

# Simon Griffée

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

## Summary

Over a decade of professional **experience**, **interaction** & **visual design work**. 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 & Worldwide, 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](#), NYC [2015](#)  
**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. Currently working on an [image curation](#) web application.

## 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.

**Interaction 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. Currently learning Quartz Composer, Origami.

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