WDD499 Capstone

Portfolio Website

Using Frameworks

Debbie Murdock - *Process Book*

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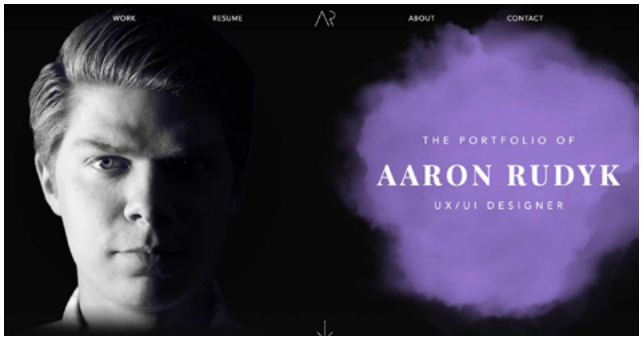
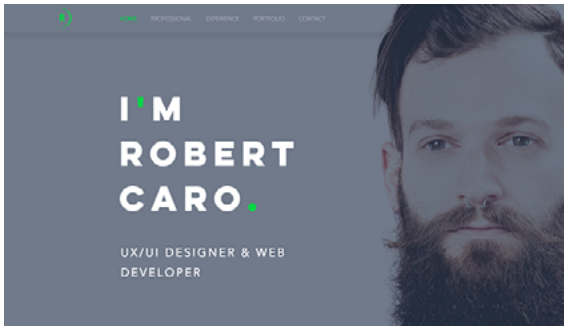
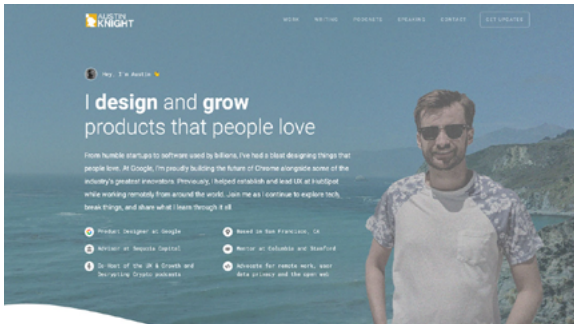
Research

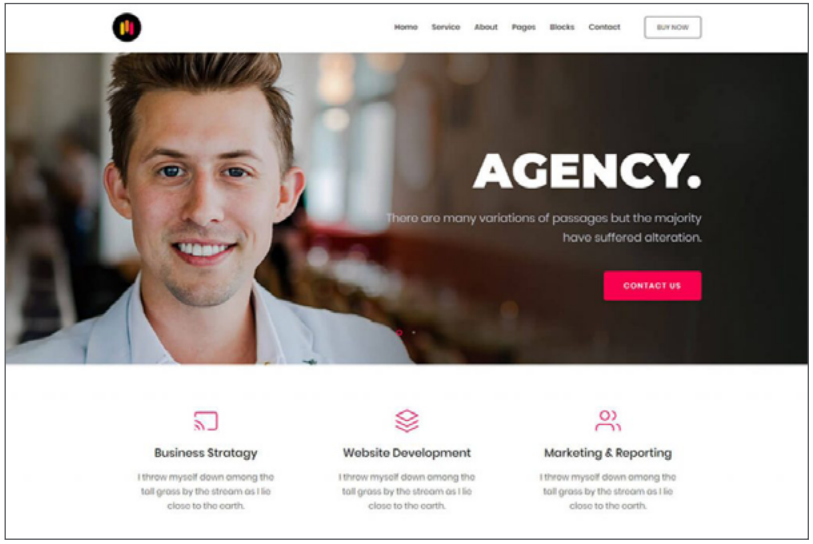
I started my research looking at other web and UX designers portfolio's. A common theme was having a focal image on the home page. Usually this would be a head shot of the person. This allows for people to get to know you immediately. Majority of the photos were placed on a solid background without any texture or imagery. I found this to be very business oriented. They were able to bring other elements in order to show their creativity through color choices, fonts and design elements.

Home Page Examples:









Color Palette

I had a specific image I was going to use on the home page of the portfolio website. The dress I was wearing had vibrant color of blue, green, red, and yellow. I took the color palette straight from that dress.

Original Home Page Image Before Edits

I pulled out the green and aqua blue from the dress and used black white to help with the background and typography styling.

Hex Codes:

#edef77

#5fddfb

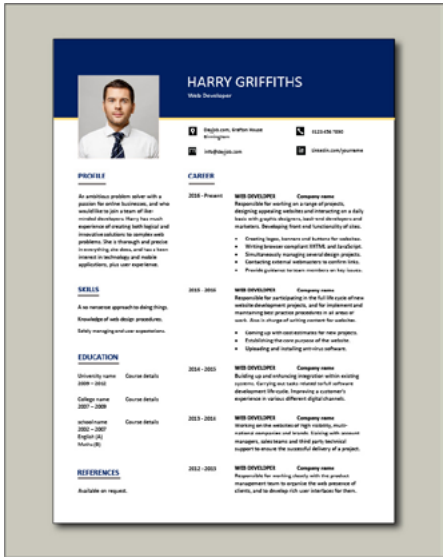
#000000

#ffffff

Résumé

Many of the websites offered a résumé on their website. This was either located in the navbar or offered as a download. I think I might do both so potential employers can view the document first without having the hassle of having to download the document on their device. The résumé also shared branding colors and styles of the portfolio.

Résumé Examples:



Résumé

First Draft:

Debbie Murdock
Web Design and Development Student

801.906.1420 | deborahmurdock@gmail.com | www.debbiemurdock.com

Objective
To obtain an internship as a UX Designer, Web Designer or Front-End Developer complete my degree as a Web Design and Development Major with an emphasis in Design.

Soft Skills
Eye for detail
Open to feedback
Design objectively
Determined to find solutions
Successful in group work
Strong work ethic

Technical Skills
Digital Design
Branding
Debugging/Troubleshooting
SEO Knowledge
Create Mockups and Wireframes
HTML5/CSS3/Sass
Photography
Responsive design practices
Knowledge in JS, PHP and Java
Adobe Photoshop, Illustrator, InDesign, XD

Education
2017 - present
Brigham Young University - Idaho
Bachelor of Science, Web Design and Development, Spring 2021

1998-1999
Ricks College - Rexburg, Idaho
Associate, General Education

Relevant Coursework
ART331R Information Design
ART337R Interaction Design
CS371 Human-Computer Interaction
CIT230 Web Frontend Development
CIT260 Object Oriented Programming
CIT336 Web Backend Development
WDD331 Advanced CSS

Final Draft:

Debbie Murdock
Web Design and Development

deborahmurdock@gmail.com
debbiemurdock.com
801.906.1420

Soft Skills
Eye for detail
Open to feedback
Design objectively
Determined to find solutions
Successful in group work
Strong work ethic

Technical Skills
HTML5/CSS3/Sass
Basic Working Knowledge in JavaScript, PHP and Java
SEO Knowledge
Debugging/Troubleshooting
Responsive Design Practices
Mockups and Wireframes
Prototyping
Digital Design
Branding
Photography
Proficient in Adobe Photoshop, Illustrator, InDesign, XD

Interests

Objective
To obtain an internship as a UX Designer, Web Designer or Front-End Developer and complete my degree as a Web Design and Development Major with an emphasis in Design.

Education
Brigham Young University - Idaho
2017 - Present
Bachelor of Science, Web Design and Development
Current GPA 4.0
Expected Diploma 2021

Ricks College - Rexburg, Idaho
1998-1999
Associate, General Education
GPA 3.765

Relevant Coursework
ART331R	Information Design
ART337R	Interaction Design
CS371	Human-Computer Interaction
CIT230	Web Front-End Development
CIT260	Object Oriented Programming
CIT336	Web Back-End Development
WDD331	Advanced CSS

Certificates
Learn Bootstrap
CodeAcademy
Jan 2021

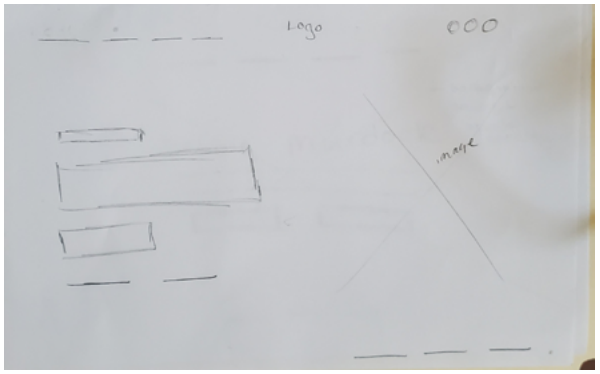
Javascript
SoloLearn
Jan 2020

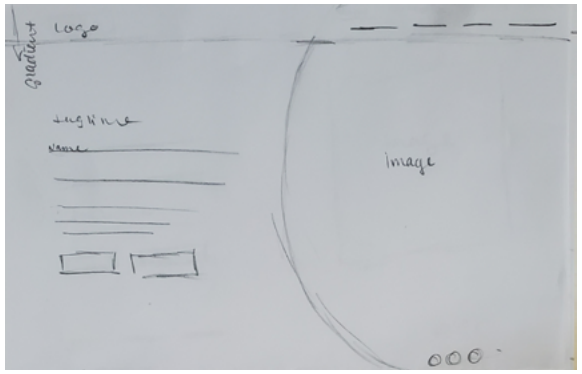
Other Experience
Bacchus Elementary / Kearns High School
Volunteer | *Sep 2010 - Present*

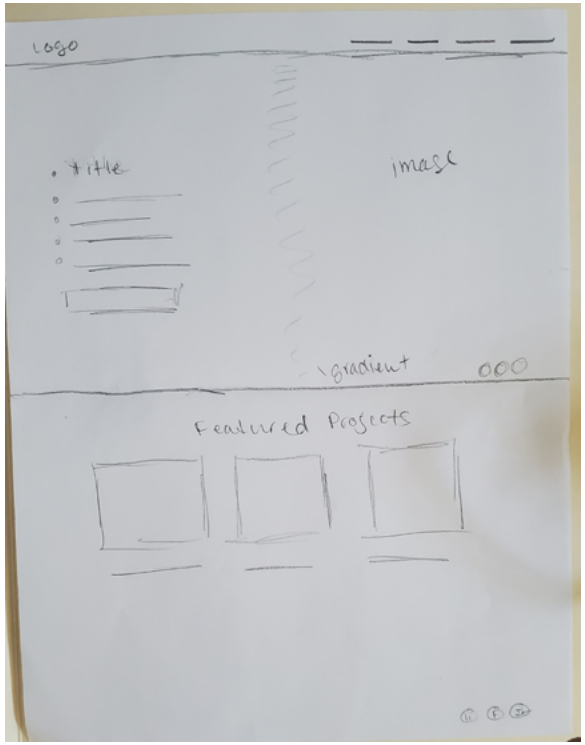
Reading Aide
Chaperone
Copy Assistant
Piano Accompaniment for Assemblies and Music Class
School Community Council President
High School Musical Photographer

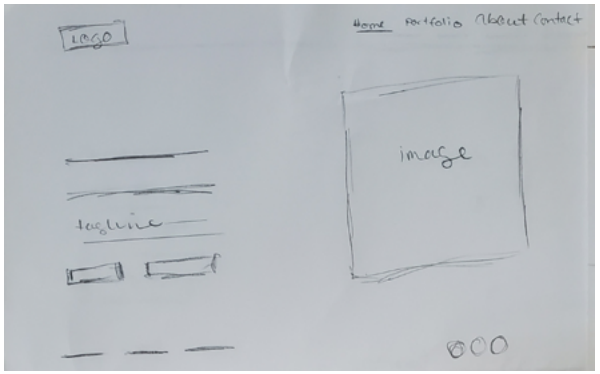
Sketching

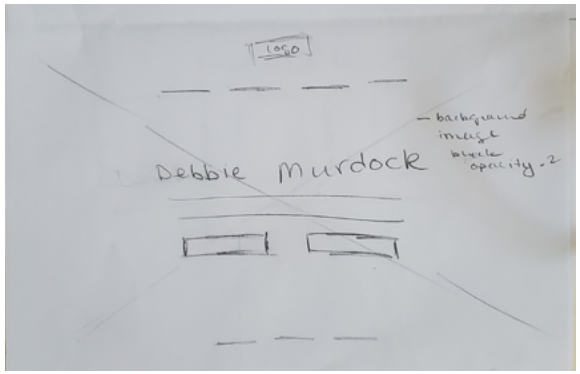
While sketching, I kept in mind the positioning of a set of head shots that were taken from a photo shoot and based the sketches off that. I knew eventually I would have to edit the photos to fit the website, but this allowed me to get the ideas down more quickly.









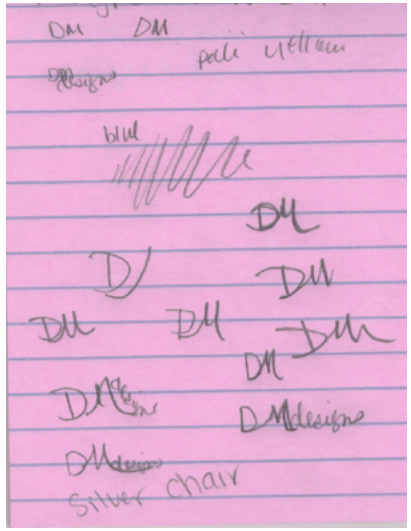


Logo

It can be difficult branding yourself for a portfolio. In my research, most individuals used their name. Sketching took many different directions and I thought I had settled on using my initials but was unsettled with that design choice.

While I was away from my computer, I was trying to find a way to tie in web design elements with my name and had the thought to use the hamburger icon to replace the middle letter in my nickname "Deb".

After peer testing these ideas, I decided to steer away from the hamburger design because it resonated more with a developer vibe. As a result, I stuck with the script initials.



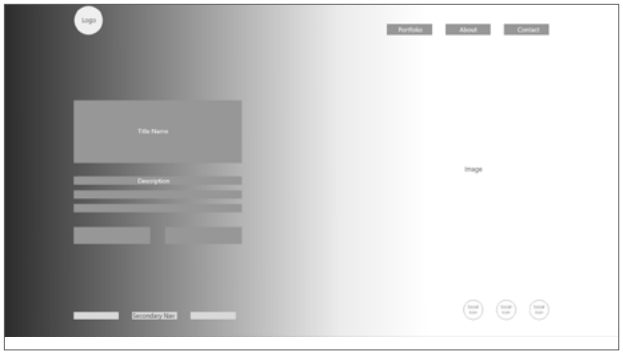
Final Logo:

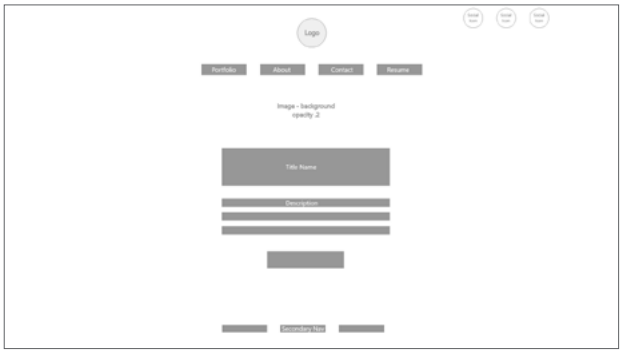
Wireframes

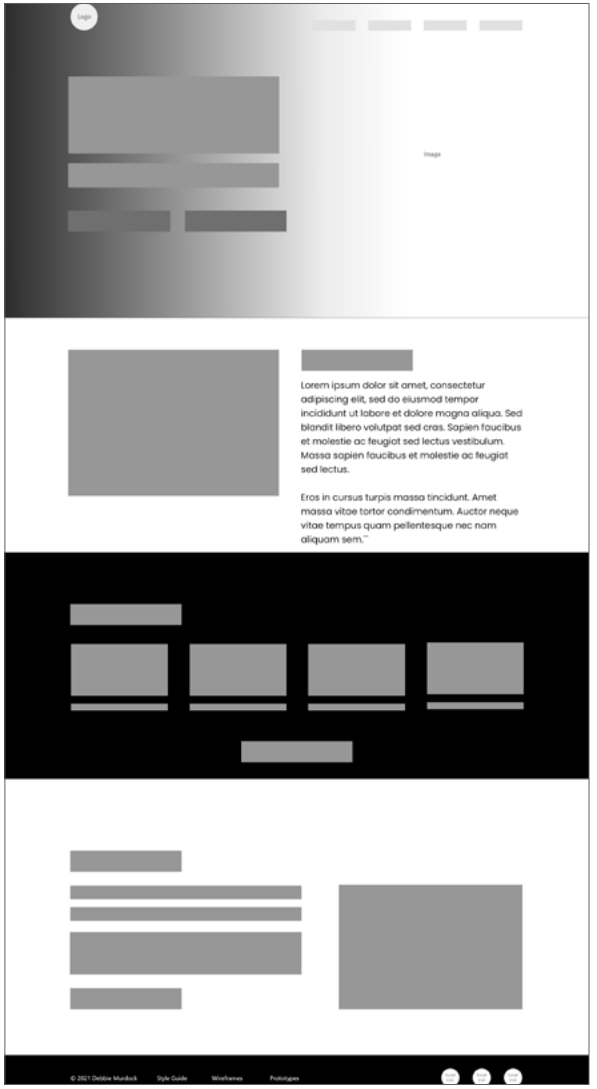
Low Fidelity

I took the sketches and put them into Adobe XD. I tested the wireframes with different photos that I would be using.

Portfolio sites tend to be only one page and link to the individual projects I'm still trying to decide how many pages the site will be or if I'll stick with having anchor links for the navbar.

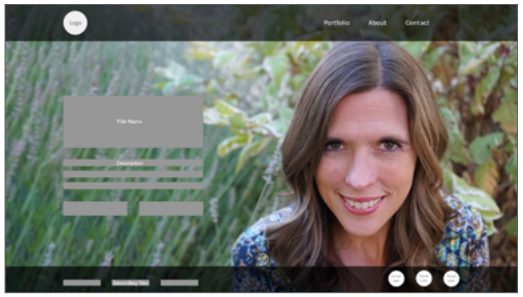


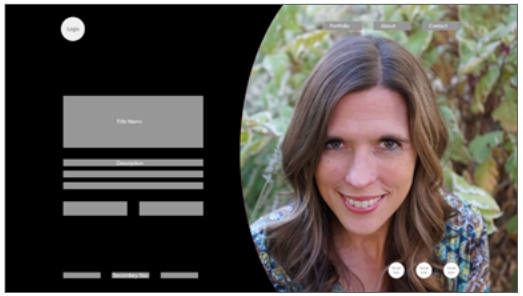


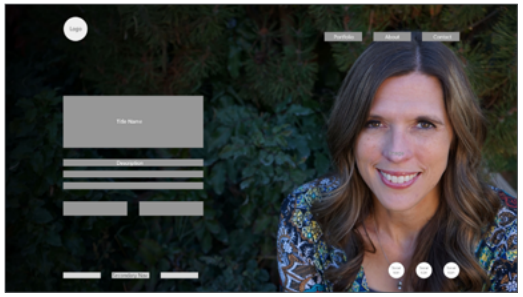


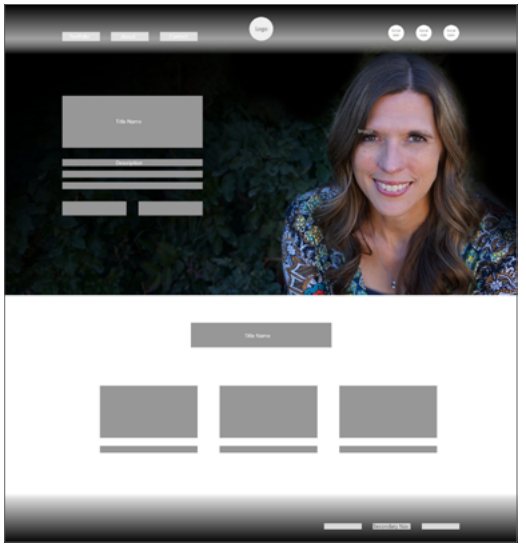
Wireframes

Photo Styling Test:







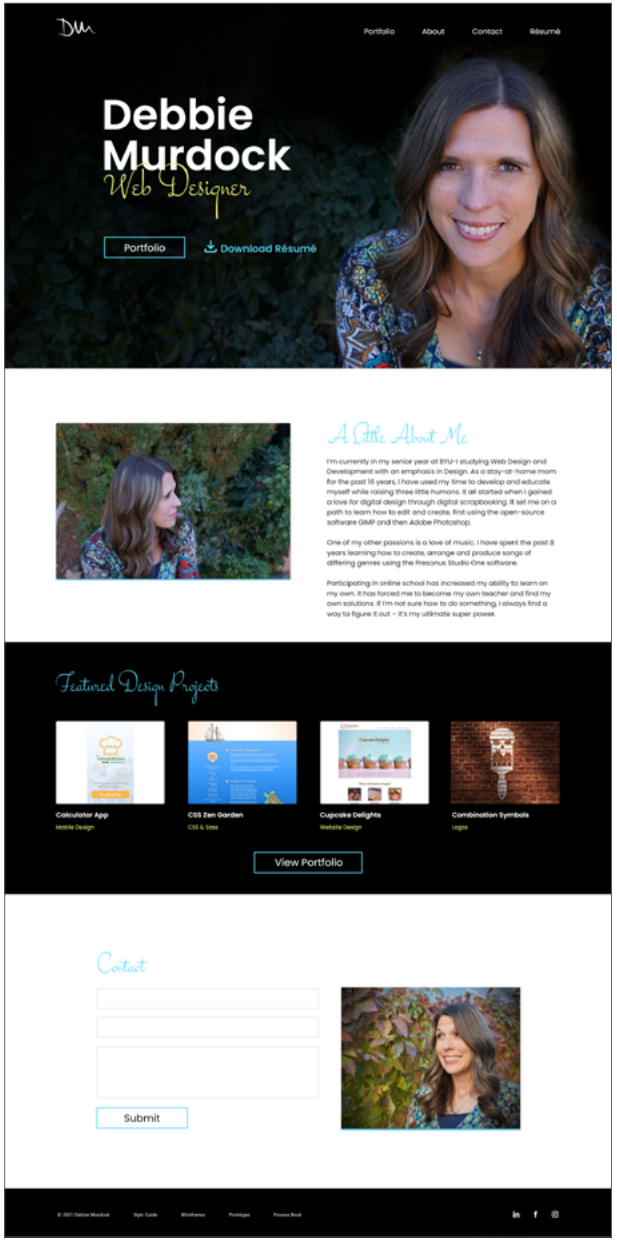


I brought the image into Photoshop trying to find the right balance. Using the transparent gradient and mask, I was able to hide a lot of the distractions. For example, in the curbing behind my shoulder I was able to keep enough texture to have a seamless trnsition into the photo.

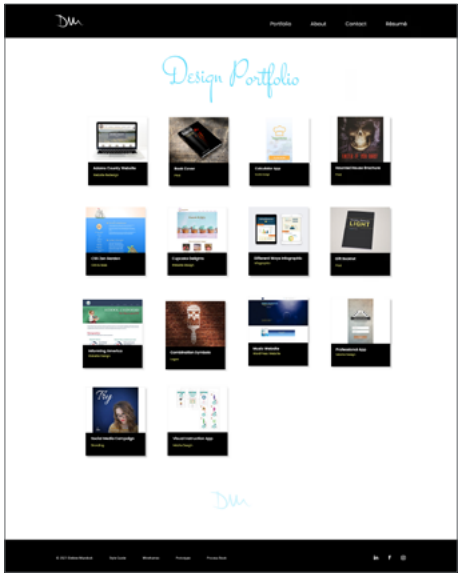
Wireframes

High Fidelity

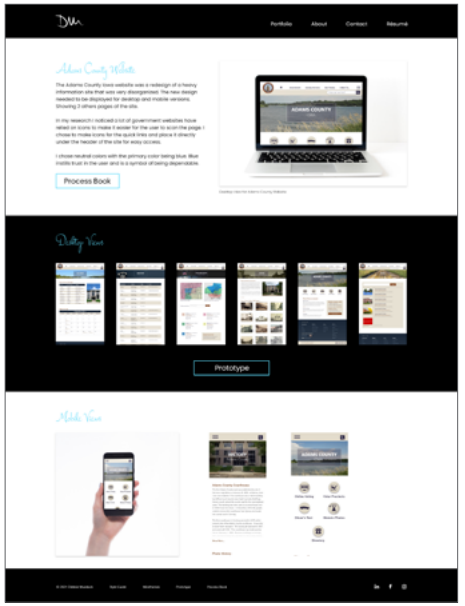
After getting my logo made, I collected all my past projects that I wanted to feature on my site. I made a portfolio images folder and organized them by project. I had a photo shoot that I had done recently and included those images in the file. I settled on an image that I imported into Photoshop and put a linear black to transparent gradient from left to right. Then, I used a mask over the gradient to bring out the part of the image I wanted to show. I tried having it completely black but, I felt a little bit textured leaves showing through added a nice dimension to the background image that would show on the home page.



Wireframe of Home Page



Wireframe of Portfolio Page



Wireframe of Project Page for Adams County

Prototype

Adobe XD

Once the wireframes were built in Adobe XD, I was able to get specific links connected to mimic the flow and behavior of the website. I decided not to create all of the project pages since each page would share the same general structure and be adjusted to the needs of the project on what contents were going to be featured.

Prototype Link:

https://xd.adobe.com/view/35b1e2e9-6029-4557-bffc-46ad218bf051-60e2/?fullscreen

Digital Mockup for Debbie Murdock Portfolio Website

Final Website

www.portfolio.debbiemurdock.com

I was able to get hosting through NameHero.com. It's been easy to use the cPanel. I set up FTP connections to transfer my pages as I coded them. As I designed, I kept the components of Bootstrap in mind to implement them into the design. I was able to incorporate the following components into the project from Bootstrap:

Modals
Cards
Navbar
Utilities
Forms
Layout

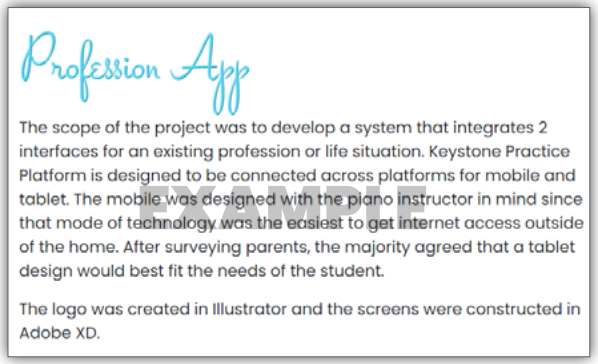
If there was specific styles that needed to be created, I would override the Bootstrap variables with custom CSS.

www.portfolio.debbiemurdock.com Using Bootstrap Framework

Conclusion

Objective

My objective was to create a clean portfolio website that would not distract from the project pieces but allow them to stand out. I kept the site to two contrasting colors with black and white used for the background and typography. For easy readability a sans serif was used for the body copy. I also wanted to have a fun creative element tied in and used a script font for titles.



Typography Example for Profession App Page

I left plenty of white space for the eyes to move through the design on the screen. I used an appropriate line height to leave the body copy also legible and didn't have it span too far across the screen.

Challenges

The biggest challenge I faced was with getting familiar with Bootstrap. I was not used to putting so many s in the HTML and would always be deficient caused the styling not to appear as I intended. After a while, it got easier to work with the containers, rows and columns. I made the layout come together a bit faster after I got the hang of it.

Another challenge was gathering all the images for the projects and optimizing them. Some of my project images were linked to InDesign programs so I would have to go into the original projects to get a new jpeg. Since my school work had been moved to another location, some of the links would be broken or fonts missing. As a result, I had to reconstruct some of my projects to be able to save the images.

For the last challenge, I chose to use the beta version 5.0. Some of the classes changed but sometimes the classes would not change the styles and I would find myself on the wrong documentation page.

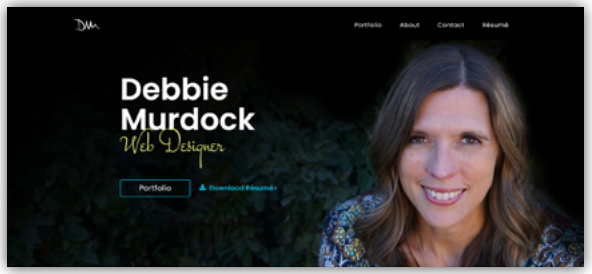
Learning

I'm excited to have a good grasp on the grid system in Bootstrap. The ease of setting up the layout on different-sized screens to be responsive almost felt like I was cheating the system.

There were 3 installation options to choose. I opted to use the CDN link so Bootstrap wouldn't slow down my site. This consisted of putting the link in the <head> section.

I styled the cards using the border and shadow utility classes.

All these experiences helped me form a solid foundation of the framework Bootstrap 5.0.



Home Page for www.portfolio.debbiemurdock.com