

VISUAL INTERFACE DESIGN

Five Easy Pieces

PIECE #1: PHYSICAL CUBE

Starting with a cube, design an interactive object that you think best communicates the following uses. The cube should look as though you can:

- rub it
- turn it
- squeeze it

The cube can be no bigger than six inches in any dimension. You may add or subtract from the cube, but it has to remain cube-like. Other shapes may be used as long as they play a secondary role. You may also use color, texture, material as well as a relative context. For example, the final solution might be a green fuzzy cube with little circular nibs placed on the floor.

[Courtesy Chris Pacione]

Due Date: Monday, January 17

PIECE #2: DIGITAL CUBE

Starting with a square, design an interactive, on-screen image that best communicates all of the following uses. The square should look as if one should/can:

- turn it
- move or drag it
- rub on it

The square can be no larger than 80x80 pixels. Like the physical cube, you can add or subtract from it, but the final solution has to be based on the image of a square (and should look squareish and not roundish). However, circular or triangular shapes may be used in support of the design. You should also consider how animation, sound, color, and texture can be used as cues.

[Courtesy Chris Pacione]

Due Date: Monday, January 24

PIECE #3: 1000-FLOOR ELEVATOR

Design an elevator for a building with 1000 floors. Not an elevator system, a single elevator that can travel from the ground floor to the 1000th floor. I expect you to address at least the following:

- How a user selects a floor
- How the floors are displayed to those in the elevator

Your solution should be printed out and mounted on thick black paper for presentation.

[Courtesy John Zimmerman]

Due Date: Monday, January 31

PIECE #4: WEB FORM

TravelOverlord.com is a fictitious company that sells discount travel packages to college students. The company specializes in spring break and other vacation travel; they mainly sell packages, not individual flights.

In order to buy packages off the site, users will need to register themselves. This will allow the site to provide more personalized information and allow traveloverlord.com to get more information about their users (possibly to target advertising to them). Users are able to browse for trips before they register, but in order to purchase a package, they have to be registered.

For users, their goal is simple: get through this registration and onto the site as quickly and as effortlessly as possible.

TravelOverlord.com wants to collect the following information:

- Name
- Address
- City
- State
- Zip code
- School

Name and school are required. The other fields are optional.

Which three of these destinations do users want to know more about: Cancun, California, Ibiza, Mazatlan, Orlando, or New York City? Any places that aren't on this list?

How often do users take foreign vacations: Never? Once a year? Two-four times? More than four times?

Have users rank these five reasons they'd pick a vacation package: price, location, activities, weather, distance to travel.

Users should be signed up by default to receive emails with special package deals. They can turn this off, however. An email address is required to send the mail.

This form has to fit with the rest of the site, visually. The style guide is as follows:

- White (#FFFFFF) background
- Font: Verdana. 10pt for text, 12pt and bold for headlines. Black color (#000000) for most type, links are dark red (#B30000 or R: 179 G:0 B:0).
- Header: There is a 20 pixels tall, dark orange (#FF5500 or R:255 G:85 B:0) stripe that runs the entire width of the screen. In the left corner: Travel Overlord in Verdana, all caps, 12pt, black, vertically-centered on the stripe.
- Screen Dimensions: 800x600 pixels

Your solution should be printed out in color and mounted on thick black paper for presentation.

Due Date: Monday, February 7

PIECE #5: AMBIENT DEVICE

Design an ambient device that displays in some manner some sort of data (weather, time, stock market, fullness of the basement vending machines, etc.) in a calm, non-intrusive manner.

Bonus points for a solution that is not visual.

Your solution should be printed out and mounted on thick black paper for presentation.

Due Date: Monday, February 14