

WhatsApp and dark mode: is it a match? (ios)

Full post here:

<https://bit.ly/3mexhWp>





PEOPLE HATE WHATSAPP DARK MODE

Twitter didn't give me the total number in my results, but you can continue to scroll and see the number of WhatsApp users who are not a fan of the app's dark mode.

It Isn't Easy On The Eyes

Nino De Vries – THE NEXT WEB

It hurts my eyes and it bums me out, especially when I think about how I'll be stuck staring at this dogshit theme a couple of times per hour every day. WhatsApp is my main mode of communication, and they made it ugly.

Alexander Griffioen – TNW's head of design

“They didn't put a lot of effort in optimizing it”, he continued. “The contrast of the name colors on the mid-gray bubbles is terrible compared to light mode, where the colorful names sit on a crisp, white bubble. This just isn't friendly-looking, like light mode is. It's... muddy.”

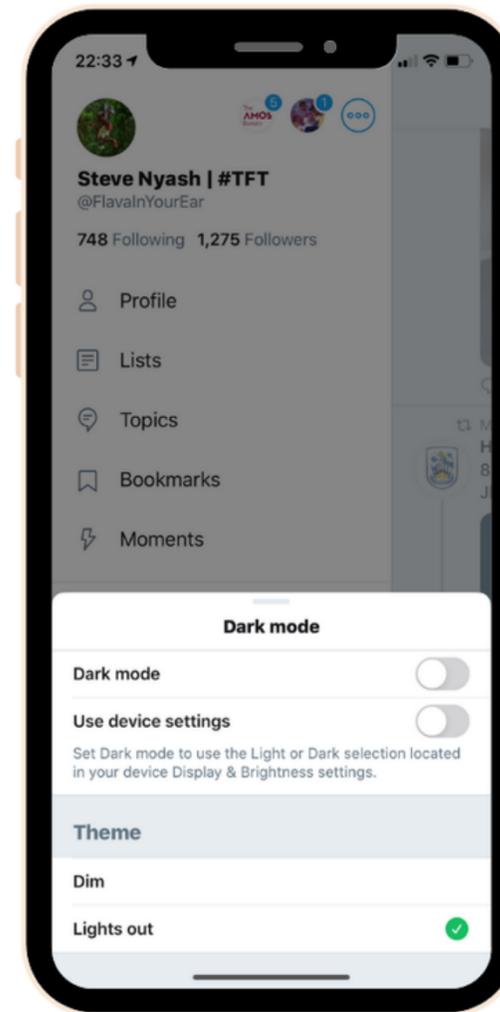
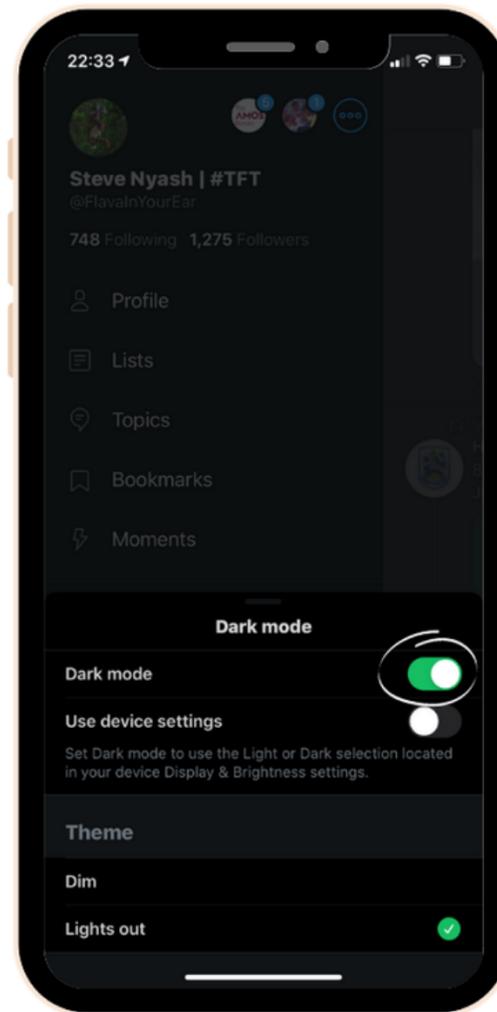
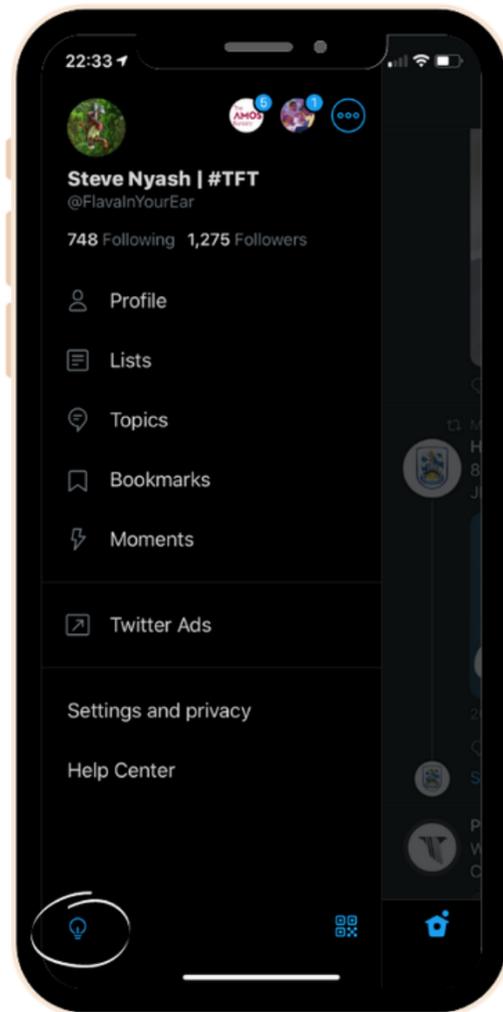
Dark Mode Isn't The Most Accessible

Research showed me dark mode can cause “halation” which massively impacts how people with astigmatism perceive digital interfaces.

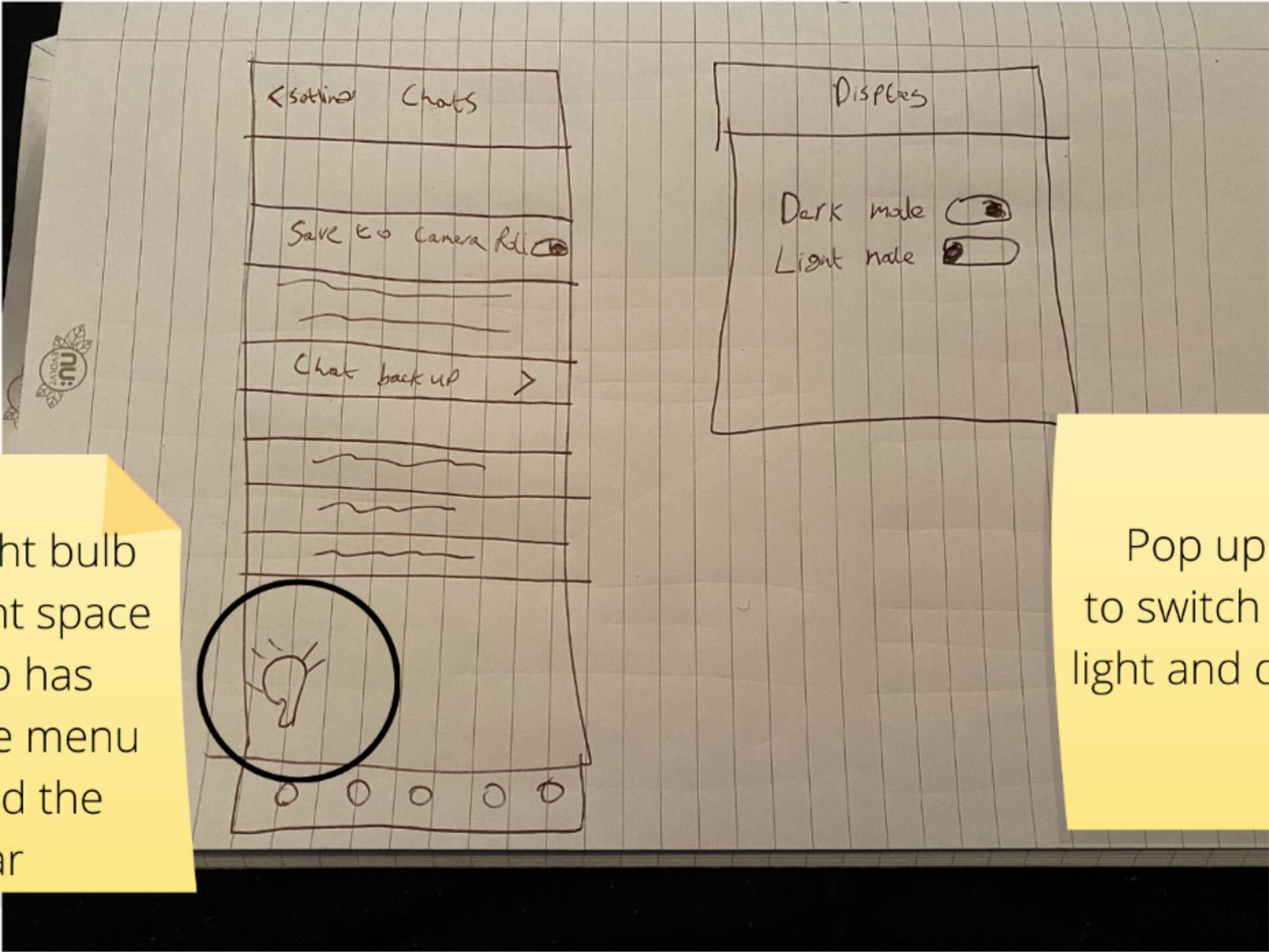
“In the UK, 47% of patients have astigmatic vision correction needs, with 24% having astigmatism in both eyes and 23% being monocular astigmatic, but toric contact lenses only represent 20% of fits.” Johnson & Johnson Vision



Twitter's Fix To Dark Mode



Low-Fid Wire Frame

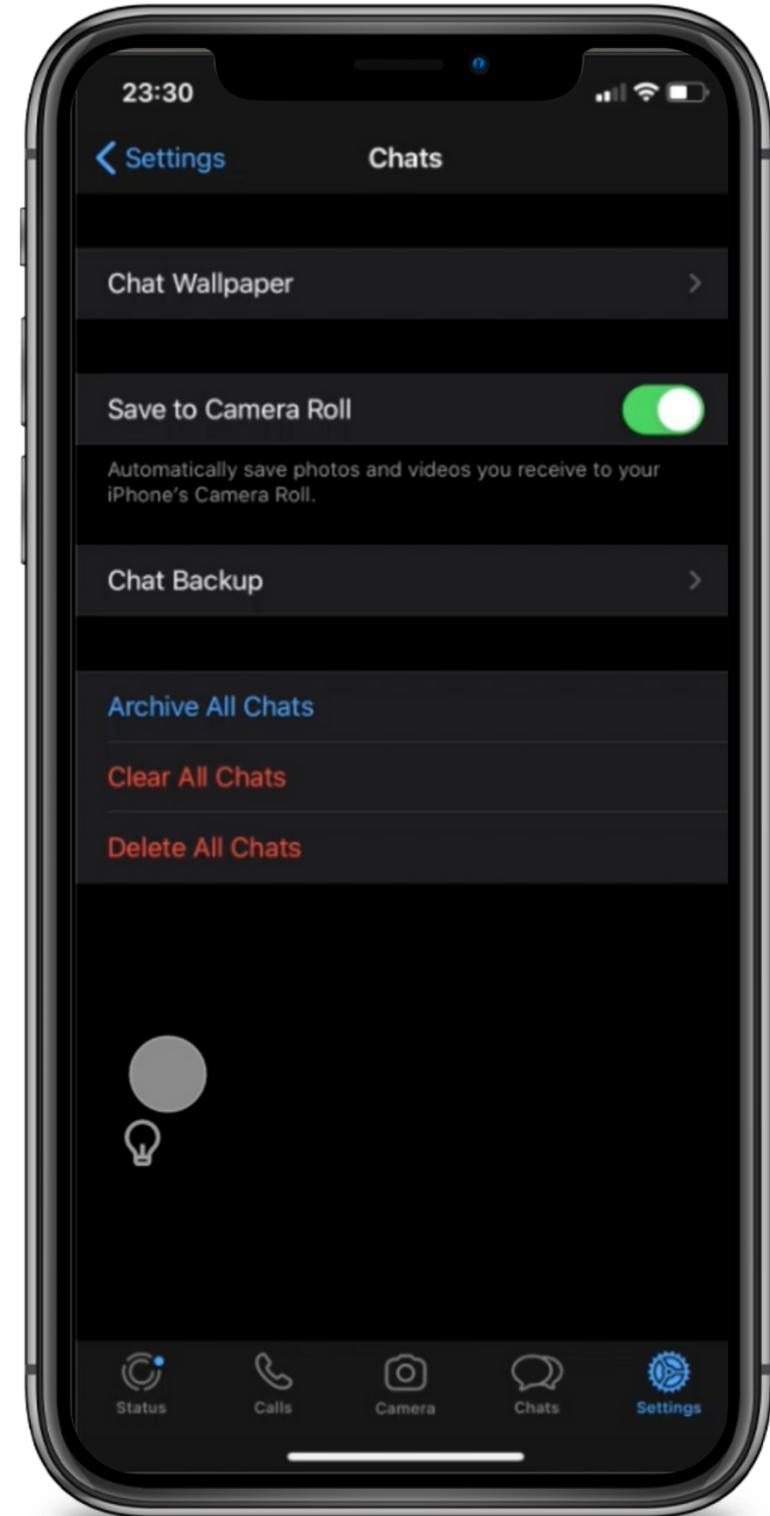


Adding a light bulb in the current space
Whatsapp has between the menu options and the tab bar

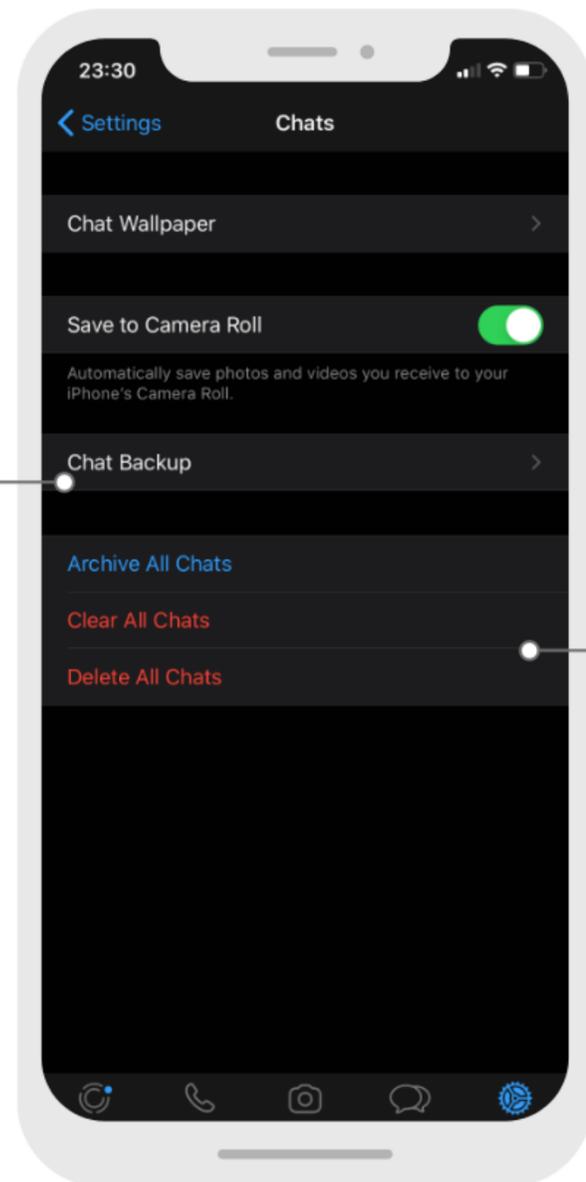
Pop up display to switch between light and dark mode

First Prototype

With this first prototype, I wanted to test if the bulb worked for users. I was split in-between either going with the bulb or making space between “Chat Backup” and “Archive All Chats” for the dark mode option. I chose the bulb as it was quicker to add, user thumb touch zones and WhatsApp not using that space.



Second Prototype - Redesign

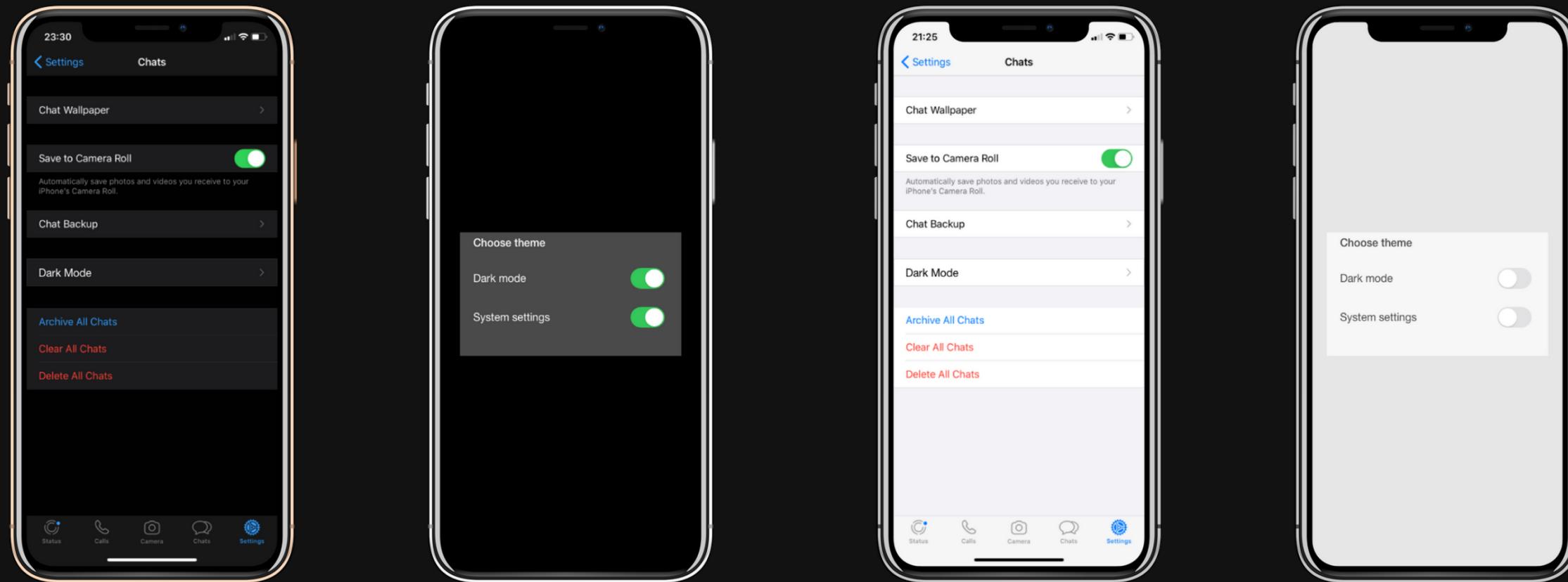


Display button
Add the option to change the mode options here

Move down
Moving these block of options to create even space between the "display button" and these three chat options.

The user testing data suggest that the bulb isn't the most obvious so wouldn't enhance the user's journey. Users suggested adding the dark mode feature under the "Chat Backup" option which aligned with my alternative placement. With this user data, I can make the changes which fit within the menu options.

Final Design



Test out the prototype here: <https://adobe.ly/3a6WSy0>

Tools Used

