Books and Websites

For your book and website, answer the following as a group:

BOOK:

• What's the book? Who wrote it and when?

• What's the most interesting / memorable aspect of the book to you (so far)?

• How is the book organized? Describe the general structure.

• Why do you think it was organized this way? What purpose does it serve?

• Share with us at least three interesting typographic moments in the book, and why they are notable to your group.

• How are these details related to (or different than) the website version?

WEBSITE:

• What's the website? Who made it and when?

• How is the website organized? Describe the structure of pages and links.

• Why do you think it was organized in this way? What purpose does it serve?

• Share with us at least three interesting typographic moments in the website, and why they are notable to your group.

• How are these details related to (or different than) the book version?

• Which parts of the website do you appreciate the most? Why?

BOOK ↔ WEBSITE:

• What are your favorite design decisions / details in the translation from book to website or vice versa? Share at least two.

• Why do you imagine the person who created the website / book made these design decisions?

Examples

This class began in sharing a few websites that are translations from books:

(1) Pattern Language Index

https://www.patternlanguageindex.com

Based on the book *A Pattern Language*
by Christopher Alexander, Sara Ishikawa, and Murray Silverstein, 1976.

Website (designed & developed) by Jenn Sheer, 2024.

More links:
• https://jennscheer.com — Jenn Sheer's portfolio
• https://www.instagram.com/p/DGmuZyUMPXH — IG post about project
• https://github.com/singleportrait/a-pattern-language — Source code

(2) Wada Sanzo

https://sanzo-wada.dmbk.io

Based on the book *A Dictionary of Color Combinations*
by Sanzo Wada, 1918.

Website (designed & developed) by Dain Blodorn Kim, 2018–present.

More links:
• https://dain.kim — Dain Blodorn Kim's portfolio
• https://github.com/dblodorn/sanzo-wada — Source code

(3) Whole Earth Index

https://wholeearth.info

Based on the periodical "The Whole Earth Catalogue"
published by Stuart Brand and the POINT Foundation, 1968–2002.

Website executively produced by Barry Threw, with sponsorship and
facilitation from Gray Area. Content digitization and hosting by the Internet
Archive. Site design and development by Jon Gacnik, in collaboration with
Mindy Seu. Publications donated by Fred Collopy, Kevin Kelly, Danica Remy,
Howard Rheingold, and the Long Now Foundation, 2023.

More links:
- https://longnow.org/ideas/the-lasting-whole-earth-catalog/ — About
- https://grayarea.org/initiative/whole-earth-redux — About forthcoming book
- https://www.instagram.com/p/CyWST2yLRm_ — IG post about project
- https://ia802307.us.archive.org/9/items/Index_20180423/Index.html — More

(4) Indeterminacy

https://www.lcdf.org/~eddietwo/indeterminacy/

Based on the books *Silence* and *A Year from Monday*
by John Cage

Website created by Eddie Kohler, 1997-98. Kohler writes, "John Cage was an American composer, Zen buddhist, and mushroom eater. He was also a writer: this site is about his paragraph-long stories – anecdotes, thoughts, and jokes. As a lecture, or as an accompaniment to a Merce Cunningham dance, he would read them aloud, speaking quickly or slowly as the stories required so that one story was read per minute. This site archives 190 of those stories. Each story is spaced out, as if it were being read aloud, to fill a fixed area. If you like, you can also read them aloud at a rate of one a minute. The stories are taken from two of Cage's books, *Silence* and *A Year from Monday*, and from the Folkways recording of him reading 90 of them aloud as David Tudor plays piano (among other things)."

More links:
- https://johncage.org/indeterminacy.html — Website on John Cage Trust
- https://www.amazon.com/Indeterminacy-Ninety-Stories/dp/B00VGIAACI — Book version from Edition Peters, edited by Kohler, 2022

(5) Perfume Area

Book based on website https://perfume-area.com
by Laurel Schwulst & Sydney Shen, 2013–present.

Book published by Ambient Works, 2015.

More links:
- https://perfume-area.com/projects/perfume-area-book — About the book
- https://laurelschwulst.com/medium/world/perfume-area — More projects
- https://cmagazine.com/articles/perfume-area-by-laurel-schwulst-and-sydney-shen — Book review