



Wolfgang Maehr

Portfolio 2017

***Design must elevate,
not merely delight.***



Wolfgang Maehr

DIGITAL PROBLEM SOLVER × INTERACTION DESIGNER = PRODUCT CREATOR



We are living through the complete convergence of our physical and meta-physical worlds as this digital revolution advances. We all impact this profound transformation and thus carry responsibility for its outcome.

I want my life's work to have contributed to a more just, sustainable, free and vibrant world for all. I hope to achieve this by creating products and systems that treat all humans with respect, are interoperable and agile, open and distributed, sustainable and worth the effort.

A curious kid with a growing fascination for technology, I moved through software architecture into interaction design to create usable and useful digital products. Recently I have been working on industrialising software to achieve the same quality, predictability and scale as all other engineering disciplines.

I enjoy exploring and solving meaningful, complex and unconventional problems, diverse environments and fostering people.

Global perspective. Local actuation. Nomadic spirit.

Digital

Transformation

Architecting truly digital business operations

Product

Creation

Creating products for digital business operation

Interaction

Design

Designing how people will engage digitally

UI & Visual Design

Designing the surfaces of digital products



Digital Transformation & Product Creation



Digital Transformation & Product Creation

ARCHITECTING TRULY DIGITAL BUSINESS OPERATIONS

Software is eating the world. We're still only at the start of this fundamental shift and merely a fraction of organisations and people are able to keep up. We still have a long way to go until digital interactions are as accessible and omnipresent as electricity and industrially manufactured goods.

People have become used to a certain quality of engagement and service: multi-channel engagement, self-service, flexibility and customisation. Most non-digital organisations struggle doing this at scale.

At Gumbuya my responsibility was to help our customers to become truly digital:

1. **Provide a vision** for their truly **digital operation**.
2. **Elicit their operation model** and devise an **architecture and roadmap** for it.
3. **Design and develop products** enabling this digital operational model.

Examples

- Compliance Platform
- Inventory Management System
- Gumbuya Methodology
- Gumbuya Platform



Compliance Platform

DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION & PRODUCT CREATION — 1

2015–2016

Project Scope

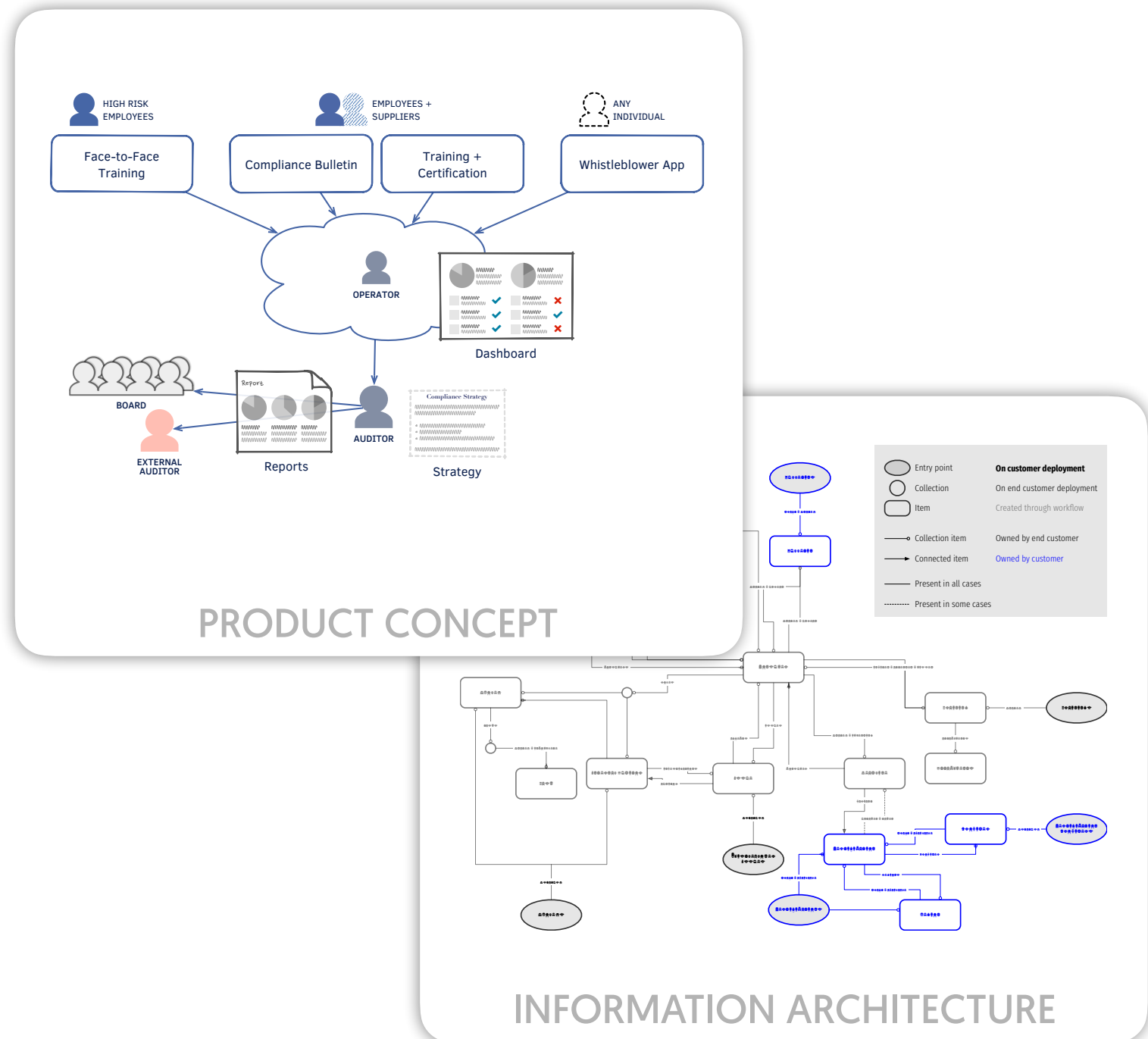
Helping the client CEO to transform from a pure consulting business to a hybrid product business by building some of their services as a SaaS product.

My Responsibilities

- Guiding conceptualisation, modelling and architecture of the product
- Creating the required bill of materials [specification] and estimated costing
- Leading the development of the product from a user and customer perspective

Challenges

- Defining meaningful roadmap, MVP and go-to-market
- Creating definite yet flexible processes to scale well across clients



Inventory Management

DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION & PRODUCT CREATION — 2

2016

Project Scope

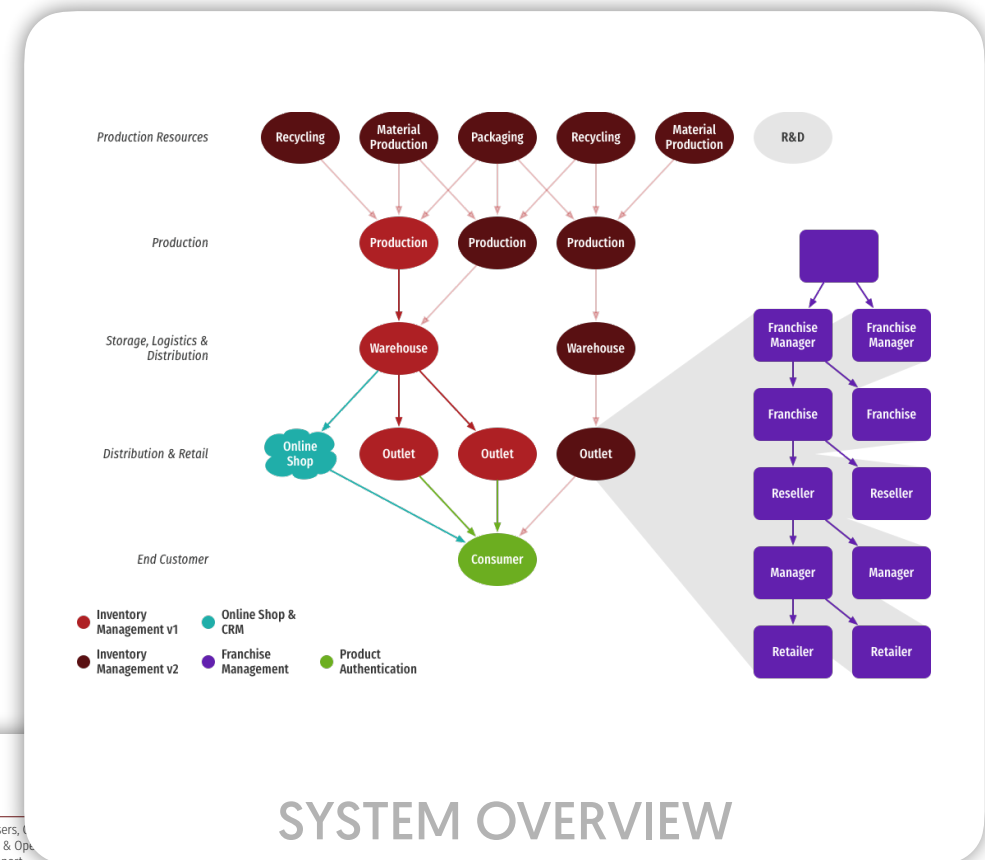
A luxury beauty and healthcare brand required a modern digital operational fabric from production planning, inventory management to logistics, point-of-sale and consumer engagement portal.

My Responsibilities

- Envisioning concept, fundamental architecture and capabilities
- Define and model the platform, estimate the cost and time of development

Challenges

- Architecting complex system with little customer input
- Building a feasible roadmap with bite-size updates



Aspect	Outcome	Costs
Gumbuya Platform Operating system to run the Client's applications.	Gumbuya Cloud Dedicated infrastructure (Gumbuya Vault) later.	Operation; Users, Development & Op Platform, Support
Foundation Services Common capabilities used in typical IT systems.	4 Foundation Services User Management, Authentication System, Notification Service, Export Service	Build: License, Customisation Operation; External infrastructure
Model Core architecture for all parts of the solution.	8 Custom Facets + 4 Foundation Services	Build: Stage 0, further Conceptualization and Scoping in later stages
Custom Facets Build of all the custom facets and their facilities.	8 Custom Facets: 15 Facilities	Build: Stages A-E
Integrations Third party integrations needed for Custom Facets.	6 Integrations Validation Generator, Validator, POS, Online Shop, CRM, Payment System	Build: Integration work Operation; Infrastructure charges
Analytics & Reporting Track, analyze and report system and user activity.	250* Analytics + 26* Reports *Estimate	Build: Stages A-E

Gumbuya Methodology

DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION & PRODUCT CREATION — 3

2015–2017

Project Scope

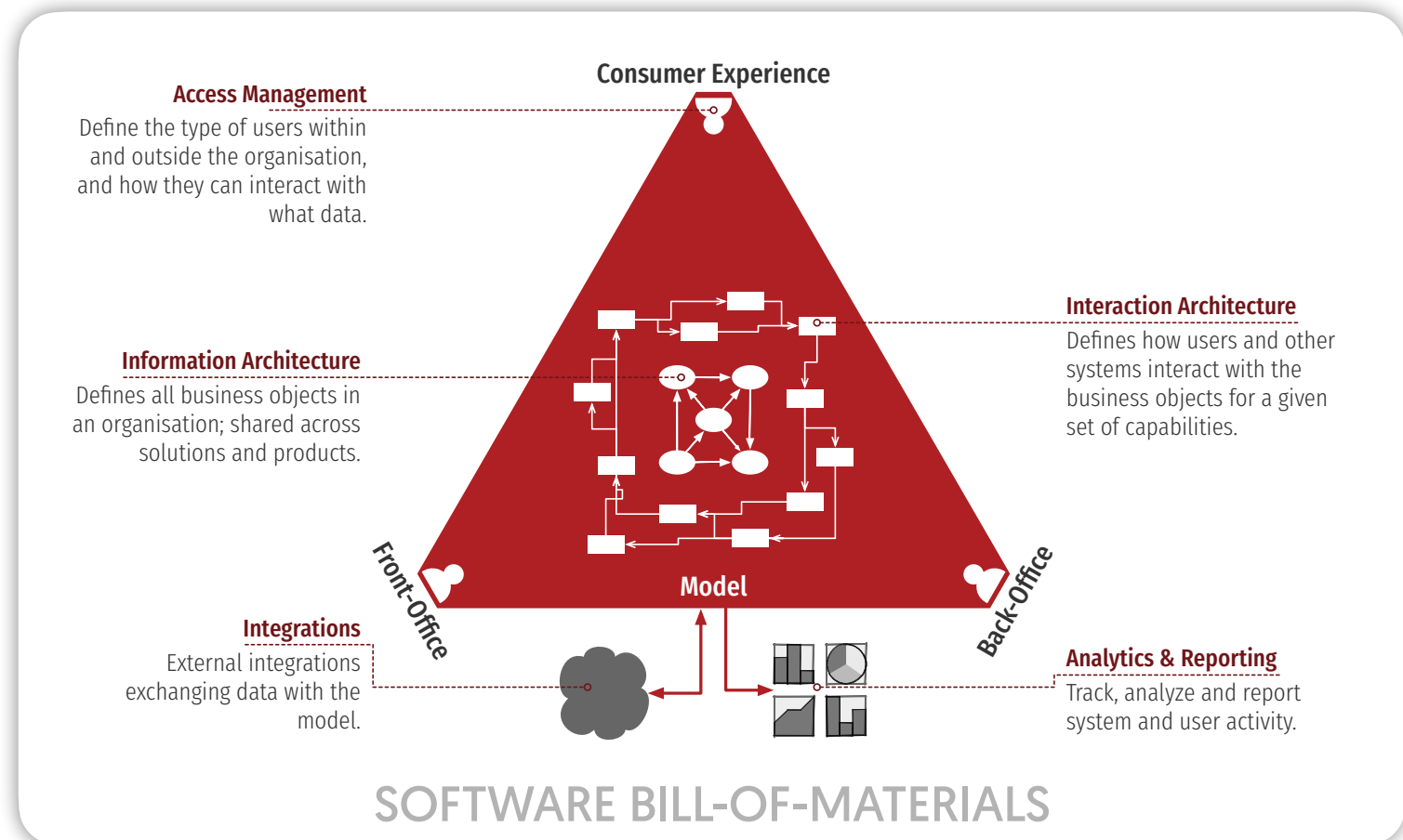
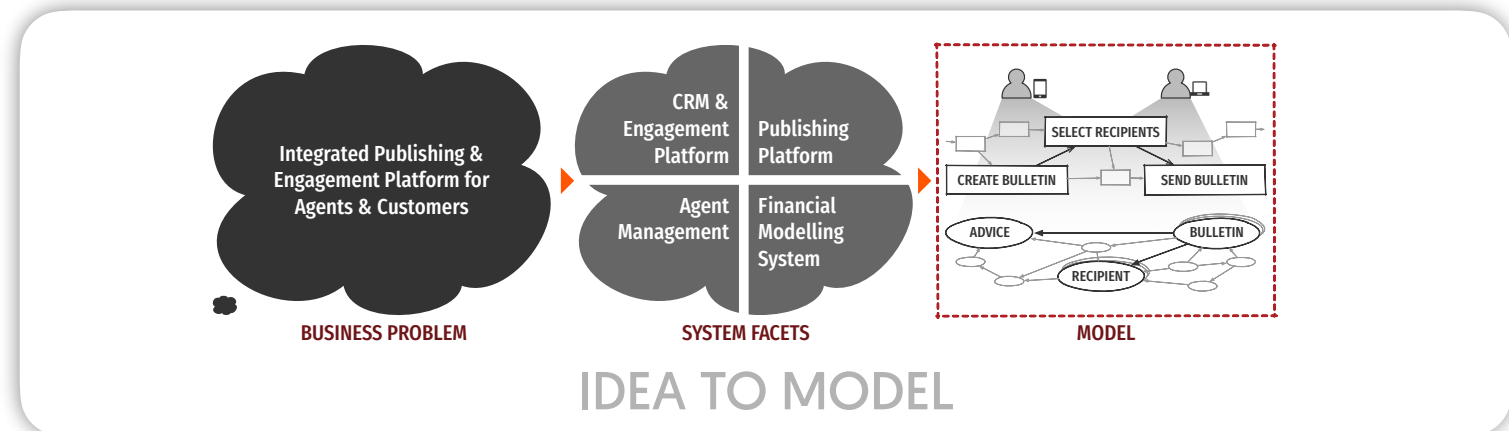
At Gumbuya we want a reproducible and modular process for all client engagements from sales through development to support.

My Responsibilities

- Define a streamlined and industrialised engagement process based on customer engagements
- Define a formalised model for predicting delivery cost, time and effort
- Deliver customer projects through said process

Challenges

- Defining a generic yet all-encompassing model
- Formalising said model in an approachable yet precise manner



Gumbuya Platform

DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION & PRODUCT CREATION — 4

2013–2017

Project Scope

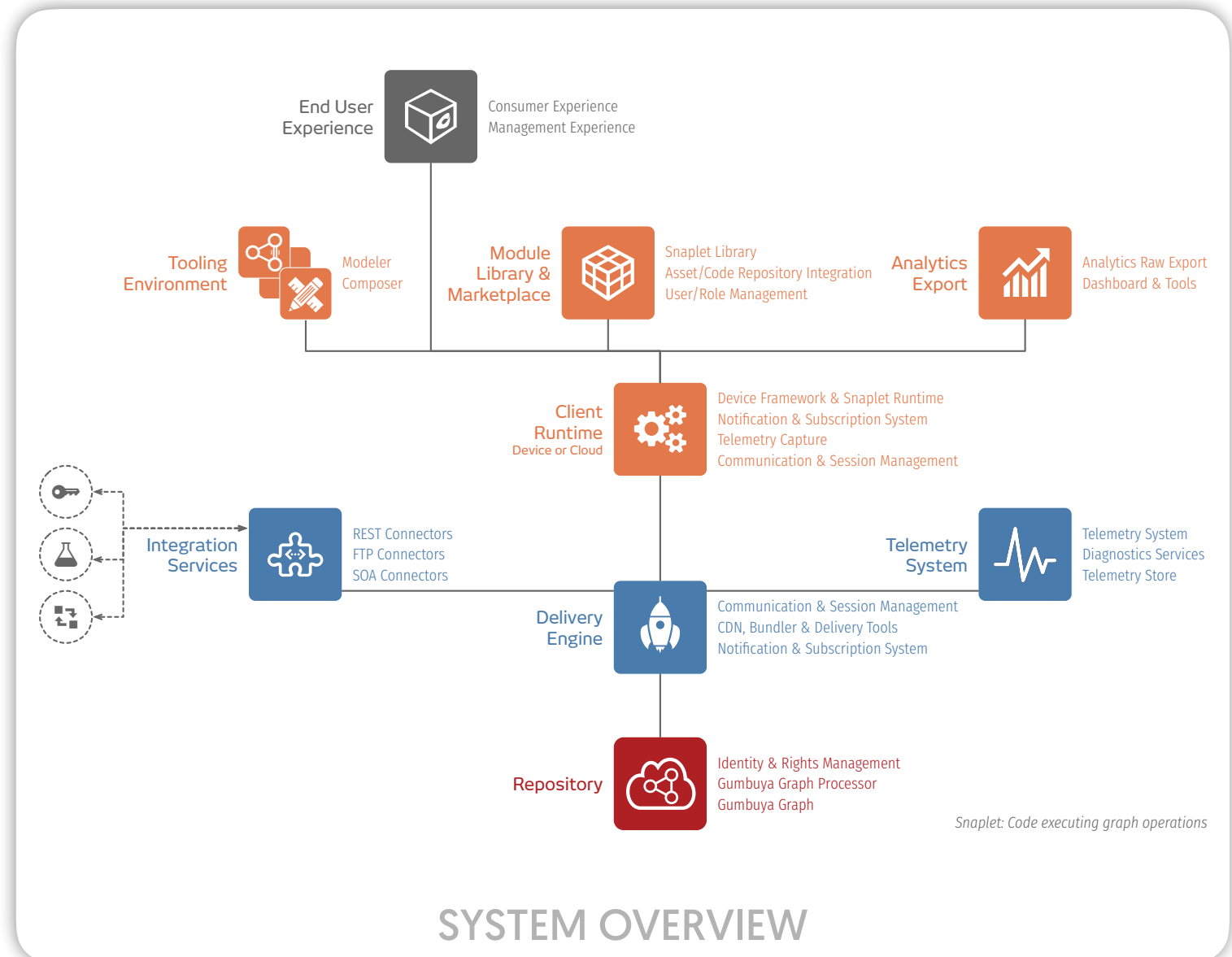
Gumbuya provides a revolutionary tech stack in a PaaS offering. In addition, it requires a set of tooling that enables to actually build on the technology.

My Responsibilities

- Defining the analytics product from low-level telemetry to reporting dashboard
- Collaboration on billing and revenue model driven by low-level telemetry
- Collaboration on developer tools, documentation and onboarding

Challenges

- Combining a wide range of telemetry event types into a consistent framework
- Creating developer materials and tools that are powerful yet approachable



Interaction Design, UI & Visual Design



Interaction Design, UI & Visual Design

DESIGNING HOW PEOPLE WILL ENGAGE DIGITALLY

While the first step of a successful product is to be useful, the next step is to be well usable and appealing. The quality of the visual design for digital products has improved significantly recently, yet usability is often still neglected due to its relative complexity.

As interaction designer my focus is on how users engage with the product and the world it gives access to:

1. Design how people **engage across endpoints** and channels [e.g. applications].
2. Design how people **navigate between surfaces** to achieve their outcomes
3. Design how people **interact within a surface** [e.g. screen]
4. Design how each of these surfaces **looks** like.

Examples

- Multi-Channel Engagements
- Interaction Architecture & Navigation
- UI & Visual Design



Multi-Channel Engagements

INTERACTION DESIGN — 1

Almost every project now needs to work across channels and endpoints. Some may be highly specialised like QR code scanners and beacons, others communicate the same content in a different form factor and context.

Challenges

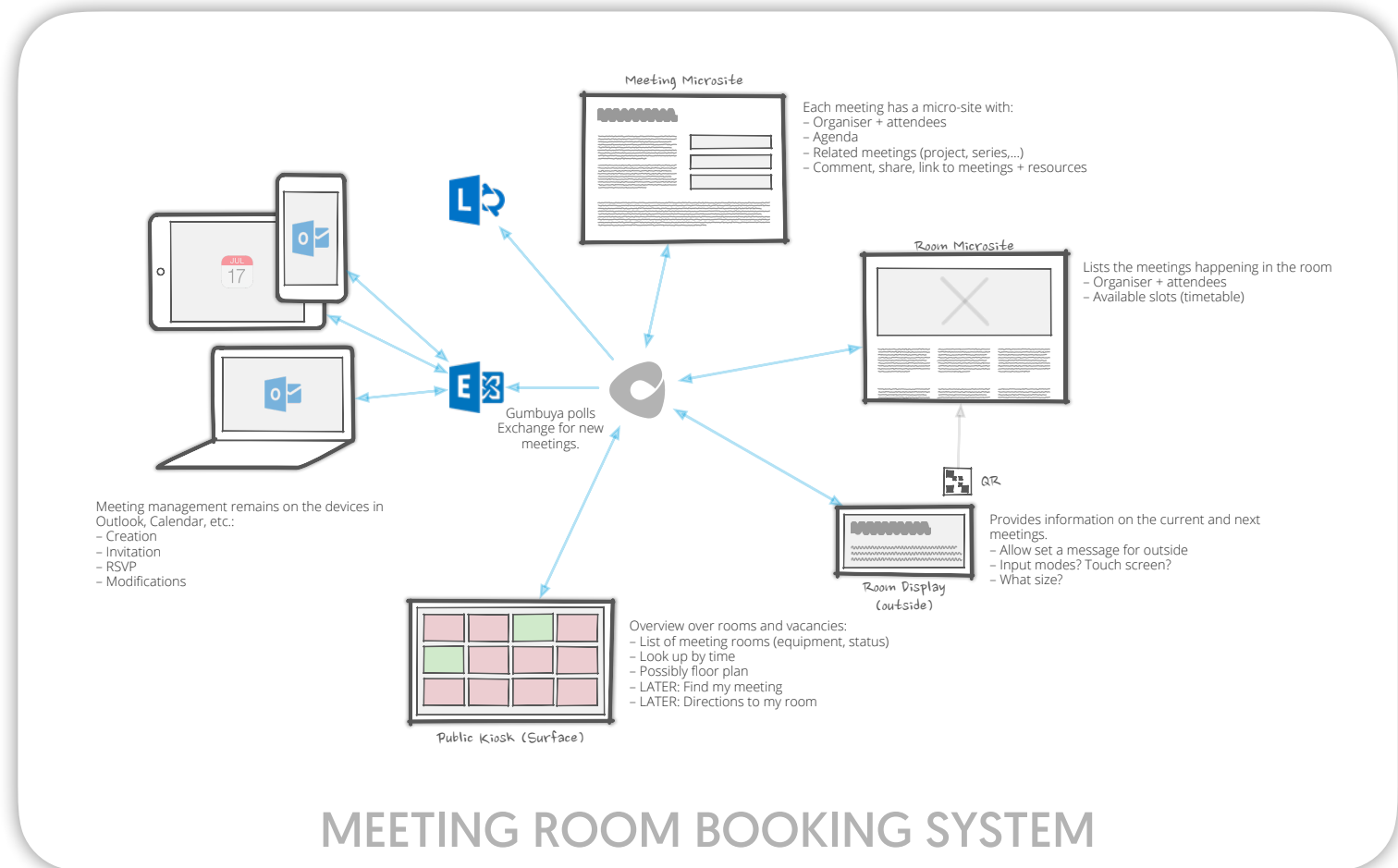
- Giving access to the same information through tailored modes of operation
- Giving access to the same information tailored to the specific context and task
- Enabling seamless transition between channels, keeping the system in sync

Strategies

- Consistent underlying model
- Atomic transactions
- Mapping of non-linear user journeys

Examples

- Financial advisory dashboard [2015–2017]
- Inventory management system [2016]
- Compliance platform [2015–2016]
- Meeting room booking system [2015]



Interaction Architecture & Navigation

INTERACTION DESIGN — 2

The ease of moving through a digital engagement can make or break products.

Challenges

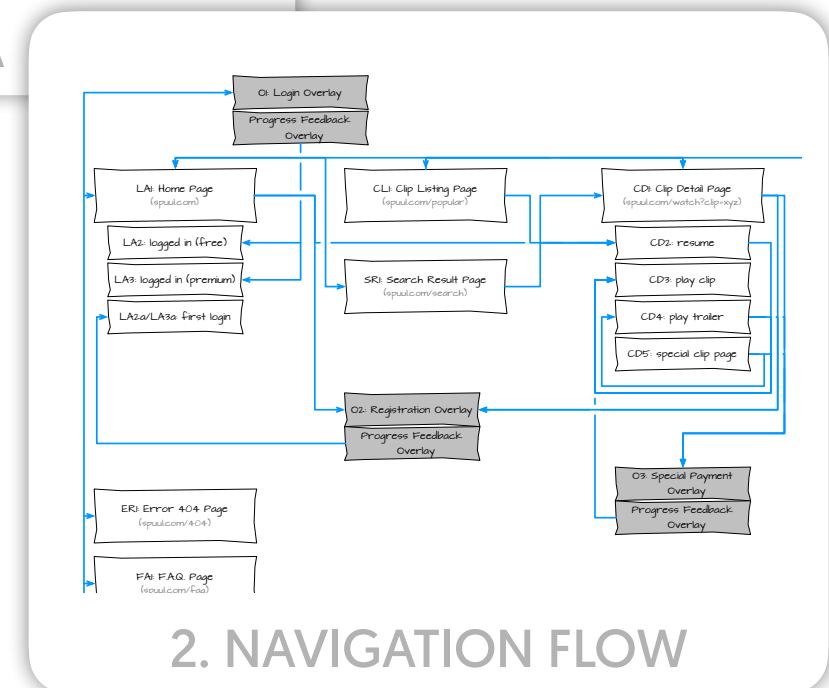
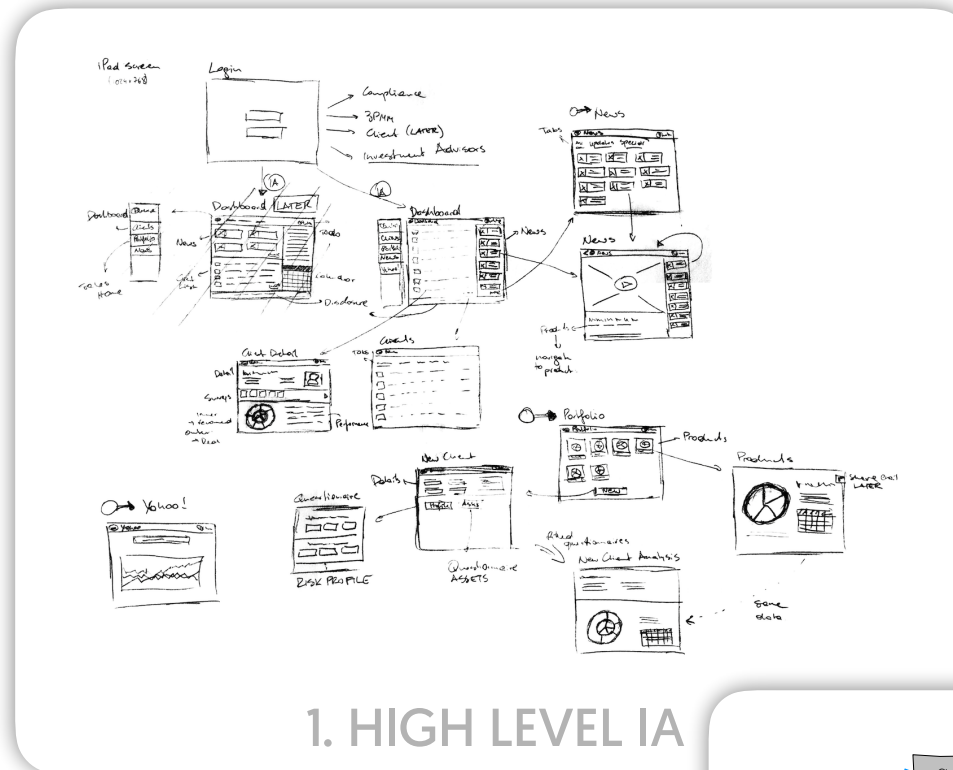
- Matching people's approach, communicating where they are and providing predictable next steps
- Not encumbering people with excessive steps but keeping interactions crisp
- Linking together use cases to fit the bigger picture

Strategies

- Consistency from high level down to the screen flow and on-screen interaction
- Modular assembly
- Streamlining use-cases
- Testing, testing, testing

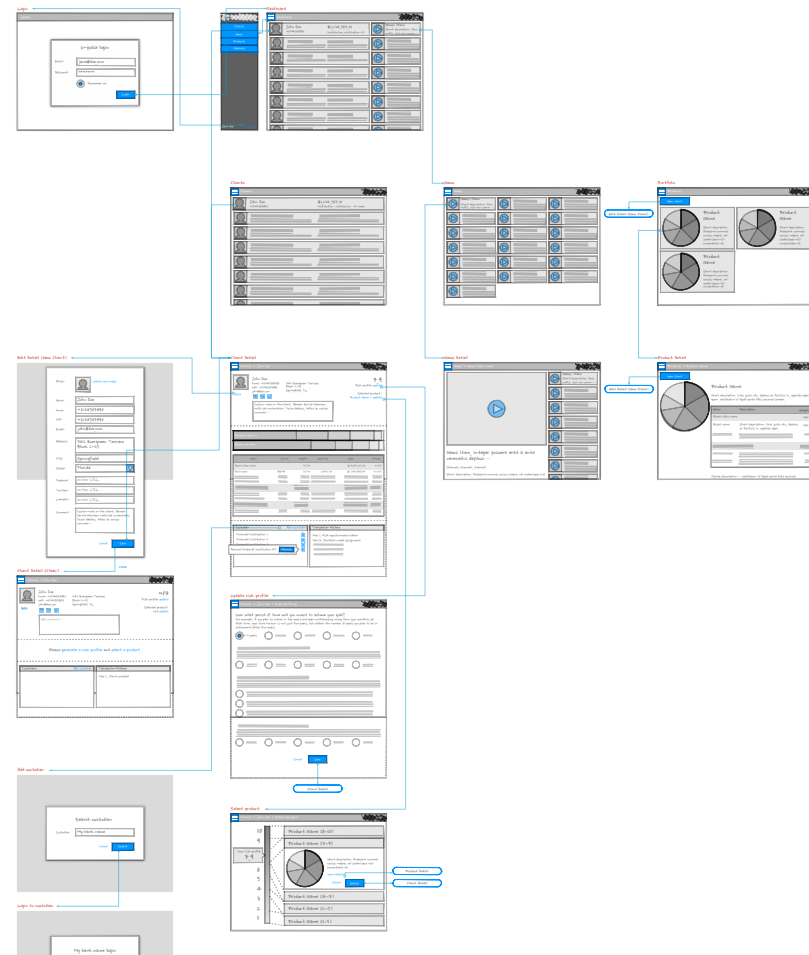
Examples

1. Financial advisory dashboard [2015–2017]
2. Spuul: Movie streaming web site [2012]
3. Financial advisory dashboard [2015–2017]
4. Reporting dashboard for parents [2012]

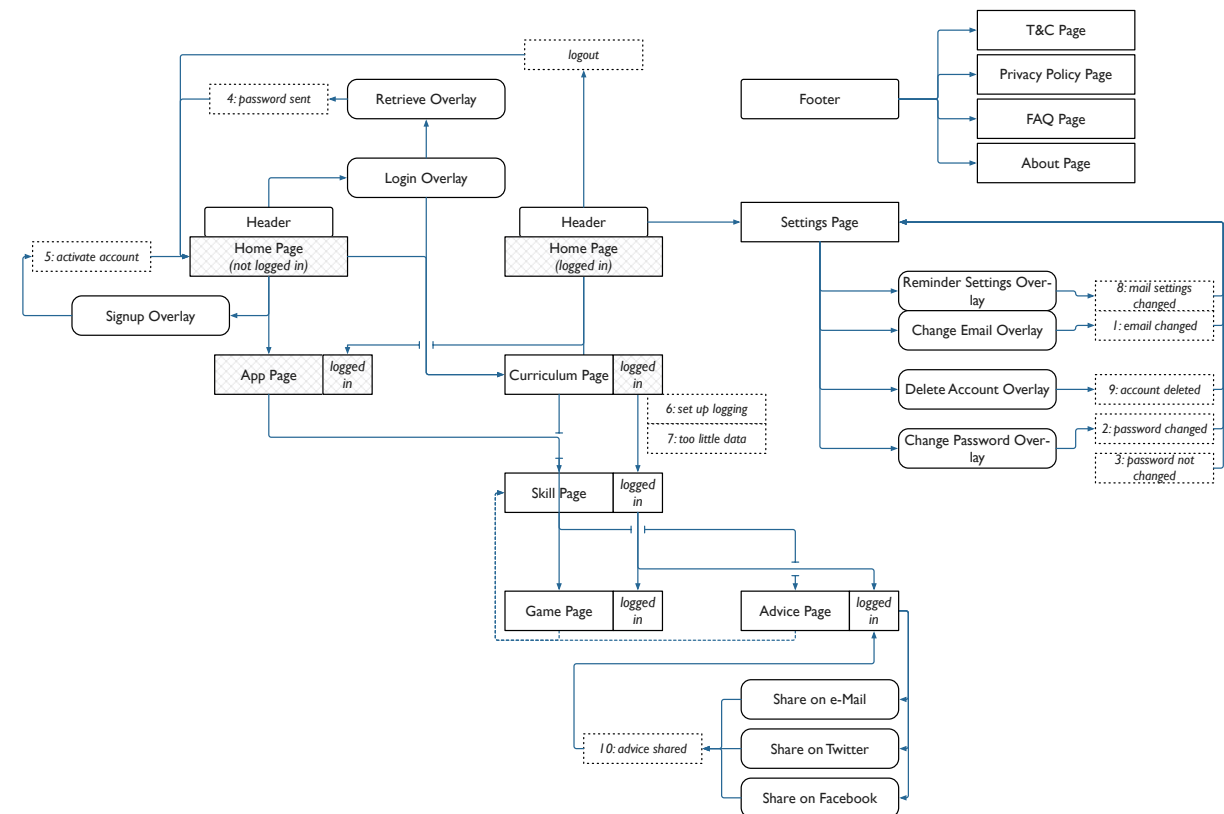


Interaction Architecture & Navigation

INTERACTION DESIGN — 3



3. SCREEN FLOW



4. NAVIGATION ARCHITECTURE

UI & Visual Design

UI & VISUAL DESIGN — 1

Traditionally the focus of design efforts, the visual and UI design is the icing on the digital products.

Frankly, as my visual design skills are comparatively weak, my focus is on clear information structure and clean design.

Challenges

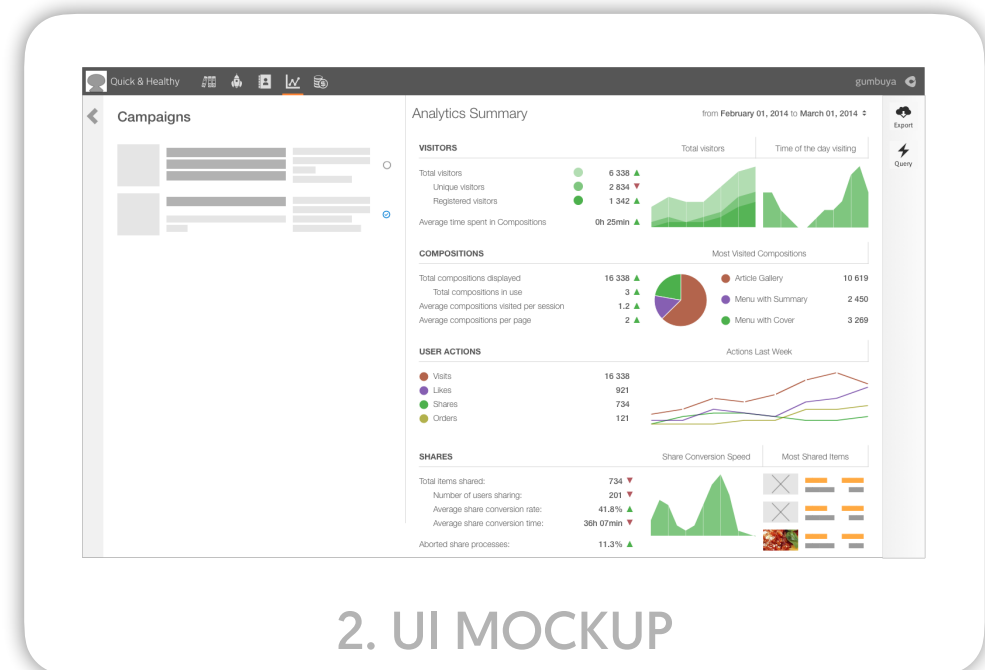
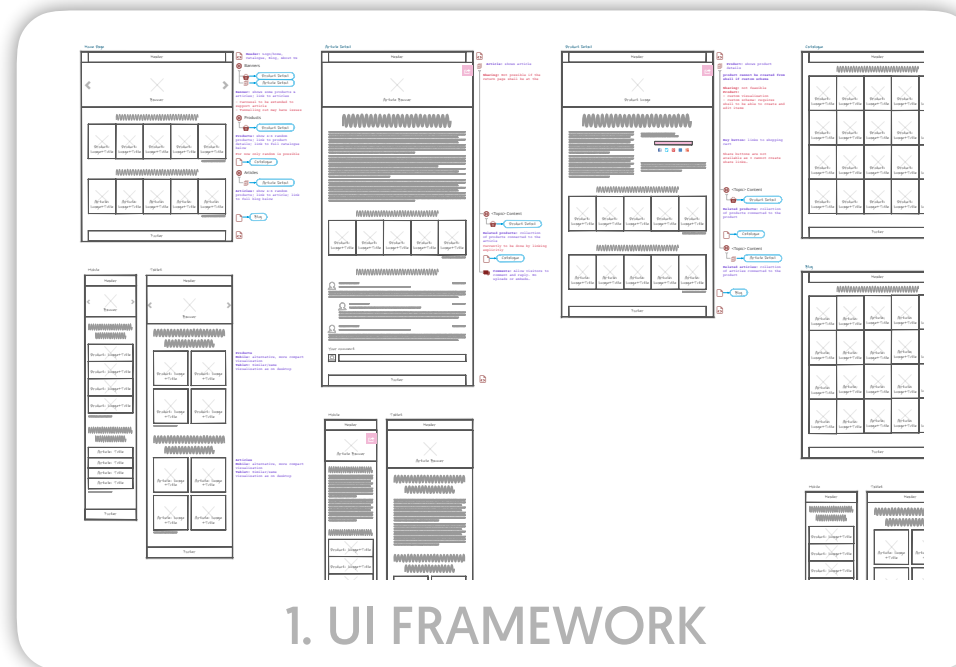
- Communicating information based on it's importance
- Balancing a visual language across different surfaces
- Aesthetics

Strategies

- Visual design frameworks and modules reused across the products
- Striving for minimalism

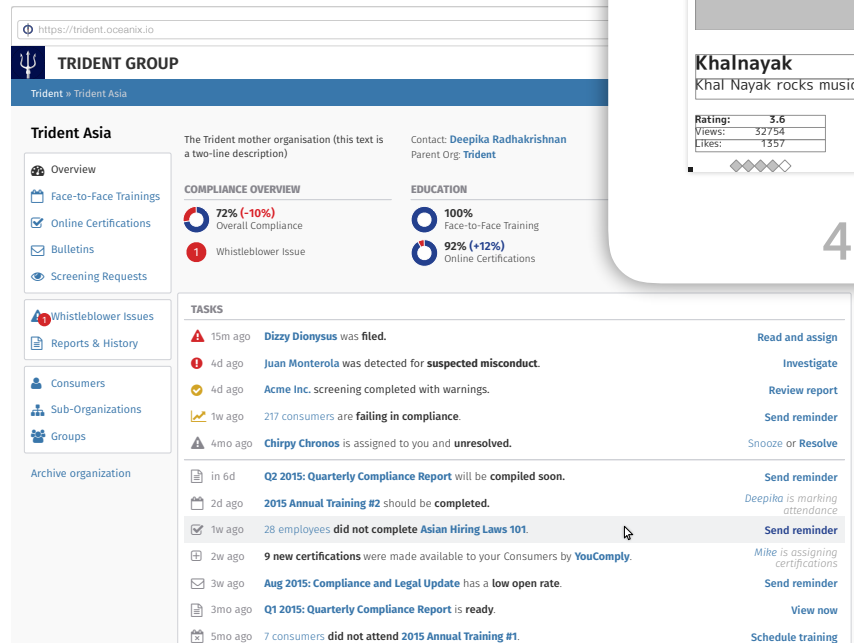
Examples

1. Aesthetic Essentials: Online shop [2014]
2. Gumbuya: Analytics dashboard [2015]
3. Compliance platform [2015–2016]
4. Spuul: Movie streaming web site [2012]
5. GiveBlood: Blood donation app [2012]

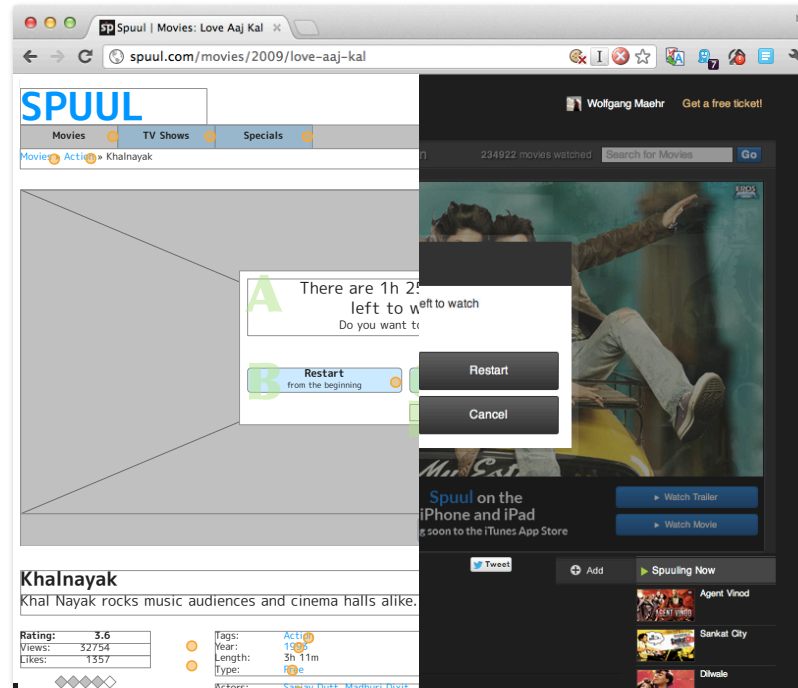


UI & Visual Design

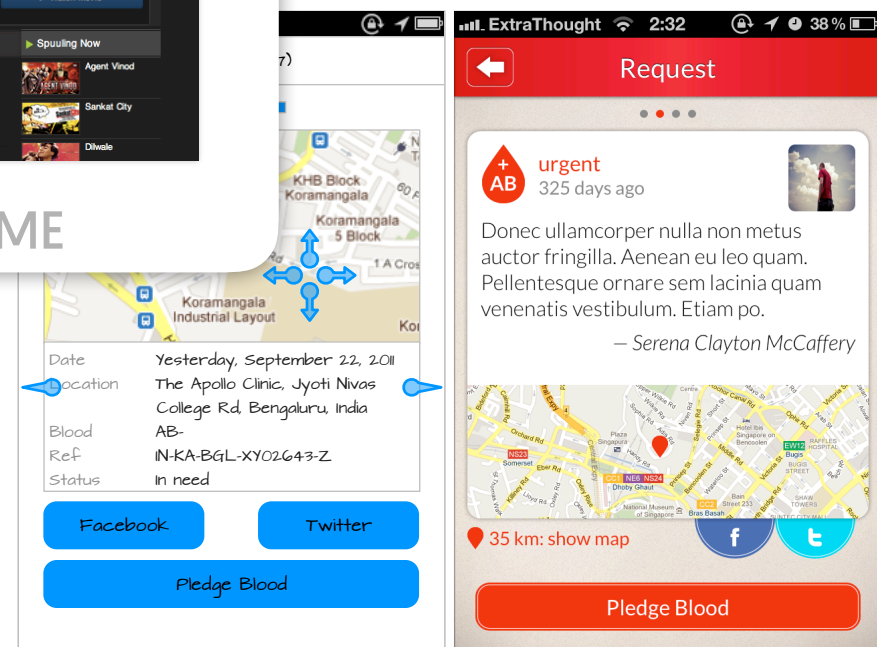
UI & VISUAL DESIGN — 3



3. VISUAL FRAMEWORK



4. SCREEN WIREFRAME



5. WIREFRAME + UI DESIGN



Other Samples



Appyzoo's Stickery

EDUCATIONAL GAME FOR KIDS: PARENT ZONE — UI DESIGN [2012]

Spielsprache Wählen

de	Deutsch	Laden
en	English	✓
es	Español	Descargar
fr	Français	Télécharger
jp	日本	ダウンロード
zh	中国	下载

Bitte wählen Sie die Spielsprache für Ihr Kind.
Das herunterladen des Sprachpaketes kann etwas dauern, wir bitten Sie um etwas Geduld.

Continue with English

Skip

Free Account

Signup

A Stickery account provides for **free**:

- Tracking of your child's learning performance.
- Customized parenting tips.
- Ability to reset the game and play it again.

Email

john.doe@me.com

Password

minimum 8 characters

By signing up, you agree to our [terms of service](#).

OPTIONAL

Your child's details:

Female

Male

Birthday

2008-01-01

We do not share your child's details with third parties.

More information at <http://parents.stickeryapp.com>.

Stickery

Parent Zone

Logout

john.doe@stickeryapp.com

Progress Reports

Parent Guide

Get the Full Game >

Language: Eng >

Feedback Forum >

Share >

Credits >

Reset Game?

The story will restart. Your progress reports will not be affected.

Cancel

Reset

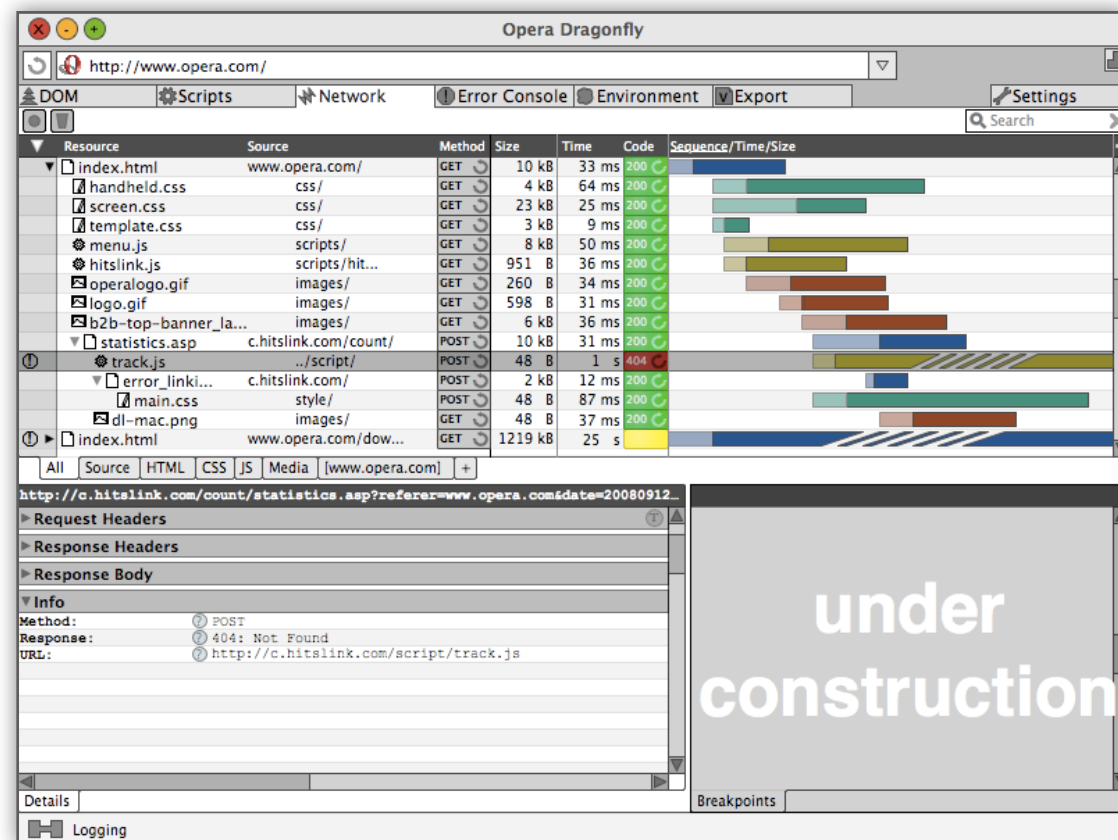
Reset Game

More information at <http://parents.stickeryapp.com>.

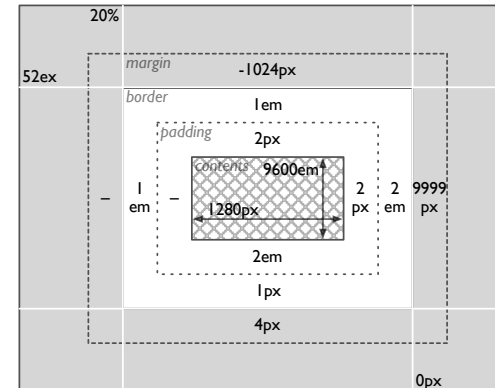


Opera Dragonfly

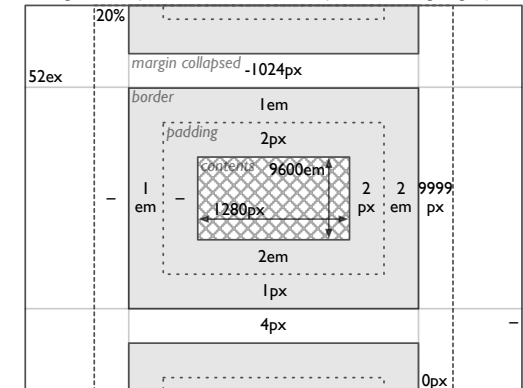
WEB DEVELOPMENT TOOLS — UI FRAMEWORK & CONCEPTS [2008]



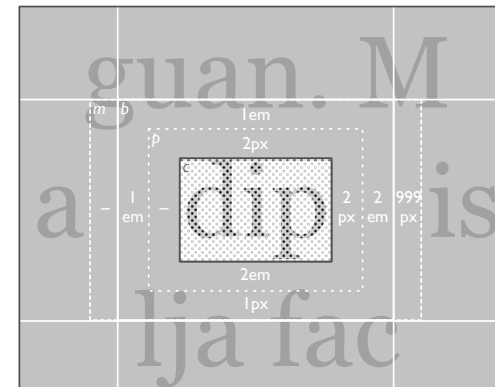
Standard block element



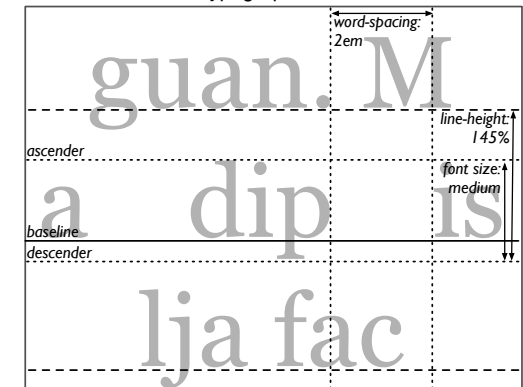
Margin collapsed block element (inverted highlight)



Standard inline element.



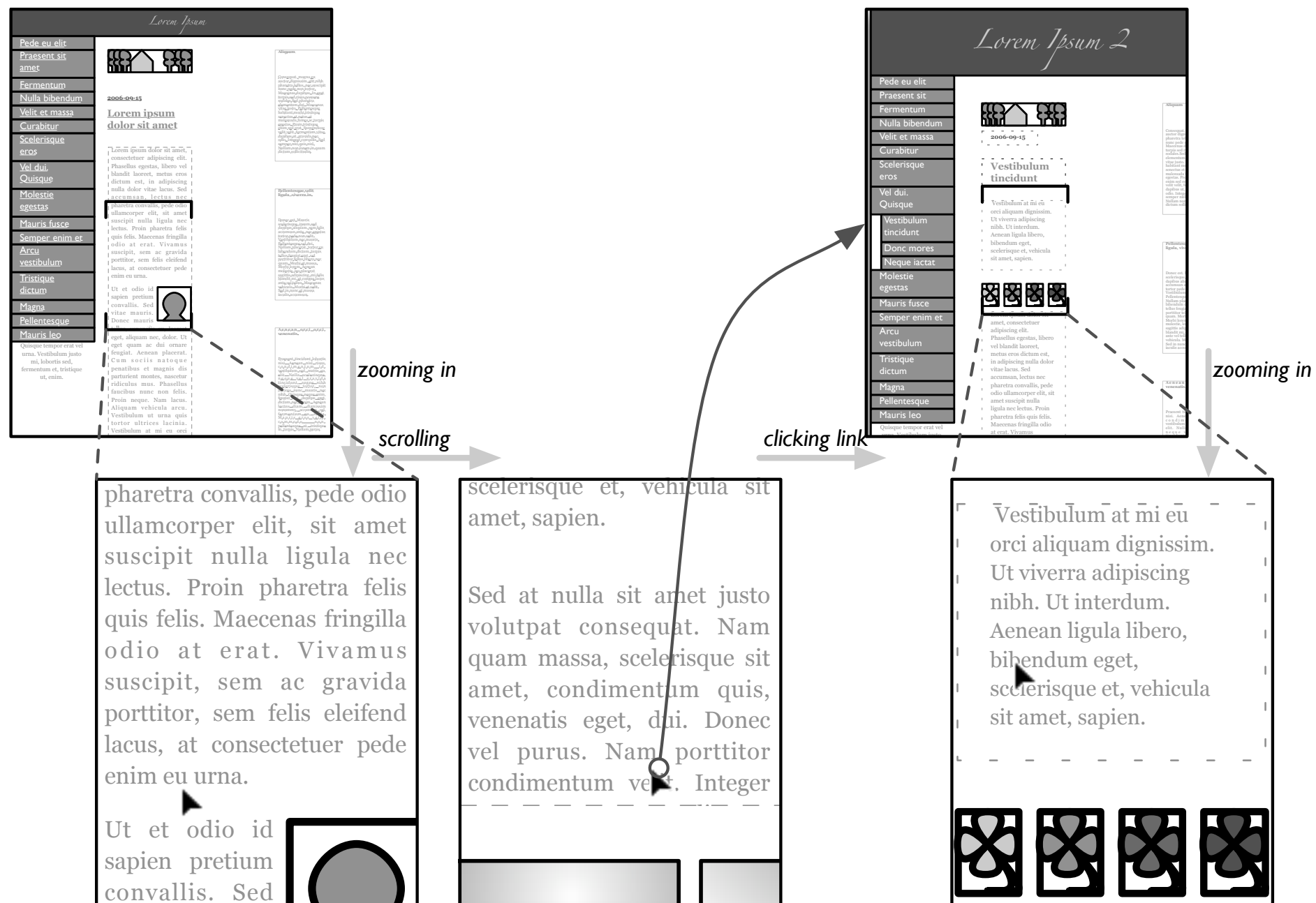
Inline element with typographic information.



Opera Mobile Browser

MOBILE BROWSER — INTERACTION CONCEPTS [2006]

Mobile



Thanks for your interest.
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