Research Document

Website Selection Process for Portfolio Testing

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Introduction

The goal of the portfolio is to serve as a showcase of my achievements in the semester as my goal to show the coding skills and abilities to learn and to secure a graduation internship for the final semester. The process of selecting the websites wasn't just about choosing them, but it was about finding platforms that resonated with my goals, design preferences, and coding capabilities.

This document outlines the detailed methodology employed in the selection of websites for testing within the scope of building my portfolio. It encompasses the criteria utilized, the selection process involved, exploration methods employed across various channels, analysis of chosen and non-selected websites, potential enhancements, concluding insights,

Criteria for Selection

The way of choosing the websites was based on these key aspects I wanted them to have:

1. Alignment with Learning Outcomes:

Each website's relevance was assessed concerning the intended learning outcomes, aiming to effectively demonstrate acquired skills and knowledge.

2. Design Elements, Layout, and Features:

Thorough review of design aspects, such as how things look and work together, like the layout, buttons you can click, and new and interesting things that fit well with what I want my portfolio to look like. I wanted these websites to be visually appealing and user-friendly.

3. Serving My Portfolio's Purpose:

Assessing how closely the website matched the main goals, which is a showcase of my achievements in the semester as my goal to show the coding skills and abilities.

4. Coding Feasibility and Limitations:

Thinking about the limits and what's possible with coding, especially checking if the website features can work with what I can do with code right now. I paid extra attention to making sure I could actually code and make the website using the skills I already have, especially since React is still new to me as a programming language.

Selection Process

A detailed outline of the steps I took to discover the websites:

1. Research Methods:

I explored various platforms like GitHub and YouTube, delving into repositories and courses related to web development, design trends, and React programming. Furthermore, this step started when I was doing the research of the design trends of 2023 as well, when I was looking for the React courses.

2. Narrowing Down Choices:

I explored numerous websites to gather diverse options. Then, I methodically refined these choices using specific criteria outlined earlier in the 'Criteria for Selection.' This involved assessing how well each website aligned with learning objectives, its effectiveness in showcasing coding skills, design elements, and its relevance to the overall purpose of my portfolio.

3. Attractions to These Sites:

Each of these websites held certain appealing features. For instance, they demonstrated unique design elements, effective navigation structures, and innovative features that aligned with what I wanted to showcase in my portfolio.

Search Methodologies and Channels.

GitHub Exploration:

I began my search on GitHub by employing specific search queries related to web development, and React projects. Utilizing keywords like "React portfolio github", "React website github" and "React and Three.js website github", "React three fiber github" and more. I navigated through repositories, analysed project descriptions, and evaluated repositories that have launched their websites. This approach aimed to unearth repositories with potential website layouts or codebases aligned with my goals.

☐ Oct 13, 2023	○ splinetool/react-spline: React component for Spline scenes. github.com	⋮
☐ Oct 13, 2023	G splin react **github** - Google Search www.google.com	⋮
☐ Oct 13, 2023	G splin website **github** - Google Search www.google.com	⋮

☐ Sep 27, 2023	○ react-portfolio · **GitHub** Topics github.com	⋮
☐ Sep 27, 2023	G react animation portfolio **github** - Google Search www.google.com	⋮
☐ Sep 26, 2023	○ **GitHub** - setsun/react-model-viewer: 3D model viewer / animation player in React & Three.js github.com	⋮
☐ Sep 26, 2023	⋈ Brittany Chiang | Web Developer & UX Enthusiast bchiang7.github.io	⋮

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⟨⟩ Code ⊙ Issues ⫝ Pull requests	

Google Search Queries:

In Google searches, I used a combination of terms such as "best portfolio websites," "trending web designs 2023", and "Re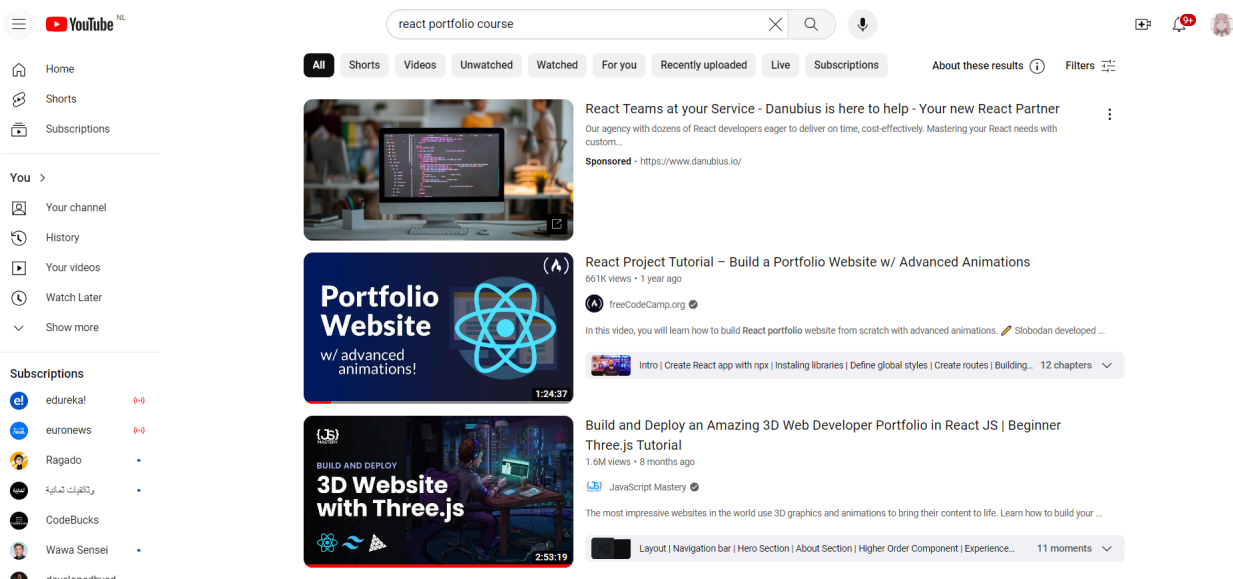act project showcases". This method involved analyzing articles, blog posts, and curated lists that featured exemplary portfolio websites, offering insights into design trends and innovative layouts.

☐ Sep 20, 2023	The 10 Big Design Trends Taking 2023 by Storm	www.linearity.io	⋮
☐ Sep 20, 2023	top web design **trends 2023** and 2022 - Google Search	www.google.com	⋮
☐ Sep 20, 2023	The 29 Dominating Web Design Trends for 2023	blog.hubspot.com	★ ⋮

YouTube Exploration:

On YouTube, I delved into React-related courses, tutorials, and showcases. Keywords like "React web design" "portfolio design tutorials" and "React portfolio" directed my search. These videos provided visual representations of web designs, showcasing interactive features and potential inspirations for portfolio layouts.

|			
☐ Sep 27, 2023	Code With Me 3D Modern Portfolio with NextJS13, TypeScript, TailwindCSS, React Three Fiber - Part 5 …	www.youtube.c…	⋮
☐ Sep 27, 2023	react-portfolio-website · GitHub Topics	github.com	⋮
☐ Sep 27, 2023	Build and Deploy an Amazing 3D Web Developer Portfolio in React JS	Beginner Three.js Tutoria…	www.youtube.c…	★ ⋮

Selected Website

Code Bucks:

This website caught my attention due to its innovative design elements and enthusiasm for showcasing coding skills and layout of the home page, specially for the headings. It is true that the navigation posed challenges, affecting the overall user experience to me and to the others, but despite this, its uniqueness and coding-centric approach were aligned with my portfolio goals, intending to highlight technical skills.
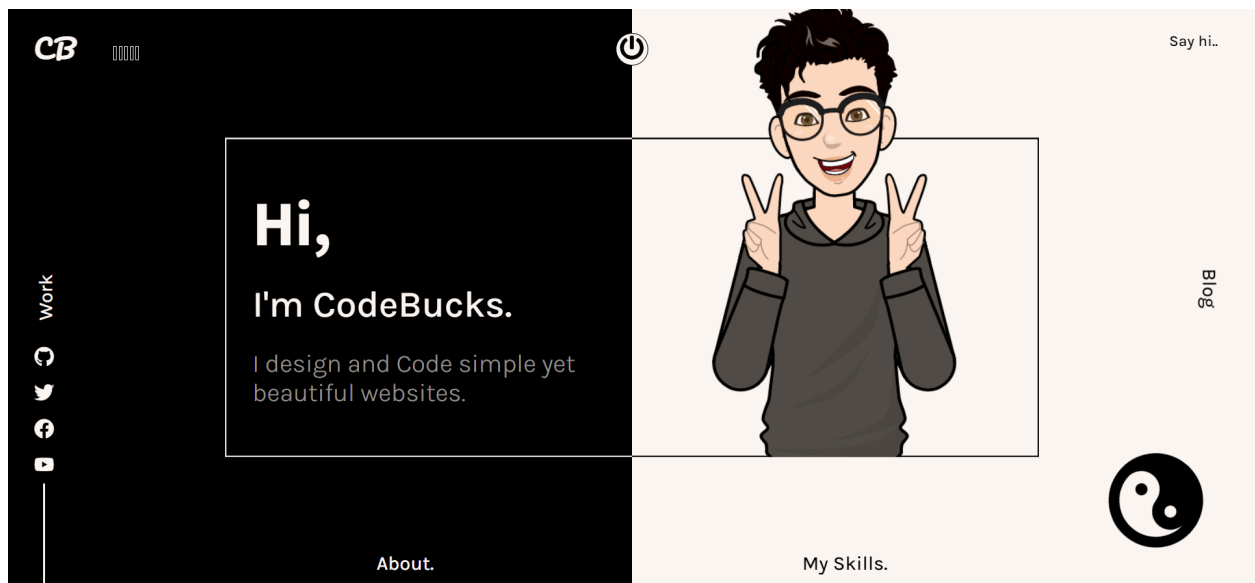
React Portfolio:

Among the choices, the React Portfolio stood out for its simplicity and potential to show coding skills effectively and most important, the 3D elements. The site is not built to showcase what is learned but to get a job, showing the history of the person's work, the languages he knows and a contact page with an impressive background and 3d element of an earth that is spinning slowly. Choosing this website as the layout will mean that there is a lot to do and fix, but I am ready for the challenge because it looks so good.
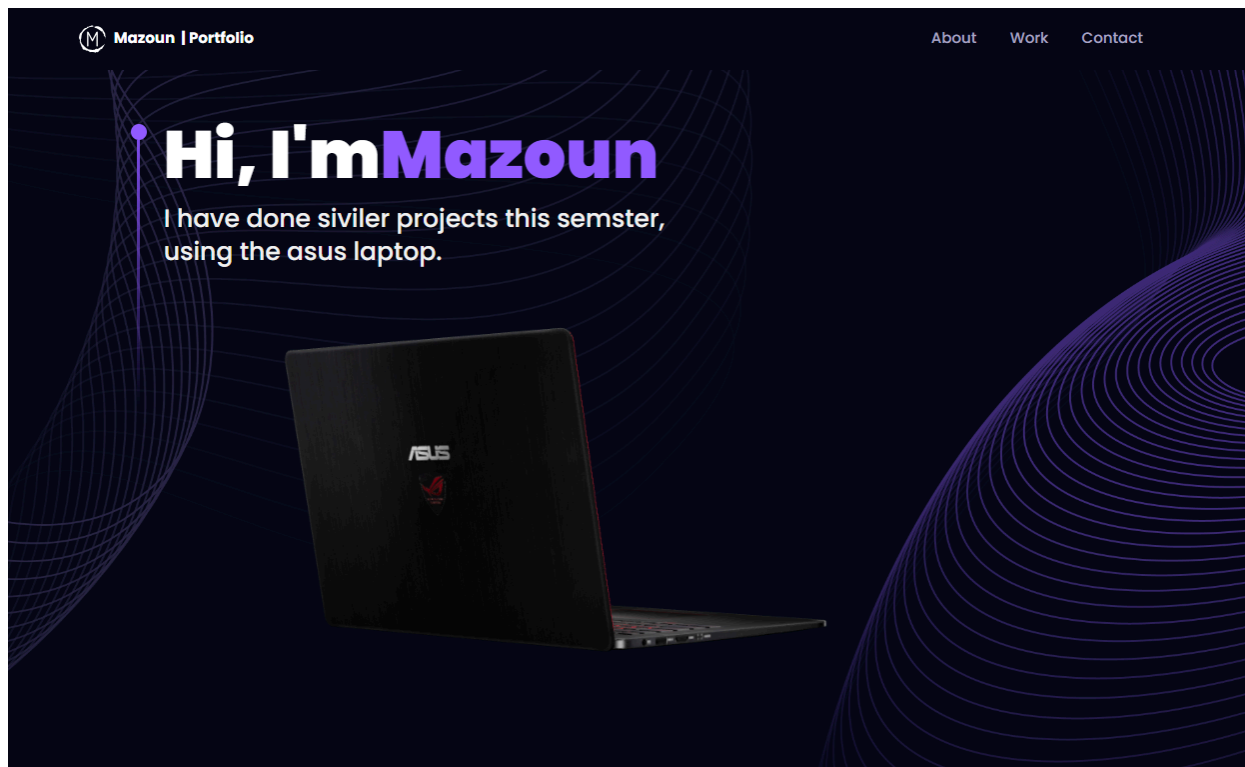
Cali Castle:

Cali Castle presented a clean layout and certain design elements that initially seemed promising. However, the website's formal design and functionality made it looked boring, but it served - in my opinion - the minimal requirements for the teachers. Despite these drawbacks, its attempt at structured layouts and specific pages like the blog page with my portfolio's goals, to show the research for example. Therefore, it was not a bad choice.
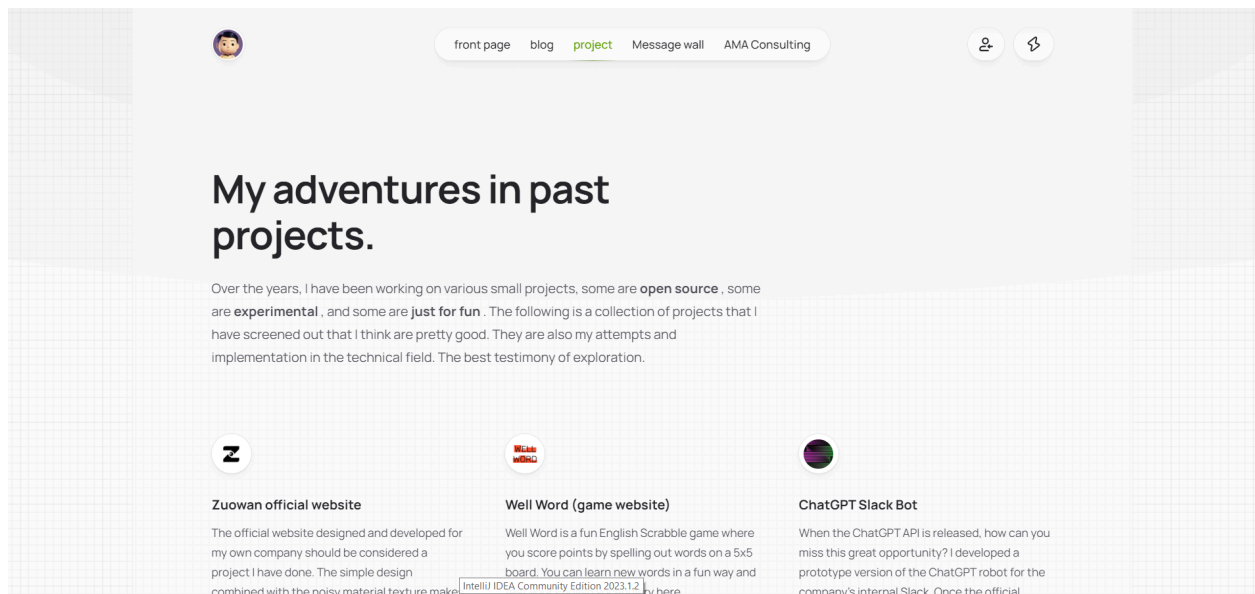
Evaluation of Non-Selected Websites

During the exploration for suitable websites for my portfolio, I encountered various options across different platforms. While some showed potentials, they didn't entirely align with the objectives due to specific reasons:

GitHub Repository:

The reason for Not selecting many GitHub websites were for the following reasons:

1. **No Live Demo:** The majority of repositories lacked a live demo showcasing the actual website, and even those with a demo often had it hidden. This absence of accessible live examples made it challenging to quickly assess the website's interactivity and functionality, crucial aspects for my portfolio showcase.

No demo:
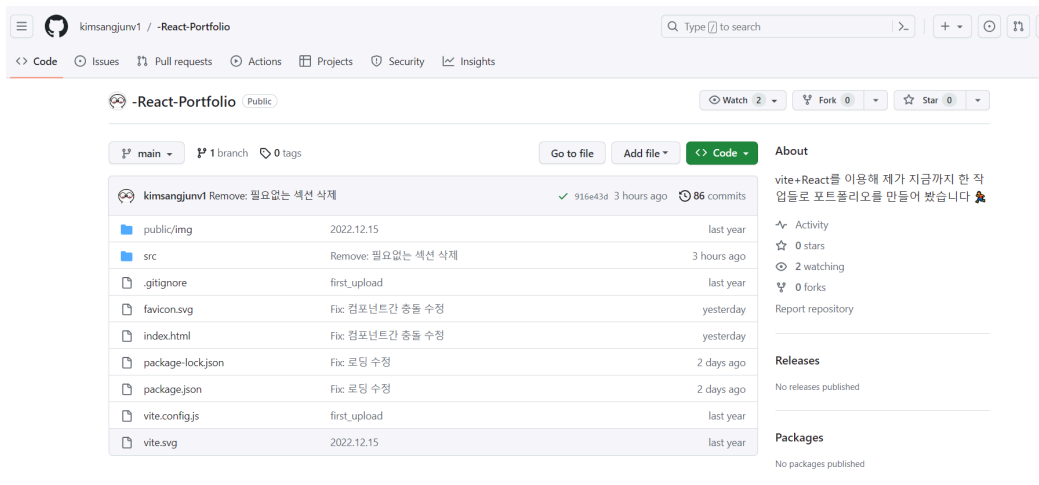
With demo:

2. **Programming Languages:** Upon further inspection, many showcased websites within these repositories implemented programming languages or frameworks beyond my current learning focus. These languages would require significant learning curves, diverting attention from my primary goal of showcasing React proficiency.
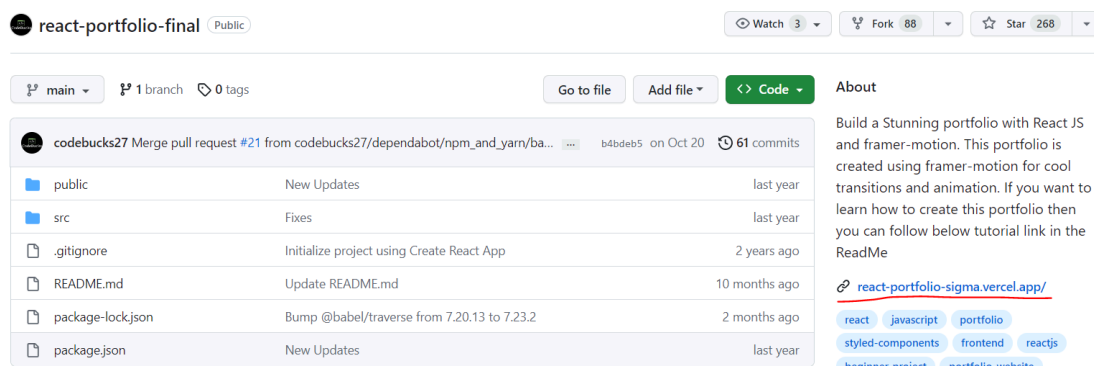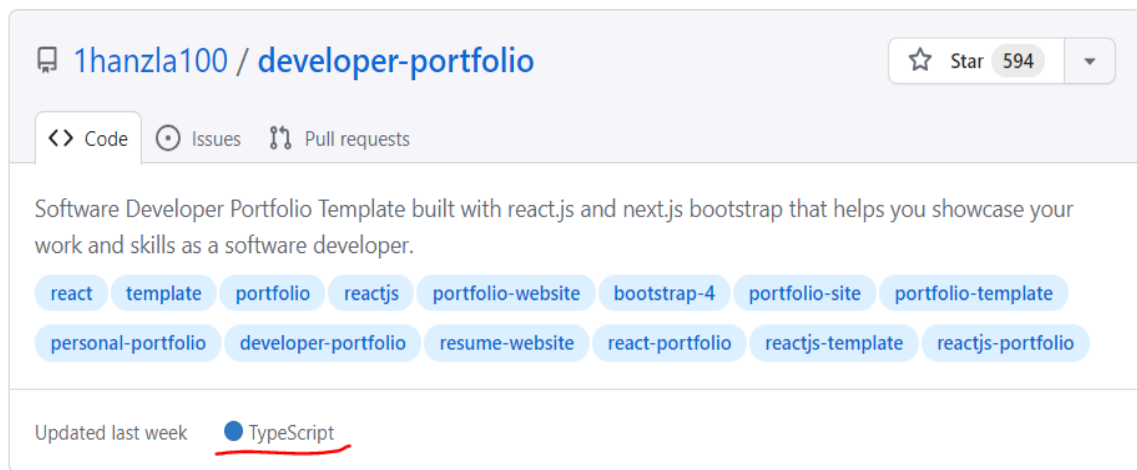

3. **Portfolio Misalignments:** Several repositories hosted websites that didn't align with my portfolio objectives. Some featured single 3D elements, non-functional mockups, or pages unrelated to the scope of my portfolio, such as e-commerce pages. While these repositories might offer learning opportunities, the implemented elements and functionalities wouldn't align with my immediate portfolio-building needs for this semester.

4. **No ReadMe.md:** The majority of repositories lacked a visible ReadMe.md or documentation outlining the website's features, functionalities, or setup instructions. The absence of this documentation hindered a comprehensive understanding of the showcased websites, making it challenging to assess their suitability for my portfolio.

Future Enhancements

In the final website, I'm planning to integrate various elements discovered during my exploration until the end of the semester. Some enhancements stem from my exploration of diverse React courses and exemplary websites.

One significant enhancement involves the sidebar feature. Initially inspired by a unique design trend found during my web navigation, I've implemented a sidebar into the website's layout. Here's a visual representation of the inspiration and how I adapted it to fit the website's concept:
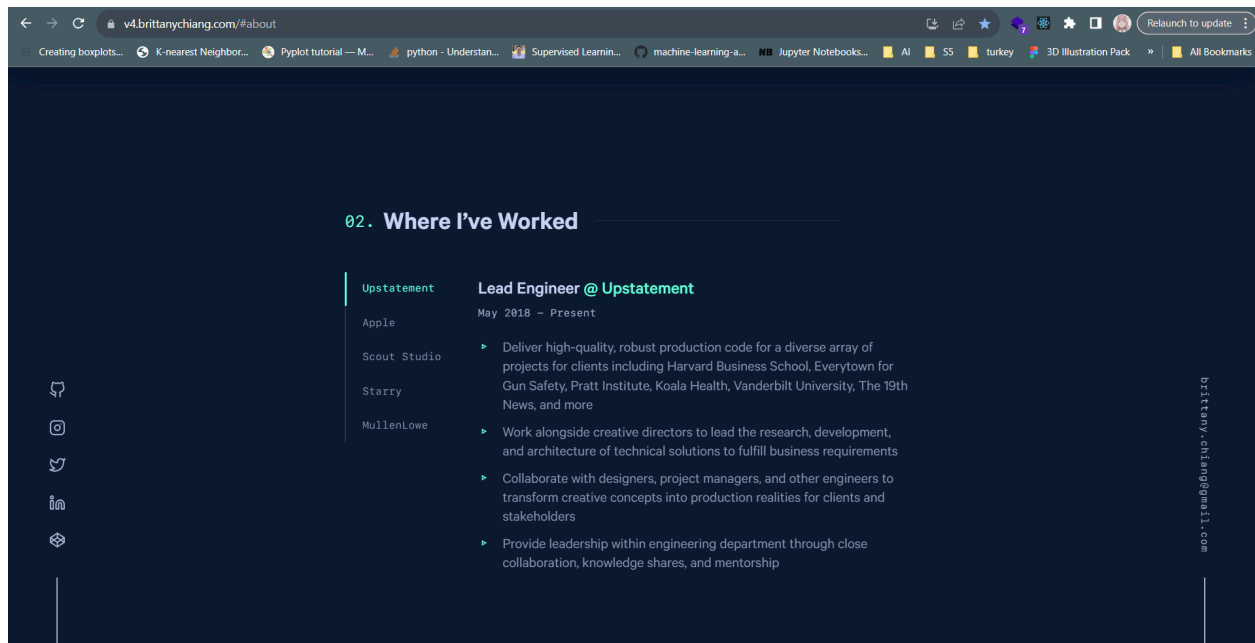
Sidebar Inspiration

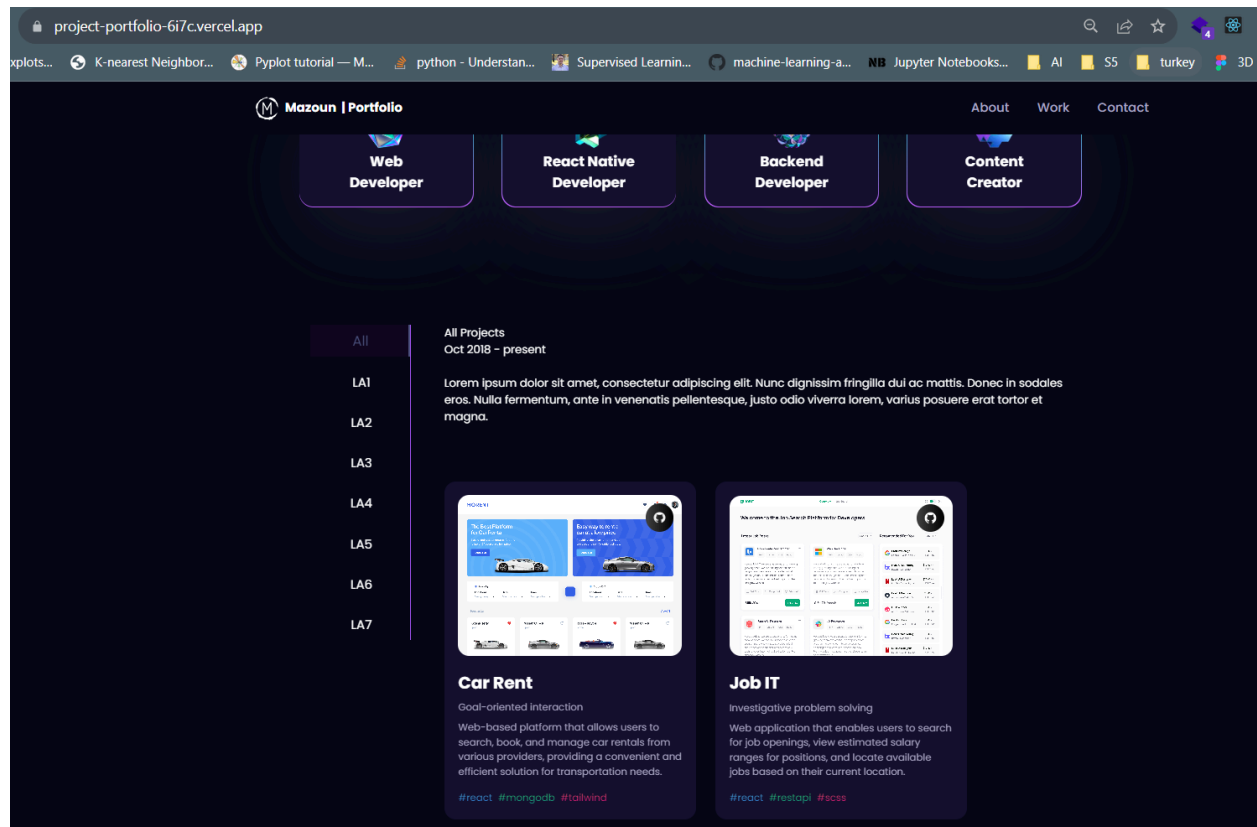Image 1: Sidebar inspiration from an external source.

Adapted Sidebar

Image 2: Adapted sidebar integrated into the website's layout.

These images illustrate the transition from the initial inspiration to the adapted sidebar, showcasing the changes made to align it with the overall aesthetics and functionality of my portfolio website. This enhancement aims to offer improved navigation and highlight specific content sections effectively.

Additionally, I'll be modifying color schemes while retaining the core layout of the selected website. My goal is to enhance the visual appeal and user experience, ensuring cohesiveness with the evolving content and design elements.

Conclusion

In summary, the process of selecting websites for my portfolio testing was essential in showcasing my coding skills effectively. This document details the meticulous criteria, search methods, and selection process used to ensure alignment with my learning goals and coding capabilities.

Exploration across GitHub, Google, and YouTube provided valuable insights into diverse web designs and React programming. The chosen websites - Code Bucks, React Portfolio, and Cali Castle - each had unique attributes and challenges, emphasizing the need to balance design appeal and functionality.

Evaluating non-selected websites highlighted reasons for exclusion, such as the absence of live demos and misaligned programming languages. Looking forward, I aim to enhance the final website using insights gained from ongoing courses and web exploration.

Overall, this thorough portfolio testing process emphasized continual improvement and aligning selections with immediate portfolio-building goals, shaping a portfolio that reflects my evolving skills and aspirations.

Reference

- Crothers, G. (2023, November 1). Important Benefits A Business Gets From Using Good Web Design. Pagekits. https://www.pagekits.com/web-design-benefits/
- Brittany Chiang website: https://v4.brittanychiang.com/#about
- My website: https://project-portfolio-6i7c.vercel.app/