

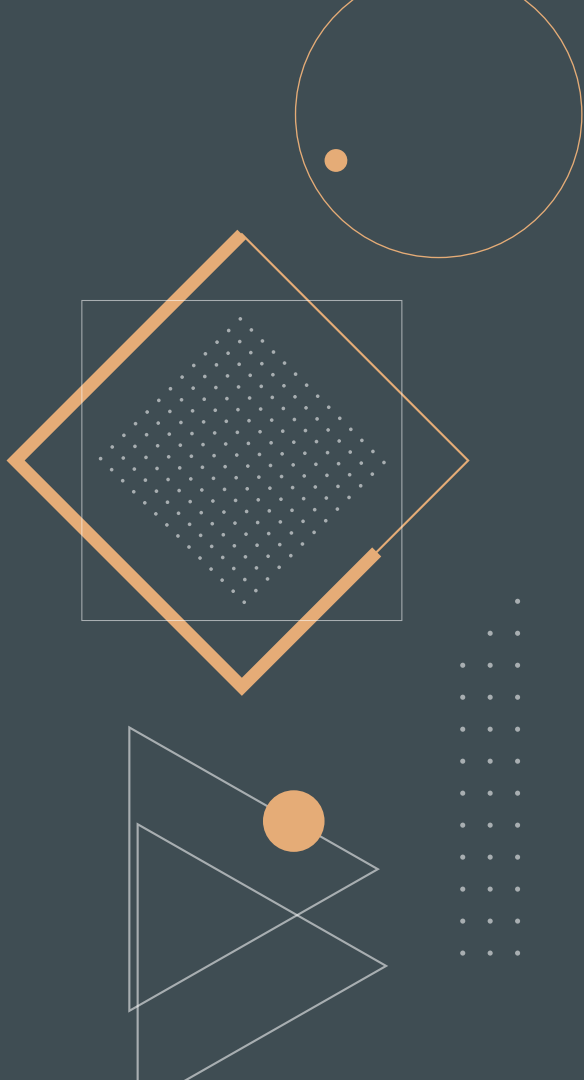
The background is a dark blue color with various abstract geometric shapes in orange and white. There are circles, hexagons, and triangles, some filled with a grid of small white dots. Some shapes are outlined in orange, while others are white. The overall aesthetic is modern and technical.

# R2: Wireframing

6.1040 Fall 2023

# Plan for today

- 0 Sketching
- 1 What are Wireframes / Why wireframe?
- 2 Intro to Figma + Walkthrough
- 3 Exercise
- 4 Wrap-up



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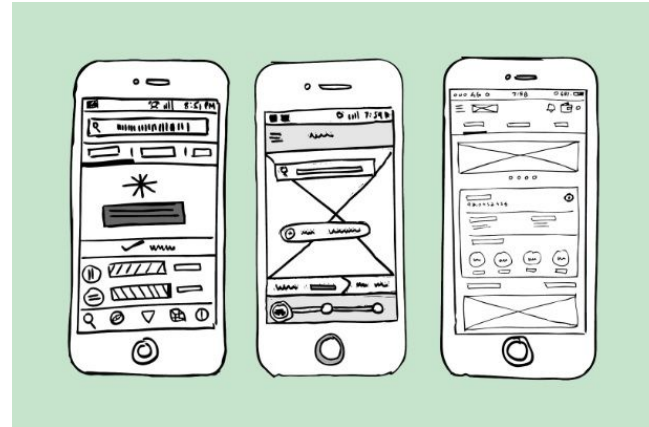
Sketching!

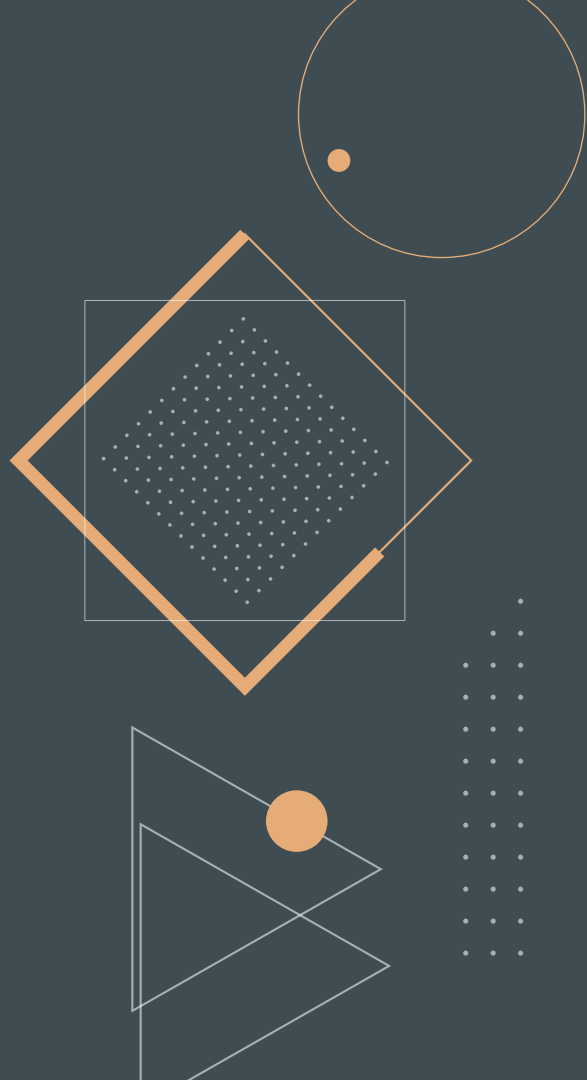
## Exercise (3 min)

On an ipad / writing implement and paper, sketch out what your portfolio's home page looks like right now, then as many different redesigns of your portfolio you can think of.

Tips:

- Don't worry about details and polish!
- Focus on quantity over quality



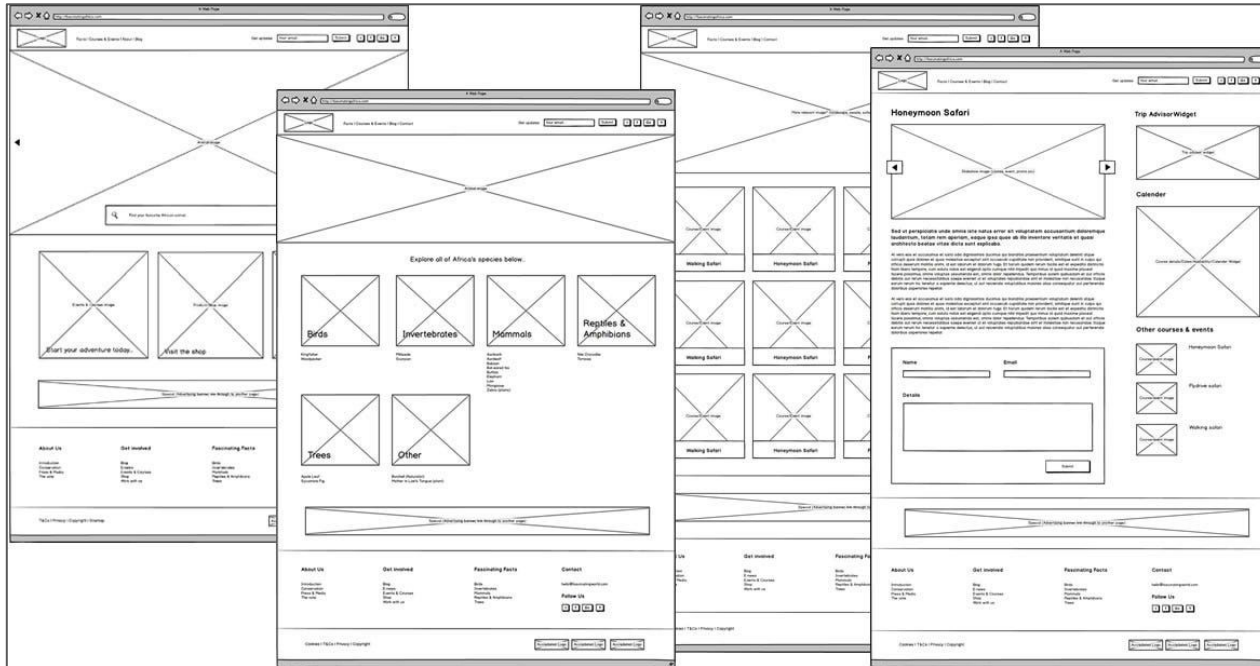


# 01

What + why  
are  
wireframes?

# What are wireframes?

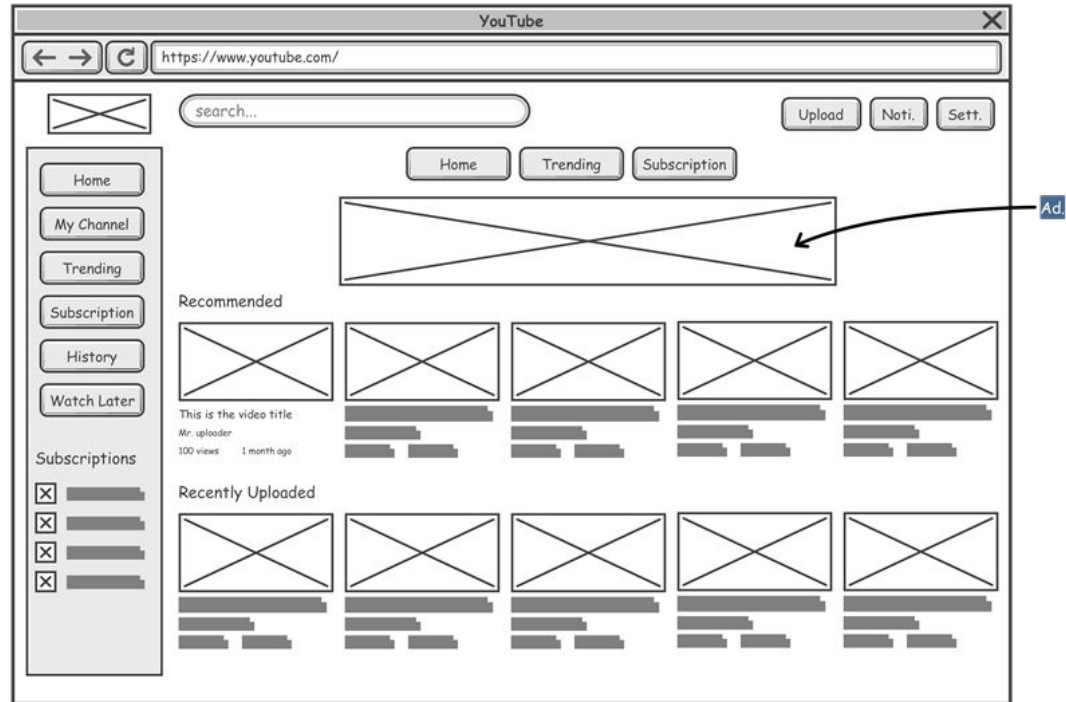
Illustrations or other visual mockups that represent the skeletal framework of a website / other UI – a "next step" after sketching



# Wireframing in 6.1040

Focus on **layout, interactions, and functionality**

- color, aesthetics are less important



# Why do we use them?

Wireframes are used by designers and engineers in **almost all software companies**

Why?

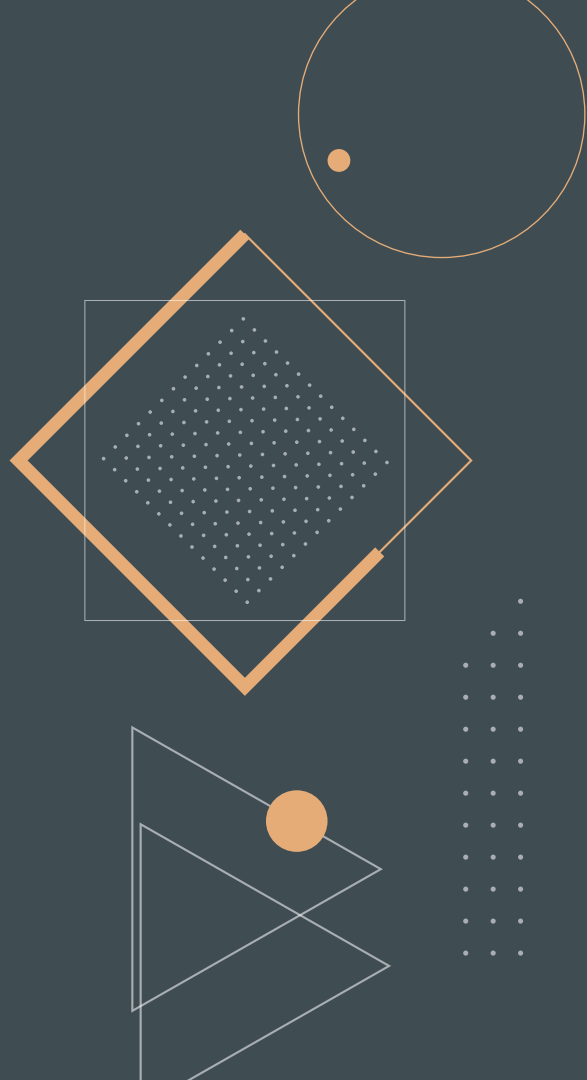
- Faster interaction prototyping + iterative design
- Visualize how users might actually use a site, before it's built
- Anticipate and address potential problems in interaction faster





**But why would I learn this if  
I'm just doing SWE?**



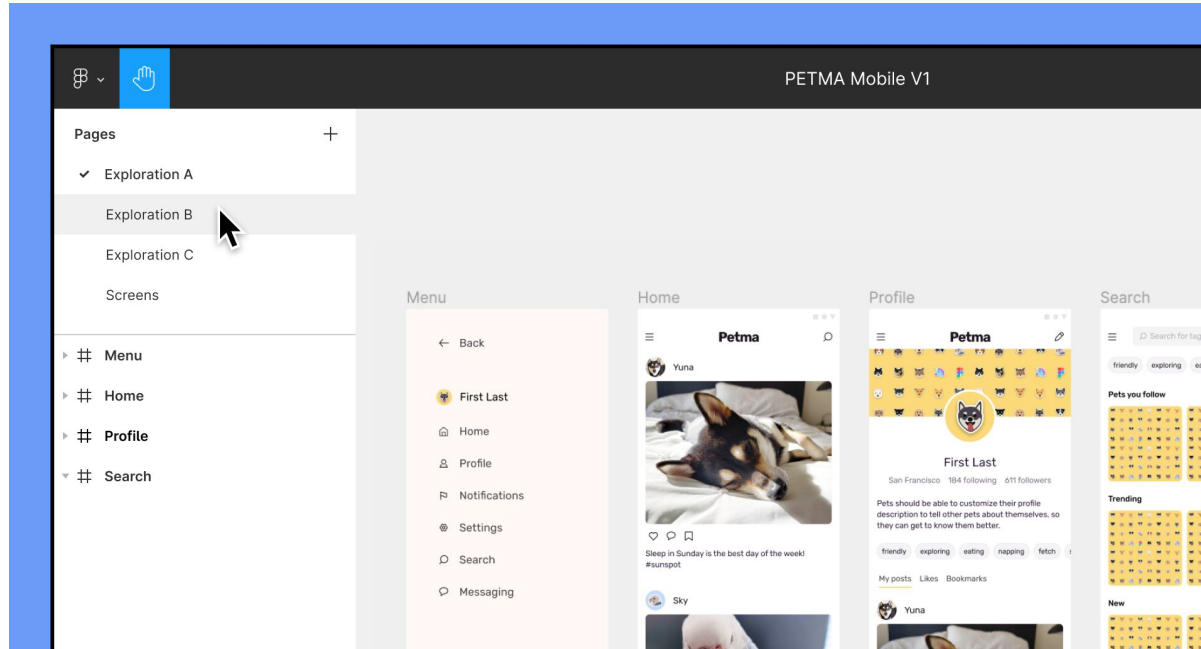


# 02

## Intro to Figma

# Figma

- Industry standard
- Other tools: Adobe Xd



# Some Tips

- **Keep aesthetic elements simple**
  - Start with grayscale colors – to give more time to focus on layout
- **Choose a simple font**
  - More important to use fonts to communicate hierarchy of information (i.e. Titles should be bigger than normal text)
- **Use boxes to represent graphics and images**
- **Don't overcomplicate**

# Sign up!

figma.com → create a free account

Later. upgrade to a free education account

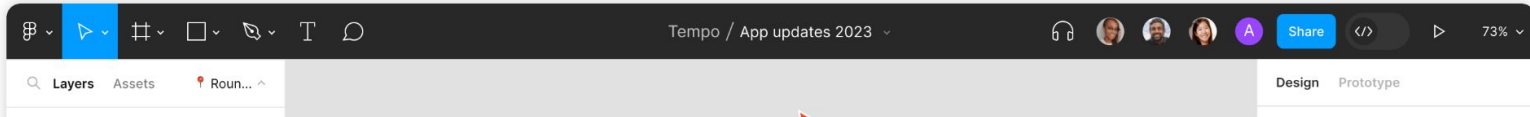


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Get started for free

How you **design** 🖋️, **align** ⌘, and **build** ⌨️ matters.  
Do it together with Figma.

Get started



# Figma Walkthrough

The image shows a screenshot of the YouTube homepage. At the top, there is a search bar with the text "Search" and a microphone icon. To the right of the search bar is a "SIGN IN" button. Below the search bar is a row of category tabs: "All", "Gaming", "Music", "Live", "Touchdowns", "Taste", "Slime", "Laughter", "History", "Game shows", and "Children's Music".

The main content area displays a grid of video thumbnails. The first row includes:

- ROYAL FAMILY CHANNFI** (4:38) by The Royal Family Channel (1.5M views, 4 hours ago)
- ELEGANT JAZZ** (24:08:01) by Elegant Jazz Music (239K views, 4 weeks ago)
- Night Sky Jelly** (8:32) by 透明愛好家tomei (2.6M views, 1 year ago)
- The funeral of Queen Elizabeth II - BBC News** (430K watching, LIVE) by BBC News

The second row includes:

- Fascinating Maps of the US** (17:38) by That Is Interesting (1.2M views, 1 year ago)
- lofi hip hop radio - beats to relax/study to** (LIVE) by Lofi Girl (43K watching)
- 22-Year-Old Explains Why She's Stuck In The Body O...** (8:03) by TLC Australia (4.1M views, 3 weeks ago)
- 24 hours in amsterdam, netherlands** (17:43) by emma chamberlain (1.7M views, 3 days ago)

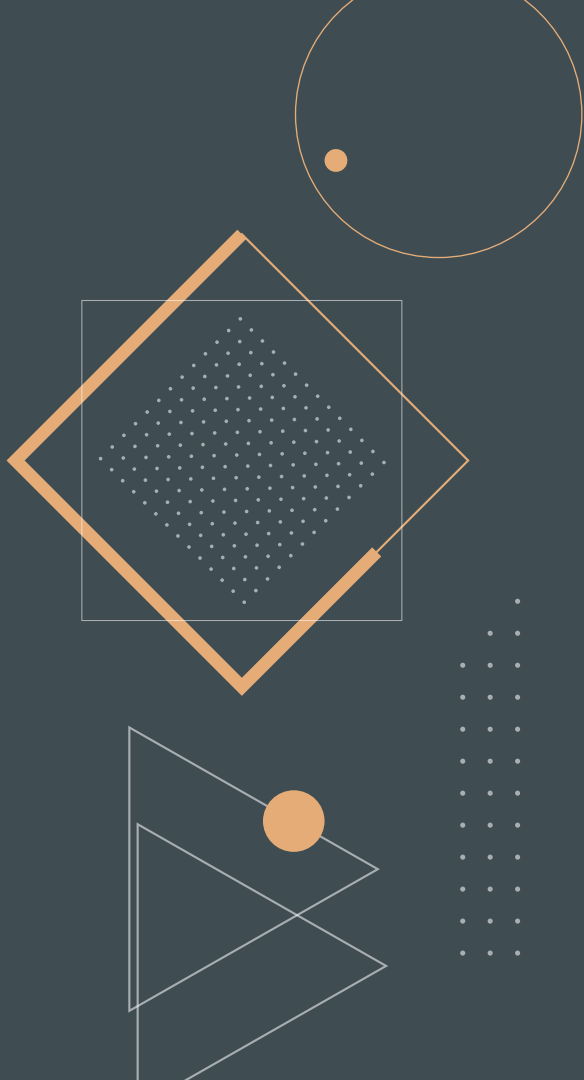
On the left side, there is a navigation menu with options: Home, Explore, Shorts, Subscriptions, Library, and History. Below the menu is a "SIGN IN" button and an "EXPLORE" section with categories: Music, Sports, Gaming, Movies & Shows, and News.

# Takeaways

- **Frames:** containers for designs
  - Can be contained within other frames
- **Layers:** Each object is a layer, but these objects can be grouped into more conceptually "layer-like" things – confusing terminology
- **Interactions:** Can be done on an object to manipulate other objects (i.e. navigate to another page, scroll, etc.)
- **Flow:** Set of interactions that dictate how a user might interact with the site

03

Your Turn!





## Exercise (10 min)

Wireframe the homepage of your current portfolio website, and if you'd like, a potential alternative view of the page.

See if you can add at least one user interaction as well!

Tips:

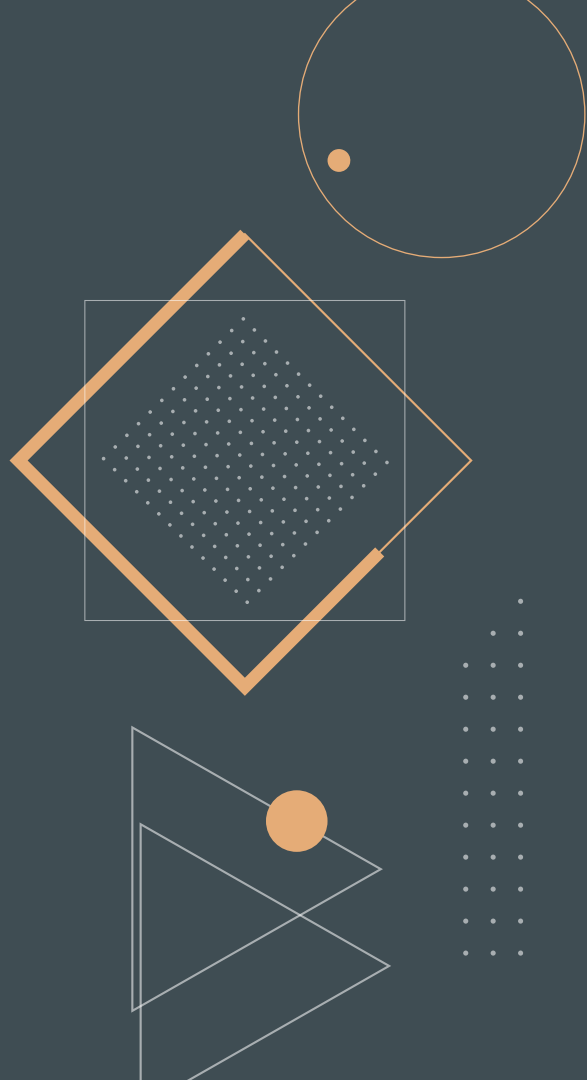
- **Keep it simple!** – as mentioned before, we primarily want to dictate layout and functionality
- **Create components** where necessary (repeated elements, for example) in order to make making changes easier

## Discuss (5 min)

1. Find a partner! Introduce yourself to each other.
2. Take turns showing each other your wireframes and discussing them.  
**What surprises you? What do you think could be improved? What do you think looks cool!**

# Resources

- <https://www.figma.com/blog/how-to-wireframe/>
- <https://designlab.com/figma-101-course/introduction-to-figma/>
- [Figma for Beginners video](#)
- [Figma Documentation](#)
- **Components:**  
<https://help.figma.com/hc/en-us/articles/360038662654-Guide-to-components-in-Figma>
- **Prototyping, Interactions, Flows:**  
<https://help.figma.com/hc/en-us/articles/360040314193-Guide-to-prototyping-in-Figma>



04

Wrap-up +  
Questions