

CA1 Part 2

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Coding

A lot of time was spent on the logical design of the site before any design elements were added. I wanted to ensure that the page worked exactly as it should before adding any styling or image elements.

The first challenge was deciding what pages or sections would be required on the page. I decided that the cleanest approach would be to use just one page but present the user with the required div elements at appropriate stages by defining 2 classes, “show” and “hide”. in the process. Getting the order summary table to calculate and recalculate the values took some time and dealing with changing variables from strings to numbers in Javascript caused some further roadblocks. The biggest challenge was getting all the elements to align in a neat professional looking way.

I feel that following this project I have a much deeper understanding of when to use ems vs. percentages. I also learned of the usefulness of rems to ensure consistency across several div elements. Using for loops to ‘traverse’ cells to make adjustments as required was another technique I found very useful.

Things I look forward to exploring more about are using the ‘pattern’ attribute to define input requirements and learning how to link a front end page like this to a database. Having never used jQuery or Javascript before I was very happy to get everything working as I wanted but if time allowed I would have liked to include more subtle effects throughout the page. I would like to add more custom alerts to the page instead of the standard Javascript alert which does not allow styling.

Design

First I surveyed some popular restaurant websites to get an idea of a suitable style. From sites like momofuku.com and boco.ie it was clear that most modern restaurant sites are based on a high quality image background which fills the screen. I found a suitable copyright free image on pexels.com and began designing the page around it. I experimented with several Google Fonts until I found a heading style I thought would suit the page. I used Google’s font website to get suggestions for a good ‘body’ font to match. I chose white as a font colour to ensure the writing ‘popped’ in front of the background image. I added a shadow effect to the font using a colour that harmonises with the warm colours of the background image.

For the alert window I researched some popular jquery plugins like Sweet Alert and tried to imitate the modal effect using the JQuery API as specified in the brief. Pexels was also used to source images for the alert box and final order confirmation window as the images were high quality, copyright free and matched the style of the main background image.