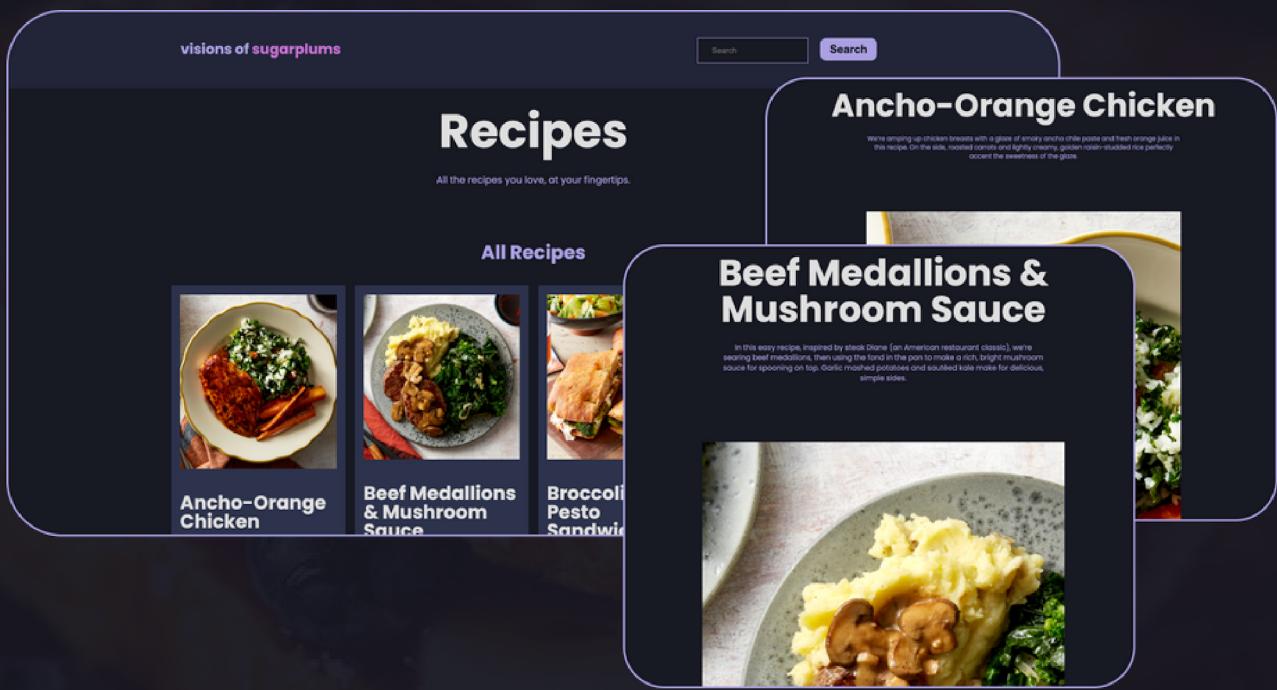


CASE STUDY  
IDM232 | 2022

visions of sugarplums  
recipe database

JILL TRACY

# Overview



The Visions of Sugarplums recipe database is a project built with PHP, HTML, and CSS. It features 40 recipes and users can search for specific keywords to filter the recipes. The project contains admin screens that give the user capabilities to edit, create, and delete recipes. I designed the branding and visual identity for the site, and I coded all the features and functionality.

# Purpose

This project was a learning opportunity to use server-side technology to create an interactive web-based product. I used PHP for development and MySQL for database management. I completed this project on my own, so I designed it from concept to deployment.

# Design and Branding

The wireframe illustrates the user interface of the 'visions of sugarplums' website across two devices: a mobile phone and a tablet.

**Mobile Phone View:**

- Header:** 'visions of sugarplums' logo and a search bar.
- Title:** 'Blackberry Pie'
- Description:** 'Cozy blackberry pie, perfect for the winter season or a summer evening. Pairs perfectly with a mug of licorice tea or a sparkling white wine.'
- Image:** A large image of a blackberry pie garnished with cherries and lavender.
- Ingredients:** A list of ingredients including 5 cups fresh blackberries, 2 vanilla beans, etc.
- How to Make:** A step-by-step recipe with 6 numbered steps.

**Tablet View:**

- Header:** 'visions of sugarplums' logo and a search bar.
- Title:** 'All Recipes'
- Add Recipe:** A button to add a new recipe.
- Grid of Recipes:** A 2x4 grid of recipe cards, each with an image, title, and 'Edit Recipe' button.
  - Mom's Pancakes**
  - Maple Macaroon Cake**
  - Maple Nut Pound Cake**
  - Maple Crumble**
  - Sweetest Fall Muffins**
  - Pumpkin Maple Pie**
  - Cinnamon Cupcakes**
  - Caramelized Maple Tart**
- Pagination:** '1' and '2' indicating page navigation.

Before I started wireframing, I did competitor research. I looked at recipe-focused websites and noticed similarities among them all. For example, many recipe sites use cards to display a grid of recipes at a glance. They also feature a light color scheme that creates a feeling of freshness and allows the focus to stay on the recipes.

## visions of sugarplums 🍪

After the competitor research, I knew I wanted to make design choices to make the website stand out. I chose to design in dark mode because it was something I had not seen in the competitor research. With dark mode, I aimed to create a cozy feeling by using pink and purple colors to give the website a warmer tone.

### COLOR



background  
#171923



card  
#2D324C



brand  
#C773D5



surface-primary  
#E0E0E0



surface-secondary  
#ABA1E3

### TEXT

**H1 Header**

96PX | BOLD

**H2 Header**

40PX | BOLD

Paragraph Text

20PX | REGULAR

## visions of sugarplums 🍎

Similarly to competitors, I chose to display recipes in a grid layout with cards. The cards are clickable, so users can view recipe details with one click. The recipe details page features a large image of the dish, followed by ingredients and instructions about making the meal.

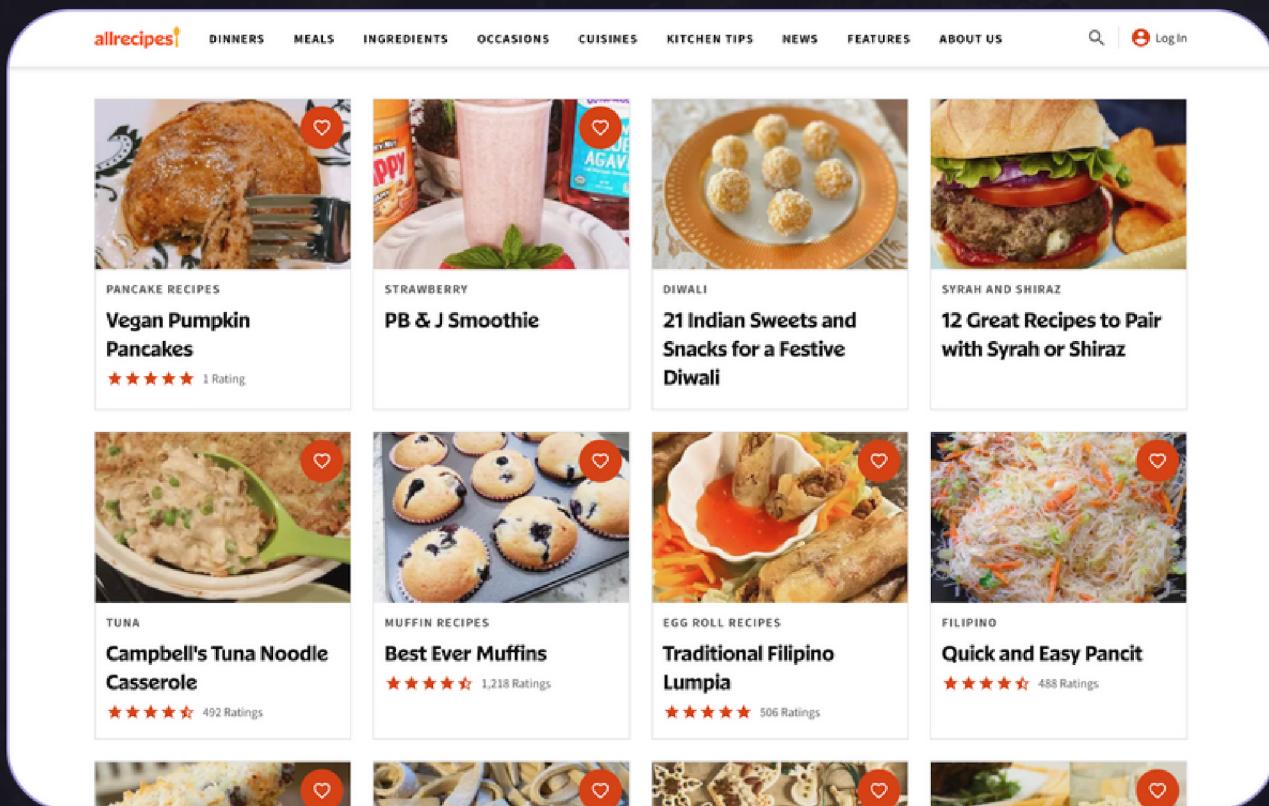


Image courtesy of Allrecipes.

Additionally, I named the website “Visions of Sugarplums” as a reference to a classic holiday poem. I wanted users to associate the site with classic comfort, and also the joy of imagination. Originally, I intended for the website to focus strictly on desserts and baked confections, but the final product features a broader variety of recipes.

# Creating the Foundation

## Recipes

All the recipes you love, at your fingertips.

[All Recipes](#)



Cookies



Cookies



Cookies



Cookies

Before incorporating the database, I created a layout of all the pages with HTML and placeholder data. This process allowed me to focus on componentizing and styling first without the added challenge of working with a database for the first time. Since I designed wireframes in Figma, I styled the pages as planned and the process was streamlined since I accounted for the elements I needed. I changed some details from the original design, but I still stayed within the intended framework.

# Using the Database

When I started linking the database into the code, I started with the admin task flow. With admin controls, a user can edit, delete, and create recipes. I used PHP to create input forms that submit data into the database.

# Filling In The Gaps

The most frustrating part of the process was troubleshooting small semantic errors that I was not accustomed to. In writing HTML, CSS, and Javascript, the semantic errors are more apparent and there are programs that directly show the errors. However, I did not have anything that directly showed my errors in PHP. For example, one problem I ran into was that the CSS styling was not appearing on the admin pages. After hours of troubleshooting, it boiled down to missing a single backslash. Moments like this were time-consuming and hindering, but experiencing these issues made me more aware of how to troubleshoot them in the future.

# Results



The final result is a recipe website built with PHP, HTML, and styled with CSS.

Throughout the development process, I learned how to display database information on a webpage and how to include tools allowing the admin to edit the data. This was my first time using PHP, and the ability to componentize sections made coding a lot easier and cleaner. Throughout the process, I not only learned about writing code, but also designing for a data-driven product. If I had more time, the next steps of the project would be adding categories to the recipes and sorting them. Overall, the final build is a result of cumulative work and was a great learning experience.