Portfolio Development Plan

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1 Stage 1: Foundation (Core Layout & Pages)

Goal: Have a functional, minimal portfolio (v1) live.

1.1 Files to Touch

- `src/app/layout.tsx`: Add Navbar and Footer for consistent site structure.
- `src/app/page.tsx`: Implement HeroSection with introductory content and About intro.
- `src/app/projects/page.tsx`: Create a projects showcase with placeholder cards.
- `src/app/contact/page.tsx`: Add contact information with links only.
- `src/app/playground/page.tsx`: Display a “Coming Soon” message.

1.2 Deliverable

A clean, working site with navigation and placeholders.

2 Stage 2: Content & Styling

Goal: Make the portfolio look professional and readable.

- Enhance HeroSection with introductory text, a tagline, and a CTA button.
- Create `projects.ts` (or `.json`) file to store project data and map into ProjectCard components.
- Apply Tailwind CSS utilities for colors, spacing, and typography.
- Ensure responsive design for mobile-friendly layouts.

3 Stage 3: UX & Enhancements

Goal: Add polish and interactivity to the portfolio.

- Use Framer Motion for subtle animations (e.g., fade-ins, hover effects).
- Implement Dark/Light Mode toggle for user preference.
- Add SEO and meta tags in `layout.tsx` within the <head> section.
- Replace placeholder assets (SVGs) with custom or branded icons.
- Deploy the updated version as “Portfolio v2”.

4 Stage 4: Content Expansion

Goal: Transform the portfolio into a living, dynamic site.

- Add an optional About Me section for personal background.

- Introduce a Blog/Notes section to share experiments or insights.
- Enhance the Contact page with form submission using Next.js API routes, an email service, or Google Form integration.

5 Stage 5: AI Playground (Signature Feature)

Goal: Differentiate the portfolio by showcasing AI projects.

5.1 Tasks for `src/app/playground/page.tsx`

- Integrate a chatbot using the OpenRouter API.
- Showcase project demos (e.g., mini AI tools developed).
- Secure API keys using Vercel environment variables.
- Implement logging and usage tracking for analytics.

6 Stage 6: Production Hardening

Goal: Ensure the portfolio is professional-grade.

- Add analytics with Vercel Analytics or Google Analytics.
- Set up a custom domain (e.g., ganesh.dev).
- Perform performance checks using Lighthouse.
- Refactor code for reusable components and data-driven design.

7 Git Workflow

Goal: Version control and deploy changes to GitHub.

- Stage all changes:

```
git add .
```

- Commit changes with a descriptive message:

```
git commit -m ”Added␣Navbar,␣Hero,␣Footer,␣ProjectCard␣components”
```

- Push changes to the main branch on GitHub:

```
git push origin main
```