

Assignment 8

PUI

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Part 1

Description

The purpose of my final project was to create a clear, highly readable, and engaging professional portfolio to assist me in a UX research job search following the completion of the MHCI program.

My aim was to create a portfolio site that conveyed several different types of information about me:

1. **Direct information about my work** — Scannable case studies of past UXR work I have done, all in an easily-digestible format for the target audience of recruiting managers and interviewers.
2. **Direct information about my style** — Clear indications of my understanding of clean, uncluttered graphic design and “less is more” aesthetics
3. **Indirect information about my personality** — Tonal clues about my personality that come through in writing and overall information prioritization. As a portfolio is likely a first impression, but not a long one, I wanted readers to come away from my site not with a perfect sense of who I am, but with a sense that I am an individual (with a few clear influences or priorities).

While it might sound overly simple, I aimed to create a site that felt interesting due to its clarity and simplicity — which, I hope, together create a feeling of thoughtfulness. I also have an axe to grind with the recent overflow of contemporary personal site builders and the way they have overwhelmed the web with “the Bootstrap aesthetic.” In particular, I think this has taken attention away from readability, which in my opinion is a huge mistake. In making my site, I tried to make it interesting by making it a refreshing return to typographic fundamentals: pleasantly-narrow paragraph widths, using space and scale to show distinctions (instead of objects or colors), and a satisfying pairing of serif and sans serifs typefaces (EB Garamond and Helvetica).

Part 2

Interactions

- Being introduced to the site

- Type: reading and scanning the home page and navigation options
- Viewing my resume
 - Type: Nav menu → external webpage
 - Action: click “Resume” in the screen-left nav menu (or top of page nav for mobile)
- Viewing my work page
 - Type: Nav menu → internal webpage OR inline text link → internal webpage (as showcasing my work is the site priority, the page is redundantly linked to show focus and increase odds a visitor will go there.)
 - Action: click “Work” in the navigation menu, or the link in the homepage text
- Switching between categories of work case study preview
 - Type: Tab selection
 - Action: From the “Work” page, click either the “Foundational” or “Evaluative” tab to switch between previews of my research case studies
- Selecting a case study for greater detail
 - Type: Tab content → internal webpage
 - Action: With the “Foundational” tab active, click anywhere on the case study preview to visit a page dedicated to that particular case study.

Part 3

External tool used

- Bootstrap
- I chose this tool because it solved very valuable problems (e.g. standardizing page column widths via CSS) while also giving a great deal of flexibility in how to use it. It is a feature-rich package that allows you to use as little of the package as you want, or whatever combination of its features is helpful.
- I used Bootstrap for two primary purposes:
 - Defining the overall structure of each page through it’s predefined “col” classes for creating a dynamic grid
 - Creating a JS-driven tabbed section of the “Work” page that lets the user switch between two different views of content without reloading the page.
- My two uses of Bootstrap added two different benefits:
 - The “col” classes added a simple way to ensure grid consistency across the site
 - The tab functionality helped make the page easier for readers to parse, and added a feeling of clear organization (instead of a single long scrolling page with a long list of projects, which could be overwhelming).

Part 4

Prototype iterations

I was pleased to be able to largely remain within my original design. My one significant iteration was on the case study detail page. In both the in-lab review of my prototype with classmates and in my own reflection, I came to feel that the case study page needed to take advantage of more of the space on the screen to show my work content. As a result, I added a second column to the case study page in order to separate images and text.

Part 5

Challenges

The main challenge I faced in coding my site was mastering how to make use of nested instances of flexbox. I pushed myself to “do it right” and to group items into components dynamically spaced by flexbox, and this was largely a success in the end (and I learned a lot by doing it). However I definitely experienced some frustration and confusion in the beginning of trying to use multiple differing flexboxes nested within each other.

WAVE Analysis

No errors remaining

