Simon Griffee

Designer & Photographer

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Design Portfolio: hypertexthero.com/work
Photo Portfolio: simongriffee.com/stories

Summary

Over a decade of professional experience with visual and web design while travelling extensively around the world and living in Brazil, Tunisia, Italy, England and the United States.

I speak and write in **English** and **Portuguese** fluently, in **Italian** well, and in **French** and **Spanish** in a somewhat amusing way. Using these together with **visual and programming languages** I have managed to:

- Increase funding for and cooperation between international organizations through branding and user experience design projects in digital and print media.
- Save companies time and money with good websites and thoughtful design.
- Help groups and individuals with hands-on design, coding, editing, brainstorming and wine tasting.

I enjoy **learning and absorbing information** from different fields to help **solve problems** and keep my brain whirring.

Experience

Information Systems Officer, International Plant Protection Convention
Food and Agriculture Organization, United Nations, Rome, Italy, June 2009–Present:
Helped increase funding from donors, increase number of contracting parties to the convention and increase the general public's awareness of the International Plant Protection Convention's (IPPC) work while making people using computers there happier. Provided design support and technical advice on the creation and evolution of websites and other digital media as well as hands-on design and coding work at all stages. Organized photo groups and food and wine tasting on Fridays.

Freelance Web & Graphic Designer · *Hypertexthero, Worldwide, 2005–Present:*
Completed a variety of web and print projects for clients around the world, from large companies in London and internet start-ups in the Bay Area to non-profits and United Nations agencies in Rome.

Web & Graphic Designer · *Acotel Group S.p.A, Rome, Italy, 2003–2004:*
Created the first web standards based website design project in Italy.
Completed identity design projects, marketing and advertising multimedia campaigns.

Freelance Web & Graphic Designer
European Artisans, Various, Rome, Italy, 1999–2003: Freelance designer for an internet startup and various clients.

Education

I learned to work with computers with computer games. I learned graphic design from books, interfaces, posters and films by some of my favorite designers like Milton Glaser, Susan Kare and Saul Bass. I learned HTML and CSS by viewing the source of websites I liked, searching with Google and with Jeffrey Zeldman's Designing With Web Standards. I learned user experience, usability and accessibility principles from The Cluetrain Manifesto, Don't Make Me Think and Jacob Nielsen's Alertbox column. I learned photography by taking and looking at photographs. I learned to cook and to eat in Italy. I've been learning some Python and enjoyed meeting Alex Martelli in Florence in 2013. My traditional education occurred at:

Magnum Photos, *2011, 2012 and 2013 Workshops*
Stanford University, 2006 · *Concept Design Workshop at Stanford University's d.school*
Bournemouth University, 1996–1999 · *B.A. with Honours in Creative Advertising*
Arts University Bournemouth, 1997–1998 · *City & Guilds Diploma with Distinction in Photography*

Skills, Tools & Interests

Web development: I like HTML, CSS, JavaScript, web standards and open source software. If a tool is the right one for the job I'll use it.

User experience design, usability, accessibility: I like fast, simple interfaces and good writing over excessive style.

Photography: I work with Leica rangefinder cameras and Fuji and Ricoh compacts. I want a better, more affordable camera for photography students and better editing software.

Software: I use a web browser (Firefox and Chrome) and their developer tools, Textmate and a Terminal prompt, Sketch, Lightroom, Photoshop, Illustrator and InDesign. I have experience with Python and Django that I also use to edit hypertexthero.com on a local development server which is then deployed with rsync and version controlled with Git and Github. I also know a bit of Ruby and Jekyll, some Apache and Nginx configuration, a tiny bit of MySQL, PostgreSQL and SQLite, and a little Unix system administration.

Interests: Communication, information, photography, travel, independent web, open source & open internet, philosophy, typography, art history, nature, astronomy, music, (blues guitar, jazz, classical), computer simulations, vintage aeroplanes, basketball.