



Creating Digital Portfolios

For Communication Design Students

As designers you have been taught to build traditional portfolios –spending money and time –lots of it. These portfolios are used to display your best work and demonstrate your talents and skills. It is usually leatherbound, bulky, and largely graphic/photographic.

In today's world of computers and growing technologies, that is changing at a rapid rate. You now have the option, thanks to software, scanners, and digital cameras, to create a digital portfolio that is convenient, portable, visually pleasing to the eye, and easy to navigate through images and text. It is practical and has multiple applications, and delivery.

Your work can be captured on a regular 35m camera and then transferred to a digital environment by way of a scanning device. Or you can have the images placed on a photo CD rom for viewing on a PC. A digital camera can be used to capture, store, and download digital images to the computer.

Your images can be placed in a vector, page layout or presentation software program to be displayed or demonstrated via the computer screen, a CD, via the Internet, or attached to an email. In essence you have created a back-up or archive of your original work, as well.

Typical Software Packages:

DeskScan II used for scanning sketches, photos, slides, and transparencies.

Adobe Photoshop manipulate scanned or digitally captured images.

Illustrator/QuarkXpress to layout the interface design

Adobe Acrobat to create a presentation/demonstration Slide Show

Adobe Acrobat/Reader to create and deliver on screen presentations that do not depend on other software that was used to create the text and images, generating a stand alone package.