Edits – Customise a WordPress Site

For this Learning Activity I have customised the WordPress theme "Hitchcock" by Anders Norén. This theme is described as "a minimal portfolio theme for designers, photographers and other creatives. It features a beautiful responsive design, a social icon menu, Jetpack infinite scroll, custom accent color, custom header image, support for gallery post format, editor styling and much more" (https://wordpress.org/themes/hitchcock/).

Changes I have made to the theme are the following:

General
A little while back I made myself a logo, in which I use the two colours #0096CA (a light blue) and #21556D (a dark blue), and the web font Mirza. Since I'm thinking of maybe using this theme for my own portfolio assignment, I wished to include this logo, and thus let the website design be inspired by this. So, as a general rule, I've set headings to Mirza, and mainly use the dark blue as its colour (with a couple exceptions). I think this dark blue works well since it isn't so saturated that it pops too much, but it still integrates well with the overall design and look.

To go with Mirza, I have chosen the sans serif font Myriad Pro – and have set this as my body copy font.

I moved my Navigation Menu from the center to the left, lining up with the blog content below. I then set the font to Mirza and the dark blue as well, and when you hover over it, the respective page's colours changes to the light blue. The current page is set to the light blue and is underlined. This "current page" feature was one I added myself, as this was not in the Hitchcock theme from before. In addition to this I decided to remove the "/" between the pages in the menu, since I didn't really feel they added anything.

I also removed the "search" field from the navigation menu. Since there won't be that many posts/pages on the website, I simply don't find it necessary.

When using a logo instead of text in my header, I first thought the content fell too far down on the page, so I decreased the padding above and below the logo to work around this issue. Finally I added my logo to the site icon, because this really adds the little extra to the site.

Content
I chose to make the post sections fill the entire width of the page, and set the width of the content itself to 60%. I think the width of the content as it originally was, was a little too narrow - I like having it set to 60%, as it allows me to have larger photos. When I had the content background fill the entire width of the page, I also got rid off the gradient overlay on the background image.

Blockquote
Changed this font to Mirza as well, and made it slightly larger. Removed the background box that was around/behind the text, and use the css code "clear: both" to make sure it jumps to the next line, and nothing is placed on either side of it. Made a text-transform to uppercase letters, and changed the colour to the light blue. This makes it pop a lot more, and I think it creates an interesting look.

Credits
I removed some of the text, changed the font to Mirza, and the colour to dark blue. These are just a few small adjustments that I think made the credits look a bit nicer, and not stand out as much as they previously did.

Social Menu

The social menu used to be placed right below the logo on the top of the page (below the primary menu), but I moved it to the footer, right above the credits. I also changed the background colour of these buttons to the dark blue I've been using. I didn't like it on top as I thought the content was pushed to far down on the page, and I also don't need my visitors to run off to my social media accounts straight away. Changing the background colour to blue was something I did to also have it blend better with the credits. And when hovering the icons, their background colours turn light blue.

Plugins in use

Instagram Feed WD

I'm not sure if I'll keep this plugin, I'll probably change it to something else, but the changes I've made here are: Navigation buttons have been made smaller, and as for other headings/buttons, the colour has been changed to the dark blue, and Mirza.

Huge-IT Portfolio

The font used for the headings is again Mirza. The larger headings use the light blue colour, while smaller headings use the dark blue. The "View more" button (which links to my reports, or a different page on the site) has the same blue background, and type written in white with Mirza.

Contact Form 7

Labels, submit button's background, and the "thank you" message after submission have all been changed to Mirza and the dark blue.

In short

I imported the web font Mirza and used this for headings and blockquotes. Myriad Pro is used for body copy. A light and a dark blue have been used to colour headings, buttons, etc. The blog's width is changed and so is the content's, search field is removed, and the social menu bar is moved to footer. I think these changes have customised the website quite a bit. And adding a few plugins has in my opinion made this look like a pretty neat portfolio.