Personal Portfolio Design Report

By Daycho Yuden

For this project, my goal was to practice HTML, CSS, and Bootstrap while creating a personal portfolio that reflects my personality. I began with hand-drawn sketches but realized they were too ambitious for my current skills.
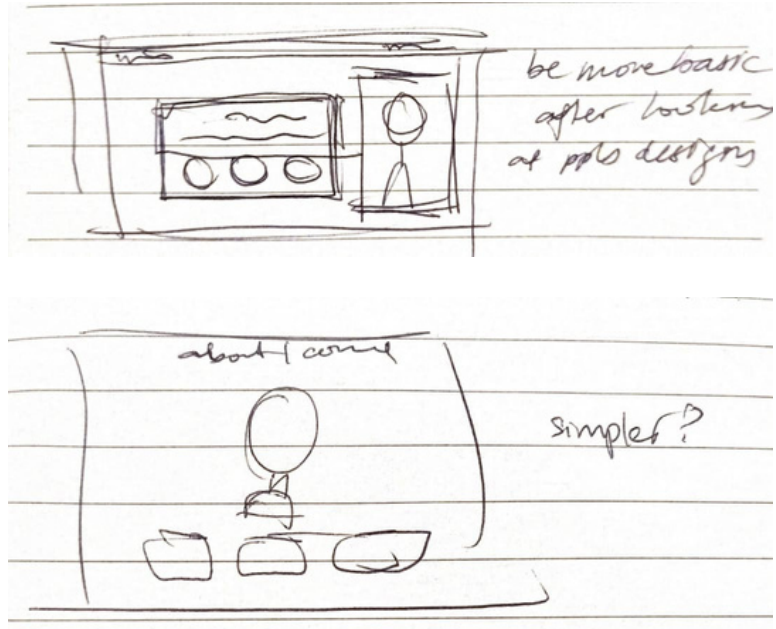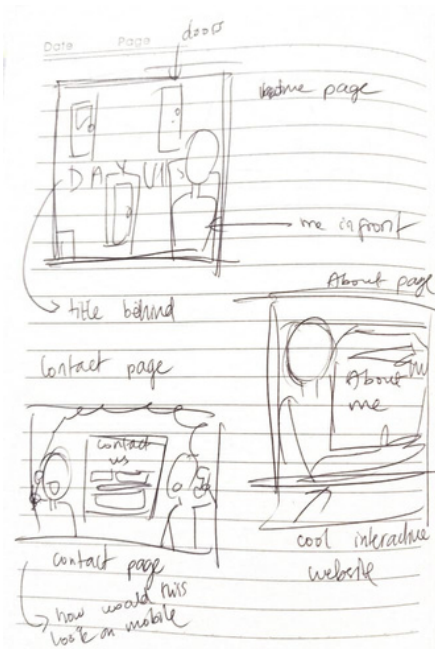

Fig.A. Rough Sketches/Mock-up of portfolio.

I then researched portfolios made by artists online, such as Squiggleism, for inspiration and created a more practical mock-up in Figma. I decided on teals and creams for my color scheme to convey a gentle, calm aesthetic that also represented my personality (they are also my favorite colors).

Fig.B. My Final color palette also included greys and black to balance the elements

Justification for Layout

I simplified my initial concept into a more conventional, user-friendly layout.

The home page features a traditional navigation bar with my initials as a logo but I still wanted to keep that 'playful' energy, thus I incorporated uneven columns to break up the cleanliness and interactive icon buttons with my artwork linking to other pages, and a veiled portrait to spark curiosity.

The 'About' page follows a single-container layout inspired by popular platforms like Carrd.
The 'Project' page incorporates Bootstrap's card and carousel components to encourage user interaction while keeping the design clean and accessible, but not plain either.
I also used a single Google font (Ovo) to keep the page's typography consistent.

Fig.C. My Figma Mock-up for the Portfolio

Challenges

Aligning elements, sizing images for different displays, and spacing icons and buttons were difficult to visualize and materialize on my own.

Using Visual Studio Code, I first wrote the code on my own using Bootstrap styling to support responsiveness across different devices as well as for the overall skeleton for the portfolio.
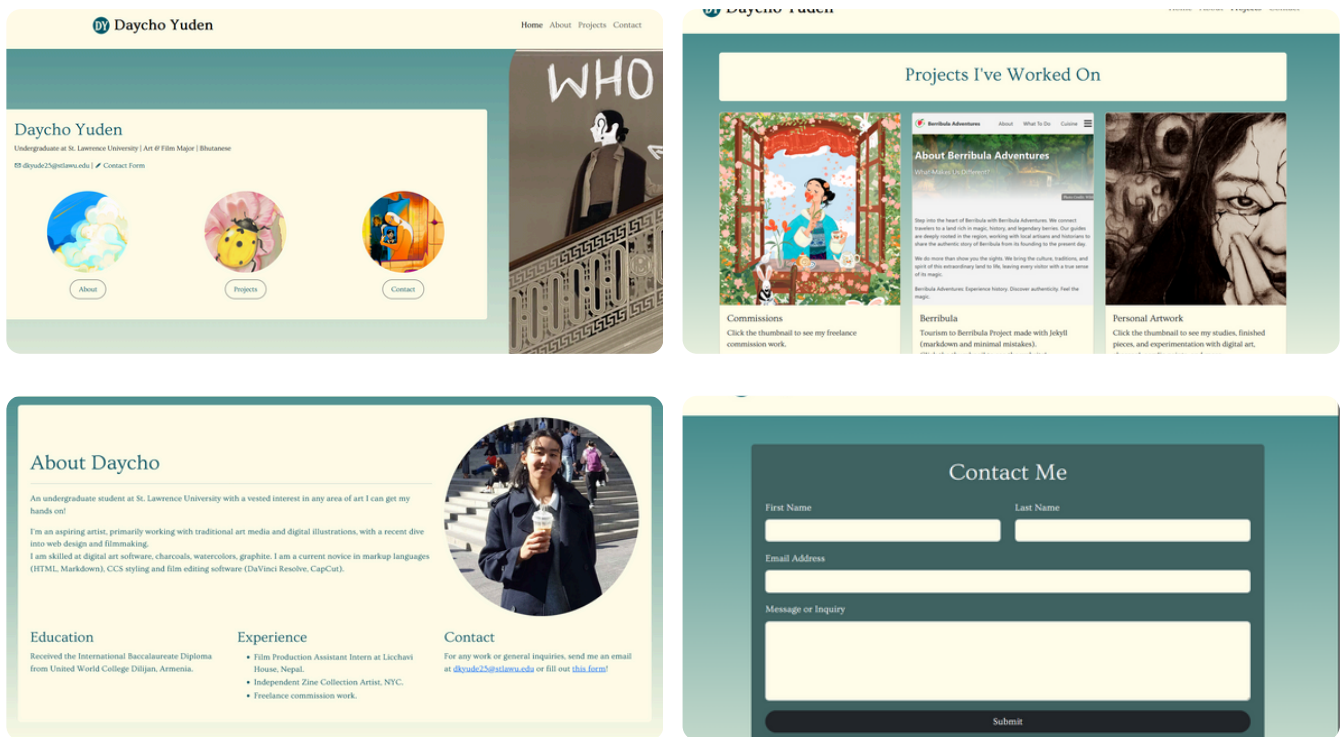
My initial version of the site (Fig.D) had too much inline styling mixed with internal styling and I would quickly get mixed up or make silly mistakes that would cost me a lot of confusion.

I resorted to using (ChatGPT) to refine the layout, unfortunately, as I felt stumped.
I used it to guide and teach me how to properly apply responsive styling.

Fig.D. The first version of my Portfolio made with Visual Studio Code

I removed the inline styling completely, and learnt how to implement media queries in combination with Bootstrap's responsive styling. I used both for sizing for extra security in ensuring responsiveness across devices.

GitHub syncing issues delayed early commits, but I also primarily used the 'Go Live' plug-in to review the site through Visual Studio Code.

Not all pages follow the same layout, but I feel that this challenge was solved using a consistent color scheme and rounding corners across all visible elements as a visual theme.

Fig.E. The first version of my HTML using inline styling

When thinking of the design on Figma, I constantly thought about the cohesiveness of the whole design first rather than the individual elements. The opposite was true for the HTML script and CSS styling, I had to really break each aspect down to its simplest form. For instance, when creating the buttons on the 'Home' page, I had to think about the containers first, then the CSS internal styling, and then adjusting it using Bootstrap styling.

Fig.F. The Final version of my Portfolio site

The main issue I remain dissatisfied with is the home page's two-container layout, where adjustments to padding, margins, and gaps did not produce the alignment I wanted. Understanding why this occurred is an area I hope to improve on going forward.

Concluding Thoughts

I am most satisfied with the interactive carousel components and having an overall responsive design.\
I was also happy to run into zero issues while connecting my forms to third-party email collection site, Web3Forms.
While I had to use AI in order to better understand how and where I went wrong, I did my best to learn from it and retain that knowledge to improve on my mistakes going forward.

Portfolio URL: https://snying-rje-dky.github.io/