# 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.

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## 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 that match their search.
* 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)

## 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 | Creativity

## Experience

**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, on a team of three landscape architects and one engineer.
* Taught myself Photoshop, InDesign, and Illustrator.
* Created appealing diagrams for shortlisted landscaping competitions and corporate marketing 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.

## Education

**Software Development Self-Training** Jan 2016 -- Ongoing

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 projects, including offering insights regarding libraries, JavaScript language quirks, and proper data flow. 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