BUILDING A SMARTER WEB

Conversations with Architects about Drupal

Research, Documentation, and Process

Jeff Traynor, Solutions Architect

Good Architecture

Conversations with Architects about Drupal

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- **Firmatis**: It should stand up robustly and remain in good condition — it should be durable.
- **Utilitas**: It should be useful and function well for the people using it — it should be functional.
- **Venustatis**: It should delight people and raise their spirits — it should be beautiful.

History

Conversations with Architects about Drupal

Architecture

Web Development

History

Conversations with Architects about Drupal

Architecture

- The Craftsman

Web Development

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The (Obvious) Differences

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Friday, January 31, 14

The Role of Documentation

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The Role of Documentation

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Clarity

- “If you can’t explain it to a six year old, you don’t understand it yourself” – Albert Einstein

The Role of Documentation

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Accountability

- Budgets & Scope creep
- “Being an Advocate for the Owner”

The Role of Documentation

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Collaboration

- A shared understanding
- A tool creative process

Feasibility Study

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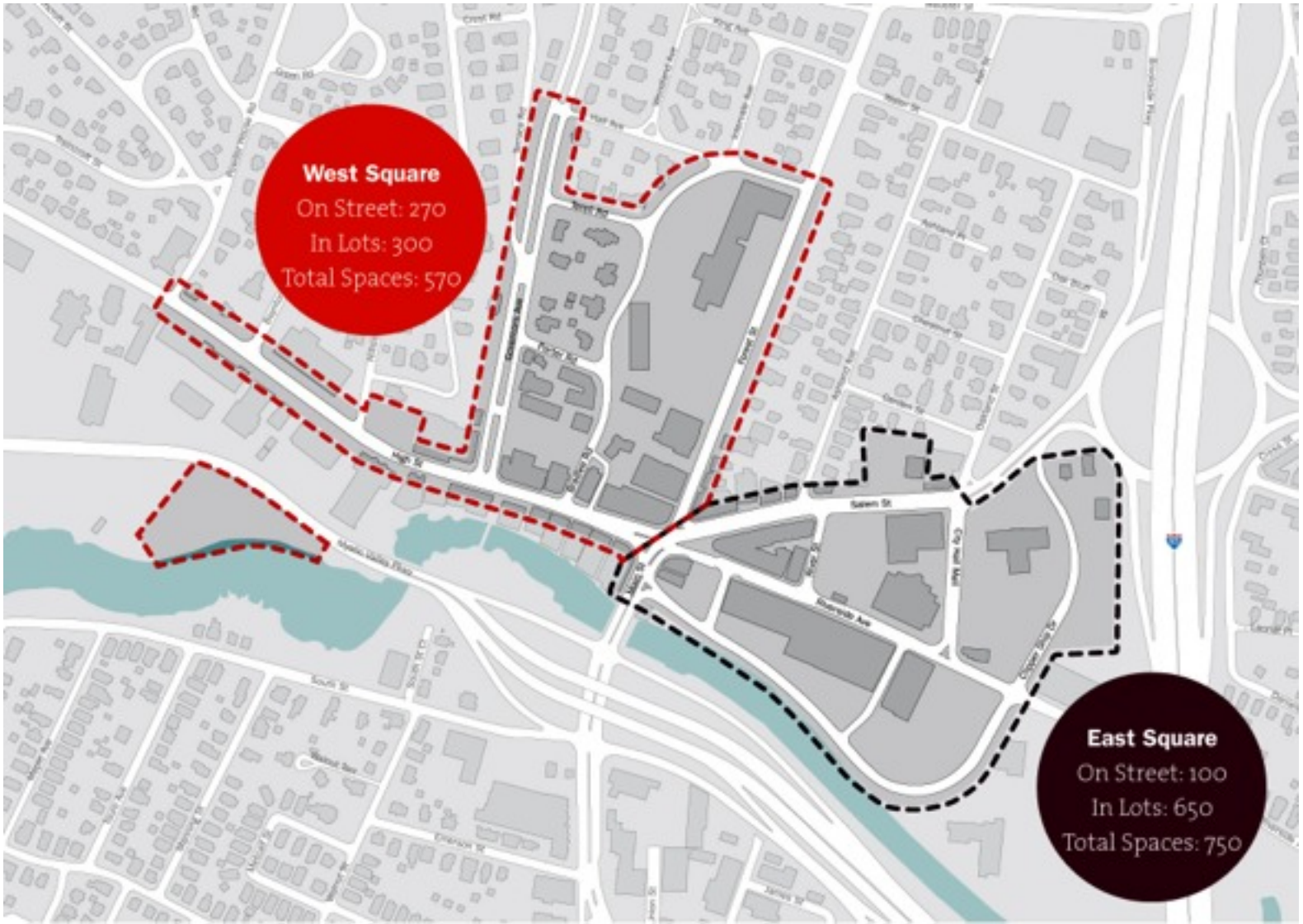

User Personas

Conversations with Architects about Drupal

Stanford | ENGINEERING

Persona: Meet *Hyung Choi Park* (grad student)

Category: Students

OVERVIEW

Full Name: Hyung Choi Park
Age: 26
Status: 2nd year Master's student
Technical Proficiency: Skilled with Google search, more reliant on site navigation, keen on texting and mobile devices
Social Media: Follows Stanford on Twitter and Facebook, actively uses Google+

CHARACTER and PERSONALITY

About Hyung

- Looking for an advisor in the School of Mechanical Engineering
- Struggling a little with the English language
- Looking for confirmation that he is on the right path
- His research interests are such that he feels he may need to create a new field of study when he pursues a Ph.D., but needs an advisor to confirm
- Very cross-disciplinary in his interests
- Confused by the many options available to him
- Uses step-by-step directions
- Seeking more guidance and counselling

GOALS

What experience is he looking for?

- He wants to feel like SoE understands his needs
- He wants to improve a process in the SoE that he feels could be made better for international students
- Wants to know if he is a good candidate to pursue a Ph.D. at Stanford, but at the same time worried about the time commitment of a doctorate degree

OBJECTIVES

What is Hyung trying to achieve?

- He wants to find a prof/advisor researching X
- He wants to watch a lecture by Prof X
- Wants to know when event X is happening
- Wants direction on how to pay for his studies
- Wants to know if he can study online for an entire semester so he can go back to his home country for a few months

PAIN POINTS

What frustrates him?

- It's difficult to find specific forms that he's required to fill out
- Can't easily find out where to get help from specific professors or other resources
- Can't easily find event information, especially when on a smartphone
- Unable to find contact information for professor X
- Finds the website's language unclear sometimes, especially for an ESL student

ACTIONS

What is Hyung wanting to do on the website?

ACTION	TASKS
"I want to be able to contact professors for help."	- I want to find prof X's office hours - I want to contact prof X - Who should I talk to if I have questions? - I want to find prof X's office on-campus
"I want to discover new events around campus."	- I want to know what SoE events I can attend - I want to attend X event
"I want to find student groups so that I can connect with other like-minded students."	- How do I join student group X? - I want to start a student group - What student groups can I join? - Are there any groups for ESL graduate students?
"I want to find more resources for international students like myself."	- I want a central location to find information for international students - I have a brother who wants to attend Stanford. What are the current criteria he must meet to be admitted as an international undergraduate student? - Can I accept a job as a Research Assistant (RA) as an international student?

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LAST UPDATE
Thu Aug 22 2013

Schematic Design

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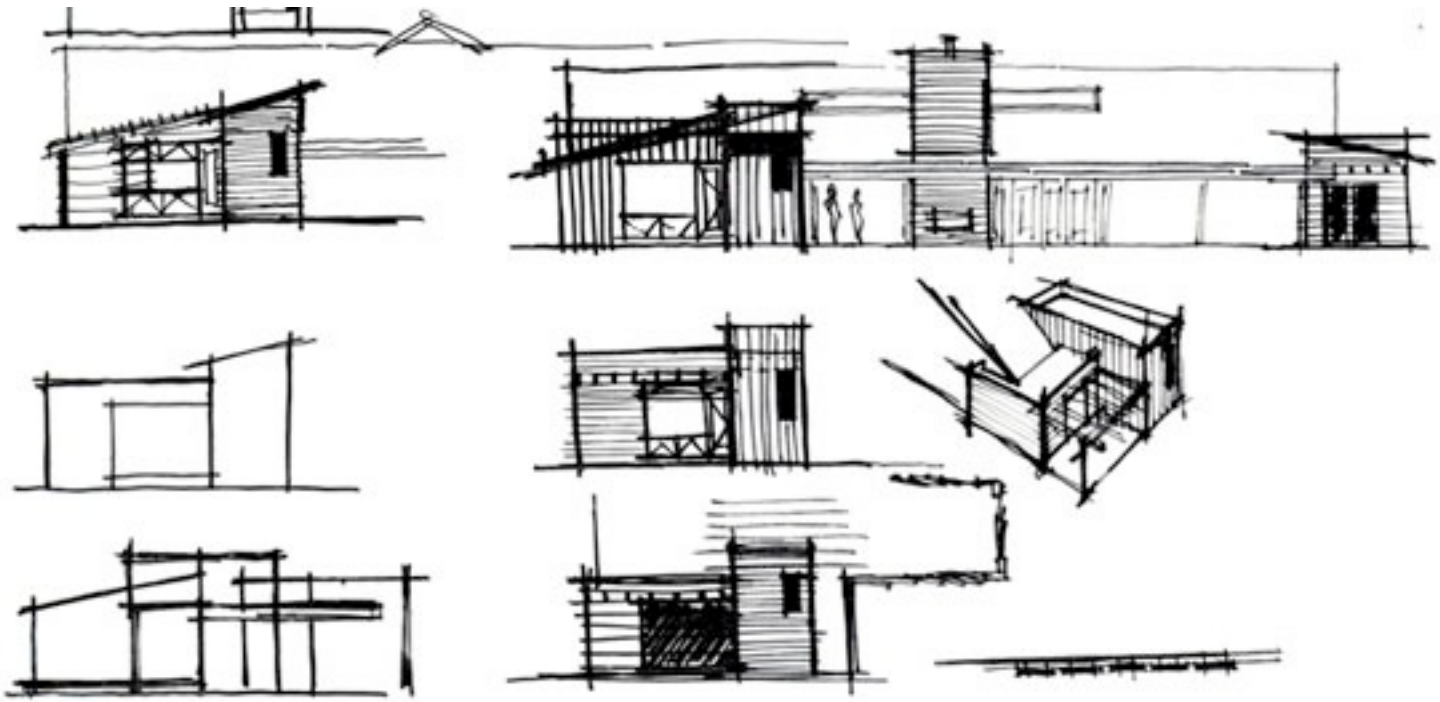

Information Architecture

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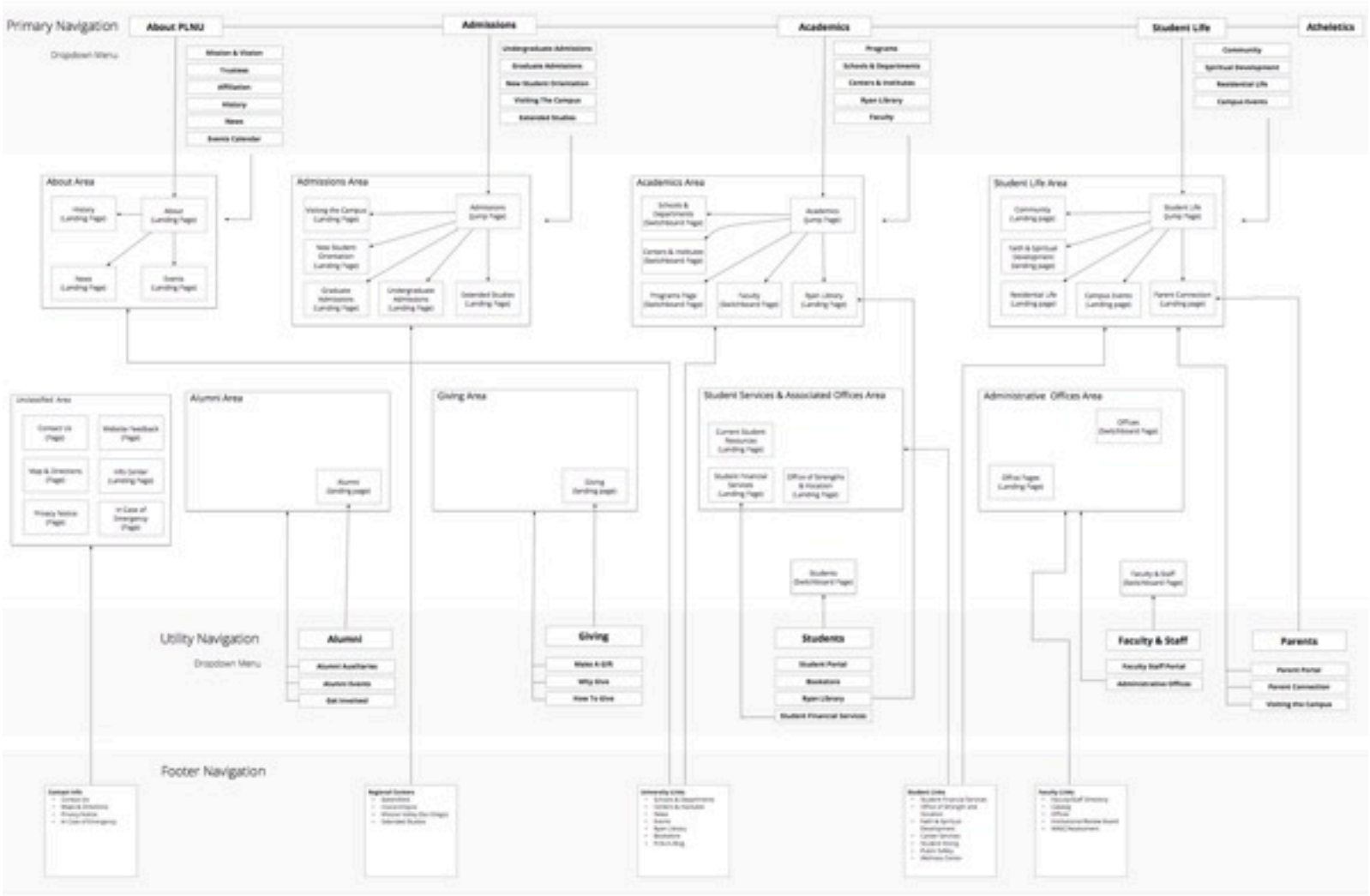

Design Development

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Wireframes

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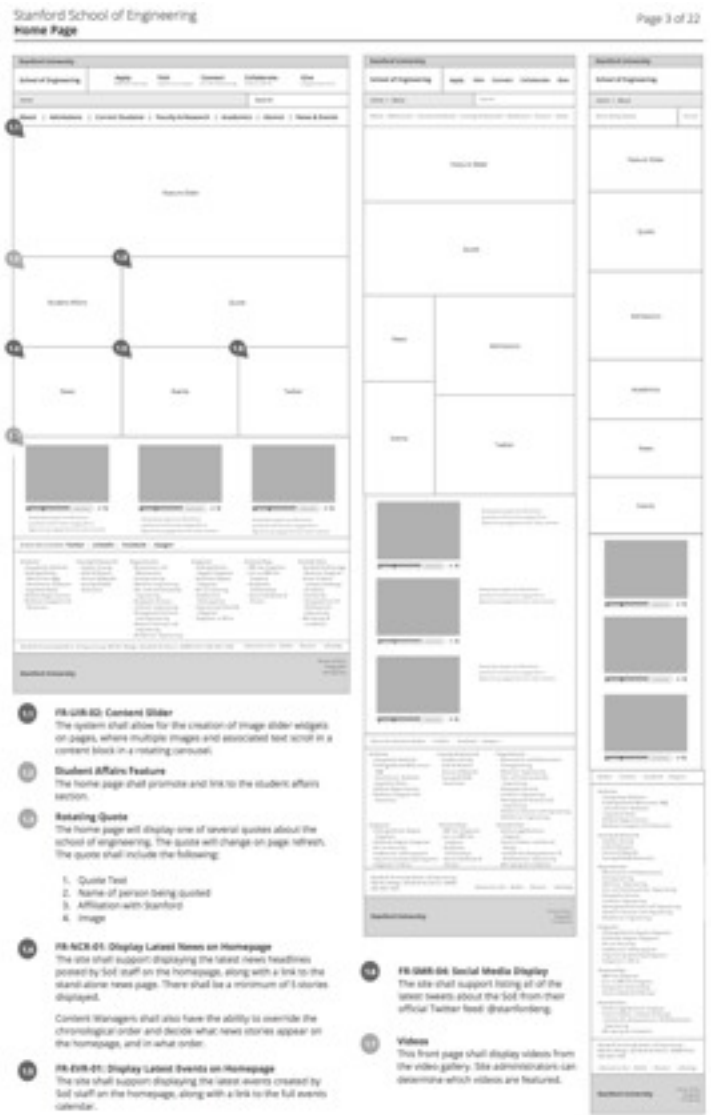

Construction Documents

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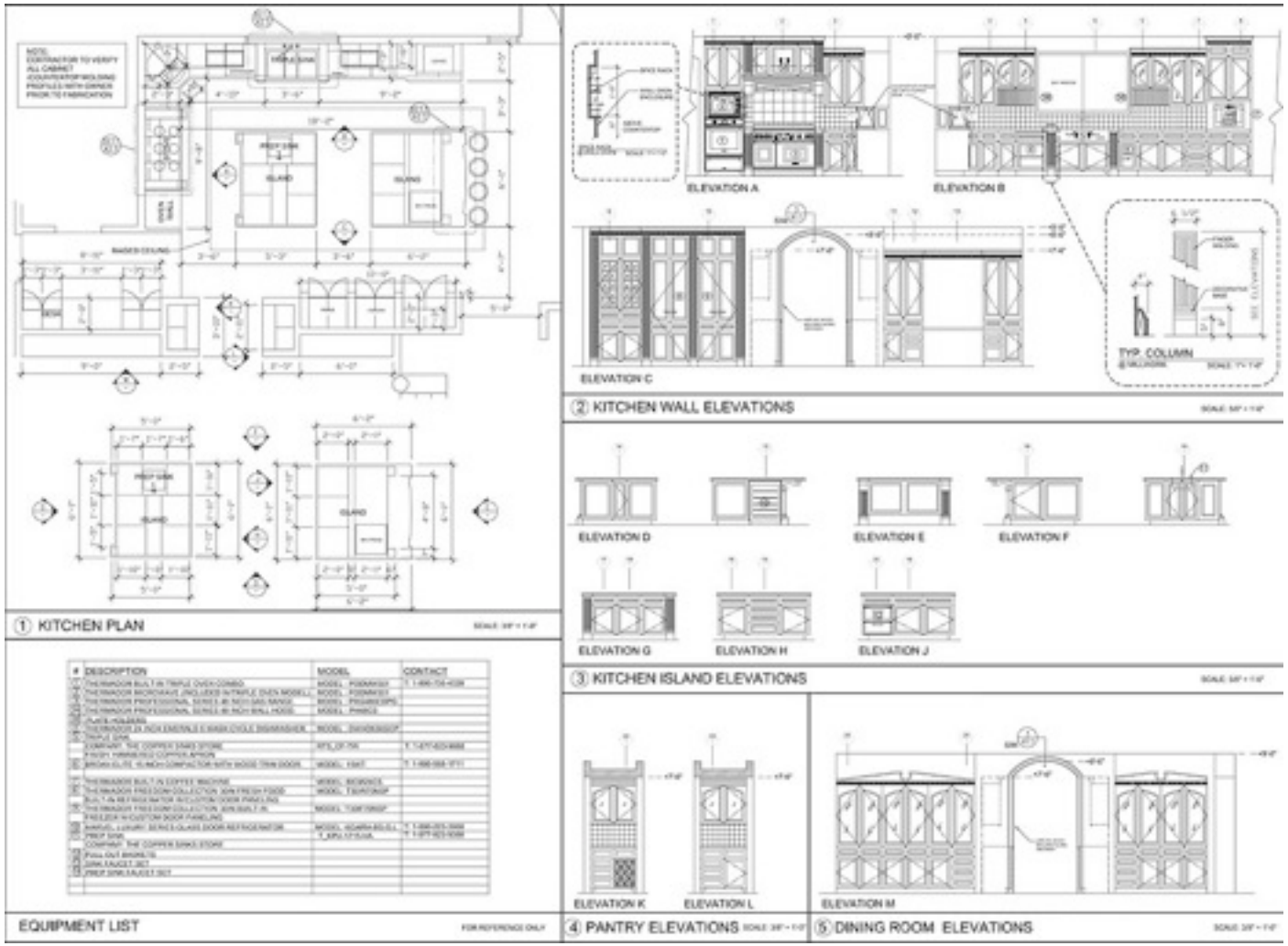

Design Mockups

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Contract Administration

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- Proprietary Specifications
- Performance Specifications

Technical Design Document

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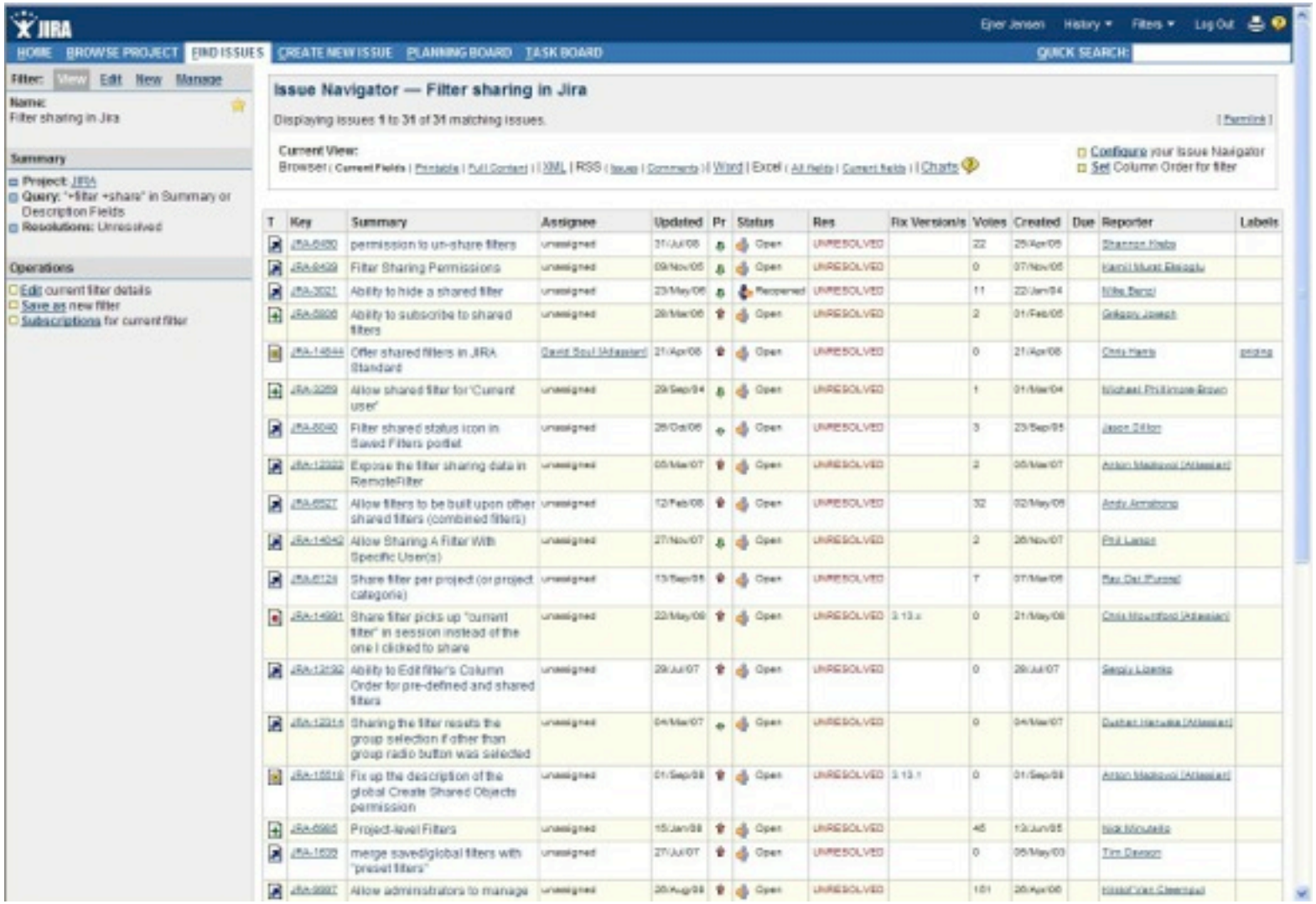

A Process Oriented Approach

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"Seek to understand a design problem before chasing after other solutions."

A Process Oriented Approach

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BUILDING A SMARTER WEB

"Don't force-fit solutions to old problems onto new problems."

A Process Oriented Approach

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BUILDING A SMARTER WEB

"Remove yourself from prideful investment in your project."

A Process Oriented Approach

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BUILDING A SMARTER WEB

"Be slow to fall in love with your ideas."

A Process Oriented Approach

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"Make design decisions conditionally, with the understanding that they might not work as you continue towards a solution."

A Process Oriented Approach

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BUILDING A SMARTER WEB

"Know when to change and when to stick to previous decisions."

A Process Oriented Approach

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"Accept as normal the anxiety that comes from not knowing what to do."

A Process Oriented Approach

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"Always ask 'What if...?' regardless of how satisfied you are with your solution"

A Process Oriented Approach

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"Properly gaining control of the design process feels like losing control of the design process."

A Process Oriented Approach

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"An improved design process is the most important thing you'll take with you to your next project."

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Thank You

Please get in touch at:
www.imagexmedia.com