

T1A2: Portfolio

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Introduction

- Hi! I'm Jonathan Phey, or Jon Phey, and welcome to my slides and presentation of my Portfolio website assignment
- In these slides, I'm going to take you through my portfolio website, from it's beginnings, my design process and overall thoughts on the project

Contents

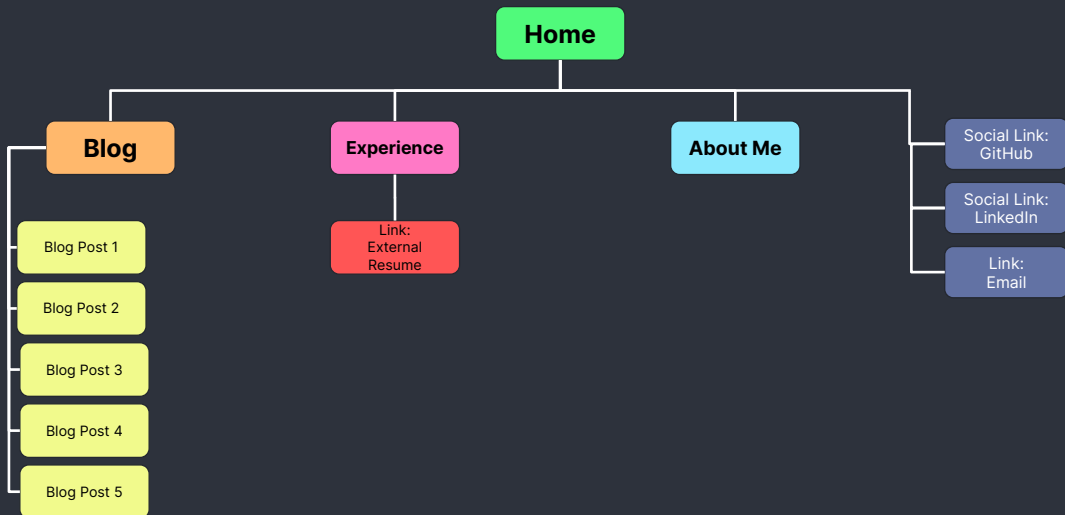
1. Sitemap
2. Wireframes
3. Design
4. Components
5. Final thoughts

Contents / Agenda

As a quick overview of what I'll be going through:

1. First, the **Sitemap** will give you a snapshot of the various pages, links and navigation paths on my website
2. Next, the **Wireframes** will provide an insight into my decisions on the layout of the pages
3. The **Design** will explain my website's overall aesthetic and look and feel
4. The **Components** will identify where I have used text and graphics across my website, and why
5. And then I'll end on my **Final thoughts**, which is a quick conclusion on the challenges and favourite parts of the website and build process

Sitemap



Sitemap

For my sitemap, starting from the **Home** page at the top

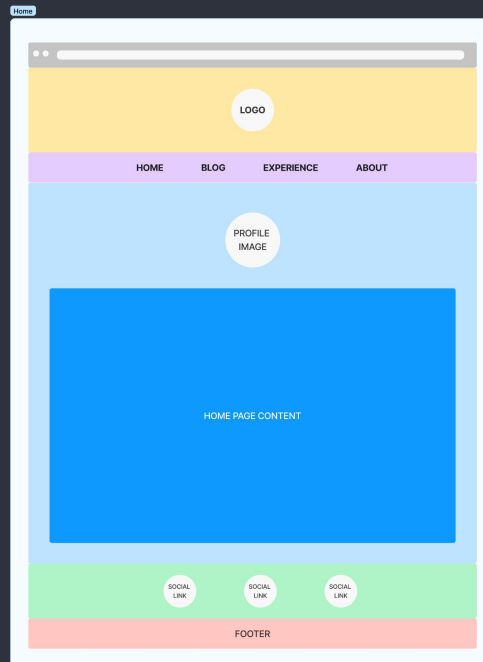
- This is the first page that users will see when visiting my website
- And this is where users can navigate to the other pages on my website:
- Namely, the **Blog**, my **Experience**, the **About Me** page and my **Social Links and Contact** details.
- The Blog page links out to the various Blog posts contained in the website
- And the Experience page further links out to an external copy of my full resume

It's worth noting that no matter where you are on the site,

- The Home, Blog, Experience and About Me pages are always accessible at the top through a fixed navigation bar
- And the Social and Contact Links are always available at the bottom near the footer

Wireframes

> HOME PAGE

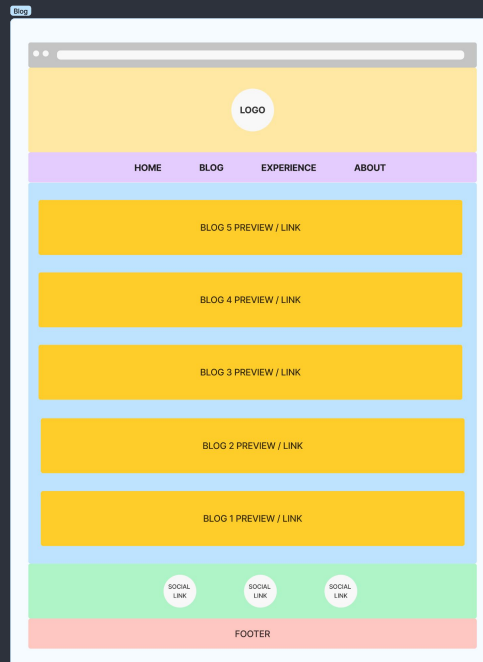


Moving onto the **Wireframes**, I'll take you through the **Home** page first, which has elements that are repeated on the next wireframes too.

- I knew that I wanted to build a website that cascaded nicely from top to bottom and had an extremely consistent experience regardless of whether the user viewed my website on a computer or a mobile device.
 - The wireframes you're seeing are mostly somewhere in the middle, such as for a small tablet or larger mobile.
- Before going through the elements, I began my wireframes with deciding that I wanted my website to be mostly center aligned. I thought this would look best when viewed on a mobile.
- From there, I began with the most important elements, which was my custom logo at the top, followed by my nav bar, both of which would remain across all pages for identity and ease of navigation.
- Before the main content, at the bottom you'll see I've placed my social and contact links at the bottom, just above the footer. These two sections are also repeated across every page.
- For the main content, I decided to have a image, likely of myself for further identity, followed by content, such as some introduction text and the purpose of the website.

Wireframes

> BLOG PAGE

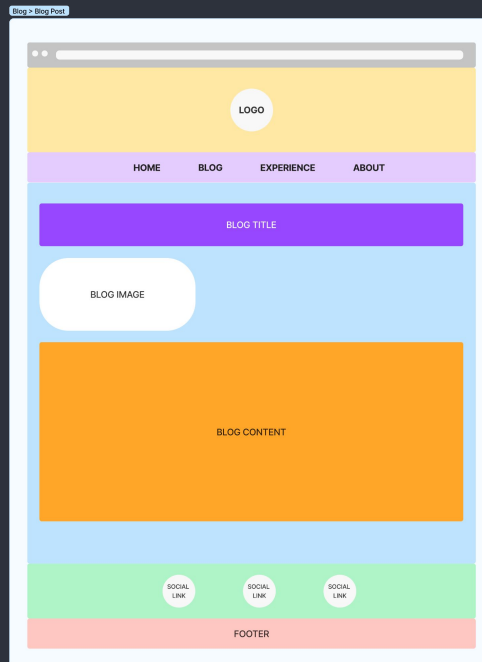


Moving onto the **Blog** page,

- Just to reiterate, I decided to repeat my logo, nav bar, social links and footer across every page, so you'll see that on each following wireframe
- As for the content, I decided to have each blog displayed on the screen in descending order from newest to oldest, indicated by the **BLOG 5, 4, etc. PREVIEW / LINKs**
- However, I knew that in a real scenario, it would take a lot of scrolling to get through even a couple of blogs on a single page, so I decided to make each section just a small snippet or preview of the post itself, which would then link out to the respective blog on another page.
 - I made this wireframe not knowing if I could even achieve the preview with what I had learnt so far, but I was definitely inspired to try and achieve it.
- Also worth noting that while this project called for 5 blog posts, I believe that my wireframe will eventually need to be paginated, rather than scrolling through a large number of blog post previews.

Wireframes

> BLOG POSTS

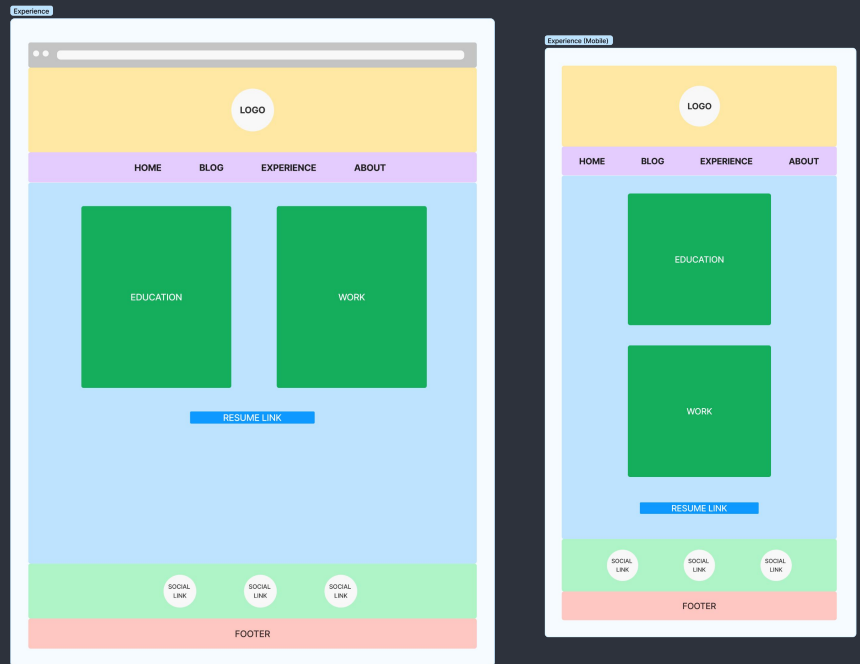


As for the **Blog Posts** pages,

- I decided to keep it fairly simple, with the **BLOG TITLE** at the top, followed by a relevant **BLOG IMAGE**, and then the **BLOG CONTENT** or text.
- The main change here compared to the rest of the website is that I wanted to align the blog content to the left, rather than having it centered like the rest of the website.
- Given blog posts could be a much longer piece of content, I figured this would be easier to read across most devices.

Wireframes

> EXPERIENCE PAGE

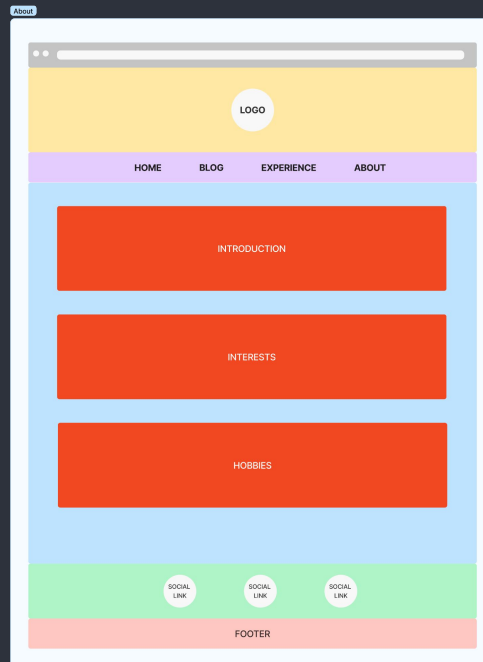


For the **Experience** page wireframes,

- I mocked up both a standard wireframe and a wireframe that would be more specific to mobile devices
- I knew that I wanted two columns - one that showed my **EDUCATION**, and another that showed my **WORK** experience
- However, given it was two columns sitting side-by-side, I knew this would look very squashed on a mobile, so at a certain width, I wanted to stack the **EDUCATION** and **WORK** sections on top of each other, which would be better for readability and order.
- In either scenario, I decided to have my **RESUME LINK** or button at the bottom, which would elaborate on the content that preceded it.

Wireframes

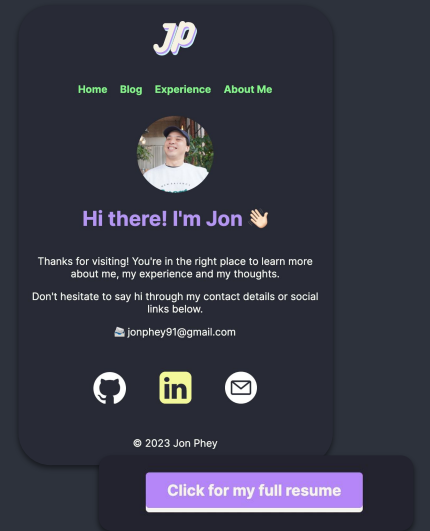
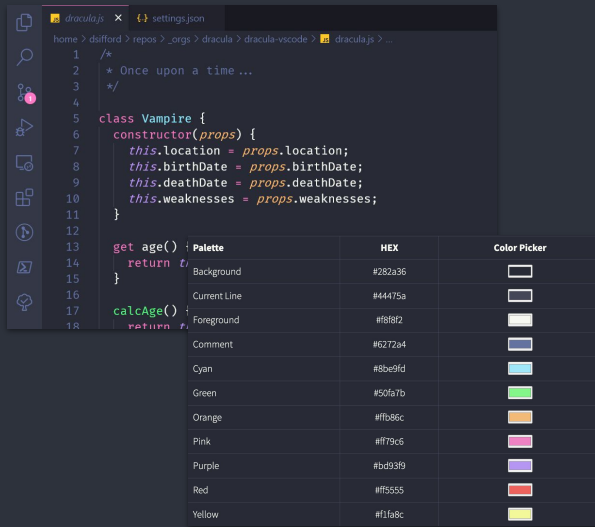
> ABOUT ME PAGE



For the **About** or **About Me** page,

- I decided to break this down into 3 clear sections - **INTRODUCTION**, **INTERESTS** and **HOBBIES**
 - The title of these sections could change to make it more interesting, but that's the general gist I was going for
- These 3 sections would stack on top of each other and would be read one after the other from top to bottom.
- This experience would be the same on mobile devices and larger screens, with the sections and text simply responding to the size of the screen. No matter the size of the screen, the content is intended to be read from top to bottom.

Design



Design

- In terms of my overall aesthetic, when I first started at Coder Academy, one of the first things we did was install some extensions and themes to Visual Studio Code
- Now, a bit about me, I'm a bit of a night owl and I'm also someone who turns my apps to dark mode as soon as they're installed
- So naturally, I looked for a theme that would suit that, and there's a popular open source theme that's very popular with developers, called Dracula, and I fell in love with it
- So when it came to my very first website, I knew I wanted to pay tribute to it in a way that celebrated the theme, and I knew this colour scheme would make my website accessible as well

Colours

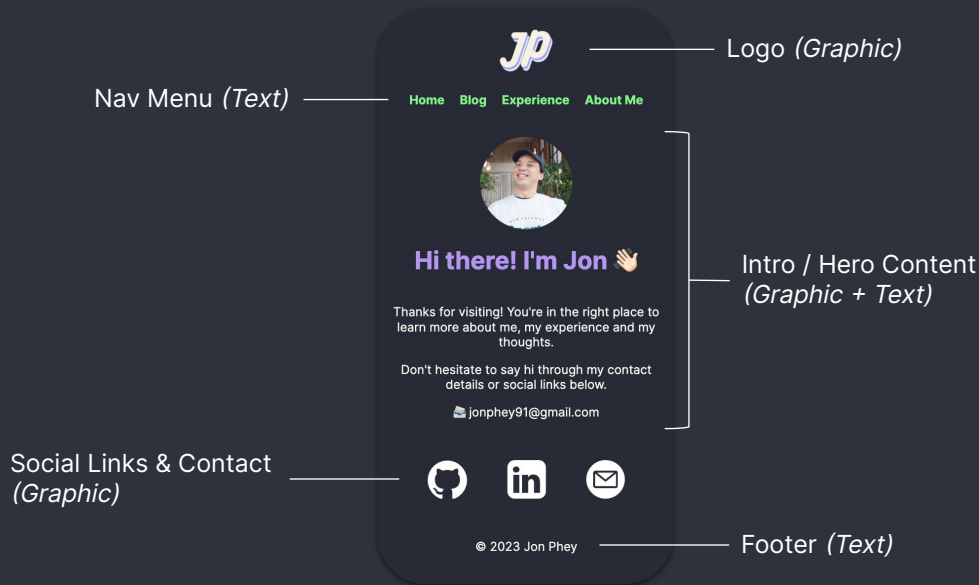
- So for colours I mainly played around with the HEX codes shown on screen and this ensured my colour palette was consistent, but also didn't vary too much.
- The main background used across the entire website is a dark background, which would help the colours of the content itself stand out.
 - I also was restrained in the way I used the colours for content, as I knew that could be distracting too. So, I generally used only 2 or 3 colours per page in addition to white text.

As for the **Navigation, Layout & Feel**

- From the beginning, I knew I wanted to design my website for mobiles. Not only because it's a good design principle, but in terms of the purpose of my website, I thought about scenarios where I might be handing out my portfolio site at networking events or in situations where potential employers would visit my portfolio, and with so much of that occurring on mobiles, I knew I wanted the navigation and look and feel of my website to be seamless, with most information being available at a glance.
- Overall, my approach to the layout and feel of my website was to make sure it felt at home on mobile devices, where I assumed most people would view my portfolio, and then go from there.
- While my design aesthetic is definitely on the minimalistic side, I knew a minimal approach would also work well for that type of 'at a glance' style.
 - This of course has the risk of appearing boring, so I wanted to add flair where it made sense, such as little hover events, an eye-catching logo, use of emoji, and interactive buttons.

Components

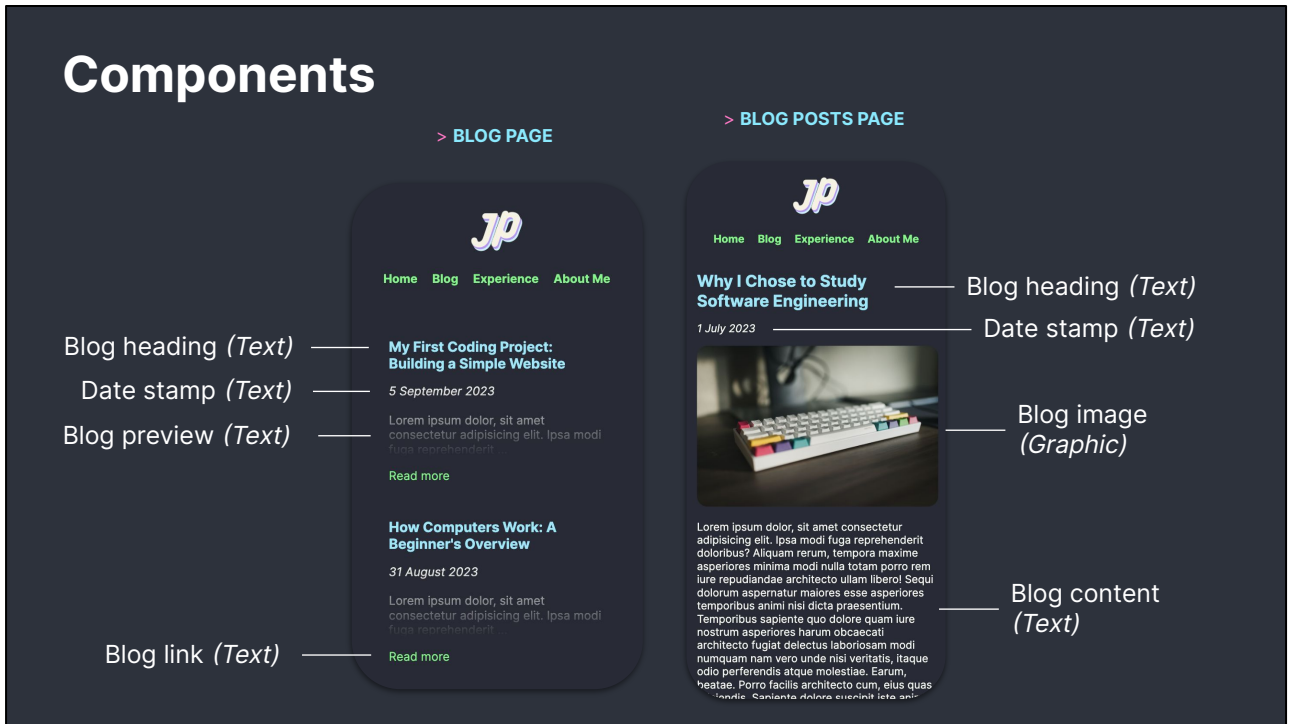
> HOME PAGE



Finally, for the list of **Components** used across the website, let's start with my **Home** page.

- There's my custom made **logo** at the top
 - Which is meant to provide identity to my website and myself. Users will see this on every page and I also included this as a favicon or website icon.
- The Navigation or **Nav Menu**, I purposely decided to keep as just text to remain consistent with my minimal design.
 - The weight of the text and change of colour is meant to engage the user to click on them, and this is repeated across the website
- My **Intro or Hero Content** uses a mix of a graphic and text to engage the user at a glance.
 - This is kept centered and brief, to ensure my Home page fits on one screen, even on smaller mobile devices.
- The **Social and Contact** links are shown as logos and icons.
 - For consistency, these have a hover effect that's similar to text links across the website, and they'll light up as a yellow when hovered over as a call-to-action.
 - These are also larger on the Home page when compared to the other pages on the website, in the hope that users are more engaged to click or tap on them when they visit my URL.
- And then there's a consistent text **Footer** that's also featured across every page

Components

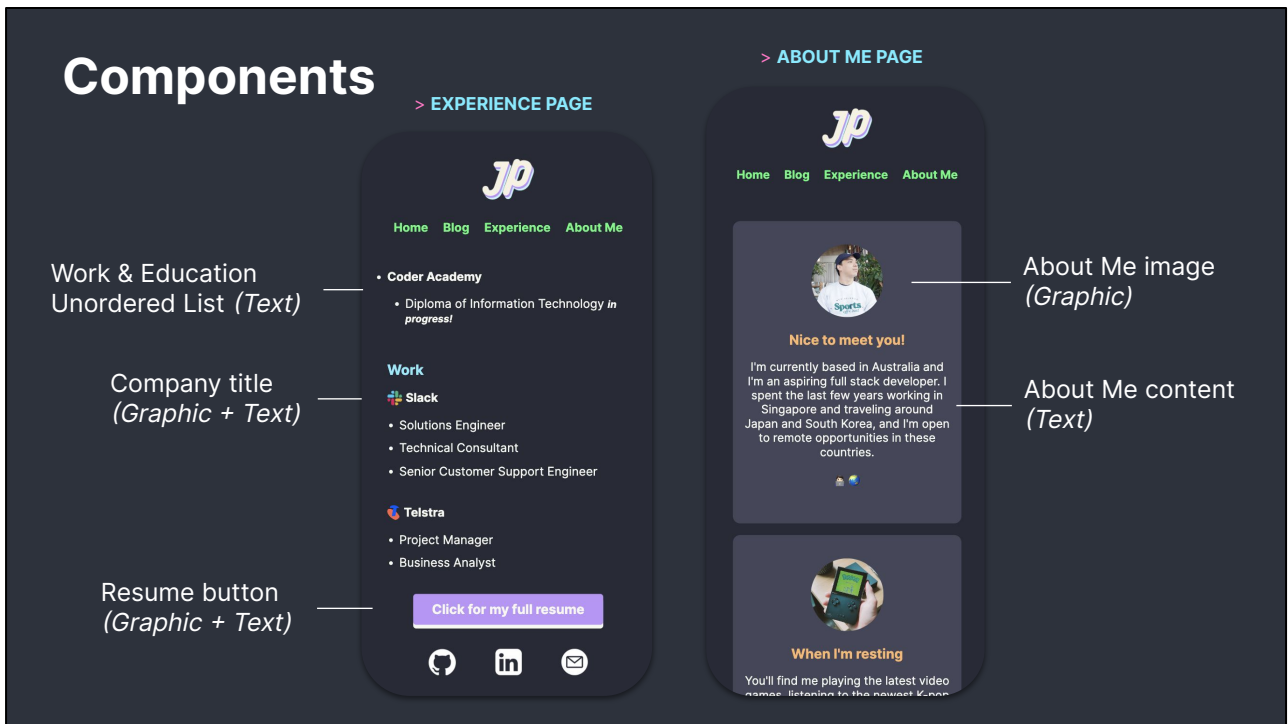


As for the Components on my **Blog** and **Blog Posts** pages, starting on the left with the **Blog** page,

- Each blog entry consists of a **blog heading or title**, a **date stamp**, a **preview of the blog**, and a call-to-action **blog link** to *Read more*.
 - The **blog preview** is definitely meant to tease the blog, in hopes that the user will literally want to read more about it.
 - The blog preview has some gradient CSS elements to make it appear as a preview too.
- As for the 'Read more' links, I styled them in the same green colour as the navigation bar to further indicate that they're links and can be clicked or tapped on.

On the **Blog Posts** pages,

- There are four consistent components to every blog post
 1. A heading
 2. A date stamp
 3. A blog graphic and
 4. The blog content
-



For the last two pages, I'll start with the **Experience** page on the left.

- The content itself for the **Work and Education experience** is largely in **unordered lists** or bullet points
- Where I wanted to indent the sub-bullet, such as a description of what I'm doing at Coder Academy, I used CSS to position the bullets
- The **Company title** is a mix of a graphic and a text, even though it looks like an emoji
 - This is meant to engage the reader by quickly recognising the company logos in a graphical way
 - These are some of the subtle, but hopefully effective ways, that I added flair to my website
- Finally, I put a slightly larger **Resume button** at the bottom, as a call-to-action to grab my full resume as a PDF file
 - This was previewed on my Design page earlier, but I added a bit of charm to it by including a colour change effect on hover, as well as an active tap or click animation. Again, one of the little things or easter eggs I added to add personality to my website for the user.

For the **About Me** page on the right,

- It does include three main sections as mentioned in my wireframes, with each section including a graphic (**About Me image**) and some brief text (**About Me content**).
- This is consistent across all three sections, with each section purposely kept brief, to ensure the user stays engaged, especially while on a mobile device.

Final thoughts

CHALLENGES

- Personal aesthetic vs perceived effort
- Online images/gifs
- Creativity vs know-how
- Constant tweaking

FAVOURITES

- Research, research, research
- Getting familiar with tech stack
- Building something out of nothing
- Constant tweaking

Finally, to end on some final thoughts and a review of the **Challenges** I faced and my **Favourite parts** of the entire process of building this website.

Starting with the **Challenges**

- **Personal aesthetic vs perceived effort**
 - My design aesthetic is usually very minimal and clean - this is reflected by my design aesthetic also in things like decorating my home.
 - So I found it challenging to ensure that I was including all the necessary components, while not cluttering my website and not making it seem like I was just doing the bare minimum.
 - I do worry that a streamlined website can come off as easy, but to me, this is a website that I would be happy to visit and navigate. In the end, I know that design is very subjective and I had to stop worrying about losing marks over something that looked plain, vs something that met the brief.
- **As for using online images and gifs**
 - I originally wanted to use some animated gifs that I found online, either through Google or Pinterest, but I wasn't sure about the ethics around using these animated gifs as it appears to be a grey area.
 - In every day life, it's not uncommon to grab an image address or copy an image, especially if it's just for your own personal use. However, given this was a website built for my own public portfolio, I knew that

- this had to be researched further, and that's when I found that it is a grey area as an ethical issue.
- As such, I stuck with still images that are available for free use, which did reduce how dynamic my website was a little bit from what I intended, but I decided it was worth not getting into trouble.
- And further on the technical side, I trialled and errored a lot of the components on my page, as often what I would have loved to achieve fell a little short of what I had imagined in my head.
 - This is largely due to my creativity running wild, but not having the technical know-how of how to build it. Or having to compromise on a solution that I knew how to build. For example:
 - I wanted the social icons to have a consistent hover effect, which seemed possible with some research on using icons and javascript, but given it was a little too advanced for me at this stage of the course, I ended up hacking a way with just basic CSS and HTML to replace the image with another image I had edited offline.
 - Another example is the blog preview or snippet. I'm fairly sure there is a way to embed or show the blog post content as a snippet or preview, but all the ways I had researched were fairly advanced, at least for me, and I ended up creating the perception of a preview through the CSS that I comprehended.

As for some of my **Favourite** parts of the build,

- I really enjoyed **researching** some things that were not necessarily taught in our Coder Academy lessons. Such as:
 - How to animate and make a button look way more interactive and interesting.
 - One of the challenges, I ended up liking - putting a gradient overlay on my blog page to make it seem like the blog posts are previews.
 - Simple things like how to indent sub-points on my Experience page
- I enjoyed **getting familiar** with the tooling and tech stack that I had learnt through the course, especially in a real-world scenario like this one.
 - For example, using tools like GitHub for version control, building wireframes on Figma, then launching it on Vercel. It's a little surreal because you hear about these tools all the time in the tech world, but to finally do it myself it was really satisfying as I understand the process more when I was doing it myself.
- And then there's the satisfaction of **building something out of nothing**, or building something from the ground up.
 - It's a different feeling compared to just doing the exercises and

- challenges from the course so far. I felt myself getting attached to my website and feeling proud of what I had built with the knowledge that I had so far.

And I did put the **Constant tweaking** as both a challenge and favourite of mine.

- It's perhaps a love-hate relationship, but because I'm constantly wanting to optimise the website, and new ideas pop into my mind as I write my documentation or even as I go to sleep. Knowing that this would be the natural process of maintaining a live website or app and that mindset of always optimising and improving it. However, I had to be reminded that this was an assignment that had a hard end date, so I had to keep myself from spiralling down a rabbit hole and just being satisfied with a certain version of my website.

Overall and in conclusion, I really enjoyed the ups and downs of the entire build process. I'm proud of what I have built and I would be happy to have this out on the internet, which it now is, and I think that's good enough for me as the first ever website that I have built.

Thank you!

> Jonathan Phey
https://github.com/jjjjjpppppp/T1A2_Portfolio

Thank you for listening and please reach out if you have any questions about my website, my slides or what I've presented. Bye for now!