Group Project Post-Mortem: Collaboration & CSS Management

Date: 11/14/2025 **Author:** Sammer Saqa **Focus Area:** Workflow Efficiency and Styling Consistency

Key Feedback Point: CSS File Management

Summary: While the team successfully delivered a responsive and visually appealing website, a major friction point in the development process was the management of **Cascading Style Sheets (CSS)**. We encountered confusion and inconsistencies due to the existence of multiple, overlapping CSS files and sections. This made tracking variables, knowing where to apply specific styles, and debugging visual issues unnecessarily complicated.

The Problem: Working across various CSS sources—including internal `<style>` blocks and potentially multiple linked external `.css` files—led to:

1. **Style Overriding:** It was difficult to determine which file or rule had the highest precedence, causing developers to waste time applying `!important` tags or duplicating selectors.
2. **Inconsistent Global Styling:** Core elements like font families, colors (defined in `:root`), and base body styles were scattered, making it hard to enforce a consistent brand identity across pages.
3. **Increased Learning Curve:** For new features or bug fixes, a developer had to check multiple locations, significantly slowing down development time.

Recommendation for Future Projects

Adhere to the Single Source of Truth (SSOT) Principle for Styling:

For projects of this scope and complexity, the group should commit to the following standard for styling:

- **One Primary Stylesheet:** All custom CSS (variables, global elements, utility classes, and component-specific styles) must be consolidated into a **single, central `styles.css` file**.
- **Logical Structure:** Use comments within `styles.css` to clearly define sections (e.g., `/* --- 1. GLOBAL VARIABLES --- */`, `/* --- 2. LAYOUT & NAV --- */`, `/* --- 3. HOME PAGE --- */`).
- **Leverage Global Variables:** Utilize the `:root` structure and CSS variables (like `--primary-color`) consistently. This ensures that a single change to a variable updates the aesthetic across the entire site instantly.

Benefit: By adopting this single-file, global approach, we can drastically reduce confusion, minimize debugging time, and ensure a much smoother, more scalable collaborative workflow in the future.