

For Inspiration: <http://webdesignledger.com/inspiration/22-beautiful-portfolio-websites-to-inspire-you>

1. **Brainstorm a list of all of the types of content you'll need/want in your portfolio.** Using what you learned in your own research and the best-practices guide developed by the class, sketch out a list of content you can imagine including in your portfolio. Do not overthink things at this point - consider it a freewrite, a braindump - just get things down on paper.
 - videos
 - travels
 - graphic designs
 - links to my DFA website
 - writing samples
 - resume
2. **Organize your content into related categories.** What content is related? What isn't? If you can group things, what are those groups called? Now that you've brainstormed all of the content you might want, collapse all of those things down into related categories and give them clear names
 - Profile (about me, travels, resume)
 - Projects (DFA, fitness, experiences)
 - Portfolio (graphic design, animation, videos, writing samples)

Examples of ways other people categorized: "team, works, services", "home, about me, portfolio, awards, contact", "work, notes, about, contact", "projects, profile, connect"

3. **Consider: how might a user navigate that content?** Develop a navigation scheme that will help users find content quickly and efficiently. Questions to consider: who are your users? What will they need? What will they want to see first? Again, think about the portfolios you saw and the best-practices guide.
 - Users: employers, people all looking at me from international spots, on campus
 - See first: I want the first page to be simple with a statement that says who I am, what I do, really ties in all the work I do into one defining statement. That statement that captures my passion and personality will allow people to understand me as they search my website for different experiences and skill sets
4. **Sketch out your site map.** Look at [MSU's sitemap](#), for an example. A good site map groups similar information and gives the most important content first. Obviously, your site map won't be as extensive, but be sure to explicitly name all types of content and organize into a hierarchy according to importance.
 - Site Map:
 - Profile
 - Who am I?
 - Values and how it drives my work
 - Resume
 - Major
 - Life map
 - New York City - SAI, Robert F. Wagner (artist/actress)
 - Michigan - cross country, Yearbook (athlete/designer/editor)
 - Haiti/ETS - (teacher, adventurer)

- MSU/DFA - (social designer, entrepreneur/athletic instructor)
 - Projects
 - “Where is the love?” teaching project
 - Design for America Michigan State University
 - The development and growth of a studio
 - SUN Cards
 - our first project
 - The Refugee Project
 - my first project as a team lead
 - Breast Cancer (Man to Man)
 - Leadership Studio
 - Cerebral Palsy
 - America Reads
 - Portfolio
 - Videos
 - Haiti 2013
 - Video for class freshman year
 - Animation Video
 - Writing Samples
 - creative writing pieces
 - Graphic Design
 - DFA’s website
 - DFA poster
 - Turbo Kick poster
5. **Sketch out your navigation.** Now it's time to explicitly name how your user will navigate your site. What are the top-level links users will utilize? Are there sub-pages? Which links come first, and why are they important?
- **Homepage:** Image background which has a bold word and sentence description of me on it. Along the side in a colored column there will be 3 clickable links: profile, projects, portfolio
 - **Link 1: Profile**
 - This page will be entirely scrollable. No links, more of just a map of who I am
 - **Link 2: Projects**
 - Projects will also be scrollable. It will have a very organized format. There will be images with titles and brief descriptions, length of time, etc
 - **Link 3: Portfolio**
 - Portfolio will have a scrollable very artistic format. Writing samples, videos, graphic designs will fit together like puzzle pieces and any of these pieces will be clickable to be more closely viewed
6. **Save Your sketches.** It's difficult to know if your sketches will be useful in the future, so it's a wise idea to save them. Take a picture with a camera phone, scan them, whatever will work for you. Your instructor will take photos if you need. Save the sketches to a service of your choosing (consider using Evernote and use tagging appropriately).
7. **Select a diagramming tool and make digital versions of your sketches** Pick from the tools presented in class (or another of your preference) and make digital, printable versions of your sitemap and navigation scheme. *Invest the time to make them look good* - think of these as possible items in your portfolios. Save your designs as PDFs when you're done.

8. **Write a brief explanation of your design decisions.** Being able to explain your choices is crucial - design cannot, by definition, be accidental. Briefly outline your decision making process (where did you go for inspiration, what examples helped you, etc.) and then give your rationale for the pages and organization you chose.
- Main goal in design of website: to be CLEAN, CLEAR, ATTRACTIVE
 - I wanted my first page to be simple but push to keep looking
 - I wanted my profile to be a kind of scrollable timeline to capture that WHO I AM is WHAT I'VE BEEN THROUGH and WHAT I DID WHEREVER I WENT
 - I wanted my projects to be clean, simple and to the point on one page so the viewer could see all of them and the diversity of what I've done
 - I wanted my portfolio to be scrambled once again for the diversity of it, in a way that projects excitement and inspiration by simply looking at it
 - I looked up example portfolio websites to get inspiration in design look-wise. I looked at my leader and mentor Julian Bongiorno's website to get inspiration on how to organize my site because we have similar experiences and things on our resume.
9. **Upload everything to Github.** Be sure to link to everything on your course page (photo sketches, sitemap, navigation, rationale). Use nested lists to group multiple links under your "Module 4" entry.