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05630 C – PUI
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Homework 8 Write-up

https://sorchosk.github.io/homework_8/build/

Part 1: Executive Summary

For Homework 8, I decided to take this opportunity to refresh my portfolio website. I joined the MHCI program to build upon my existing skillset as a visual designer. My goal for this program is to become a well-rounded conceptual designer with a diverse toolkit of human-centered research methodology, interaction design, prototyping and development. While I don't have all of the work to support this yet, my plan for this portfolio is to create a framework I can easily build upon as I gain experience with new projects in my HCII coursework.

On the homepage, I thought a lot about the title I wanted to use for myself, as I want to keep the entry point of the website concise about who I am. I chose light-beige text on navy, as well as a large serif type, to convey a clean, modern, and professional look. I think this aesthetic plays well with not only who I am and aspire to be as a creative, but also complements the brands that I have worked with in my projects. My target audience for this piece is primarily hiring managers, and as I will explain in Part 4 I spent most of my iteration time refining on the individual project pages. I wanted my projects to have the quick appeal to hiring managers, but is also captivating to my design peers that may want a little more insight into my process.

Part 2: Ideal User Flow

- Clicking "Steve Orchosky" in top left always navigates to homepage
- Click "View Skills and Resume" in the about section of homepage takes users to the /about page
- Once scrolled through the about page, click "Steve Orchosky" either in the top left of header or the footer, or the browser back button to return to home
- Homepage projects have a large target space of the image, title, and description. Full color image zoom-in affords clicking
- On a project page, scrolling to the "About the Project" section quickly addresses the process, roles, client, and project team.
 - Uninterested users can scroll back up and click one of the arrows to progress through previous/next projects
 - Interested users can keep reading, and at the bottom of the page navigate through previous/next projects
- Footer of every page has interactions to email me, or visit one of my social pages (opens in a new window)

Part 3: External Tool

- i. Bootstrap
- ii. I chose this because I had heard of it, but never had given the time to really understand it. I thought and now confirmed that the premade utility classes would allow for faster prototyping of layouts
- iii. I used the grid structure extensively to lay out the content. I also overwrote the color and font-family variables in SCSS to create my custom theme while still being able to use out-of-the-box classes
- iv. I found it much easier to reuse pieces of code as I continued developing projects and pages. It was very handy for keeping a consistent look without having to reference pages I had already developed

Part 4: Iterations

When I first shared my project progress in class, I received valuable advice from Hyeonsu about how to structure my project pages. My work was initially organized as Problem -> Solution -> Reflection. He showed me that this was burying my actual work, so I restructured by opening each project with an executive summary to be clear and upfront about my role in the project.

Part 5: Challenges and Reflection

I haven't had a lot of experience working with JavaScript, so I challenged myself to find opportunities to use it for repetitive code or more sophisticated interactions. With my projects, I created an object array to capture info that would be used across pages multiple times, such as title, description, page URL, and thumbnail image. This was challenging to implement, but with lots of console.logs I managed to make a system that automatically populates the projects on my homepage, making it much easier to create consistent-looking project thumbnails and components.