

**Simon Griffiee**  
Visual  Designer


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Portfolio: [hypertexthero.com/work](http://hypertexthero.com/work)  
Photographs: [simongriffiee.com/stories](http://simongriffiee.com/stories)

## Summary

Over a decade of professional [graphic and web design experience](#).  
Enjoy learning and absorbing information from different fields to help solve problems, keep brain whirring and, with any luck, pass on knowledge to [future generations](#).

Traveled extensively around the [world](#), living in Brazil, Tunisia, Italy, England and the United States. Speak and write in **English** and **Portuguese** fluently, **Italian** well, **French** and **Spanish** okay. Using these together with **visual** and **programming languages** have managed to:

- **Reduce time** people spend using computers while making the remaining more enjoyable.
- **Make communication** and cooperation between international organizations better.
- **Help people** with hands-on design, coding, editing and brainstorming.

Based in and usually  New York City.

## Experience

### **Information Systems Officer (Designer & Developer)**

*Food and Agriculture Organization, United Nations, Rome, Italy, June 2009–Present:*

Helped increase funding and the number of contracting parties to the International Plant Protection Convention and raise public awareness of its [work](#) while making people using computers there [happier](#). Hands-on design and coding work from wireframes to production of websites and print media in both assigned and self-started projects. Organized photography groups and wine tasting.

### **Freelance Web & Graphic Designer** · *Hypertexthero, Worldwide, 2005–2009:*

Completed a variety of web and print projects for clients around the world, from large companies in London and internet startups 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 campaigns.

### **Designer** · *European Artisans, Various, Rome, Italy, 1999–2003:*

Designer in an internet startup and for various clients.

## Education

[Learned](#) to work with computers using [computer games](#). Learned graphic design from books, interfaces, posters and films by designers like [Milton Glaser](#), [Susan Kare](#), [Robert Bringhurst](#) and [Saul Bass](#). Learned HTML and CSS by viewing the source of websites, searching with [Google](#) and reading Zeldman's Designing With Web Standards. Learned user experience, usability and accessibility principles from [The Cluetrain Manifesto](#), [Don't Make Me Think](#) and [Jacob Nielsen's Alertbox column](#). Learned photography by [taking](#) and [looking](#) at photographs. Learned to [cook and eat](#) in Italy. Learning Python, enjoyed meeting [Alex Martelli in Florence in 2013](#).

**Magnum Photos Workshops** · Cortona [2011](#), Wolverhampton [2012](#), Paris [2013](#)

**Per Volquartz Workshop** · Joshua Tree, California [2007](#)

**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

## Interests

[Communication](#), information & [free culture](#), [photography](#), travel, [independent web](#), open source & open internet, [philosophy](#), art history, [typography](#), nature, [astronomy](#), music (play blues & rock guitar), [computer simulations](#), vintage aeroplanes, basketball.

## Skills & Tools

**Visual design:** Typography and layout to make things beautiful and useful.

Pens and paper, white and black boards, Sketch, Photoshop, Illustrator, InDesign and Lightroom.

**User experience design and web development:** Fast, simple interfaces and [good writing](#) over excessive style. Wireframing in HTML & CSS client-side code that usually ends up in production. Web browsers (Chrome and Firefox) and their developer tools, Textmate and a Terminal prompt. Have experience with [Python](#) and Django that is also used to edit [hypertexthero.com](#) on a local development server that is then published with rsync and version controlled with Git and [GitHub](#). 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.

**Photography:** [Candid photography](#), usually on the street using rangefinder and small cameras. Want a [better camera for photography students](#) and [better editing software](#).