

Web Design Process

Sunday, October 23, 2011

Designing a website is more than just Photoshop and code.



Creating mockups and building the site are actually some of the final steps of creating a website.

Web Design Process

• Discovery

- Conducting a Formal Content Audit
- Information Architecture
- Design
- Production
- Launch



Discovery

During the discovery process you work with

the client to find out what the goals of the website are.



Discovery

- What's the point of the website?
- Who is the audience?
- What does the audience want?
- Competitive research
 What are other sites doing?
 How can this site be better or different



Discovery

The discovery process varies depending on the size and scope of your organization, and also the client's organization and may result in a formalized strategy document.

Page 1

Alumnet Strategy Document

Overview

Purpose

Alumnet is a web portal, which provides free access to information and services to Simmons alumnae/i. The aim of Alumnet is to create an active and engaged online community, who continue to stay current with the College's mission, goals, and achievements and who, in turn, understand and internalize its ongoing need to seek their financial support.

Background

The existing Alumnet website was designed in 2003 by the Simmons web team. Simmons engaged Harris Connect (Harris Publishing at the time) to provide technical infrastructure and site hosting in order to deliver both static and dynamic database-driven portions of the site. At the time, it was believed that efficiencies could be gained by hosting the entirety of the site with Harris.

In practice, Harris does not provide an efficient means of updating content on the site, and did not properly build out the site to the web team's original design or coding specifications. As a result, Simmons has been frustrated that the site is not as capable a communications vehicle as it should be.

Proposed Model

The current thinking at Simmons is to bring all static web pages in-house, to be hosted at Simmons



Step 2: Content Audit

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• What content do you have?

- Text
- Images



• Other media (branding, design guidelines, logos, movies, etc.)

Content Audit

- What content do you need?
 - Is there already a branding strategy in place?



- Are there logos for the site?
- Is there content to fill the site?

Content Audit

Establish who is going to provide or create the missing content for the site

Step 3: Information Architecture

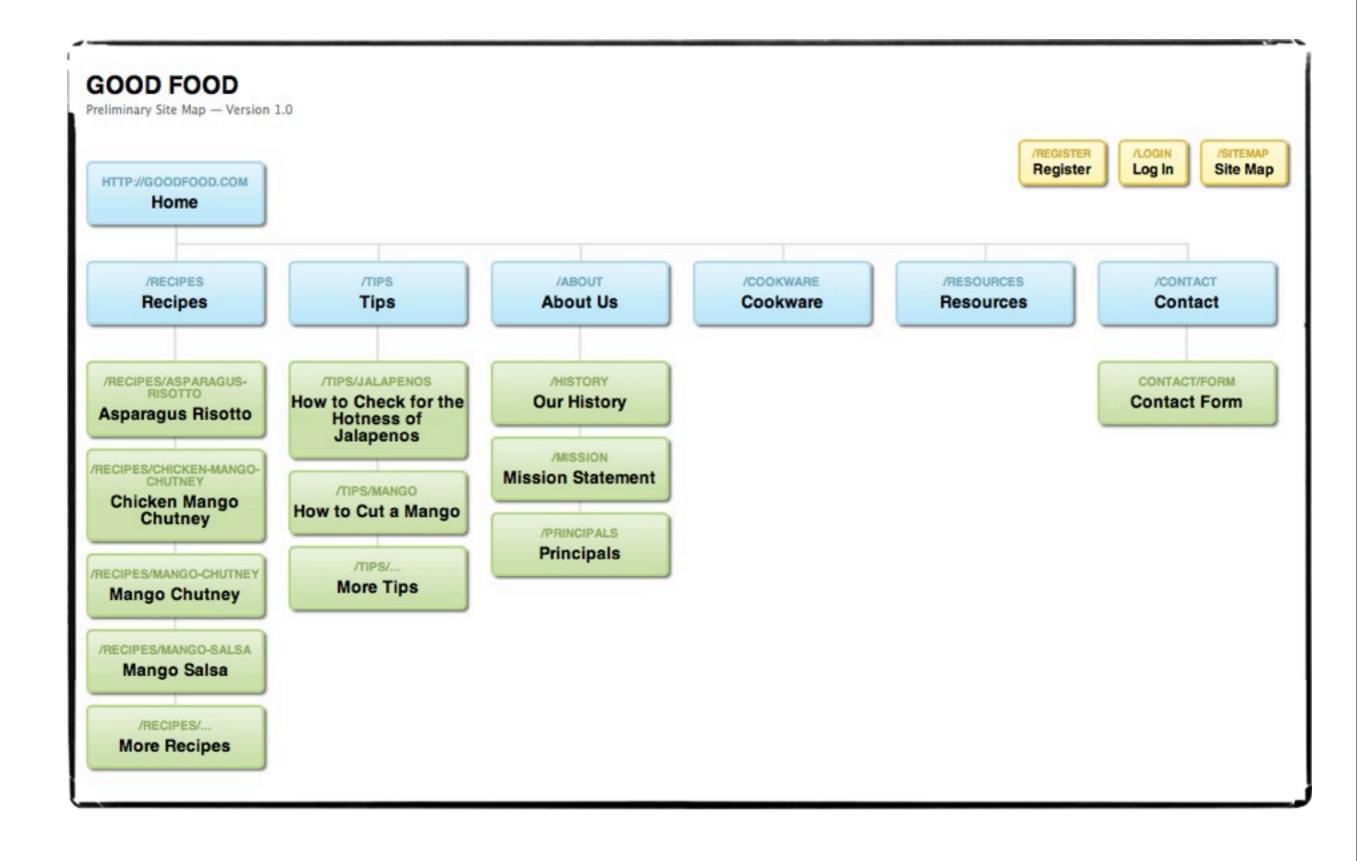
- Create a site map
- Site maps give us visual structure of the site as a whole

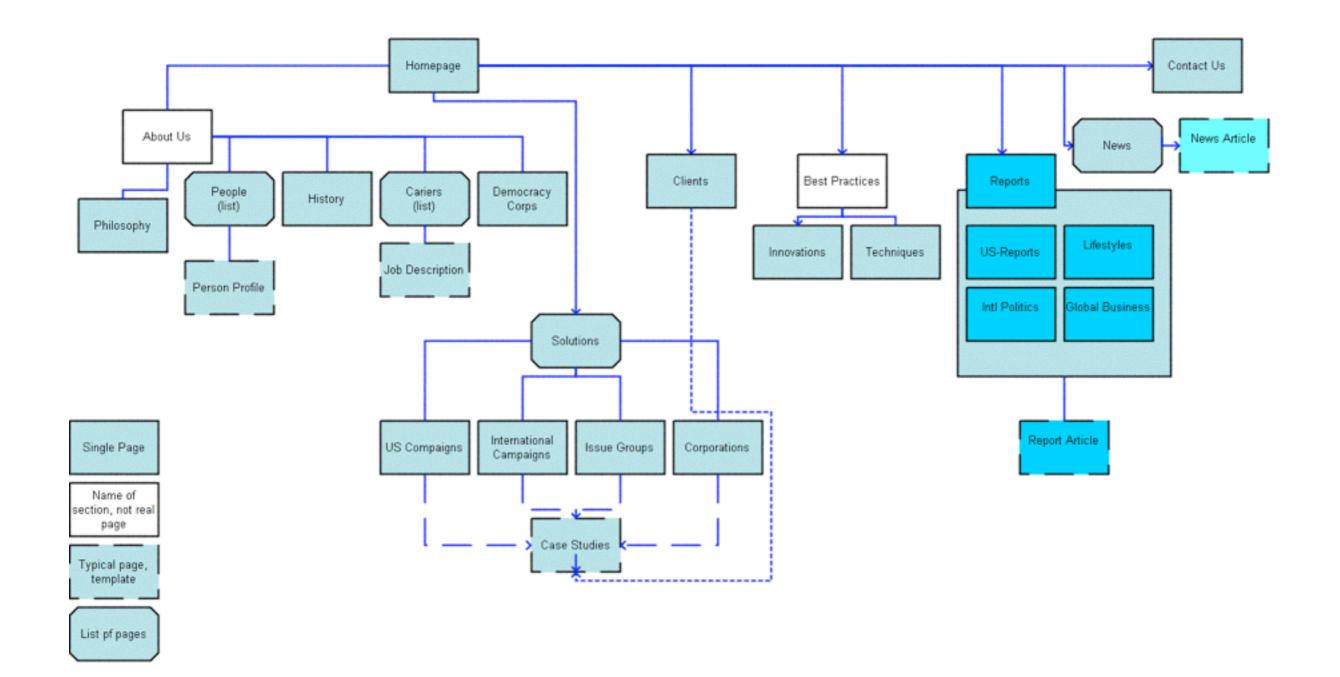


They also show us how the pages will connect to one another

Site maps can be very simple for small or medium size sites.



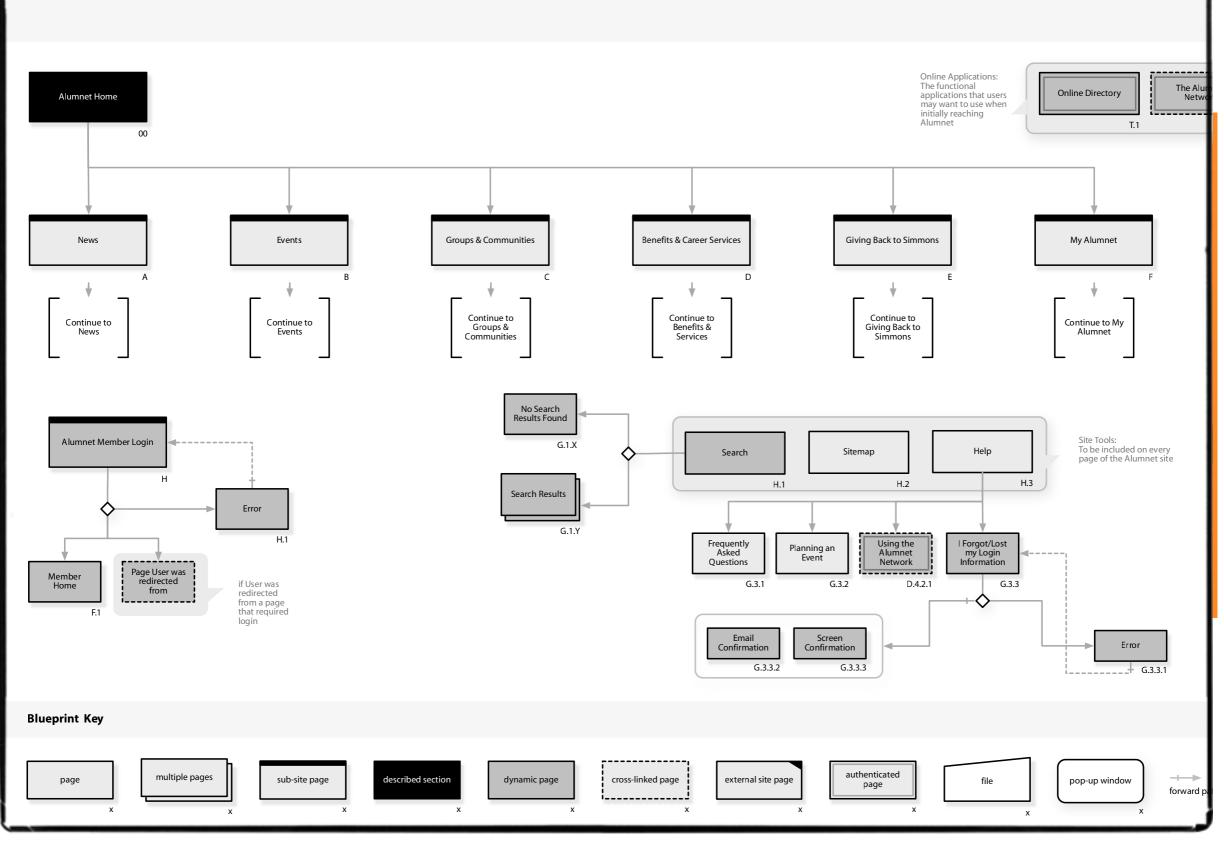




Or they can be complex multi-page documents for larger sites

Alumnet Proposed Information Architecture - Round 1

Client : Simmons Advancement & Advancement Communications



The result of the Site Map and Content Audit will tell give us a very good idea of the website.



Create a wireframe:

 Helps both you and the client to visualize the structure of individual section



• Helps to figure out where all the elements go

What's the point of a wireframe? Both you and the client will have a formalized understanding of

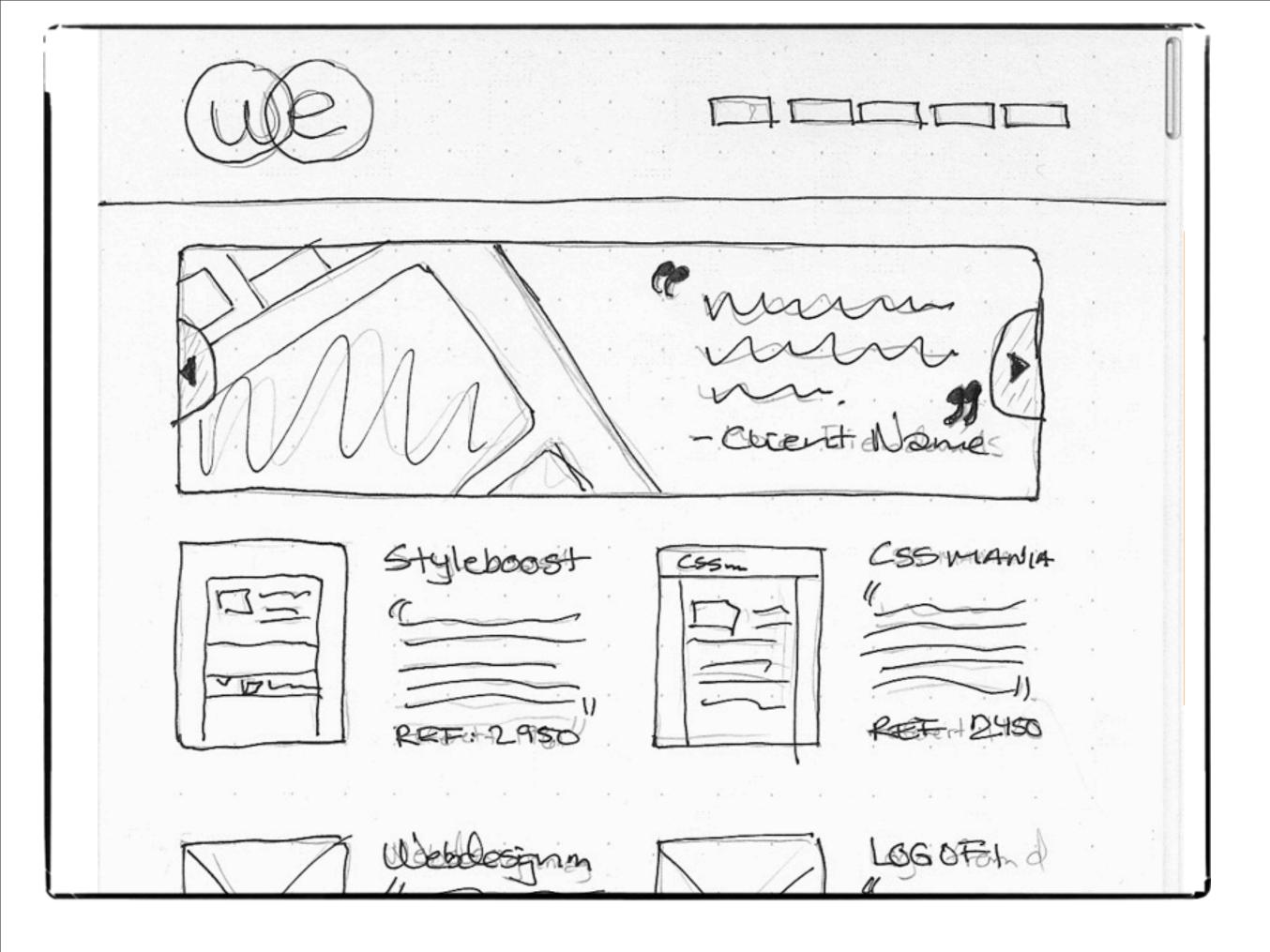
the *structure* and *content* of each page.



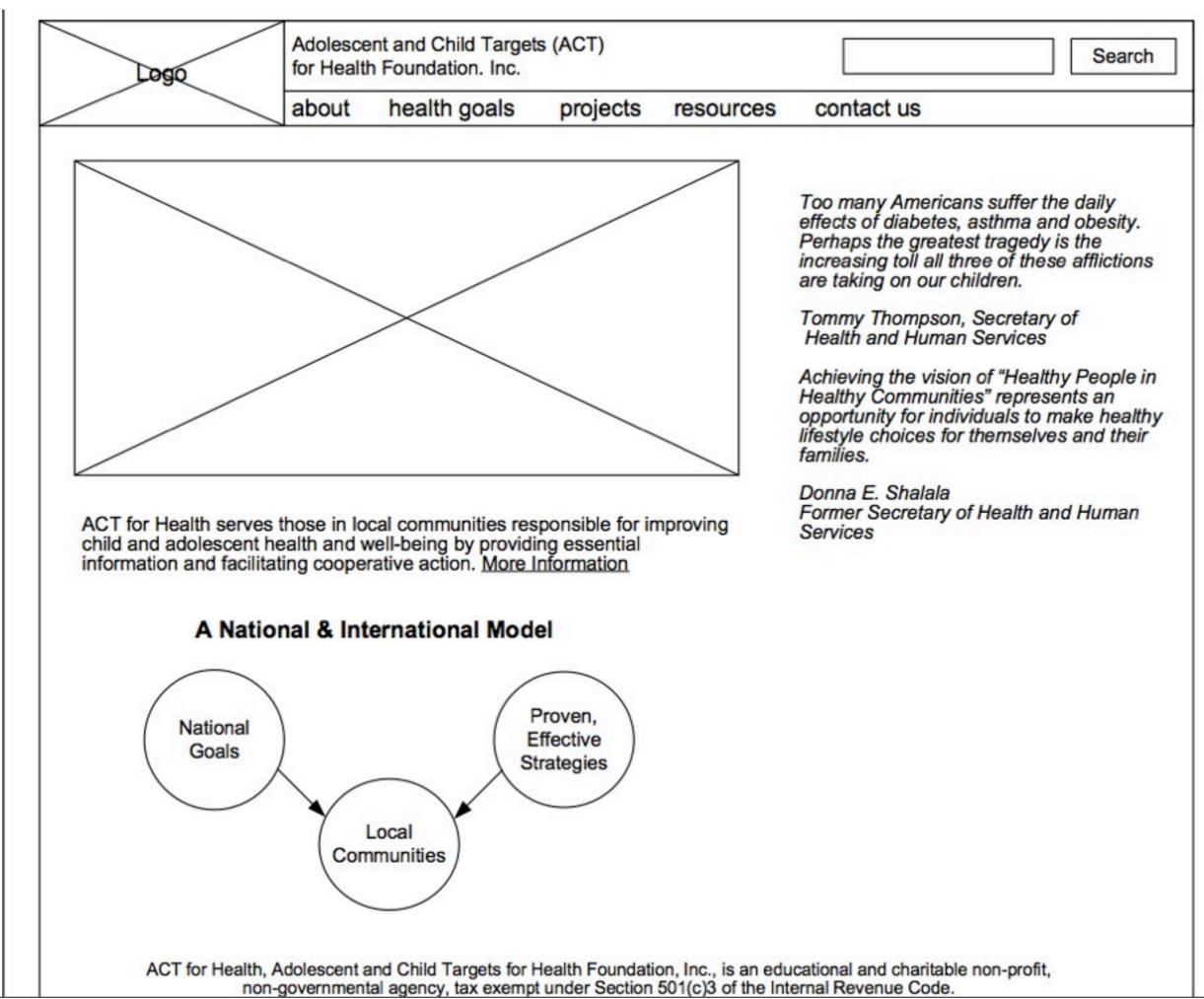
Helps shape the site without getting bogged down in what the final pages will *look like*.



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Drug Free Communities Program Monitoring and Management System	SAMHSA Logo	ONDCP Logo	Prev Platform	Page ID: 0 Page Title: home
Home Assessment Capacity Planning Implement	ntation Evaluation A	dministratio	n	
	an a suite ann an Anna an Anna an Anna	U	ser: Status Logout	Page Details
Animated graphic	Progree progree August Classif How to provid system new us Status a quick you ha	Messages: Progress Report - Your next progress report will be due August 14th. Classification report How to get started - this provides an overview of the system and instructions for new users. Status Report - this gives you a quick glance at the work you have completed and the work you need to complete.		 We are proposing that the main navigation roll down menus be removed. This is in response to the comments that the system seems disjointed and that the modules and sections seem "silo like." The main navigation links will now take the user to the module landing pages 1,2,3, etc. This will help to reinforce the relationship between the modules and sub sections.



No matter how fancy the wireframes are the point is always to show the *structure* of the page, not the actual design

Site map – Gives us the structure and scope of the entire website
Wireframe – Gives us the structure and content of individual sections and pages

Step 4: Design

Before diving into the design of the website, it's best to think of the overall design scheme



Step 4: Design

- What will your site look like?
- What colors will you use?



• What will be the overall feel of the site

Design

Create a Mood Board:

 The mood board gives us and idea of the design scheme of the site



Design: Mood Board

colors

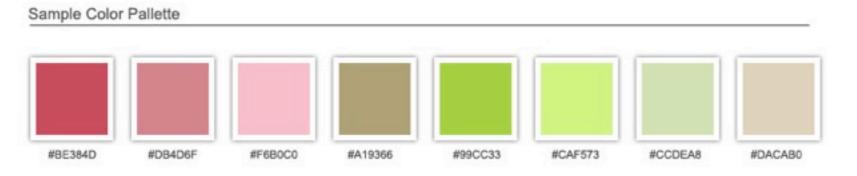
- textures and patterns
- fonts
- images
- possibly examples of similar





National Breast Cancer Foundation Website Mood Board

Version: KFv3



Sample Patterns & Textures



Sample Photography & Illustrations



Sample Typography

Help for today, hope for tomorrow!

Font: BlackJack Regular

National Breast Cancer Foundation

Designer Notes:

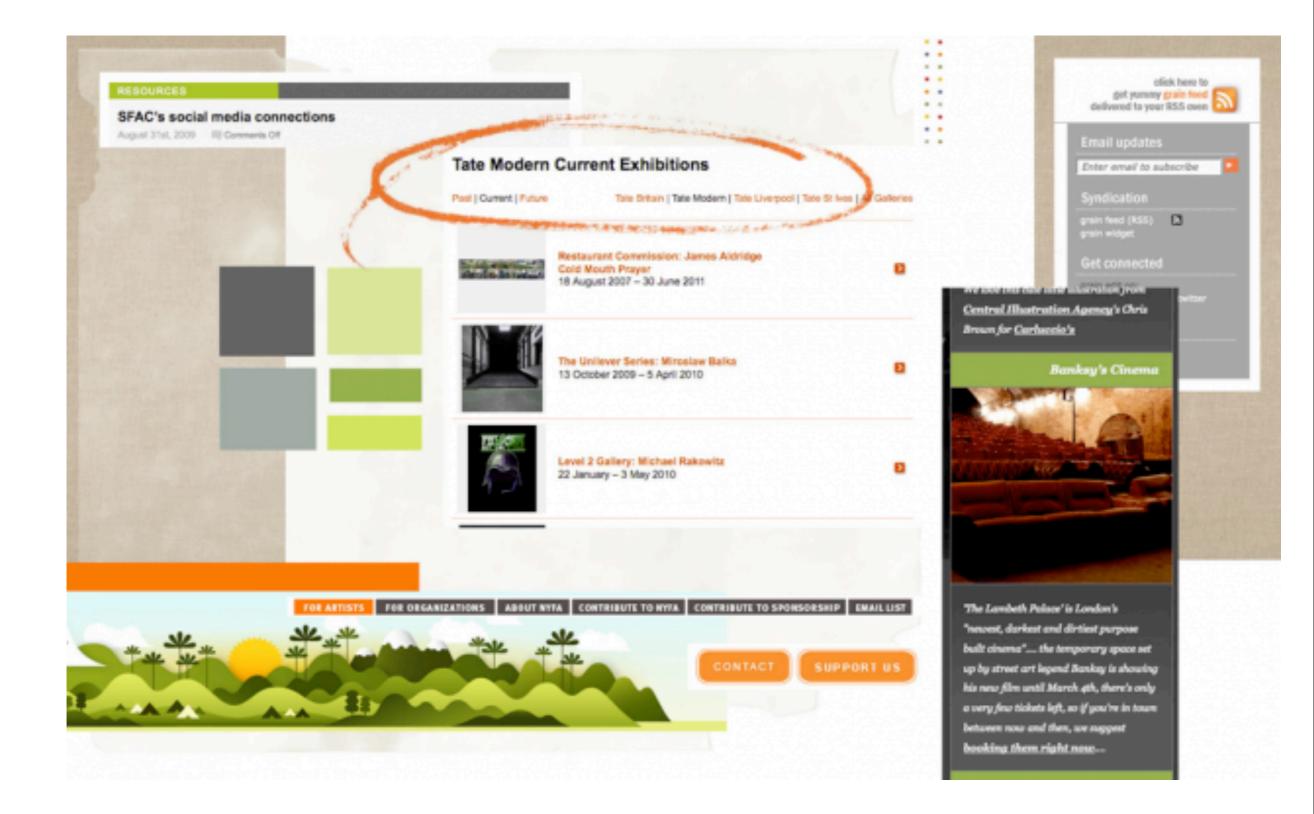
This concept uses a vibrant natural color palette ranging from deep rose and pink values to bright shades of green and tan. The use of these natural tones is intended to promote a feeling of health and well being in as well as to compliment the current branding.

Rich, vibrant photography with a focus on family and community coupled with natural patterns and shapes would add a contemporary feel to the overall design.

Fonts were chosen to keep the overall feeling of the design comfortable and informal. San serif fonts were specifically chosen for page content as they are generally easier to read.

Other Design Elements





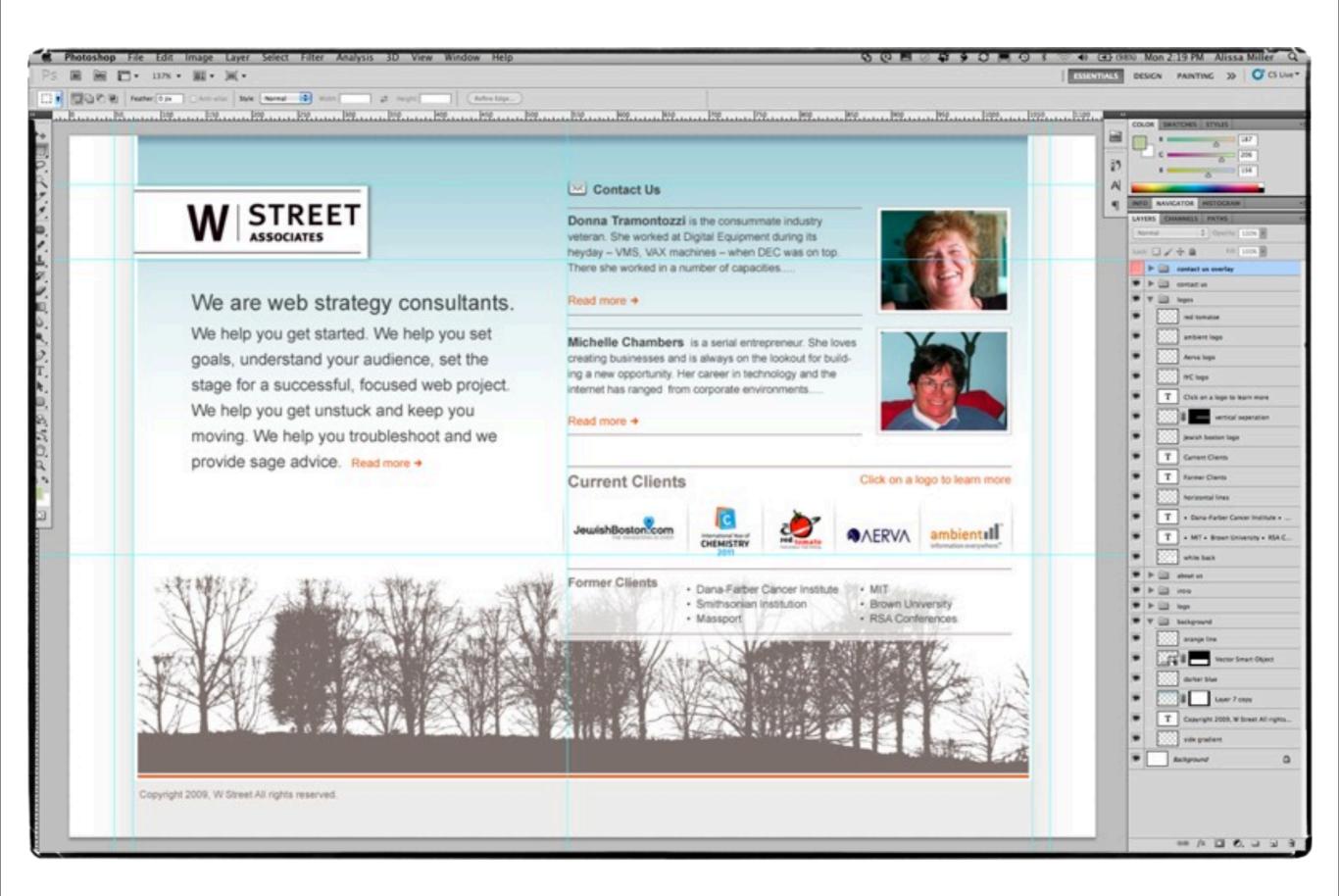
Design

Create your site in Photoshop:

• Focus on the details



• Don't get bogged down in code



Step 5: Production



Step 5: Production

Code the site

- XHTML and CSS
- Use design images from Photoshop mockup
- LAUNCH!! (Upload and test!!)