GitHub for UI/UX Designers: No-Code Guide

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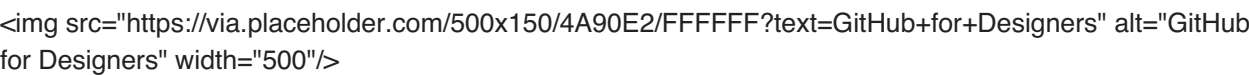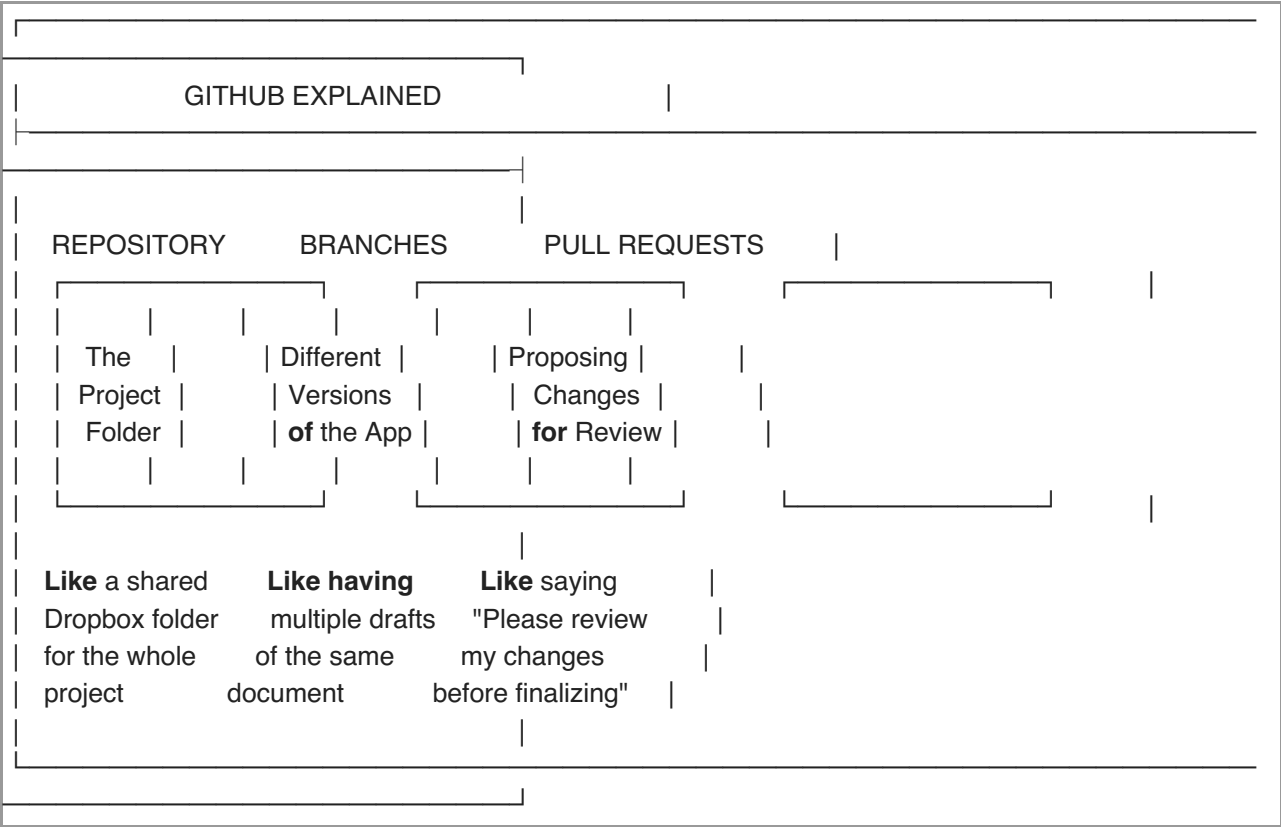
<p>Working with GitHub without writing a single line of code</p>
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What is GitHub (in Plain English)?

GitHub is like a shared digital workspace where all the code for our app lives. Think of it as Google Docs, but for code - it keeps track of all changes, who made them, and when.
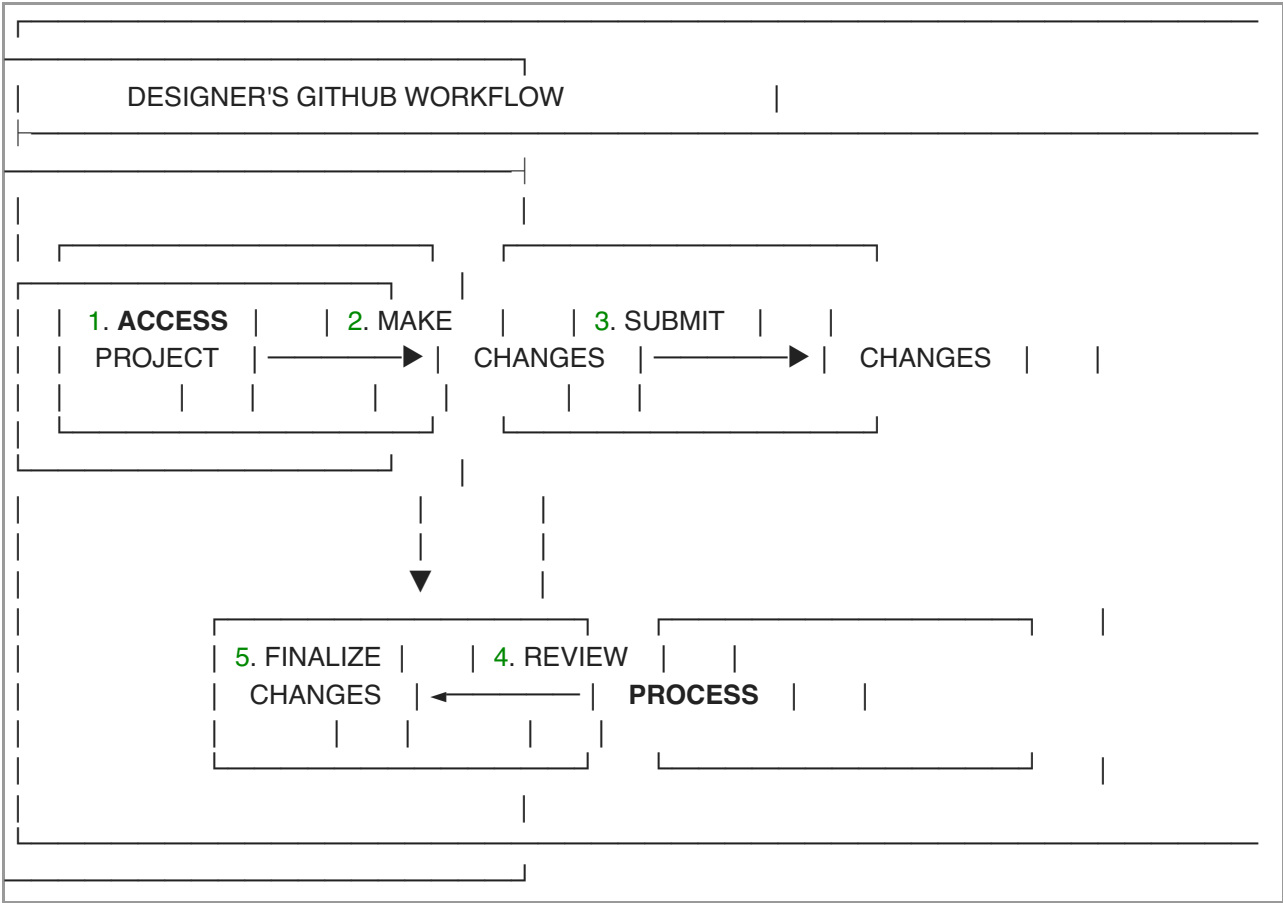
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│                                                                │
│   GITHUB EXPLAINED                    │                        │
│ ├──────────────────────────────────────────────────────────── │
│ ┌─────────────────────┐                                        │
│ │                     │                                        │
│ │  REPOSITORY      BRANCHES       PULL REQUESTS      │         │
│ │ ┌──────┐   ┌──────┐    ┌──────┐   ┌──────────┐       │       │
│ │ │      │   │      │    │      │   │          │       │       │
│ │ │ The  │   │ Different │   │ Proposing │       │            │
│ │ │ Project │   │ Versions │   │ Changes │       │            │
│ │ │ Folder │   │ of the App │   │ for Review │       │         │
│ │ │      │   │      │    │      │   │          │       │       │
│ │ └──────┘   └──────┘    └──────┘   └──────────┘       │       │
│ │                         │                                    │
│ │ Like a shared    Like having    Like saying      │          │
│ │ Dropbox folder   multiple drafts  "Please review     │       │
│ │ for the whole    of the same    my changes       │          │
│ │ project          document       before finalizing"   │       │
│ │                         │                                    │
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<p>GitHub concepts in everyday terms</p>
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Your Design Workflow with GitHub

As a designer, you'll interact with GitHub in a few specific ways, but you won't need to use complex commands or write code.

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│  ┌──────────────────────────────────────────────────────────┼──┐
│  │        DESIGNER'S GITHUB WORKFLOW              │          │  │
│  ├──────────────────────────────────────────────────────────┼──┤
│  ┌──────────────────────────────────┐                        │  │
│  │                                  │                        │  │
│  │  ┌──────────────────┐   ┌────────┼──────────────┐         │  │
│  ┌──┼──────────────┐   │   │        │              │         │  │
│  │  │ 1. ACCESS    │   │ 2. MAKE    │   │ 3. SUBMIT │   │    │  │
│  │  │ PROJECT      │──────▶│ CHANGES  │──────▶│ CHANGES │   │  │
│  │  │          │   │   │       │   │   │       │   │         │  │
│  │  └──────────────────┘   └───────────────────┘            │  │
│  └──────────────────────┘                                    │  │
│  │                        │                                  │  │
│  │                        │       │                          │  │
│  │                        │       │                          │  │
│  │                        ▼       │                          │  │
│  │  ┌──────────────────┐  ┌───────┼──────────┐    │         │  │
│  │  │ 5. FINALIZE │   │  │ 4. REVIEW    │    │              │  │
│  │  │ CHANGES  │◀──────│ PROCESS   │    │                   │  │
│  │  │       │   │   │       │   │                           │  │
│  │  └──────────────────┘  └──────────────────┘    │         │  │
│  │                        │                                  │  │
│  ├──────────────────────────────────────────────────────────┼──┘
│  └──────────────────────────┘                                │
└─────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────┘
```

<p>How you'll work with GitHub</p>
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Accessing the Project (No Terminal Needed!)

Option 1: GitHub Codespaces

GitHub Codespaces gives you a complete development environment in your browser - no installation needed!

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┌─────────────────────────────────────────────────────┐
│  USING GITHUB CODESPACES              │
├─────────────────────────────────────────────────────┤
│                    │
│  1. Go to github.com/yourusername/indaba-care        │
│                    │
│  2. Look for the green "Code" button              │
│                    │
│  3. Select "Codespaces" tab                 │
│                    │
│  4. Click "Create codespace on main"              │
│                    │
│  5. Wait a minute while it sets up              │
│                    │
│  6. You're in! The editor will open right in your browser │
│                    │
└─────────────────────────────────────────────────────┘
```

<p>Accessing the project through GitHub Codespaces</p>
</div>

Option 2: Windsurf

Windsurf offers an even more designer-friendly interface with AI assistance.
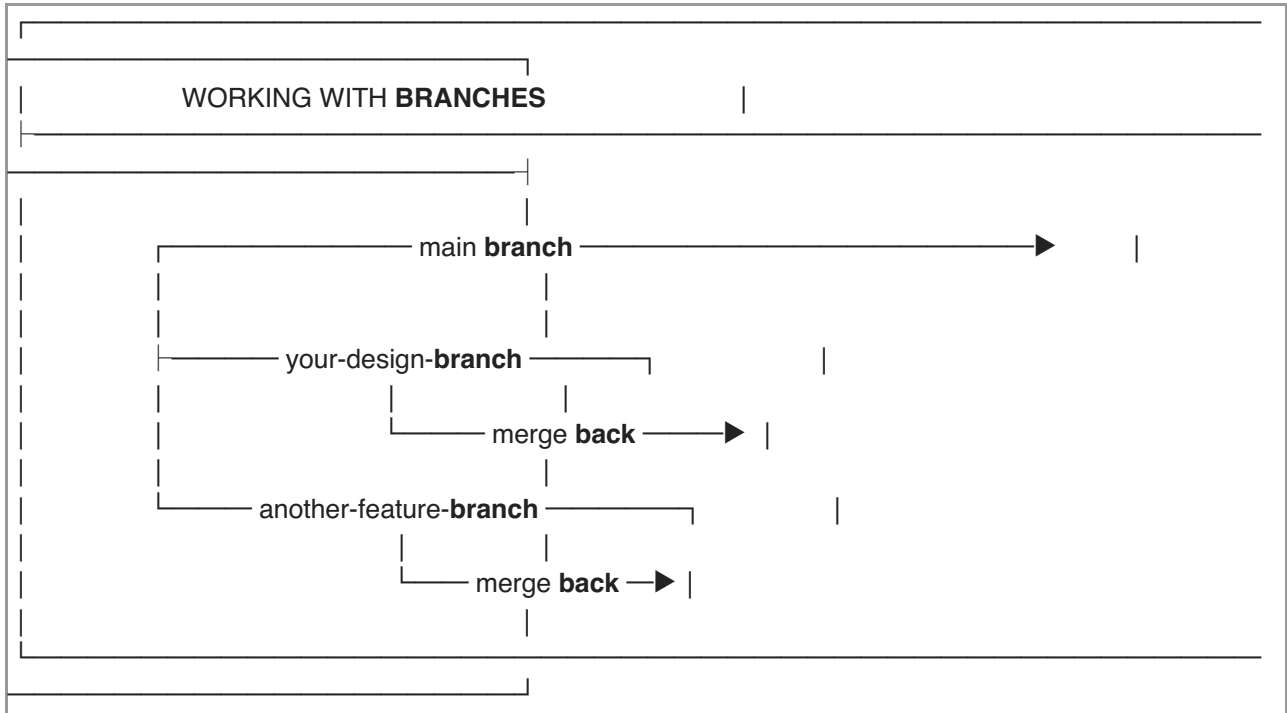
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┌─────────────────────────────────────────────────────┐
│  USING WINDSURF              │
├─────────────────────────────────────────────────────┤
│                    │
│  1. Go to windsurf.app and log in with your account     │
│                    │
│  2. Create a new project from GitHub repository         │
│                    │
│  3. Enter: yourusername/indaba-care            │
│                    │
│  4. Windsurf automatically connects to GitHub          │
│                    │
│  5. You can now edit files with Cascade's help       │
│                    │
└─────────────────────────────────────────────────────┘
```

<p>Accessing the project through Windsurf</p>
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GitHub Branches: Working on Your Own Version

In GitHub, everyone works on their own "branch" - like having your own copy of the project to experiment with.

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│                                                                    │
│          WORKING WITH BRANCHES              │                      │
├──────────────────────────────────────────┐                        │
│                                           │                        │
│  │                   │                                             │
│  │         main branch ──────────────────────────────▶        │   │
│  │         │                 │                                     │
│  │         │                 │                                     │
│  │      your-design-branch ──────────────┐         │              │
│  │         │         │                   │                        │
│  │         │         └── merge back ──▶  │                        │
│  │         │                 │                                     │
│  │      another-feature-branch ──────────┐         │              │
│  │         │         │                   │                        │
│  │         │         └── merge back ─▶ │                          │
│  │                   │                                             │
└──┴───────────────────┘                                            │
                                                                     │
```

<p>How branches work</p>
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Creating Your Design Branch

In Windsurf or Codespaces:

1. **Ask Cascade** (in Windsurf):

   "Can you help me create a new branch called 'design/photo-gallery-update'?"

2. **Use the UI** (in Codespaces):

   - Look for the branch name (usually "main") in the bottom left corner
   - Click on it and select "Create new branch"
   - Name it with a descriptive prefix like "design/login-screen-update"

Making Design Changes

Once you're on your own branch, you can safely make changes without affecting the main project.

Finding Files to Edit

Ask Cascade in Windsurf:

> "Where can I find the photo gallery component?"

Or in Codespaces:

- Use the file explorer on the left sidebar
- Navigate to the components and pages folders

Making Changes

1. **Edit CSS/SCSS files** for styling changes
2. **Edit component files** for layout changes
3. **Edit asset files** to update images and icons

Sharing Your Changes on GitHub

When you're happy with your changes, you'll need to "commit" them (save them to GitHub) and create a "pull request" (ask for your changes to be reviewed).

Committing Changes

In Windsurf, just ask Cascade:

> "Can you help me commit my changes to GitHub? I've updated the photo gallery design."

In Codespaces:

1. Click the "Source Control" icon in the left sidebar (looks like a branch)
2. You'll see a list of changed files
3. Add a message describing your changes
4. Click "Commit"

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┌─────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────┐
│  ┌──────────────────────────────────────┐                    │
│  │         COMMIT MESSAGES         │                         │
│  ├──────────────────────────────────────────────────────┤    │
│  │                   │                   │                    │
│  │     GOOD EXAMPLES     │      BAD EXAMPLES        │         │
│  │                   │                   │                    │
│  ├──────────────────────────────────────────────────┤        │
│  ┌──────────────────────────────────────┐                    │
│  │                   │                   │                    │
│  │  "Update photo gallery card   │   "Fixed stuff"        │   │
│  │   design with rounded corners" │                    │     │
│  │                   │   "CSS changes"           │            │
│  │  "Redesign login page with    │                    │      │
│  │   new color scheme and logo"  │   "WIP"              │     │
│  │                   │                   │                    │
│  │  "Add responsive layout for   │   "Please work"        │   │
│  │   activity cards on mobile"   │                    │      │
│  │                   │                   │                    │
│  └──────────────────────────────────────────────┘            │
│  └──────────────────────────────────────┘                    │
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```

<p>How to write good commit messages</p>
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Creating a Pull Request (PR)

A pull request is your way of saying "I've made some changes, please review them and add them to the main project."

In Windsurf:

"Can you help me create a pull request for my design changes to the photo gallery?"

In Codespaces:

1. After committing, click "Publish Branch"
2. You'll see a prompt to create a pull request
3. Fill in the details about your design changes
4. Submit the PR

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┌─────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────┐
│ ┌───────────────────────────────────────┐                           │
│ │        PULL REQUEST TEMPLATE           |                           │
│ ├───────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────┤
│ ┌───────────────────────────────────────┐                           │
│ │                                       │                           │
│ │  Title: "Design: Update Photo Gallery Card Layout"        |       │
│ │                                       │                           │
│ │  Description:                             |                       │
│ │  -------------------------------------------------    |           │
│ │  This PR updates the photo gallery cards with:         |          │
│ │                                       │                           │
│ │  - Rounded corners (8px border radius)                │           │
│ │  - Updated color scheme to match our new brand colors      |      │
│ │  - Improved responsive layout for mobile devices        |         │
│ │  - Added hover effects for better user interaction         |      │
│ │                                       │                           │
│ │  Screenshot:                              |                       │
│ │  [Attach before/after screenshots of your design changes]    |    │
│ │                                       │                           │
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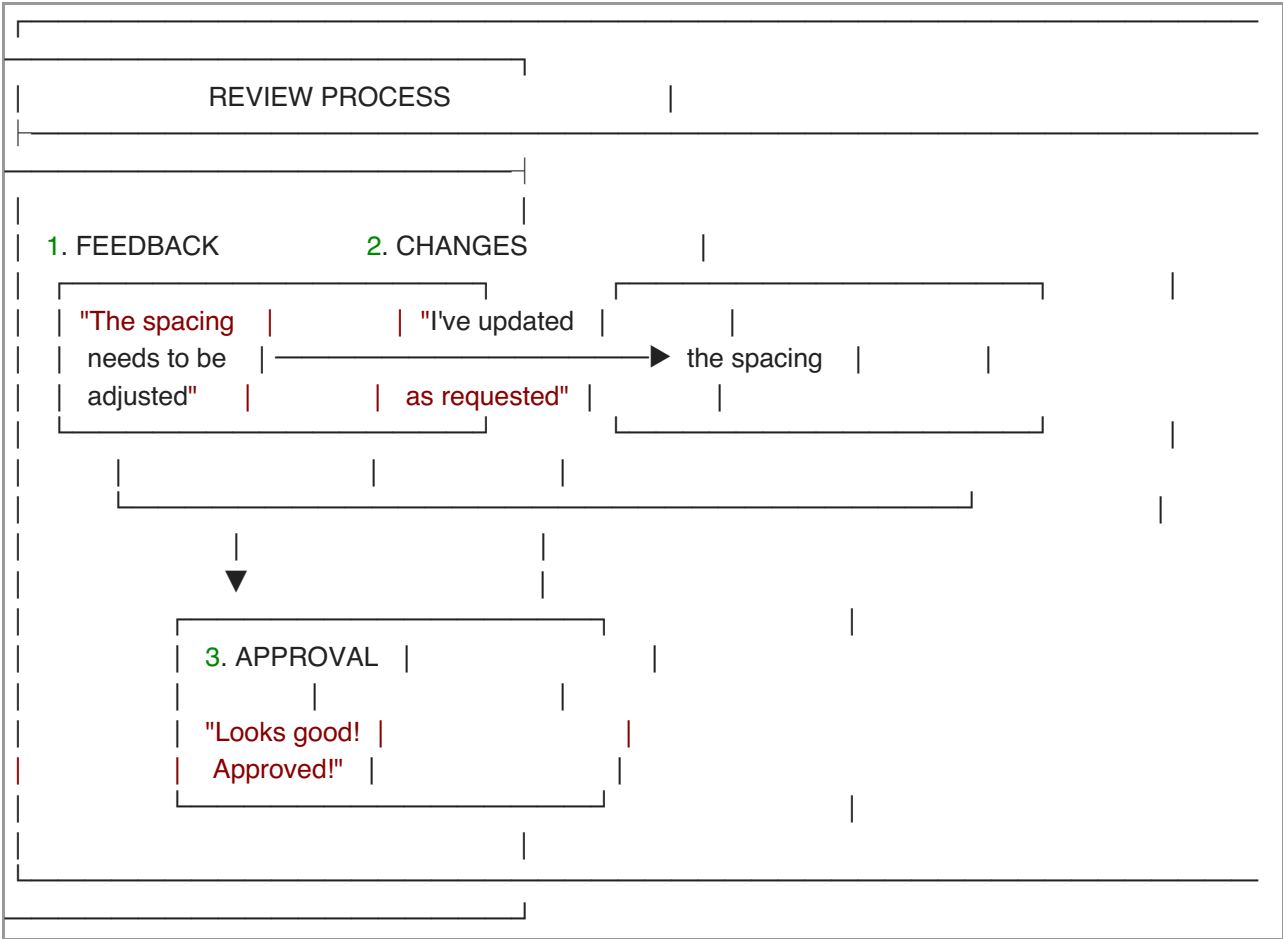
<p>Example pull request for design changes</p>
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The Review Process

After submitting your PR, developers will review your changes.

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│  ┌────────────────────────────────────┐               │
│  │        REVIEW PROCESS          │    │               │
│  └────────────────────────────────────┘               │
│  ┌──────────────────────────────────┐                 │
│  │                                  │                  │
│  │  1. FEEDBACK      2. CHANGES     │                  │
│  │  ┌──────────────┐  ┌───────────┐   ┌───────────┐  │ │
│  │  │ "The spacing │  │ "I've updated │ │           │ │
│  │  │ needs to be  │──────────────────▶│ the spacing │ │
│  │  │ adjusted"    │  │ as requested" │ │           │ │
│  │  └──────────────┘  └───────────┘   └───────────┘  │ │
│  │        │               │        │                  │
│  │        └────────────────────────────────┘          │
│  │        │               │                           │
│  │        ▼               │                           │
│  │  ┌──────────────────────┐       ┌─────            │ │
│  │  │  3. APPROVAL    │    │       │                  │
│  │  │        │         │    │       │                  │
│  │  │  "Looks good!   │    │       │                  │
│  │  │   Approved!"    │    │       │                  │
│  │  └──────────────────────┘       │                  │
│  │        │                        │                  │
│  └──────────────────────────────────────────────────┘ │
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<p>The review and feedback cycle</p>
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Addressing Feedback

If the reviewers request changes:

1. Go back to your branch in Windsurf or Codespaces
2. Make the requested changes
3. Commit them again with a clear message
4. The PR will automatically update

When Your PR is Approved

Once approved, your changes will be "merged" into the main project, and everyone will be able to see your design updates in the app.

GitHub Glossary for Designers

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┌─────────────────────────────────────────────────────────┐
│  ┌──────────────────────────────────────┐               │
│  │          GITHUB TERMINOLOGY      │    │               │
│  ├──────────────────────────────────────┴───────────────┤
│  ┌───────────────────────────────┐                       │
│  │              │               │                        │
│  │  GITHUB TERM   │   WHAT IT ACTUALLY MEANS   │         │
│  │              │               │                        │
│  ├───────────────────────────────┴───────────────────────┤
│  ┌───────────────────────────────┐                       │
│  │              │               │                         │
│  │  Repository (Repo)   │   The project folder that contains │
│  │              │   all the files         │              │
│  │              │               │                         │
│  │  Branch        │    Your own working copy where you │   │
│  │              │   can make changes safely    │          │
│  │              │               │                         │
│  │  Commit        │    Saving your changes with a    │     │
│  │              │   descriptive message      │            │
│  │              │               │                         │
│  │  Pull Request (PR)   │   Asking for your changes to be  │ │
│  │              │   reviewed and included     │           │
│  │              │               │                         │
│  │  Merge         │    Combining your changes with  │      │
│  │              │   the main project        │             │
│  │              │               │                         │
│  │  Clone         │    Making a copy of the repository │   │
│  │              │   on your computer        │             │
│  │              │               │                         │
│  │  Fork          │    Making your own copy of someone │   │
│  │              │   else's repository       │             │
│  │              │               │                         │
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```

<p>GitHub terms translated for designers</p>
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GitHub Help for Designers

If you get stuck with GitHub:

1. **Ask Cascade** in Windsurf for help with any GitHub tasks
2. **Ask a developer** on the team - they're used to GitHub and can help
3. **Use GitHub's visual interface** rather than trying to use commands
4. **Take screenshots** of any errors you encounter to share with the team

Remember: You don't need to understand all of GitHub to make design changes effectively!

<div align="center">
<p>Created by the Indaba Care Development Team | Last Updated: May 13, 2025</p>
</div>