

Summary

Utkarsh Chaturvedi
PRODUCT DESIGNER
Passionate about building products 0 -> 1. Love pad thai.
utkarsh.design
Pittsburgh, USA
PORTFOLIO ↗

WORK

- Skeema** Aug 2022 - Now
Product Designer
- Graphy by Unacademy** Aug 2021 - Aug 2022
Senior Product Designer
- Freelancer** Dec 2020 - Aug 2021
Product Designer
- Designit** Jun 2019 - Dec 2020
UX Designer

PROJECTS

- Meraki Labs 2021
- Graphy Repo 2021
- Meraki Labs 2021

READING

- Atomic Habits James Clear
- Exhalation Ted Chiang
- Prisoners of Geography Tim Marshall

TALK TO ME ABOUT

- Film noir
- Geopolitics
- Sci-Fi
- Startups
- Creator Economy

PLACES

LISTENING

The Car
Arctic Monkeys
ALTERNATIVE - 2022

WATCHING

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PROJECTS

- MerakiLabs 02 Play

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UX Designer
- Quicksand** Mar 2018 - Mar 2019
Designer

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LISTENING

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Part 1

My project is an online representation of the various components of my professional and personal personality. It's an 'about' page or a 'personal dashboard' of interests and my intention is for it to be the starting point of conversations with new people I schedule calls with (for hiring or general networking purposes.) My intention is not to replace my portfolio with this but instead for this to be the link-in-bio I can share in my social media profiles. I got the idea for this website while working on my personal portfolio website. As I linked my various web-presences in the last section of my about page along with other seemingly trivial details such as the books I'm reading, I wondered if there was a way to show all this information in a more interesting yet concise way.

In the future, the idea is to have a lot more dynamic content in the blocks (the 'Watching' image slider is an indication) and to have embeds for blocks such as Listening (Spotify) or Places (Flickr/Instagra). I also see a product idea here for a no-code grid builder that allows anyone to drag and drop blocks to build personal about pages.

I spent considerable time on the visual design of the page. Visually, the idea was always to have a grid of dynamic blocks, in a 100vhx100vw no-scroll web page. The challenge was to have a lot of information within one screen while not letting the design be overwhelming. I used the CSS grid display property to order content on the page in the block structure shown while reducing the columns on smaller viewports.

Part 2

- Click on Portfolio to visit my work portfolio website. Hover states provide feedforward for clicking
- Click on Social media links to visit my twitter, insta or linkedin profiles. Change of color and glow in hover states creates feedforward for clicking
- Clicking on 'Watching' image slider to view film/show recommendations

Part 3

- I extensively used was the CSS grid property, in which I created grid template areas to create the website design. I altered the template areas on tablet and mobile to make the content responsive.

- I chose CSS grid after sweating it with flexbox because grid best worked with the design of my website where the ‘blocks’ vary in height and width. It allowed me to create highly responsive blocks. It’s also super convenient to move divs around in template areas once the initial arduous task of setting it up is done.
- I started by giving my ‘grid container’ class a display of grid with 16 columns and 12 rows. I then made a matrix of the cells, assigning each cell to a block’s ID. This created the block structure as seen in the website. I then changed the grid attributes on tablet and mobile viewports to reorder the content. I’ve used rem for unit measurements and ‘fr’ units for the row/column measurements to make this website work on devices of all sizes.
- The grid display helped match my final website very closely to the initial design. It also helps change content super easily in case I want to switch any blocks. Ex: Add a processing3.0 sketch to a block instead of an image.

Part 4

- I mostly matched the initial design of my web design without cutting rounding any corners. I added some additional components in the final code such as a slider for the watch recommendations.
- There were some additional interactions I want to add which I haven’t got time for yet: some of the blocks can expand into modals to display unabridged content. Ex: The ‘Experience’ modal will have an expand button which opens a modal with my full resumé.
- In my initial design I hadn’t thought too much about the responsive design which became a crucial task after I was done with my desktop viewport. I revisited the design to ideate how to reorder the content.

Part 5

I experienced multiple challenges while developing this 1 pager:

- The image slider wouldn’t work because I hadn’t given a ‘defer’ in my script. I spent hours trying to make the JS work before I realized why the event listeners aren’t reading elements in my DOM.
- Learning how to use CSS Grid
- Learning about responsive units: vw,vh, rem, %. I have used a combination of all these units in my website.

- Trying to match design details to as much pixel perfection as possible.
(still some way to go for this.)