equipped with databases
so I knew it would be a good choice to stay here. The downside was the cost.
For 1 month it costs €6, and the other option is either 1 Year – 2 Year subscriptions
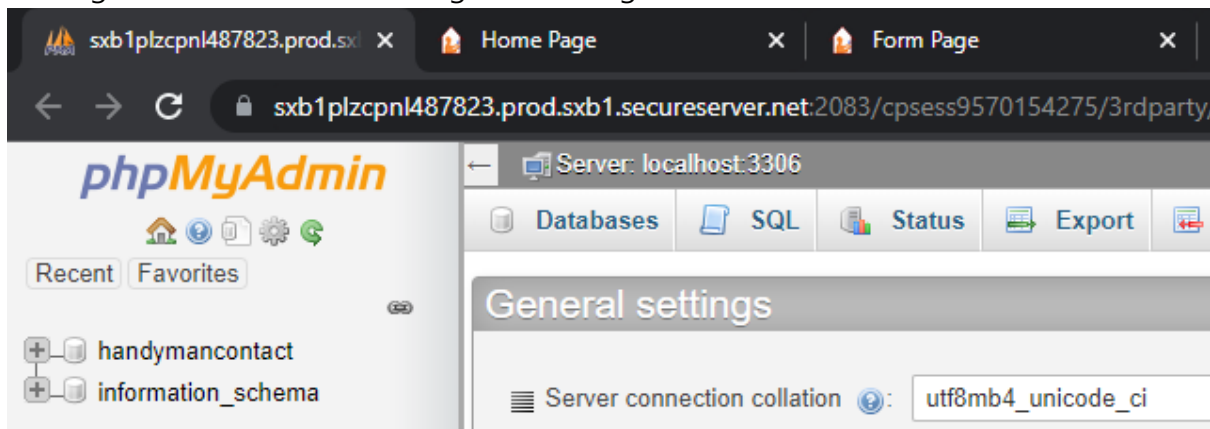which were very costly. I will try to find a cheaper hosting service in the future.

2.1 – Hosting Service

Hosting was a bit tricky to find as I needed a video to guide me in the right direction. Once I got the right idea it was very easy for any user to do. You just simply upload your files into the main HTML folder and make sure the home page is called index. From there on you can freely edit the files HTML and CSS and see the changes online instantly.

2.2 – Database Hosting

The site was already set up with PhpMyAdmin and SQL so all I had to do was follow a video guide to show me how to get it working.

This is the hosted database and can only be viewed here and not the typical way through WAMP.
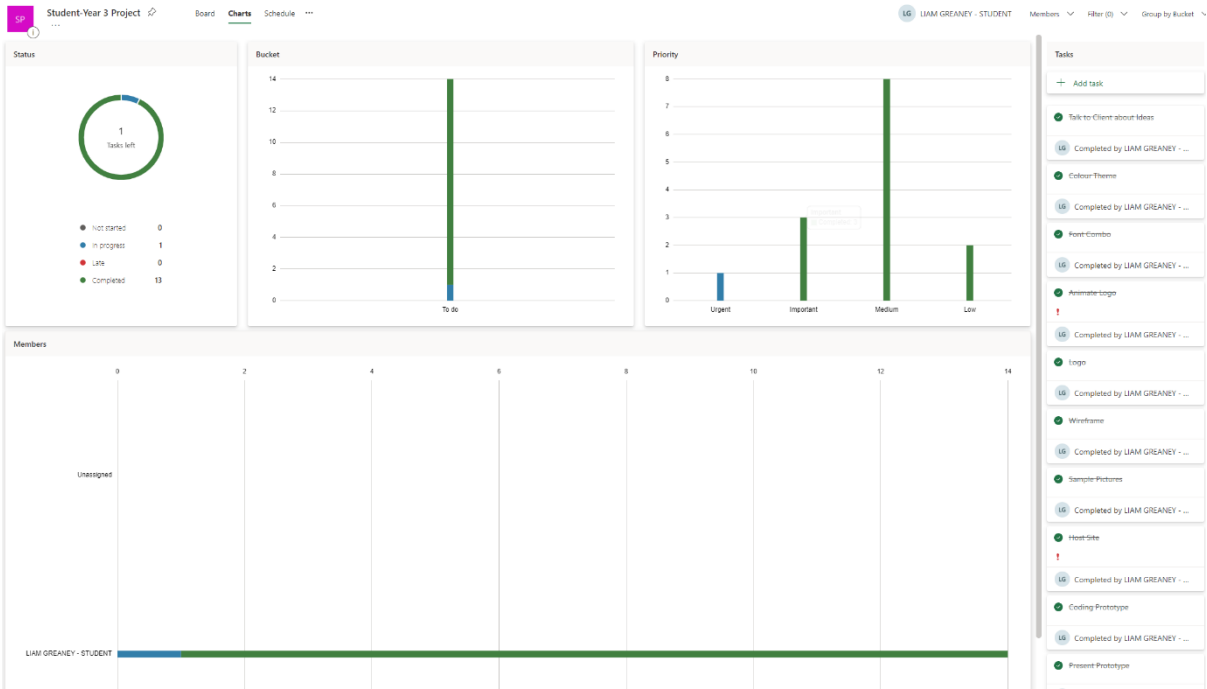

This is the working database table.

As you can see it took a lot of tinkering to finally get it working with a lot of test inputs. I initially had 8 tables but decided to add an extra one for a more clear user experience. That new table was PROBLEM_TYPE so they could freely list the problem instead of typing it out fully in the PROBLEM box.

3.0 Project Plan

For the project I found great use of Office 365's Planner tool.

It kept track of all my objectives, and it helped me make sure I was hitting my deadlines.

I like how clean and simple the software is. There's no clutter and you can easily see what needs to be done and also the simplicity of adding new tasks too.

4.0 Conclusion

Building webpages is very time consuming and often times frustrating when the thing that should be working isn't until the fortieth recheck. But while frustrating it is very rewarding and with each site you make you learn a lot more about the tools to create one and you also gain more confidence in your own skills too that lead to bigger and more ambitious projects.

There are a lot of things I'd like to change like some scaling issues and some more design elements but I'm content enough with it for now.
After my Prototype I feel like I came a long way. I redesigned the entire site after not feeling comfortable with it and now I'm proud of the site I've finished with.

This project gained me a lot of valuable experience and I'm excited to put that to work in future projects.

4.0 Conclusion

5.0 References

Border image (prototype):
https://www.pngwing.com/en/free-png-nhdvj

Circle image:
https://crop-circle.imageonline.co/

Modal image:
https://stackoverflow.com/questions/47798971/several-modal-images-on-page

Cards code:
https://www.bootdey.com/snippets/view/Gradients-dashboard-cards#html

Font Combos:
https://www.canva.com/learn/the-ultimate-guide-to-font-pairing/

Icons:
https://fontawesome.com/icons

Navbar:
https://www.codeply.com/p/P0KN7DNsEq

Godaddy guide:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rS3pTwsf130