Blanca Mendizabal Perello

I’m a full-stack software developer, currently focused on Ruby on Rails, Node and modern front-end technologies such as React. Enthusiastic learner, strong communicator, and reliable team player.

[+1 (206) 698 6782](tel:+12066986782) | [blanca.mendizabal.perello@gmail.com](mailto:blanca.mendizabal.perello@gmail.com) | [Blog](https://groundberry.github.io/) | [GitHub](https://github.com/groundberry) | [LinkedIn](https://uk.linkedin.com/in/blancamendi) | [Twitter](https://twitter.com/blanca_mendi)

## Skills

**Technical:** Front-end development (JavaScript, React) | Back-end development (Ruby, Ruby on Rails, Node.js) | Pair-programming | Test-driven development | Object-oriented design | Agile methodologies

**Behavioral:** Project management | Problem solving | Adaptability | Communication and collaboration | Empathy

## Experience

**Author** at [*Telerik blogs*](https://www.telerik.com/blogs/author/blanca-mendizabal-perello) Sep 2018 – Now

* Featured in popular weekly newsletters such as [React Status](https://react.statuscode.com/issues/110).

**Front-end Developer** at [*DevHub*](https://www.devhub.com) *(Seattle, US)* Oct 2017 – March 2018

* Fixed and updated the front-end testing framework to allow continuous integration using CircleCI.
* Built new features on the company’s main product according to client specifications.
* Refactored the main codebase, built using Backbone and CoffeeScript, splitting code that referred to different projects in order to make it cleaner and more readable to future developers.
* Improved internal documentation on front-end testing and workflow checklist for new hires.

**Sustainability Consultant** at [*Little Bee Community*](http://littlebeecommunity.com) *(London, UK)* Oct 2013 – Aug 2016

* Led a three-year-long project in Africa, defining weekly tasks and monthly milestones, as well as tracking and managing costs and suppliers ensuring goals were met on time and on budget.
* Co-designed and launched a hydroponic urban farm in London that reduced crop’s water needs by 90% and doubled its yield, gaining buy-in from a range of local stakeholders.
* Reported directly to the CEO, and managed and mentored a team of four interns.
* Played a lead role in developing impact frameworks and reports.

**Agricultural Engineer** at [*Battle McCarthy*](http://www.battlemccarthy.com) *(London, UK)* Jan 2013 – Oct 2013

* Led efforts to maximize food production using hydroponics.
* Taught myself Photoshop, InDesign, and Illustrator.
* Created appealing diagrams for shortlisted landscaping competitions and corporate materials.

**Environmental Engineer** at [*Aqualogy (AGBAR group)*](http://www.aqualogyuk.co.uk) *(Madrid, Spain)* Sep 2011 – Sep 2012

* Conducted compliance checks to enforce European laws regarding water treatment.
* Designed a working methodology for the analysis of biological quality parameters of Spanish rivers that ensured best practices on sample collection.

## Personal projects

These are some of my side projects. You can see more in my [Portfolio](https://groundberry.github.io/portfolio.html) page or my [GitHub](https://github.com/groundberry) profile.

[**Flashcards**](https://groundberry.github.io/flashcards-client/) – *React, Jest, Enzyme, Ruby on Rails, RSpec, GitHub OAuth, PostgreSQL* – 45 days

* A self-service tool for users to learn through spaced repetition.
* Once the user is authenticated, they are able to create, edit, and delete flashcards.
* I split the front-end logic into smaller, stateless, well-tested components.
* High test coverage helped keep complexity under control and implement bug-free logic.
* Having gained more than 40 users in the first month after being released, it had really good acceptance and received valuable feedback from real users.
* App: [groundberry.github.io/flashcards-client](https://groundberry.github.io/flashcards-client/)
* GitHub: [github.com/groundberry/flashcards-client](https://github.com/groundberry/flashcards-client)

[**CSS Playground**](https://css-play.herokuapp.com) – *React, Jest, Enzyme, HTML5, CSS3* – 10 days – Final project at Makers Academy

* A live-editing HTML and CSS tool built by a team of 4.
* Users with no coding experience can create basic website drafts, and download the code.
* Despite being my first time using React, I became productive after just one week.
* I played a key role making sure every member of the team felt heard and valued.
* App: [css-play.herokuapp.com](https://css-play.herokuapp.com/)
* GitHub: [github.com/groundberry/CSS-playground](https://github.com/groundberry/CSS-playground)

[**Flickr Gallery**](https://groundberry.github.io/flickr-client) – *React, Jest, Enzyme, Sinatra* – 5 days

* A SPA that retrieves images from the Flickr API so users can search for pictures.
* I built a small proxy using Sinatra, to deal with CORS and to avoid exposing API keys.
* Designed following a mobile-first approach, using media queries to display the images nicely as the size of the screen changes.
* App: [groundberry.github.io/flickr-client](https://groundberry.github.io/flickr-client/)
* GitHub: [github.com/groundberry/flickr-client](https://github.com/groundberry/flickr-client)

## Education

**Software Development Self-Training** Jan 2016 – Now

Self-directed study with online sources and textbooks focusing on:

* Single-page apps using React; APIs using Express, Sinatra, or Ruby on Rails; algorithms and data structures.

**Onsite Software Development Bootcamp** at [Makers Academy](http://www.makersacademy.com) *(London, UK)* Aug 2016 – Dec 2016

* Highly-selective 16-week full-time program where I demonstrated **hungry for learning** and **adaptability to high pressure situations**, being able to learn a new technology every week completing all the assignments with great feedback from my coach.
* During the course I showed excellent **communication and collaborative skills** by helping classmates with their assignments and questions. I also started my own blog, which I maintained weekly during the course and won the final competition.

**M.Sc. Environmental Engineering and Management** at [EOI Business School](http://www.eoi.es/portal/en) *(Madrid, Spain)* 2010 – 2011

**B.Sc Agricultural Engineering** at [Technical University of Madrid](http://www.upm.es/internacional) *(Madrid, Spain)* 2000 – 2008