UX Portfolio Website ⚪ FP 4

Part 1: Project Overview

My portfolio is aimed to showcase my past UX design work over the past few internships I've completed and prior HCI coursework in an impressive way.

My current portfolio is made with Squarespace, so my goal for this project was to create a solid framework to eventually migrate all of my case studies to my Github. I wanted to take sole ownership over my portfolio's design and implementation with uniquely customized code that cannot be achieved with Squarespace's templates. In my website, I convey information such as my design philosophy, my notable past internships with short descriptions and visuals of each project, and links to my resume and other social media.

I catered my website to both recruiters interested in looking at my past work for upcoming job interviews and students similar to me who are looking to break into UX Design and are interested in mentorship opportunities with me. I included interactive components including a simplistic smooth scrolling animation for my works page, a fun cursor design, hoverable buttons and tags, and arrow animations to make the website feel clickable, dynamic, and engaging for users.

Part 2: Interactions

Smooth Scrolling

- Click on the "Work" link in the nav bar to open the works page.
- Use your touchpad to ever so slightly scroll down and the next section will snap in place.
- The case study covers along with text will also slide up from a lower to full opacity and stop moving once the section is fully in the viewport.
- Likewise, use your touchpad to ever so slightly scroll back up and the previous section will also snap in place with the same smooth opacity transition.

Quick Links Snap Targets + Back to Top

- Click on the "Work" link in the nav bar to open the works page.
- Click any of the buttons in the Quick Links section.
- The window will smoothly auto-scroll all the way down to the selected section.
- After the section is in viewport, a new button will appear called "Back To Top"
- Clicking this button will reset the scroll to easily go back to the top of the page.

Image Hovering

- Click on the "Work" link in the nav bar to open the works page and scroll down to any case study
- Hover your mouse over an image in the works page
- The image will slightly scale and then reset size when your mouse is no longer

Image Hovering

- Click on the "Work" link in the nav bar to open the works page and scroll down to any case study

iFrame Calendly Booking

- Click on the "Mentor" link in the nav bar which will load in the Calendly iFrame
- You will be able to step through the whole process to book a meeting

Hoverable Elements

- Navigation bar links are hoverable and have some small keyframe animations to change the background color slowly from transparent to purple.

Part 3: External Tools Used

Describe what external tool you used (JavaScript library, Web API, animations, or other). Following the bulleted list format below, reply to each of the prompts. (We will stop reading at the 4th sentence, so please be concise)

GreenSock Animation Platform (GSAP) ScrollTrigger (greensock.com/docs/v3/Plugins/ScrollTrigger)

- I chose to use this JavaScript library because it allows for a lot of customization for scrolling and works across browsers.
- I used ScrollTrigger and the ScrollToPlugin, along with CSS Snap Scrolling to easily switch between different sections of my portfolio projects.
- The smooth animations in my works page makes the experience of reading through different case studies feel immersive, especially when recruiters are used to reading through long static text.

GSAP Cursor https://codepen.io/ionz149/pen/xxKRyKd

- I directly added this code and customized it to fit my site's branding and color palette.

- The circle following the cursor allows users to easily tell where their cursor is at all times without really obstructing much behind it, which I thought would be a great accessibility benefit, in addition to alt text/labels/color contrasts.

Part 4: Iterations

Describe how you iterated on your prototypes, including any changes you made to your original design while you were implementing your website. (4-8 sentences max)

- In FP2, I had ideated a very complex immersive scroll that would let users preview the next case study while browsing through a current one. However, I had to descope this idea due to time constraints, and decided to implement a better feasible direction I was also considering earlier on, which was changing the look and feel when users scroll to the next case study.
- I was able to achieve this interaction with the GSAP Scrolling functions.
- I also built upon my previous designs by adding in a simple mentorship page where prospective students can book a coffee chat with me.
- I had to change around my branding palette after realizing some of the colors were not meeting contrast.

Part 5: Challenges:

- One of the most difficult parts was learning how to use a JavaScript library which I've never done before. I wasn't sure how to install it with npm since it wasn't working no matter what I tried, but I finally got it to work just using a cdn.
  - Due to my lack of experience, I was stuck on a very tricky bug for a while to figure out why the GSAP Snap Targets were not working on a button click, and after debugging this, I realized that GSAP did not support CSS Snap scrolling. However, I didn't want to get rid of my CSS Snap scrolling so I took a more naive approach to add and remove those classes while a scroll animation was happening.
- Overall, this project made me a much stronger front-end programmer as I gained practical experience in dealing with challenges like this.