STUDENT FIELD GUIDE / 01

Complete your website

A practical guide to replacing the starter text, images, and CSS in the construction-theme-template project.

Your goal

Turn the starter into a complete, consistent website for a construction company or another instructor-approved theme. Write original content, supply relevant images, and customize the design while keeping navigation and interactions working.

1. Set up your working copy

- Duplicate the entire project folder as a backup. Open the working folder in your code editor so that all HTML files, **assets/**, and **img/** stay together.
- Open **index.html** in a browser, or use your editor's local preview. This is a static website: no package installation or build step is required. Save edits, then refresh the browser.
- Browse Home, About, Contact, and all eight service pages before editing. Try the Services menu, hero arrows, and image enlargement.

2. Know which files control what

File or folder	What you will change
index.html	Home page: two hero slides, introduction, seven gallery images, and brand section.
Other .html files	About, Contact, and eight service pages. Text, image references, and links live here.
assets/styles.css	Shared colors, fonts, spacing, image presentation, and responsive layouts.
assets/site.js	Existing menu, scrolling behavior, manual slideshow, and image viewer. Keep its HTML hooks intact.
img/ and **assets/**	Photos, logos, decorative hammer icon, and local fonts. Keep assets/fonts/OFL.txt with the bundled fonts.

3. Plan before you replace

Write down your project name, audience, service area, main visitor action, page topics, two brand colors, and image sources. Use instructor-approved contact details; identify fictional businesses as classroom projects.

Suggested order: plan → text → images → CSS → test → submit. Finish one representative page first, then apply the same standards across the site.

Use the completion standards in this guide unless your instructor provides different requirements. Code examples use a fictional company; adapt them to your own project.

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Finish every page

Use this page map to track the complete site. Keep the original filenames while you work so existing links continue to function.

What belongs on each page

Page group	Completion requirements
Home	Replace both hero slides, action labels, company introduction, seven gallery items, gallery explanation, and company promise.
About	Add company background, the main image, three process steps, and four relevant partner/material logos or approved replacements.
Each service	Add a specific page title, overview, supporting paragraph, four service details, relevant gallery images, and a clear next-step invitation.
Contact	Complete phone, email, location/service area, instructions for inquiries, and opening hours. This template uses contact links; it has no submission form.
Every page	Update browser title, description, header/footer branding, contact links, footer text, and any sidebar hours. Keep navigation consistent.

File map: all 11 pages

`index.html`

`about-construction-construction-location-list-here-company-name.html`

`contact-construction-location-list-here-company-name.html`

`roofing-construction-location-list-here-company-name.html`

`siding-construction-location-list-here-company-name.html`

`door-and-window-installation-construction-location-list-here-company-name.html`

`masonry-construction-location-list-here-company-name.html`

`bathroom-construction-location-list-here-company-name.html`

`kitchen-design-construction-location-list-here-company-name.html`

`pool-construction-location-list-here-company-name.html`

`carpentry-construction-location-list-here-company-name.html`

Changing the theme? Update service names, breadcrumbs, gallery labels, and sidebar/footer labels together. If you rename an HTML file, update every link to it across the whole project and retest.

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Replace the text

Edit the words and link destinations without removing the HTML structure that makes the site work.

1. Write useful, page-specific content

Replace the text between tags such as **<h1>**, **<h2>**, **<p>**, **<li>**, and **<a>**. Keep one main h1 per page and use h2/h3 for sections. Explain what the project offers, who it serves, and what visitors should do next. Match each paragraph to the images beside it.

```
<h1>Roofing services</h1>
<p class="lead">Cedar &amp; Stone plans roof repairs and
  replacements for homes in our local service area.</p>
<ul class="service-scope">
  <li>Roof condition reviews</li>
  <li>Shingle replacement</li>
  <li>Flashing repairs</li>
  <li>Gutter coordination</li>
</ul>
```

Use specific link labels such as "View roofing projects" or "Discuss your project." Replace example claims with accurate project information; do not invent reviews, credentials, or partnerships.

2. Update the browser title and description

```
<title>Roofing | Cedar &amp; Stone</title>
<meta name="description"
  content="Explore our roofing approach and project examples.">
```

Edit these in the **<head>** of every HTML file. Give each page a distinct title and a concise description. Keep the stylesheet link, viewport metadata, and deferred script tag.

3. Replace contact destinations as well as labels

```
<a class="nav-phone" href="tel:+12025550123">
  (202) 555-0123
</a>
<a href="mailto:hello@example.com">hello@example.com</a>
```

These are examples only. Replace both the visible text and the **href** with approved details. After updating each contact link, remove its instructional **data-student-link** attribute. Repeat in headers, footers, sidebars, and Contact. A mailto link opens the visitor's configured email app; it does not submit a form.

4. Search the whole project for leftovers

Search all HTML files for **Students:**, **Add** , **Your heading**, **Your theme**, **Your project**, **placeholder**, **Replace hero image**, and **data-student-link**. Review each match, including alt text and aria-labels. Update repeated branding deliberately; page-specific paragraphs need their own wording.

Keep IDs such as main, top, projects, and contact-details unless you also update every reference to them. Preserve classes, data-lightbox, data-slide, and accessibility attributes used by the existing controls.

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Replace photos and logos

A complete image replacement includes the file, its path, a useful description, and any link that opens it.

1. Prepare your image files

Use your own images or images you have permission to use. Record each source and credit requirement. Crop intentionally, export compressed JPG/WebP for photos or PNG for transparency, and use short lowercase filenames with hyphens, such as **kitchen-renovation.jpg**. Save photos in **img/**.

Template image slot	Current size / shape
Home hero backgrounds	1920 x 698 px, wide landscape
Home project gallery	360 x 360 px, square; seven slots
About main photo / service galleries	802 x 350 px, landscape
Shared construction logo	1040 x 560 px; header, footer, and Home brand art
About partner logos	1280 x 480 px; four slots

These are the starter dimensions, not mandatory export sizes. Use similar proportions, avoid stretching, and set width/height attributes to the new file's actual pixel dimensions. CSS controls its displayed size.

2. Replace an image that opens in the viewer

Find the existing gallery **<a>** and its nested **<img>**. Update the anchor's **href**, the image's **src**, its **alt**, and the anchor's **aria-label**. Keep its existing classes and **data-lightbox**.

```
<a class="project-image project-frame"
   href="img/kitchen-renovation.jpg" data-lightbox
   aria-label="Enlarge renovated kitchen photograph">
  <img src="img/kitchen-renovation.jpg"
       alt="White oak cabinets beside a blue tile backsplash"
       width="1200" height="1200"
       loading="lazy" decoding="async">
  <span class="image-zoom" aria-hidden="true">+</span>
</a>
```

This example fits a Home gallery item. For a service gallery item, keep its existing project-image class; do not add project-frame unless you want the Home frame treatment. For an unlinked image, update its src, alt, and dimensions.

3. Describe the image, then check it

Alt text should convey the image's purpose and relevant visible details. Use a brand name for a meaningful logo; use **alt=""** only for a truly decorative image. The lightbox copies the thumbnail alt text into its caption, so write text that works in both places.

Check: refresh, inspect the crop, open the image, and confirm the enlarged version is the new file. Leave the empty **<img alt="">** inside the lightbox dialog alone: JavaScript fills it when a visitor opens an image.

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Update heroes and shared assets

Some images come from CSS, and repeated logos appear in several places. Include both in your replacement pass.

1. Replace both Home hero backgrounds

In **index.html**, find both elements with **class="hero-slide"**. Change only the image URL inside each existing **style** attribute. Preserve its other attributes and keep the second slide's **hidden** attribute so the script can switch slides.

```
style="--hero-image: url('../img/hero-exterior.jpg')"

style="--hero-image: url('../img/hero-interior.jpg')"
```

The custom property is used by **background-image: var(--hero-image)** in **assets/styles.css**. Keep the template's **../img/** path pattern. Background images have no alt attribute, so put any essential information in visible slide text. Update the hero's accessible label if you change the theme.

- Replace both slides' headings, introductions, button labels, and destinations. Keep the first slide's h1 and the second slide's h2.
- Remove each **...** after replacing its image. You may then remove the dedicated image-note CSS rules.
- Check both arrow buttons and the slide counter. The slideshow advances on user input; it is not an automatic rotation. Keep the dark overlay if it is needed for readable text.

2. Replace repeated branding and the CSS icon

The shared logo is **assets/construction-logo.png**. Replace that file using the same name and format, or save a new file and update every reference. Update logo alt text and dimensions in every page, plus the header link's **aria-label** and footer's **sr-only** home-link text.

The Home service list uses **assets/hammer.png** through **.intro-services a::before** in the stylesheet. Replace the decorative icon or change that CSS rule to match your theme. The four About partner images also need relevant replacements and accurate descriptions.

3. Keep relative paths straight

Where the reference is used	Example path
An img src or image link in a root HTML file	img/kitchen-renovation.jpg
Logo reference in a root HTML file	assets/my-logo.png
A photo URL in assets/styles.css	../img/hero-exterior.jpg
The decorative icon in assets/styles.css	hammer.png or my-icon.png

Checkpoint: all images and backgrounds match your theme; thumbnails and enlarged images agree. Keep unused originals until you have checked that no page references them.

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Customize the CSS

Edit assets/styles.css in small, testable steps. One shared stylesheet changes all 11 pages.

1. Replace the color values in the existing :root block

Start with a coherent palette. This is an example you may adapt; replace the existing values rather than adding a second copy of the same block.

```
:root {
    --ink: #203039;
    --muted: #4f6068;
    --paper: #ffffff;
    --surface: #eef4f2;
    --line: #d3dedb;
    --accent: #176b57;
    --navy: #123c43;
    --container: 1120px;
}
```

Colors also appear as literal values outside :root, including hero text, overlays, backgrounds, borders, and hover styles. Review those rules so your new palette is consistent. Check actual text/background combinations for legibility.

2. Make purposeful typography and layout edits

Design choice	Where to edit and what to verify
Fonts	The body rule uses local Poppins. To use system fonts, change its font family to Arial, sans-serif; also update the explicit Poppins family in .hero-title h1, .hero-title h2. Keep sensible fallbacks.
Headings and spacing	Adjust h2/h3, .section, or .hero-title rules. Change one value at a time. Long headings must still wrap without covering controls.
Buttons and links	Review .button, .hero-primary, their hover rules, and focus styles. Use consistent colors and readable labels.
Image presentation	Review .project-frame, .project-frame img, .service-gallery, and .brand-art. object-fit: cover crops photos; contain preserves a complete logo.
Responsive behavior	Keep the media queries. Several later rules override earlier ones at narrow widths, so inspect the rule active at the screen size you are testing.

3. Preserve the rules that support interaction

Keep **[hidden]**, **:focus-visible**, **.skip-link**, **.sr-only**, mobile menu rules, lightbox styles, and **prefers-reduced-motion**. Do not remove an entire section simply because its selector looks unfamiliar. A complete CSS rewrite should retain equivalent behavior.

Design evidence: document three CSS changes and explain how each supports your audience. Recheck Home, a service page, and Contact after every shared style change.

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Test like a visitor

Save all files, refresh, and test the whole site. A finished Home page alone is not a finished website.

1. Run a desktop and mobile pass

- ☐ Visit all 11 pages. Check each title, heading, paragraph, image, footer, sidebar, and contact detail. Review hidden content by opening menus and the second hero slide.
- ☐ Click every navigation, service, breadcrumb, action, and footer link. Check phone/email destinations and anchors such as the Home gallery and back-to-top link.
- ☐ Test at approximately 1440 px, 768 px, 390 px, and 320 px wide using the browser's responsive preview. Check for horizontal scrolling, clipped text, awkward crops, and overlapping controls.
- ☐ Open and close the mobile menu. Open Services. Try both hero arrows. Enlarge several gallery images on every service page, then close the viewer with its button and Escape.

2. Run a keyboard and readability pass

- ☐ Use Tab and Shift+Tab. The skip link should appear on focus, and controls should have a visible focus indicator. Use Enter or Space as appropriate to activate links and buttons.
- ☐ Close menus and the image viewer with Escape. Confirm focus returns to a useful place, including the gallery image that opened the viewer.
- ☐ Zoom to 200% and inspect text and navigation. Check contrast, heading order, useful image descriptions, and readable text over both hero photos.
- ☐ Use the browser Console and Network panels to look for script errors and failed local files. Confirm the site still offers readable content and links if JavaScript is unavailable.

3. Fix common problems

Symptom	Likely fix
Image is missing	Check src/href spelling, filename case, extension, and relative path. Use forward slashes and project paths, not a C: drive path.
Old image opens in viewer	Update the gallery anchor href as well as the img src.
Hero image is missing	Check both --hero-image values and the ../img/ path pattern used by this template.
CSS edit seems ignored	Save, refresh without cache, then inspect later selectors and media queries that may override the rule.
Menu or viewer breaks	Restore the expected classes, IDs, buttons, dialog, and data attributes. Read the first Console error before making more edits.

Record each failure with the page, screen size, steps, and correction. Test again after the fix; do not mark an item complete just because you edited it.

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Complete and submit

Use this final checklist, then package a version that someone else can open without your computer.

Completion checklist

- ☐ **Content:** every page has original, relevant text; unique metadata; clear actions; consistent project identity; and approved contact details.
- ☐ **Cleanup:** all instructional text, image placeholders, hero dimension notes, and obsolete contact-link hints are replaced or removed. Review search matches individually.
- ☐ **Images:** all used photos, logos, icons, and hero backgrounds fit the theme; paths work; alt text is useful; and source/permission information is recorded.
- ☐ **Design:** the shared CSS reflects your choices, with consistent typography, colors, spacing, focus styles, and usable mobile layouts.
- ☐ **Function:** all page links, the mobile menu, Services menu, hero controls, image viewer, and back-to-top link have been tested.

What to turn in

Deliverable	Include
Complete project folder or ZIP	All 11 HTML pages, assets/styles.css, assets/site.js, fonts and their license, plus every referenced image. Preserve the folder structure.
Short project note	Project name, audience, how to open index.html, at least three CSS changes and their reasons, and any remaining limitations.
Image credit list	Your image filename, creator/source URL or "created by me," license or permission, and required attribution. Include AI-generated image disclosure if your class requires it.
Evidence of testing	A desktop and mobile screenshot, a completed checklist, and a brief list of problems you fixed. Follow your instructor's requested submission format.

Final handoff check

Extract your ZIP into a new folder and open **index.html** from that copy. Recheck images, navigation, and styling. A working site should not depend on files outside the submitted folder. If a hosted URL is required, upload the complete folder contents to the assigned host and repeat the link and image checks there.

Student sign-off

Name: _____ Class: _____

Project: _____ Date: _____

One design choice I can explain: _____

_____

One problem I tested and fixed: _____

_____