

Matthew Tyas

Web/UX Designer & Front End Developer

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I am a designer with 6 years experience. Initially focusing on visual design and front end coding, over the last three years I have been taking on UX work through the use of focus groups, personas, wireframes and prototypes. I now oversee every aspect of design - from requirement gathering and interpretation, UX/UI work, visual design and best practice hand coded front end build, through the entire project life cycle.

Matthewtyas.com

My personal portfolio and blog. I employ as many new techniques here as possible. For instance, it utilises a fluid grid system and media queries to be fully responsive to any device it is viewed on. It uses a font for the display of icons, reducing image overheads and making sure images remain crisp on retina devices. It is built on Wordpress, using the latest HTML 5 and CSS 3. I also publish my writings on design and development. I find a written record of some of the more complex problems I have faced helps when justifying design or development decisions to others, whilst also in some part contributing to the design community as a whole.

Manchestersfinest.com

Manchester's Finest is a blog I co-own, design, build, maintain, write for, and run with long time collaborator and friend Lee Isherwood. We started the site in 2010 to fill a gap we identified for a site that promoted the best independents in Manchester. The site has been a big success. We get 25,000 plus visitors a month, and have a weekly newsletter and twitter account with over 10,000 subscribers each. We look to constantly review, improve and promote the site. Over the last six months I have improved the coding, introduced a mobile view and automated the sending of the newsletter, as well as focusing on new user groups (such as the student population) and recruited new young writers to keep our content fresh and relevant.

Employment

2010 to Present **The University of Leeds**

In my role as designer and front end developer at Leeds, I have delivered and overseen a number of successful projects. I was originally employed on fixed-term contract to help collect user requirements, wireframe, prototype, design and build a web application to facilitate the application process and financial planning for research grant applications within the university. This system went live in 2012 and is the first of its kind in the UK.

I was subsequently made permanent and have worked on a number of websites and applications both alone and within a team. Key projects include overseeing a redesign of the corporate website (Leeds.ac.uk); designing the new responsive HR website, which uses search

Skills

Prototyping

Paper prototyping / sketching
 User journeys
 Personas
 HTML & SASS/CSS rapid
 front end prototyping

Languages

HTML 5
 CSS 3
 SASS
 JQUERY
 PHP
 .NET

Software

Wordpress
 Jadu (enterprise CMS)
 Adobe CS6
 Coda
 GIT via Terminal
 Ruby on Rails

Standards

Adherence to web standards
 Semantic mark-up
 Accessibility (WCAG 2.0)

Interests

Design, & the design &
 development community
 (blogging, attending conferences)
 Mentoring students (for MMU)
 User experience
 DJ
 Music production
 Socialising
 Sport
 Travel

REFERENCES AVAILABLE
ON REQUEST

to help users quickly get the information they need; creating the UX and designing The Leeds Network, an application through which students can obtain careers advice from alumni; and creating the UX and designing the volunteering database, an application whereby students can find, manage and apply for volunteering placements.

I have also been responsible for managing and mentoring junior staff, as well as acting as lead designer on all the projects in which I have been involved, and taking on managerial responsibility for the design team as a whole during long periods when my manager has been absent from work. Currently, I am prototyping the new version of the 'Leeds for Life' application. This one-of-a-kind application guides students through their university life, giving them access to a timeline of study, their latest grades, and the ability to book time with tutors, all from one dashboard that is device friendly.

2008 – 2010

Clearview Media

As the lead Web Designer I was responsible for taking projects from the briefing stage through their complete lifecycle including design, wireframe, development and testing. Working in a small team with a developer and Flash animator I was also responsible for closely working with the marketing department on email campaigns, banners adverts and liaising with the company MD.

2006 – 2008

Holiday Cottages Group

As part of a small team of designers and developers I was responsible for creating both large and small scale websites, email marketing and banner adverts for the travel industry. In my last most recent assessment I scored the top level possible (exceptional contributor).

Education

2002 – 2005

Manchester Metropolitan University

BA (Hons) Design & Art Direction:
Upper Second Class (2:1)

2001 – 2002

Leeds College of Art & Design

BTEC Diploma Foundation Studies (Art & Design)

1999 – 2001

Greenhead College

English Language: Grade A
Psychology: Grade A
Art & Design: Grade B

1994 – 1999

Calder High School

11 GCSEs Grades A - B