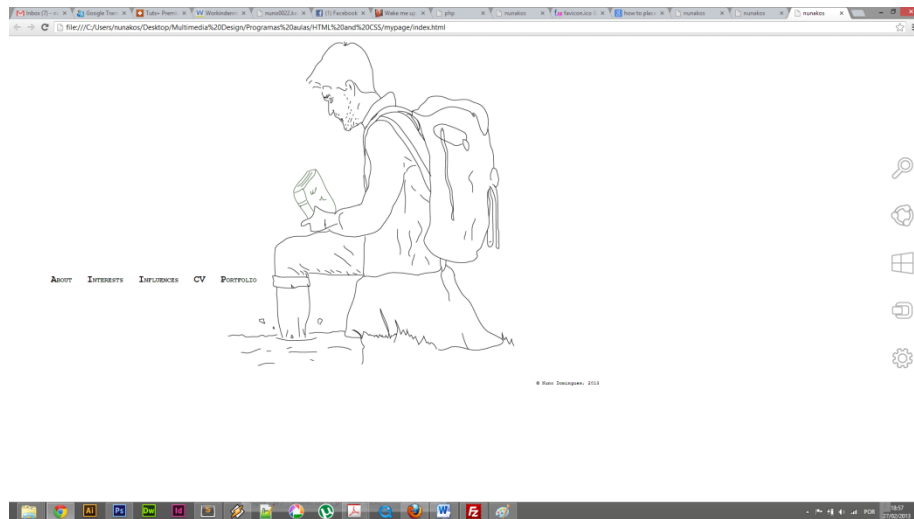
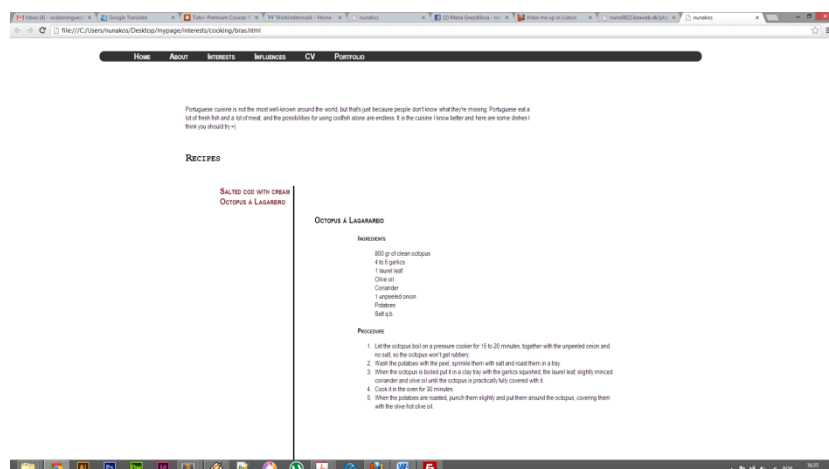


Designing my webpage: Nuno_Domingues



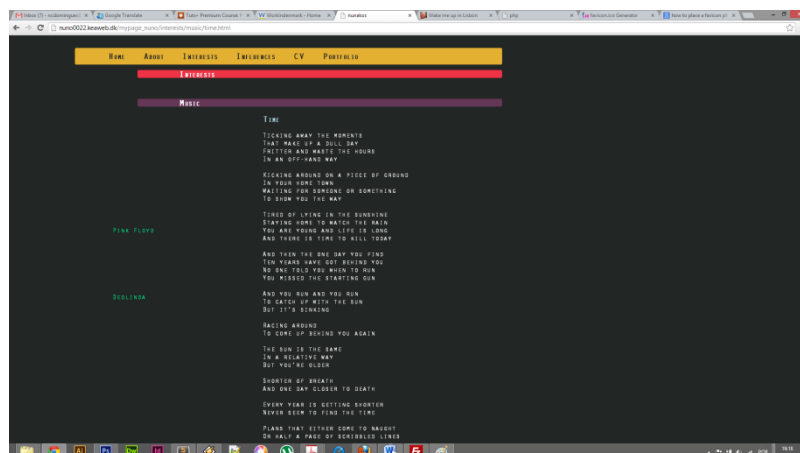
1

I started by creating a different layout for my homepage, where I just wanted a subtle picture or drawing with a navigation menu, more to the bottom of the page and my nametag (1,4). The rest of the pages would all possess the same layout, a different one, with the main navigation bar on top and a folder file type of display. I started with a plain white background and using fonts like *Arial Narrow* and *Courier New* (2). This was actually for a reason. I do use *Arial Narrow* a lot when I'm working, even though it's not the most readable font, I just like it. *Courier New* was because I also used to use it a lot when I was a kid and thought it would be a good simple font for headings and navigation. It would also give a typewriter basic feel to it. And I was thinking of leaving it to enhance contrast from homepage to folded information, because it's a simpler style, more like me I guess. The navigation bar for the rest of the pages would be too in *Courier New*.



2

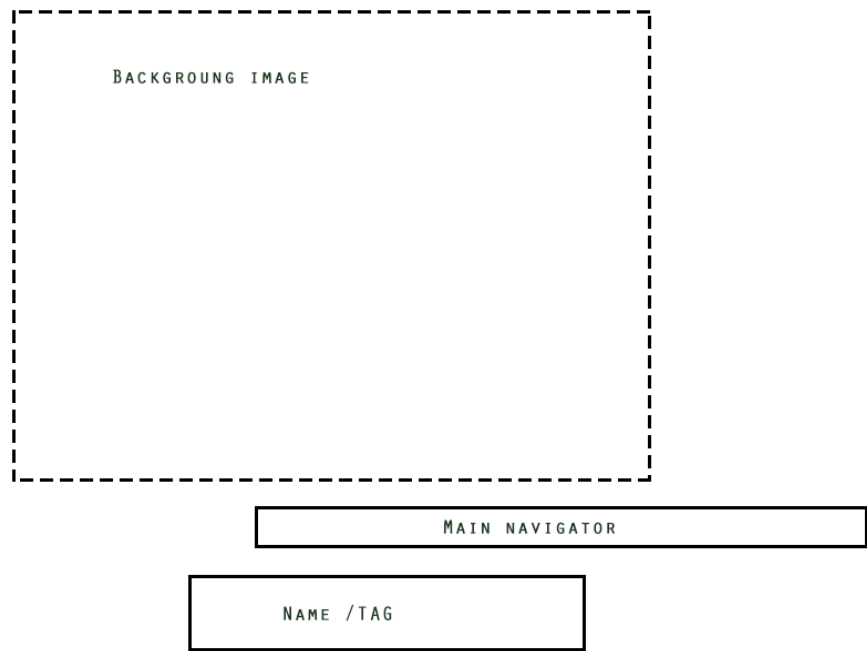
I then realized that, while I liked the simple design style, it reminded me too much of what I've been used to do when working with science reports and articles. Black on white and a bit boring. I did like the composition though, although it still reminded me of the folder/file style of Windows OS. I decided to make my background dark gray and use white fonts instead, and I maintained the *Arial narrow* in the final homepage, I changed the headings and some important links to *Orator Std* on the other pages. With this I wanted to give the impression of being on an old computer display. Then I started adding color to headings and some link words to give it a more modern and happy style. I wanted to give each heading its own style, so in the *About* page I gave the old computer command line colors, in the CV just some kind of retro bright blue/green with simple dark-blue fonts. This reminds me of some videogames I used to play. Sometimes I decided not to use headings, but maintained shortcuts in other places like the main navigation bar, which is always present. Colour contrast was in my mind while choosing font colors and filling headlines mainly. While the fonts aren't always the most perceptible possible, I just liked them like this and as this is my webpage I think I should be allowed to use them. Only when there is heavy text I went by the most readable, and still I went with *Arial narrow*.



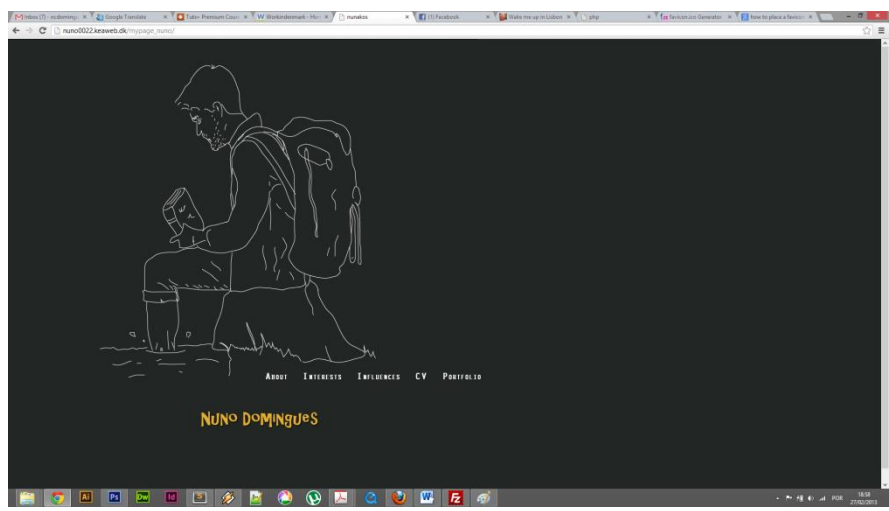
3

In terms of composition I thought broadly, and I've put a content gathered into an Interests folder. I will likely be updating this section with other things, especially things about biotechnology, graphics, design, videogames, and other things that I like. In influences I want to take a similar approach maybe, but for now I just have put the content there to give an idea of what I will be doing, maybe links for pictures or websites. The yellow rectangle on top of the name footer is meant to look like a strap marker coming out from a folder case (a real one). It is also supposed to give the idea that there is something missing in content or that more content is to be added. The added content however is not supposed to be too long. The idea is to

put everything I would like to mention organized in some way.
Summing it up, I ended up with the final homepage (4,5):



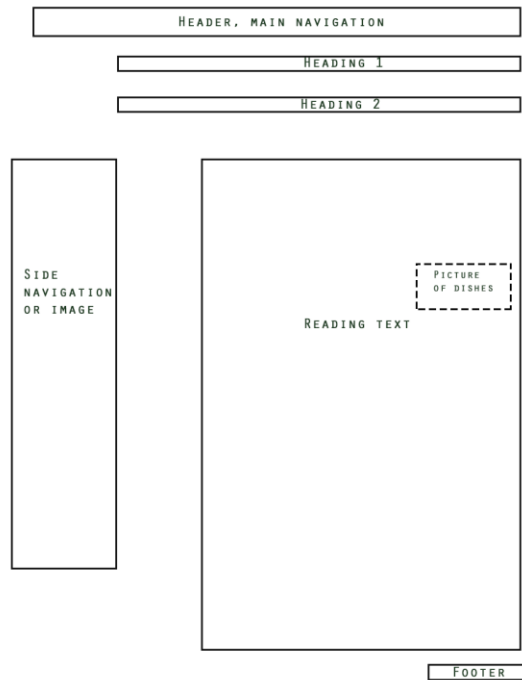
4



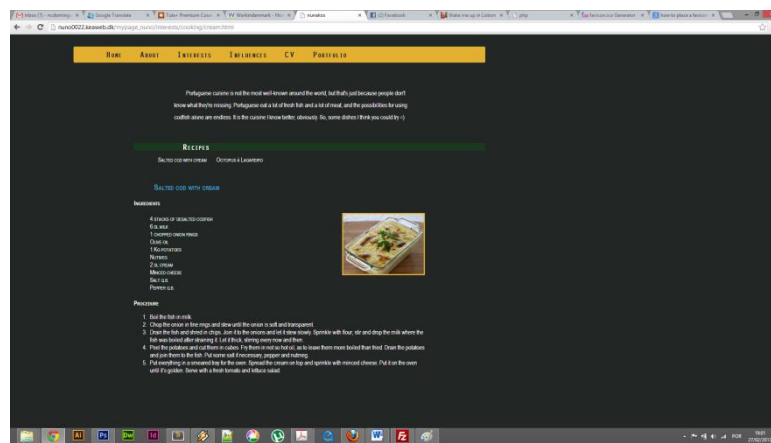
5

In the recipes (7) and music sections the overall asymmetry of the website is obvious (layout for other pages, 6 and 3), while in the homepage you never really focus on anything in particular, except you end up clicking

on some other page, hopefully... From there you go to the wished page. The recipes section is just meant to be cozy. The influences section was a way of showing which ideas shaped my way of being, somehow, and a way to show an image gallery, as I don't really know what to put in the portfolio page yet. It was a basic way of placing previously *Photoshop* edited images in blocks.

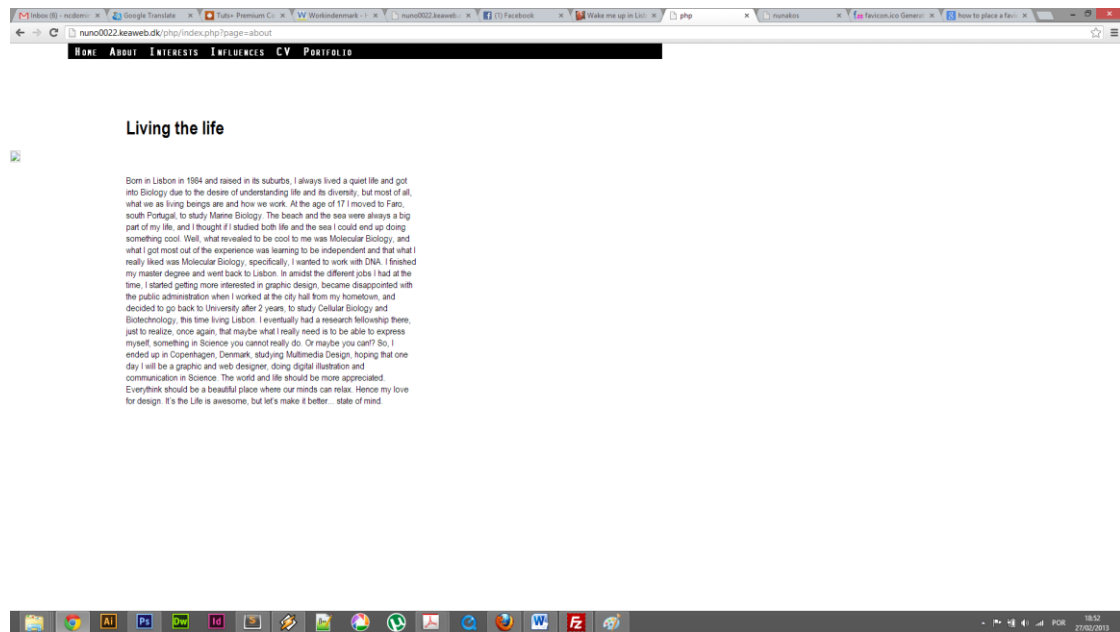


6



7

And finally, with the basic *php* I managed to do, for something almost completely different. And showing I didn't get to put images showing, although I like it more like this too. And that's how far I've got to style it, which I hope to get better at later.



8

- Resolution was set to 1024px width, to fit most screens, even though first I was trying to make it wider to allow for better resolution. Still, I dropped it. And didn't think about phones or tablets as I don't have one to try while I experimented with the code. It is however working in all main browsers of desktop computers (didn't try Opera).
- I still would have liked to use a higher and better resolution, because soon the 1024x768 resolution will not be the most common one on people's computers. Other thing I will try next time is to do a cleaner style sheet.
- I never intended to use symmetric compositions either. And I try to obey the laws of Gestalt as much as I could. See schematics (4,6).
- *Index.html* page is the homepage (5). The name tag in it was the only display typography I used as an image. Name tag was done on *Photoshop* using transparency and saving as *PNG-24* (5).
- I edited my drawings or external images on *Photoshop* to the size I wanted them to show on the website. In the influences pictures, I cropped them all to the same size and made them look the same with some inner glow and dissolving effects.
- Main external CSS document is *about.css* in about folder. *Index.css* was used only for homepage.
- Reading typography was normally *Arial Narrow* except for the lyrics section where I went with the not so readable one *Orator std*, which I used headings and sub-headings and navigation (display and consultation typography).
- Gestalt laws:
 - . **Figure/ground**: The dark-gray background is the ground, all the rest is supposed to pop out from it, particularly headlines.
 - . **Proximity**: block and empty elements were placed in a way as to show they were related.
 - . **Continuity**: just scroll down the page or follow the main navigator. The footer element gives the idea things will be over only when it's seen (also **Closure**).
 - . **Closure**: The homepage is meant to be seen as one big element. Then there is the footer yellow strap which also provides closure in the way it indicates the there's not more to see on that page.
 - . **Similarity**: Things look pretty much the same in every page so the user doesn't think he has gone somewhere completely different, only changing colours for emphasized headings.
 - . **Contrast**: It was basically just colour contrast. And colour and size contrast on the homepage.

I managed to put the *php* galley working, but still needs work (9). As I will probably be using the *php* version instead in the future, I've started putting there some images just to try it.

