

Jacobus van Niekerk: Career Objectives

Creative designer, possessing both design and development expertise in the implementation of scalable, end-to-end e-Business websites. With an eye for detail and flare for creative web design, I utilise cutting-edge rich media technologies to enhance user experience. Also a firm believer in the use of web standards.

Seeking opportunities wherein my creative and technical skills are best utilised in a friendly business environment.

Personal / Contact Details

Phone	+27 (0)21 9827805		
E-mail Address	jacobus@catics.com		
Physical Address	55 Vredekloufweg, Vredeklouf, Brackenfell, 7560		
Date of Birth	1976 / 07 / 01		
Gender	Male	Languages	Afrikaans, English
Nationality	South African	Marital status	Married

Career History

Period	11/2000 to Present
Current Position	Creative Web Consultant (Freelance / Contracting)
Present Company	Catics Ltd. http://www.catics.com/
Technologies	Photoshop CS 2, Dreamweaver MX 2004, and coding mostly in CSS, XHTML, ASP, DHTML, JavaScript, XML, XSLT.
Responsibilities	Currently I advise clients on issues regarding accessibility and usability while using web standards. I optimise user interfaces, content and flow of navigation, and am involved in all aspects of the design and development of new websites, intranets and front-end design of web applications. I have the ability to take abstract concepts and turn them into visually exciting, innovative, B2B and B2C designs that are web friendly, easy to navigate, represent the client's goals and enhance the user's experience.

- Develop and design concepts for navigation and user interfaces
- Code in pure XHTML and CSS
- Design the "look and feel" for new sites and applications
- Consult clients on accessibility and usability issues
- Integrate and enhance pre-existing web site architecture, UI & navigation
- Write "style guides" for websites and web applications
- Manage site production and design projects
- Produce online training material for corporate clients

Main Clients:

- Getaway Africa SA
- Trek Travel (Trek Bicycle Corporation) USA, Bontrager USA
- Serval Systems, Synergy Corporate Technologies SA
- NM Rothschild & Sons Ltd Group UK
- The London Gold Fixing Company UK
- Foundry Companies, and other smaller companies UK

Period 12/1999 to 10/2000

Position **Web Designer, Web Developer (Contract)**

Company N M Rothschild & Sons Ltd (London, England) <http://www.rothschild.com/>

Technologies Photoshop 6/7, Dreamweaver MX, and coding mostly in ASP, JavaScript , XML, XSLT, CSS and Flash

Responsibilities Responsible for design, development and maintenance of multiple internet and Intranet websites. Assisting with all design aspects and development of the client's first global intranet, as well as managing the coordination of ideas and concepts with developers to create integrated solutions consistent with the client's goals.

- Design the front-end of the client's 1st global Intranet
- Design front-end of global CMS.
- Conceptualisation and redesign of various existing internet sites
- Develop Extranet with 3I Investment Group for Rothschild
- Create design style guidelines for websites and global intranet
- Create and edit artwork and content
- Compile monthly statistics for sites, using Webtrends Enterprise edition
- Train and support end-users

Reason for Leaving Started my own company in the UK.

Period 04/1998 to 11/1999

Position **Graphic Designer (DTP) / Web Designer, Developer (Permanent)**

Company Lyons Presentations Group Ltd. (London, England)

Technologies Photoshop 5, Quark 5, CorelDraw 8, Dreamweaver 2, NetObject Fusion 4 , html, JavaScript , css, Flash

Responsibilities Design, develop and maintain the company's first websites. Create interface designs and concepts using Photoshop and CorelDraw and utilising Flash animations to promote the company's products, at one of the UK's largest promotional product trade shows.

- Create production artwork for Packaging, POS
- Create Newspaper Ads, Leaflets, Brochures, Internal Design
- Develop company's online brand identity
- Design and develop the company's brochure sites
- Update and maintain sites using Photoshop and several HTML editors
- Digital photography of products used for print and web

Reason for Leaving I wanted to further my career in web design.

Period 11/1996 to 02/1998

Position **Sales Assistant / Graphic Designer (Permanent)**

Company Software City Mega Store (Now known as CompuCity - Tygervalley)

Technologies N/A

Responsibilities Initially a Sales Assistant and PC technician. Later took on responsibility for their advertising and promotional materials.

- Marketing Ideas, Newspaper Ads, Leaflets, Brochures, Internal Design

Reason for Leaving I went to the UK for a graphic design job in London (UK).

Projects / Web Sites Designed

Period 2005 (1 Month Project)

Project Name / URL <http://www.servalsystems.co.za>

Technologies Design, XHTML, CSS, JavaScript

Responsibilities Created a fresh new "look & feel", and also delivered a full valid XHTML, CSS web site. Tested all code (XHTML and CSS) across a range of Mac and PC browsers.

Period 2005 (2 Month - Ongoing)

Project Name / URL <http://www.getawayafrica.com>

Technologies CMS, Design, XHTML, CSS, JavaScript

Responsibilities Created a fresh new "look & feel", and also delivered a full valid XHTML, CSS website. Tested all code (XHTML and CSS) across a range of Mac and PC browsers. In conjunction with Azapi, we also delivered a complete set of content management system (CMS) modules for managing an online travel site.

Period 2004-2005 (6 Month - Ongoing)

Project Name / URL <http://www.azapi.com>

Technologies System Architecture, Design, XHTML, CSS, JavaScript

Responsibilities With my UK partner we developed a flexible XHTML / CSS-based CMS solution. I was responsible for the general design architecture and flow, all front-end design and all other design related issues within the CMS.

Period 2004 (1 Month Project)

Project Name / URL <http://www.bontrager.com>

Technologies XHTML, CSS, JavaScript

Responsibilities Created valid XHTML templates from jpg mock-ups. Deliver valid CSS files. Test XHTML and CSS templates across a range of Mac and PC browsers. Advised and supported Bontrager with the integration of the templates into Crown's CMS. Advise Bontrager on other CSS-related issues.

Period 2004 (9 days Project)
Project Name / URL <http://www.ascotventurecapital.com>
Technologies Photoshop designs only
Responsibilities Design a fresh new" look and feel" while keeping the current corporate branding in mind. The design was primarily targeted at the corporate and investor markets. The challenge was to show the diversity of Paulsmeier Inc. Group as soon as users would arrive at the homepage, without having to browse the site. This project was done in conjunction with Synergy Corporate Technologies.

Period 2004 (2 Months Project)
Project Name / URL <http://www.trektravel.com/>
Technologies XHTML, CSS, JavaScript
Responsibilities Produce 18 valid XHTML templates from jpg mock-ups provided by Trek. Deliver a valid set of CSS files. Deliver a DOM-based compliant menu system Test XHTML and CSS templates across a range of Mac and PC browsers. Advise and support TREK with the integration of the templates into Crown's CMS. Advice TREK on other CSS issues.

Period Since 2003 - Ongoing
Project Name / URL <http://www.rothschild.info/>
Technologies ASP, XML, XHTML, XSLT
Responsibilities I did the conversion of the frame-based site to ASP-, XML- and XSLT-based structure. Reengineered the file structure and also updated the JavaScript to work with new XML site structure.

Period 2002 – Ongoing
2004 – New XHTML / CSS version
Project Name / URL <http://www.freelancecontractors.com/>
Technologies 2002 - ASP, CSS, JavaScript, Access Database
2004 - PHP, XHTML, CSS, JavaScript
Responsibilities This site advertises other freelancer's services for free. I did the site from the ground up, designed the "look & feel", navigation, UI and coded the back-end of the site in ASP and an access database.

Period Since 2000 - Ongoing
Project Name / URL <http://www.rothschild.com/>
<http://www.nmrothschild.com/>
<http://www.rothschild.gg/>
<http://www.rothschildtrust.com/>
<http://www.rothschildbank.com/>
<http://www.rothschildmetals.com/>
<http://www.northern.nmrothschild.com/>
<http://www.rothinc.com/>
<http://www.five-arrows.co.uk/>
Technologies ASP, SQL, XML, XSLT, CSS, JavaScript, CMS
Responsibilities Designed the "look & feel", navigation, UI and helped code the site in ASP. General upkeep and support via SLA.

Period Since 2000 - Ongoing
Project Name / URL <http://www.rothschildarchive.org/>
Technologies ASP, SQL, XML, XSLT, CSS, JavaScript, CMS
Responsibilities Designed the “look & feel”, navigation, UI and helped code the site in ASP.
General upkeep and support via SLA.

Period Since 2000 - Ongoing
Project Name / URL <http://www.goldfixing.com/>
Technologies ASP, SQL, XML, XSLT, CSS, JavaScript, CMS
Responsibilities Designed the “look & feel”, navigation, UI and helped code the site in asp.
General upkeep and support via SLA.

Period 2000 – (2 weeks)
Project Name / URL <http://www.internetfoundry.co.uk/>
Technologies Photoshop, DHTML
Responsibilities Designed the “look & feel”, navigation, UI and coded the html templates.

Period Since 1999 - Ongoing
Project Name / URL <http://www.catics.com/>
Technologies 2004 - XHTML, CSS and php
1999 – 2003 - ASP, CSS, JavaScript
Responsibilities 2004 – I redesigned the site completely. Then coded the site in valid XHTML,
CSS and PHP.
1999 - 2003 -This is my personal company web site. I designed the “look & feel”,
navigation, UI and coded the site in ASP.

Skills Matrix

1 Had appropriate training only

2 Limited practical experience

3 Solid practical experience

4 Well versed, extensive experience

5 Expert, extensive experience

Type of Experience	Experience In months	Date Last used	Skill level
Software:			
Photoshop 5 / 6 / 7 / CS 2	96	Current	5
Dreamweaver 2 / 3 / 4 / 6 / MX / MX 2004	60	Current	4
SourceOffSite Collaborative / Vault	60	Current	4
ImageReady 7 / CS 2	48	Current	3
Acrobat 5 / 6 / 7	48	Current	3
CorelDraw 8, 10, 11	48	Current	4
Visual Sourcesafe 6	48	Current	3
Freehand 7 / 11	12	Current	3
Flash 4, 5, MX / MX 2004	6	2003	2
Fireworks	6	2002	2
Flash ActionScript	4	2002	2
Visual Interdev 6	24	2001	2
Quark Xpress 4 / 5	6	2000	2
Technologies:			
CSS 1 / 2 / 2.11	72	Current	5
XHTML 1 / 1.1	48	Current	4
XML	36	Current	3
XSLT	36	Current	3
ASP	36	Current	2
HTML 3 / 4	48	Current	4
SQL 7 / 2000	24	Current	2
JavaScript	36	Current	2
DHTML / DOM	36	Current	2
PHP	6	Current	2

Education – Secondary Schooling

Year Matriculated 1994
Last School Attended High School Paarl Gymnasium
Subjects Afrikaans (HG), English (SG), Maths(SG), Biology (HG), Graphic Design(HG), Pottery (SG)

Education – Tertiary

Year 1996
Qualification 2 Year Graphic Design Diploma
Institution Art Directors Workshop
Subjects Design (specialised), Advertising, Publishing, DTP

Certificates

Year	Course	Institution
2000	Certified “iGeneration Creative Producer”	iGeneration
2000	Certified “iGeneration Internet Foundations Specialist”	iGeneration
2000	Certified “Hycurve Web Design Specialist”	Hycurve
1999	ACE – Adobe Certified Expert (Photoshop)	Adobe
1999	Flash 4 Master Certification Brainbench	Brainbench

References

Available on request.