Fancy Form Design

By Jina Bolton, Tim Connell and Derek Featherstone
ISBN: 978-0-9805768-4-9
Review by Joe Iagnemmo

Almost every web site has something in common, forms. The authors start out with planning out the form by showing all the possible input types like radio buttons and drop down lists. They then go on to show you some different ways to organize your form elements on the page. Almost as soon as they start talking about structure they add in accessibility.

In the next chapter they not only explain ways to deal with giving the user instructions, dealing with error codes and adding advisory text they explain how to add in accessibility to these elements also.

They include pages of code examples so you can see how everything comes together. This is different from the many books that give you bits and pieces but never put everything together for you to see a final project.

After they give you a solid foundation they dive into how to style the form which takes some work because if you ever attempted to add a form to your site you know how tricky it can be.

They show some different ways to style your form with examples along with explaining the pros and cons of each.

The last chapter is about adding form enhancements using jQuery and JavaScript. They also show the code that adds input validation to your form.

You might think this book is essentially about how to design the looks of your form it also shows how to design them with function and accessibility in mind.