Reimagining MyCourses

ETHELIA LUNG – FALL 2016

BRIEF

An intuitive online course and task management tool that encourages streamlined collaboration, and enhances student-faculty engagement in an innovative higher education private institution.

PROBLEM

RIT is a community of career-oriented students, and there is a need to get students to engage and get better results using an efficient course management tool.

GOALS

1   Streamlined Access

Improve navigation systems to provide intuitive access to content viewing and assignment submission.

2   Faculty Engagement

Prepare guidelines and incentives to assist faculty in consistently and successfully utilise the educational platform.

3   Updated Aesthetics

Design the web application platform to enhance the user experience on different devices.

4   Collaborative Environment

Encourage and facilitate communication between students and faculty through discussion interfaces.

RESEARCH

1 Faculty Inconsistency

Many respondents cited a lack of faculty engagement as a pain point, namely in updating content and grades. **40% of students** suggested that faculty should be mandated to post grades and feedback.

> I understand that keeping it updated on content and deadlines all the time can be difficult, but faculty should at least be **mandated to upload grades** on mycourses.

2 Accessibility Hindrances

Accessing course content is inefficient – The most common impeding features mentioned were to do with accessing content through **navigation systems** and on **different devices**.

> Occasionally professors use a **not very sensible folder structure** which is hard to understand in the way that folders are presented in the Content Browser.
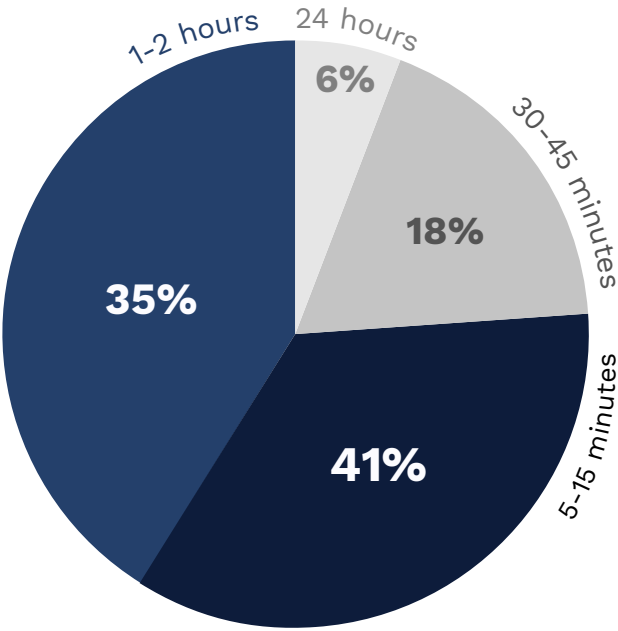
3

Untapped Potential

Respondents only frequently use **two out of seven availabe features** offered by the application.
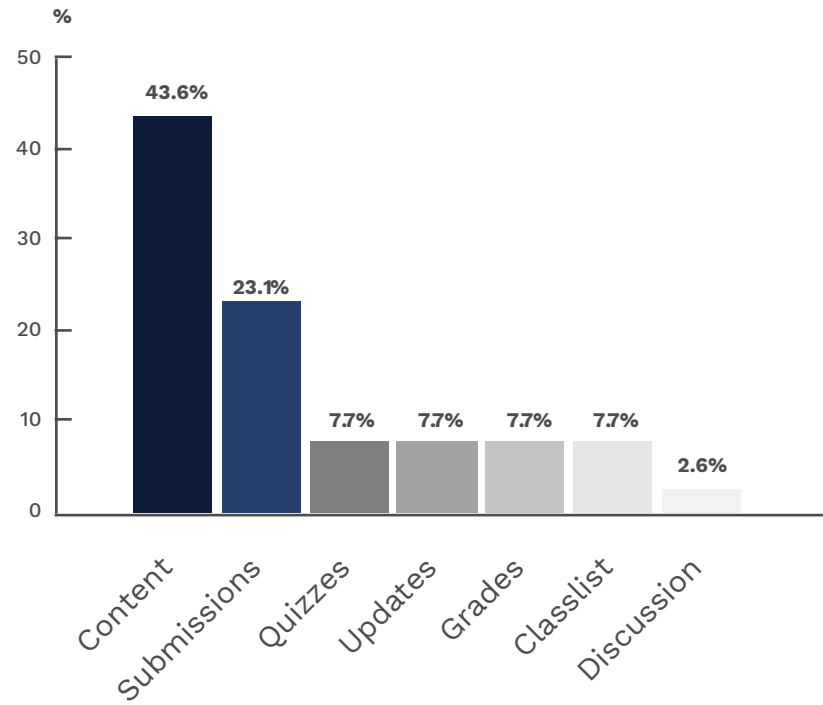
4

Short-term Commitment

Majority of respondents **visit myCourses often** or always during the week, but **do not spend very much time using** the application.

VISUAL

A clean and sophisticated style that is comfortable to use, reflecting the values and atmosphere of the institution itself.
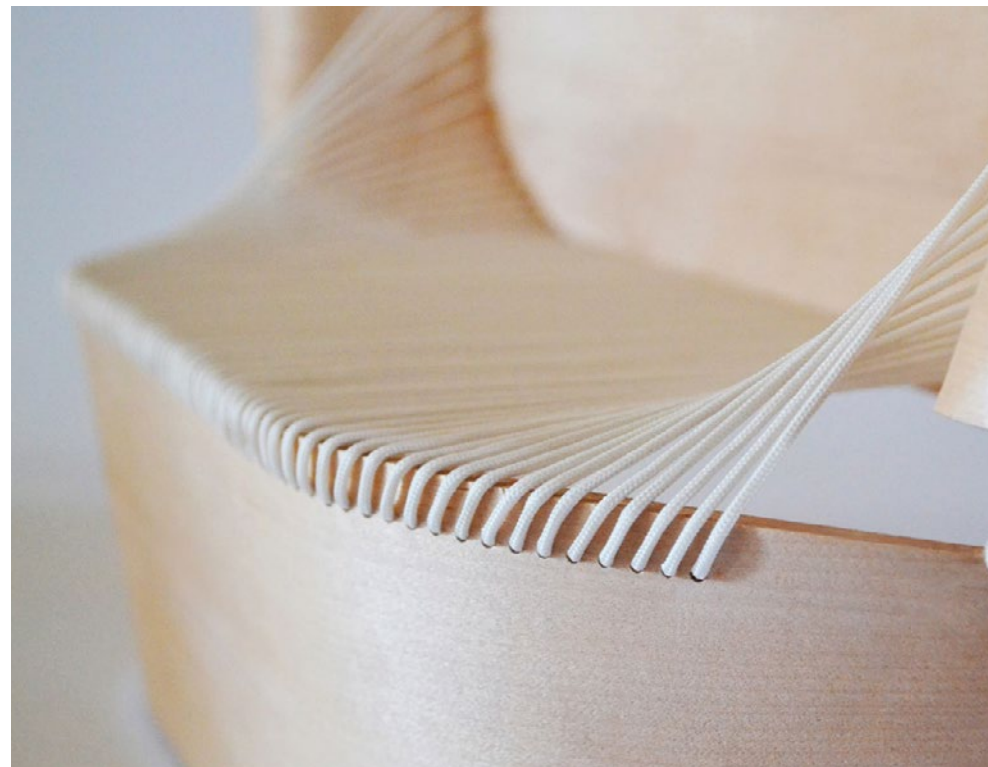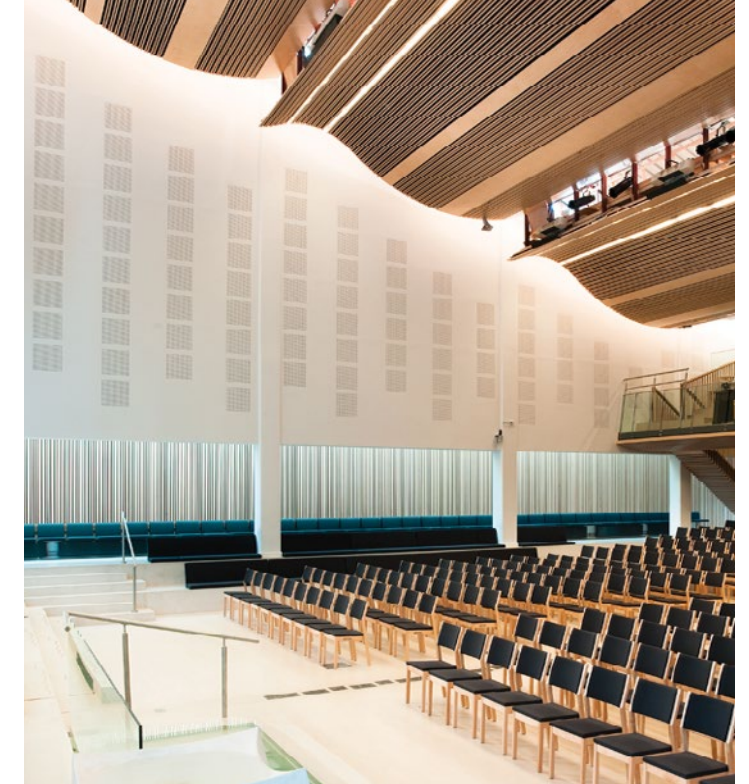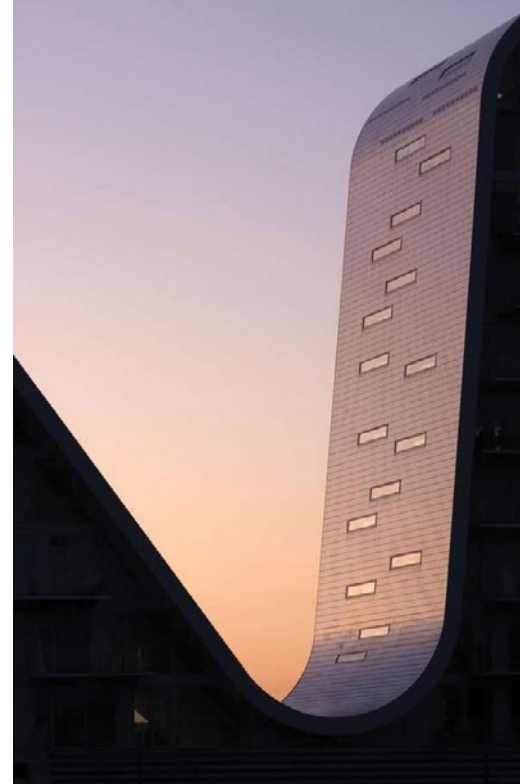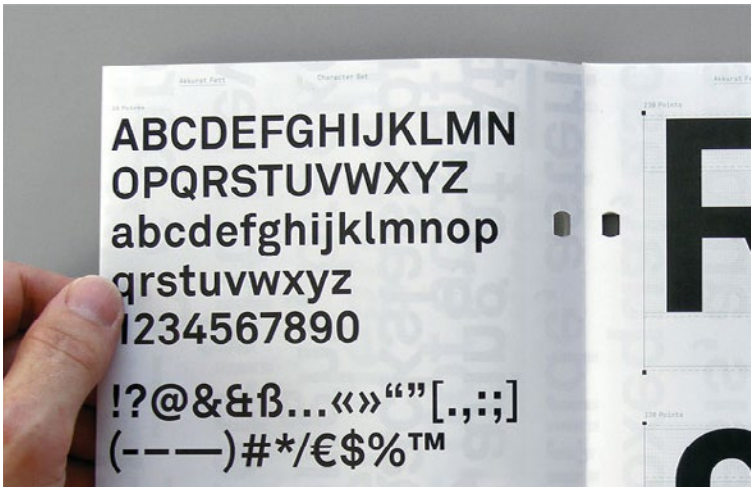
MOOD

—

contemporary

(clean, sophisticated)

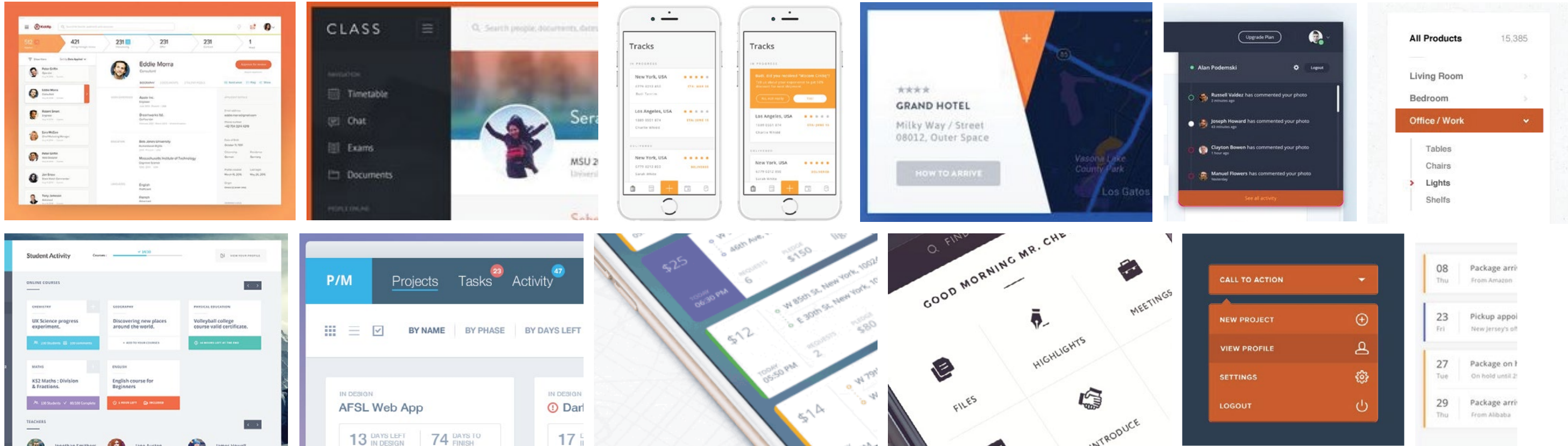**warm**

(crafted, comfortable)

STYLE

Typography

Colours
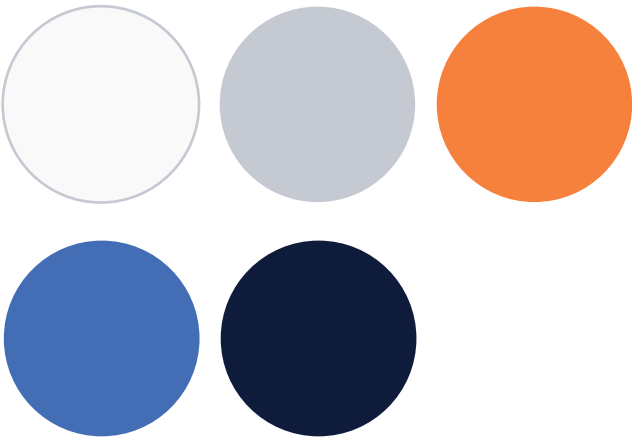
UI INSPIRATION

STRUCTURE & FLOW

The new information architecture ensures that the project goals are met, in order to deliver students and faculty a more efficient management system.

The new flow also addresses concerns raised in the Research stage, namely in regards to accessibility and the potential usability of features.

INFORMATION ARCHITECTURE

1 **Agenda Monitoring**

An agenda of tasks is a new element on the page, that gives the user critical submission information.

2 **Reorganised Elements**

Important items are easier to access and sectioned off better, for more efficiency in using the system.

3 **Content Hierarchy**

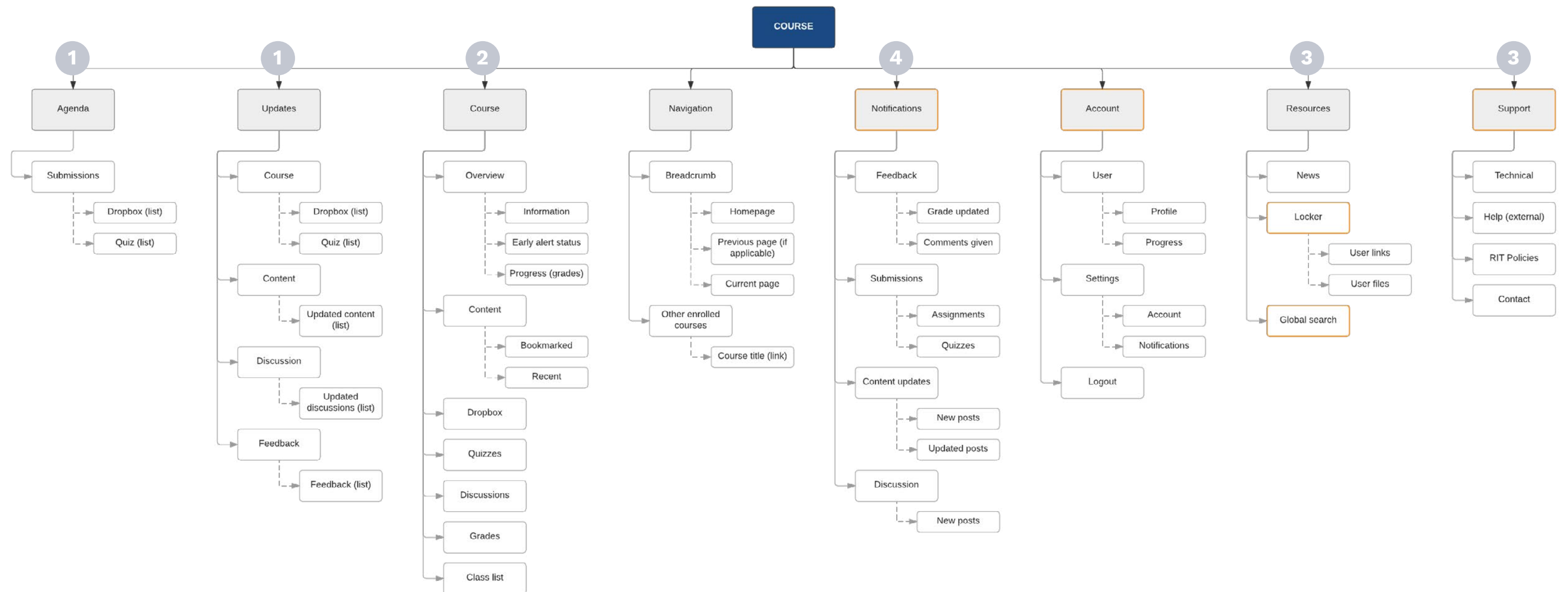Supplementary information is placed lower in the hierarchy of the page for optional but unobtrusive access.

4 **Detailed Notifications**

Global notifications include more details such as what the type of notification is, so that users can act accordingly.

INFORMATION ARCHITECTURE: HOMEPAGE

HOME

1 Agenda
- Semester
  - Semester code
  - Week number
- Today
  - Date
  - Tasks
  - Feedback

2 Course (list)
- Information
  - Title and code
  - Faculty
- Notifications
  - Feedback
  - Assignments
  - Content updates
  - Discussion subscriptions
- Early alert status
- Link to course homepage

4 Notifications
- Feedback
  - Grade updated
  - Comments given
- Submissions
  - Assignments
  - Quizzes
- Content updates
  - New posts
  - Updated posts
- Discussion
  - New posts

Account
- User
  - Profile
  - Progress
- Settings
  - Account
  - Notifications
- Logout

3 Resources
- News
- Locker
  - User links
  - User files
- Global search

3 Support
- Technical
- Help (external)
- RIT Policies
- Contact

INFORMATION ARCHITECTURE: COURSE PAGE

COURSE

1 Agenda
- Submissions
  - Dropbox (list)
  - Quiz (list)

1 Updates
- Course
  - Dropbox (list)
  - Quiz (list)
- Content
  - Updated content (list)
- Discussion
  - Updated discussions (list)
- Feedback
  - Feedback (list)

2 Course
- Overview
  - Information
  - Early alert status
  - Progress (grades)
- Content
  - Bookmarked
  - Recent
- Dropbox
- Quizzes
- Discussions
- Grades
- Class list

Navigation
- Breadcrumb
  - Homepage
  - Previous page (if applicable)
  - Current page
- Other enrolled courses
  - Course title (link)

4 Notifications
- Feedback
  - Grade updated
  - Comments given
- Submissions
  - Assignments
  - Quizzes
- Content updates
  - New posts
  - Updated posts
- Discussion
  - New posts

4 Account
- User
  - Profile
  - Progress
- Settings
  - Account
  - Notifications
- Logout

3 Resources
- News
- Locker
  - User links
  - User files
- Global search

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- Technical
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USER FLOW

1   **Multi-purpose Task List**

A task list with dropbox upload capability for efficient submission management.

2   **Quick Course Overview**

Quickly view basic course information and new updates to course content.

3   **Improved Dropbox Workflow**

Updated functionality that allows students to manage existing and new submissions.

4   **Reorganised Course Contents**

Week-based organisation for better sectioning of content for both faculty and students.

5   **Content Enquiry System**

A support system facilitating better communication between faculty and students about content.

USE CASE: DROPBOX SUBMISSION
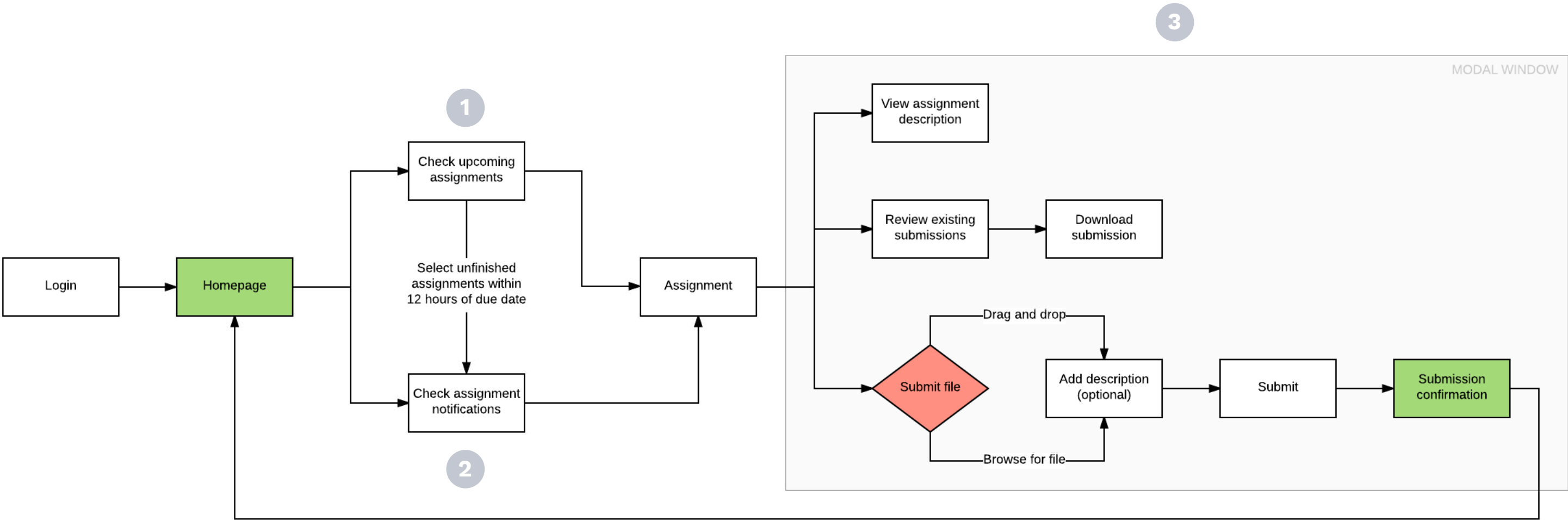
USE CASE: CONTENT ENQUIRY
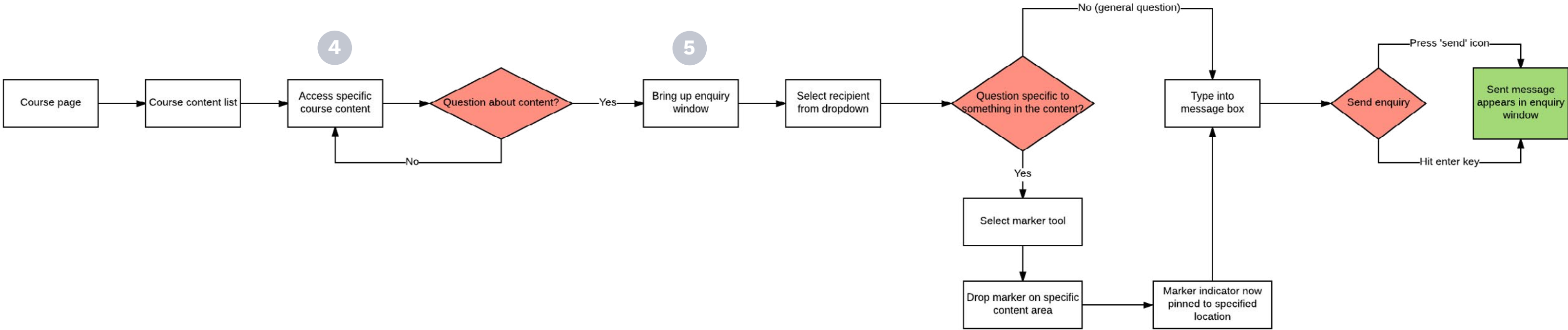
DESIGN

The design takes the information architecture and applies it to the selected user flows, addressing concerns raised by users of the existing system.

WIREFRAMES: HOMEPAGE

1 Task List
View the week's upcoming task due dates, submit deliverables, and switch between academic weeks.

2 Course Updates
See an overview of a course including its code and early alert status, and see the number of content updates there are.

3 Collapsible Contents
Elements such as News and the Locker can be collapsed based on user needs.

4 Technical Support
A supplementary section, technical support is a footer element of all pages for familiar access.
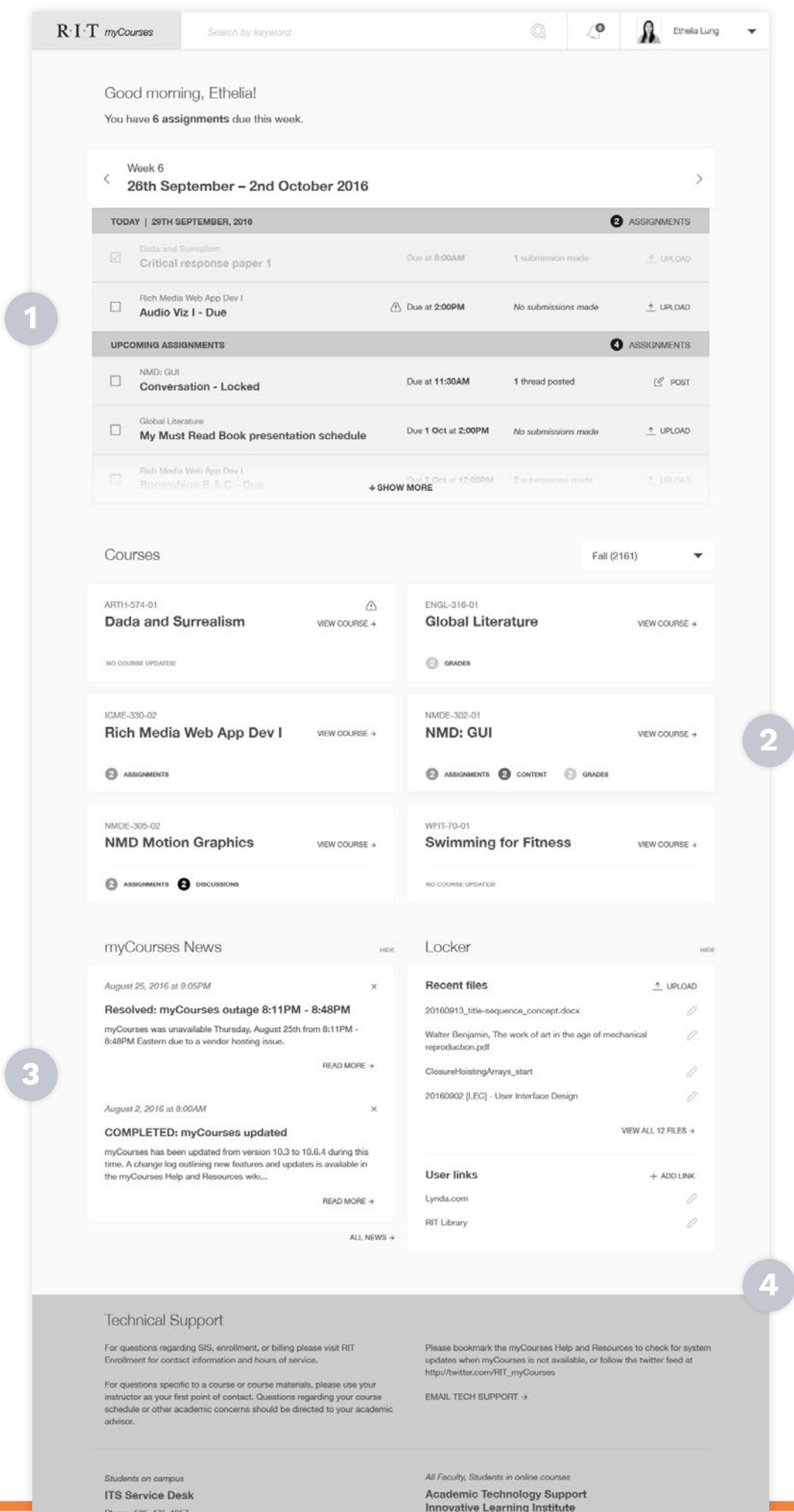
WIREFRAMES: COURSE PAGE

1 Course Switching
Navigate between courses with a fixed dropdown at the top.

2 Course Updates
A box identical in function that on the homepage, again allowing for easy access to submission info.

3 Course Info
Course information for reference is placed below the main content of the course page.

4 Content Enquiry
A fixed element that opens up a messaging-style enquiry system.
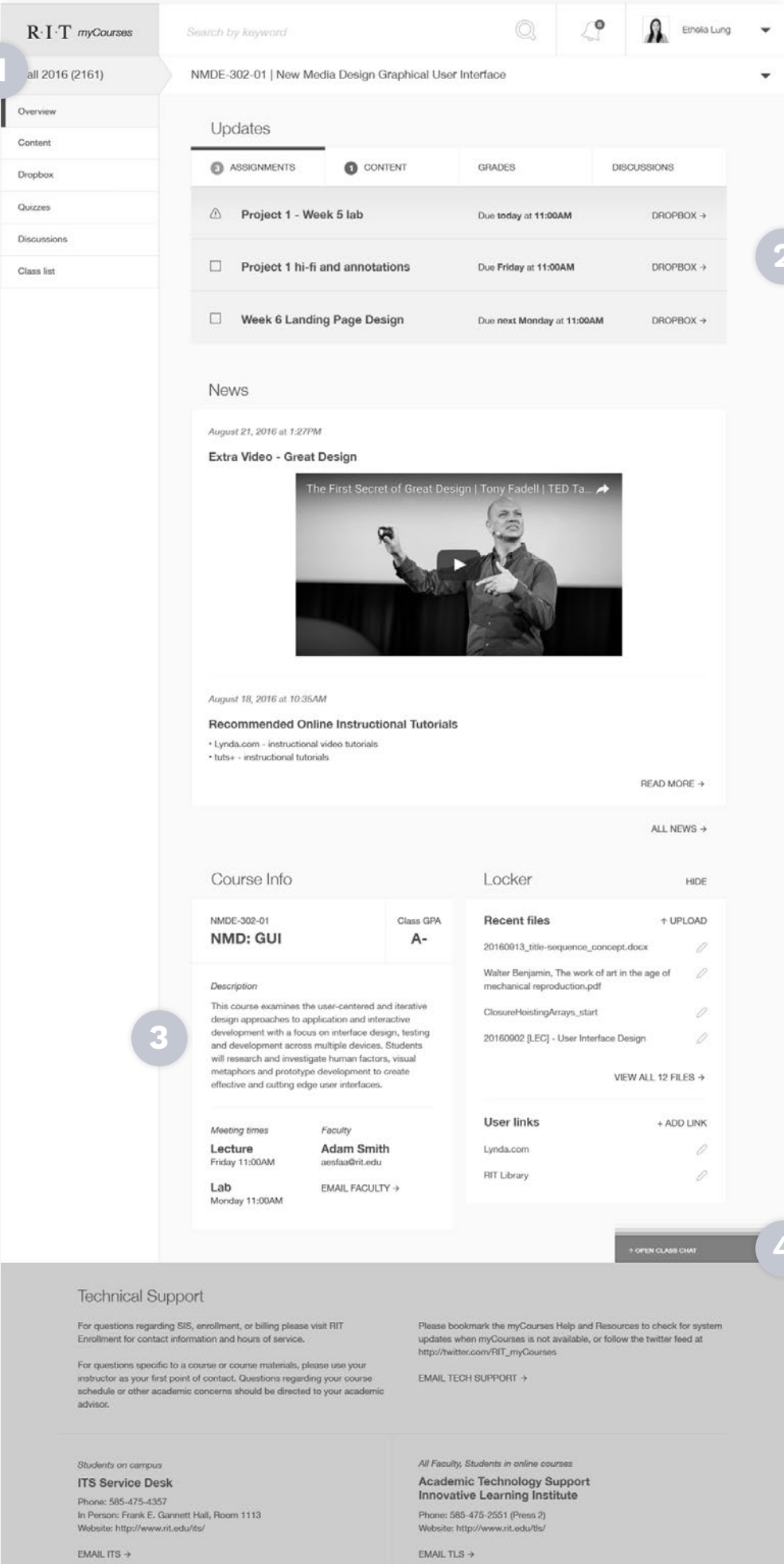
FINAL COMPOSITIONS

The final solutions implement the wireframes in a visually aesthetic manner.

HOMEPAGE

HOMEPAGE: DETAIL

Week 9 | **Monday 17th October – Sunday 23rd October**

TODAY'S TASKS 2

Dada and Surrealism
Critical response paper 1 — ASSIGNMENT — Due at 8:00am — 1 submission — ⬆ UPLOAD

NMD: GUI
Conversation - Locked — DISCUSSION — 🕐 Due at 11:30am — No posts — POST

UPCOMING TASKS 4

Rich Media Web App Dev I
Audio Viz 1 - Due — ASSIGNMENT — Due at 2:00pm — 3 submissions — ⬆ UPLOAD

Global Literature
My Must Read Book presentation schedule — ASSIGNMENT — Due 1 Oct at 2:00pm — No submissions — ⬆ UPLOAD

Rich Media App Dev I
Boomshine B & C - Due — ASSIGNMENT — Due 2 Oct at 12:00pm — No submissions — ⬆ UPLOAD

SHOW MORE ↓

NMDE-302-01
NMD: GUI

VIEW COURSE →

3 ASSIGNMENTS 4 CONTENT 1 GRADES 1 DISCUSSIONS

🔔 Hello, Ethelia ∨

New content in Dada and Surrealism:
Midterm2016
Today at 5:15PM

Grade update in Rich Media Web App Dev I:
10-6: 100%
6 Oct at 2:44PM

Thread posted in NMD: GUI:
Conversation - Locked
6 Oct at 2:36PM

New content in Rich Media Web App Dev I:
ApplyBindCall_done
5 Oct at 6:01PM

New content in Rich Media Web App Dev I:
Blastem-Overview
4 Oct at 2:01PM

Assignment due for Global Literature:
Tolstoy, The Death of Ivan Ilych -

Hello, Ethelia ∨

User profile
Course progress
Account settings
Notification settings

Logout

DROPBOX FLOW

COURSE PAGE

COURSE PAGE

CONTENT ENQUIRY FLOW

Due Week 10 Friday (Lecture) at 11:00AM

- MyCourses - PNG sequence based on use case (3-6 png files)
- Project 2 - low fidelity wireframes describing what major screens are required t

TASKS

- Final
- Week
- Week

NEW ENQUIRY   ✕

RECIPIENT

Adam Smith (Instructor)   ▼

MESSAGE

Two questions: are we using LucidCharts to
create these, and would you like an export
of our LucidChart brainstorming?

SEND MESSAGE →

WEEKLY C

LECTURE

PEER REVIEW

GRADES

CLASS LIST

ENQUIRIES   **+**   ˅

Adam Smith
● 22 Oct 2016

Abigail Lee
4 Sep 2016

Kathleen Huang
26 Aug 2016

NEWS

Extra Video – Great Design
August 27, 2016 at 1:27PM

Recommended Online Instructional Vid
August 18, 2016 at 10:35AM

· Lynda.com - instructional video tuto

SHOW MORE ↓

COURSE INFO

DESCRIPTION

This course examines the user-centered
design approaches to application and interactive
development with a focus on interface design, testing
and development across multiple devices. Students will

RECENT ENQUIRIES

Adam Smith
● 22 Oct 2016

ENQUIRY   ✕

RECIPIENT

Adam Smith (Instructor)

MESSAGES

20 Oct, 4:03PM

I really enjoyed this talk - are there any other
similar videos on this topic that I can watch?

22 Oct, 11:27AM

Yes - check out this one:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yBo0Y8O
SGLF

RESPOND

Sweet, I love Mike Monteiro.
Thank|

SEND MESSAGE →

Walter Benjamin, The work of art
mechanical reproduction.pdf

Fin.

This reimagination of MyCourses provides students and faculty with a professional-looking, efficient, and collaborative course management tool that supports quality higher education.

HTTPS://MARVELAPP.COM/191EBHF/