

## Part 1: Intro

My website is a personal projects portfolio built on HTML/CSS/JavaScript that is inspired by the Disney Pixar Studios theme. I've attempted to recreate this through the use of the typing animation that introduces every new page, as well as a spotlight animation which creates the effect of shining a spotlight on a dark stage every time a project is hovered over. Through this, I wanted to create an engaging "theatre-like" experience for the viewer as they browse through my past projects and experiences.

Within each page, the user can look through a collage of images that encapsulate the spirit of the project, as well as a short descriptive summary. If they project interests them, they are able to click a "find out more" button in order to be redirected to the actual project page, where they can peruse the project further.

## Part 2: Interactions

- Home page functionality
  - The "Tejas Venkatesh" logo on the top left of the screen redirects the user back to the home page.
  - Click on the pink and white "Tejas Venkatesh" logo anchored at the top left of the screen.
- Spotighting project:
  - The spotighting effect gradually brightens and enlarges one specific project on the index page while keeping the rest of the projects dim, so as to draw attention to the spotlighted project.
  - Navigate to the home page (as described above). Then, hover over a project that you would like to explore.
- Entering project
  - After a project is spotlighted by the user, they can enter the project's page to view more information
  - Hover over project on index page to spotlight it (as described above). Then click on the project image or text to be redirected to the project page.
- Finding out more about specific project
  - Within the project page, there is a brief paragraph outlining the project. However, users can be redirected outside the website to the actual project page to learn more.
  - On the project page, click the white "Find out more" text below the project description. User must enable/allow redirecting to external links in their browser, if prompted.

## Part 3: Tool

- For my external tool, I used two animations. The first animation is the active typing effect. I built the effect from scratch on CSS.

- I chose to use it because I thought that the typing effect creates a “live” feel to the webapp, which lends itself to a sense of recency. This was important as a lot of my projects are still currently ongoing, and I wanted to capture that sentiment.
- I used it by first creating a div with a width of zero. Then I styled the div by creating an animation that lasted 5 seconds and was broken into 50 steps. I used @keyframes to then change the width of the div throughout the animation, starting at 0 and then ending at a larger width (72.5% for the home page). I also limited the height of the content displayed, so that anything below the first like could not be seen.
- This allowed for the typing effect to appear as text was slowly revealed on the 1<sup>st</sup> line, as it got pushed up to the 1<sup>st</sup> line as the div width got wider.

## Part 4: Iterations

As I iterated on my prototype, I ended up going for a wildly different effect compared to my initial plan. The main aspect of my initial prototype that I kept was the active typing effect. However, I changed all the aspects of my web page layout and interaction techniques.

My initial hi-fidelity prototype looked like the following:



However, I received some of the following feedback on this design:

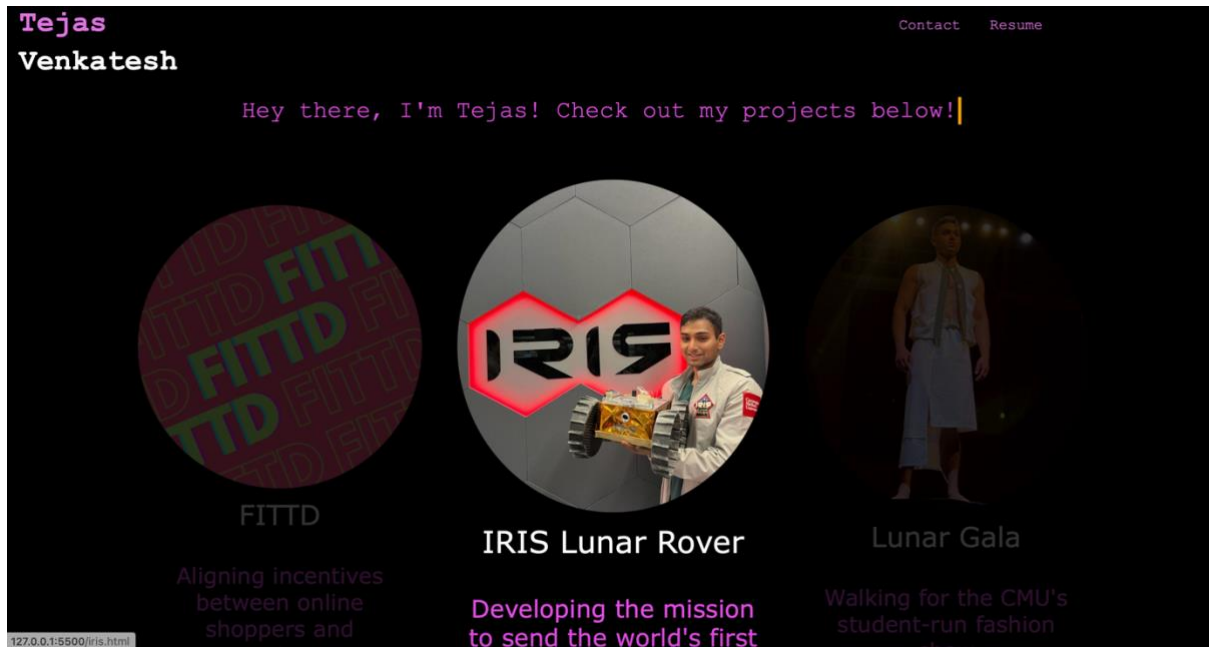
1. The website also seemed fairly crowded with all the text to the right side
2. The Contact and Resume buttons seem lost and hard to find at the bottom of the nav bar
3. There was very little information hierarchy in the website and it was hard to know what to do first
4. There was no way to tell which tab a user was on and I had to find a way to highlight

Based on this feedback, I implemented a few key changes. I first moved the “Contact” and “Resume” button to be floating buttons at the top right of the screen. This way, it is distinctly placed and higher up in the information hierarchy and can catch the eye a lot more quickly.

I also reduced the left-right imbalance in the text by shifting “Tejas Venkatesh” text from the top right to the top left.

Thirdly, made the website much less text heavy by using images instead of texts to display my projects.

This led me to the following final prototype:



## Part 5: Challenges

Initially, the active typing animation effect I created was a regular JavaScript-based one, but I could not get it to work. The cursor did not move in tandem with the text and the effect looked very artificial. However, to overcome this issue, I researched into simpler ways to create the same effect and found that I could mimic active typing through creatively changing the width of a div while limiting its height, in order to force content into the right location.