Design Document

Robin Friesen

Personal project

Table of contents

Introduction

During this semester I developed a portfolio to present my work. This portfolio has to be a website that I didn't create with a tool (like Weebly, Google Sites or Wix), but that I developed using HTML and CSS. As this is a personal portfolio, I'd like the portfolio to show at least some design elements that have to do with me as a person.

Starting point

I started with my portfolio from semester 1. This was the last self-developed media portfolio that I had to make, as I worked with WordPress websites afterwords and did a few Open Learning semesters (where I had to build the portfolio as a Canvas course). While this is a great basis to start with, it does need a bit of work.

For example, the menu works a bit funky (the dropdown menu doesn't always want to 'drop down', and the menu is very small which creates unwanted menu closures) and the design doesn't fit the rest of the website that well in my opinion. Some of the pages could also look a bit better, as the homepage is just a bit of centered text.

In short, I'm going to polish my old portfolio. I think it still fits me (it was developed to do so), so I don't want to throw it away. The video player at the top is perfect to illustrate my personality: I worked as a freelance video editor, so the video at the top is a fun personal addition.

Originally I wanted to start from scratch, but the during the semester I became clear that this wouldn't be feasible. The managing of the group project cost me so much time that I had to direct most of my attention there.

Criteria

- The website has to work in the two most popular browsers (Chrome and Firefox). Edge uses the Chromium engine, so if the website works in Chrome it also work in Edge. I will still verify this to be sure.
- The website has to work well on desktop computers. The website will not be optimized for mobile.
- All pages have to be easy to find by the user by adding a comprehensive top menu and breadcrumbs.
- The website uses black/white combinations as theme. Some variation is allowed: the black doesn't have to be completely black and the white doesn't have to be completely white. Colors we be used sparsely.
- Make the learning outcomes connect to the deliverables that are relevant for a specific outcome (via a hyperlink), and make the deliverables connect to the learning outcomes (via text).
- Have an overview of all the deliverables for a project on a single page, so that the user has an overview of all deliverables for that specific project.
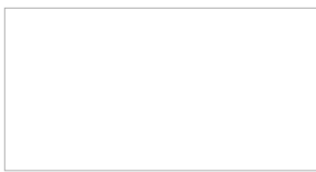
XD Mockups

The XD Mockups where designed for the website that I wanted to develop. The new website would feature a top menu with my name at the left and the menu items at the right. The home page was a page with the title of the portfolio and the menu option with an accompanying image.

The portfolio page contains all the assignments that I made during the semester, accompanied by a picture of the assignment. The about me page contains a photo of me with some info about me, and the learning outcomes page has all my learning outcomes connected to specific assignments.
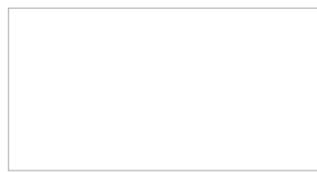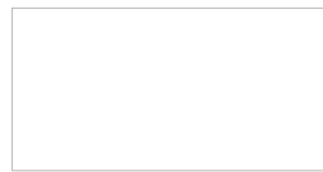
Portfolio
Robin Friesen

| About me | Portfolio | Learning goals |

Portfolio
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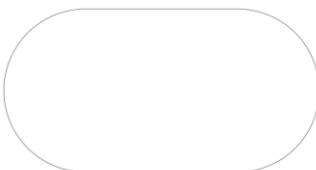About me   Portfolio   Learning goals
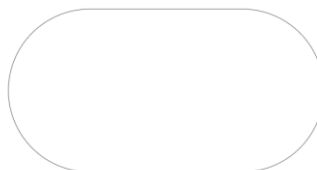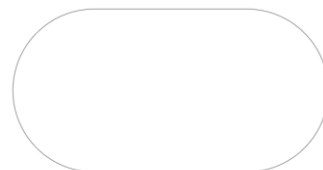
Portfolio
Robin Friesen

About me   Portfolio   Learning goals

Robin Friesen   <u>Portfolio</u>   About me   Learning outcomes

Robin Friesen   <u>Portfolio</u>   About me   Learning outcomes

Assignment name

Description

Example assignment

Short introduction

Complete assignment

Example assignment

Introduction, process, conclusion and reflection. Pictures in between.

About me

Short introduction

Learning goals

Outcome 1

Outcome 2

< Banner picture >

Example assignment
Introduction, process, conclusion and reflection. Pictures in between.

Design choices

Usage of text

In my newer portfolios I always aligned text to the center after I got the feedback that aligning text to the center makes it less readable. As such, I will continue to do this in this new portfolio.

In my portfolio I use the font Arial because it's easily readable. As someone with dyslexia, I really prefer readable fonts. The text is sans-serif, again for readability (Morris, 2023).

https://www.elegantthemes.com/blog/design/what-is-the-easiest-font-to-read

Usage of images

I always show images in full, without cropping the image (unless I want to zoom into a specific part of an image to make it better visible. I make sure that the images are big enough for a user to clearly see the content.

Video topbar

The video topbar shows a relevant video. The bar is also the portfolio title (Robin Friesen – Advanced Media Design) which is shown in white text. My plan was to make different videos of each exercise, but I figured that this would take too much time. As such, I will keep the bar in and will update it with the video that we're going to make for innovations insights once it's finished.

```
<div class="background-wrap-small">
    <video id="video-bg-elem-small" preload="auto" autoplay="true" loop="loop" muted="muted">
        <source src="../../images/background-vid.mp4" type="video/mp4">
        <source src="../../image.jpg" type="img/jpg">
    </video>
</div>
```

Navigation

The navigation is under the title (either with or without video). I replaced the original navigation bar with a new, more sleek version that fits better in the modern design language of the website. The current version doesn't have a drop down menu, but has three buttons that lead to the sub pages

instead. I want to implement a new drop down version of the menu, but I didn't have enough time to implement it just yet (because of the amount of time the project took to complete).

The code for the menu looks as follows:

```html
<div id="menu">
    <topmenu>
        <a href="/index.html">Home</a>
        <a href="/projects.html">Projects</a>
        <a href="/outcomes.html">Learning Outcomes</a>
    </topmenu>
```

Colors

I used a black/white combination for my site, as the focus of this site is on the content. I want the user to be distracted as little as possible from the content. I also personally prefer websites that are a bit muted and calm, as I tend to get distracted quite easily.

Images

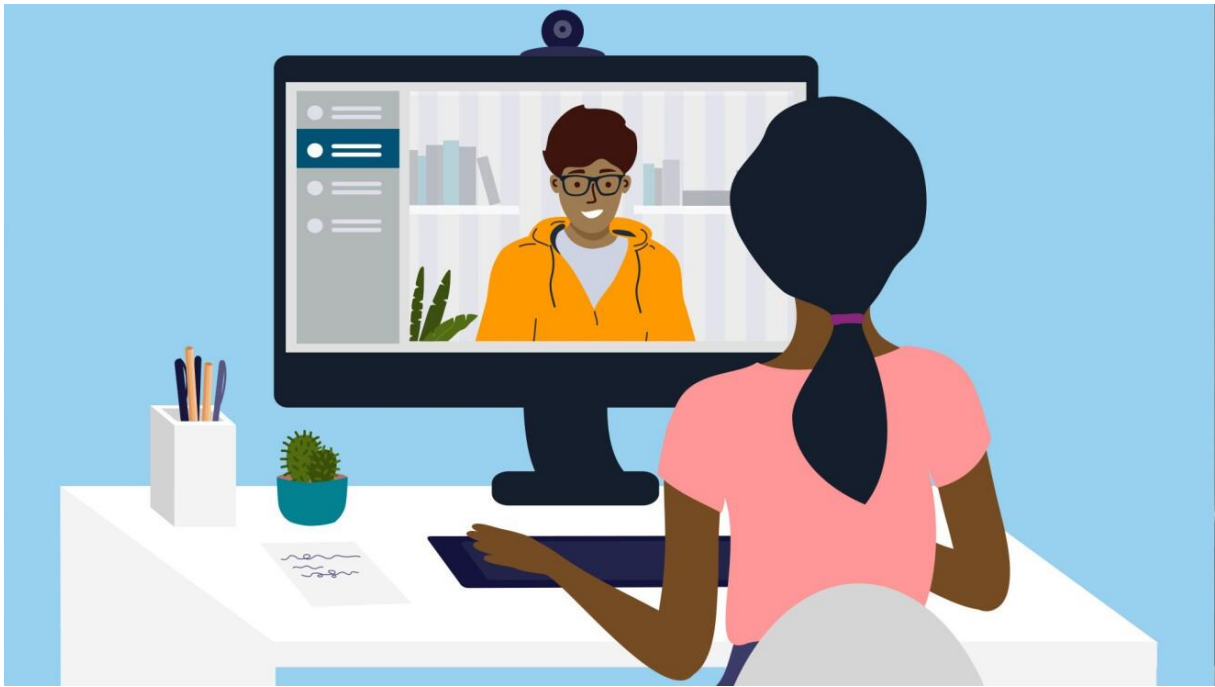For my website I use several external images:

(Corpohub.com, n.d.)

(Kaspersky.nl, n.d.)

(IStockPhoto.com, n.d.)

(Amazon, n.d.)

(UsabilityGeek, n.d.)

(Nitorinfotech.com, n.d.)

(Toptal.io, n.d.)

(BrowserStack, n.d.)

(SquareSpace, n.d.)

Conclusion

I really wanted to put much more time into this project. The group project and the many deliverables that I had to take over from other people made this very hard. We were supposed to have personal project days on Friday, but all Fridays where spent on group project work. While I'm happy with what I've accomplished in such a short time, I'd have loved to work more on this project as I wanted to

build a completely new website, especially after doing Open Learning for so many semesters. But I guess there's nothing to do about that now.

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