

Budget Builder

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Project Overview

Problem

Homeowners and small contractors often do not have the experience or resources to have thorough budgeting in place for estimating repair projects. They may have a rudimentary idea or even thorough experience, but the small scale limits their access to resources for precise budgeting. We intend to resolve that issue through the creation of the Budget Builder website.

Personas

This product is intended for small applications such as home renovations. The intended users would be people doing DIY home renovations and contractors doing small construction projects for homeowners.

Value and benefits

By providing this product, we would be allowing people with limited resources in the construction industry access to detailed estimating and budgeting resources. This would allow them to know if their planned project will reasonably cost what they are estimating

Minimum Viable Product

Overview of features

The website will allow users to access a large database of historical home repair data to use in estimating the expected cost of a project. By inputting the amount of repairs the user needs done such as square feet of flooring or number of windows being replaced, a renovator can utilize the data stored on our database servers to get precise estimating amounts.

These estimates will be displayed in a bar graph comparing the user estimates with the industry estimates. The data will also be broken down into categories of cost types. These categories will be displayed in a pie chart that allows for quick visualization of major project expenses. The category data will also be broken down showing a

side-by-side comparison of the user inputs with the industry expectations so that users can see which categories are out of alignment.

To accomplish this, users will input their estimated amounts in the submission form. Upon selecting “Submit”, the browser will use an API service to query the database for the necessary information related to each estimated expense. When the query results are returned, the browser will calculate the results based on the user inputs and the returned data. After completion of calculation, the charts and graphs will be rendered on a new page for the user to see.

Stretch Feature

An additional feature to be added later would include a notes section that the user could use keeping track of their thoughts. This could include various product options, questions to ask their contractor, or anything else they deem worth annotating in this section. Users would have the ability to save their notes and completely delete them.

Architecture Picture

