

Project 2 – audio.fm, a Collaborative Music Site

SEG 3125 – User Interface Design and Analysis

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School of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science

University of Ottawa

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Part 1: General Information

Report Title: audio.fm, a Collaborative Music Site

Name: Sami Hassan

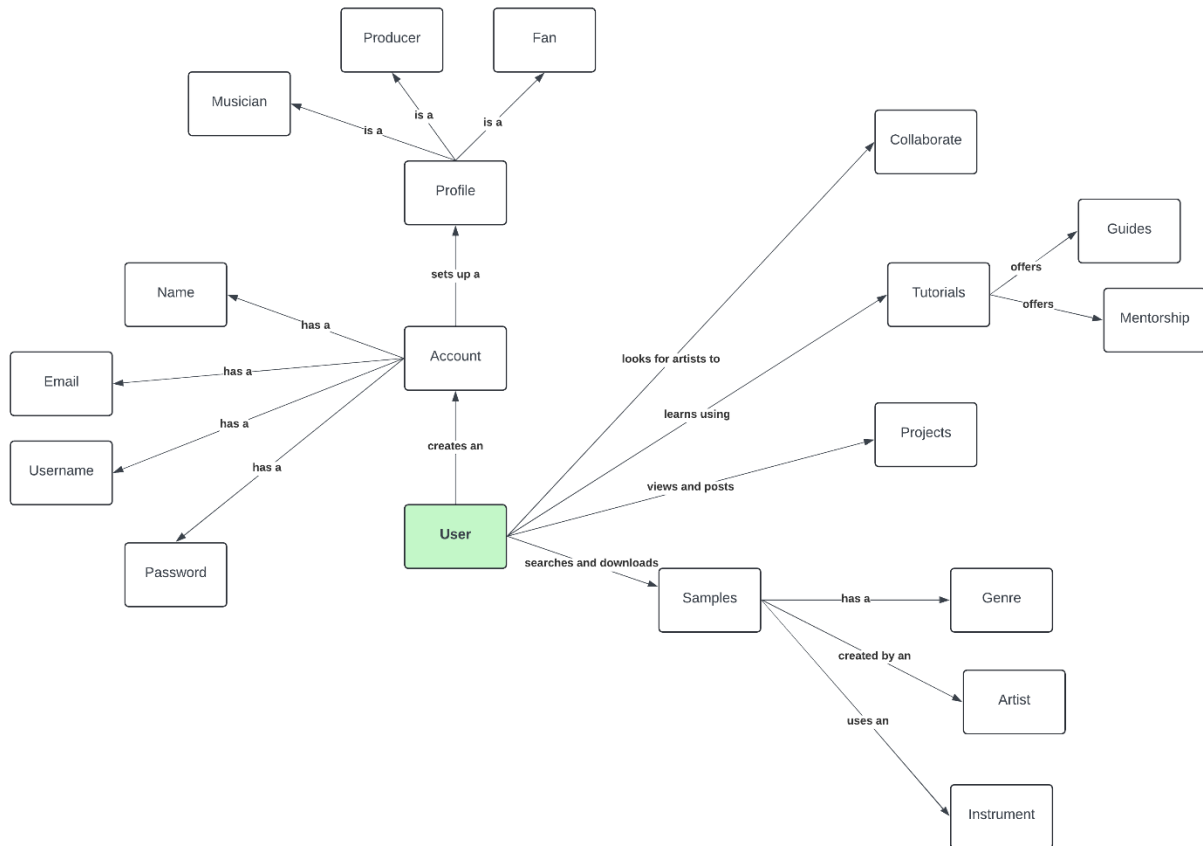
Student Number: 300169285

Site Description:

audio.fm is a collaborative online platform for musicians, producers, and music enthusiasts to create, share, and discover music together. The site features tools for collaborative music creation, a community-driven library of music samples and tracks, and forums for discussions and feedback. I am very interested in music and I have been interested in the production side lately and wanted to look for sites that offered tutorials to music production. I was inspired by the site Landr (landr.com) that offers a similar service but behind a paywall, this site aims to be a free version of what Landr has to offer.

Part 2: First Iteration

Semantic Network:



Original Mockups:

Persona 1:

Charlotte Aitch is a 31-year-old music producer and DJ from London. She is passionate about electronic music, spends time creating beats, and wants to collaborate with similar artists.

Technologically savvy, she uses online tools for music production but struggles to network with other artists. Her goal is to connect with artists in her niche, view their work, and explore collaboration opportunities.

From this persona, I decided to implement a message inbox on the “Collaborate” page, simulating a mock inbox of what a messaging service would look like on the site. This interactive process falls in the “Communication” process.

Persona 2:

Domna, 25F, DJ, Innovative and forward-thinking, Domna embodies the spirit of modern DJs who harness technology to connect, learn, and evolve within the ever-evolving landscape of electronic music. She wishes to have/see a podcast page on audio.fm where she can host discussions and receive critiques from other artists to enhance her DJing/music skills.

Additionally, artists will have the opportunity to participate in polls to express their interest in joining the podcast program/others hosts, further enriching the collaborative atmosphere of audio.fm.

From this persona, I implemented a poll on the profile page, which shows results after submitting the vote. This interactive process falls in the “Data Visualization” process.

Part 3: Second Iteration

Previous Iteration:

<https://seg3125p2prototype2.onrender.com/>

Changes from Previous Iteration:

In the final version, I removed all the placeholders, adding images and text across the different pages to make the page more realistic. In the final version, I added the profile page that was missing from the last prototype as it only required the interactive processes to be implemented. I also added to the previously empty “Collaborate” page, by adding a chat inbox to implement the “Communication” interactive process. Additionally, I added a few poll options around the site to implement the “Data Visualization” interactive process as it was recommended to me in the feedback personas. I added a footer to my webpage as well to improve navigation throughout the page.

Part 4: Code for Final Version

Link to Site:

<https://audiofm.onrender.com/>

Link to Repository:

<https://github.com/sami-hssn/audiofm>

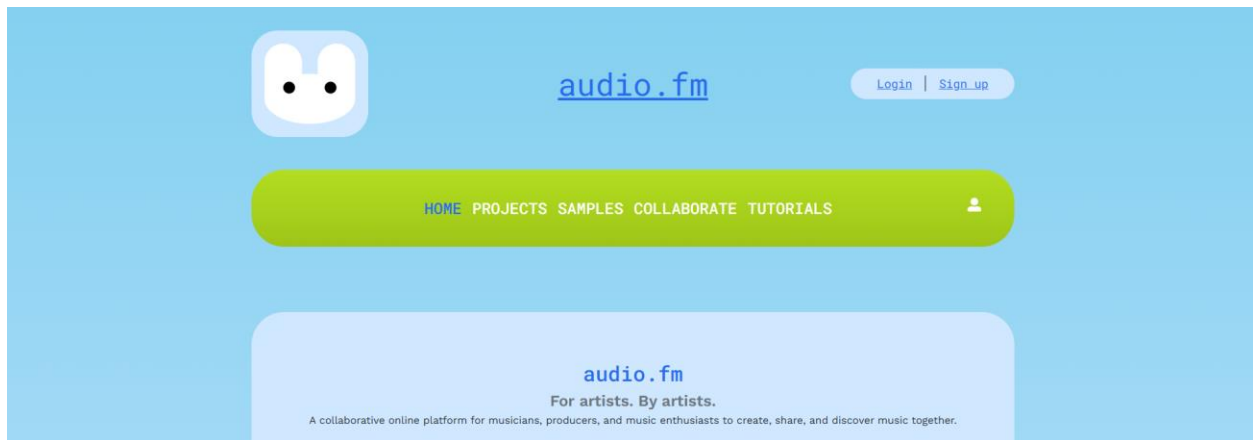
Part 5: Interactive Processes

Process	Implementation
Follow Instructions	Creating an account and signing in is how the “Following Instructions” process was implemented on my webpage. To achieve this, the user clicks on either the login or sign up pages, fills out their information and submits. A user logging in will be sent to their profile page. A user signing up will be greeted with a popup telling them to confirm their email.
Absorb Information	The “Absorbing Information” process was implemented through the “Tutorials” page. This page features several posts with guides and instructions for users to follow when they are having production-related troubles. To achieve this, the user clicks on the tutorials page and finds a variety of posts.
Exploration	The “Exploration” process was implemented through a faceted search using the search bar on the “Samples” and “Projects” pages. This faceted search would filter out the sample packs or posts based on the filters the user applies when clicking on the three dots on the search bar to select a filter.
Communication	The “Communication” process was implemented through a chat box on the “Collaborate” page. This was an interactive process recommended to me by one of the peer-created personas.
Data Visualization	Data Visualization was implemented as a poll on a user’s profile. The user can add a poll so profile visitors can interact with them. The profile visitor can vote on an option and the results will be shown afterwards.

Part 6: Heuristic Evaluation

Understanding – Consistency:

The fonts I used in my design definitely follow a theme, I feel like the sans serif fonts fits into my aesthetic of the online early 2000s. I might change the font of the content or navbar so they're the same so I can hit the goal of “2 fonts, 3 colours, for my website”. I think the differentiation will remain if I use an all caps case for the navbar and use auto caps case for the content.

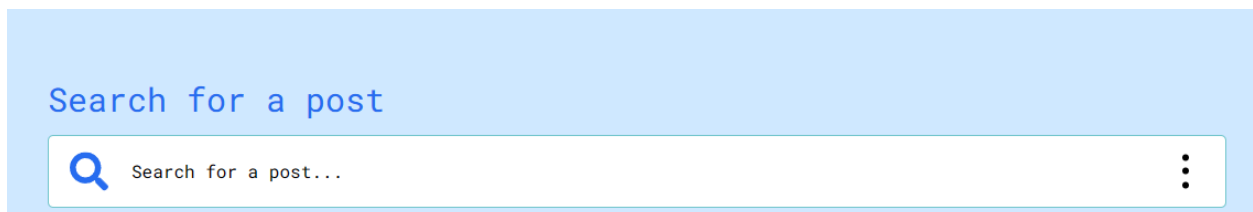


Only two fonts are used, Work Sans and Roboto Mono. The main colors are blue, sky blue, green. The text is black, blue and white.

Understanding – Familiar Language and Metaphors:

The goal was to keep the titles short to avoid clutter, and I think the word choice is concise and straightforward.

I added a magnifying glass icon which I find is universal as a search bar component. It was added to help users recognize the search tool as a help component.

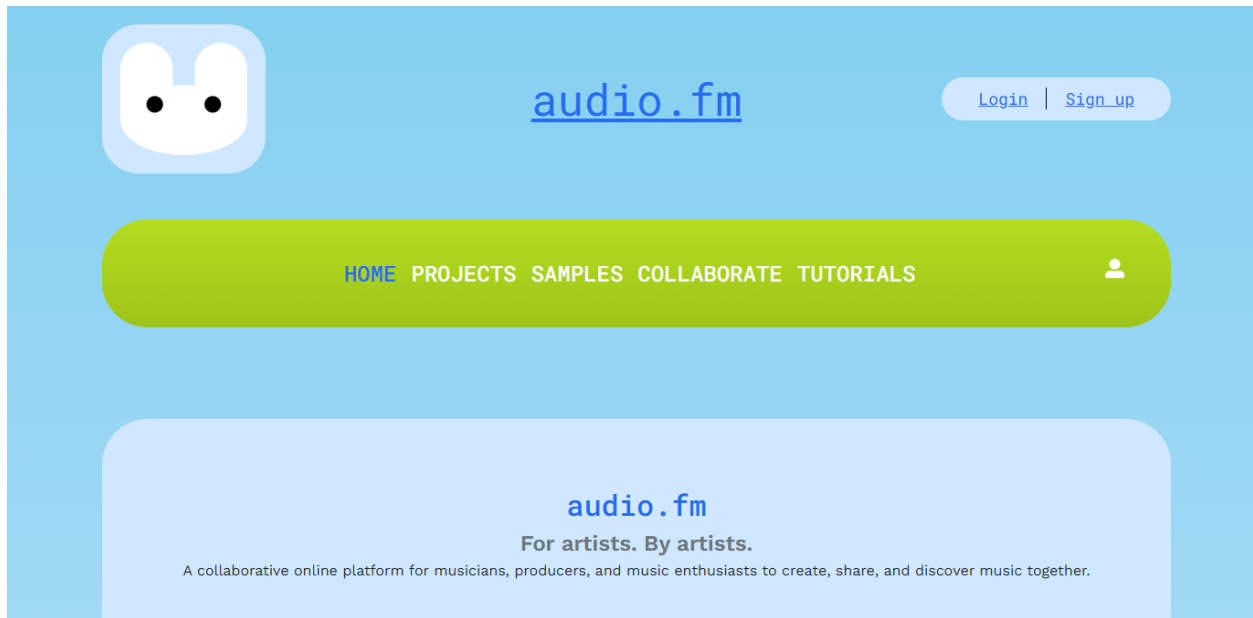


Understanding – Simple, Aesthetic and Functional Design:

I think the layout in terms of signal-to-noise ratio is done appropriately, I don't think there's anything irrelevant on the pages or nothing that makes sense.

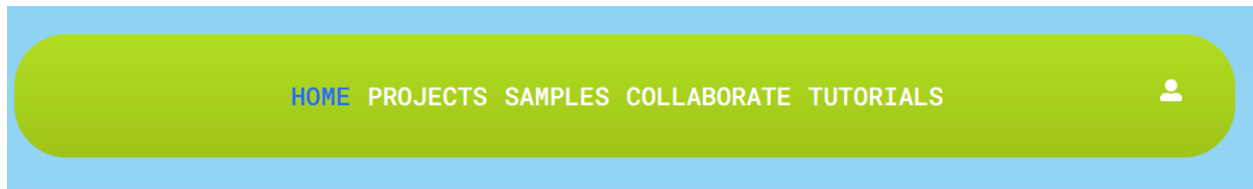
Looking at the layout of the navbar and header across the website, seeing it on a different screen does show the header being too large. It takes up almost half the screen on my desktop, so it definitely is attracting the user to it, but the actual content on the pages won't be immediate to the user. I might have to play around with the sizing and spacing of the logo and application name.

I used containers to separate the content and navbar from the page. I'd like to hope this visual grouping helps with organization and proximity.



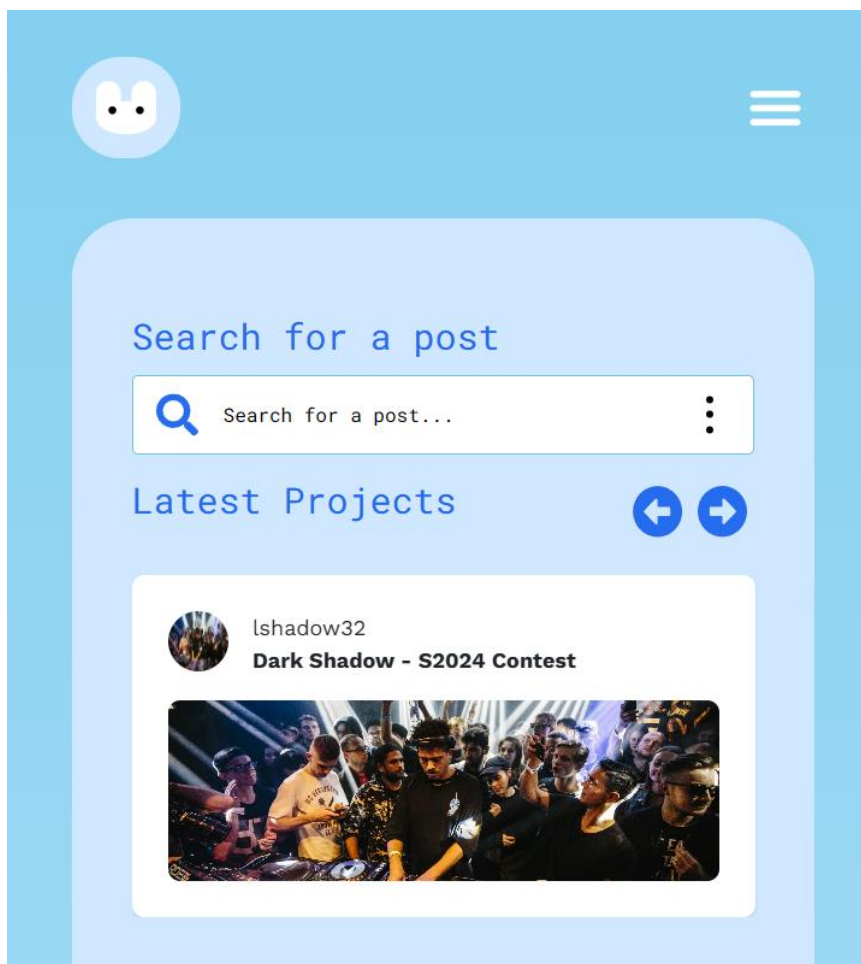
Action – Freedom and Control:

The user can navigate through the pages using the navbar.



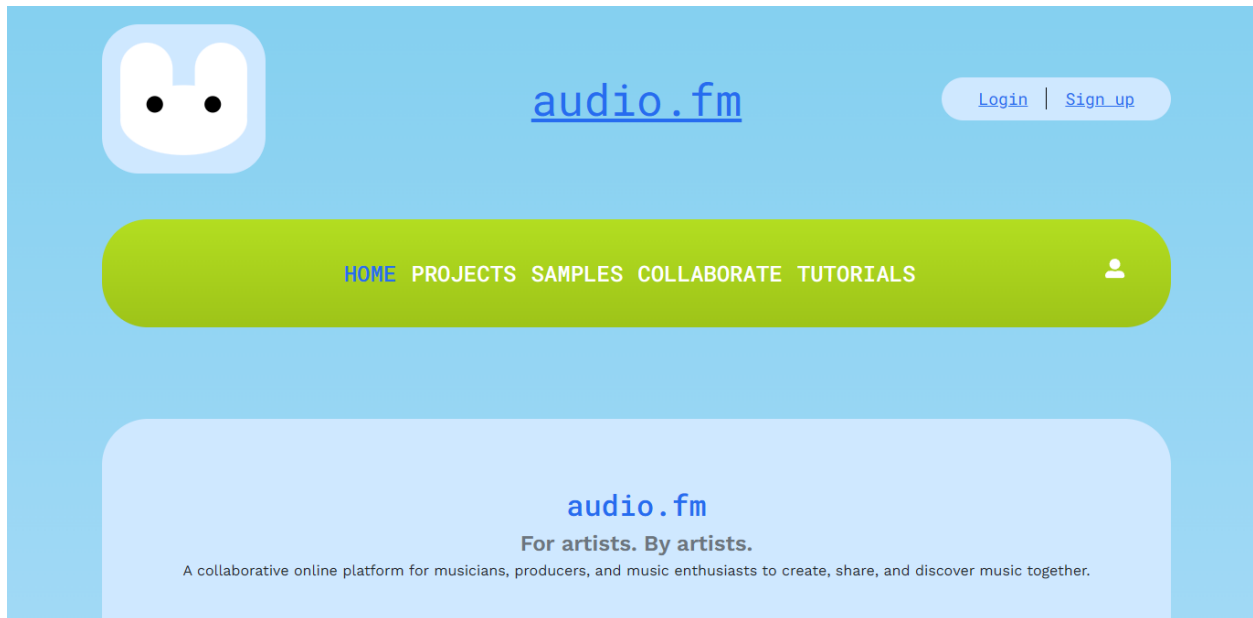
Action – Flexibility and Efficiency of Use:

I think ensuring screen scalability and taking it into account is always needed for applications, which is something I've tried hard to maintain and ensure.



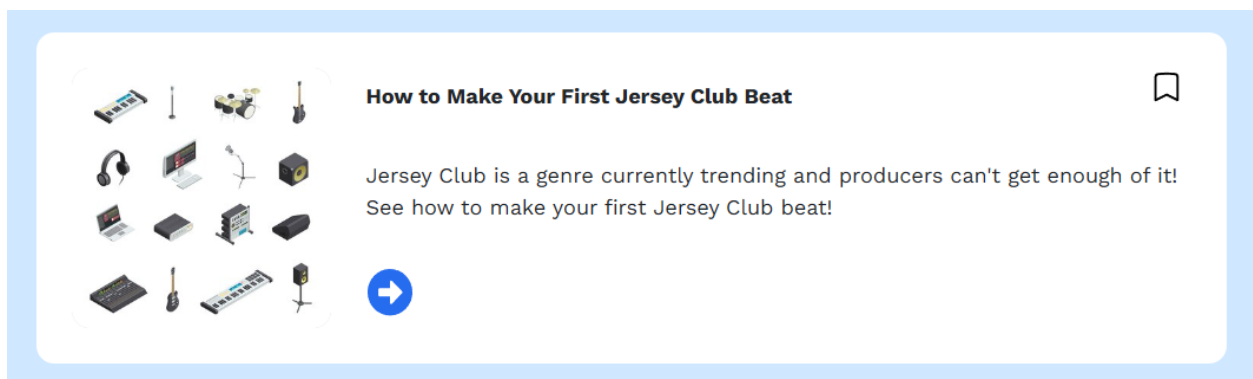
Action – Recognition over Recall:

I don't think the menu content is too long, but the size of the navbar container might be too large. The spacing of the content in the samples menu might also be too large. If the spacing was less, then you could fit more items on the page at once.



Orientation – Clear Status:

The pages have Subtitles within their content containers that label different components within a page. I'd like to add some accessibility features that are minimal at the top of each content page to briefly explain the purpose of the page. The subtitles are distinct with a larger and different colored font.



Part 7: Internationalization and Accessibility

For internationalization, the webpage offers the choice of having the site's information be presented in either English or French. Due to time constraints, this was only applied on the home page. If the user scrolls down to the navigation bar, there is an American flag and a French flag. Clicking on either will present the information in English or French respectively. The images show where the language switch is located, and how it affects both text and navigation options.



For accessibility, alternate text was provided whenever an image appeared on the page to provide visually impaired users a description of what they would be seeing on their screen. The text on the page can be read through a screen reader.

Part 8: References

Sites Inspired By:

<https://www.landr.com/>

Component	Description	Link
Image	Male disc jockey.	https://www.ballantines.com/cdn-cgi/image/format=auto%2Cwidth=2000/https://www.ballantines.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/seth-troxler-true-music-ballantines-boiler-room-3-new.jpeg
Image	Mixing board.	https://www.candidcareer.com/blog12/images/blog_img_8.jpg?v=1
Image	Man in dark room producing music.	https://images.squarespace-cdn.com/content/v1/57f66a16e4fcb5154dc8ba39/1642521927854-VEQFXX1O3VMGS6GRF1UL/unsplash-image-l5XnUP7-M4w.jpg
Image	A music producer's setup.	https://musictech.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/music-production-tips-from-the-pros@2000x1500.jpg
Image	Instruments used in music production stacked on top of each other.	https://mixxed.com/blog/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/set-isolated-music-recording-studio-gear-icons-with-various-musical-instruments-modules-mixin_1284-15927.jpg
Image	Chuu from Loona.	https://static.wikia.nocookie.net/loonatheworld/images/7/7a/%2B%2B_Promotional_Picture_Chuu.png/
Image	A green apple.	https://i5.walmartimages.ca/images/Enlarge/_41/393/41393.jpg
Image	A young teenage boy. Nettspend.	https://cdns-images.dzcdn.net/images/cover/067c480cd5c57ed595461994e6264650/1900x1900-000000-80-0-0.jpg
Image	A drum kit.	https://www.tomleemusic.ca/media/catalog/product/cache/7b59eedc8a9391b10c489498e31e772/2/2/227217.jpg
Image	Yves from Loona.	https://i.scdn.co/image/ab67616d0000b273b278c6fdc2dd765edc654ff1

Image	Stan from South Park.	https://m.media-amazon.com/images/M/MV5BZWZjYzI0ZGItdNDY5Yy00MzAzLTgxMzEtOGRmZTI4ZjA0OTY0XkEyXkFqcGdeQVRoaXJkUGFydHlJbmdlc3Rpb25Xb3JrZmxvdw@@._V1_.jpg
Image	New Jeans 'How Sweet' Album Cover	https://lh3.googleusercontent.com/Sk-qk0u9mZ1QWBDazMJdzLWVic1TSa7TWZYC8_-FUtkUDyy0Vg61zHZIJs88ejYy3o60GRbmSDTOUm8w=w544-h544-l90-rj
Image	A man playing the drums	https://articles.roland.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/USED_TD-07KVX-12-scaled.jpg
Image	A kid playing the bongos	https://m.media-amazon.com/images/I/71iWUZ-dj3L._AC_UF1000,1000_QL80_.jpg
Image	A rainbow flower with a smiling face. Murakami.	https://static.wikia.nocookie.net/witchers/images/4/49/Supernatural_Cover.jpg/
Image	A pineapple.	https://assets.shop.loblaws.ca/products/20119813001/b3/en/front/20119813001_front_a06_@2.png
Image	Woodstock, the bird from the Peanuts series.	https://i.pinimg.com/236x/61/38/62/6138625fadd1f4a57dc5b1eb773ecf4d.jpg
Image	FL Studio Logo	https://i.ytimg.com/vi/5cWQbH3llx8/maxresdefault.jpg

Part 9: Appendix 1 – Persona Contributions

Title of Site	Description of Site	Persona
Gracile Couture	A personalized fashion design service, seamstress business.	<p>Amanda Simmons is a bride to be and is currently looking for her dream dress. She is shy and introverted and has trouble putting her thoughts in word, she wants a page that lets her design her dream dress and be able to show it to a tailor / seamstress.</p> <p>Amanda discovers Gracile Couture has a 3D dress designer on their page and wants to give it a test before she books a</p>

		<p>consultation with the staff. She begins to use the 3D designer and has trouble working the tool as she is not the best with technology. She wishes she could contact some sort of support member using a live chat so she can get immediate help on how to use the tool.</p>
MyRecipeBook	A cookbook webpage where users can upload posts showcasing recipes.	<p>Max Wilson is a food creator and blogger who like to share his recipes on various platforms on the internet. He uses his smartphone to make his posts as he keeps all his photos of the food on there, so he is comfortable using a smartphone. Max is very detail oriented, hardworking and a bit of a perfectionist.</p> <p>Max discovers MyRecipeBook and is interested on posting there so his food content can be reached in more locations and get feedback from people who tried recreating his recipes. Max launches the app and wants to upload one of his recipes as a trial to the app. As he is sharing his recipe, Max is unable to upload an image of the recipe he created. He wants to share an image to show off how he plated his work but cannot do that.</p>
Golden Knights	A soccer club business.	<p>Marcus Hoffman is a single father of 4 children looking to sign up 2 of his sons for soccer. He is a hard-working man who works multiple jobs as a way to provide for his family. He is a selfless man and wants to make sure his kids are able to pursue their hobbies.</p> <p>Marcus is recommended the Golden Knights soccer club by one of his son's friend's parents. As he is signing up multiple children and money is tight, he wants to inquire if there could be a reduced rate as he is signing up two of his children at the same time. He navigates through their webpage and is unable to find any form of contact for the business. No phone number or email is present.</p>

Part 10: Appendix 2 – Heuristic Evaluations

Site	Heuristic	Suggestion
Halton Hills Stable	Understanding – Simple, aesthetic and functional design	In the layout, I do think the images are a bit too big. This results in a lot of scrolling on some pages like the "Buy/Lease" page. I liked the layout of the cards you used on the lessons page and I do feel like this page can benefit from it. The selection options are also in very long spanning boxes and take up too much room overall.
Halton Hills Stable	Action – Freedom and Control	When renting a stable, there should be an option to go back to the previous page they entered without having to hit the backspace on their browser so they don't lose their progress.
Halton Hills Stable	Orientation – Error Prevention	You should restrict the input types of some of the data entry boxes. For example, putting in your card number, you should cap it at 16 digits and make it so only numbers can be used. Same with CVV but capping it at 3 digits.
Spiketacular Spikes	Understanding – Simple, aesthetic and functional design	The images used for the different court types are too small, don't get a good idea of what the court looks like.
Spiketacular Spikes	Action – Freedom and Control	The user should be able to delete their blog posts they create and the comments they leave on other posts.
Spiketacular Spikes	Action – Flexibility and Efficiency of use	On the home page, there is the option to book a class, but it is not offered on the "Programs" page where it shows the classes offered. Should also place a button to direct to the class booking system there.