

# Simon Griffiee

Designer  Photographer

**Location:** New York City

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**Portfolio:** [hypertexthero.com/work](http://hypertexthero.com/work)

**Photographs:** [simongriffiee.com/stories](http://simongriffiee.com/stories)

## Summary

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](#).

With over a decade of professional [graphic and web design experience](#) while travelling extensively around the [world](#) and living in Brazil, Tunisia, Italy, England and the United States have learned to speak and write in: **English** and **Portuguese** fluently, Italian well, **French** and **Spanish** in a somewhat amusing way. Using these together with **visual** and **programming languages** have managed to:

- **Reduce the time** people spend interacting with 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–Present:*

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 multimedia campaigns.

### **Freelance Web & Graphic Designer**

*European Artisans, Various, Rome, Italy, 1999–2003:*

Freelance designer for an internet startup and 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 to 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*

## Skills & Tools

**Web development:** Wireframing in HTML & CSS client-side code that usually ends up in production. Some JavaScript and Python.

**User experience design, usability, accessibility:** Fast, simple interfaces and [good writing](#) over excessive style.

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

**Software:** Web browsers (Firefox and Chrome) and their developer tools, Textmate and a Terminal prompt, Sketch, Lightroom, Photoshop, Illustrator and InDesign. Have experience with [Python](#) and Django that is 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.

## Interests

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