

Building beautiful apps with Xamarin.Forms



HI! I'M STEVEN THEWISSEN 🙌

Mobile developer from the Netherlands



@devnl



sthewissen



thewissen.io



steventhewissen



STEVEN THEWISSEN

What's this Xamarin.Forms thing?

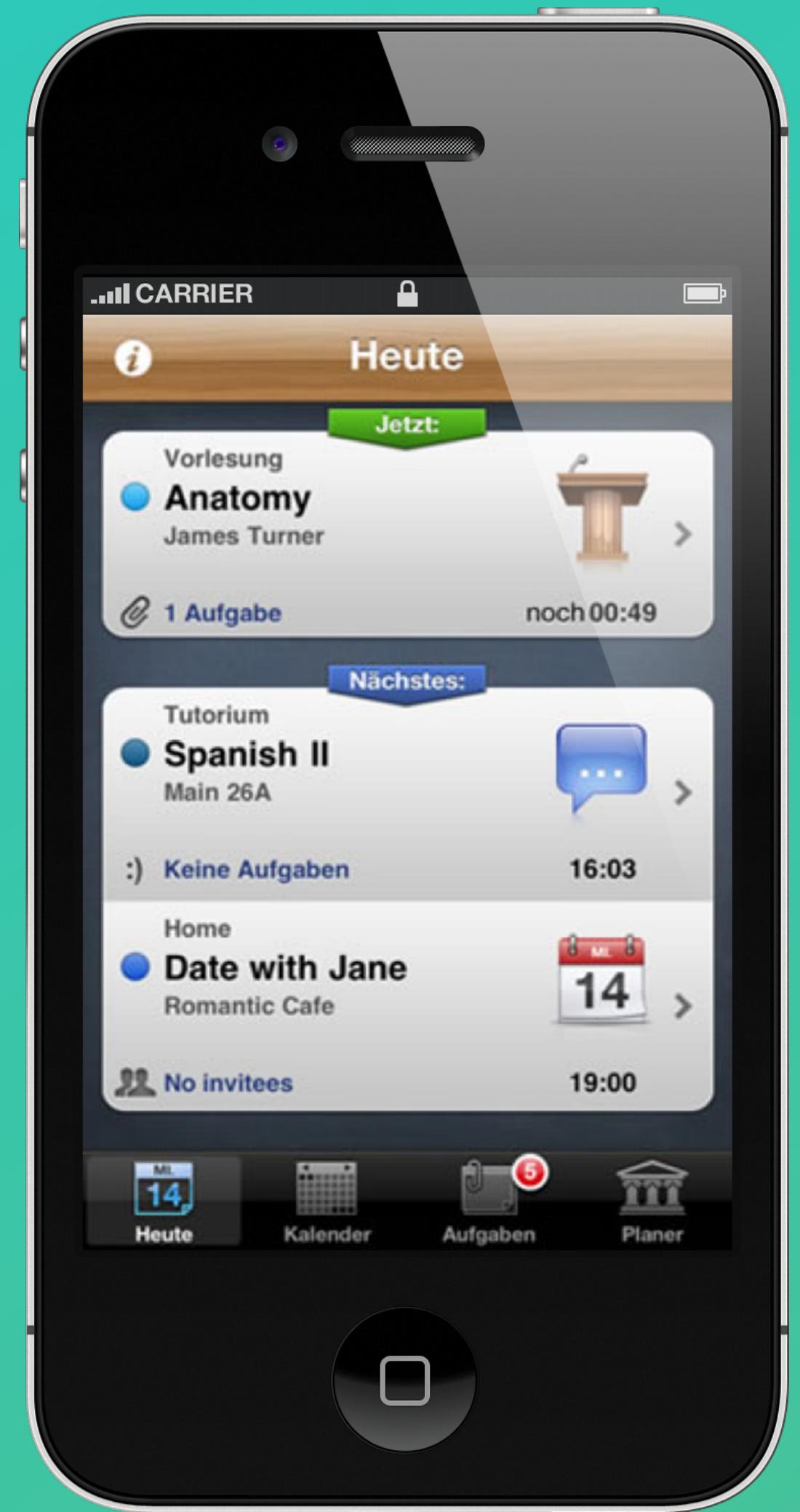
- Cross-platform UI framework
- Build Android, iOS, Windows apps (and more) from a single shared codebase
- Controls are rendered natively

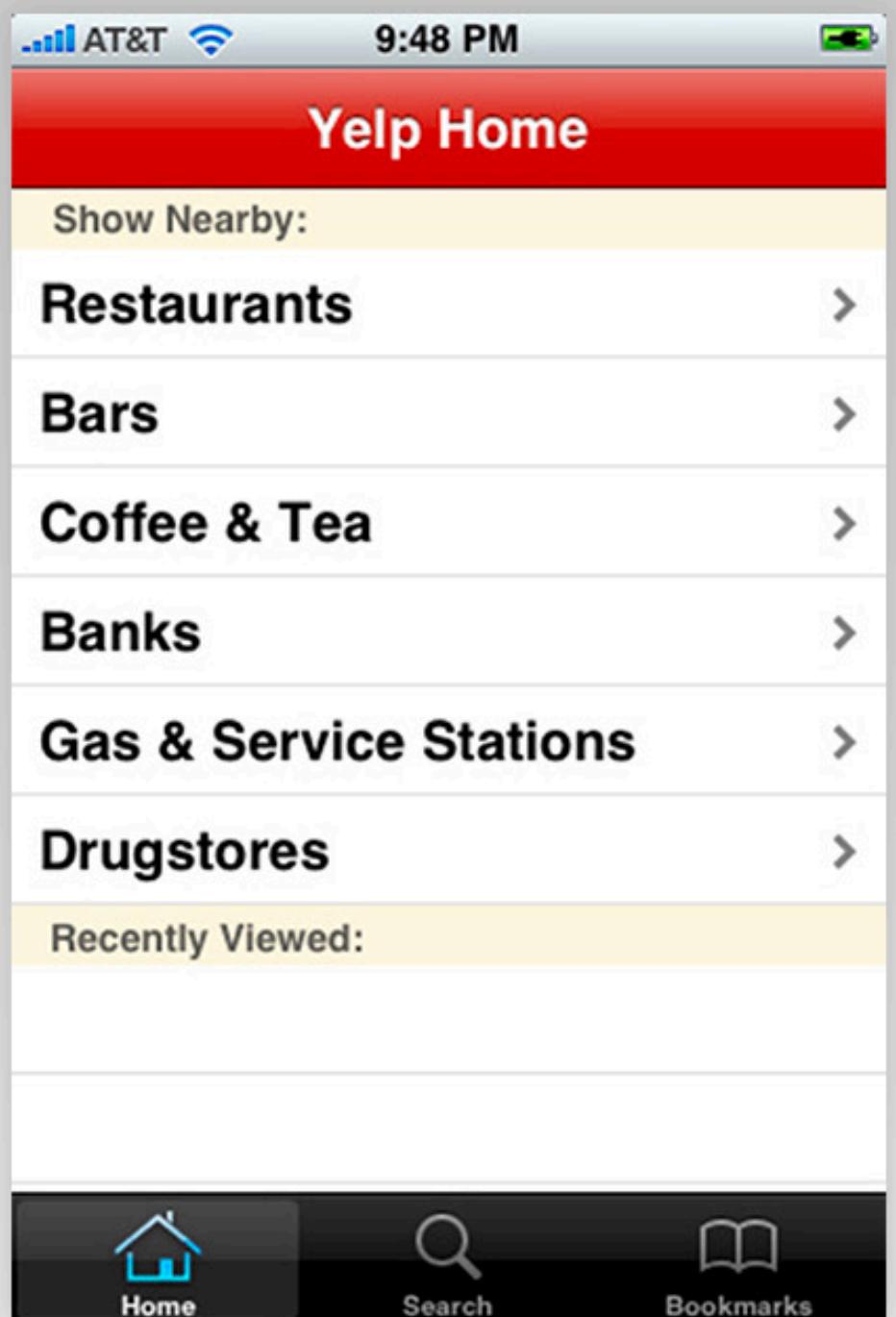


Building beautiful apps with **Xamarin.Forms**

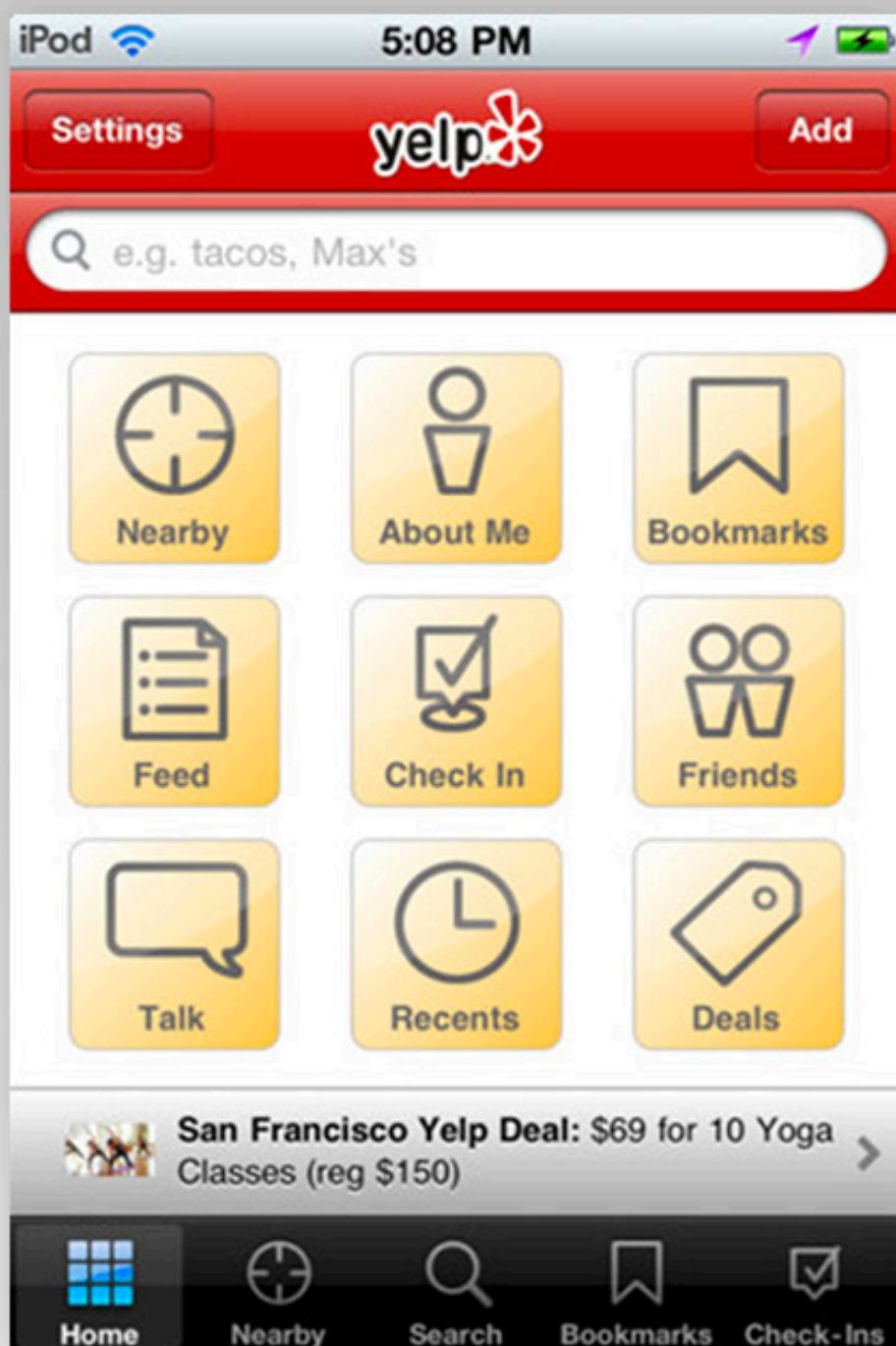
What makes an app beautiful?

- What is beautiful is very subjective
- Sensitive to trend

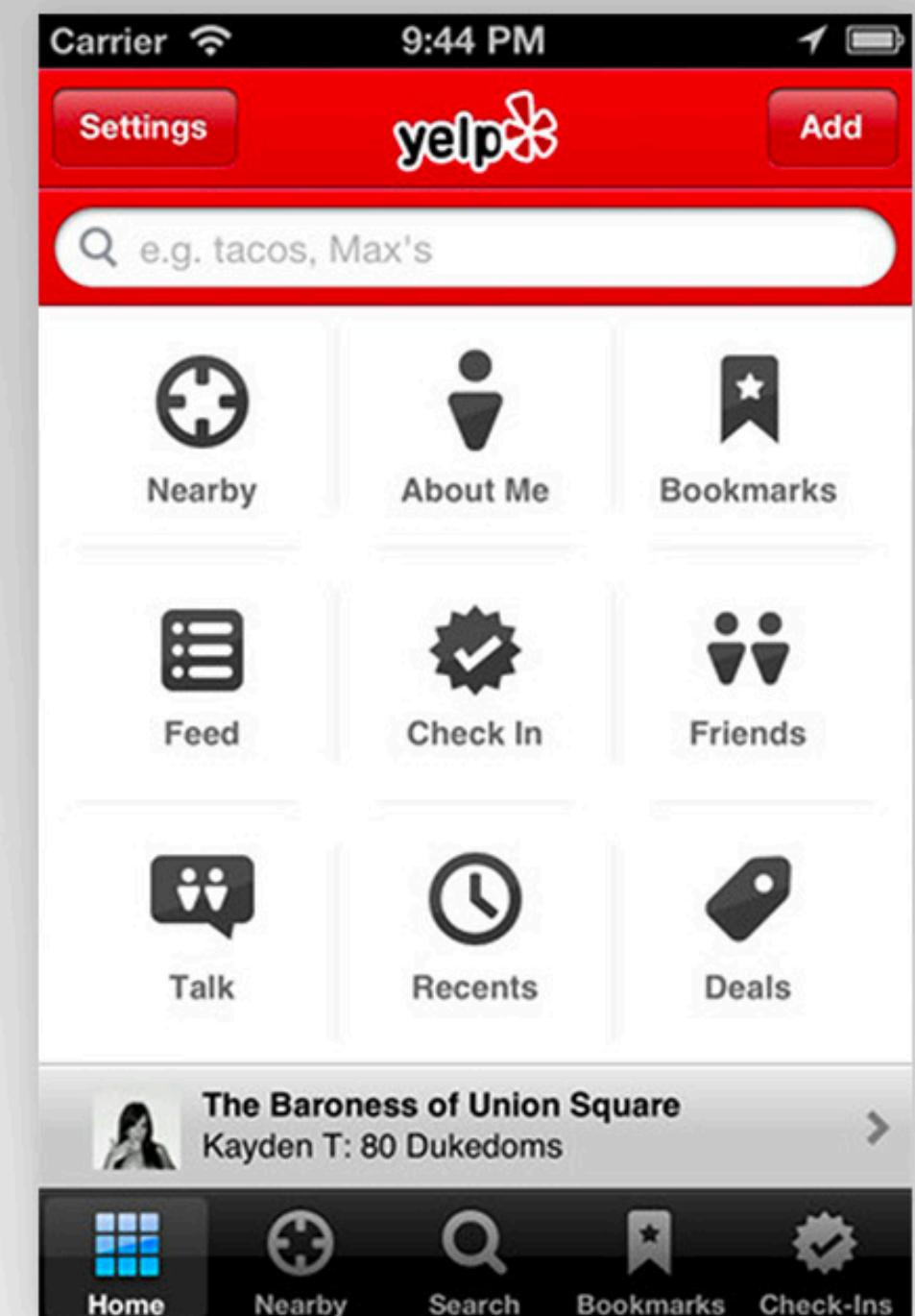




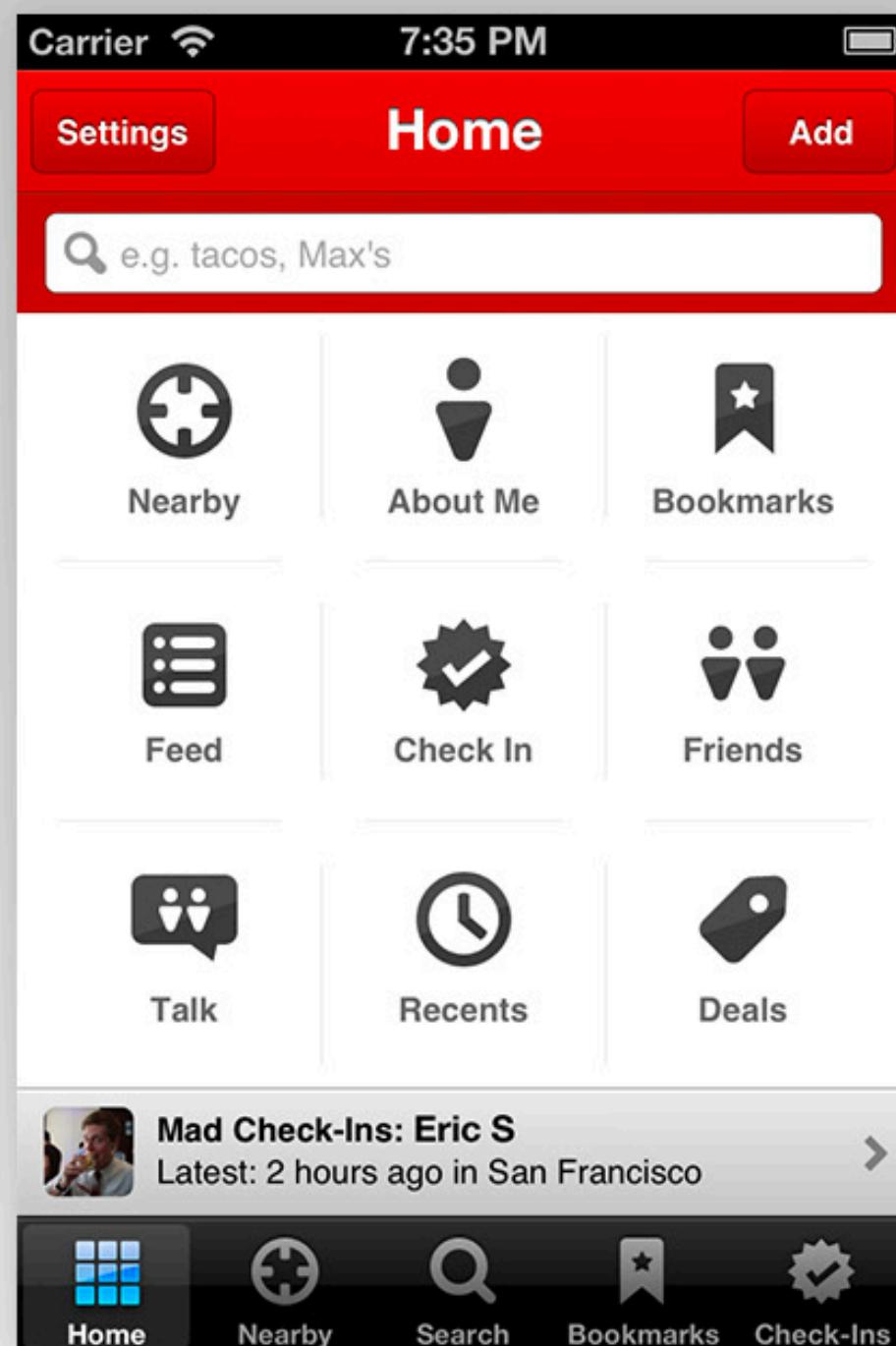
2008
July



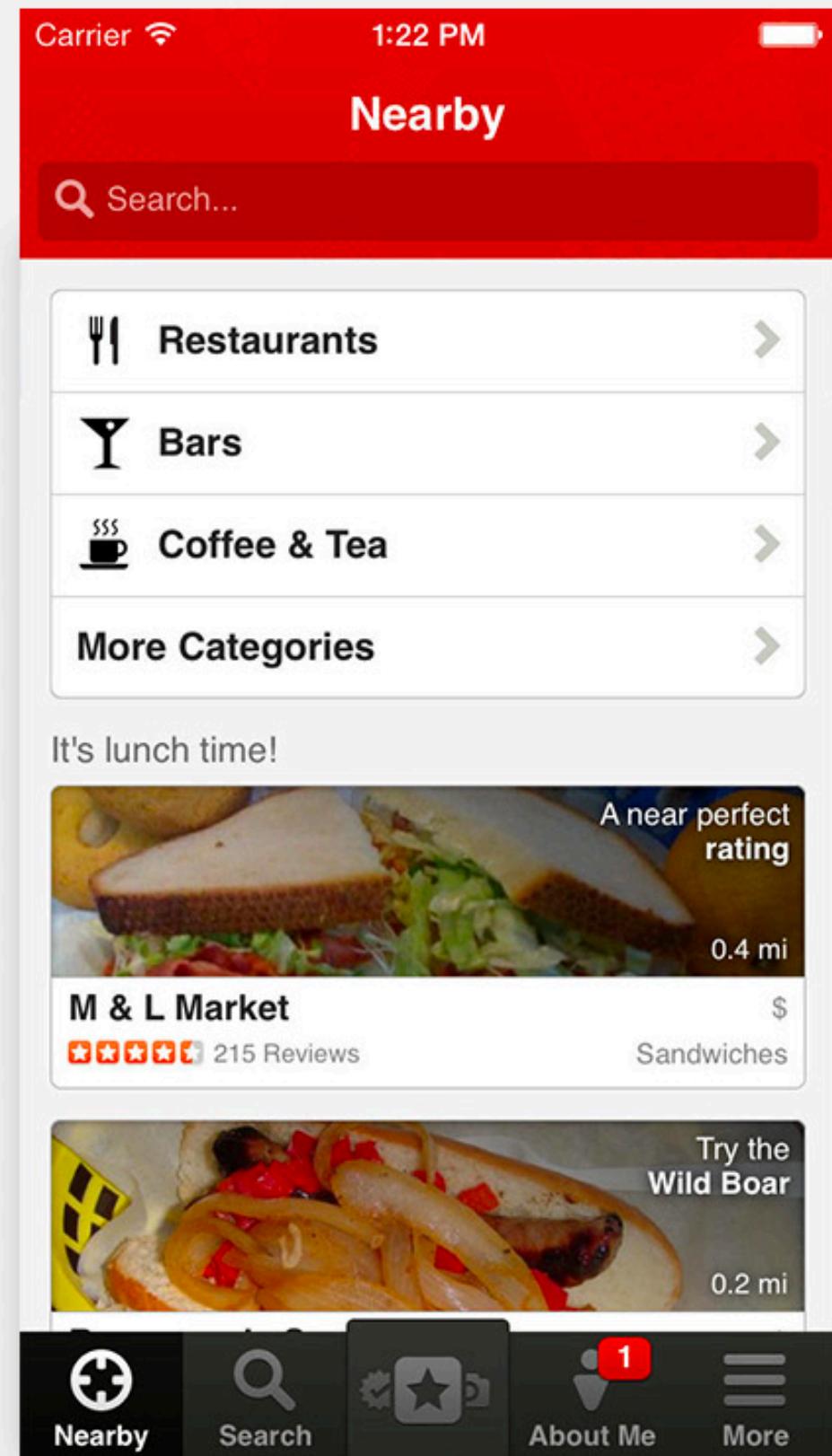
2010
January



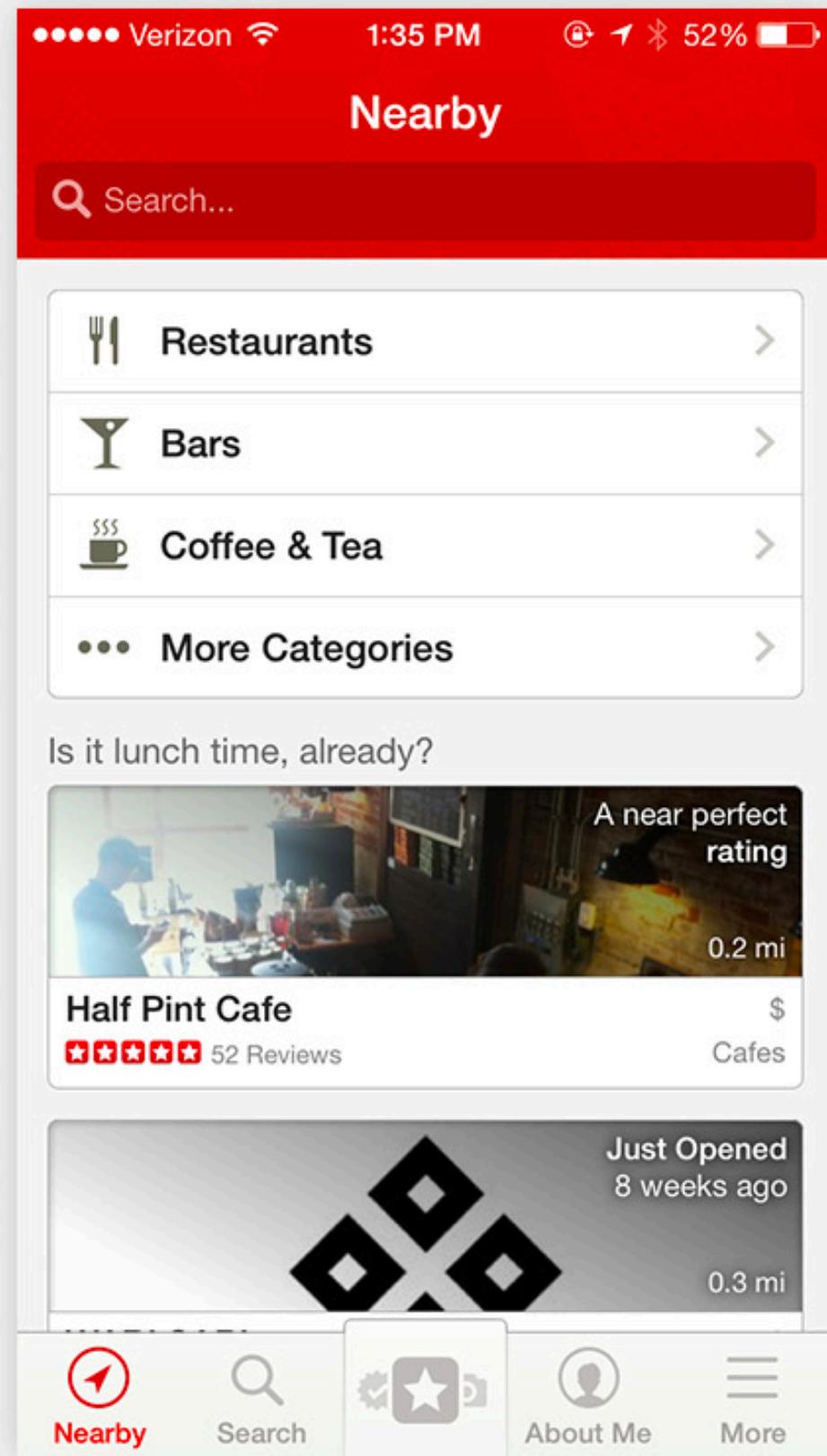
2012
March



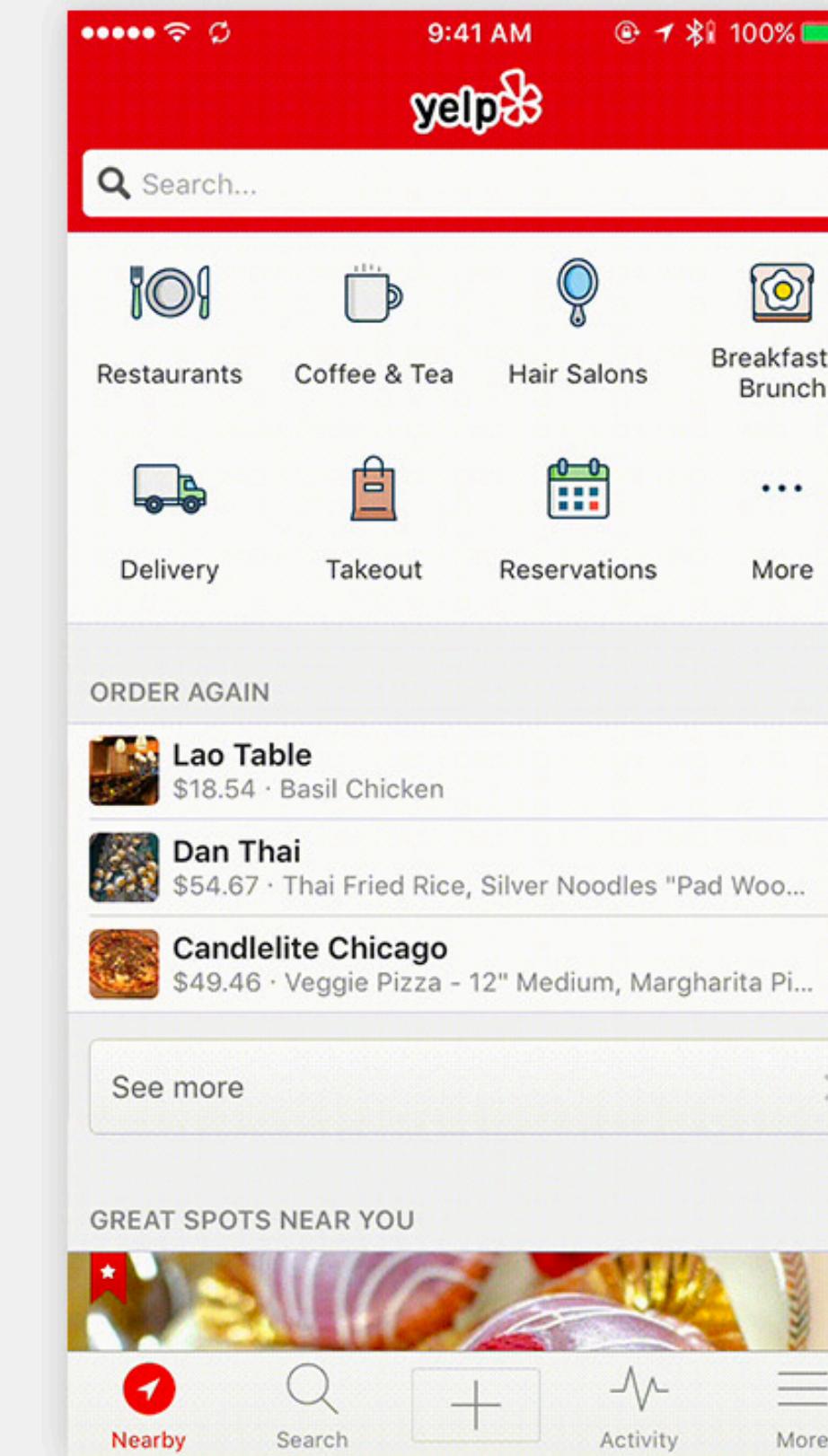
2012
July



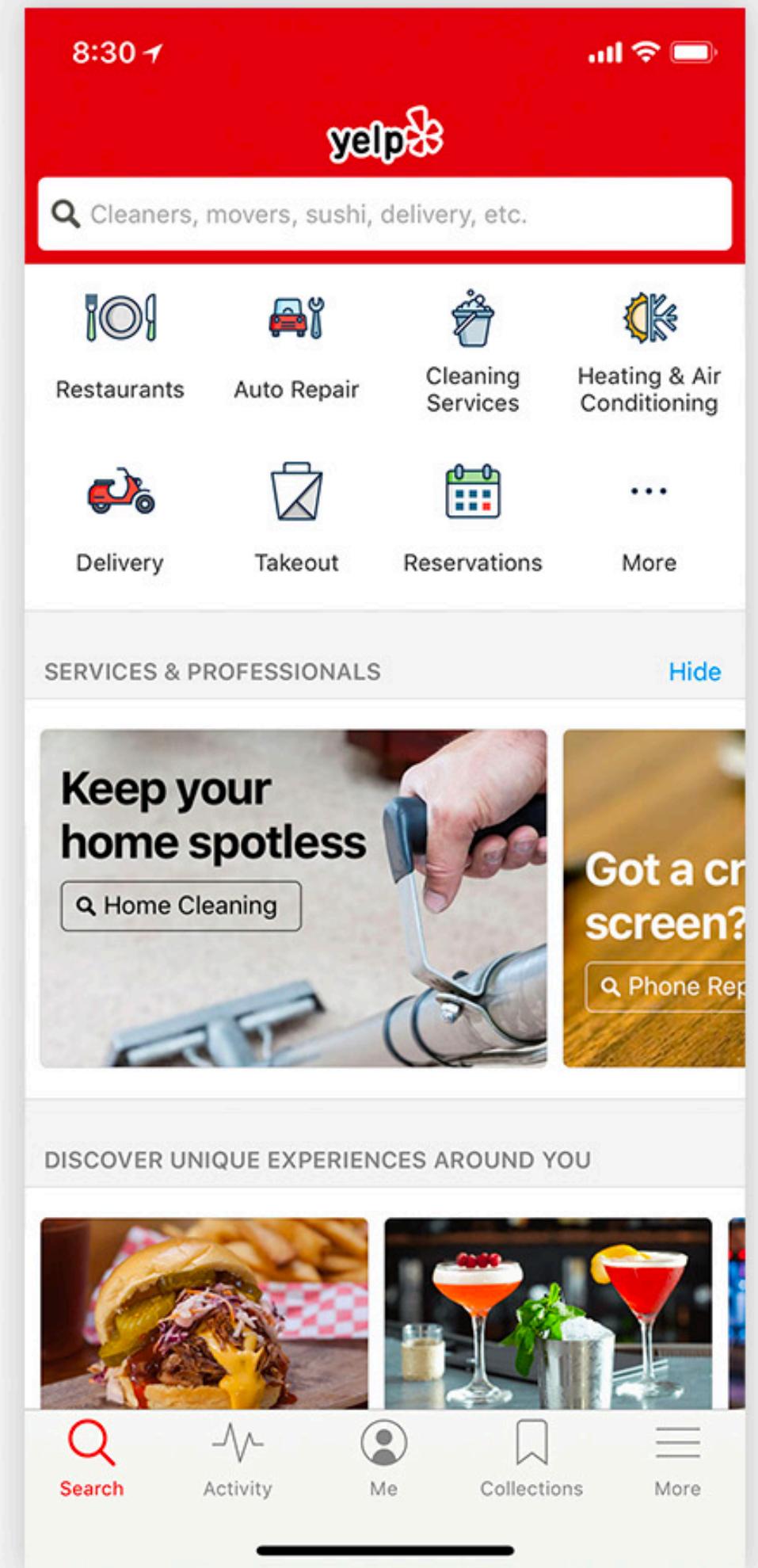
2013
October



2014
June



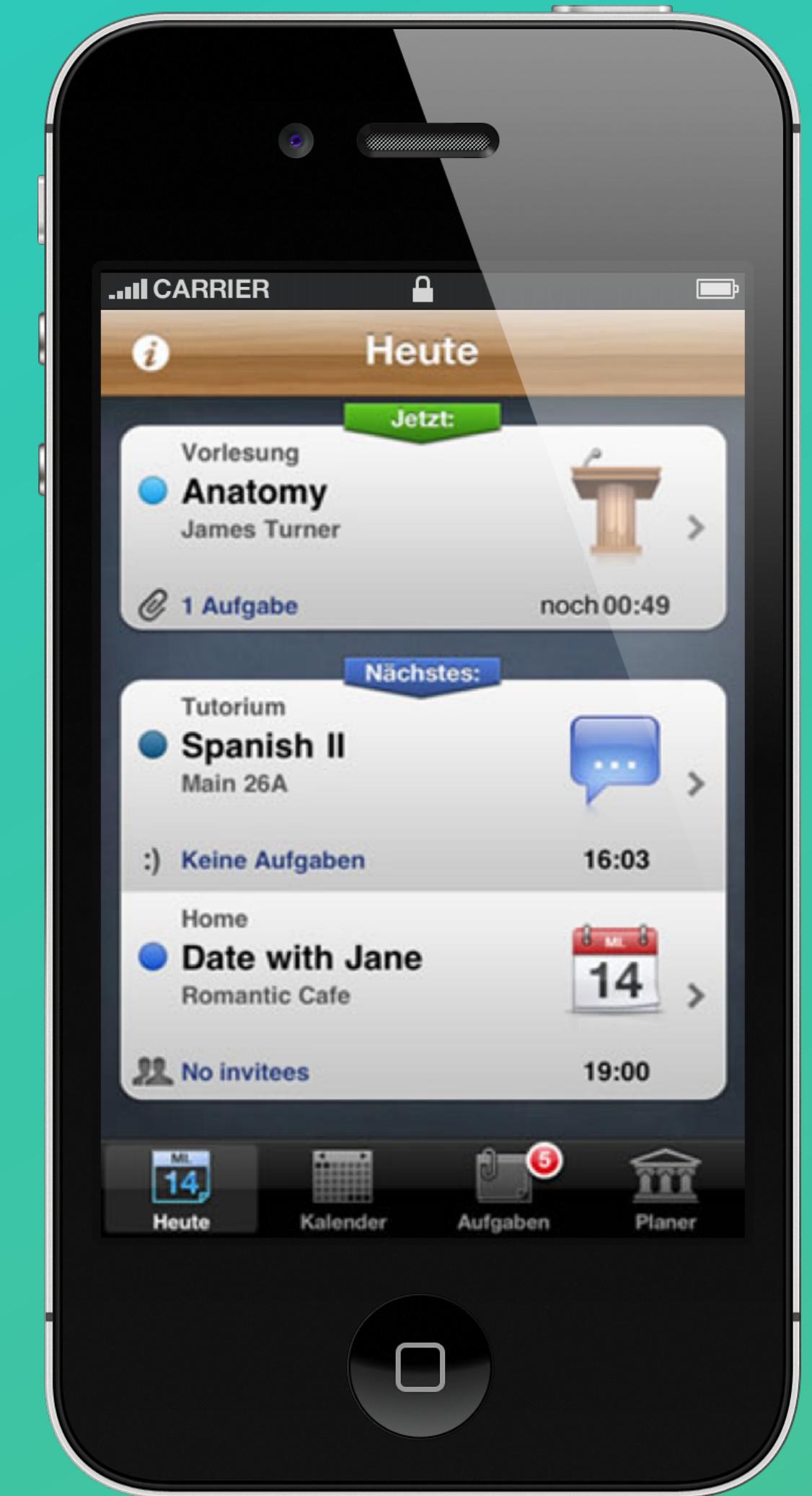
2017
June



2018
February

What makes an app beautiful?

- We can subconsciously spot a dated design from miles away
- Beauty doesn't fix a lack of substance
- A great developer does not make a great designer



Building beautiful apps with Xamarin.Forms

Why the bad reputation?

- Originally marketed as “suitable for simple data entry apps”
- Past experiences
- The association with the word “Forms”?



Elements of a beautiful UI

- Gradients
- Shadows
- Typography
- Iconography
- Colors
- Shapes
- Movement





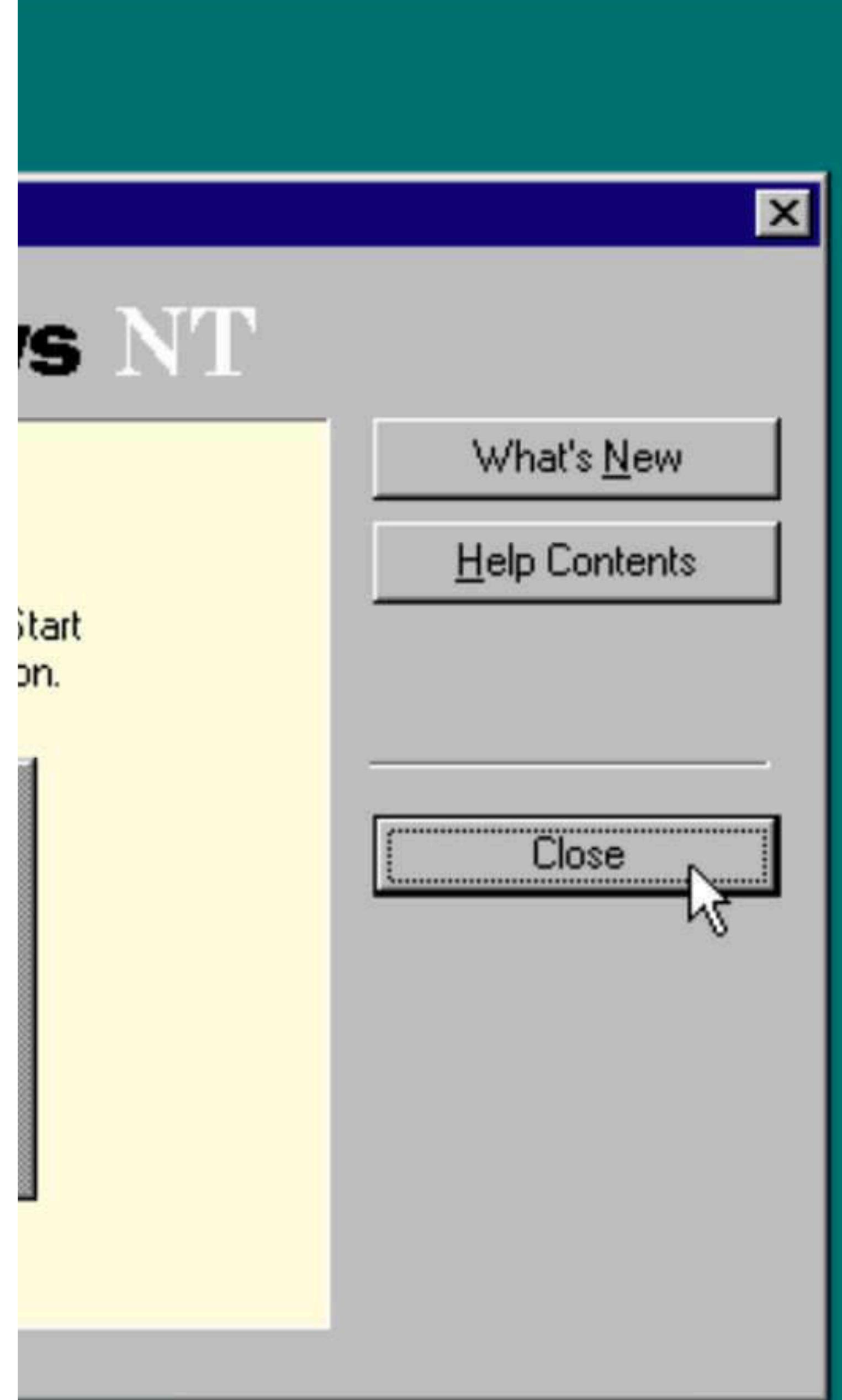
APP DESIGN
IS MY
PASSION

Gradients

- SkiaSharp
- MagicGradients
- PancakeView
- Built-in Xamarin Forms gradients! (coming soon in 4.8)

Shadows

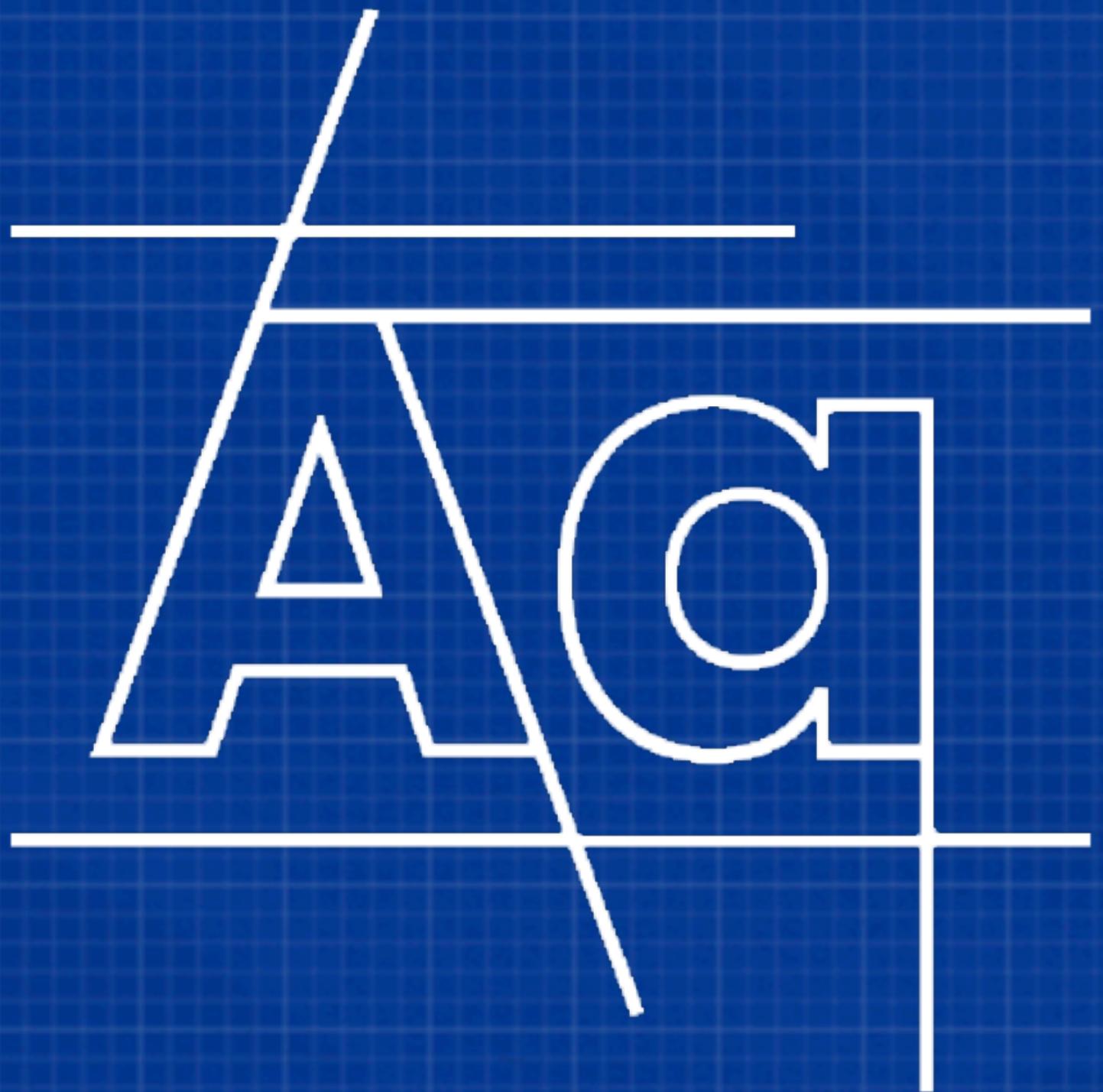
- o Important visual cue for users
- o Complete freedom on iOS
- o Not so much on Android
- o Getting creative



Shadows

- Important visual cue for users
- Complete freedom on iOS
- Not so much on Android
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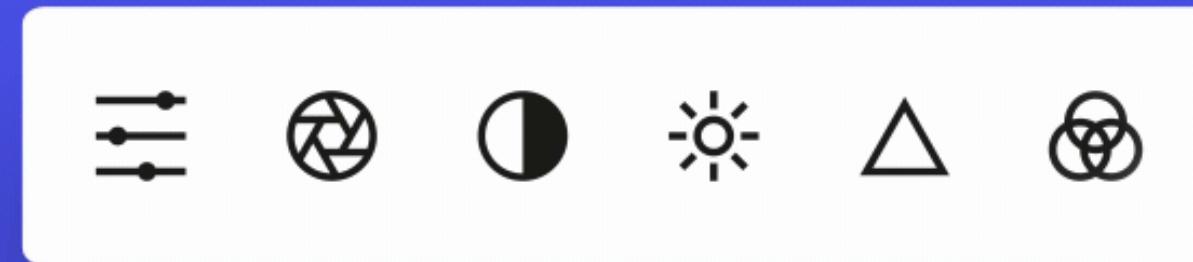


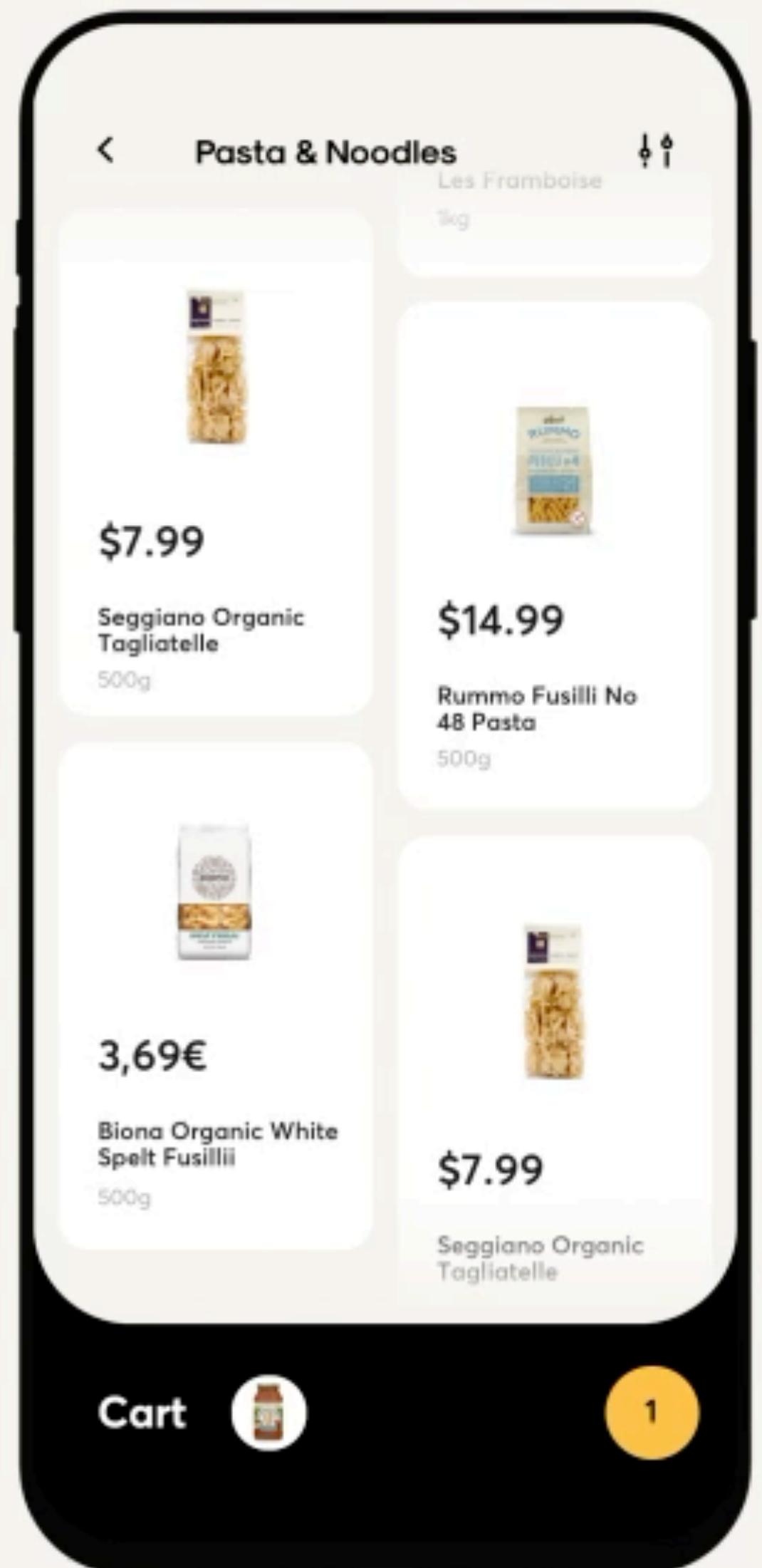
Typography, iconography & colors

- Shapes the identity of your app
- Free options available
 - Google Fonts
 - FontAwesome and others
- Use generators to help you out

Movement, animation & transitions

- Micro animations
 - Lottie
- Other animations
 - Xamarin.Forms built-in animation framework
 - Xamanimation
 - Page Transitions





Movement, animation & transitions

- Micro animations
 - Lottie
 - Other animations
 - Xamarin.Forms built-in animation framework
 - Xamanimation
 - Xamarin.Plugin.SharedTransitions

It's not just about fancy visuals

- User experience
- Consistency
- Copywriting
- Performance
- Accessibility

FANCY VISUAL ALL THE THINGS



STEVEN THEWISSEN

How to get started?

Using styles to create a reusable UI

```
<Style TargetType="{x:Type Button}">
    <Setter Property="CharacterSpacing">
        <OnPlatform x:TypeArguments="x:Double">
            <On Platform="Android" Value="{StaticResource spacing_2sp}" />
            <On Platform="iOS" Value="0" />
        </OnPlatform>
    </Setter>
    <Setter Property="Padding" Value="20,0,20,0" />
    <Setter Property="TextColor" Value="{StaticResource white}" />
    <Setter Property="BackgroundColor" Value="{StaticResource fresh_green}" />
    <Setter Property="HeightRequest" Value="40" />
    <Setter Property="CornerRadius" Value="20" />
    <Setter Property="FontSize" Value="12" />
    <Setter Property="FontFamily" Value="{StaticResource font_bold}" />
</Style>
```

- {} Icons.cs
- ▶ ◊ StyleGuide.xaml
- ▶ ◊ StyleGuideButtons.xaml
- ▶ ◊ StyleGuideColors.xaml
- ▶ ◊ StyleGuideFonts.xaml
- ▶ ◊ StyleGuideInput.xaml
- ▶ ◊ StyleGuideLists.xaml
- ▶ ◊ StyleGuideStates.xaml
- ▶ ◊ StyleGuideTypography.xaml

Using styles to create a reusable UI

```
1  <?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8" ?>
2  <ResourceDictionary xmlns="http://xamarin.com/schemas/2014/forms"
3  |   xmlns:x="http://schemas.microsoft.com/winfx/2009/xaml"
4  |   x:Class="MyProject.Shared.Styles.StyleGuide"
5  |   xmlns:styles="clr-namespace:MyProject.Shared.Styles">
6  |     <xaml-comp:compile="true" />
7  |     <ResourceDictionary.MergedDictionaries>
8  |       <styles:StyleGuideColors />
9  |       <styles:StyleGuideFonts />
10 |       <styles:StyleGuideButtons />
11 |       <styles:StyleGuideTypography />
12 |       <styles:StyleGuideInput />
13 |       <styles:StyleGuideLists />
14 |       <styles:StyleGuideStates />
15 |     </ResourceDictionary.MergedDictionaries>
16 </ResourceDictionary>
```

- ▶  Icons.cs
- ▶  StyleGuide.xaml
- ▶  StyleGuideButtons.xaml
- ▶  StyleGuideColors.xaml
- ▶  StyleGuideFonts.xaml
- ▶  StyleGuideInput.xaml
- ▶  StyleGuideLists.xaml
- ▶  StyleGuideStates.xaml
- ▶  StyleGuideTypography.xaml

A good exercise to do

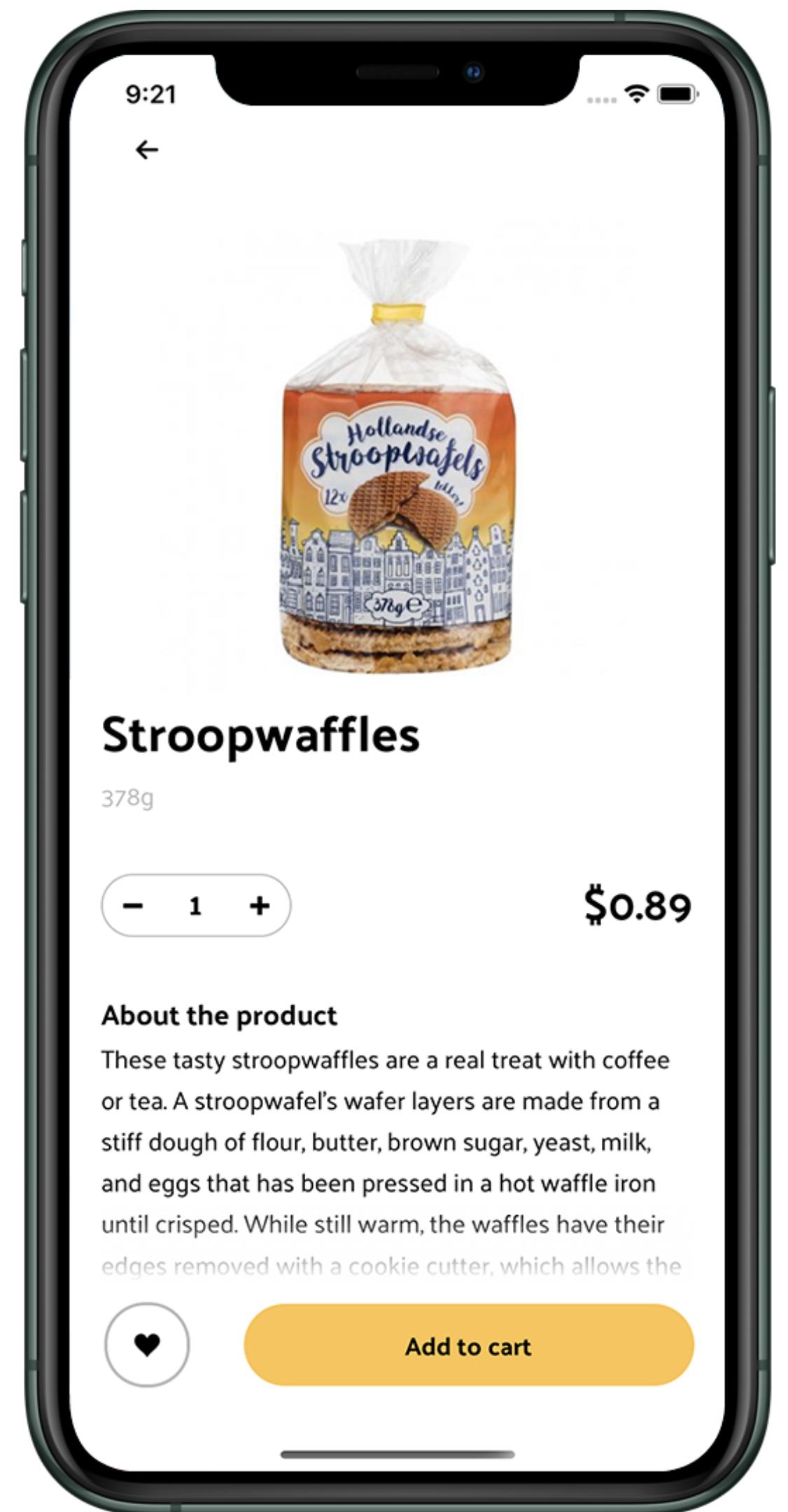
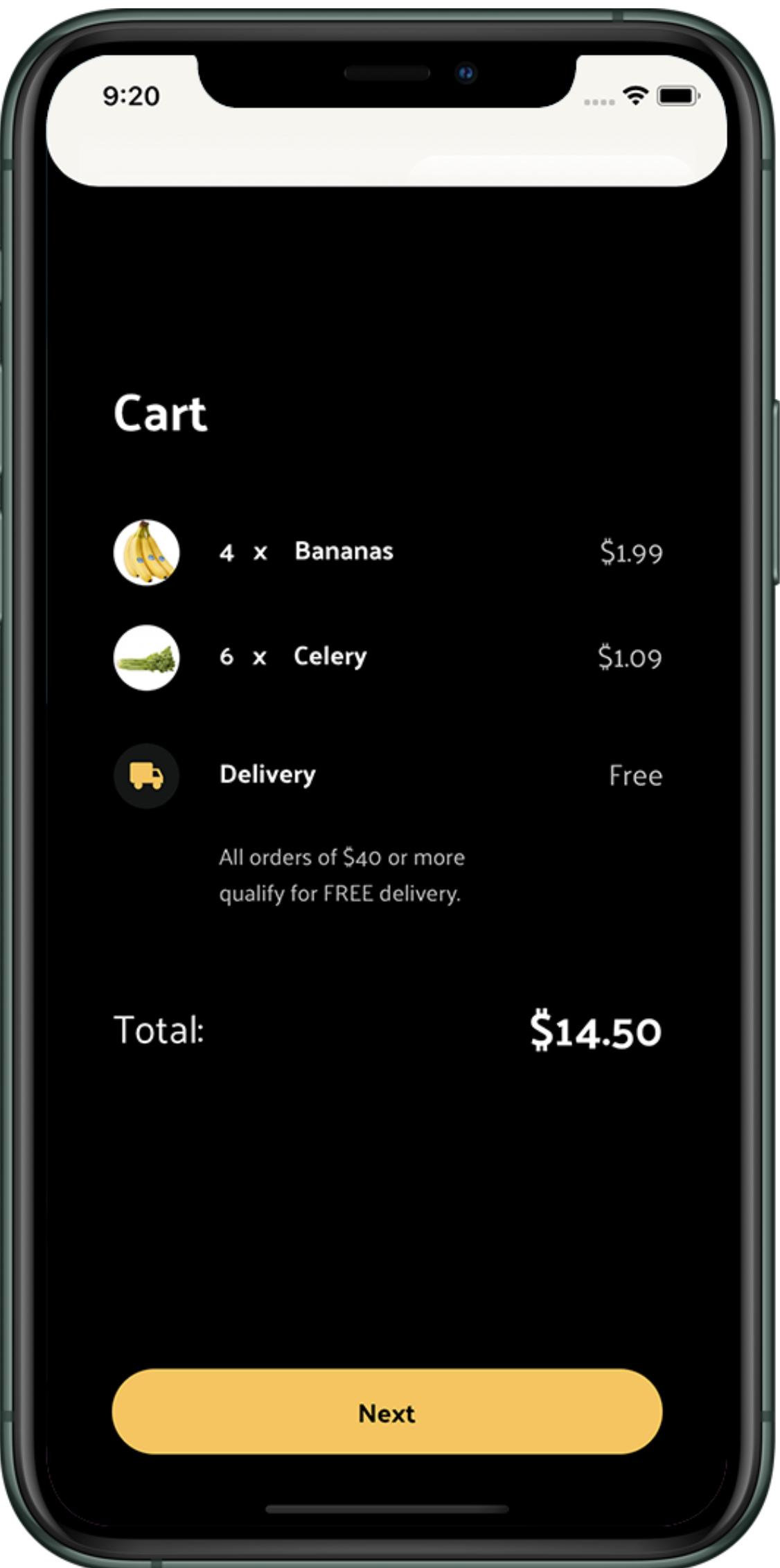
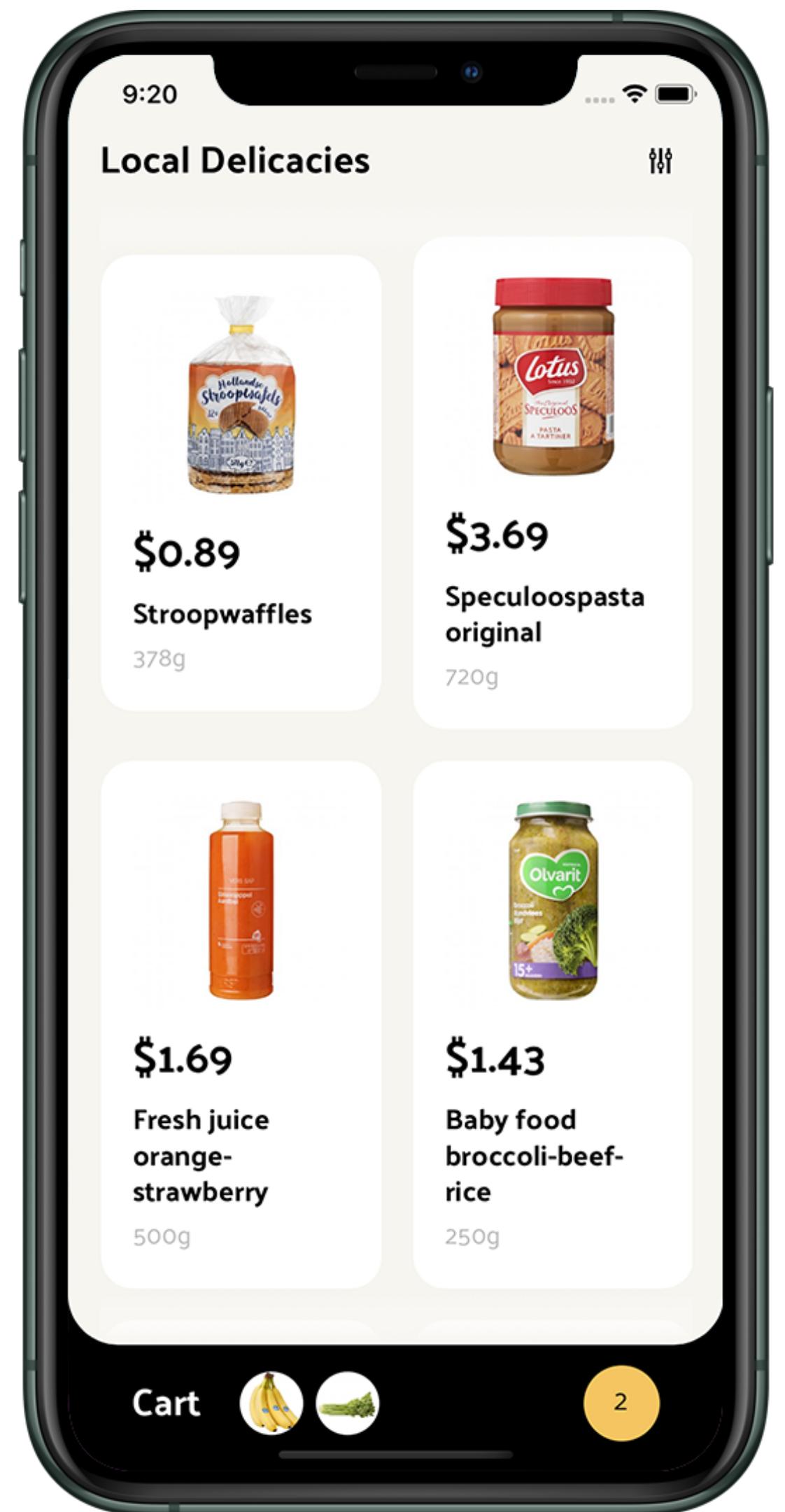
- Find inspiration online
- Challenge yourself
- And just do it...

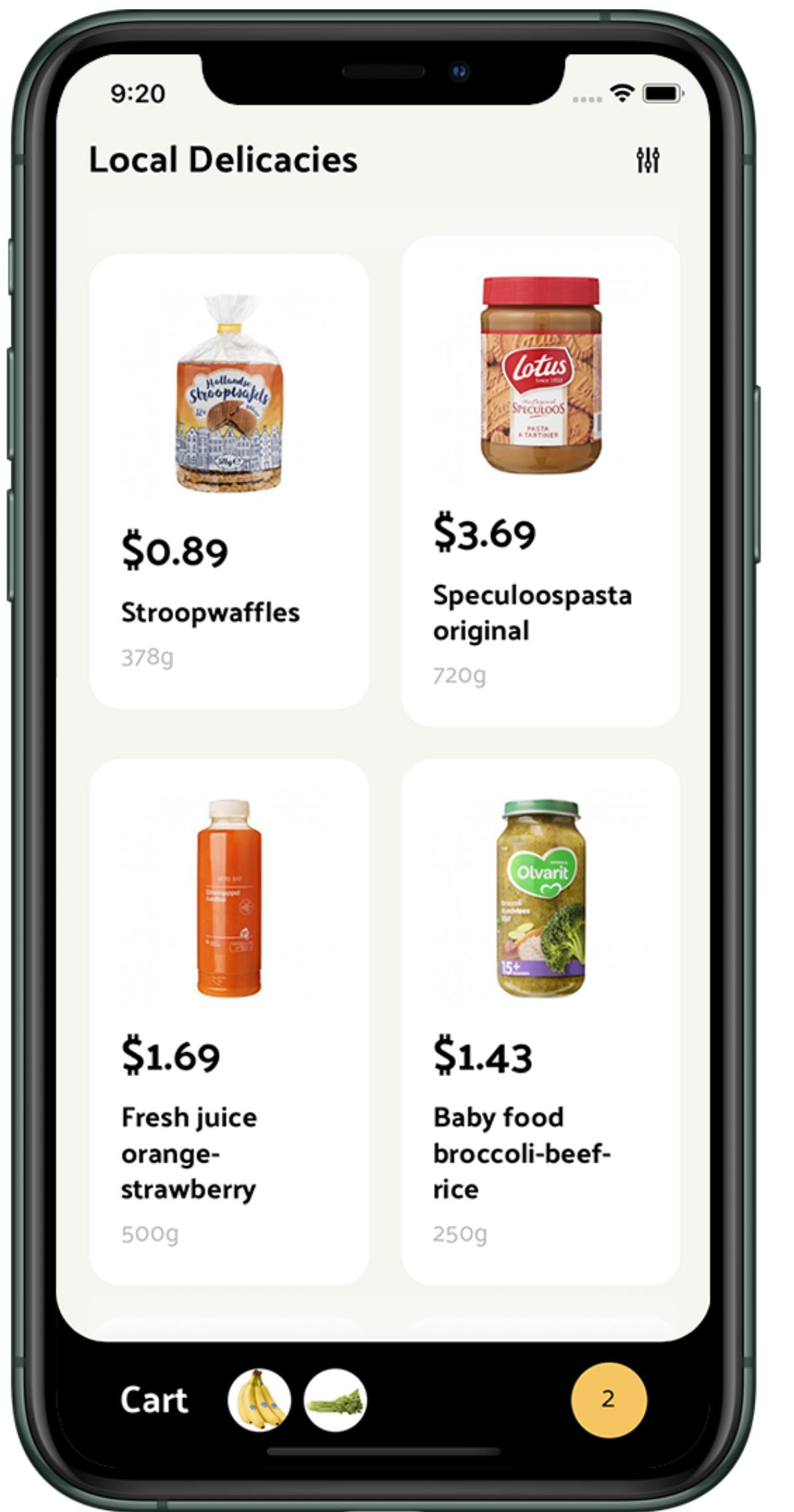




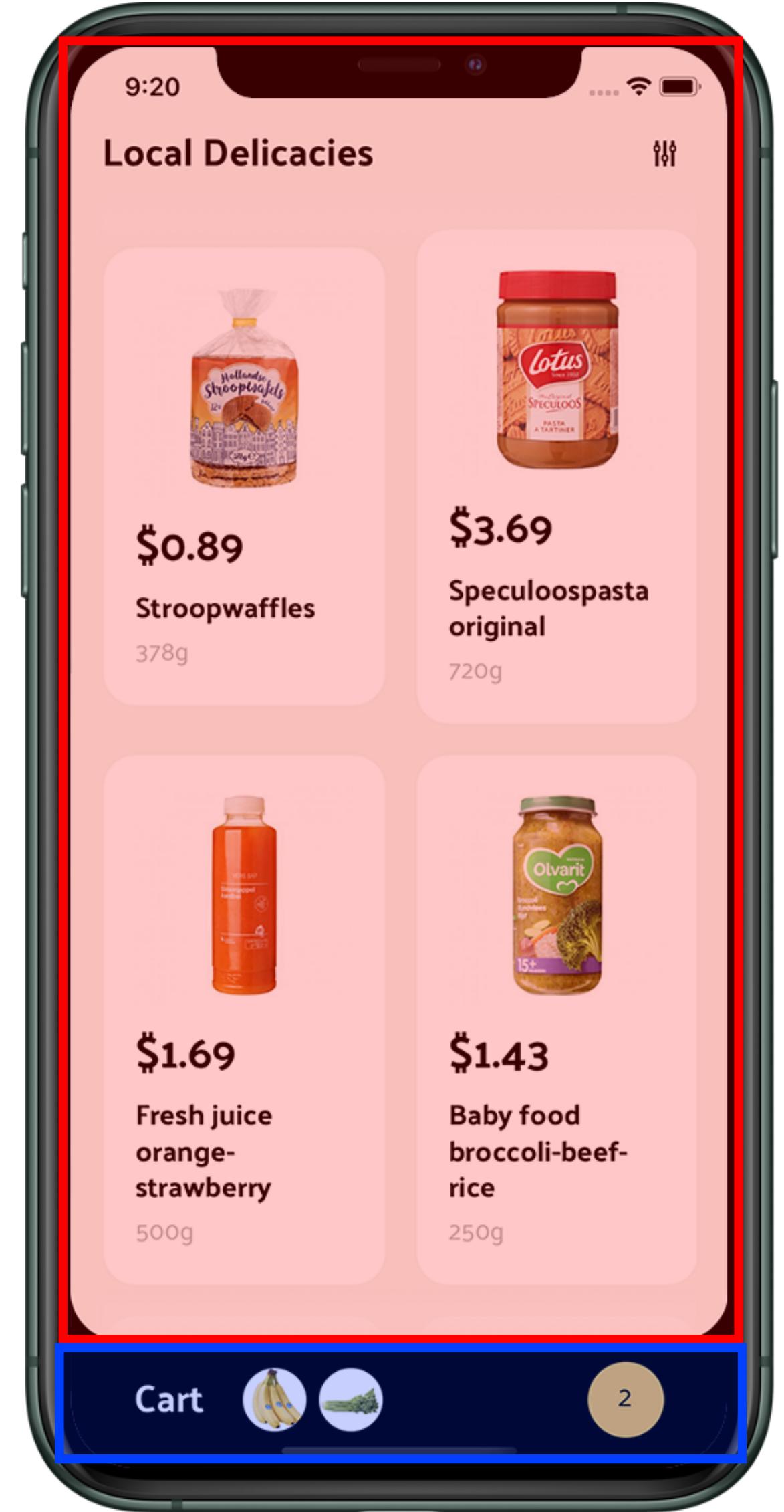
Dissecting a design

- Split the design into parts you can manage
- Think about how composition can help you
- Abstracting reusable parts into separate controls
- Know which controls you have at your disposal



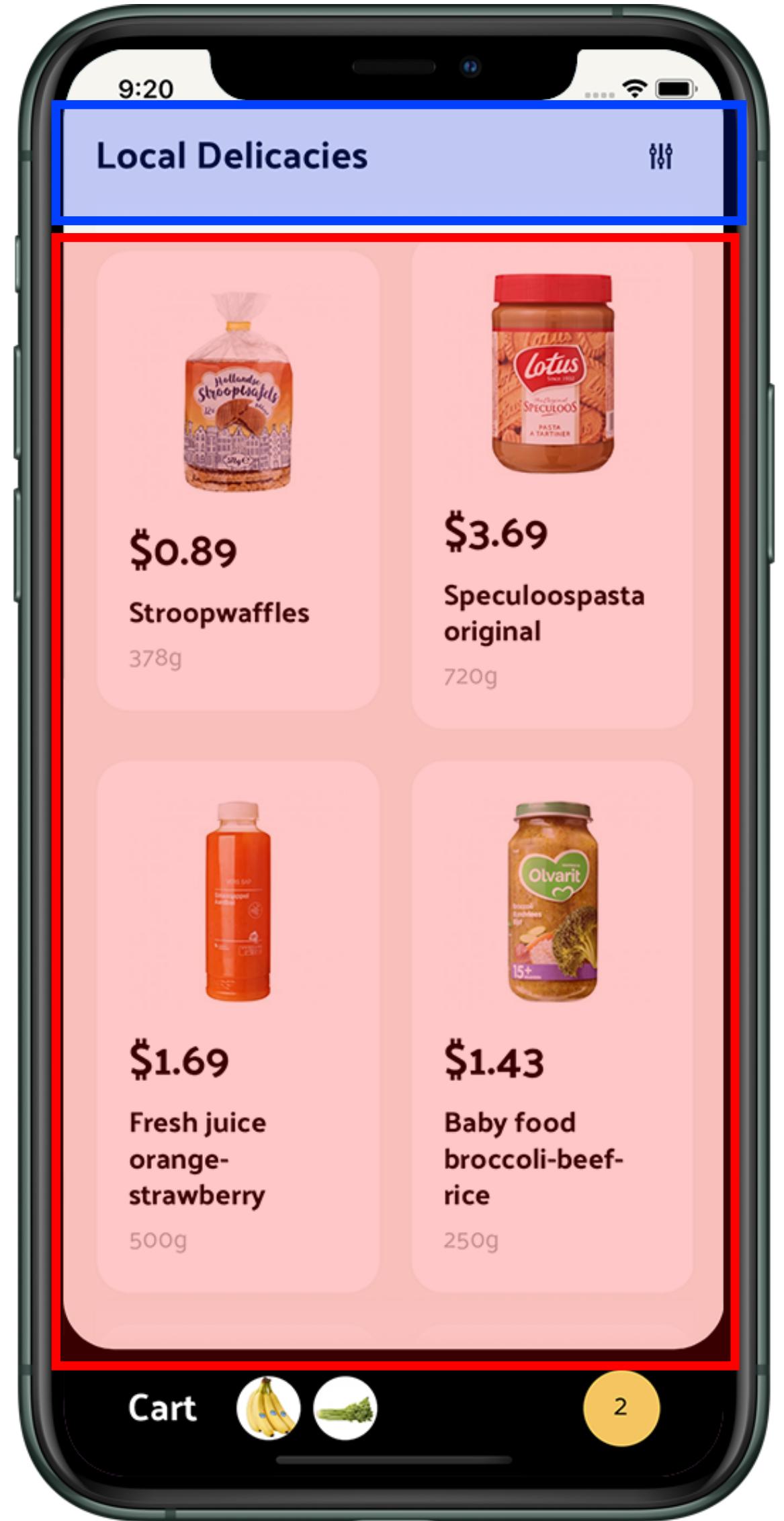


■ ■ Grid with 2 rows



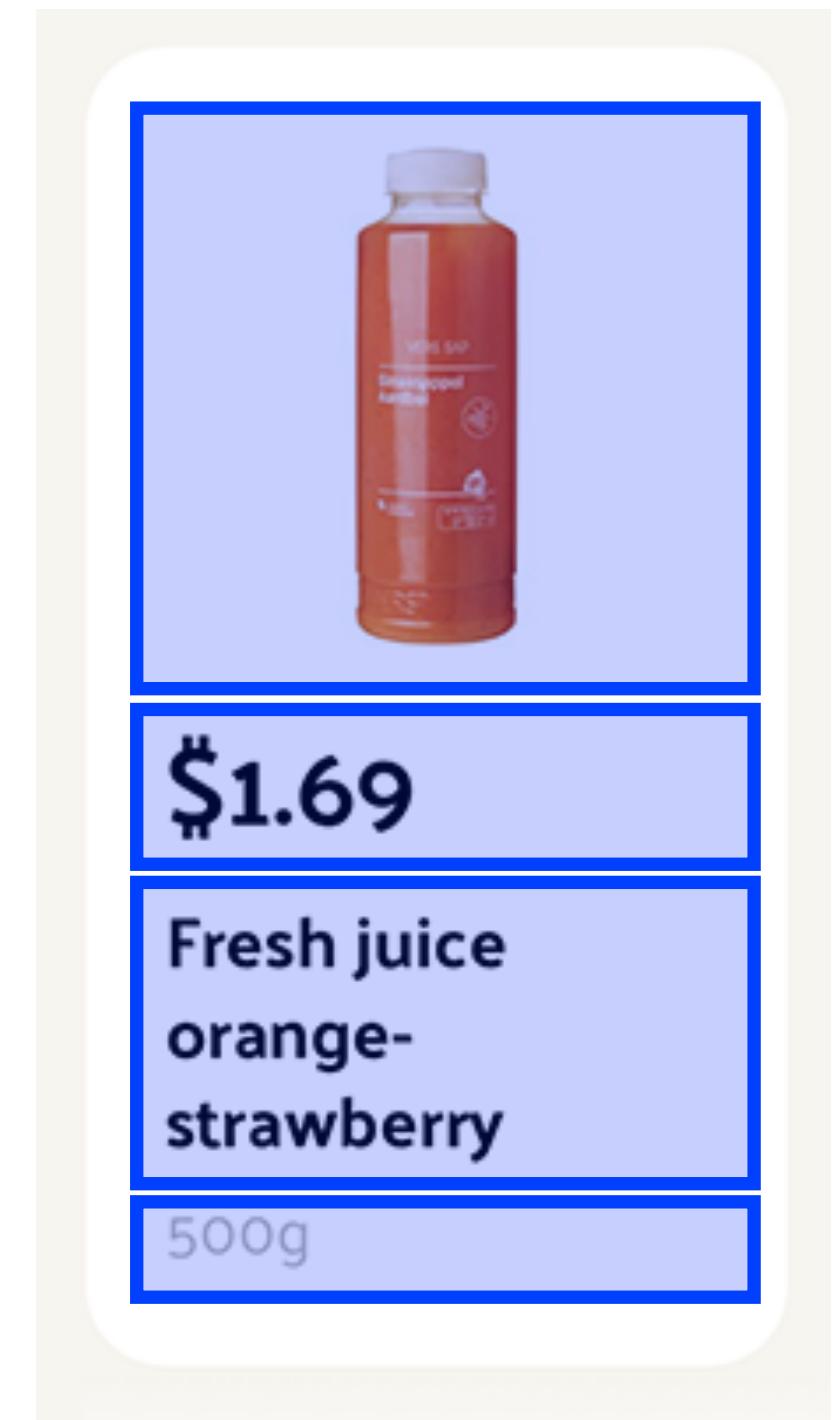
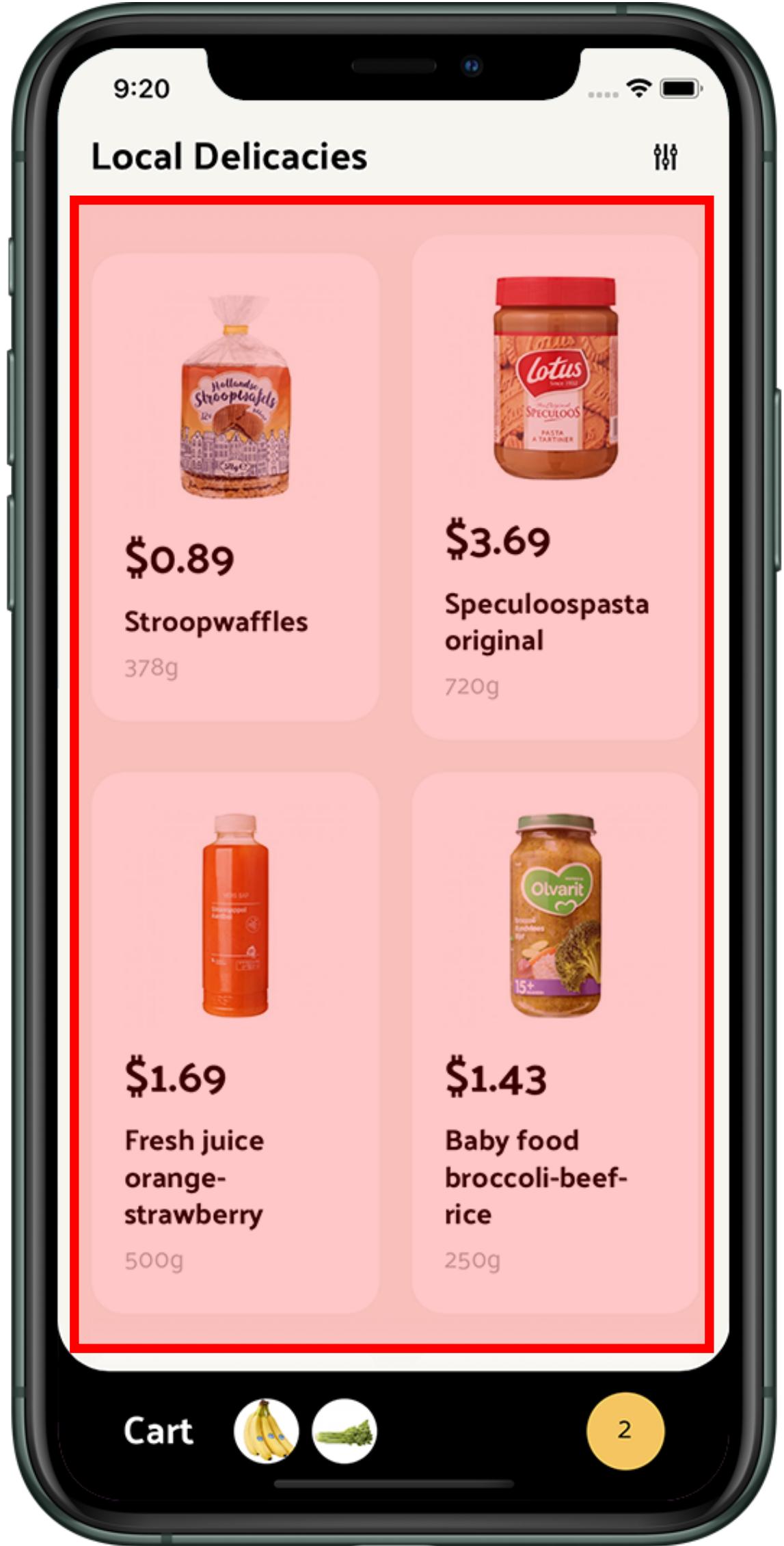
Grid with two rows:

- one fixed height,
- the other full remaining height

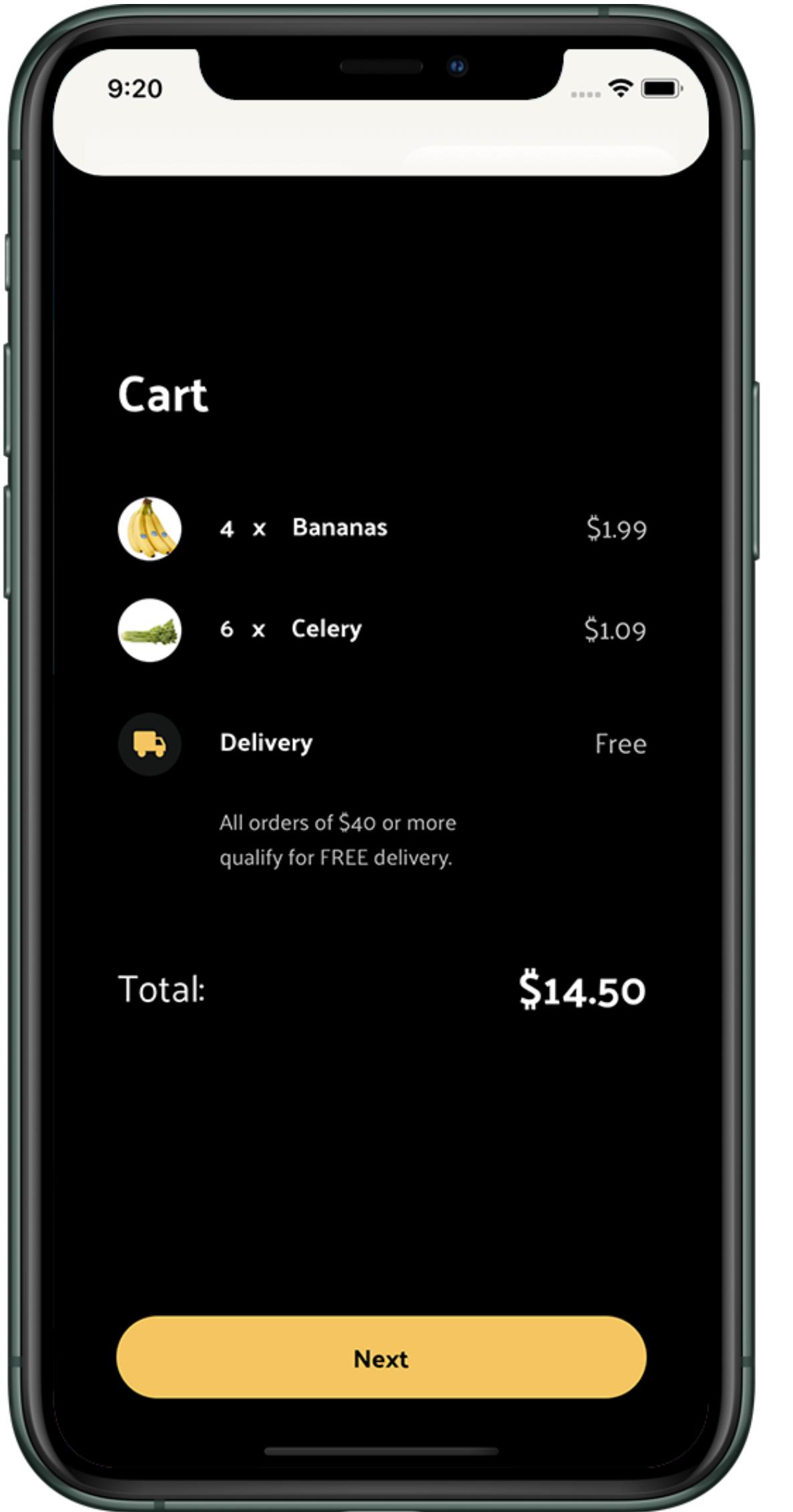


Wrapped in a Frame / PancakeView
to get the rounded corners

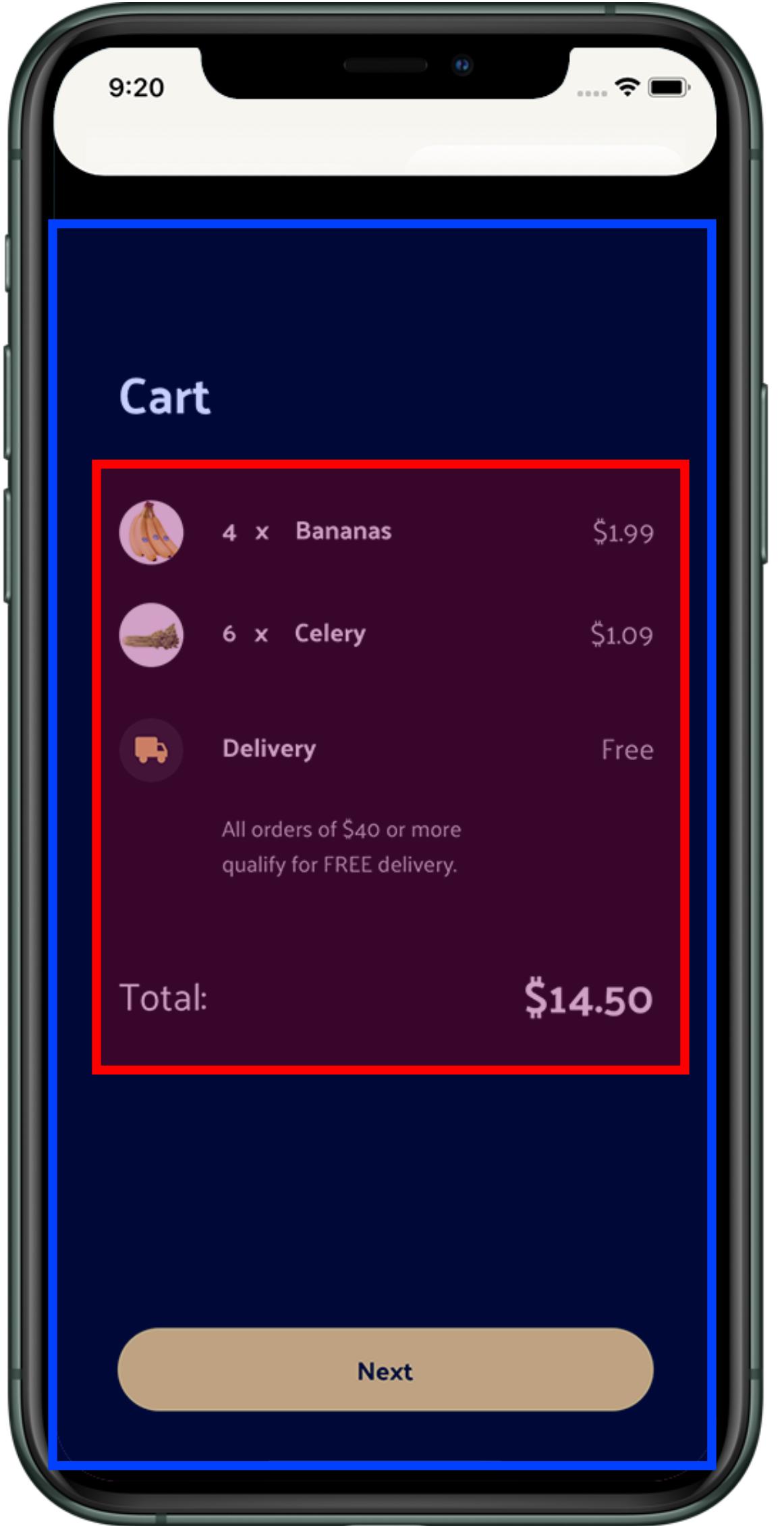
- ❑ CollectionView set to vertical, spanning two columns



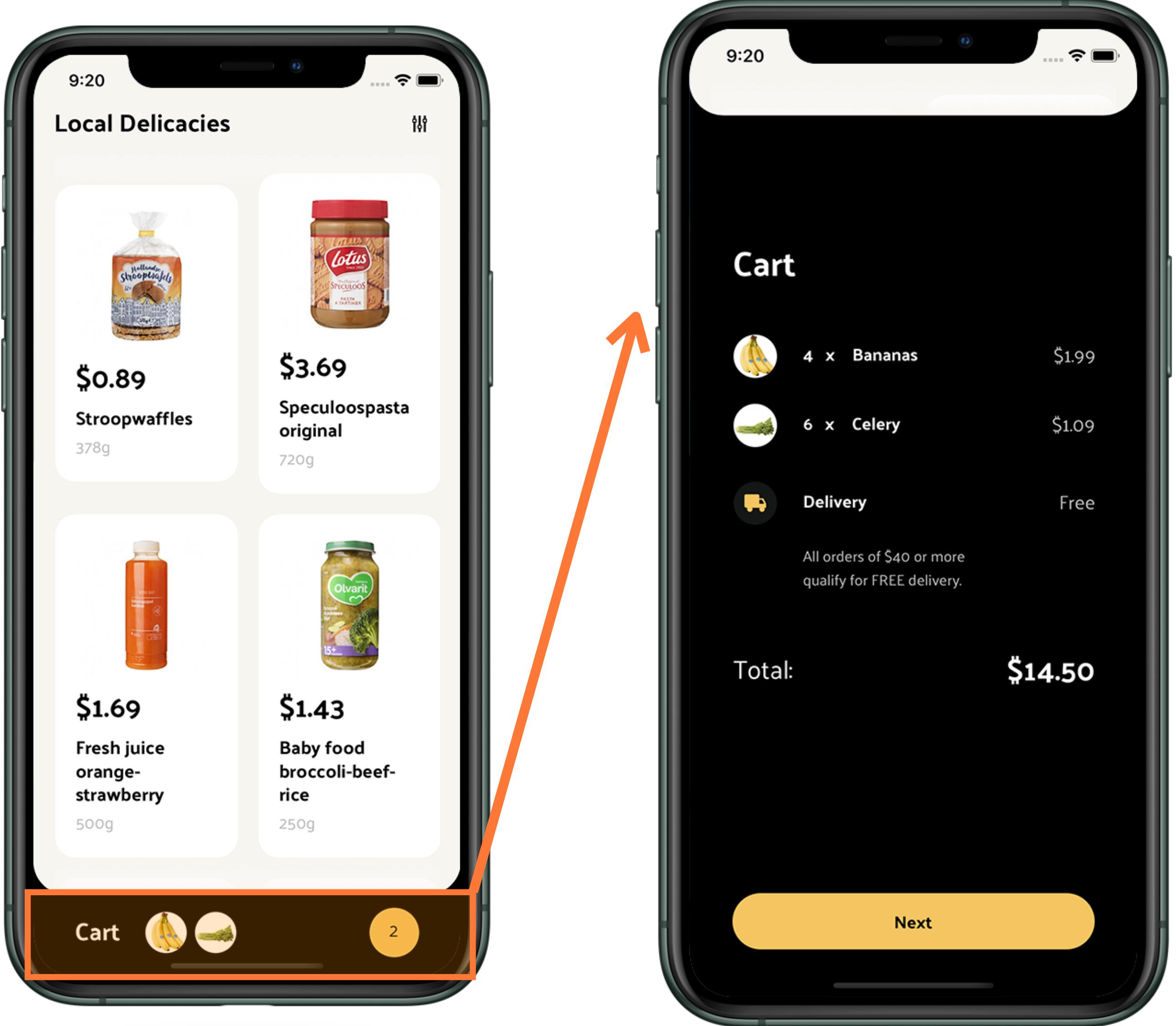
- ❑ Frame / PancakeView as item with StackLayout to stack the data



- Grid with multiple rows
- CollectionView with a Footer row



SwipeGestureRecognizers to handle swiping up and down



The image shows two smartphones side-by-side, both displaying a mobile application for grocery delivery. The left phone's screen is titled "Local Delicacies" and shows four product items:

- A bottle of "Hollands Stroopwafels" for \$0.89, 378g.
- A jar of "Lotus Speculoos" for \$3.69, 720g.
- A bottle of "Fresh juice orange-strawberry" for \$1.69, 500g.
- A jar of "Olvarit Baby food broccoli-beef-rice" for \$1.43, 250g.

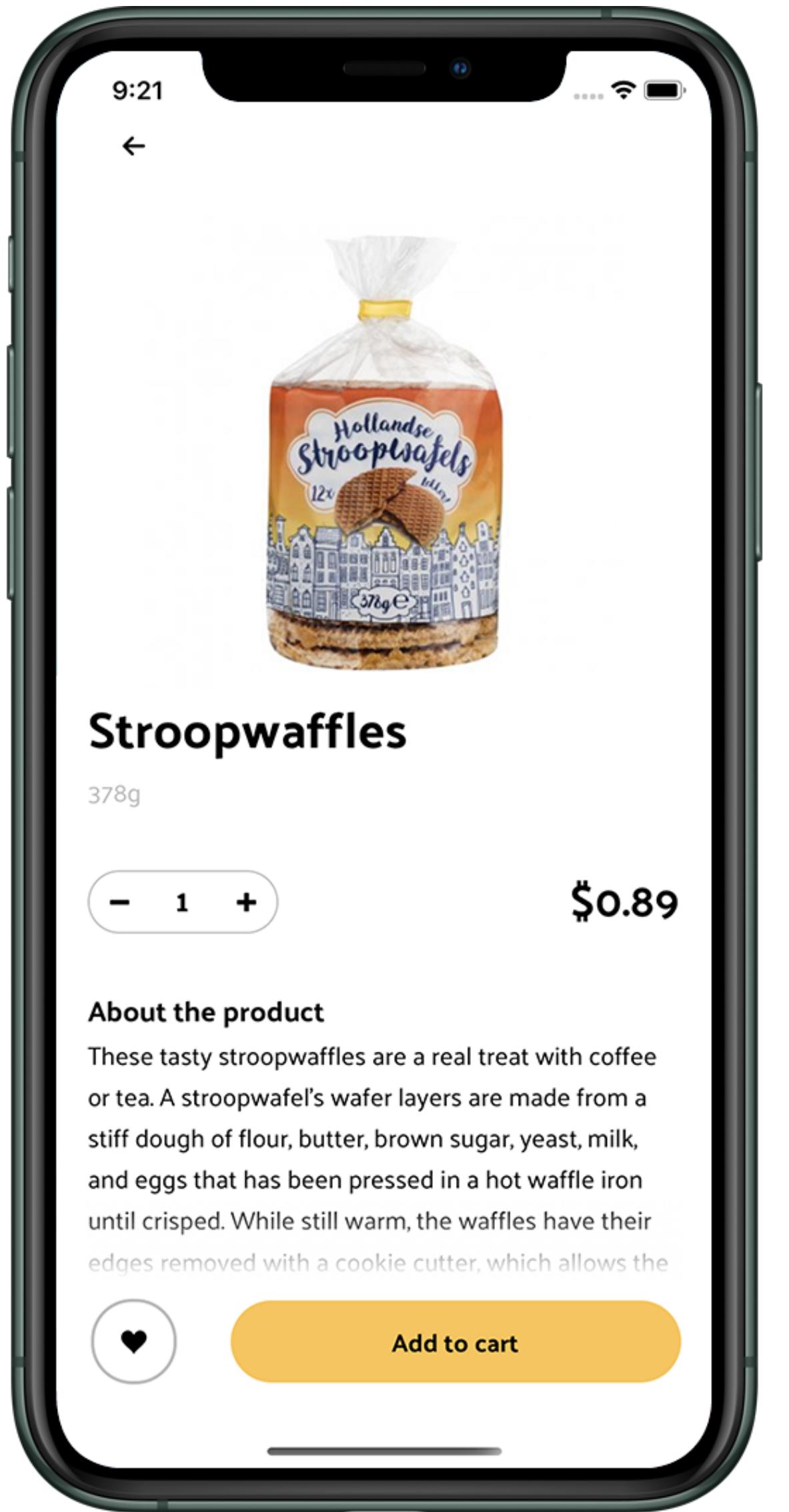
The right phone's screen shows a "Cart" summary with the following details:

- Cart icon with 2 items.
- 4 x Bananas: \$1.99
- 6 x Celery: \$1.09
- Delivery: Free
- All orders of \$40 or more qualify for FREE delivery.
- Total: \$14.50

Both phones have a yellow "Next" button at the bottom.

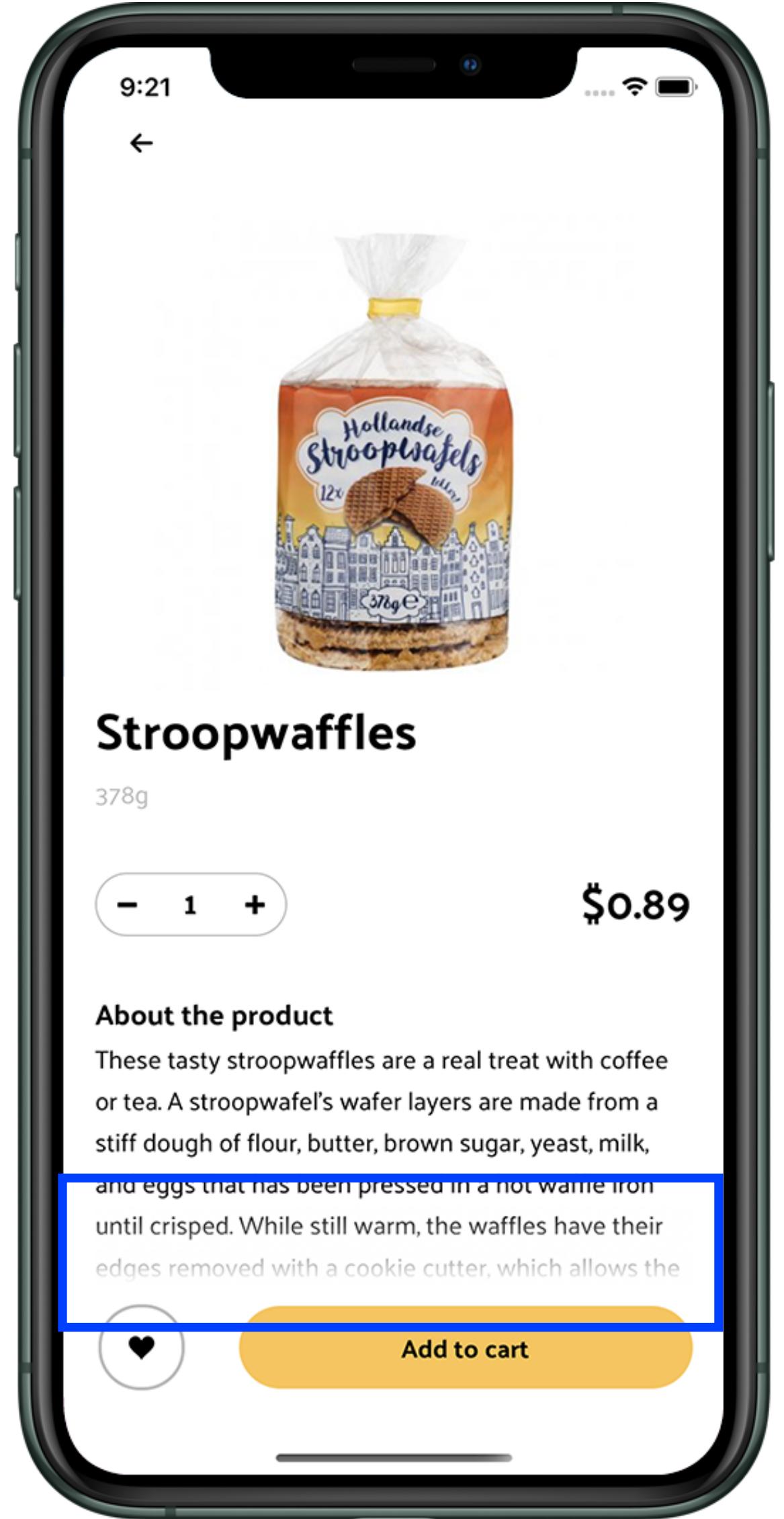
IT'S THAT EASY





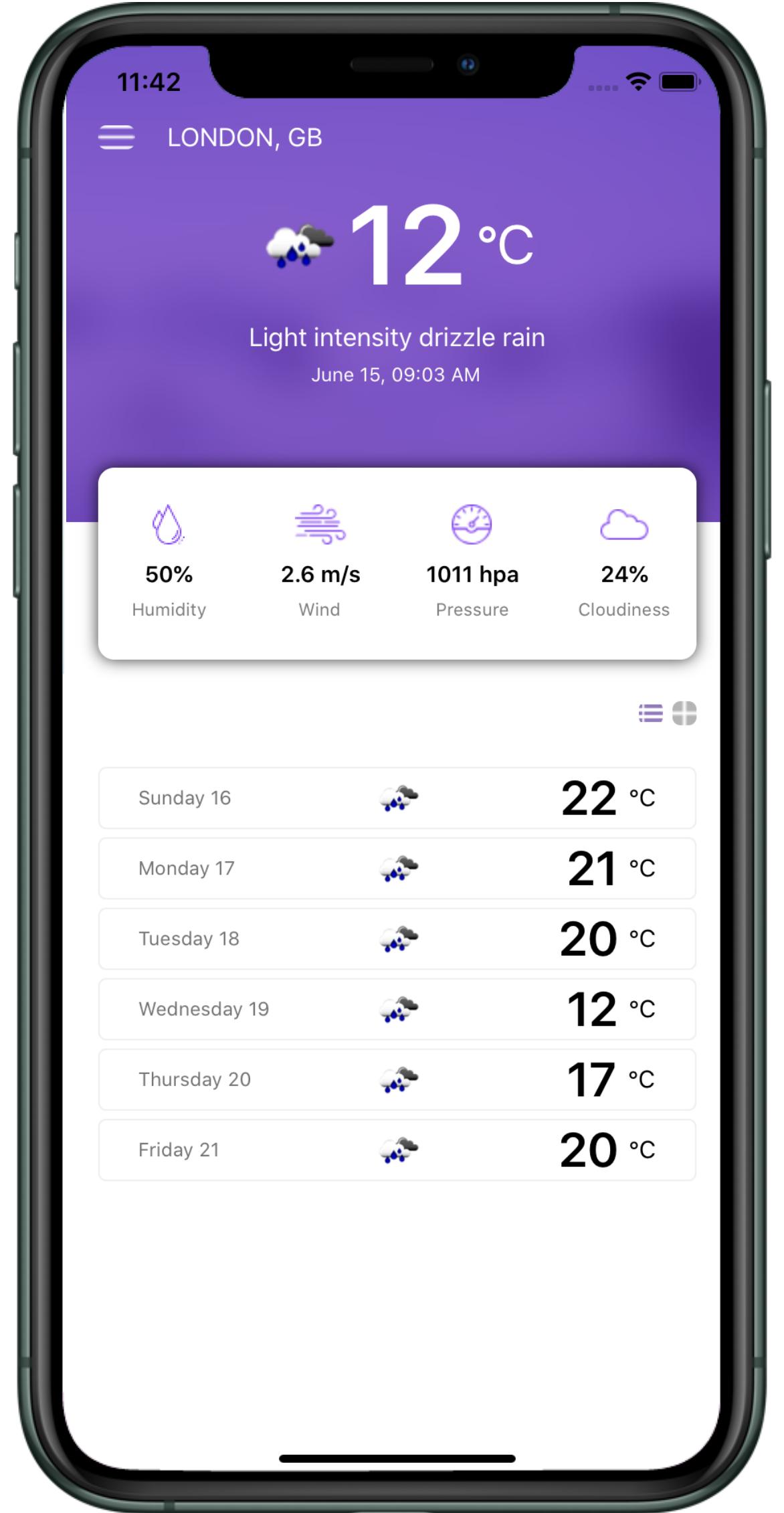
It's just a basic Grid.

Nothing fancy.



Except for maybe this fade...

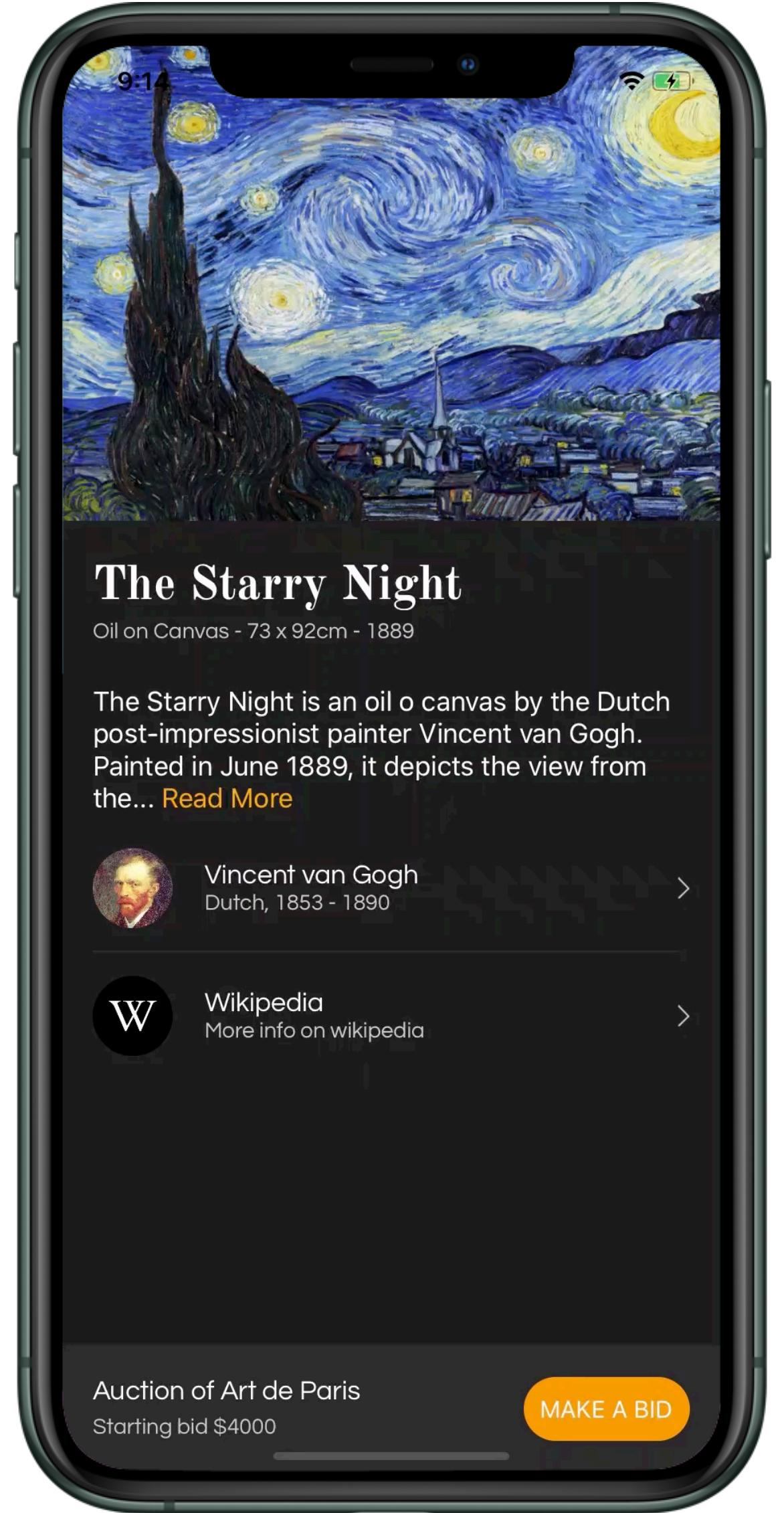
Demo: It's aliiiiive!



Weather App

by Oludayo Alli

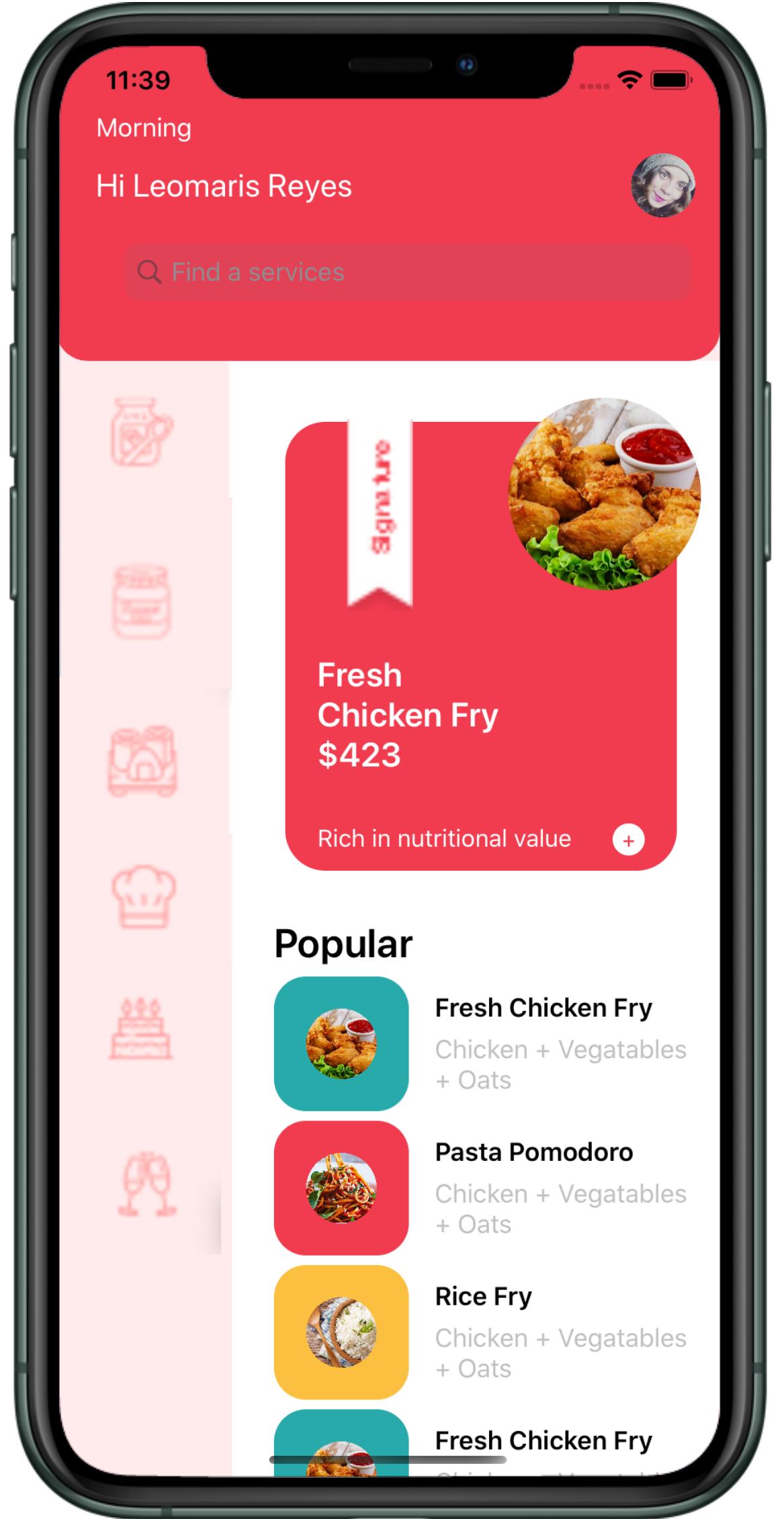
<https://github.com/devcrux/WeatherApp>



ArtAuction

by Kym Phillpotts

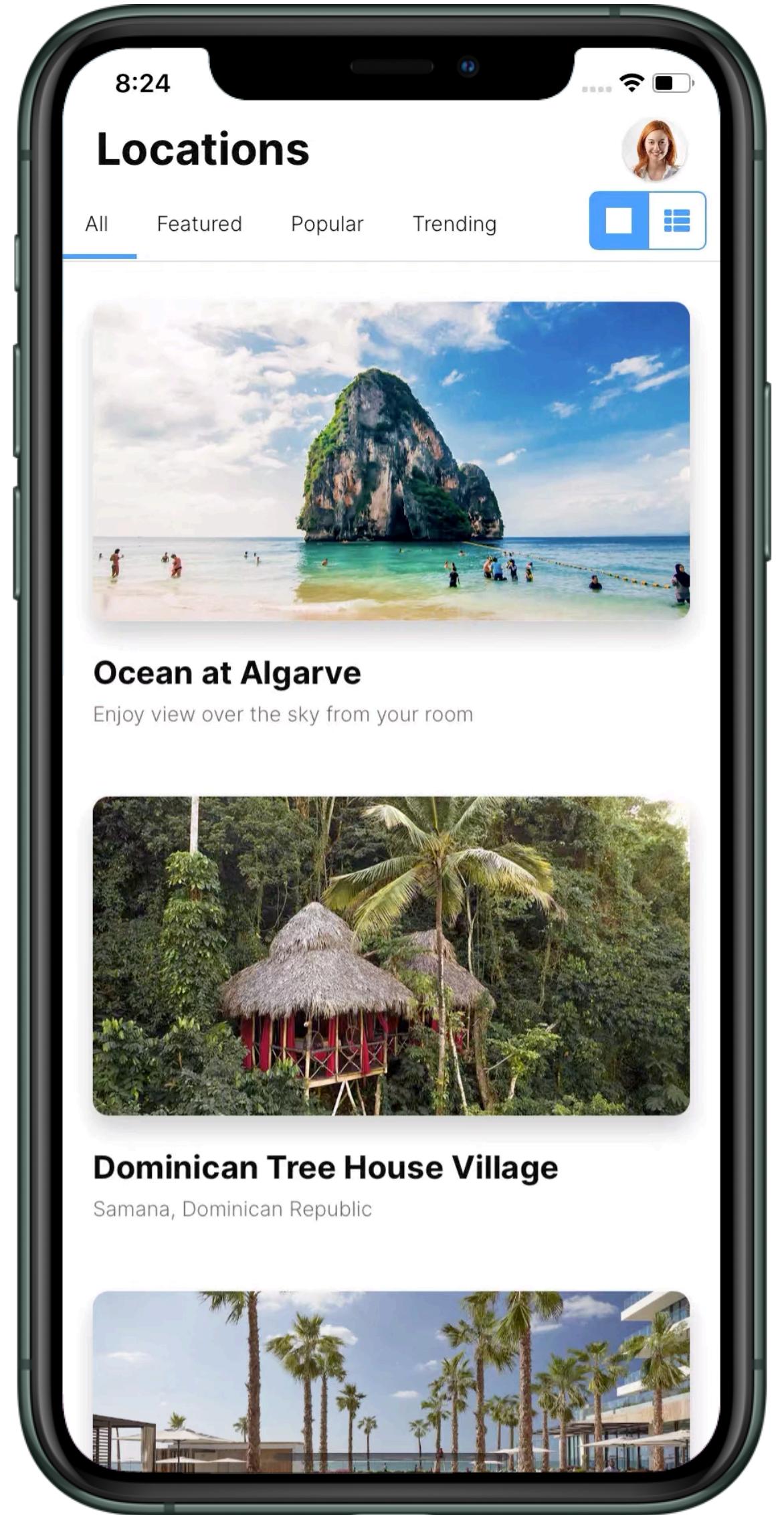
<https://github.com/kphillpotts/ArtAuction>



FoodApp

by Leomaris Reyes

<https://github.com/LeomarisReyes/FoodAppSample>



PlacesApp

by Lorenzo Araujo

<https://github.com/valentineg8/PlacesApp>

“If you can’t make it, fake it.”

Tools / extensions

- XAML Hot Reload
- mfractor.com

Design inspiration

- dribbble.com
- behance.com
- unblast.com
- uplabs.com
- pttrns.com

Awesome XF UIs

- kymphillpotts.com
- snppt.dev
- aka.ms/xfui

Generators

- coolors.co
- icomoon.com
- fontjoy.com
- IconFont2Code

NuGet packages

- [SharedTransitions](#)
- [Xamanimation](#)
- [MagicGradients](#)
- [SkiaSharp](#)
- [PancakeView](#)

Others

- [glyphsearch.com](#)



Thanks for listening!



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