

# **T1A2: Portfolio**

Will Robertson

# Outline

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

# Design Process

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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 prototypes for 'Gift Egwuenu'. Both sites have a pink header bar with a small 'G' icon and a 'E' icon. The left site has a light pink background and includes a portrait of Gift with pink hair inside a dotted circle, followed by the text 'Hello I'm Gift Egwuenu' and a bio: 'I'm a developer advocate and content creator based in the Netherlands.' Below this are social links: TW GH IG LI DV YT. The right site has a white background and also features a portrait of Gift with pink hair inside a dotted circle, followed by the same text and bio.

This moodboard section shows a dark-themed website for 'CORY HUGHART'. The header includes a navigation bar with 'Home', 'Web', 'Games', 'About', and 'Resume'. Below the header is a large title 'CORY HUGHART' with the subtitle 'THE ODYSSEY OF A FULL-STACK WEB DEVELOPER'. It features a portrait of Cory with glasses and a network diagram. The bio reads: '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. The web can sometimes be indistinguishable from magic, but I have the knowledge and patience required to make just about anything.' Social links at the bottom include TW GH IG LI DV YT.

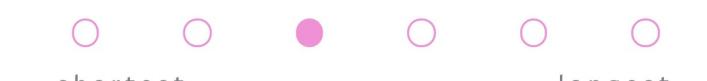
**Designer, Frontend Developer & Mentor**

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



This moodboard section shows a website for 'Jason Lengstorf'. The header includes a navigation bar with 'Posts', 'Newsletter', and 'Uses'. The main content area is yellow and features a large title 'JASON LENGSTORF HAS A LOT OF IDEAS'. Below the title is a bio: 'I'm a developer advocate and content creator based in the Netherlands.' Social links at the bottom include TW GH IG LI DV YT.

ADJUST BIO LENGTH:



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



**Designer, Frontend Developer & Mentor**

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



**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 website for 'olaolu'. The header features a purple 'M' logo. The main content area is blue and features a portrait of a man with short hair. The bio reads: 'I like to craft solid and scalable frontend products with great user experiences. 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 website for 'olaolu' with a blue header. The main content area is blue and features a portrait of a man with short hair. The bio reads: 'I like to craft solid and scalable frontend products with great user experiences. Highly skilled at progressive enhancement, design systems & UI Engineering. Over a decade of experience building products for clients across several countries.'

# Moodboard

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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.

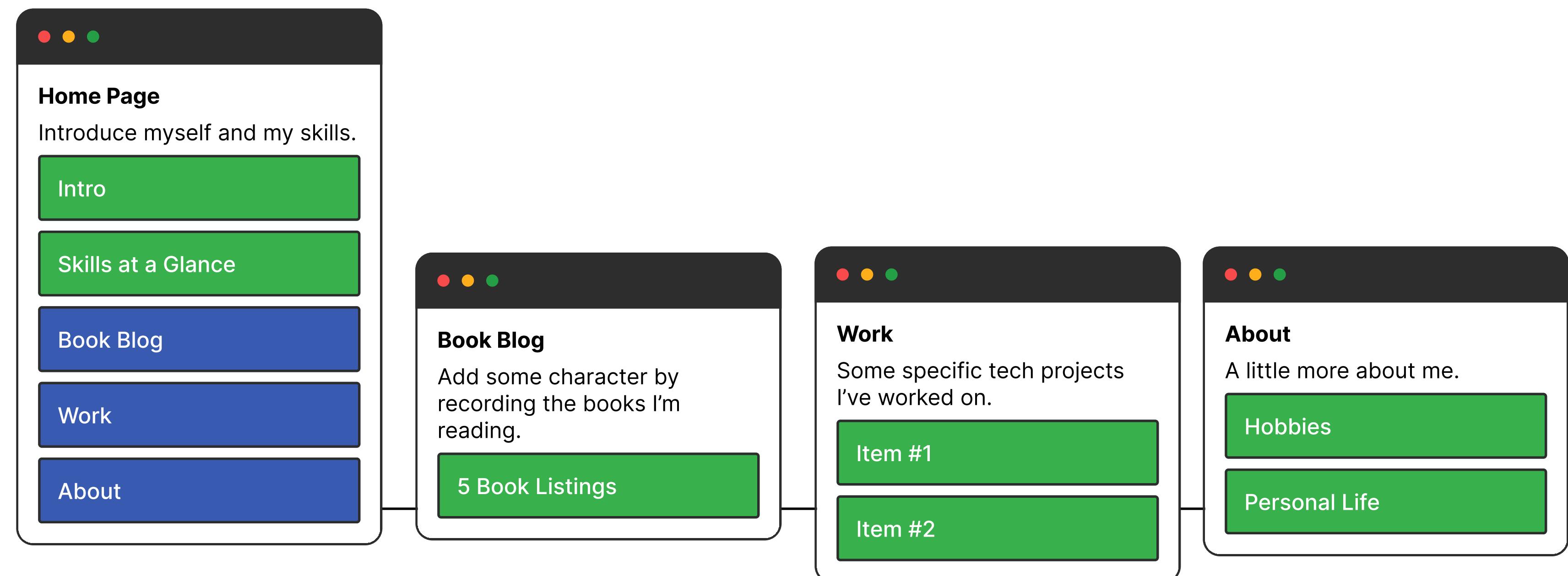
# Sitemap

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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.



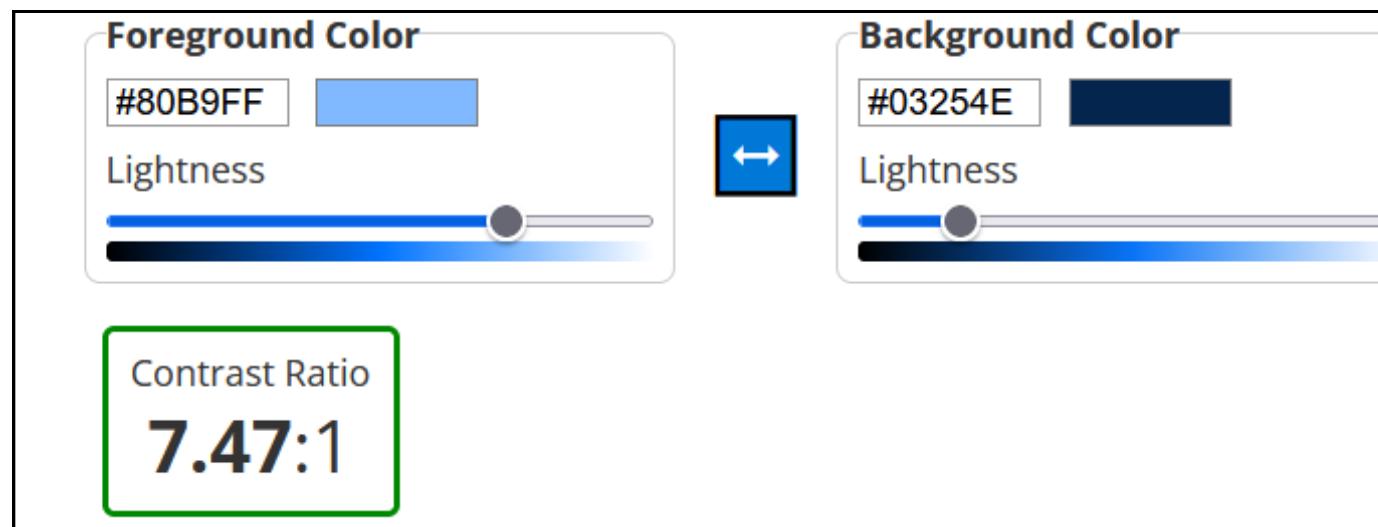
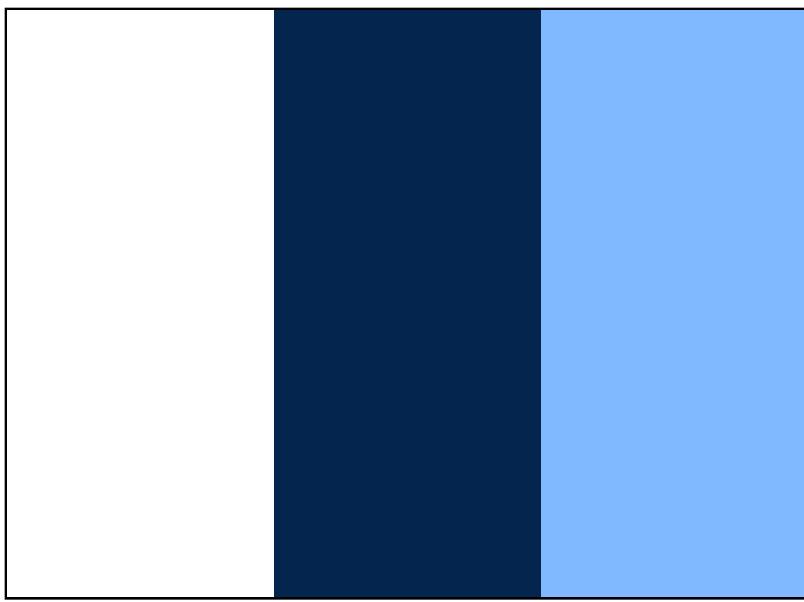
# Design Choices

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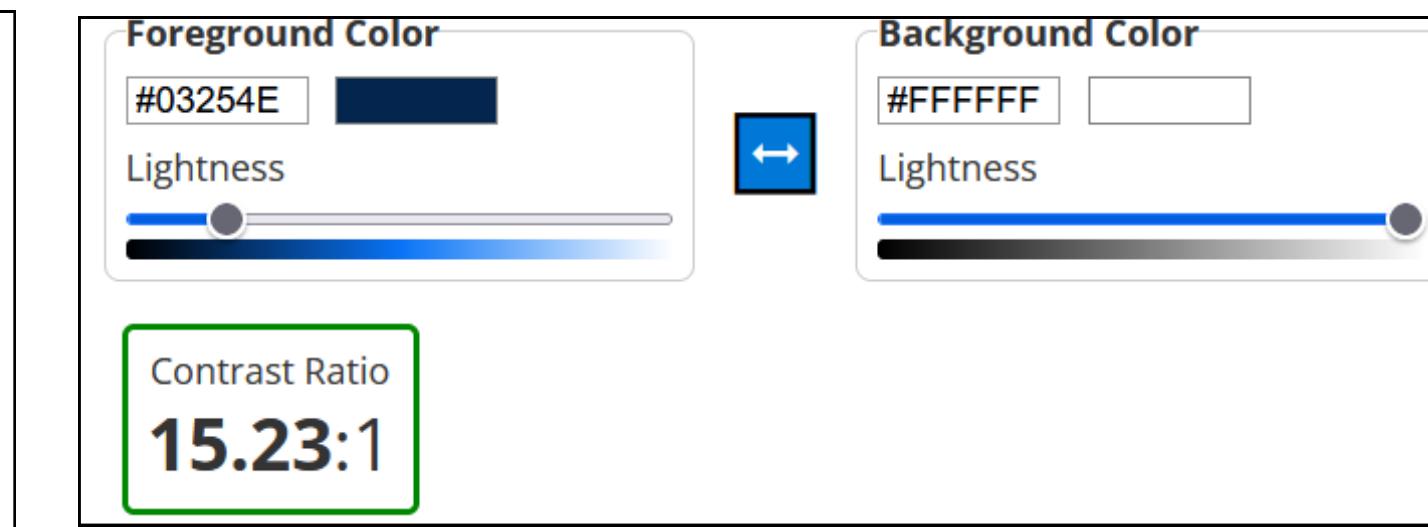
## Colour

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>

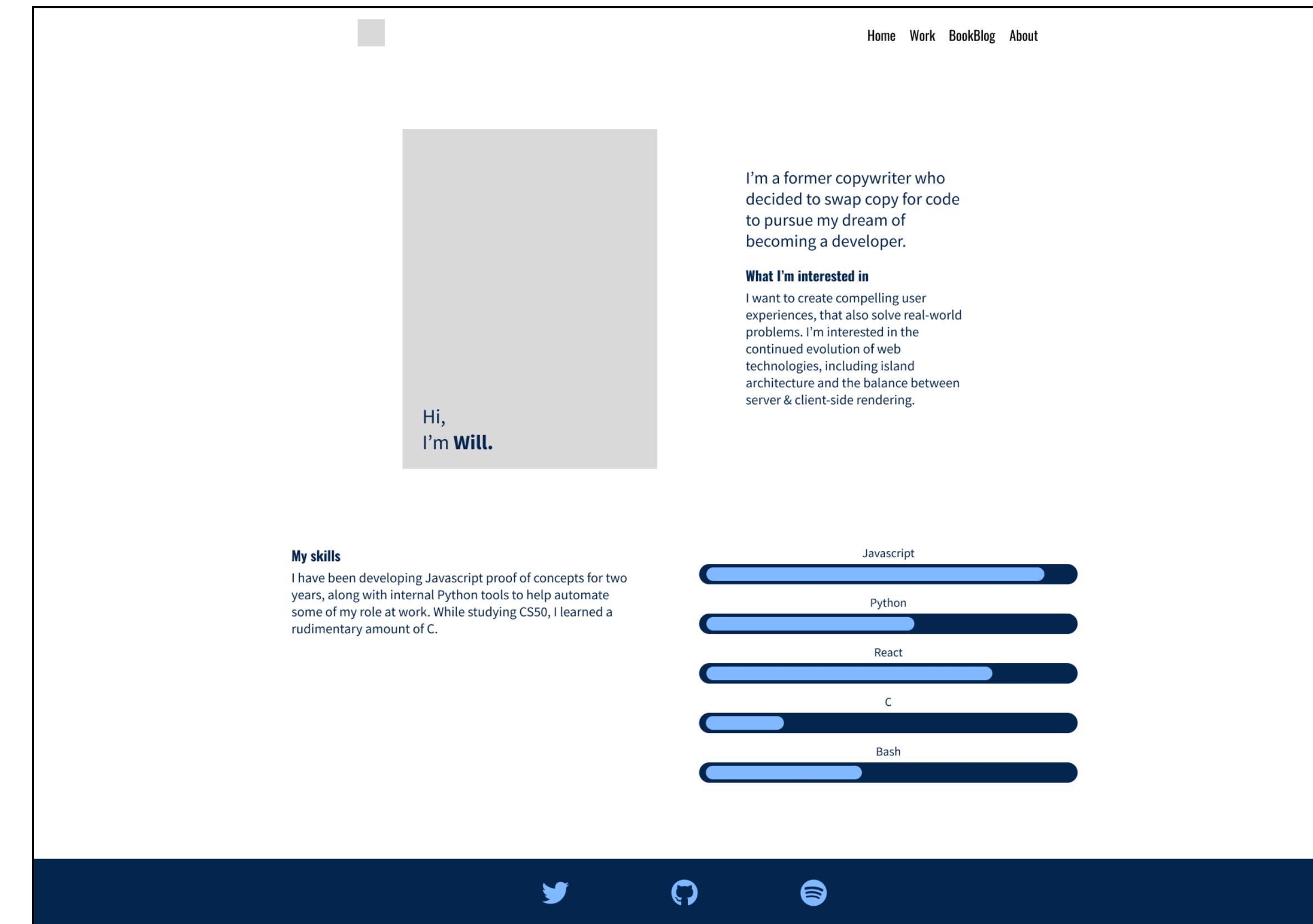
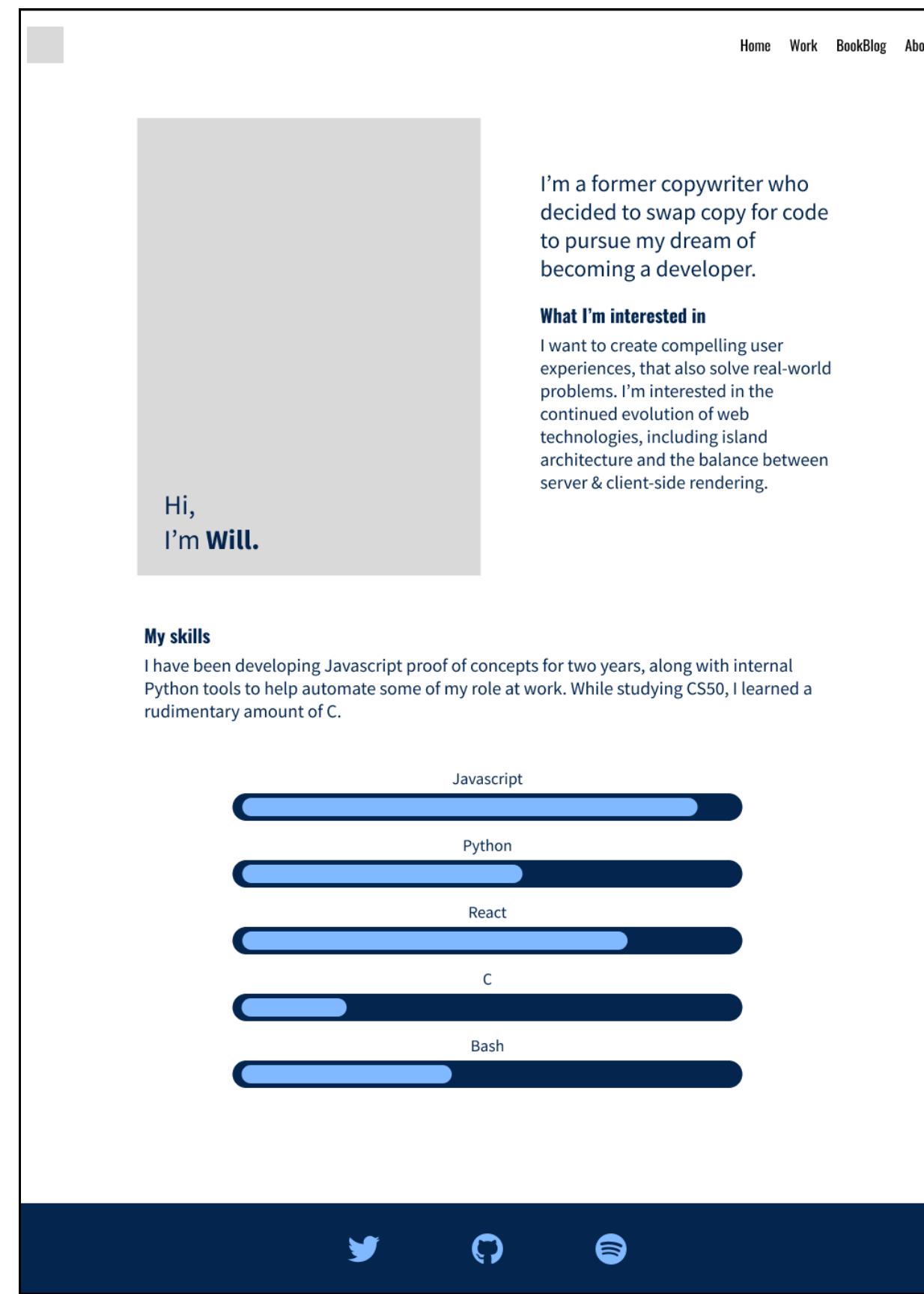
## Style

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

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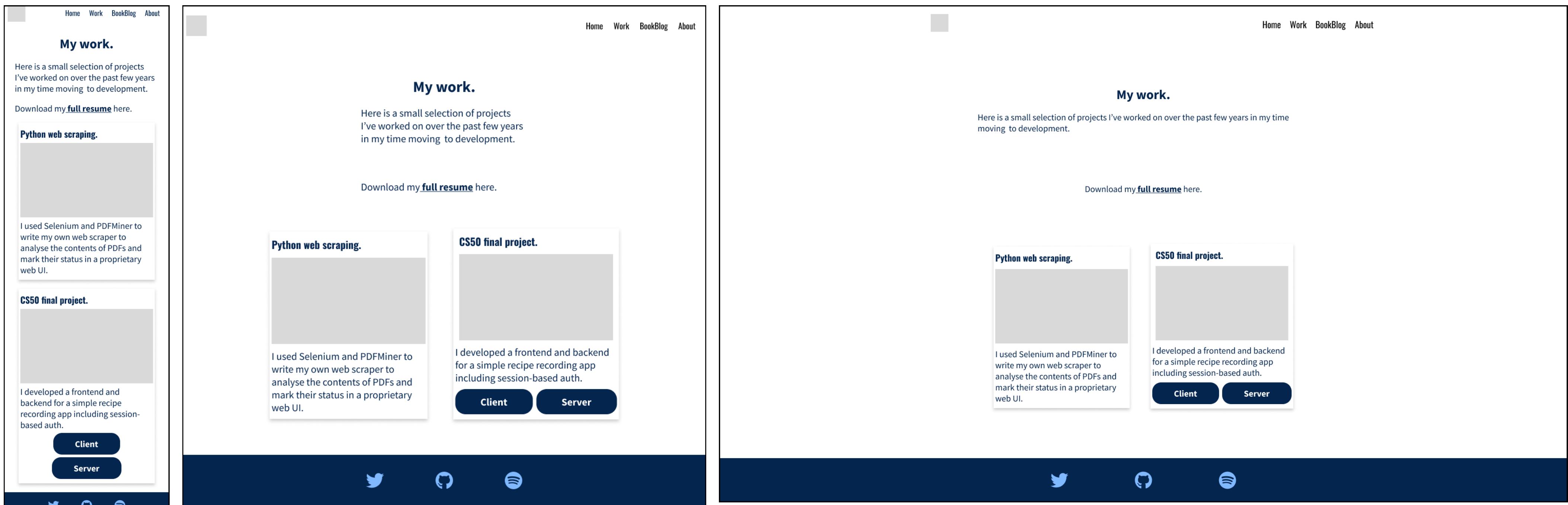
The homepage features an impactful full-bleed image at mobile to immediately add a personal touch. At tablet and desktop sizes, the text stacks to the side. The skills block features a skillbar component that scales depending on screen size.



# Wireframes: Work

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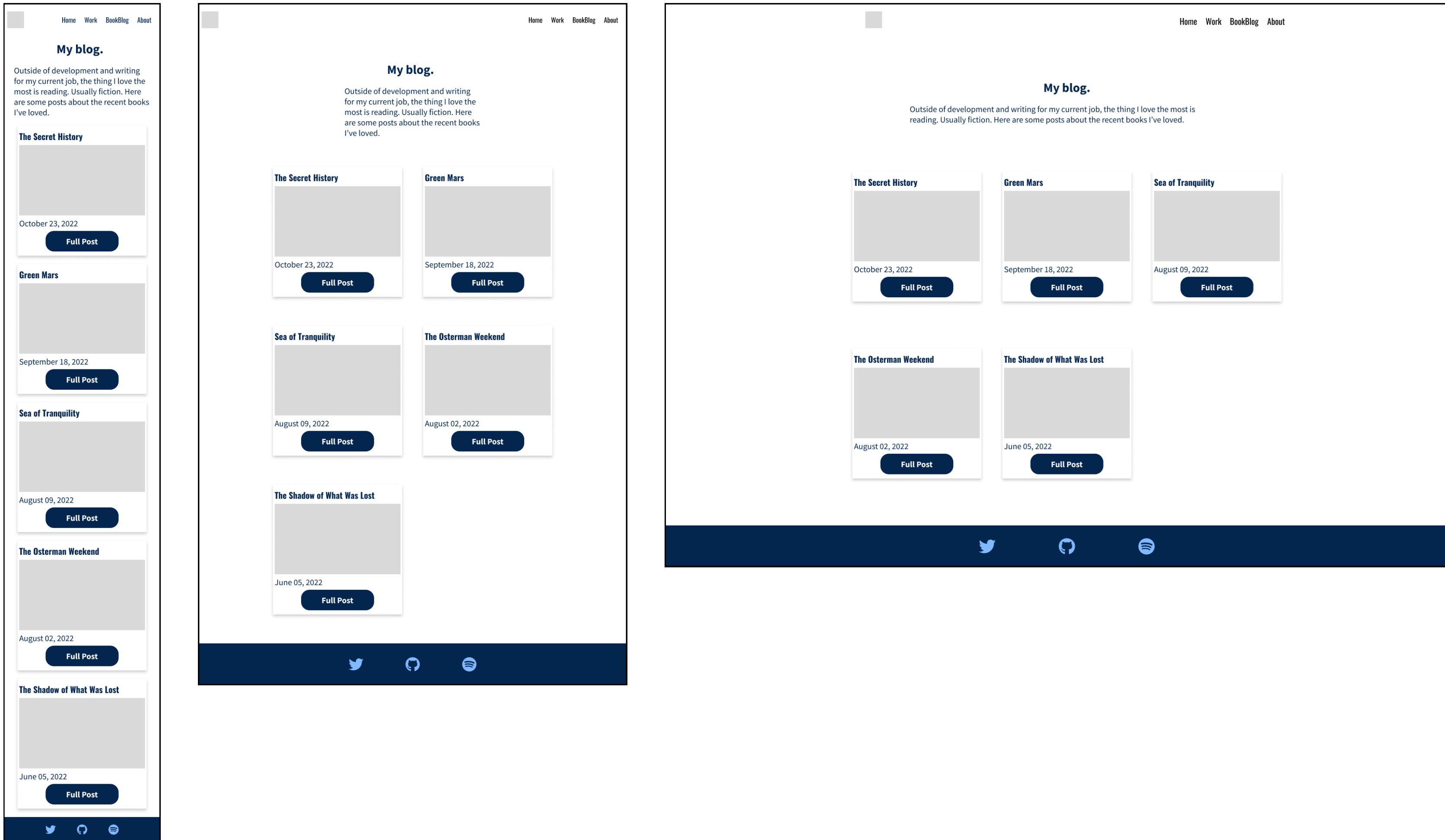
The work page features a card-based layout that I also reuse on my blog page to create a sense of cohesion on the site. Each card has an image, heading and the potential for buttons. At larger screen sizes, the layout accommodates the additional real estate, but preserves clearspace which was an essential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



# Wireframes: Blog

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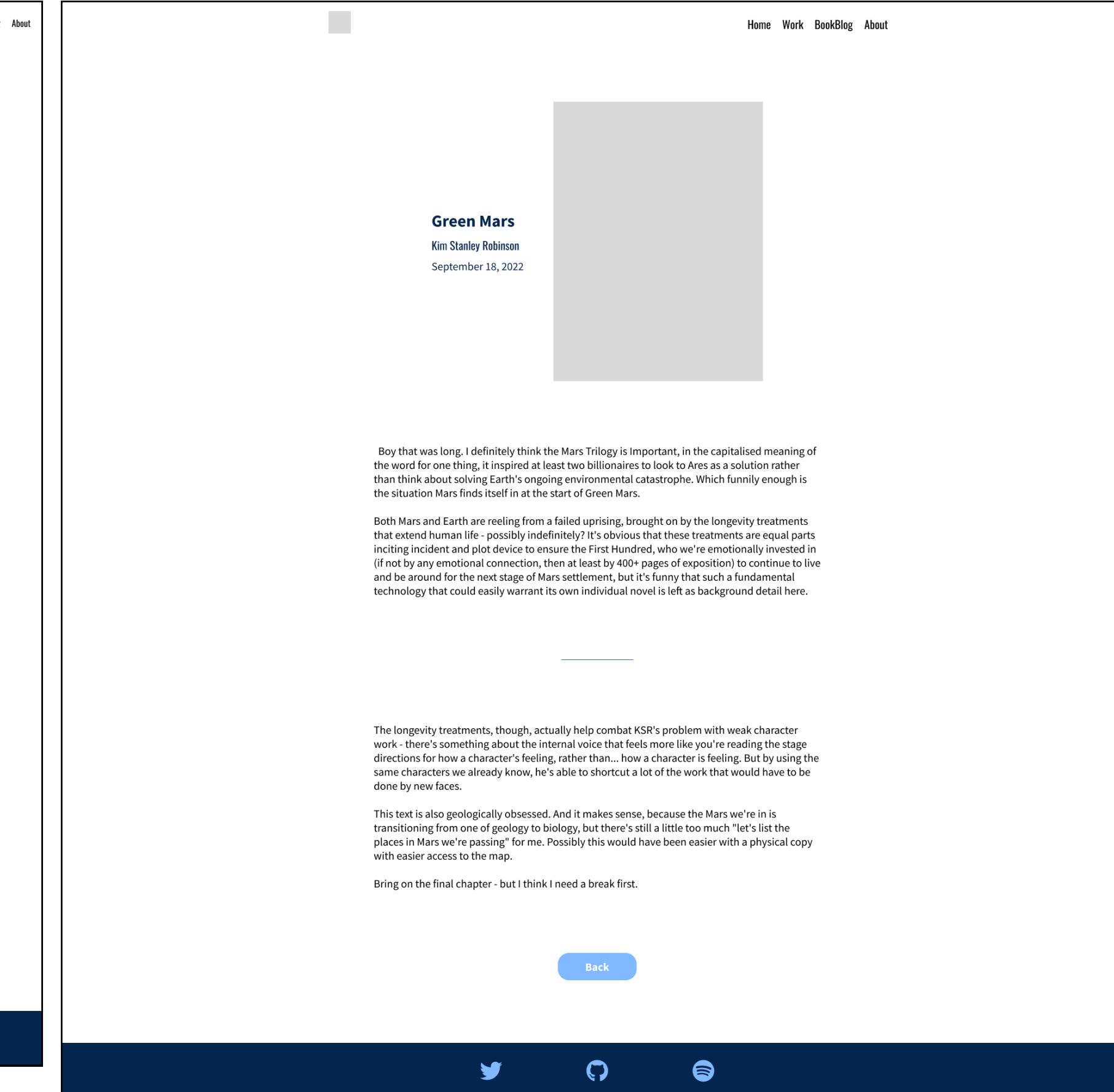
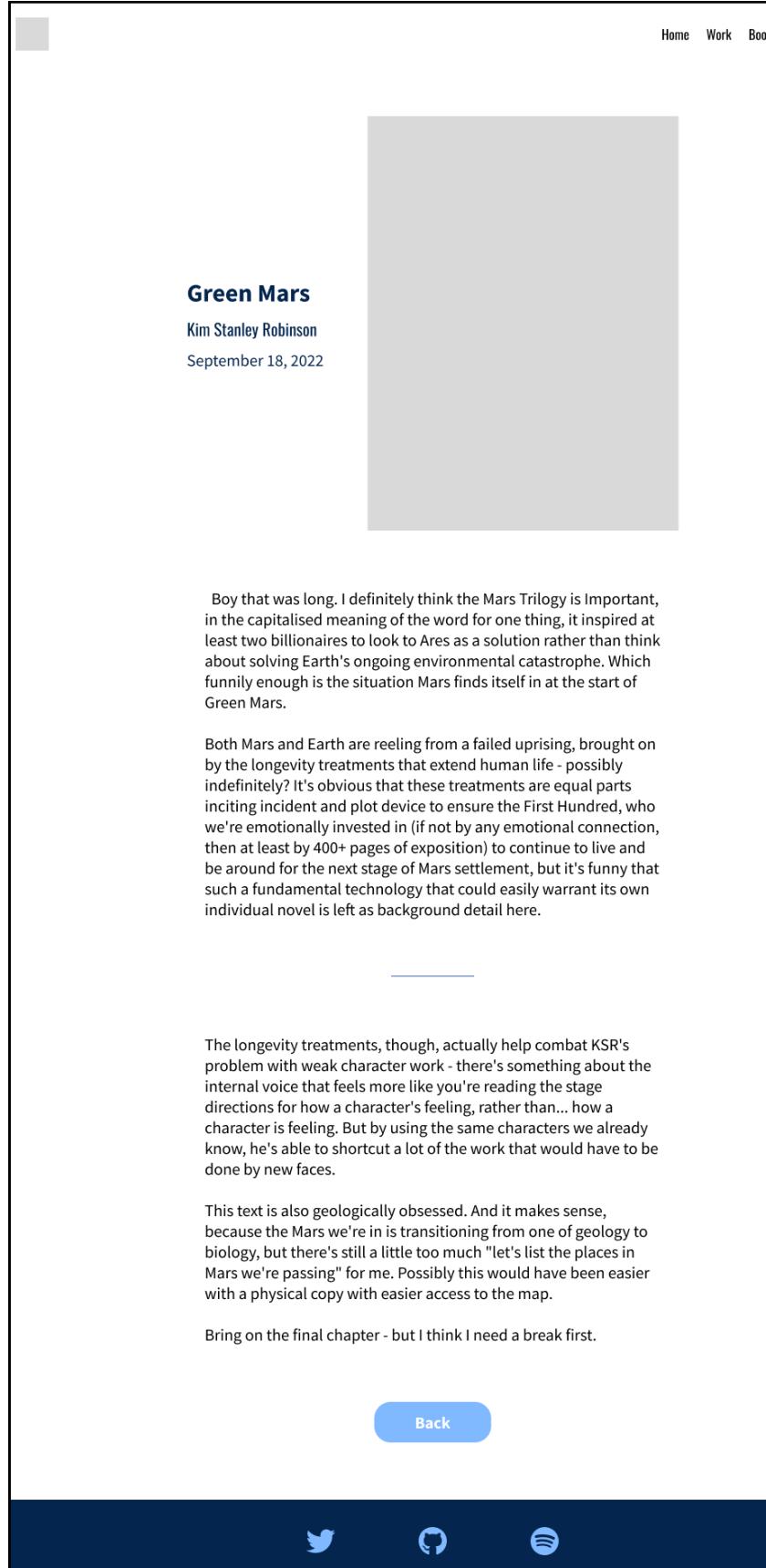
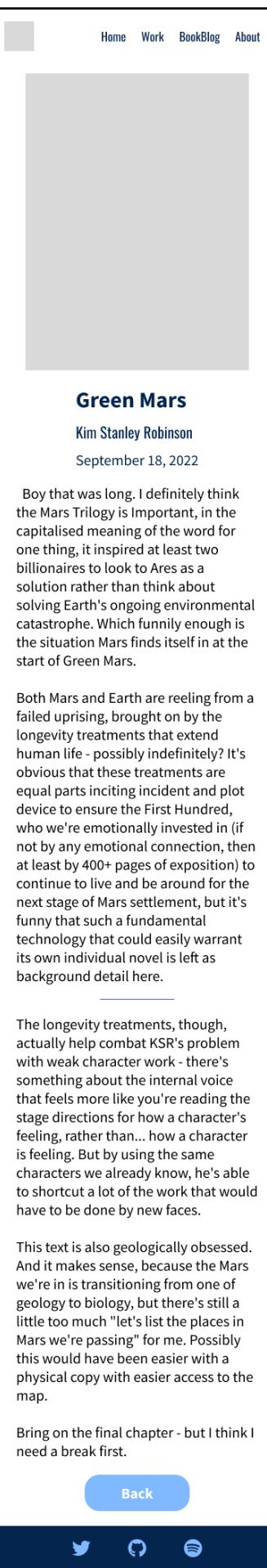
On the blog page, I feature a small introduction and then get right to the content. Each card links off to its own entry page, something I didn't think of during the sitemapping stage. Sometimes requirements can change on the fly!



# Wireframes: Blog Entry

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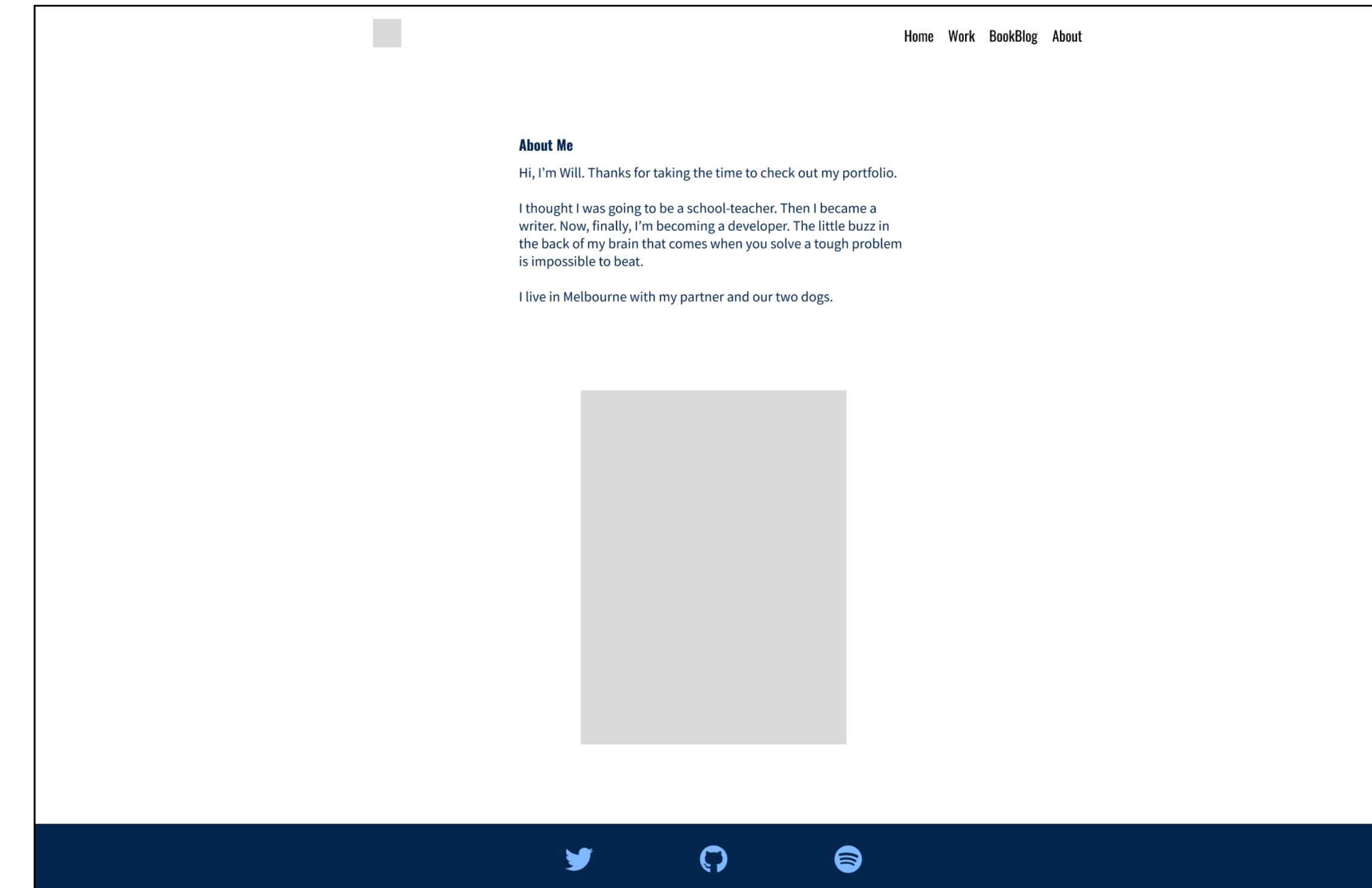
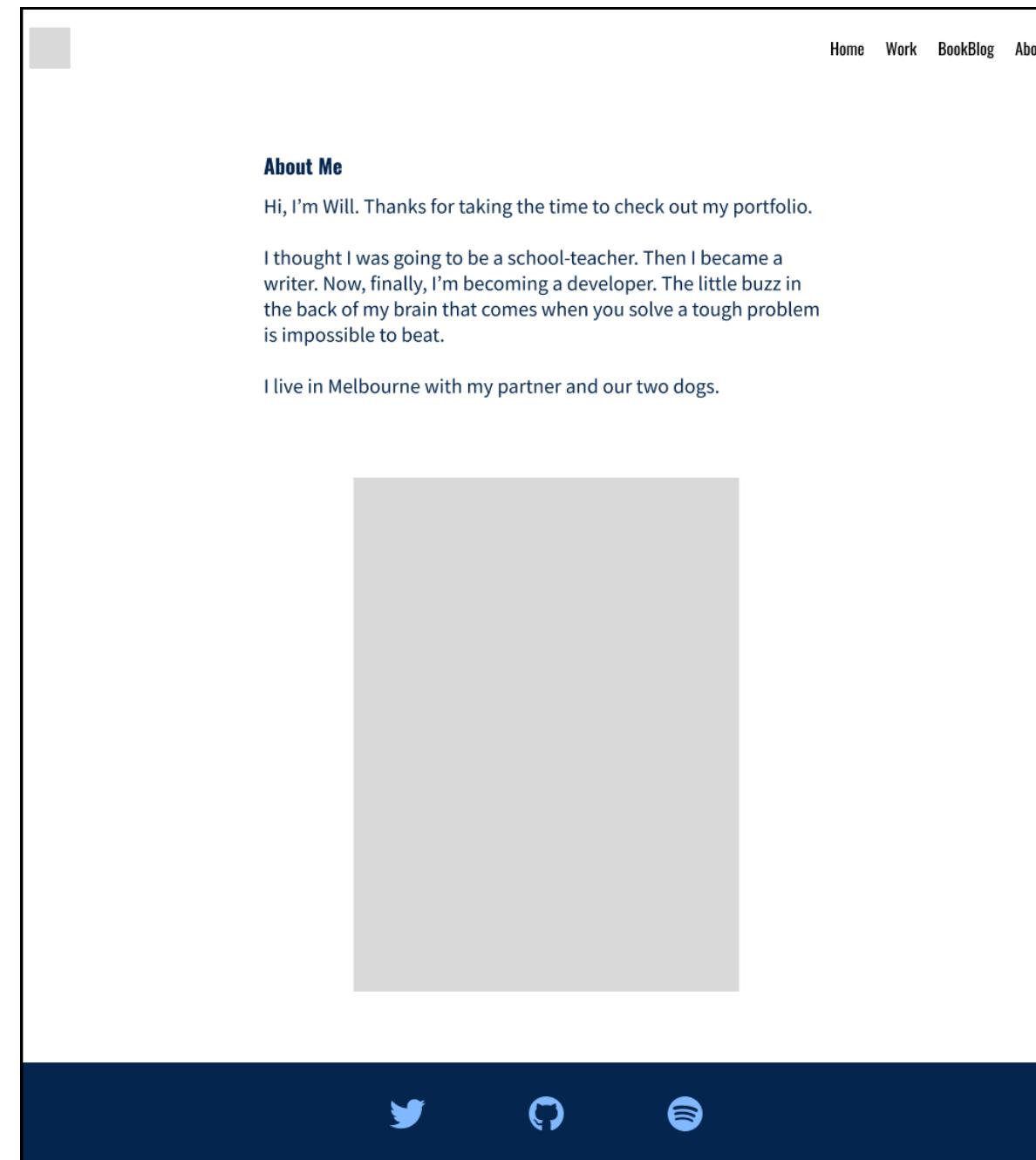
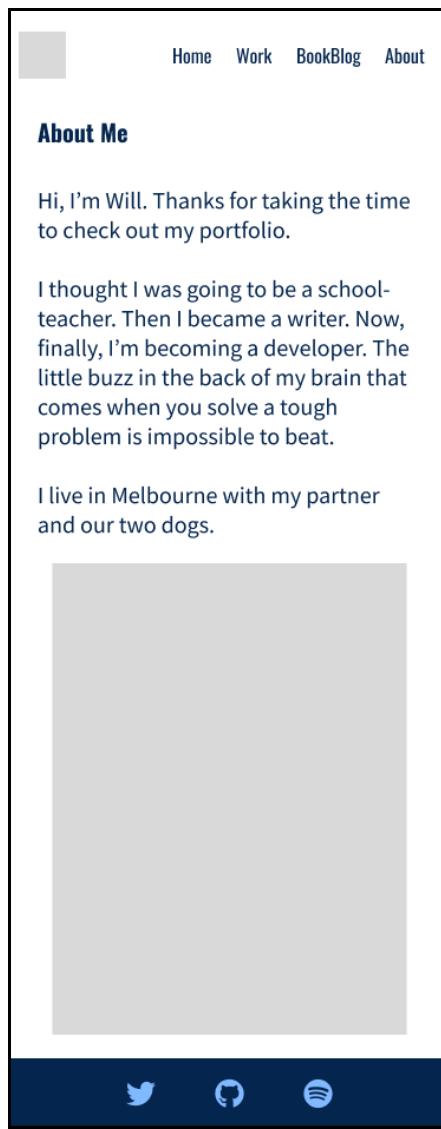
Each blog entry features a shot of the book cover, the author and date I read it, and then a little review. If the text is too long, we split it up with a **<hr>** element. It also features a button to go ‘back’ to the blog page.



# Wireframes: About

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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

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## 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

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## 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.

# Process Review

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## 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

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## 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>

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