

Churchill House - Rationale

1. Reflection

In this unit, I am to create a responsive website that can function properly and target the expected audiences of the brief. The website for this unit is about Churchill House which was designed by Robin Boyd. The audience of this website is everyone who is interested in architecture or building design and styling.

At the beginning of the project, I created a prototype of the website to figure out how my site will look like and locate all the elements on the page. Then I wrote HTML to display the contents and images and CSS was applied to those HTML files to make them nicer. Responsive design is the last thing I did to my website.

This is the first time I have written HTML code that gave me some challenges. Gradually, I got used to writing HTML code and understood it more. For CSS, at the beginning, I thought it was just for colour and styling. Well, CSS can do much more than that I realised. I learned from CSS-Tricks¹ that I can do many styles for images.

As I first come up with the website, the navigation caused many issues for me because I could not even put them to the left side and in the same line with the logo. I did research and I found some good trick for position² and navigation implementation³ both written by Chris in CSS-Tricks websites.

To solve those navigation, I saw the tips on Canvas that helped me to display the navigation properly. Also, it is the navigation style I designed in my first draft for the website. There is just list item display inline and next to logo that make the navigation very clear.

The font of my website is the most confusing thing I have experienced because I am not good at what differentiates between fonts of websites. In my research, I saw most of the sites go with serif for heading and sans-serif for body text. WebFlow Blog⁴ guided me to choose the correct fonts for my website and I jumped to choose the fonts on Google Fonts (<https://fonts.google.com/>). There were too many fonts, so I took a quite bit some time carefully to select the right ones for my websites.

Beside the text of my website, there are some images that I decided to display them with grid structure which I can easy control their positions and display them nicely. Those images caused a massive position changes when I did not use grid to display them². So, I need to change to something else that I can control easier than just put the position of the images or float them to the left or right.

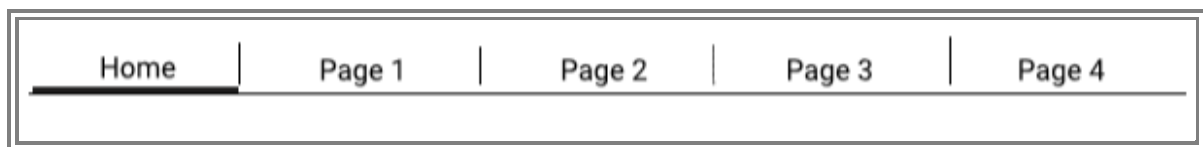
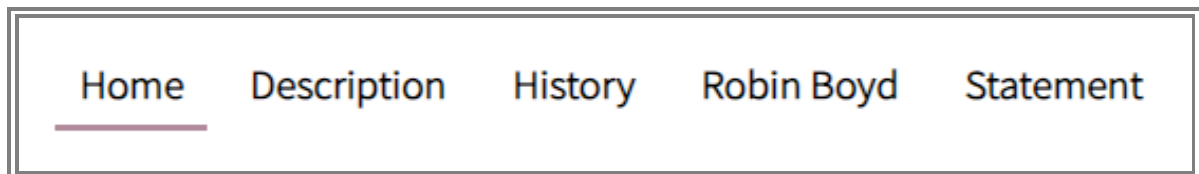
My first design also included the side bars but in later phase I found them that side bars are bad for responsive sizes and destroy the layout of the pages as it will come down to the bottom of the pages and it does not do as it is supposed to do. Instead, I put some images into the main content. The article named "*Elements To Ditch Or Repurpose On Mobile*"⁵ posted on Smashing Magazine helped me to decide my layout.

Overall, I think I have learnt how to develop the website from the first step to create the sketches of the website to the last phase which is make the website responsive for different sizes. The responsive website can become very complex because when I scale up or down, the elements are

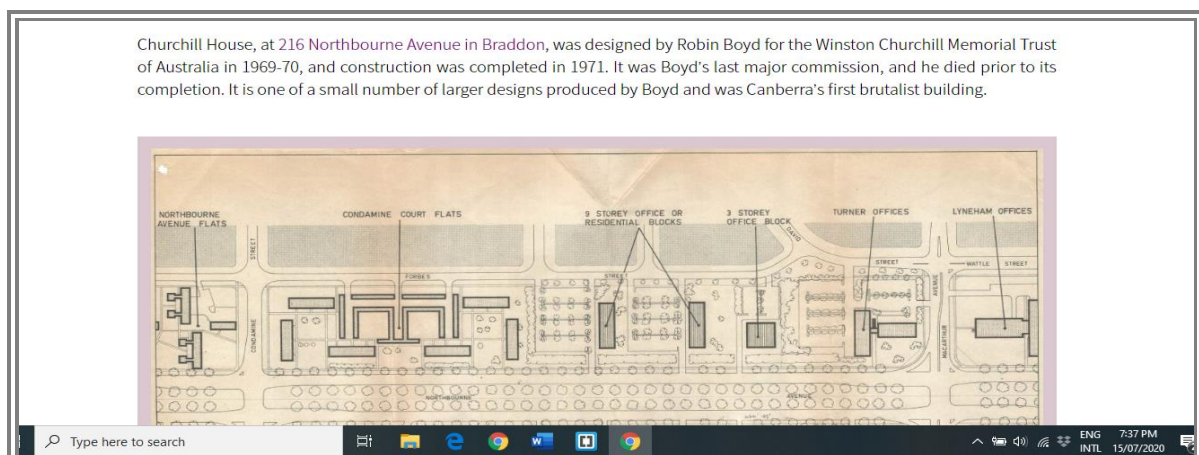
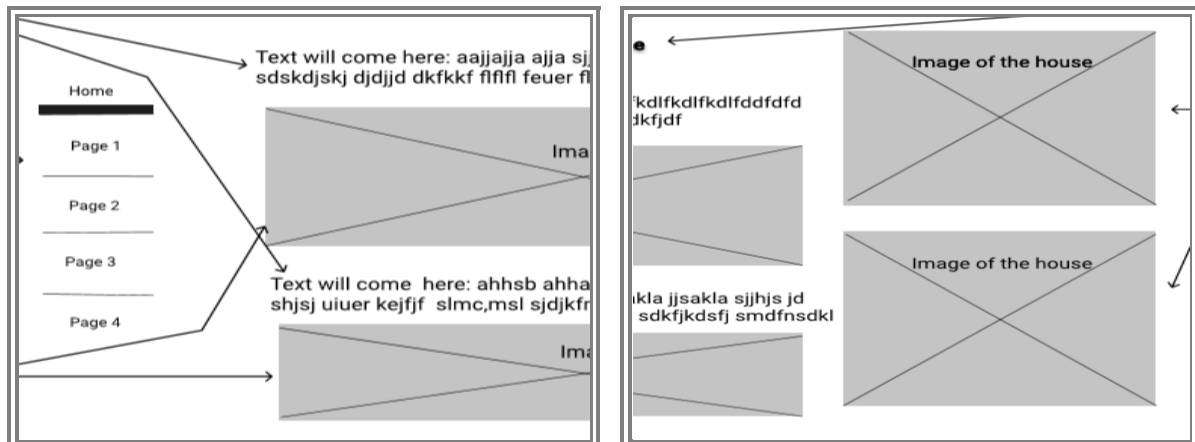
going to change differently. So, I need measure that more carefully and consistently to tailor my website to the target audience. In the future, I can be confident to implement and build better websites with my understanding in web design process and get everything on track to achieve better results.

2. Comparison

In the home page, compared to the sketch, I got rid of the border right because if I do the border right, the border bottom is not link to the it, so it is good idea to clear that to improve the layout.



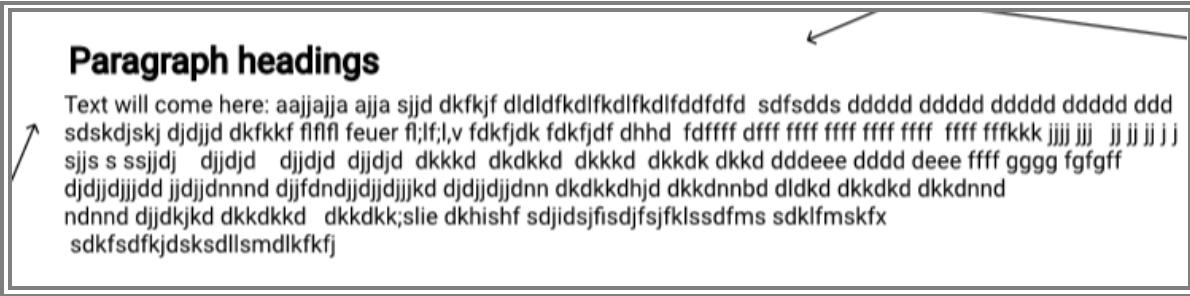
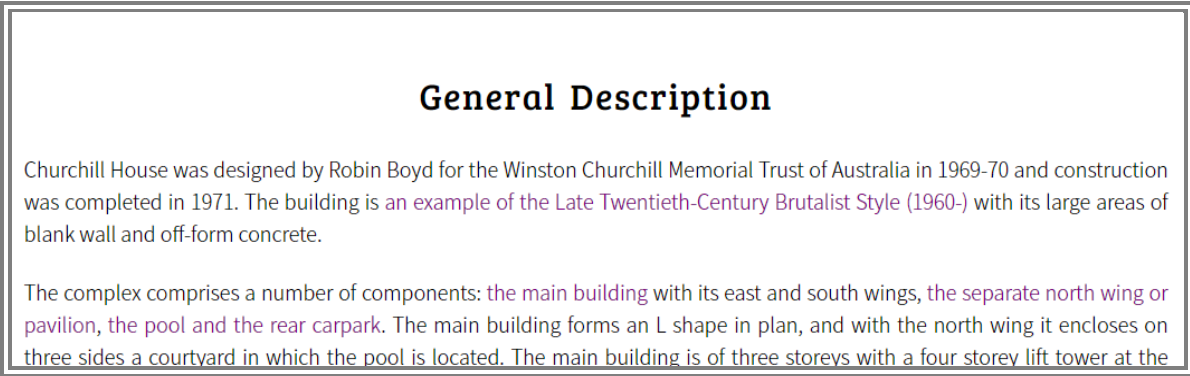
Moreover, I got rid of the side bar navigation and side bar images. Those side bars were out of fashion and as I moved to responsive devices, they were dropped down to the bottom and it is not function as it was in the web view. As I mentioned above, I have read the article named *Elements To Ditch Or Repurpose On Mobile* written by Suzanne in 2018 before I have decided to cut off those sidebars.



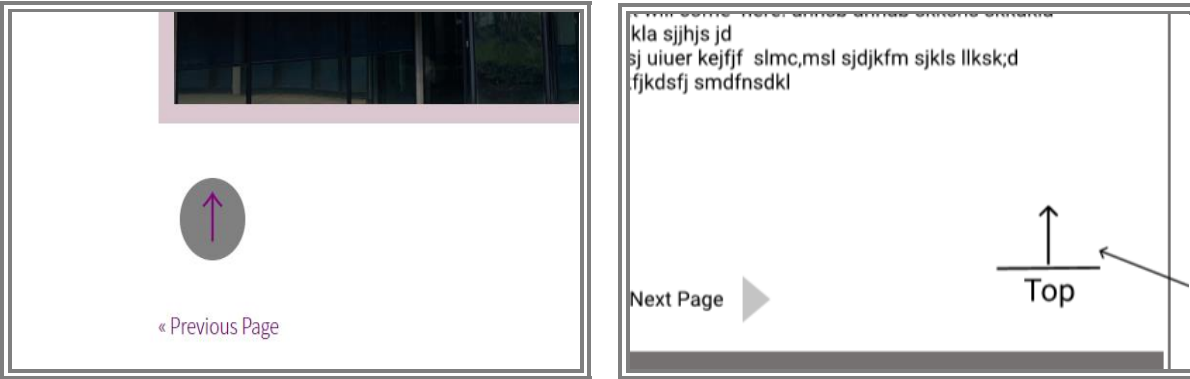
In the content page, I changed the border of the content title from 2 lines not even to a double-line border and made it highlighted with red colour.



Also, the headings are aligned to centre of the page instead of the paragraph column. It will be a better display for headings.



Last thing is the back to top button. In my research, I saw the back to top button sit above the footer on the bottom right corner. I decided to place the button to the left for controlling the position.



3. My Original Sketches

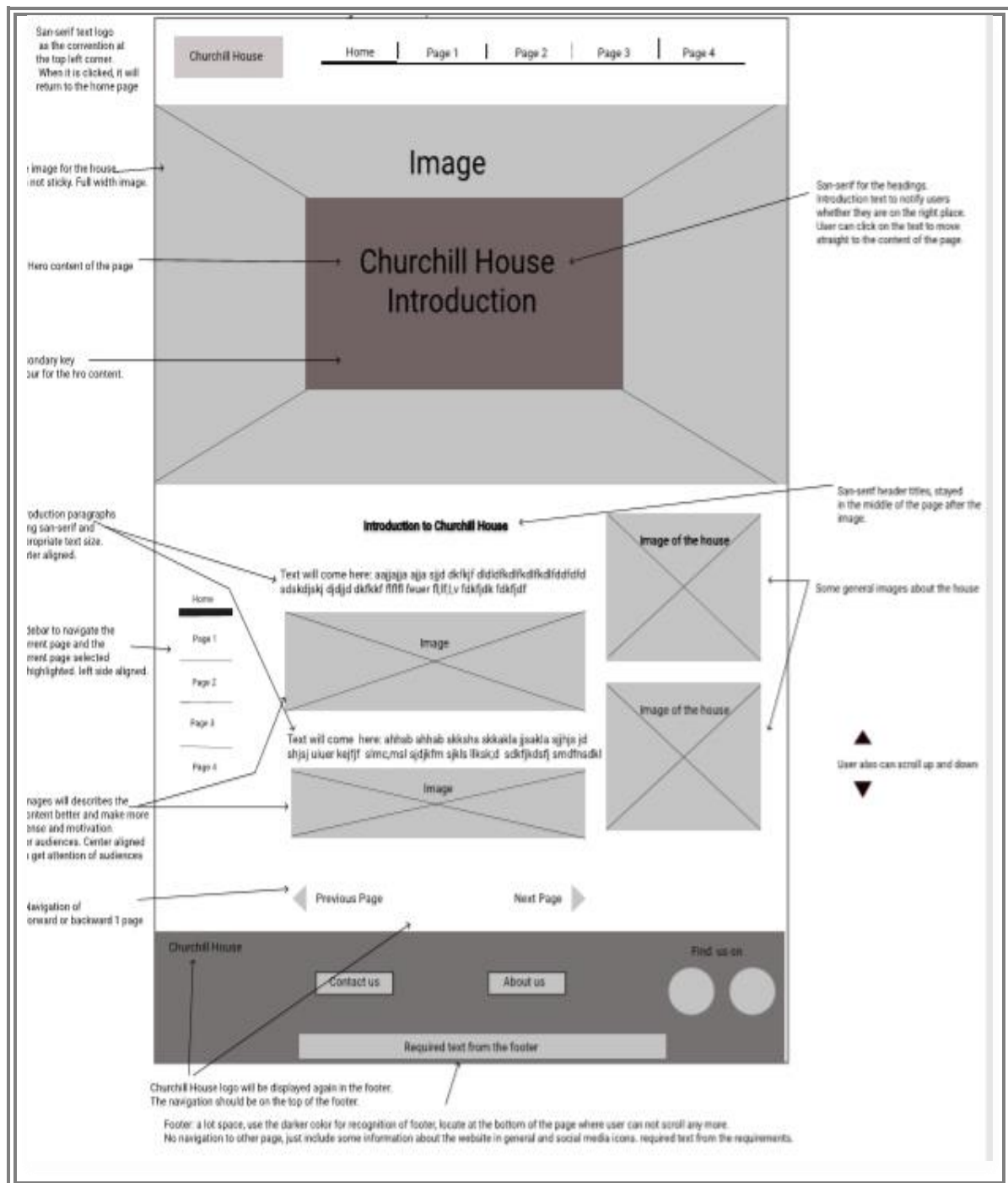
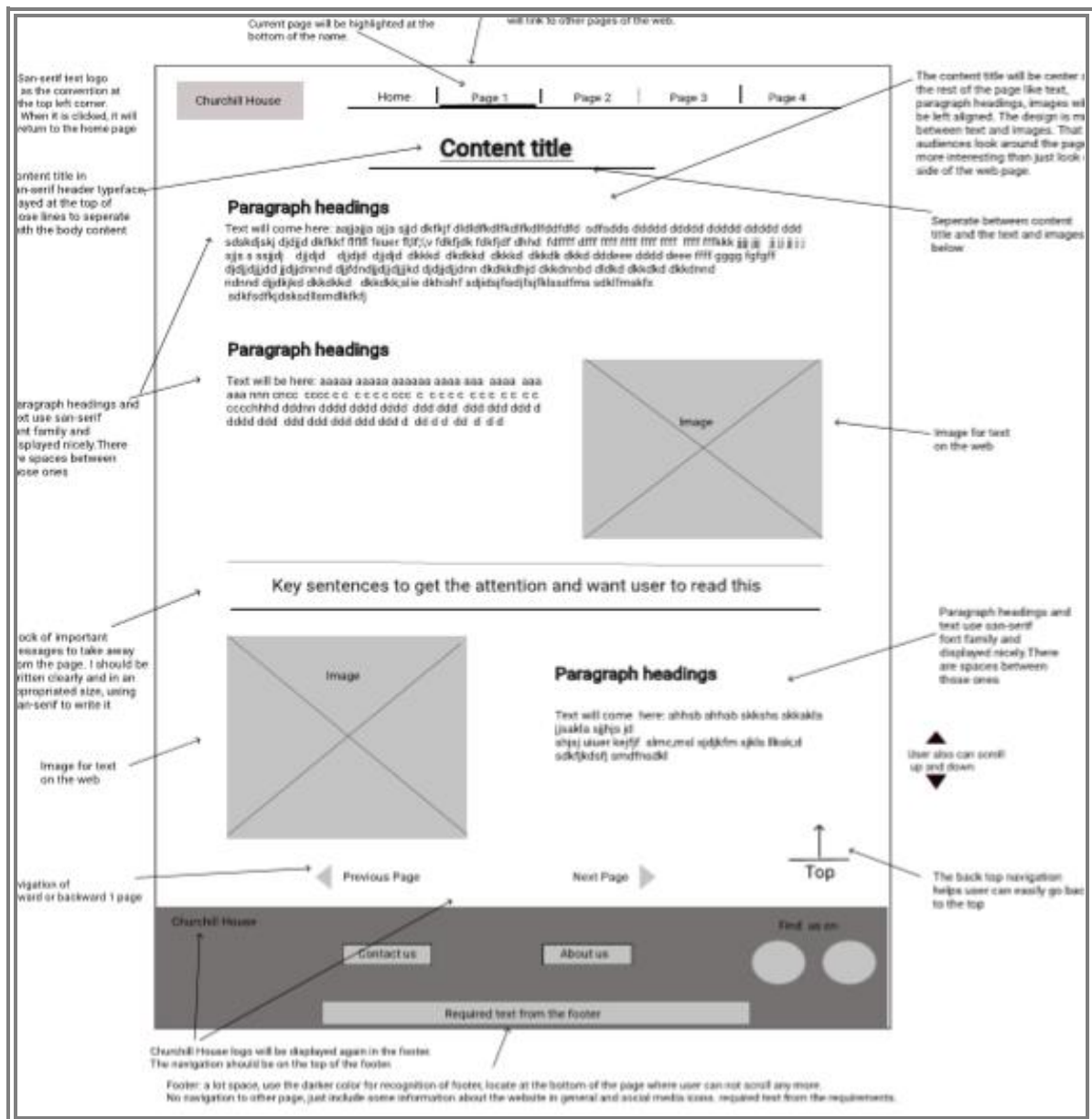


Figure 1- Original Sketch for Home page



- Laura, E, 2016, *A Simple Web Developer's Color Guide*, <<https://www.smashingmagazine.com/2016/04/web-developer-guide-color/>>: In the site above, I can discover many usages of colour to make website look better. There will be a base colour then from that you can slight change the colour for different elements or choose a lighter colour like an accent colour.
- Australian Institute of Architectures, <<https://www.architecture.com.au/>>: This is an architecture site so it is very useful because I am developing a website about architecture and building design as well. I saw the background as well as the font is very nice and fashion. The contrast between elements in there is clear and attract audience's focus.

- MSD Web Docs – HTML elements reference, <<https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/HTML/Element>>: This HTML information help me to develop and understand how the HTML work. It can help from basis to advanced HTML. The content is plenty to pickup from there.
- *A Complete Guide to Grid*, 2020, CSS-Tricks, <<https://css-tricks.com/snippets/css/complete-guide-grid/>>: Last few years, grid is becoming powerful tools for web development process. I found it very cool tool to display my image and text in 2 separated columns. I can easily divide it into 2 columns or push it back to original size as I come to responsive sizes.
- *Responsive Web Design - What It Is And How To Use It*, 2011, <<https://www.smashingmagazine.com/2011/01/guidelines-for-responsive-web-design/>> : This article gives me a clear understanding and idea for responsive websites. There are examples of screen sizes when it is reduced to smaller sizes or scaling up to the bigger sizes. So, from that, the article points the things need to be changed for the website by adding some CSS code.

References

1. Chris, C 2018, *Specifics on CSS Specificity*, CSS-Tricks, viewed on 29th June 2020, <<https://css-tricks.com/specifics-on-css-specificity/>>
2. Chris, C 2019, *position*, CSS-Tricks, viewed on 29th June 2020, <<https://css-tricks.com/almanac/properties/p/position/>>
3. *Website Navigation – Planning And Implementing*, Smashing magazine, viewed on 20th June 2020, <<https://www.smashingmagazine.com/2011/06/planning-and-implementing-website-navigation/>>
4. David, K 2015, *How to pick the best font for your site*, Webflow Blog, viewed on 29th June 2020, <<https://webflow.com/blog/how-to-pick-the-best-font-for-your-site>>
5. Sunzanne, S 2018, *Elements To Ditch Or Repurpose On Mobile*, Smashing magazine, viewed on 20th June 2020, <<https://www.smashingmagazine.com/2018/12/elements-ditch-repurpose-mobile/>>