

T1A2: Portfolio

Will Robertson

Outline

1. Design Process
2. Moodboard
3. Sitemap
4. Design Choices
5. Wireframes
6. Components

Design Process

I followed a relatively simple design process for this project.

1. I identified the **target audience**, which is prospective employers, as well as other developers, and thought about what was most important to their needs.

They want to get the information they need to know about me as quickly as possible, but also would like to see my skills shown off. So this portfolio has to balance those two things.

2. I did some research into other developer portfolios to see what others are doing in the space. I selected some of my favourites to create a **moodboard**. From that moodboard, I identified certain design patterns I want to use on my website.

3. I started **wireframing** my website in Figma. I knew we had to make a responsive site, so I started with the mobile view first. While wireframing, I took note of certain places that I thought would make sense to turn into **components**.

4. After wireframing, I picked out **fonts** and **colours** for my site that were aesthetically appealing (and fit the intended audience, as well as the overall theme of the site). I then started planning each component in isolation and how I would build them.

Moodboard

The moodboard features two side-by-side website designs. The left design, for 'Gift Egwuenu', has a light pink background. It features a circular portrait of a person with pink hair, a 'G' logo in the top left corner, and a navigation bar with links: About, Speaking, Writing, Uses, Contact, and a search icon. Below the navigation is the heading 'Hello I'm Gift Egwuenu'. A bio states: 'I'm a developer advocate and content creator based in the Netherlands.' Social links (TW, GH, IG, LI, DV, YT) are listed below. A 'Latest Articles' section is shown with a 'All articles' link. The right design, for 'CORY HUGHART', has a dark blue background. It features a circular portrait of a person with glasses, a 'C' logo in the top left corner, and a navigation bar with links: Home, Web, Games, About, Resume. The heading 'CORY HUGHART' is prominently displayed. A bio states: 'THE ODYSSEY OF A FULL-STACK WEB DEVELOPER'. Below the bio is a quote: 'For over a decade, I have studied and inscribed the sacred runes and performed the arcane rituals that breathe life into the realm of the internet.' Another quote states: 'The web can sometimes be indistinguishable from magic, but I have the knowledge and patience required to make just about anything.' Social links (TW, GH, IG, LI, DV, YT) are listed below.

Designer, Frontend Developer & Mentor

I design and code beautifully simple things, and I love what I do.



This moodboard section shows a yellow-themed website for Jason Lengstorf. The main heading is 'JASON LENGSTORF HAS A LOT OF IDEAS'. Below the heading is a bio: 'I'm a developer advocate and content creator based in the Netherlands.' Social links (TW, GH, IG, LI, DV, YT) are listed below. A 'Latest Articles' section is shown with a 'All articles' link. At the bottom, there is an 'ADJUST BIO LENGTH:' slider with a scale from 'shortest' to 'longest'.

Jason Lengstorf works at [Netlify](#) and hosts [Learn With Jason](#). As a keynote speaker and author, Jason focuses on building healthier teams through trust, curiosity, and play. He's trying his



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Hi, I'm Matt. Nice to meet you.

confident, naturally curious, and perpetually working on improving my chops one design problem at a time.



Designer

I value simple content structure, clean design patterns, and thoughtful interactions.

Things I enjoy designing:

This moodboard section shows a purple-themed website for 'olaolu'. The heading is 'Frontend Developer.'. A bio states: 'I like to craft solid and scalable frontend products with great user experiences.' Social links (TW, GH, IG, LI, DV, YT) are listed below. A portrait of a person is shown in a purple frame. At the bottom, there is a bio: 'Highly skilled at progressive enhancement, design systems & UI Engineering. Over a decade of experience building products for clients across several countries.'

This moodboard section shows a blue-themed website for 'olaolu'. The heading is 'Frontend Developer.'. A bio states: 'I like to craft solid and scalable frontend products with great user experiences.' Social links (TW, GH, IG, LI, DV, YT) are listed below. A portrait of a person is shown in a blue frame. At the bottom, there is a bio: 'Highly skilled at progressive enhancement, design systems & UI Engineering. Over a decade of experience building products for clients across several countries.'

Moodboard

Some common themes that emerged were:

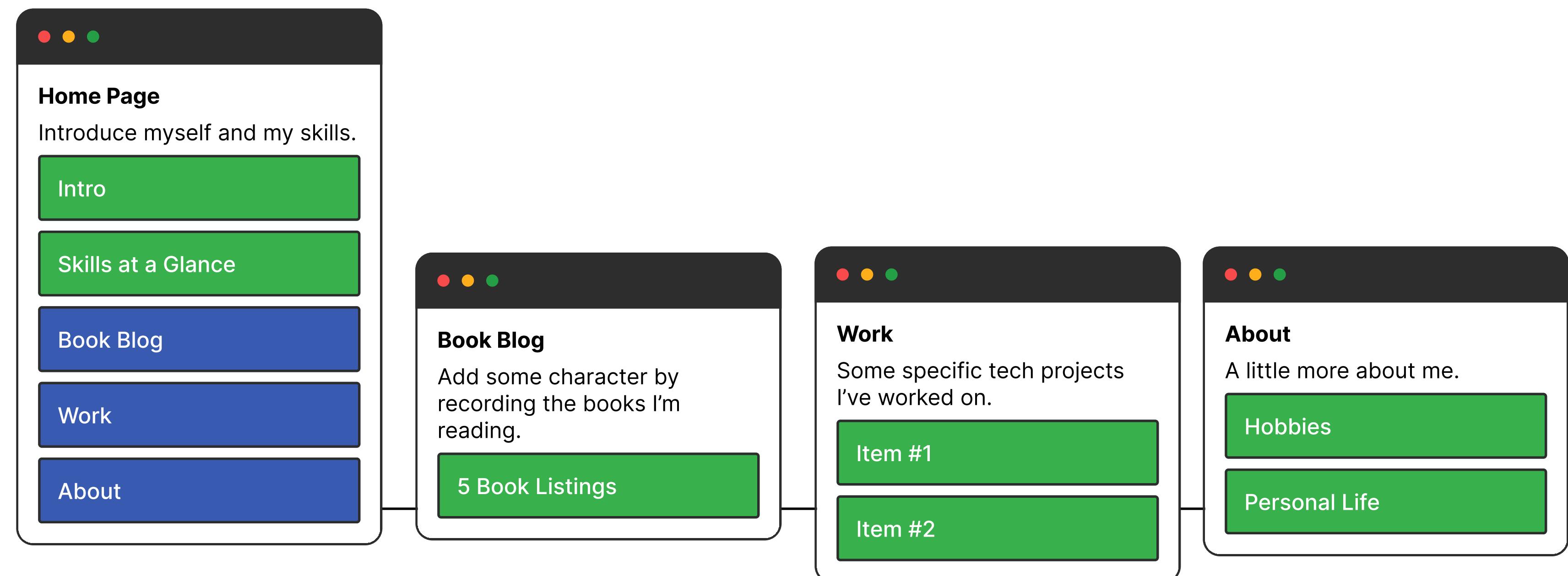
- a **clear design** that communicates a lot in a simple way.
- A relatively **constrained** colour palette, that uses a main colour, secondary colour, and accent colours where needed.
- **Top navigation** that gracefully steps down at mobile.
- A **headshot** or representation of the person.
- **Skills**, sometimes displayed as score-bars, graphs, or filled circles.
- **Blogs** or **Work** with a short brief and image.

Sitemap



After moodboarding, I had enough information to develop a **sitemap** that outlines the content and links for each page.

I have one homepage with a permanent nav on every page, so every page can reach every other.

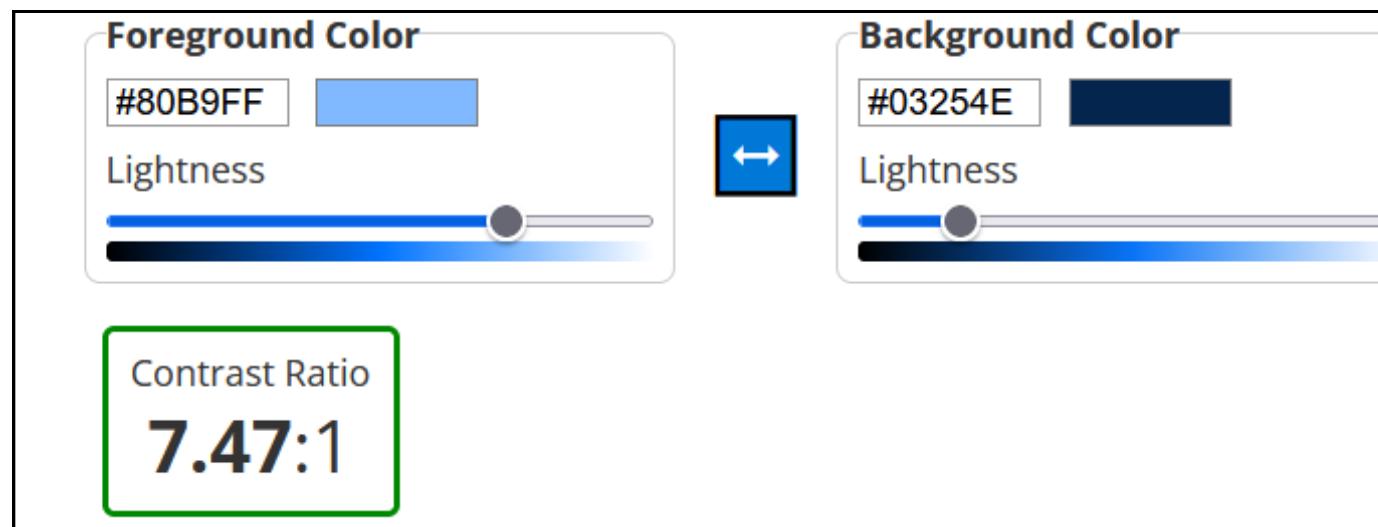
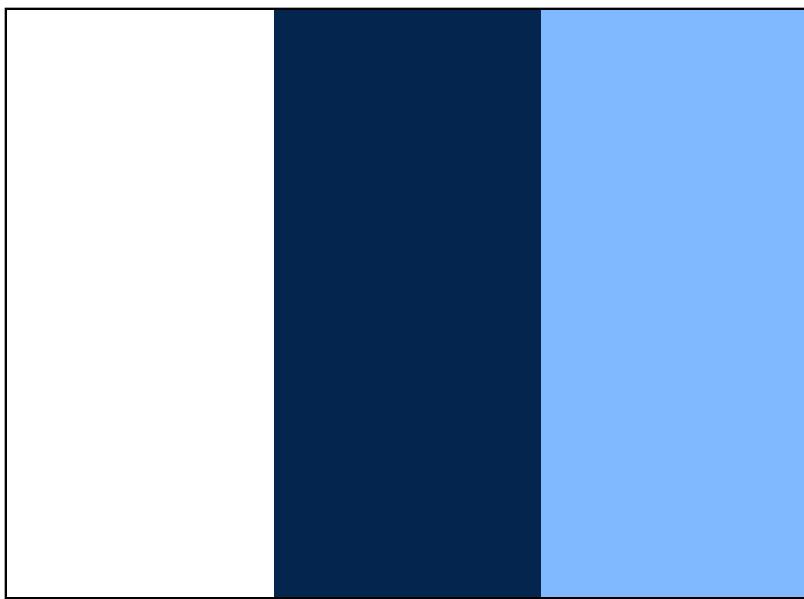


Design Choices

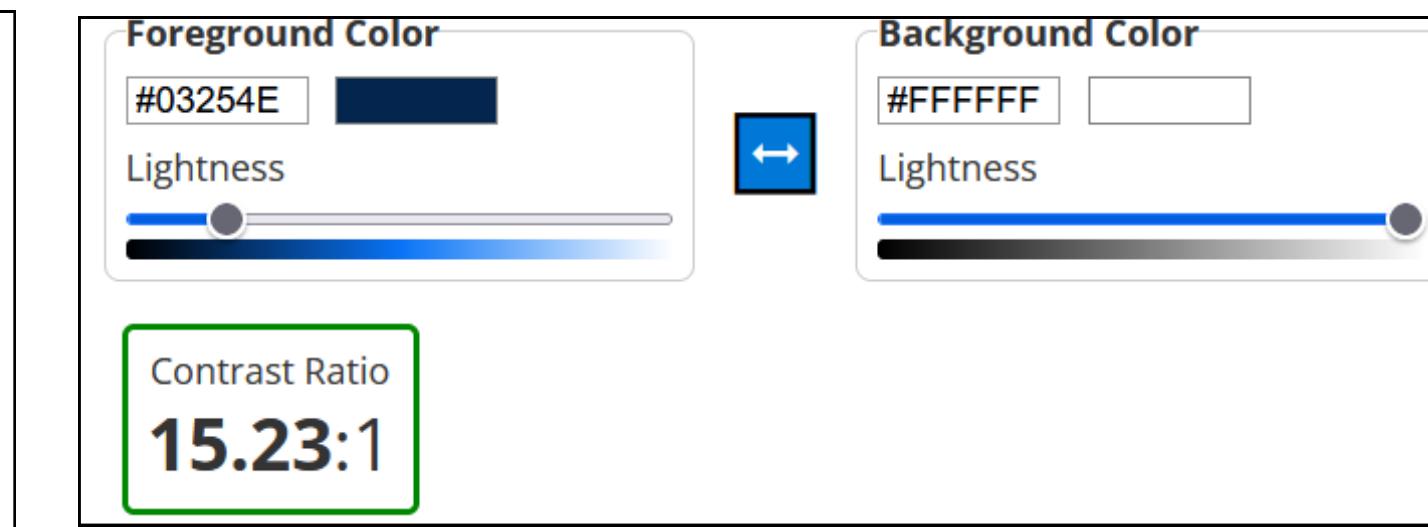
Colour

The colour palette I knew I wanted to base around blue, which is both one of my favourite colours and also a nice neutral colour which is appropriate for the audience. I also knew white would be crucial to create clear space that emphasises minimalism and readability.

I chose a rich, dark blue as a primary colour, with a lighter shade as an accent. I ran both these colours through an accessibility check, and I realised the light blue I selected wasn't passing AAA - so I lightened it accordingly.



<https://webaim.org/resources/contrastchecker/?fcolor=80B9FF&bcolor=03254E>



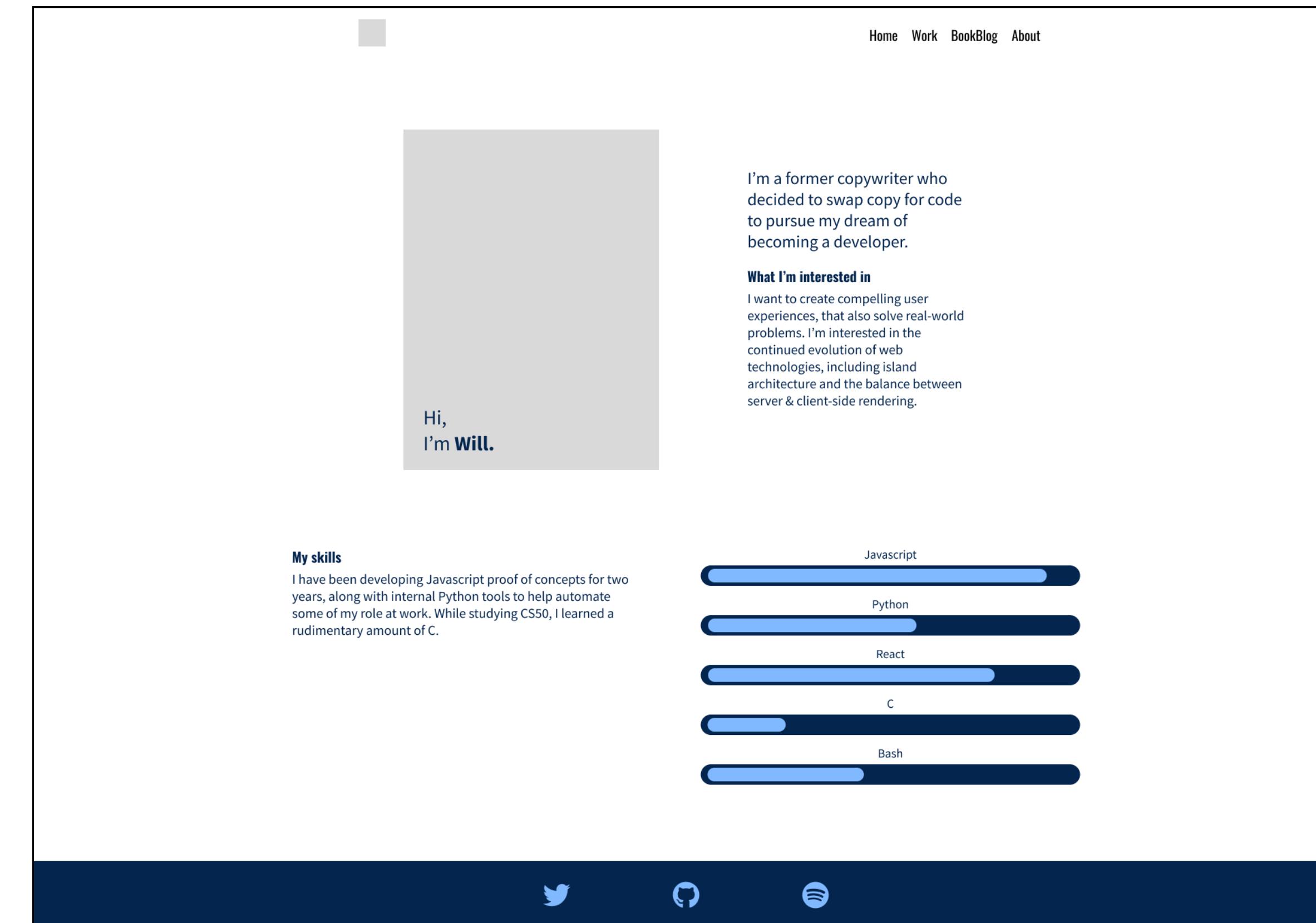
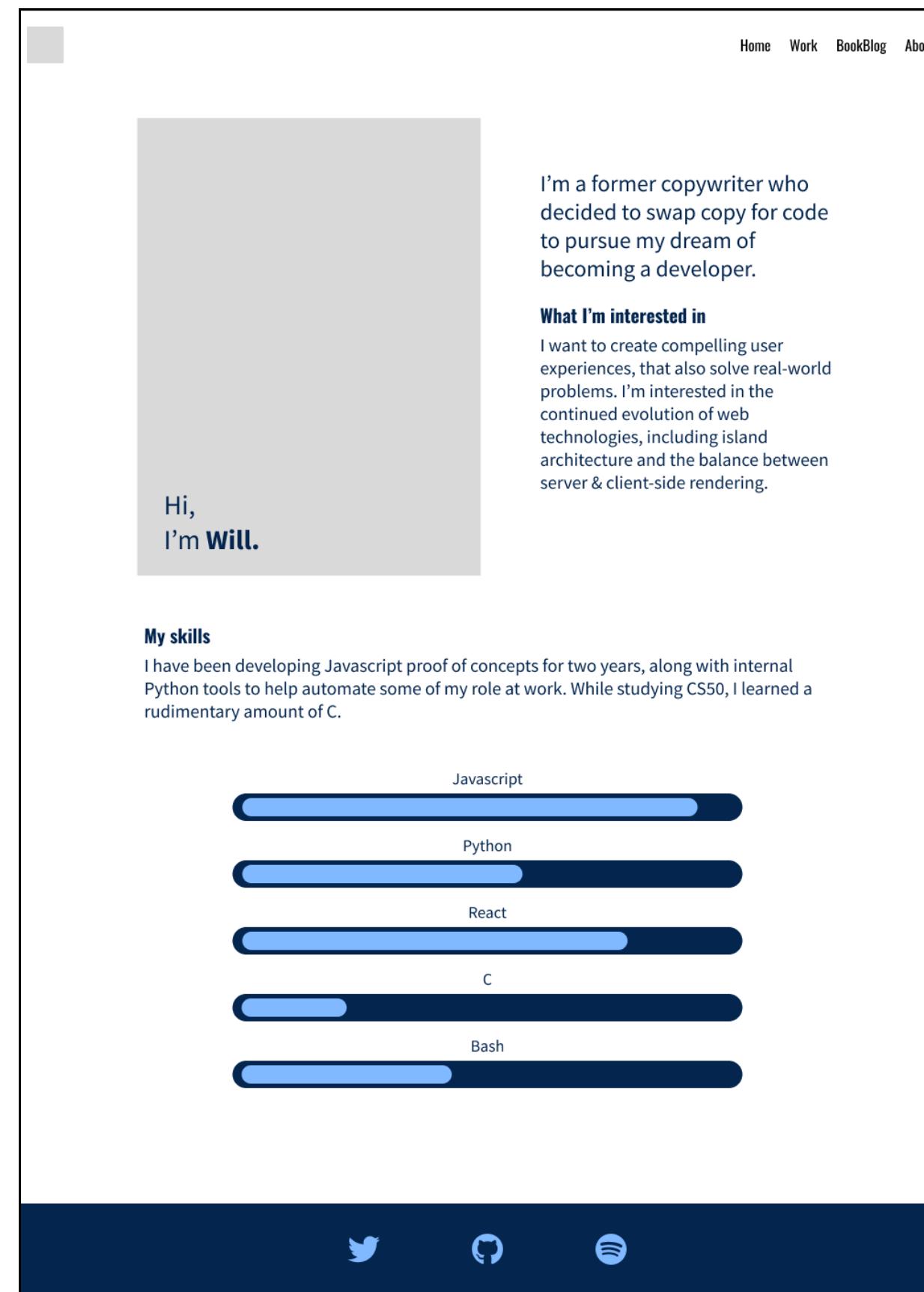
<https://webaim.org/resources/contrastchecker/?fcolor=03254E&bcolor=FFFFFF>

Style

I wanted the whole site to feel very minimal, like the moodboards, to enable me to maximise communication without people getting lost. Each component would be designed to contain the content it needs to, but not be overly detailed.

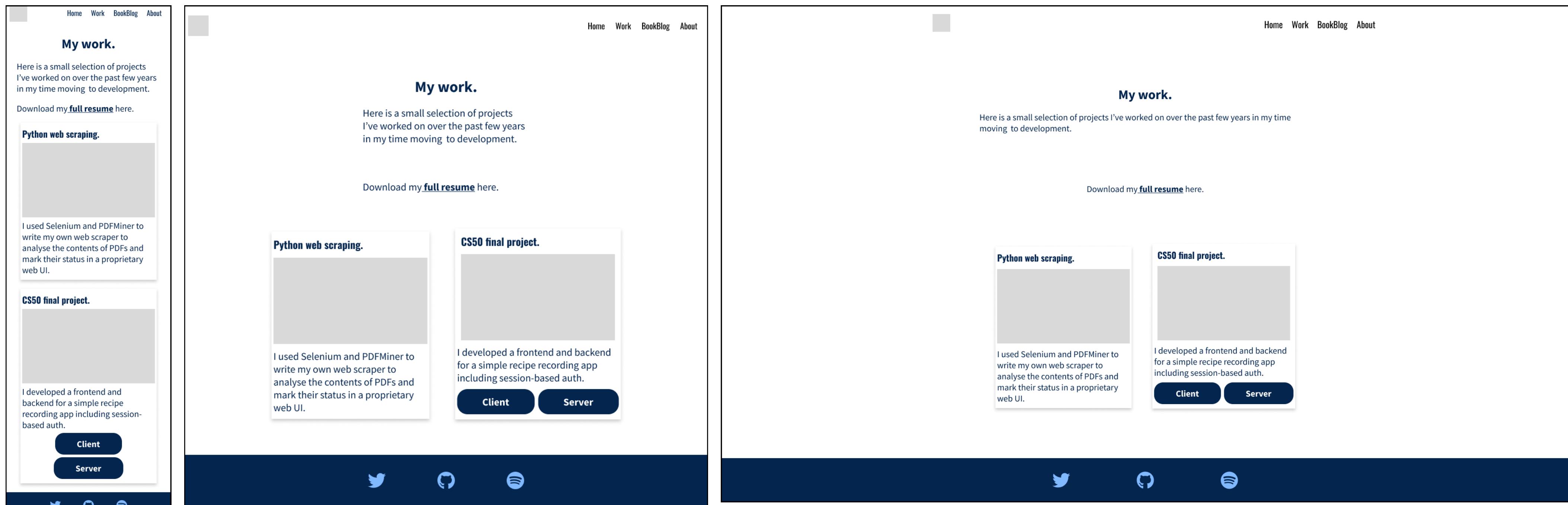
Wireframes: Homepage

The homepage features an impactful full-bleed image at mobile to immediately add a personal touch. At tablet and desktop sizes, the text stacks to the side. The skills block features a skillbar component that scales depending on screen size.



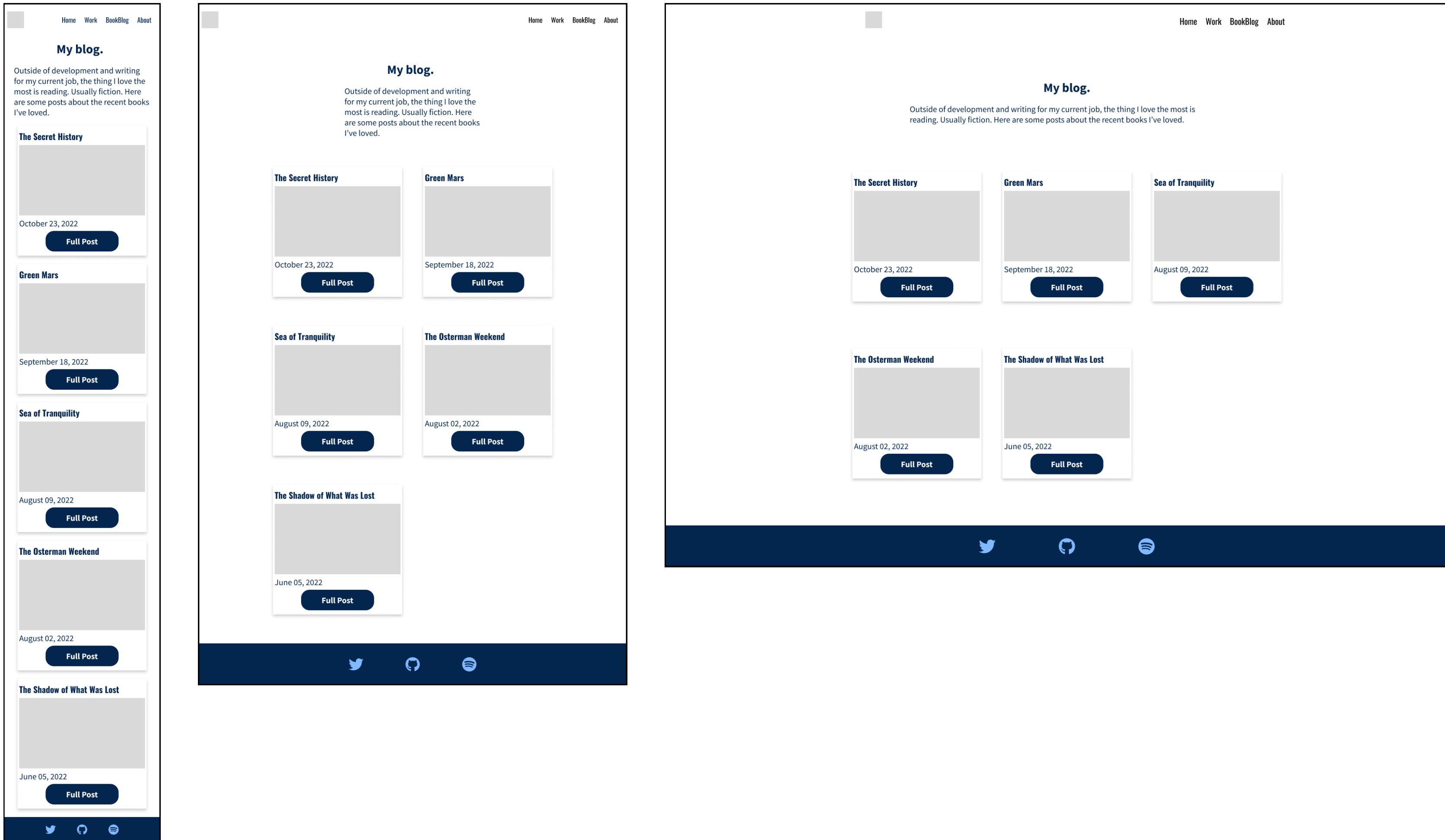
Wireframes: Work

The work page features a card-based layout that I also reuse on my blog page to create a sense of cohesion on the site. Each card has an image, heading and the potential for buttons. At larger screen sizes, the layout accommodates the additional real estate, but preserves clearspace which was an essential element I identified in my moodboarding stage.



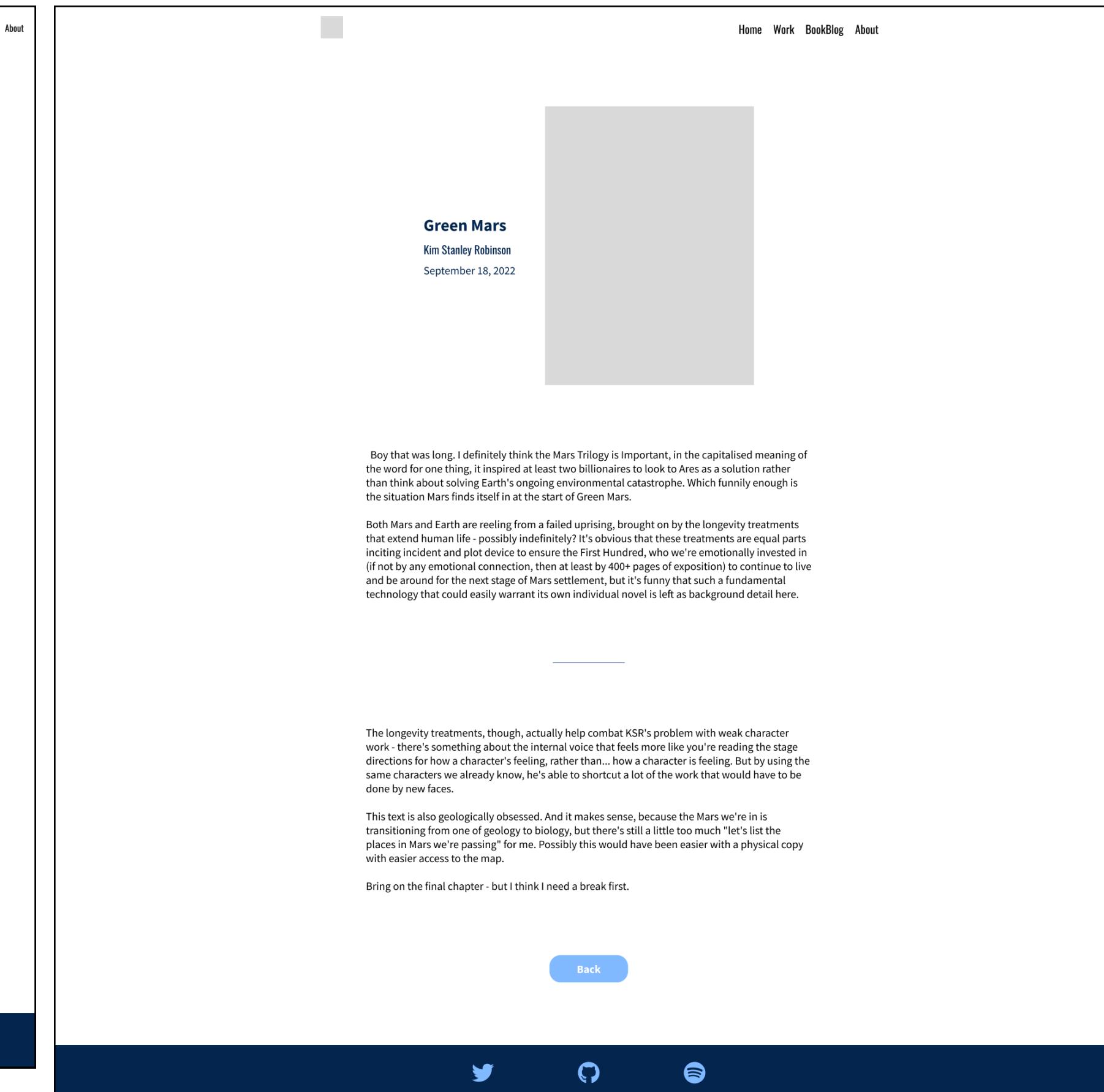
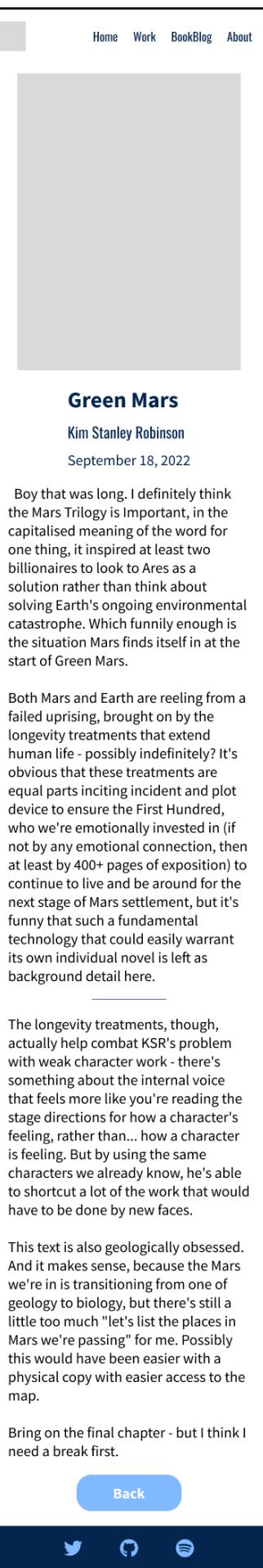
Wireframes: Blog

On the blog page, I feature a small introduction and then get right to the content. Each card links off to its own entry page, something I didn't think of during the sitemapping stage. Sometimes requirements can change on the fly!



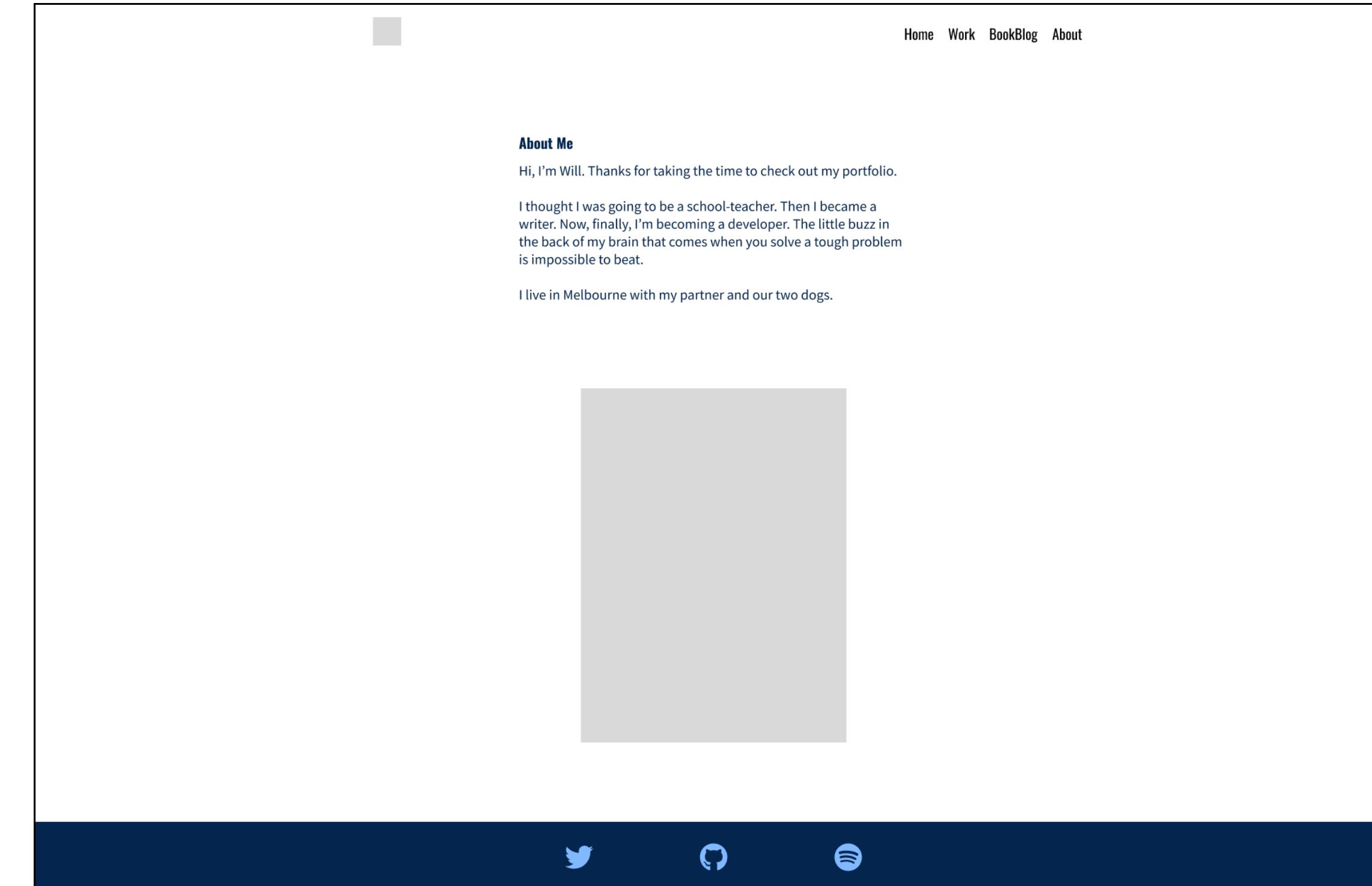
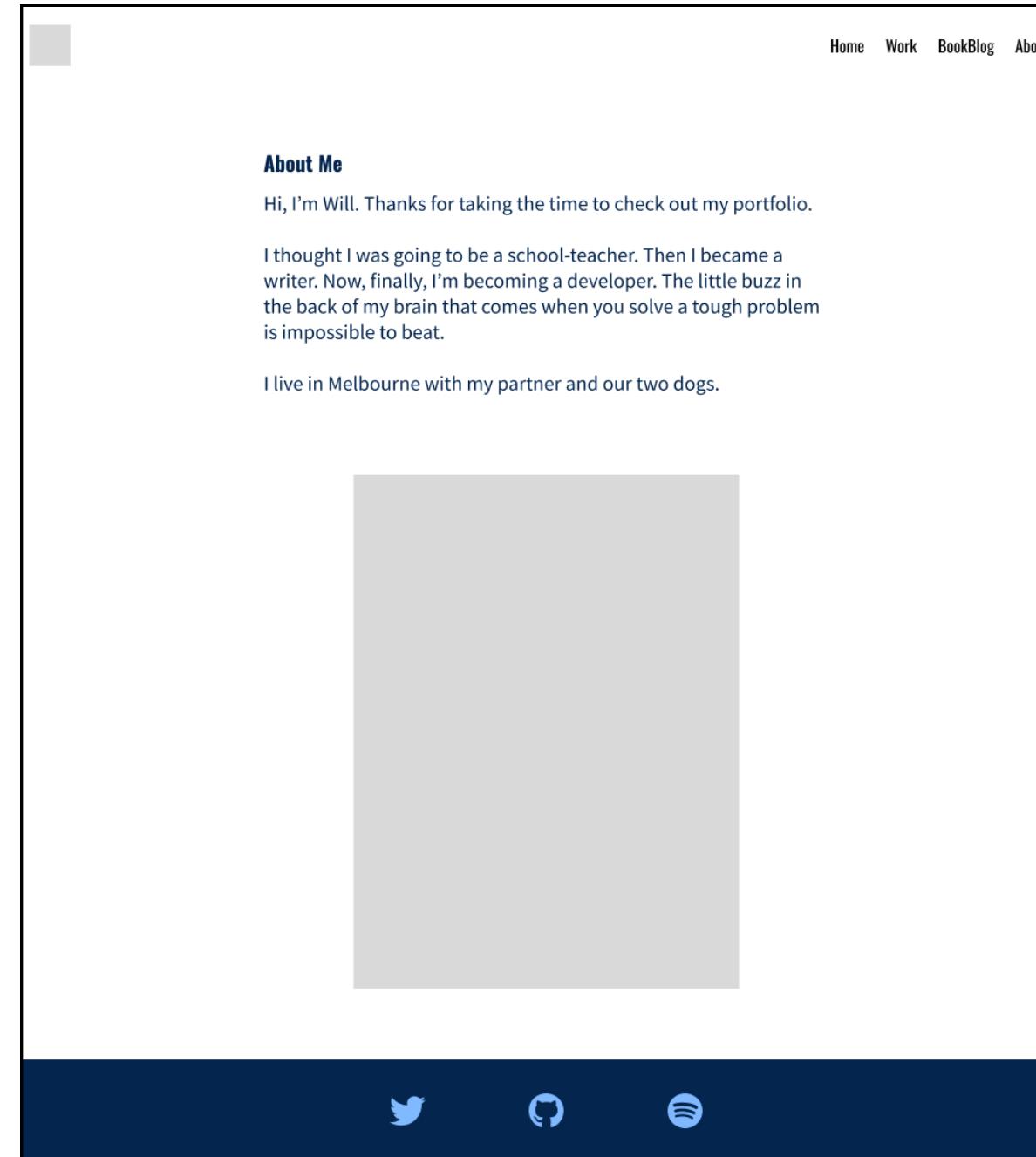
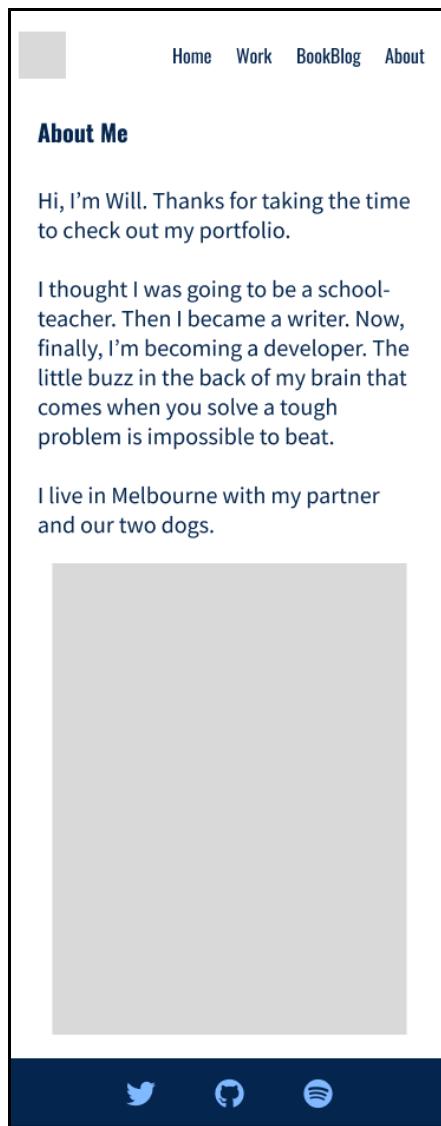
Wireframes: Blog Entry

Each blog entry features a shot of the book cover, the author and date I read it, and then a little review. If the text is too long, we split it up with a **<hr>** element. It also features a button to go ‘back’ to the blog page.



Wireframes: About

The about page is quite simple, as identified in my moodboarding stage; essentially the whole **site** is an about page. Here I put some personal info and shared another photo of my pets.



Component List

Text Components

- Navbar (& nav items)
- Paragraph content block (& headings)
- Content grid
- Footer (& footer items)

Image Components

- Hero image
- Image (blog & about)
- Button
- Work cards (& blog entry cards)
- Skill bars

Dev Process

What I did

I made sure I had all wireframes completed before breaking any ground on development.

I then worked through the wireframes page by page.

1. I would implement all HTML needed for a particular component, and try to anticipate class names along the way.
2. I would then write SCSS to fit that component.
3. I would go back through and look for efficiencies where I could (removing unneeded classes, condensing SCSS or using other features like prefixes to simplify the code).

This worked fairly well for me, but it did mean I was often working top-down; I had to start with broader layout components before I then drilled down to visual elements like images, text and buttons.

Final: Home

W D R [Home](#) Work BookBlog About



I'm a former copywriter who decided to swap copy for code to pursue my dream of becoming a developer.

What I'm interested in

I want to create compelling user experiences, that also solve real-world problems. I'm interested in the continued evolution of web technologies, including island architecture and the balance between server & client-side rendering.

My skills

I have been developing Javascript proof of concepts for two years, along with internal Python tools to help automate some of my role at work. While studying CS50, I learned a rudimentary amount of C.

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Javascript



Python



React



C



Bash



Final: Work

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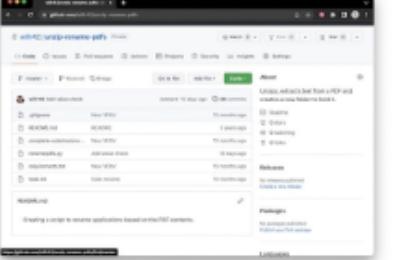
Home **Work** BookBlog About

My work.

Here is a small selection of projects I've worked on over the past few years in my time moving to development.

Download my [full resume](#) here.

Python web scraping



I used Selenium and PDFMiner to write my own web scraper to analyse the contents of PDFs and mark their status in a proprietary web UI.

W D R

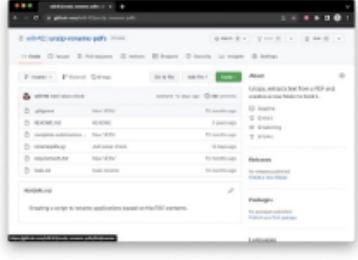
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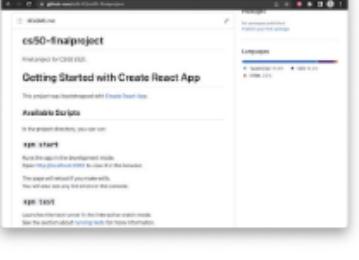
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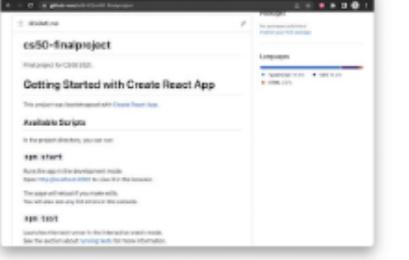
CS50 Final Project



I developed a frontend and backend for a simple recipe recording app including session-based auth.

Client Server

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Final: Blog

W D R Home Work [BookBlog](#) About

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Outside of development and writing for my current job, the thing I love the most is reading. Usually fiction. Here are some posts about the recent books I've loved.

The Secret History



October 23, 2022

[Full Post](#)

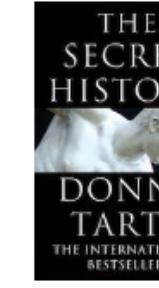
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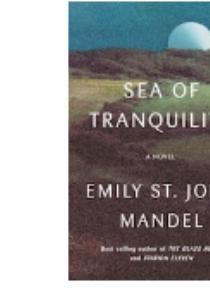
Green Mars



September 18, 2022

[Full Post](#)

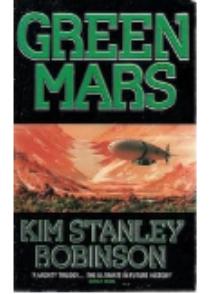
Sea of Tranquility



August 09, 2022

[Full Post](#)

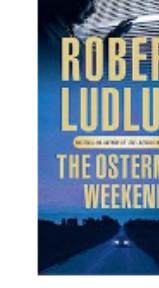
Green Mars



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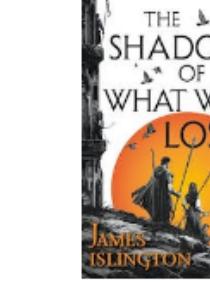
The Osterman Weekend



August 02, 2022

[Full Post](#)

The Shadow of What Was Lost



June 05, 2022

[Full Post](#)

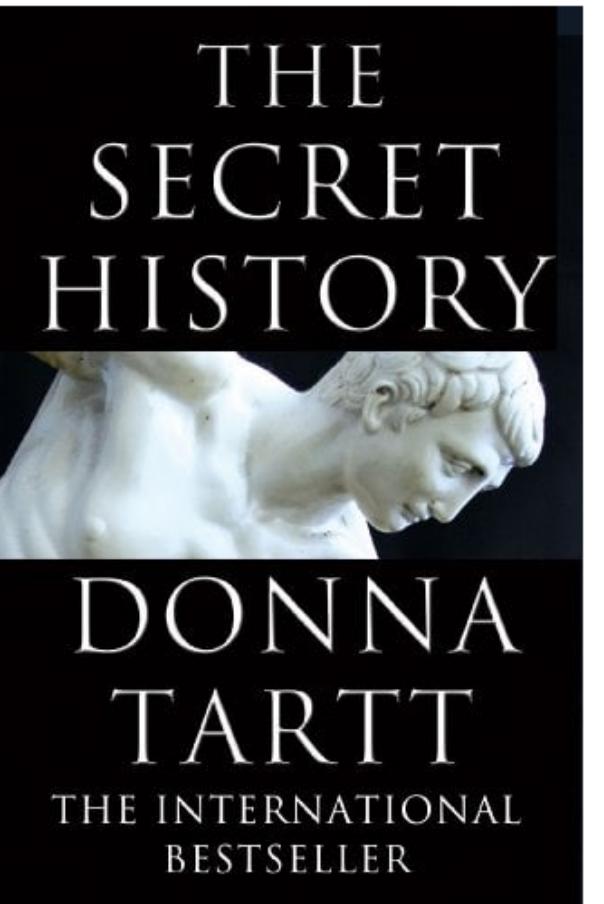
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Final: Blog Entry

W D R

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The Secret History

Donna Tartt

October 23, 2022

Still as incredible as when I first read it. Tartt's "why-done-it" touches something deep at the heart of intellectualism and academia, at old friends and the flaws you ignore - until you don't, in this instance. I only wish I could spend another hundred pages in Julian's classroom, before the death, trauma and grief that suffocates them all.

"Beauty is terror. Whatever we call beautiful, we quiver before it."

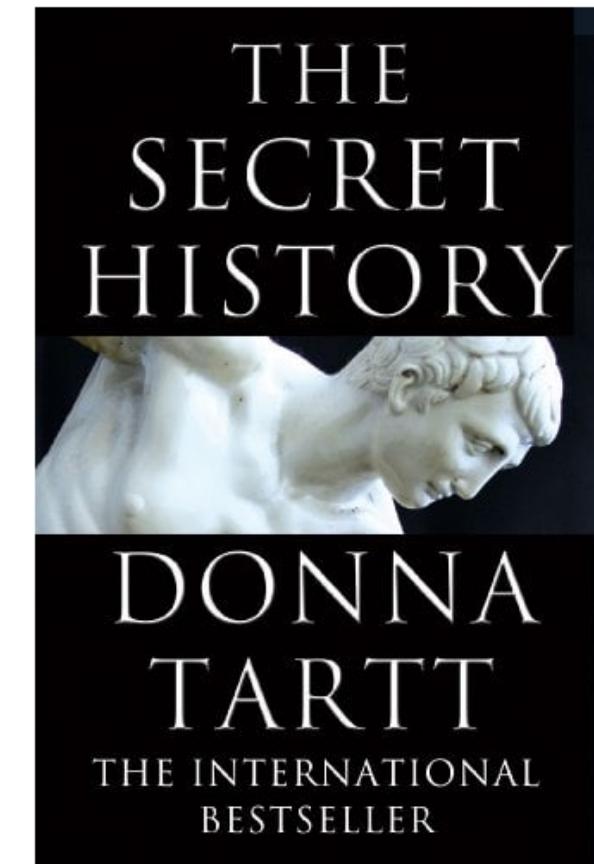
— Donna Tartt, The Secret History

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Final: About

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About me.

Hi, I'm Will. Thanks for taking the time to check out my portfolio.

I thought I was going to be a school-teacher. Then I became a writer. Now, finally, I'm becoming a developer. The little buzz in the back of my brain that comes when you solve a tough problem is impossible to beat.

I live in Melbourne with my partner and our two dogs.



Tilly (left) and Gert (right), labradoodle and Jack Russell, wear their knitted jumpers for Christmas.

W D R

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Process Review

Planning

This was definitely a new challenge for me, as I'm used to just jumping into projects and figuring out things like the UI later. I think it makes a huge difference to do this, and helps you start seeing common patterns in components to overall reduce your dev workload. The research part was also very valuable, as I realised design trends that I could tap into that make my site feel more familiar for my audience (and hopefully prompt them to read more!).

Development

This was the first time I really focused on aesthetics, most of my previous work has been in logic and the actual programming side, so getting up to speed with CSS was a challenge.

Another challenge I encountered was the unexpected flow-on of CSS when you're reusing it across components. I had the same grid layout component on two pages, but the contents of the card was different, and in the process of tweaking these to fit one page, they would break on another.

Deployment

Deploying on Netlify was extremely easy, but I did have to readjust my git repository - I had been using one overall CoderAcademy one, and realise now the downsides of that. Going forward, I'll be using separate repos per project!

Thanks for your time.

References

Moodboard

<https://www.giftegwuenu.dev/>

<https://www.jason.af/>

<https://coryhughart.com/>

<https://mattfarley.ca/>

<https://olaolu.dev/>

Sitemap Template

<https://www.figma.com/community/file/836606323472757934>

Colour Compliance

<https://webaim.org/resources/contrastchecker/?fcolor=80B9FF&bcolor=03254E>

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