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My Final Project Website

Personal Portfolio and Travel Blog – Project Report

Introduction

The website created is a **personal portfolio and travel blog** for Lisa Shakya. It is designed to present personal information, professional skills, travel experiences, image galleries, and a contact form in a clear and engaging way. The main purpose of the website is to allow visitors to explore Lisa's work, read her travel blogs, and contact her for potential collaborations or inquiries. The website also reflects Lisa's interests in technology, creativity, and continuous learning, making it a professional representation of her journey as a student and creator.

The website has multiple sections including a navigation bar, an “About Me” section, a travel blog carousel featuring destinations such as Nepal and Europe, a gallery of images, and a contact form integrated with a Google Map. This structure provides a user-friendly layout that is both informative and visually appealing, enhancing the visitor experience.

HTML and CSS Features

The website was built primarily using **HTML and CSS**. Semantic HTML elements such as `<section>`, `<nav>`, `<footer>`, `<form>`, and `<iframe>` were used to structure content meaningfully. Headings (`<h2>`), paragraphs (`<p>`), lists, and links provide readable and organized content. Images include alt attributes for accessibility, and the `loading="lazy"` attribute improves performance by deferring the loading of images until they are needed.

CSS was used to enhance the design and user experience. Custom typography, color schemes, spacing, and hover effects were applied to create a polished look. Flexbox properties such as `d-flex` and `justify-content-center` were used for alignment, while responsive image styling ensured that images resized appropriately on different devices. Positioning techniques, including absolute, relative, and sticky, along with `z-index`, were applied to create layered and interactive image galleries. Hover transformations added a dynamic effect when users interact with the images.

The use of CSS also allowed for the customization of Bootstrap components to match the overall design. For example, carousel captions were styled with specific margins and colors, while buttons were customized to include hover effects and color transitions. Spacing utilities and section padding classes were used to maintain visual consistency throughout the website.

Bootstrap Components

Bootstrap 5 components were extensively used to build a responsive and modern website. The navigation bar utilized `navbar`, `navbar-expand-lg`, and `navbar-toggler` classes to create a collapsible menu that adapts to smaller screens. The **grid system** (`container`, `row`, `col-md-*`) was used throughout the website to ensure that content aligns properly across desktop, tablet, and mobile devices.

The website features a **carousel** component to display travel blogs in an interactive sliding format. Carousel indicators and controls were included to allow users to navigate through different slides. Cards (.card and .card-body) were used in the contact section to create a visually distinct form container. Bootstrap buttons with classes such as btn-primary and btn-outline-secondary were used for actions like submitting forms or requesting a quote. Utility classes such as text-center, mb-4, pt-5, and d-grid were used to manage spacing, alignment, and layout consistency.

Responsiveness

The website was made responsive by leveraging **Bootstrap's grid system and utility classes**. Columns automatically adjust based on screen size, ensuring that text, images, and forms remain readable and visually appealing on desktops, tablets, and mobile devices. Images use the img-fluid class and CSS properties like width: 100% and height: auto to resize proportionally.

The navigation bar collapses into a toggleable menu on smaller screens, making it easy to navigate on mobile devices. Flexbox utilities were applied to center content horizontally and vertically, and section padding was adjusted to maintain consistent spacing. Carousel captions and gallery images were also styled to maintain readability and aesthetic balance across screen sizes.

Challenges and Solutions

Several challenges were encountered during the project. One challenge was aligning **carousel captions** without overlapping images, especially on smaller screens. This was resolved by using CSS margins, responsive classes (d-none d-md-block), and positioning adjustments. Another challenge involved stacking multiple **gallery images** in a layered, visually appealing way. This required careful use of absolute and relative positioning, z-index adjustments, and hover effects to achieve the desired interactive result.

Ensuring proper **form validation** was also important. HTML attributes such as required, minlength, maxlength, and pattern were used to enforce correct input formats and improve usability. Finally, maintaining **responsiveness** across all devices required testing and adjusting both Bootstrap and custom CSS elements, such as flex alignment, image scaling, and section padding.

Learning Reflection

This project was a significant learning experience. It strengthened skills in combining **Bootstrap components with custom CSS** to create a modern and visually appealing website. The project also improved understanding of **responsive web design**, semantic HTML structure, and interactive elements like carousels and image galleries. Working on this project enhanced problem-solving skills, especially in resolving layout and alignment issues.

I also learned the importance of **planning and organizing content** for usability and aesthetics. Integrating forms with validation, embedding Google Maps, and creating layered gallery effects provided practical experience in applying web development concepts to a real-world project. Overall, the project reinforced knowledge of front-end development and boosted confidence in building professional websites.

Self-Assessment

On self-assessment, I would give this project a **grade of 4 out of 5**. The website is functional, responsive, visually appealing, and effectively demonstrates technical skills in HTML, CSS, and Bootstrap. It successfully combines interactivity, content presentation, and responsive design. Minor improvements could be made in **carousel caption alignment**, **gallery spacing**, and adding more advanced interactive features. Nevertheless, the project reflects strong progress, practical application of web development knowledge, and a professional approach to designing a personal portfolio and travel blog.

Appendix

Desktop view

The screenshot shows a desktop version of a website. At the top, there's a blue header bar with white text that reads "Home About Me Blog Contact". Below this, the main content area has a light gray background. In the center, there's a large heading "ABOUT ME" in bold, uppercase letters. To the right of the heading is a portrait photo of a young woman with dark hair and glasses, wearing a pink shirt. Below the photo is a small caption that says "Scanned with CamScanner". To the left of the heading is a block of text describing the author's interests and goals. At the bottom of the page are two buttons: a blue one on the left that says "Request a Quote - Let's Build Your Site!" and a white one on the right that says "Contact me".

Dimensions: Responsive 320 x 720

The screenshot shows the same website content but viewed through a responsive browser window set to a width of 320 pixels and a height of 720 pixels. The browser interface includes various developer tools like the Elements, Sources, and Network tabs at the bottom. The "ABOUT ME" section and its accompanying text and photo are visible within the constraints of the 320px width.

Dimensions: iPhone 14 Pro Max 430 x 932

