

Monica Chang  
Programming Usable Interfaces  
Homework 8 Writeup  
Due 12/03/18 at 11:59pm

### **Part 1: Purpose**

The original idea behind my portfolio site was to document and showcase my work and encompass everything from photography, coding, user experience and user interface research, and print. However, I realized how much I wanted to document the film work I've been pursuing this past summer and semester. It's something that I'm really passionate about and I wanted to develop a portfolio site that can encompass it. It's a site is targeted towards friends, family, or just people who appreciate photography and art. It would be also something I'd show recruiters, but more for the purpose of showing other interests of mine.

I thought it'd be good practice to have this narrower focus and to cater the style of the site to embody this type of photographic work. Since photography is so compelling in itself, I didn't want to overwhelm each project with too much text. For projects that I had thought out ahead of time, I decided to include a short description of the concept, but I kept other ones more minimal so as not to take away from the photographs themselves. I use animations to accentuate this idea as well by having smooth and simple transitions to move between sections, so that more of the power lies in looking at the images themselves. Having the photographs very large in a stacked layout also helped to create this effect. Another aspect of this project I wanted to devote a lot of attention to was the sidebar. Through my preliminary research and competitive analyses, I discovered the value of having an effortless navigational experience. Since taking a course in Document Design, I also wanted to apply concepts of spacing and typography in the context of digital interfaces.

### **Part 2: How a user should interact with the site**

- Upon arrival to the site, scroll to animate more and reveal "explore" button
- From there, click explore to go to the first project or use the sidebar navigation to jump to a category and project of choice
- Click a large (capitalized) category to slide the dropdown of project belonging to that category
- Each project jumps to a page with a similar heading structure followed by stacked photographs
- Clicking on my name should bring the user back to the home page with the scrolling text animations

### **Part 3: External Tools**

- I used jquery shorthand animations like sliding for easy and minimalistic transitions for the navigation. Using these provided smooth transitions that were natural and not distracting from the content of the site. I also used animate.css for the same purpose. It has some beautiful "quiet" animation capabilities, like fading in and out, and doing so while sliding. It was relatively dynamic in terms of speed and integrating with scrolling movement. Using these provided smooth transitions that did not overwhelm the power of the photographic work.

### **Part 4: Iterating on Mockups**

I decided to omit the capability of popping up each photograph on click. I want the user to quietly scroll through an entire series or project without interruption, and implementing popups would have distracted from this, especially since the photos already appear large enough. I slightly modified the

style of the sidebar navigation in terms of what happens on hover and active for a category vs. a project and put a lot of thought into how to establish effortless navigation.

### **Part 5: Challenges**

One of the challenges I encountered was integrating each component of the home page scrolling. When working with many smaller animations, it was hard to combine scrolling functions with `animate.css` to make the interactions between them smooth and natural in terms of timing.