

Assignment 8: Implementing Web Portfolio

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Part 1

The purpose of my website is to create a responsive, online platform that showcases my design work. Through the site, users are able to browse my latest design projects, read my biography and find my contact information. The target audience is fellow design peers, professors and recruiters who are interested in learning more about my work online. I hope to continue iterating on this site and use it professionally in the near future.

The site consists of 3 main page types — homepage, project detail page and an “about me” page. The homepage acts as a project gallery space, where users can browse projects through thumbnail images. Project detail pages showcase further research, design ideas and images from each project. The “about me” page consists of a self portrait, my story/background and contact information.

To create more emphasis on the project visuals, I used a minimalistic layout throughout the site. This includes a simple 3-hue color palette (black, white and peach) across text, navigation bar and background elements. In the homepage, I also created a 2-column image grid spanning ~80% of the screen width to keep the site interesting and engaging. By minimizing visual distractors from the site theme, this allows users to better focus on the showcased works.

To better engage users, I also implemented simple animations on how images and text elements entered the screen. By using a “fade in” effect and having small delays between each element, it makes large images and thumbnails more digestible for the user. The animated images also appear in a logical manner, making it less visually overwhelming for the user — animations tend to be from left to right, and from top to bottom when scrolling.

Part 2

- **Interactive navigation bar**

Hovering over the pages “work+play” and “about” creates a text color change. Clicking on either selection redirects you to the page.

- **Interactive navigation bar (mobile)**

Select hamburger menu to reveal “work+play” and “about” page options. Navigation bar is intentionally transparent, touch area spans across menu width for easy finger tap. Tapping on either selection redirects you to the page.

- **Homepage project thumbnails**

Thumbnails are animated to reveal themselves one-by-one on the page. Hovering over each thumbnail launches a white overlay with project title and caption. Clicking on thumbnail redirects you to the project detail page.

- **Interactive links in about page**

Image and text fade-in one by one. Hovering over bold text creates a text color change. Clicking on each directs you to specific websites or launches Mail app on Mac.

- **Youtube embedded player in “The Future of Health and Commute” and “Visualizing Environments” pages**

Responsive video player embedded in project detail pages. Clicking on play icon plays video in defined player size.

Part 3

1. Scroll Reveal JS

2. I wanted to create simple fade-in animations for images and text across my site. Scroll reveal allows me to customize the speed of delays, providing me flexibility in designing the user experience.
3. Project thumbnails were designed to appear one-by-one and from left to right in the homepage. Images and texts were designed to appear from top to bottom in the project detail and about me pages.
4. The animations helped to curate the experience by directing the attention of my user across the page. By having the large images appear one-by-one, it allows users to be less visually overwhelmed. The speed of the animation also sets the tone of my site and work — I wanted users to be comfortable with browsing the projects in a slow, steady pace.

1. Customized Youtube Embedded Player

2. I chose to use the Youtube player as my projects were already hosted on the platform.
3. I used the provided embed code from Youtube, then customized a video-container class to make it responsive and aligned in my site.
4. It directs users to an external source where they can browse more of my video works. Youtube is also widely used, making the user interface intuitive to most users.

Part 4

In my original mock-up, I wanted to have a more abstract project gallery page consisting of scattered project thumbnails. However, it was extremely difficult to implement as a responsive site given that the thumbnails were not aligned in any specific way. Therefore, I resulted in making a 2-column image grid, which provided a more organized and clean look to the site. I also made minor changes to typeface and text decoration styles.

Part 5

The biggest challenge I faced was implementing the responsive, interactive hover thumbnails in the homepage. I had to use a combination of bootstrap grid, Scroll Reveal JS and hover overlay in CSS. It was most difficult to have all the components working in order and aligned in the same position across different screen sizes.