Step 1: Reflection

Which existing websites out there most inspired your web site design thus far?
A few..
http://www.yesstud.io
http://www.johnpawson.com/
http://ateljealtmann.com/
http://www.stockholmdesignlab.se/
http://emilolsson.com/
http://carlnas.com/

Which parts of the design are you most proud of?

This a work in progress - catching up, derailed by work and other stuff..

I can't say it's there at all, I'm learning how best to simplify across platforms, mobile first, without javascript / query code knowledge which has been challenging. The simple stuff appearing effortless is tricky!

What struggles did you encounter in your design process

For the most part I think trying to find design solutions that I can actually code, and trying to balance both has been really hard. UX (and Navigation choices) is something that requires more research and thinking my end, such as deciding how minimal you can go and still have the user understand where / how to move through the site, and not leave.

Which struggles did you encounter during page development?

I am having most issues with the code, as I said before, just trying to find simple elegant design solutions that I can actually code with html & css only. I've been gravitating towards sites that have a minimal look, heavier on art, and full of javascript in code, I'm told. I want to walk before I can run, but discovering a minimal site with cool simple 'effects' is kind of harder to achieve with my present knowledge..

Also, learning about the 'correct/real' semantic tags to use, and not over-wrapping unnecessarily. At times I think I am doing something to one element but am actually affecting another! Also, the repetition of some attributes in CSS. A bit worrying still. Sometimes hard to see where you went wrong without someone looking at your code, especially with the amount of copy & paste, AND splicing with one's own code.

I probably need to spend more time on reading more, and coding to test through trial and error. I'm sure I took wrong turns here and there in catching up.. but I'm happy to learn what code I am looking at least.

What did you learn from making your project responsive?

It's definitely important to know and adopt, given the variety of screens out there, allowing for a modular grid to simplify and organize the content in a balanced manner.

Step 2: Reviews

Group 1
http://mimarch.net/
This website is very challenging for the user. It looks like multiple websites have been spliced together from the various design styles. It's overly busy and hectic, with too many distracting moving effects which don't help the viewer navigate through the page, let alone rest of the website. There is simply no focus, and a haphazard flow for the viewer due to the design, from the art (photos/logos), to the navigation options (all over) to the very distracting ticker with logos and the main slide show of photos.

Group 2
http://squarespace.com/home/overview/
This in simple contrast is a site that is very clear and simple, super easy to navigate through and find the content you need, with a clean and minimal elegant design. Less is more!