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Website design is fun. But also RIDICULOUSLY FRUSTRATING. I swear, I thought that hamburger menu was going to be the death of me. (Caution: mini rant ahead.) I thought, design wise, the hamburger menu was simplistic, out of the way, and made for viewing the different parts of the website easier. Because it was easy for me to draw those three little lines in photoshop, for *whatever reason*, I thought that meant it would also be easy to actually make. I think I spent more time on the menu than any other part of the website and I’m still not happy with it, BUT I am incredibly proud of it quasi-working. #endrant

So, I wanted to emphasize the text piece and pictures. I did this by featuring two of the more prominent pictures on the home page, by using the current ‘Welcome to Columbia’ sign as the background image for all of my pages, and by “creating” an interactive map (there’s a placeholder since I did not actually make this) where readers can click around and see Columbia landmarks in 1949 versus 2014.

I put the audio and the quoted documents in the text piece, so as to break up the text and to also incorporate those sources. This allows readers to listen to the interview, if they choose, and to see some of the historical documentations behind the information in the text piece. I love old documents since I think they look cool, and didn’t want to exclude them. Plus they add to the historical component of the piece.

Design-wise, I tried (emphasis on *tried*) to focus on keeping it simple. I liked the modern day Welcome to Columbia photo and thought it’d make a good background, which is something that stuck throughout the entire creation process. I kept it as a static background for the entire website, but darkened it so as to make reading and viewing other materials easier on all pages except for the entrance page. I wanted to keep the background the same on each page to keep everything consistent. I stuck to neutral colors (black, white, and grey) since the background picture has a decent amount of color from the sky, the sign and the grass. Excess color would’ve detracted from the picture and would have made the overall theme too busy. I did, however, use a rather dark teal green for links. It’s not too distracting, and is used pretty consistently, from the entrance page to the navigation.

Font-wise, I wanted the text to correlate well with the font on the Columbia welcome sign. I thought about trying a sans-serif, but I tend to not like the serif/sans-serif pairings, so I stuck with a serif throughout the website. I opted for Georgia because I liked the way it looked the most as I was fiddling with different fonts.

I liked incorporating the quotes as they’re from readers and have personality, but I wish I had some sort of media to break up the text. I attempted to make it easier to read by clearly distinguishing the source and the quote.

I used netrenderer.com to test Internet Explorer, and I learned it does not like to format things the way other browsers do. My content showed up, which was nice, but it wasn’t quite where it was supposed to be. I had a similar issue with Safari, although it was a lottttt less extreme. I’m really looking forward to learn how to be more cross-browser friendly.