

Portfolio

Reading guide

INTRODUCTION

Within the contents of the following document, I will give insights and explanations of the individual project I have been working on for the first 4 weeks of semester 6 of Advanced media.

During those 4 weeks, I was working on answering/ investigating the Main Research question that I came up with at the beginning of the project. It is:

“ How can I design a portfolio in a way that will express my personality and the kind of IT Professional, I aim to become? “

Sub-questions:

1. What kind of IT professional do I define myself as? What services and talents can I offer to the world?
2. What kind of job profiles does that specialty of mine fit it?
3. How can I express that attitude, professionalism, and job profile in the portfolio? What information are stakeholders interested in knowing about me?
4. What kind of vibes do I want the portfolio to give?

The deliverables of the individual project are the Portfolio website and the Reading guide document.

The portfolio that I will create and develop has the goal of showcasing and proving my progress to the teachers throughout the whole semester since all of the projects that I have worked on will be explained there.

In the meantime, the portfolio should also be attractive to stakeholders and hiring companies, as well as a creative space that expresses my personality and skills.

Approach & implementation

The approach I am taking to execute the project is the 5 step design thinking system. I apply it to my workflow in a very flexible and iterative way, as the Norman Group describes. I also used the [CMD method pack](https://www.nngroup.com/articles/design-thinking-study-guide/) to help guide the research.

<https://www.nngroup.com/articles/design-thinking-study-guide/> (that will allow the final

Methods that I used and why:



Available product analysis

I looked at a lot of beautiful and creative portfolios by UI/UX designers and Front-end developers.

To give it a summary, there was a great variety of designs and creative storytelling techniques that inspired me further in the process.



Best good & bad practices

With this method I got to look at my design in a more critical way. Some of my findings were: Don't show everything that you worked on, but what you are proud of, It is nice to have some personal information about myself(i.e hobbies), etc.



Design pattern research

I found out that patterns such as differently shaped cursors, magazine-like layouts, muted color typography, lots of animations, white spaces, and fancy transitions(to demonstrate CSS skills) were used in the designs.



Stakeholder analysis

Who are the people that will view my portfolio? For what reasons they will come to look at it? From a teacher's perspective, directly accessing projects and the reading guide would be the priority, while for stakeholders, my overall profile also matters.



Prototyping & Testing

I did a few frames of low-fidelity testing, but I quickly switched to brainstorming and iterating with high-fidelity designs. The testing happened more amongst my team members and teachers, with some A/B and Brand testing methods.

Answering the Main Research question has two aspects of the study to it:

What kind of an IT professional do I want to become?
How to reflect that on the portfolio?

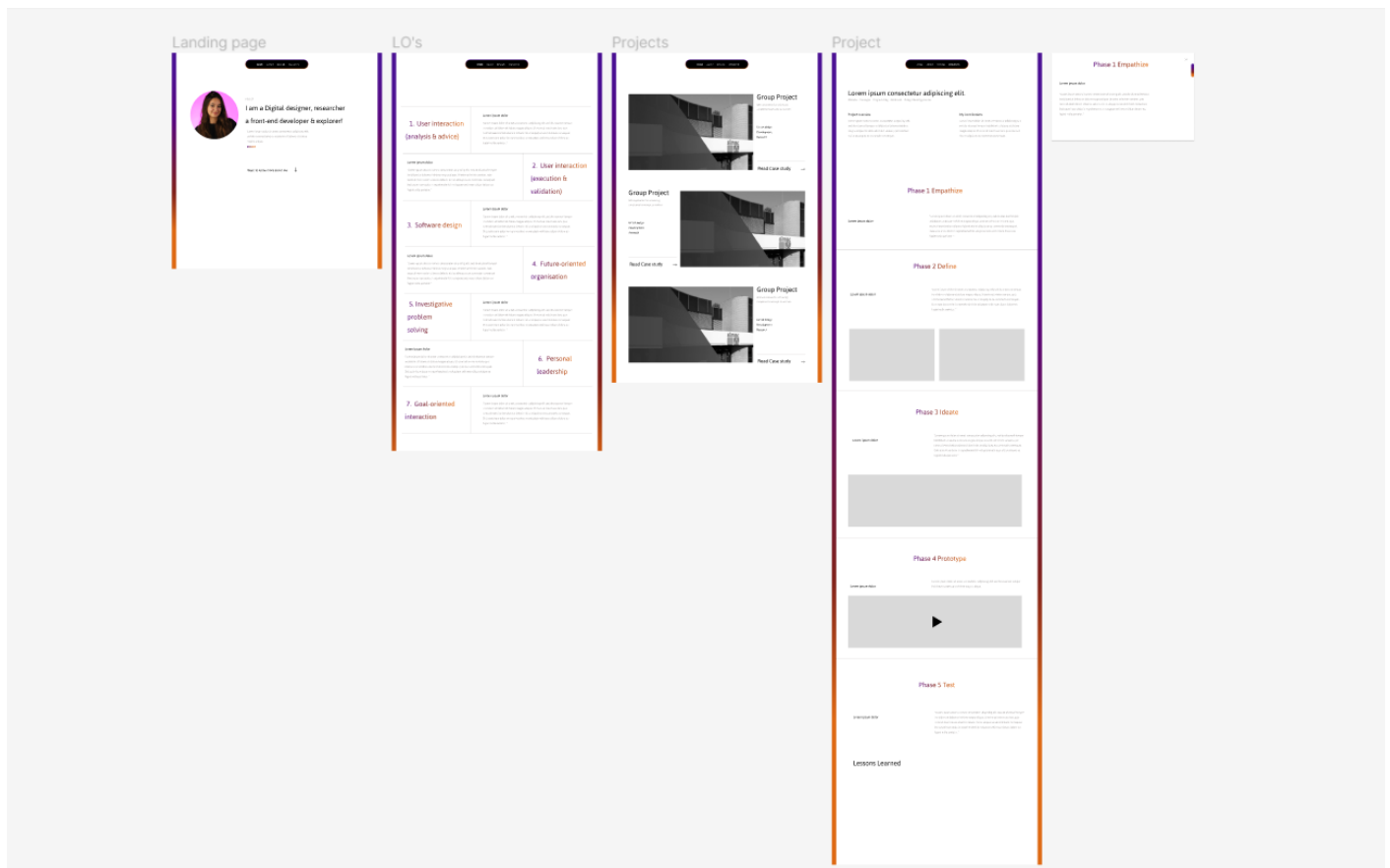
Thanks to the experience with my internship, the previous semester, I was able to get a glance at what companies seek and need in Media design students. I had some conversations with my colleagues and mentors, which lead me to realize that people with the skill combination of understanding users' needs and experiences and being able to build front-end applications are quite valuable.

After some self-observation, I also came to the conclusion that I enjoy working with both the psychological and technical aspects of a project. Personally, I think that If I want to be a great Digital designer who can provide design solutions I have to understand programming as well.

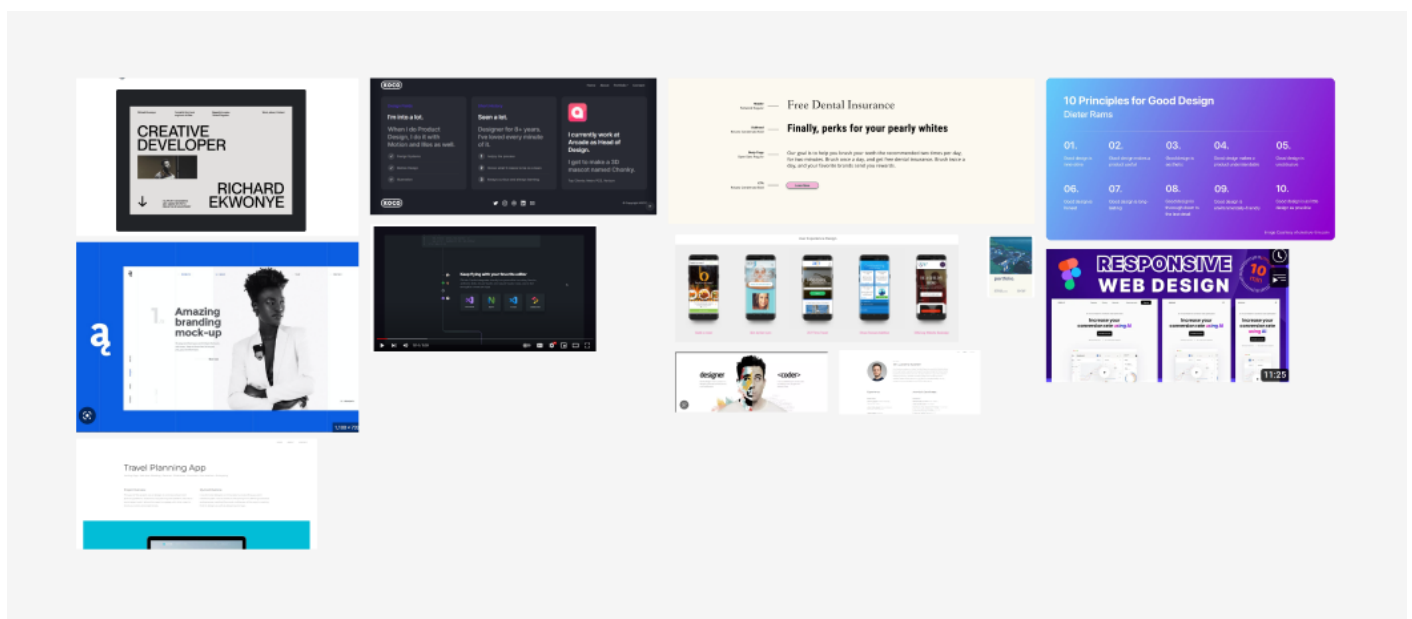
I wanted the look and feel of the portfolio to be minimalistic or as I like to say "breathable" and at the same time modern.

From the frames below you can see that I started with a colorful design idea: I have done about 5-6 iterations of each page and I did a lot of A/B testings to choose

between the many iterations of a solution, if you want to further follow my design iteration of Figma, click [here](#).

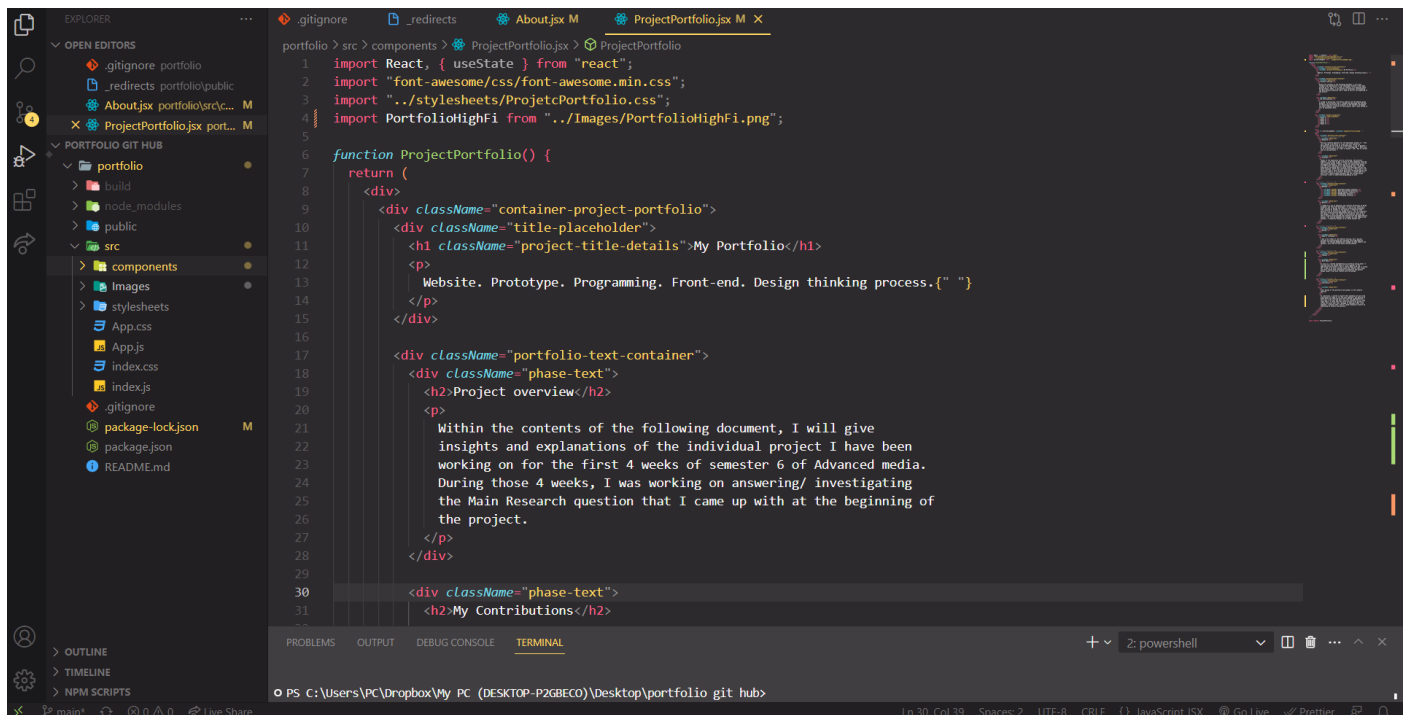


The collection of designs that inspired me(I gathered them from all kinds of websites and interfaces):



The technology used:

I used React.js and styled all of the elements myself with a CSS file for each element and organized them into sub-folders.



The screenshot shows a VS Code editor with a project structure on the left and a JSX file in the center. The project structure includes a 'portfolio' folder with sub-folders like 'components', 'images', 'stylesheets', and 'App.js'. The 'ProjectPortfolio.jsx' file in the 'components' folder is open, showing a function that returns a JSX element. The JSX element has a container class name 'container-project-portfolio' and contains a title placeholder, a project title, and a project overview section. The project overview section includes a paragraph of text and a heading 'Project overview'. The terminal at the bottom shows the command 'PS C:\Users\PC\Desktop\portfolio git hub>'.

```
1 import React, { useState } from "react";
2 import "font-awesome/css/font-awesome.min.css";
3 import "../stylesheets/ProjectPortfolio.css";
4 import PortfolioHighFi from "../Images/PortfolioHighFi.png";
5
6 function ProjectPortfolio() {
7   return (
8     <div>
9       <div className="container-project-portfolio">
10        <div className="title-placeholder">
11          <h1 className="project-title-details">My Portfolio</h1>
12          <p>
13            Website. Prototype. Programming. Front-end. Design thinking process.{" "}
14          </p>
15        </div>
16
17        <div className="portfolio-text-container">
18          <div className="phase-text">
19            <h2>Project overview</h2>
20            <p>
21              Within the contents of the following document, I will give
22              insights and explanations of the individual project I have been
23              working on for the first 4 weeks of semester 6 of Advanced media.
24              During those 4 weeks, I was working on answering/ investigating
25              the Main Research question that I came up with at the beginning of
26              the project.
27            </p>
28          </div>
29
30          <div className="phase-text">
31            <h2>My Contributions</h2>
```

As a remark, If I had more time to code, I would declare global style variables in order to avoid code repetition and to provide a consistent layout through all the components. I would also map out the text from a JSON or text file to make the skeletons of the .jsx files look cleaner and more dynamic.

Reflections

During the scope of the project I had one main turn-around of how I planned my portfolio to look.

As soon as I started implementing my portfolio during week 3 I realized that the design doesn't click together on the application and overall I wasn't really happy with how it turned out. I had to do more thinking about what exactly went wrong, and after fixing some information architecture and general design layout, I was more content with the design.

In conclusion, I proved to myself that spending too much time prototyping on Figma is not the best approach, but getting my hands dirty and starting with the front-end implementation - only then I can face the most realistic problems and fix them right there.

I think that the first version of my portfolio turned out quite well and I managed to implement what I had imagined. I believe that I built a good branding of myself by expressing my talents and passions. That, of course, doesn't mean that I am fully content with the product to think that it is finished, since I would definitely work on improving it during the length of the semester.

Learning outcome	Proof
User interaction (analysis and advice)	<p>The design of the portfolio, and design conclusions are based on online research by the methods: available product analysis, design pattern research, and best good and bad practices.</p> <p>I would also add the complete re-designing of the portfolio.</p>
User interaction (execution & validation)	High-fidelity prototype on Figma.
Software development (software design)	I coded the portfolio with React.js and build my own styled component(no usage of Bootstrap or Material UI).
Future-oriented organization	Giving an answer to a future-dependent question and mapping out the plan of the project with the project plan.
Investigate problem-solving	Sub questions.
Personal leadership	Reflection, learning new skills.
Goal-oriented interaction	Asking questions and getting frequent feedback from teachers(and posting on feedpulse).