

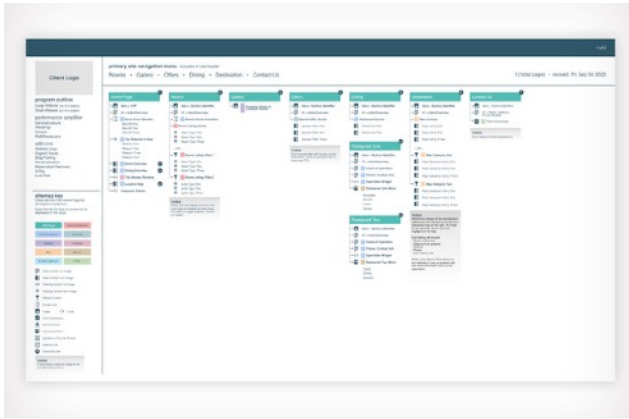
Sitemap Template

THE CHALLENGE

Create consistency in the sitemaps that our department was developing making them technical enough for all internal departments to use as their blueprint but also simple enough that the clients could understand and not be overwhelmed.

THE SOLUTION

I developed a template file and stencil for the site mapping program we used, OmniGraffle. It was grid based and the elements were accessible so users could simply drag and drop what they needed without having to resize or worry about the layout.



THE PROCESS

I needed to develop a site blueprint solution that was easy to decipher by anyone looking at it. The biggest challenge was that it needed to be detailed enough for each internal department to refer to when they were developing their part of the site but also simplified enough for a client to be able to review the pages and their corresponding content distribution. Because we used a proprietary CMS system to develop our websites, I decided to incorporate a combination of iconography that matched up with the various elements of the CMS while also defining the elements for each page, all of which were included in a sitemap key.

In order to maintain consistency within our department the template was also methodically developed on a grid system that easily allowed the user to align all the items and not need to resize any elements. OmniGraffle makes use of stencils which I also developed to be used with the template so the user could literally just drag an element to the page as they were laying out the content. This all allowed the user to focus on the actual dispersion of content and not have to worry about spacing, styling or layout issues.

