

The Harmonic Collection began as a simple idea to create an interactive website centered around Turkish coffee and fortune-telling. Along the way, it grew into something a celebration of Turkish culture and the sensory world it awakens through its coffee tradition.

This project challenged me to rethink how we can represent cultural heritage in a digital space. The initial concept felt limiting, focused on just one aspect of Turkish coffee culture. But as I progressed, I realized that Turkish coffee is far more than a beverage or a ritual; it is a sensory and emotional experience. This realization inspired me to expand my focus to a broader narrative that shows not only the senses Turkish coffee stimulates but also the cultural connections it creates. The 10 senses I chose were Intuition, Perception, Sight, Memory, Smell, Taste, Connection, Ritual, Texture, and Echo. Working on each of the ten entries gave me a deeper appreciation for the layers of meaning embedded in everyday traditions. For example, exploring Connection and Ritual reminded me how Turkish coffee has always been a way for bonding in my own life, whether during a family gathering or a casual meetup with friends. On the other hand, while creating entries like Intuition and Echo I reflected on the more mystical elements of the experience, tying the past and the present.

The design process also played a crucial role in shaping this project. The dark red/brown and cream/beige color palette became more than just an aesthetic choice and felt like a direct representation of the coffee itself. These tones, paired with Ottoman-inspired motifs, brought warmth and culture to the website. One of the most fun aspects of this project was creating interactive elements for each entry. Interactive elements like coffee ground texture board, the punching for the bitter taste, and pupils following the cursor helped connect the physical and digital worlds. They allowed me to transform abstract cultural concepts into tangible experiences that could resonate with users. I wanted to create an experience that felt like the users are drinking the coffee even for those unfamiliar with Turkish coffee.

This project had many challenges along the way. Balancing cultural authenticity with creative interpretation required me to do deep research. I wanted to ensure that each entry honored the tradition it represented while also being accessible and engaging to a global audience. Additionally, one of the difficulties I faced was that since we were learning about css and javascript while we were developing the website, I couldn't execute my ideas like I wanted in the first few entries.

Looking back, I feel very proud of how the Harmonic Collection turned out. It is not just a digital diary of Turkish coffee; it is a celebration of the senses, memories, and connections that define this culture. Through this project, I have deepened my understanding of my own heritage and learned how to translate cultural experiences into interactive storytelling.