

Portfolio

leonie theißen

Content



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1.1 Evolution image language

Right at the beginning the XING image language poses a challenge.

It's comprised of random stock photos and very much represents the old working world: stiff, formal, colour-less, artificial, aloof.

Due to my eCommerce backtround I have supported the very first pool shoot (2013) in order to achieve a much needed update to the brand image language: Casual instead of tie and suit, with locations wherever modern work actually happens.

From 2016 on I conduct photo shoots myself including planning, briefing, casting, stakeholder management, styling briefs and art direction whille also overseeing the post production. The goals is to showcase the lived reality of professionals in all aspects of life with authenticity and simply likeable.

before













1.2 Evolution image language

With a brand refresh a new corporate design comes up. For this I develop a new image language that takes our brand personality to the next level: bright, approachable, diverse, with vibrant splashes of colour and a high depth of field to bring an antidote to the prevalent highly polished stock image look in focussing strongly on authenticity and immediacy.

With this also comes a stronger focus on storytelling.

For this look I'm conducting a pool shoot and wotk with image agencies to create a bespoke brand stock pool.

User surveys show a clear preference for the new material.

The brightly lit clarity works perfectly with the new design assets.















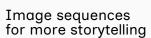
High depth of field without any special effects





















Bright with splashes of colour

















eo

1.3 Evolution image language

The XING brand gets a strategic repositioning. With this comes a radical rejuvenation of the design. For this we need an image language that can keep up with the colourful, contrast-rich palette and the cheeky design elements.

Another challenge is to get our marketing teams ready for action fast and cost-effectively, in order to bring the perception shift on the road immediately. For this I create a curated stock image pool that assures brand consistency.

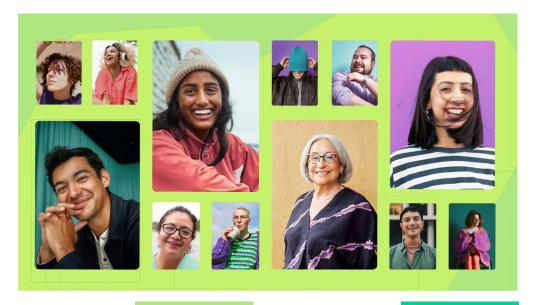
After an exploration phase with user surveys I arrive at an image language that utilises strong portraits which turn our users into the heroes of their own careers. Colourful, diverse, with strong personalities, enthusiastic but most of all: without the bullshit.





























2. Jobs-Netzwerk campaign

(B2C & B2B)

XING as repositioned itself on the market, from a traditional professional network to a jobs platform under the new work movement banner that stands for exactly one thing: Finding jobs (B2C) and finding talents (B2B).

The claim "XING — Das Jobs-Netzwerk" (XING, the jobs network) is the umbrella for a twin campaign with a new, fresh and most of all approachable look that aims to clearly communicate to job seekers and recruiters:

XING has changed! Less of the jabbering and the ego stroking more of what matters: perfectly matching jobs and talents.



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2.1 Jobs-Netzwerk campaign

(B2C)

For the B2C segment we launched a 360° campaign including TV, online spots, wurden neben den TV und Online-Spots social media posts, paid social and content material.

In addition we incorporated our sponsoring for the Baller League. By branding the live stream as well as the event hall we told the mainly younger audience (16 - 27yo) about the XING fresh up and to raise awareness on all things job search.













2.2 Jobs-Netzwerk campaign

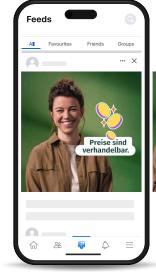
(B2B)

The twin campaign for the B2B segment focusses especially on online marketing, social media and paid social extension.

The visuals are picking up the TV spots and visually align with the B2C campaign, albeit with a stronger focus on performance optimisation and lead generation.

The consistency throughout both campaign strengthens the message: XING is the go-to address for both sides of the job market.

















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3. Seasonal campaign

(B2C & B2B)



Just before the winter break we're dealing out the christmas spirit. Prize draws, memes and tipps on how to navigate christmas time at the office are to be discovered behind the doors. Each tailor-made to fit the interests of the respective target audience, B2C users and B2B customers in fun and exciting ways.

My job was concept and design of both the website and the calendar iFrame and handover to the development agency, as well as quality assurance, UI of the door overlays and matching campaign assets.

And under my supervision my junior designer has designed two incredibly charming ugly christmas sweaters for the main prize, I think.



4. Winning over the young'uns (Fairs)

XING has a strong interest in students as a target audience and is using job fairs to address young talents. It's important to hit the right notes with a mixture of tipps for entry level jobs, prize draws and interactive games without being cringe.

But most importantly we needed to turn around the preconception that XING is just for well-established professionals. For this I design event material, digital ads, merchandise and building signage.

But one of the elements was a particular joy to create: a retro style game console that lets students learn facts about the job market and how XING can help them in a fun and immersive way. And of course, there was swag to win, too.

For this I design the console and the game interface as well as the surrounding communication material. Since then the consoles are being brought along to each new student fair.



























5. Rebranding B2B formats

The B2B brand onlyfy is being strategically remerged with the XING brand, which from then on is serving both sides of the job market (job search and recruiting).

This means that all CRM assets under the umbrella of the New Hiring Academy need to be rebranded, starting with the New Hiring Academy logo and the redesign of all ad templates.

Up until then the templates used the onlyfy brand palette pretty much at random.

After comprehensive conversations with the B2B marketing team I decide to map specidic looks and formats to the respective steps in the customer funnel:

See (Awareness, first contact)



Think (share knowledge, build connections)



Do (Onboarding, product introductions)



Care (Customer success management)

onlyfy assets

















1. See

attention

2. Think

Focus on content

Grabbing the

New Hiring **Academy**















4. CareSmooth upskilling for existing customers





6.1 Editorial

eo

(Print magazine)

In 2024 XING was going to enter the recruiting fair "Zukunft Personal" with a bang. Bringing with them our first print magazine for recruiters:

HIRE. Packed with compelling, interesting and entertaining content that all have the same message: XING knows recruiting, we know your daily business, we speak your language.

My aim for the design was: loud, delicious and immersive. Clearly a XING vehicle but with its own editorial flavour that moves away from advertorial content.

You can download a digital copy here: https://recruiting.xing.com/de/downloads/hire-magazin-e-paper/

Here you can find a short interview with me on the topic (in German): https://new-work.se/en/career/lets-talk-about-brand-with-leonie



6.2 Editorial

(Digital)

Whitepapers tailored to customer interests are an important acquisition and retention tool for the B2B segment.

These are two examples of the last 5 years (before and after the design update).

On the left is a whitepaper extension from the 1st edition of the HIRE magazine (see previous page).





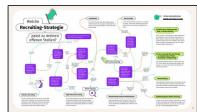












Methode - mit dem XING Wegweiser











7.1.1 Smaller projects

(Branding general practitioner)













Pictures from the photo shoot with real staff members and patients

_holistic _open

_layered _fresh



Illustrations for the patient screen

A nice side challenge: my brother has opened a general practice for which I create the entire branding, including logo, stationery, a photo shoot, merchandise and the patient room waiting screens.

Branded stationery and patient giveaways for the openning



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Three logo colours uniting his three competence fields: general practice, flight medecine and palliative medicine.





7.1.2 Smaller projects

(Website general practice)

Wireframe Desktop view



with notification



Navigation



Wireframe Tablet view



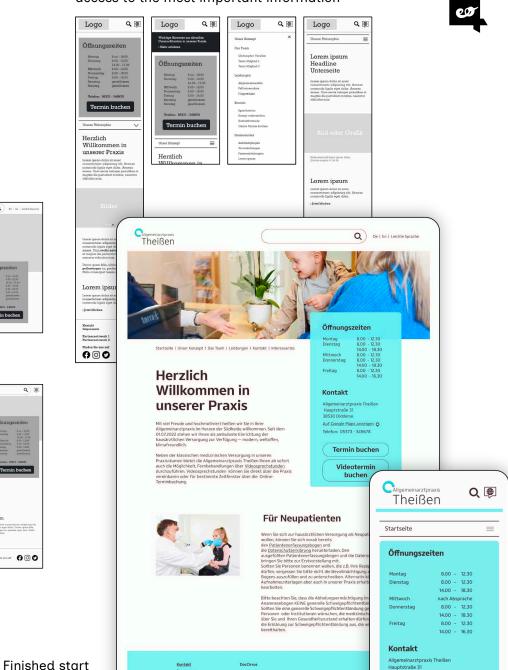
Navigation



page layout

For the general practice of my brother I have conceived and designed a website and collaborated with a frontend developer. It is still WIP since some areas are yet to be set up incrementally.

Wireframe Mobile view with a focus of quick access to the most important information



Auf Google Maps anzeigen O

7.2 Smaller projects

(Branding leadership coach, WIP)

Old website



Maike Wendel is a life and career coach with long years of experience. Her goal is now to grow into the segment of leadership coaching. For this she needs a modern, powerful and fresh branding that reflects her personality and her methods. While Maike looks at life in a holistic manner, the new online presence needs to mainly showcase her clarity, power and competence.

For this I have started developing a bespoke, modular corporate design and presented some first looks on solutions.

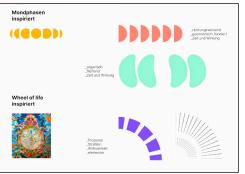




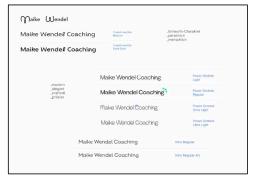




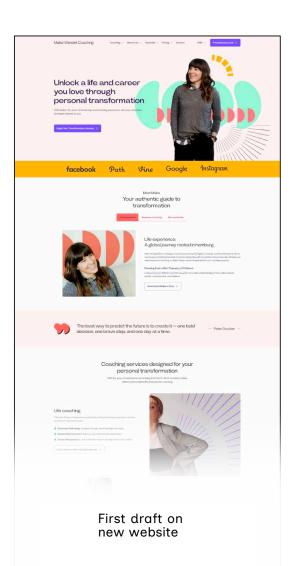




Image style and framing



First drafts on logos



8. Speaking & Hosting



WUD HH





Empathy Circle **Training**





UX Camp Main Sponsor



Kleinanzeigen Remote Workshop







TRKKN Exploration Meetup









New Work Creative workshop (ca. 50 participants)

Speaking:

- World Usability Day Hamburg 2021 (Accessibility)
- UX Camp Hamburg 2023 (Sponsor Representation)
- TRKKN Exploration Meetup April 2025 (Accessibility)
- Accessibility Club Summit 2025 (Accessibility)

Workshop Hosting:

Here are some examples of

talks and workshops I have held, created and facilitated:

- XING UX Summit 2022 ("Empathy Circle Training")
 MOIA Design Bites 2023 ("Empathy Circle Training")
- Kleinanzeigen Teamworkshop 2023 (Accessibility)
- New Work Culture Days 2024 (Kreativworkshop)



Accessibility Club Summit

9. Illustration













Private Comic project, forever a WIP:)





Current hobby project "Barrieria", a browser based escape game to learn about accessibility.

The team consists of a web designer, a game developer and me providing illustrations.



see ya