

Prototype Project 5: Figma Interactive Prototype

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Introduction

This report documents the interactive mobile prototype of Align – Sacred Dating App, a platform designed to foster meaningful, spiritually aligned connections between individuals. The app's design combines astrology, spiritual practices, and relationship tools to create a holistic matchmaking experience. The prototype captures the end-to-end user journey, from discovery of potential matches to in-depth compatibility decoding, core profile customization, and in-app communication. Each section in this report describes the user flow, design elements, and functional considerations, with figure references to corresponding wireframes.

Selected Prototyping Tool: Figma

Figma is a widely adopted, cloud-based prototyping and interface design tool, known for its powerful collaborative features and responsive design capabilities. It excels in building detailed, interactive prototypes, particularly for responsive desktop and tablet experiences. Key features include:

- **Interactive Prototyping:** Supports clickable elements, transitions, animations, and advanced prototyping flows, enabling realistic simulations of user interactions and behaviors.
- **Cross-platform Accessibility:** As a web-based tool, Figma runs directly in the browser, allowing seamless collaboration across operating systems and devices without requiring software installation.
- **Vector Editing Tools:** Robust vector design capabilities support high-fidelity and scalable visual design, essential for crafting precise and engaging interface components.
- **Community and Plugin Ecosystem:** Figma boasts a vast and active community, along with a rich library of plugins and widgets that accelerate design workflows and foster experimentation.
- **Design Systems and Components:** Figma's reusable components, shared styles, and design system support enable consistency across projects, enhancing design scalability and team efficiency.
- **Real-time Collaboration:** Multiple users can collaborate simultaneously with live editing, inline commenting, and version history, making Figma particularly effective for distributed teams and agile workflows.
- **Responsive Design Features:** Figma supports constraints and auto layout features that allow designers to create responsive designs tailored to various screen sizes and resolutions, critical for desktop and tablet prototypes.

Figma was selected for this project due to its mature prototyping capabilities, cross-platform flexibility, and industry-leading real-time collaboration tools. These strengths make it particularly well-suited for creating complex and interactive virtual experiences that require rapid iteration and team input.

Selected Application: Align - Sacred Dating App

The Align – Sacred Dating App is designed to help individuals form deeper, spiritually aligned romantic connections. Unlike traditional dating apps that rely primarily on appearance-based swiping, Align

integrates astrology, virtues, personal archetypes, and reflective journaling to connect users on multiple compatibility dimensions.

Key tasks for the application include:

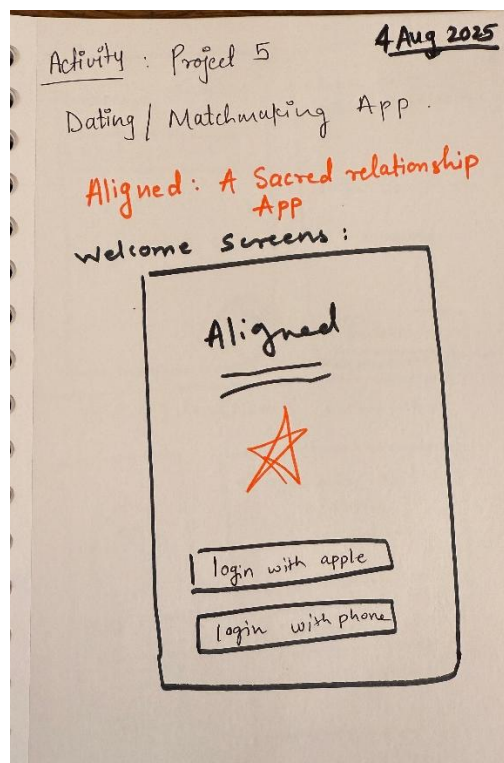
1. **A multi-step onboarding process to collect detailed preferences and virtues without overwhelming the user.**
2. **Tabbed profile navigation to organize rich compatibility data (Align, Astral, Reflect).**
3. **An integrated communication hub for ongoing conversations.**
4. **A Decode feature offering spiritual readings and compatibility reports, with free and premium tiers.**

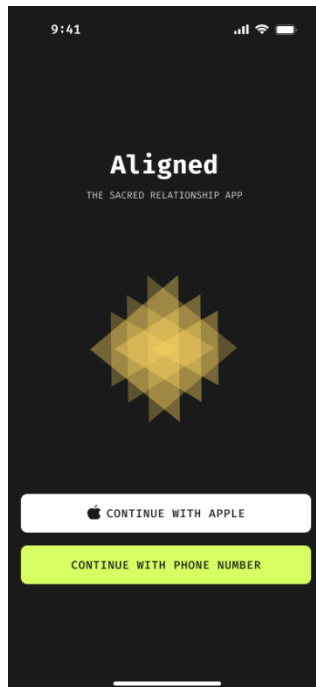
Prototype Link - [Figma Link](#)

Task 1 – Basic Search & Preferences

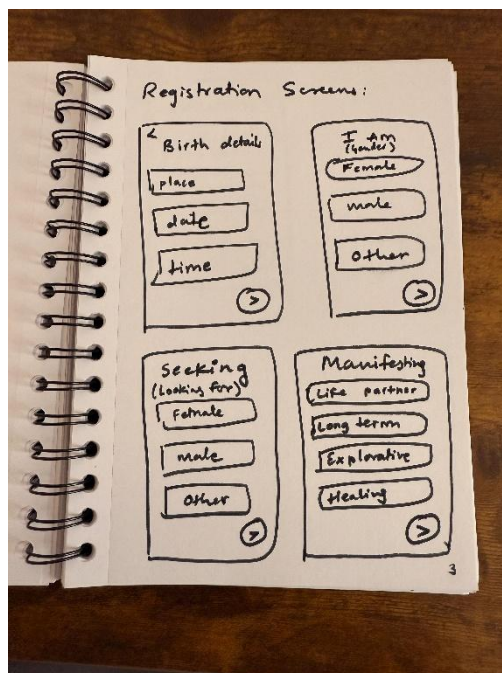
The onboarding and search preferences flow allows users to set their match parameters: age range, location, virtues, and core profile details. This process ensures that the match results are aligned not just with surface-level interests but also deeper values.

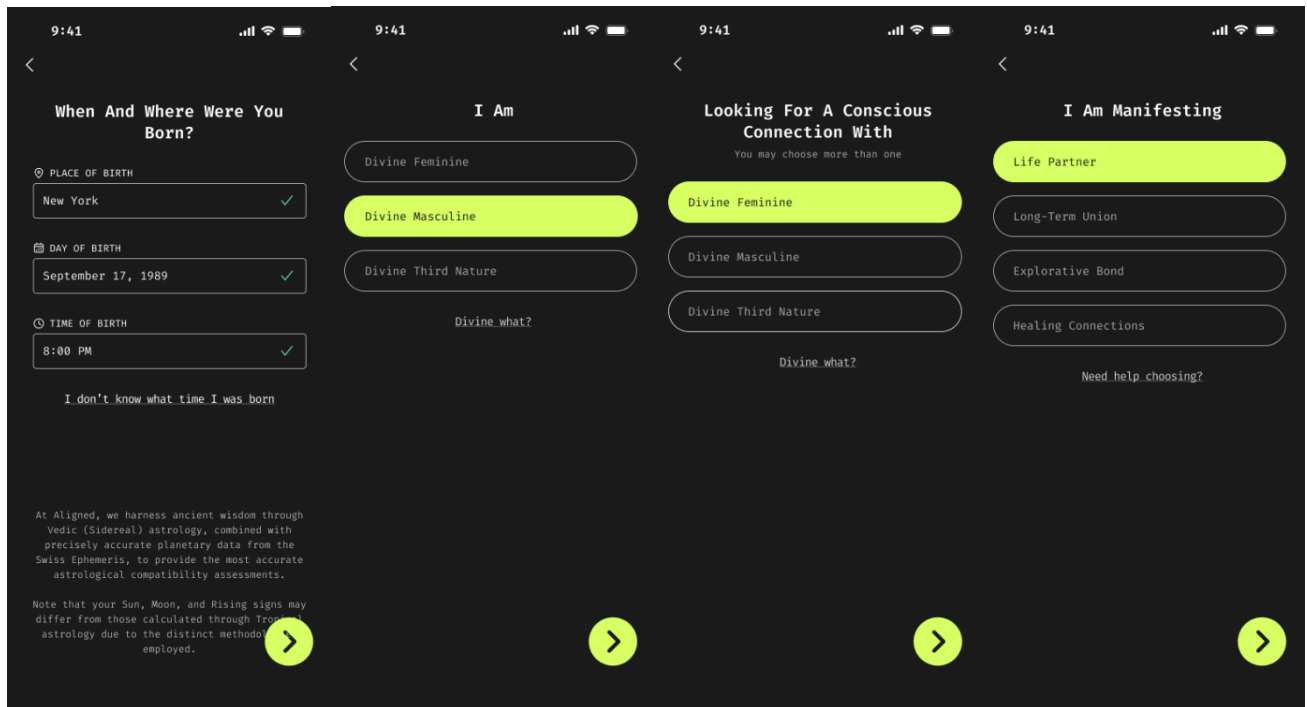
The below sketch shows wireframe and equivalent prototype of welcome/login page:



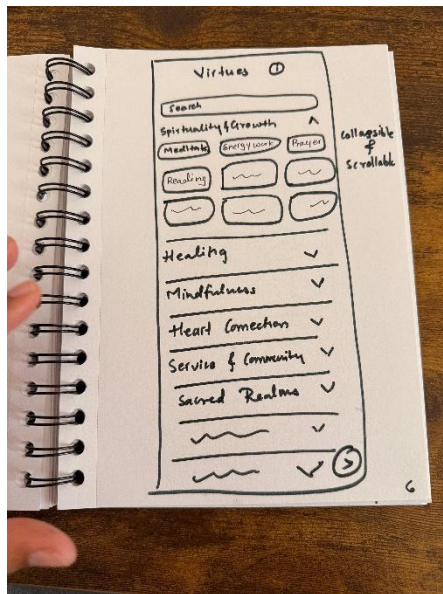


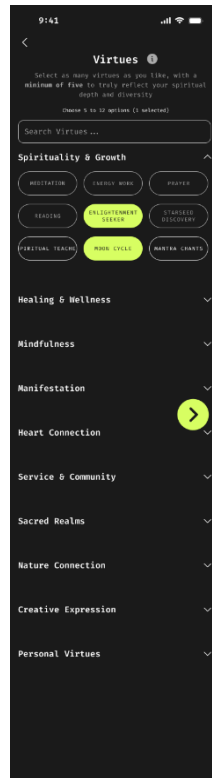
The below sketch shows wireframe of Registration Screen:



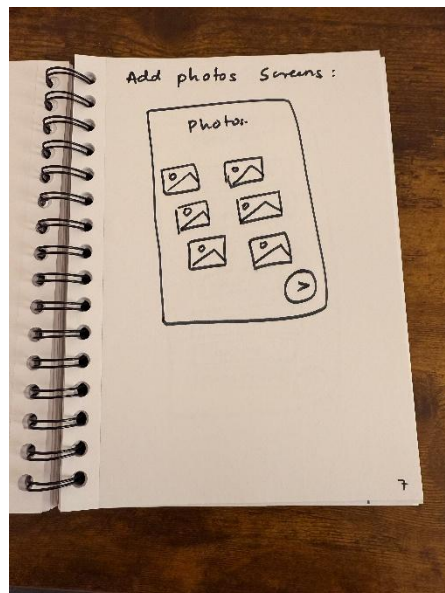


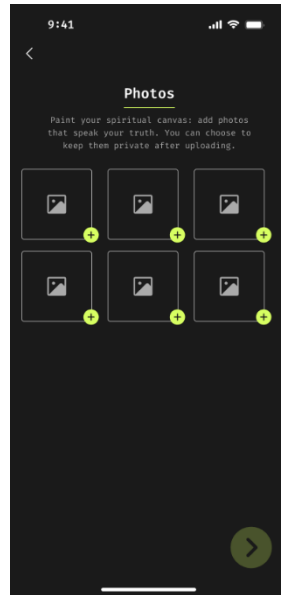
Below sketch shows the Virtues selection page:





The below sketch shows wireframe and equivalent prototype of Add Photos page:





Interactive Elements in this task:

- **Sliders** – Adjust age range dynamically for match preferences.
- **Checkboxes** – Select multiple virtues to define personal values.
- **Dropdown Menus** – Choose location and distance parameters.
- **Clickable Buttons** – Trigger actions like “Save Preferences” and “Search.”
- **Scroll View** – Browse through a list of search results.

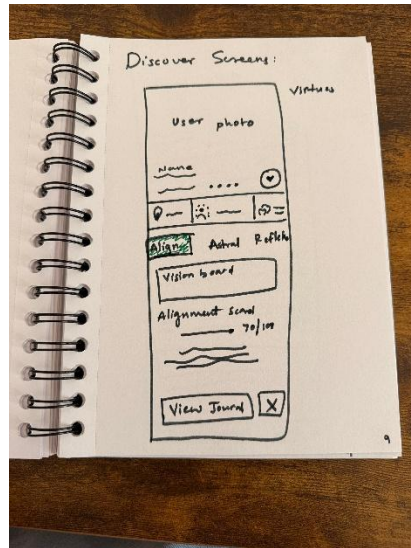
Design Patterns:

- **Onboarding Flow** – Guided step-by-step setup.
- **Form Layout** – Logical grouping of fields.
- **Collapsible Lists** – Reduces clutter in virtues selection.
- **Gallery Upload Grid** – Standard photo management UX.

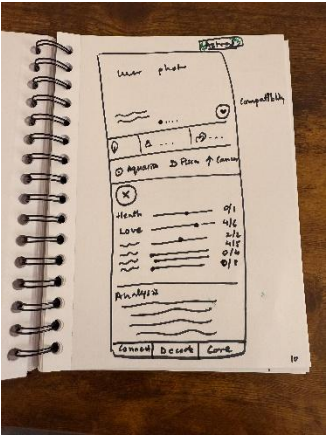
Task 2 – Detail Review & Rating

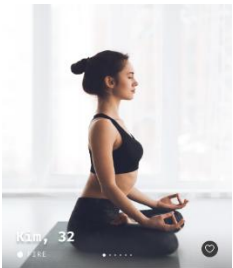
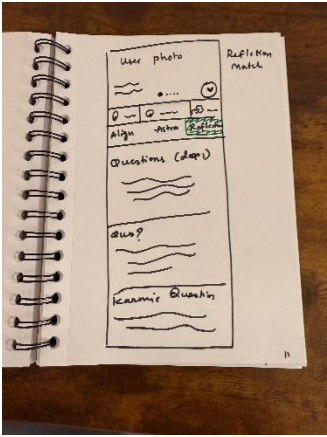
Users can view detailed match profiles, browse compatibility tabs (Astral, Reflect, Core), and rate matches using the “Like” or “Lotus” features.

The below sketch shows the wireframe & prototype of Discover Screen:



The below sketch shows wireframe and equivalent prototype of Profile Details.





Kim, 32
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Portland, OR | Divine Feminine | Sun Moon Unit

Alignment Astral Reflection

What do you believe is your core purpose, dharma, or calling, and kinds of partnerships would support your journey?

I believe my core purpose is to serve as a guide for wisdom, insight, and deeper understanding—helping others explore their own paths with clarity, curiosity, and authenticity. My dharma is rooted in communication, connection, and transformation, offering perspectives that inspire growth, self-awareness, and a greater sense of purpose.

The partnerships that would support my journey are those based on mutual inspiration, shared values, and a commitment to personal and collective evolution. Collaborations with seekers, thinkers, healers, and visionaries—people who are dedicated to truth, creativity, and conscious living—would amplify this purpose. Whether through meaningful conversations, co-creating knowledge, or exchanging ideas that challenge and expand perspectives, these connections would help me fulfill my calling in deeper and more impactful ways.

What would your ideal partner look like if you could manifest them?

If I could manifest my ideal partner, they would be someone who is kind, empathetic, and adventurous. I'd love for them to have a curious spirit, someone who enjoys exploring new ideas, places, and experiences. Physically, I'm drawn to someone who feels confident in themselves, but beyond looks, it's their energy and how they make me feel that matters the most.

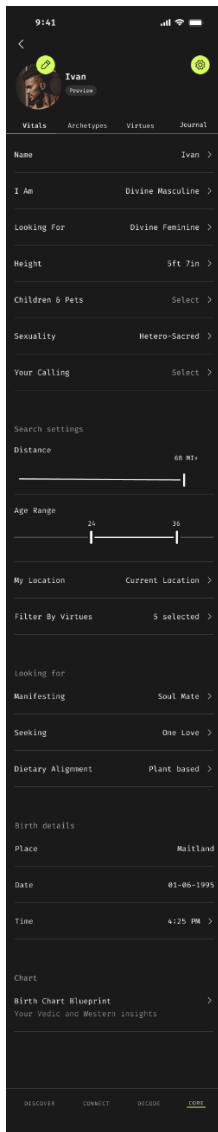
They'd also value deep conversations, but know how to be playful and light-hearted when the moment calls for it. Humor is key, so they'd have a great sense of humor and enjoy laughing with me. Trust, mutual respect, and an openness to grow together would be at the core of our relationship.

Overall, it's not just about physical attributes but about the connection and compatibility we'd share—someone who brings out the best in me, while I do the same for them.

Describe a dream or vision that had a significant spiritual or symbolic meaning for you.

I had a dream where I was walking through a foggy forest and came upon an ancient tree glowing with golden light. As I touched its bark, I felt an overwhelming sense of peace and connection, like I was linked to something greater than myself. The dream felt like a reminder to trust in the universe's guidance, even when the path isn't clear. It left me with a sense of inner strength and the importance of staying grounded during life's challenges.

DISCOVER CONNECT RECORD GROW



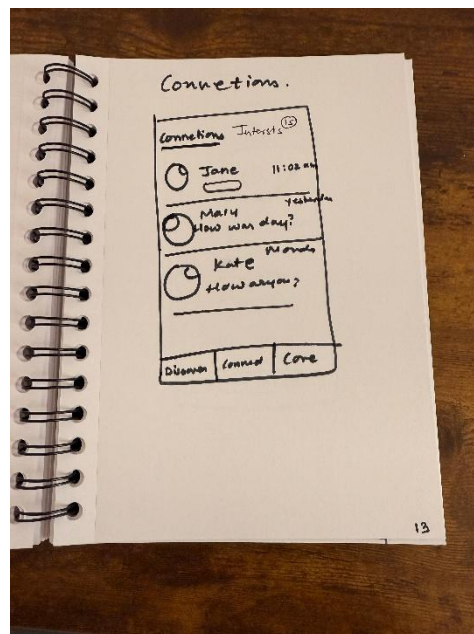
Interactive Elements in this task:

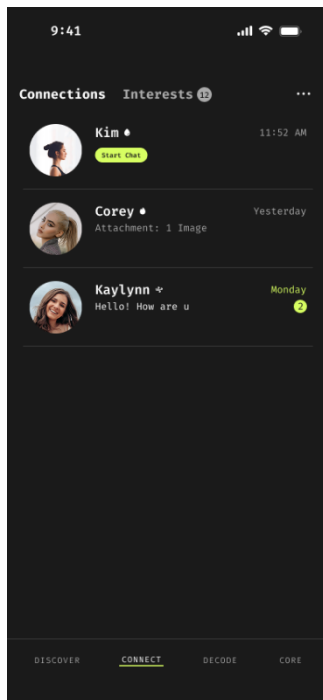
- ❑ **Swipe Gestures** – Intuitively rate profiles with left/right/up gestures for “No,” “Yes,” or “Maybe.”
- ❑ **Clickable Icons** – Alternative tap-based rating using heart, maybe, and cross icons.
- ❑ **Photo Carousel** – Swipe through multiple images within each profile.
- ❑ **Links** – Tap a profile card to open detailed view.
- ❑ **Scroll View** – Navigate vertically through full profile details.

Task 3 – Checking the upcoming events in calendar

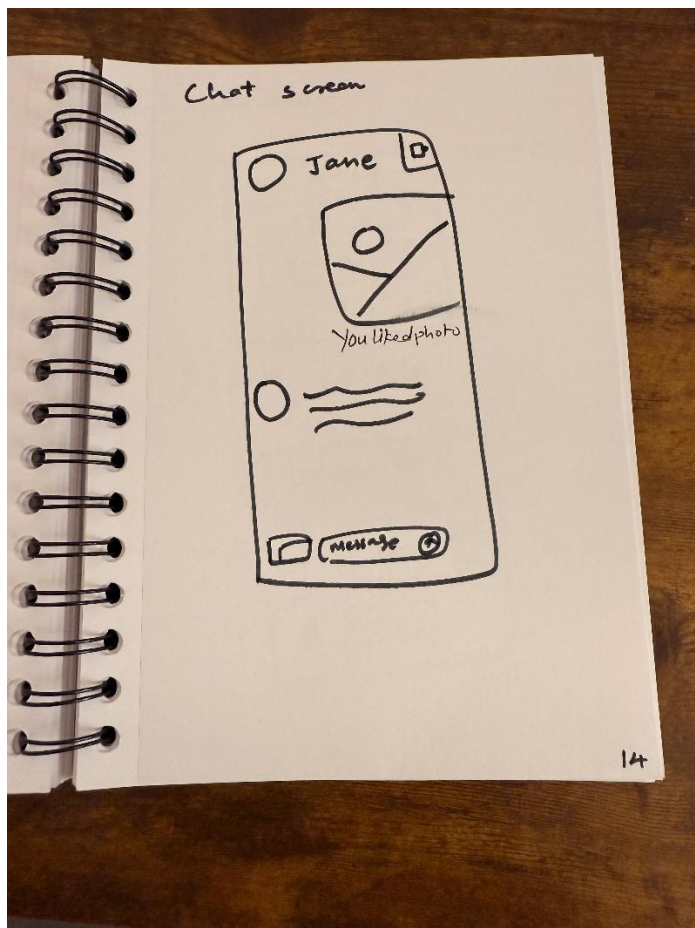
This feature allows users to communicate with their matches via text and video messages, manage conversation history, and unmatched or report users when needed.

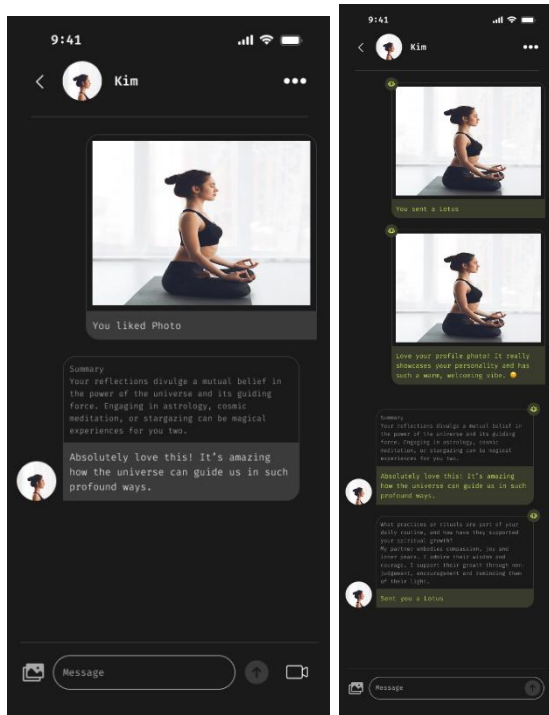
The below sketch shows wireframe and equivalent prototype of Connection Details.



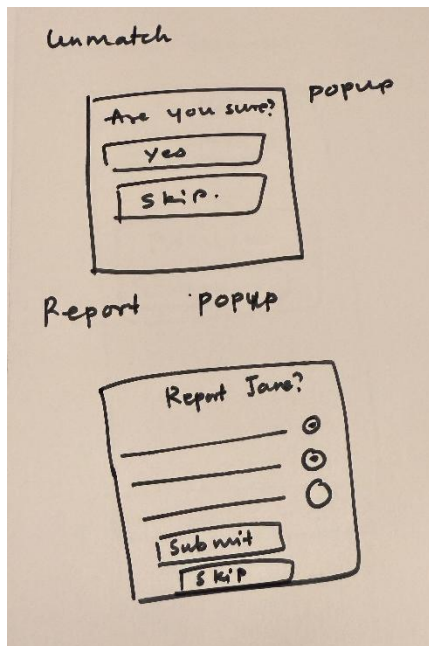


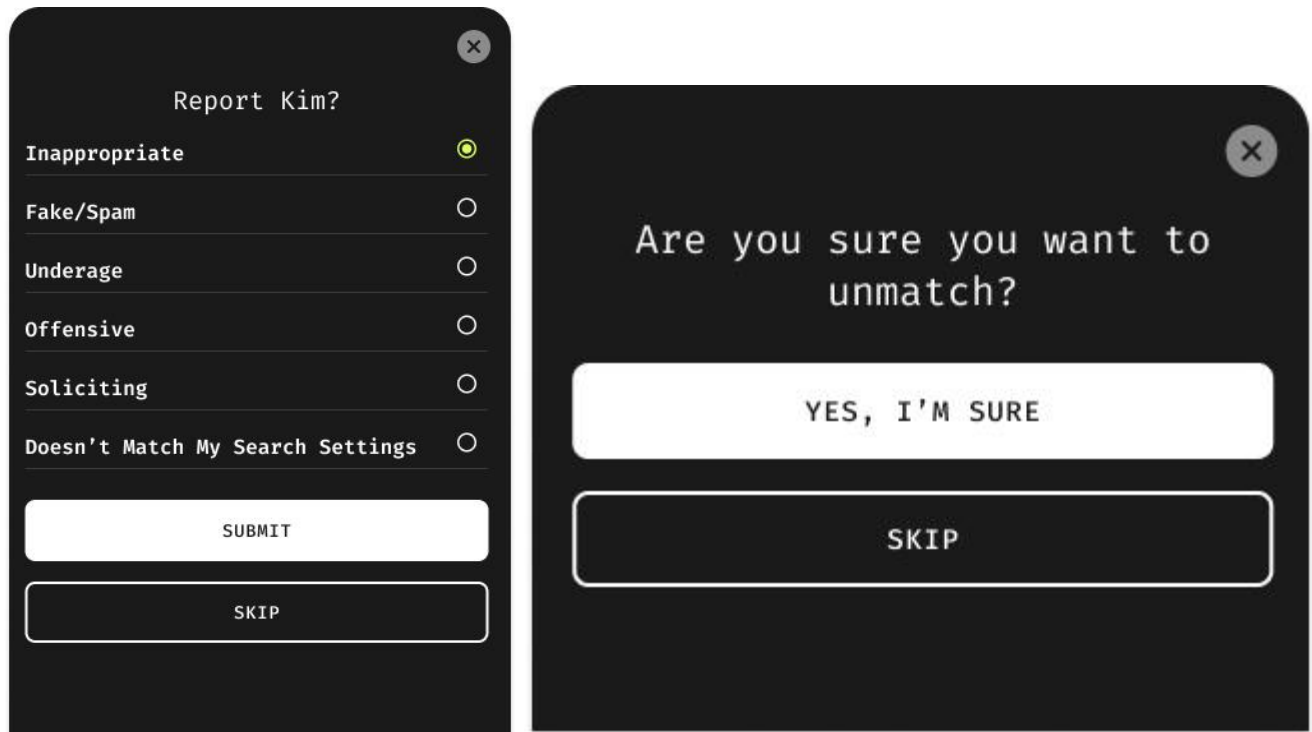
The below sketch shows wireframe and equivalent prototype of Chat Details.





The below sketch shows wireframe and equivalent prototype of Unmatch/Report Popup.





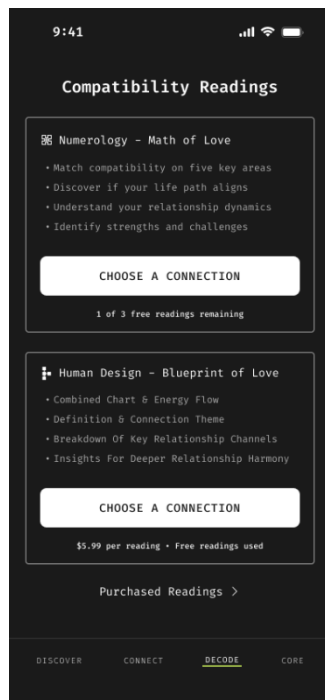
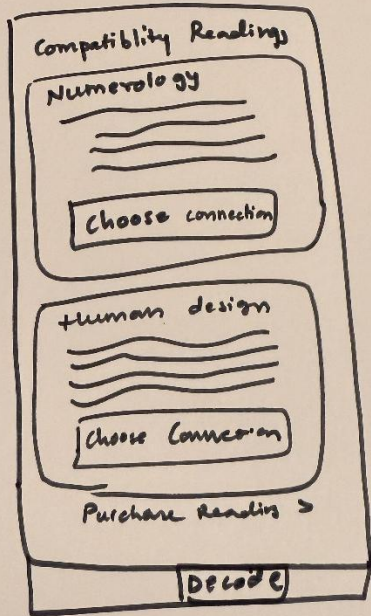
Interactive elements used in this task:

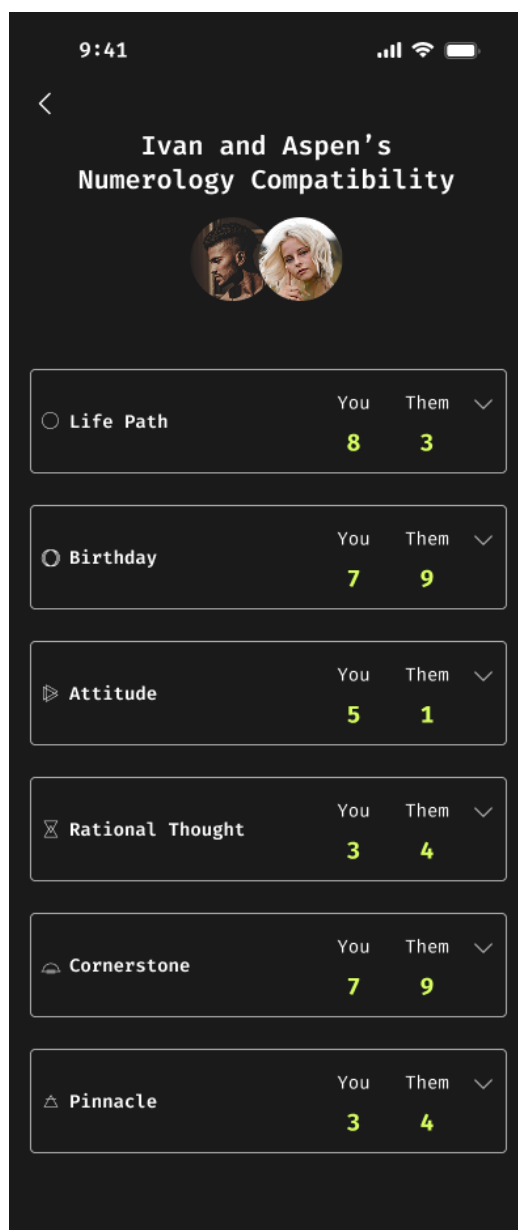
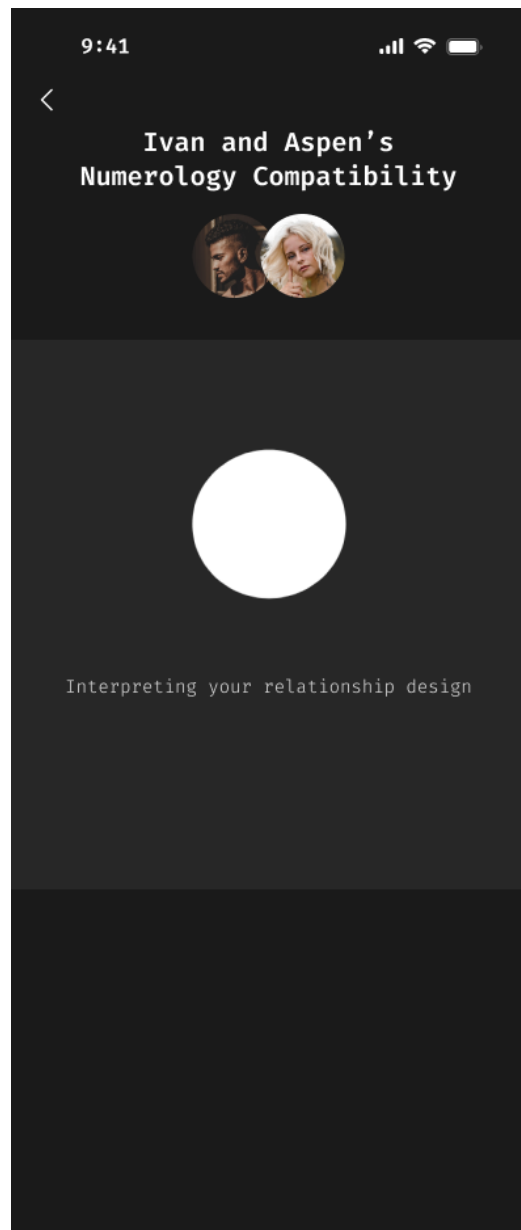
- ☐ **Text Input Box** – Compose and send text messages.
- ☐ **Clickable Icons** – Send button, video message icon, and media attachment icon.
- ☐ **Scrollable Chat History** – Review previous messages in an ongoing conversation.
- ☐ **Video Recording Trigger** – Tap icon to initiate a video message.
- ☐ **Links** – Navigate from a match profile to the chat interface directly.

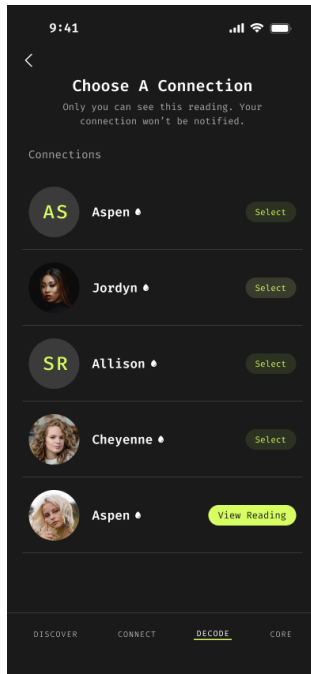
Task 4 – Decode

The “Decode” section provides compatibility readings through astrology, numerology, and human design. Users can access free readings or purchase premium ones for deeper insights.

Decode







Interactive elements used in this task:

- **Clickable Buttons** – Start quizzes and interact with the match.
- **Multiple Choice Selection** – Answer quiz questions by selecting one of several responses.
- **Progress Indicator** – Clickable arrows or dots to move between quiz questions.
- **Score Display** – View compatibility result in a card, clickable for deeper insights.
- **Links** – Return to chat after completing the quiz via a dedicated button.

Design Patterns

- **Onboarding Flow:** Guides users step-by-step through setup, reducing friction and ensuring completion.
- **Tabbed Navigation:** Allows users to switch between compatibility sections (e.g., Astral, Reflect, Core) without leaving the screen.
- **Dashboard View:** Presents an overview of available features or readings for easy discovery and access.
- **Progressive Disclosure:** Gradually reveals detailed content (e.g., compatibility insights) to prevent cognitive overload.
- **Card Layout:** Compact, swipeable cards for browsing match profiles.
- **Collapsible Lists:** Used for virtue selection to show more options while keeping the interface clean.
- **Filter/Search:** Dropdown and filtering mechanisms to refine selection (e.g., match or reading).
- **Form Layouts:** Clean and logical arrangement of text inputs, checkboxes, sliders, and radio buttons.

- **Action Buttons:** Consistently placed call-to-action buttons like “Like,” “Lotus,” “Start Reading,” and “Send.”
- **Confirmation Dialogs:** Protects users from unintended actions (e.g., unmatched or reporting).
- **Messaging Interface:** Familiar chat format with clear input and conversation history.
- **Gated Content:** Locks premium features behind paywalls with upgrade prompts, encouraging conversion.

User Study

Task 1: Basic Search & Preferences

Prompt given to users:

“Please set your match preferences by selecting your age range, location, and at least three virtues. Save your preferences and run a search to view potential matches.”

Feedback Summary:

- All participants easily located the preference settings and understood the virtue selection step.
- One user suggested adding preset quick filters (e.g., “Near Me” or “Most Compatible”) for faster setup.
- Both testers appreciated the slider for age range but mentioned they would like visual confirmation after saving preferences.
- Navigation from preferences to search results felt intuitive.

Task 2: Detail Review & Rating

Prompt given to users:

“Please browse through at least three match profiles, review their details, and use the Yes / Maybe / No rating options to respond.”

Feedback Summary:

- Users enjoyed the photo-first card layout; it felt modern and easy to scan.
- The swipe gesture for rating was discovered quickly and felt natural.
- One tester initially looked for a ‘Back’ button on the profile detail page instead of swiping back.
- Minor suggestion to add a visible rating confirmation after swiping or tapping Yes/No.

Task 3: Communication

Prompt given to users:

“Please send a text message to one of your matches, then try sending a short video message. Check the conversation history afterward.”

Feedback Summary:

- Participants could easily find the chat interface and start a conversation.
- The chat bubbles and send button placement were praised for thumb reach comfort.
- One user initially missed the video message icon because it blended with other media buttons.
- All users felt message delivery status indicators (e.g., sent/read) would improve clarity.

Task 4: Decode

Prompt given to users:

“Please start a quiz with one of your matches and answer at least two questions. Then view the match compatibility score from the quiz results.”

Feedback Summary:

- The quiz interface was considered fun and engaging.
- Both users liked the instant compatibility feedback after answering.
- One participant suggested a progress bar to show how many questions remain.
- Navigation back to chat after the quiz was smooth.

Lesson Learned: Throughout the project, we learned that clear, user-centered design is crucial even when introducing unique features. Users responded positively to familiar patterns like swipe gestures and tabbed layouts but needed additional guidance through tooltips and microcopy for newer concepts like "Lotus" or virtues. Visual feedback, accessible layouts, and seamless task integration significantly improved the experience. We also realized the importance of previewing premium features to build trust and value. Overall, blending intuitive UX with spiritual and personal growth elements required thoughtful pacing, consistent design, and responsive iteration based on user feedback.

Content Fidelity Matrix

Content Type	<i>Very Low Fidelity</i>	<i>Low Fidelity</i>	<i>Medium Fidelity</i>	<i>High Fidelity</i>	<i>Very High Fidelity</i>
Information Design					X
Interaction Design				X	
Visual Design & Branding				X	
Editorial Content				X	

- **Information Design – Very High Fidelity:**

The prototype was carefully structured to reflect the platform’s full user journey—from onboarding to profile exploration, communication, and compatibility analysis. Each screen clearly represents the relationship between major features (e.g., preferences, match profiles, chat, Decode readings), ensuring users can understand navigation flow and how features interconnect. The information architecture mirrors a real-world matchmaking system, with clarity and purpose.

- **Interaction Design – High Fidelity:**

Key interactive elements such as sliders, checkboxes, tabbed navigation, swipe gestures, chat input, and action buttons were fully integrated to simulate realistic user behaviors. While not functionally coded, the prototype provided enough interactivity to test and communicate task flows and user decision-making with confidence during usability sessions.

- **Visual Design & Branding – High Fidelity:**

The visual design maintained consistency in layout, component placement, and interface clarity. However, branding elements such as finalized color palettes, logo systems, or signature typography were intentionally kept minimal. This clean aesthetic helped testers focus on the app’s usability, feature logic, and interaction quality without distraction.

- **Editorial Content – High Fidelity:**

All instructional text, labels, prompts, and feature descriptions (e.g., virtues, compatibility tabs, action buttons) were written with clarity and realism, aligned with the app’s tone of fostering personal growth and meaningful connections. This ensured that users could easily interpret purpose and next steps during each interaction, particularly in virtue selection, compatibility readings, and chat.

Self-Critique & Reflection

Strengths: Unique virtue-based onboarding, rich compatibility breakdown, visually consistent design, smooth navigation.

Improvements: Adding tooltips/glossary, making premium upsell points more compelling, enhancing icon explanations during onboarding.

Design Goals Assessment

The prototype successfully achieves its aim of fostering meaningful, spiritually aligned relationships. It blends familiar dating app usability patterns with unique spiritual and personal growth features.

Inspiration

This project was inspired by a desire to move beyond surface-level dating interactions and create a platform that supports **meaningful, values-driven connections**. Traditional dating apps often focus on appearance or brief bios, overlooking deeper traits that contribute to long-term compatibility. By integrating **virtues**, **astrological insights**, and **personal growth tools**, the goal was to design a space where users could form more spiritually and emotionally aligned relationships.

The concept draws influence from wellness-focused platforms, personality-matching systems like **16Personalities**, and apps that emphasize **intentional connection** over swiping fatigue. The inclusion of features like “**Decode**”, which explores compatibility through human design and astrology, was motivated by the growing cultural interest in self-awareness, holistic wellness, and identity exploration.

This prototype reimagines the dating experience as not just a search for a match, but a journey of **self-discovery**, shared values, and deeper interpersonal resonance.

Comparison with other prototyping tools

Figma vs. Balsamiq: Balsamiq excels at low-fidelity wireframing, allowing for quick sketch-style mockups ideal for early ideation. However, it lacks responsive design tools, advanced interactions, and visual polish. Figma, by contrast, supports high-fidelity prototyping, reusable components, and live collaboration, making it more suitable for full design workflows and realistic user testing. While Balsamiq is perfect for brainstorming, Figma is better for building and refining detailed, testable prototypes.

Figma vs. Axure: Axure is known for its powerful logic-driven prototyping, supporting conditional flows, variables, and dynamic content. It's ideal for enterprise-level UX projects that require heavy logic, but it has a steeper learning curve and higher cost. Figma is far more intuitive, collaborative, and visually aligned, making it more accessible for teams focused on interface design and interactive flows rather

than complex backend simulation. For visually rich, fast-moving projects, Figma is more efficient and team-friendly.

Figma vs. Penpot: Penpot is a promising open-source alternative that shares many of Figma's features, including vector editing and interactive prototyping. Its main advantage lies in no subscription costs and self-hosting options, making it attractive to budget-conscious teams or academic settings. However, Figma still leads in terms of community support, plugin ecosystem, performance, and mature collaboration tools. While Penpot provides a good balance of functionality and freedom, Figma remains the more robust choice for professional-grade prototyping.

Figma stands out as a complete, collaborative, and scalable design platform, balancing accessibility with professional-grade capabilities. While Balsamiq is great for quick sketches, Axure for logic-heavy flows, and Penpot for open-source flexibility, Figma remains the best choice for teams that need polished, interactive, and collaborative UI prototypes across platforms.

Conclusion

This project successfully developed a high-fidelity prototype that goes beyond traditional dating apps by focusing on deeper values and personal growth through virtues, compatibility insights, and holistic features. The design balances intuitive usability with rich, interactive elements that foster meaningful connections. User feedback highlighted the effectiveness of familiar design patterns combined with unique spiritual components, while also pointing out areas for clearer guidance and enhanced visual feedback. Overall, the prototype demonstrates strong potential to support intentional, value-driven relationships by integrating innovative features within a seamless, user-centered experience.