(1) Design Journey

The Beginning

From the start, I wanted to create a simple and elegant personal website that reflected my personality and showcased the information I wanted to share: a short bio, some travel photos, and projects I completed during the course. My goal was to learn how to structure a multi-page website in a clear and user-friendly way.

My initial vision was for a light-colored website with calming tones, but after seeing examples and realizing that darker colors created a modern and elegant feel, I decided to use a dark background color with blue for the main elements.

Colors and Fonts

I used a consistent layout across all pages to maintain a cohesive look:

Dark background (#0b1020)

Darker cards (#141b2f)

Blue for the main elements (#3fa9f5)

I felt the dark colors were suitable for the site because they make images and text stand out better, especially in the photo gallery.

For the fonts, I chose simple and clear ones to ensure easy readability.

I divided the site into approximately five pages:

Home – About – Gallery – Projects – Contact. Each page has a clear function.

I placed a navigation bar at the top in a consistent location on every page.

The Hero section on the homepage was designed as a circle with a simple welcome message.

The photo gallery was the most important part for me, and I used a grid layout to ensure it looked organized on all screens.

Changes During Development

During development, I changed several things:

1) Profile Picture

Initially, I didn't use a profile picture. Later, I chose a picture of the cat because I don't like using profile pictures. I resized it so it would fit properly inside a circle.

2) Gallery

At first, all the pictures were too large and messed up the layout. Later, I used:

```
grid-template-columns: repeat(3, minmax(0, 1fr));
```

Then I added Media Queries so the grid would have two columns, then one column on smaller screens.

3) Projects Section

I changed it to the "Challenge – Solution" section because it was required by the task.

I wrote two simple projects and focused on the presentation.

Final Version

The final result felt much better than the version I initially envisioned.

The navigation is clear, the colors are harmonious, and each page has a purpose.

In the future, if I want to develop the project further, I will add a more detailed Skills + Footer page.

(2) Technical Details

CSS Variables

I used CSS Variables within `:root` to organize:

Primary Colors

Card Colors

Fonts

This made it easier to change colors without having to go back to each line.

Semantic HTML Tags

I used several semantic elements such as:

`<header>` for navigation

`<main>` for the main content

`<section>` for each section within the pages

`<figure>` + `<figcaption>` within the image gallery

`<footer>` at the bottom of the pages

This makes the site more organized and easier for web readers.

Advanced CSS Selectors

I used selectors such as:

`.gallery-grid figure:hover photo{ ... }`
`.nav a.active::after { ... }`

I used hover effects for the images to show that it's an interactive element.

I added a subtle transition to the images and buttons.

I added a simple animation to the hero image to make it more appealing.

(3) Accessibility & Responsive Design

I used alt text for all the images.

I used strong contrast between the background and the text.

I added a label to each entry in the form.

I tested the rendering on both mobile and desktop.

I used Media Queries:

Three columns

Then two columns

Then one column

(4) Problem-Solving

1: Images weren't displaying.

The problem was with the file path or extension.

I tried several solutions and then realized I had to write:

src="images/ger1.jpg"

After that, it worked.

Problem 2: The image gallery was disorganized.

I initially used flex, but the order was broken.

I used grid, and it was the best solution.

Problem 3: Contact Form Formatting

The boxes were too narrow and jumbled.

I used `width: 100%` and `form-group` to achieve proper alignment.

5) Reflection:

The website reflects my minimalist style; I love calming colors and clear organization.

The part I'm most proud of is the image gallery because it's well-organized, carefully selected, and exactly what I wanted.

I learned the importance of organizing files and thinking about the design before starting to code.

I learned why responsiveness is so important, especially for mobile.

If I were to work on a new project, I would focus more on small details, lines, and spacing.