

# Reflection

This new portfolio feels like a massive leap forward for me, and honestly, I'm pretty proud of how much it's evolved from my previous version. It really shows how much I've grown, not just in my coding skills but also in understanding good design. Moving away from just plain HTML, CSS, and some basic JavaScript to a full-blown React application with all the bells and whistles has been a game-changer.

Looking back at my old site, it was functional, sure, but a bit static. Now, by building everything with React, I've embraced a component-based way of thinking, which makes my code so much cleaner, more reusable, and a lot easier to manage. Integrating Tailwind CSS has been amazing for styling – no more endless CSS files! I can just whip up designs directly in my code, keeping things consistent and responsive across different devices. And getting **React Router** in there? That was key. It completely transformed the site from just linked pages into a smooth, instant Single Page Application. Clicking around feels so much better now, with no annoying full page refreshes when you jump between sections or projects.

From a design and user experience standpoint, it's like night and day. My old site was simple, but this new one is lively and interactive. I really pushed to add those subtle, animated backgrounds and parallax effects using Framer Motion; they just add so much depth and a modern vibe. All the little hover effects and smooth transitions make it feel much more polished and engaging. I also made sure to include a seamless dark/light mode toggle – I think it's important to give users that choice, and it really showcases my attention to detail.

The navigation got a big upgrade too. That fixed, semi-transparent bar feels much more professional, and highlighting the active section is a nice touch. But for me, the biggest win in terms of user experience is definitely the dedicated project pages. Before, everything was crammed onto the main projects section. Now, when you click on a project card, it takes you to its own space with more detailed descriptions, bigger images, and clear links to both the live demo and the source code. And the best part? When you click "Back to Projects," it doesn't just send you to the very top of the homepage anymore; it smoothly scrolls you right back to the projects section. That little detail makes a huge difference in how the site feels.

All in all, this portfolio isn't just a collection of my projects; it's a reflection of my journey and passion for creating dynamic, intuitive, and beautiful web experiences. It feels much more "me" and I'm excited for people to see what I can do!

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<sup>1</sup> OpenAI. *ChatGPT* (June 2025 version). Writing assistance tool. <https://chat.openai.com>