Responsive Website Rationale:

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Reflection:

Following straight on from the submission of Assignment 1, I began building the skeleton of my final website by following along to the online tutorials on Canvas and substituting my own content and formatting to put together a solid first draft of my final site on Brackets. To make things simplest in the beginning, I coded my CSS file with definite values in the formatting of various elements to get the design to fit and display well exclusively within my desktop web browser at full screen. I adhered closely to my initial sketches and attempted to essentially make a static copy of my mock-ups and wireframes within a web browser. I did this with the intention of making everything responsive and more user friendly afterwards by adding flexible values and using the static prototype as my foundation. Overall, I think this was an effective way to proceed as it gave me a basic layout to experiment with which I could always revert to in the event of something not working without having to start again.
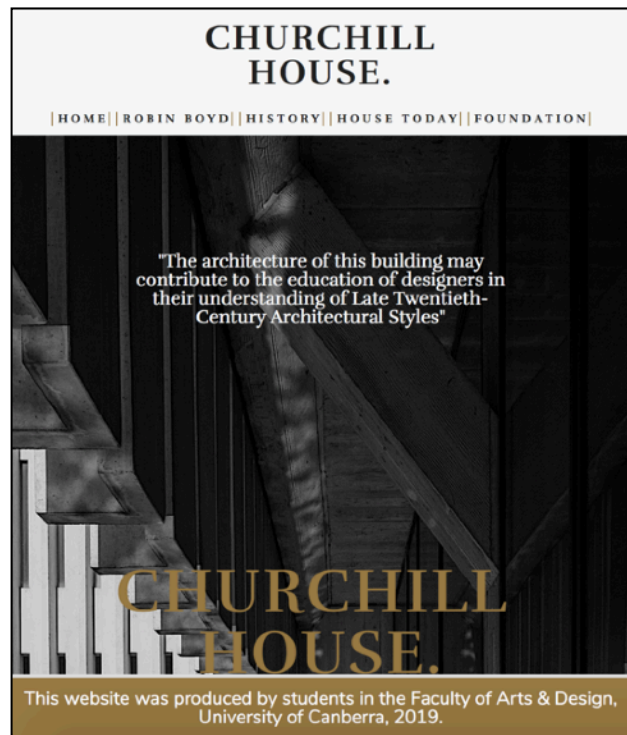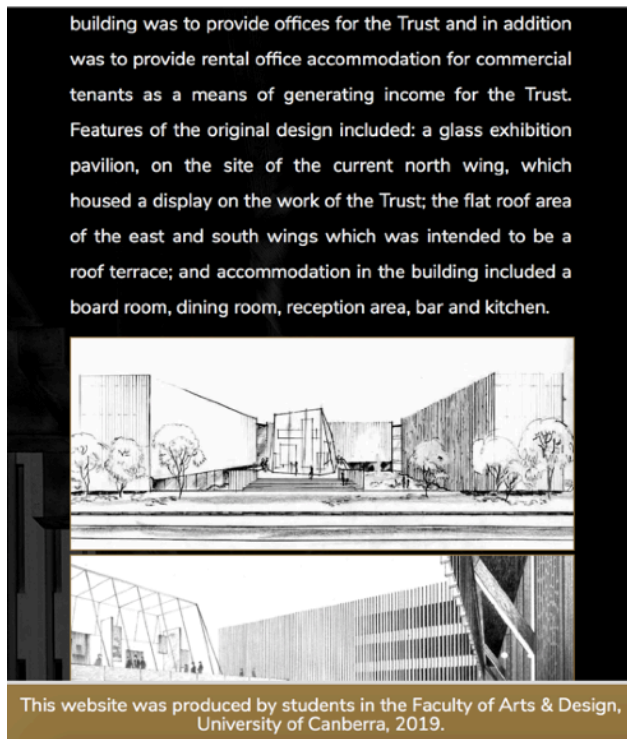
Having full-time work and being unable to attend workshops, the biggest challenge I faced was taking what I had learned after the online lectures were done and moving onto the responsive CSS component. The things that I found the most helpful were often the most basic: after reading the content on GitHub, it would usually be a matter of searching for a Youtube video of the concept(s) in practice within Brackets or similar to help with my comprehension. I also found forums incredibly valuable - the community's past answers to issues that were similar if not identical to ones I was having was more often than not the quickest fix. Once I was able to pick-up a new trick or tip, I found that I was often able to apply it across multiple roadblocks and adapt them to develop techniques of my own.

What I found I changed the most from initial design to the finished product was the intricacy and/or complication of the design: Images that ran over the sidebar and spanned the entire width of the browser looked great and striking in the planning, but as one scrolls up or down and elements begin to overlap and cover other important elements, it became apparent that the simplest approach was more often than not the best. Keeping objects within the bounds of their respective containers made for more of an accessible finished design. In the responsive stage, certain elements had to be removed altogether and others removed in certain contexts to

allow for the design to be workable when sized down to a single column. It was a matter of sacrificing design 'wow' for usability.

Ultimately I am happy with the way the website turned out. If not staying completely and slavishly true to the initial design, I believe I fulfilled the brief and was able to capture the spirit of my initial vision.

- Responsive versions of finished site:

Resources:

The Canvas tutorials and resources on GitHub were an amazing starting point to begin building my site - Then additionally:

The following youtube videos were incredibly valuable in getting me past a few instances in which I found myself stuck with Responsive CSS:

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2KL-z9A56SQ
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TEj1lD9lBaQ&t=554s
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wm6CUkswsNw

And the following provided my with the vast majority of my troubleshooting solutions:

- https://stackoverflow.com
- https://css-tricks.com
- https://www.w3schools.com

Comparison:

Wireframe > Mock-up > Finished Site (homepage).

Wireframe > Finished Site (content page).