Bootstrap Portfolio Project Reflection

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I. <u>Introduction</u>

Upon the finalization of a website featuring five pages dedicated to a fine-dining catering company based out of Hawai'i, a themed layout highlighted with high-resolution backgrounds transitioning with parallax effects put supreme emphasis on the importance of presentation promoting a business that relies on a visually emphatic impression. The layout includes an aesthetic Home page including links to all other pages, a Menu page with affiliate links, a Gallery to post media, along with Reservation and Contact pages with submittal forms and calendar of upcoming events. The navigation bar collapses in small viewports for the home page and on all others opens a full-screen navigation modal when clicked. Footers on all pages include contact information, social media buttons, and finally a link to an external careers page for applicants wishing to join the company may apply.

II. <u>The Design & Implementation Process</u>

With the initial creation of a wireframe, the big picture was put into scope at the outset, aiding me with creating a structure supporting the overall theme that markets the business. There were certain components I desperately wanted to include and, looking back, was too stubborn to omit including a carousel at the head of the first page, floating cards for menus, a gallery laid out as a lightbox, and half page forms on the last two pages. I learned the following lessons that may help out future readers of this report:

- Utilizing 'cards' inside a 'carousel' can prevent images from resizing
- Removing and replacing elements with 'd-none/d-md-block/etc' can adjust the page in different viewports.
- Flexboxes can be placed withing flexboxes to adjust columns.
- Large media files drastically increase the loading time of the page.
- Some scripts can't be loaded if other scripts cause collisions.
- The parallax effect caused a white bar to show when nav bar was opened, so the creating of modals can really help take out components that are conflicting with others on the page.
- @mediaqueries are a great way of styling pages at different viewports.
- Using inline styles utilizing Sass/scss pages are versatile and update in real time when watching with npm.

Throughout the process, I adjusted the wireframe by removing many components in order to streamline the look and make it easier to resize in smaller viewports. Sometimes I had to add slightly different styles for height, width, color, and opacity for a variety of tags. It behooved myself to elect this type of project due to its focus on front-end presentation as it forced me to learn strictly Bootstrap and Sass without including more than one JavaScript function in the entire page. Below are a few screenshots displaying key components of the site:

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Contact Page with a form taking up half of the screen using div class="col-6"

A hover effect on a lightbox for the Gallery page that opens a carousel with captions
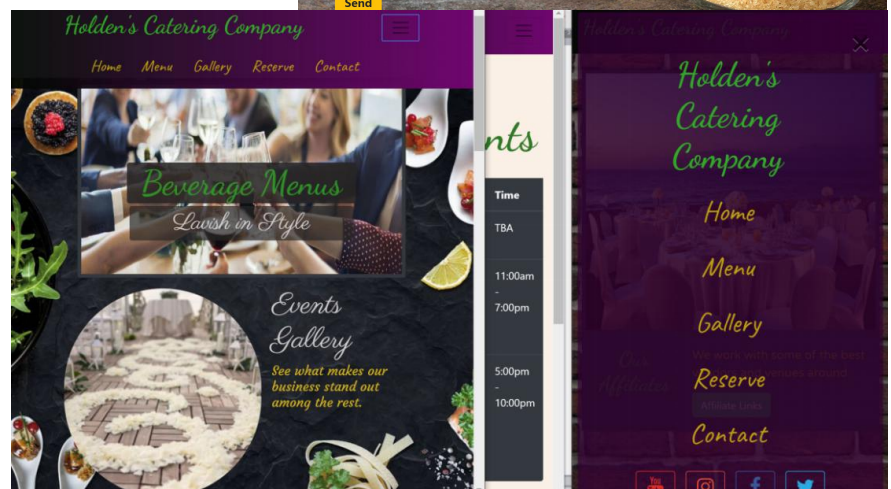
Navigation bar that collapses in md and up viewports and a sm/xs full-page modal navigation

Reservation form taking up half a page in lg and up viewports and a modal Reservation form for sm/xs viewports

III. Conclusion

Aside from the specific syntax and contextual lessons gained from the structuring and integration of Bootstrap components styled with Sass, intangible skills honed include researching valid and reliable sources displaying properly functioning documentation in an ever-changing digital world where new updates cause collisions and attributes are added and taken away in bulk.

Learning is the key to being able to master each facet of programming. Gaining skills can make programming a breeze for aspects one is comfortable with and can be met with challenging hours of problem-solving with new concepts. No matter what level, the more you are interested in it, the better you will get based upon the hours you put in.

I enjoyed this project but am aware of the very high potential for myself to become overly immersed in the stylistic portion as opposed to testing the loading speed (which was not quick due to the large number of media files embedded.) As a final thought, I am pleased with the process I took and the outcome of the page. I might have decided to add a color scheme to go along with the wireframe by choosing those from pages I like with a color picker.

My fellow peers and professors were indubitably catalysts towards enabling my vision to come to fruition upon the page, and with future lessons in React and Native, I see many more challenging successes laying on the path ahead.