



design
recommendations.

Requirements VS Recommendations

Folio offers any user the creative freedom to produce whatever they want, for whomever they want. To ensure that the Folio you produce is as effective and engaging as possible, we have compiled a list of design recommendations for you to refer to while producing your assets.

Other than a few requirements shown in the graphic standards section of our website, you are free to produce whatever you want. Reported illegal content will be removed.

You can download this document to keep with you while creating your assets. Happy designing!

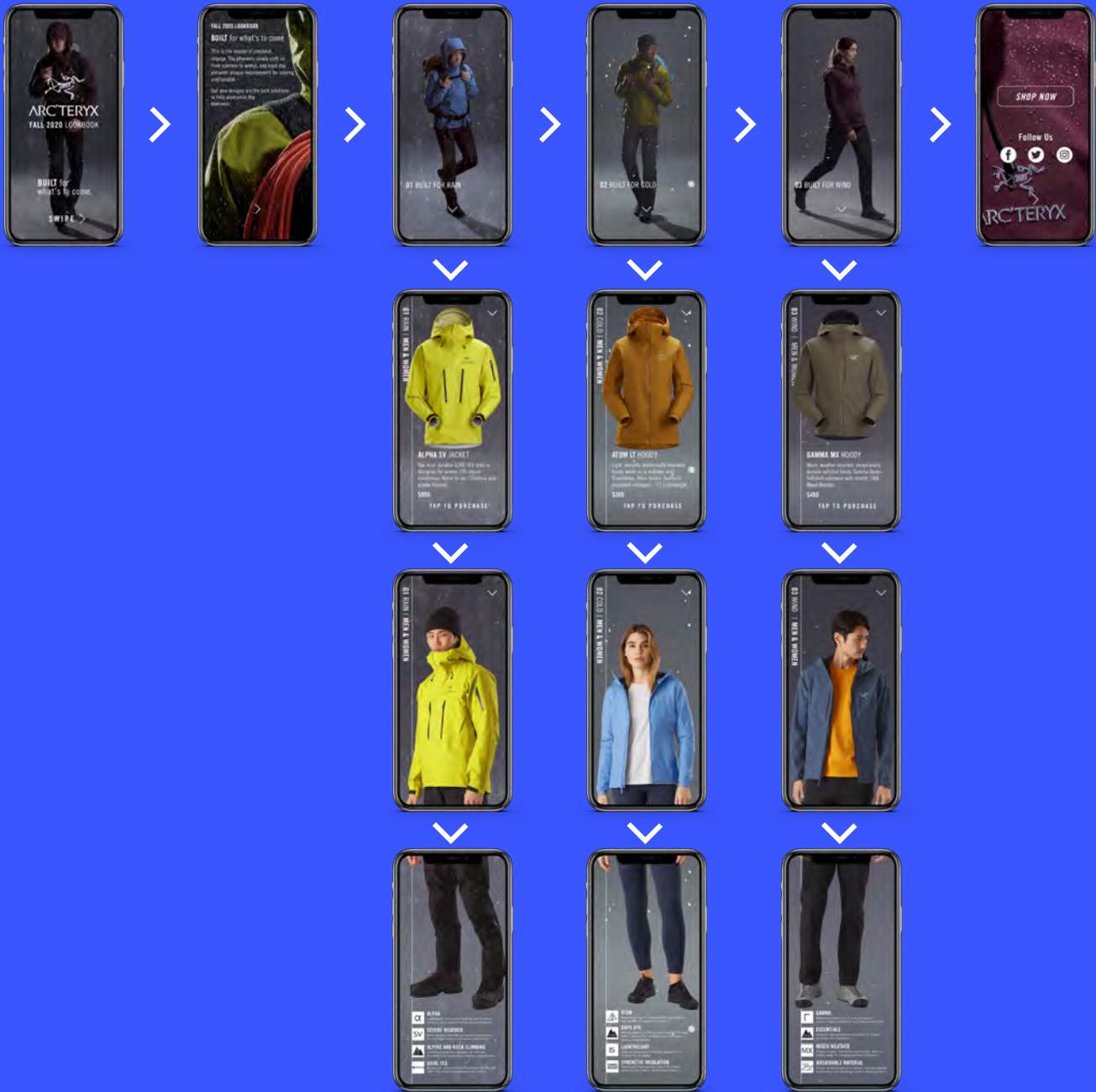
Design Recommendations



Folio Orientations

When starting to design a Folio, the first thing to consider is the orientation.

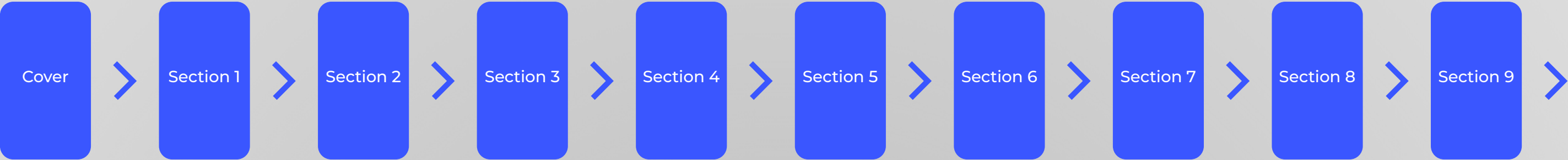
If your Folio is smaller and doesn't require sections to help guide the viewer through your content, consider a one-way Folio (100% horizontal or 100% vertical). If you have a lot of content that is easily compartmentalized into sections, consider a two-way Folio (across & down or down & across).



Design Recommendations

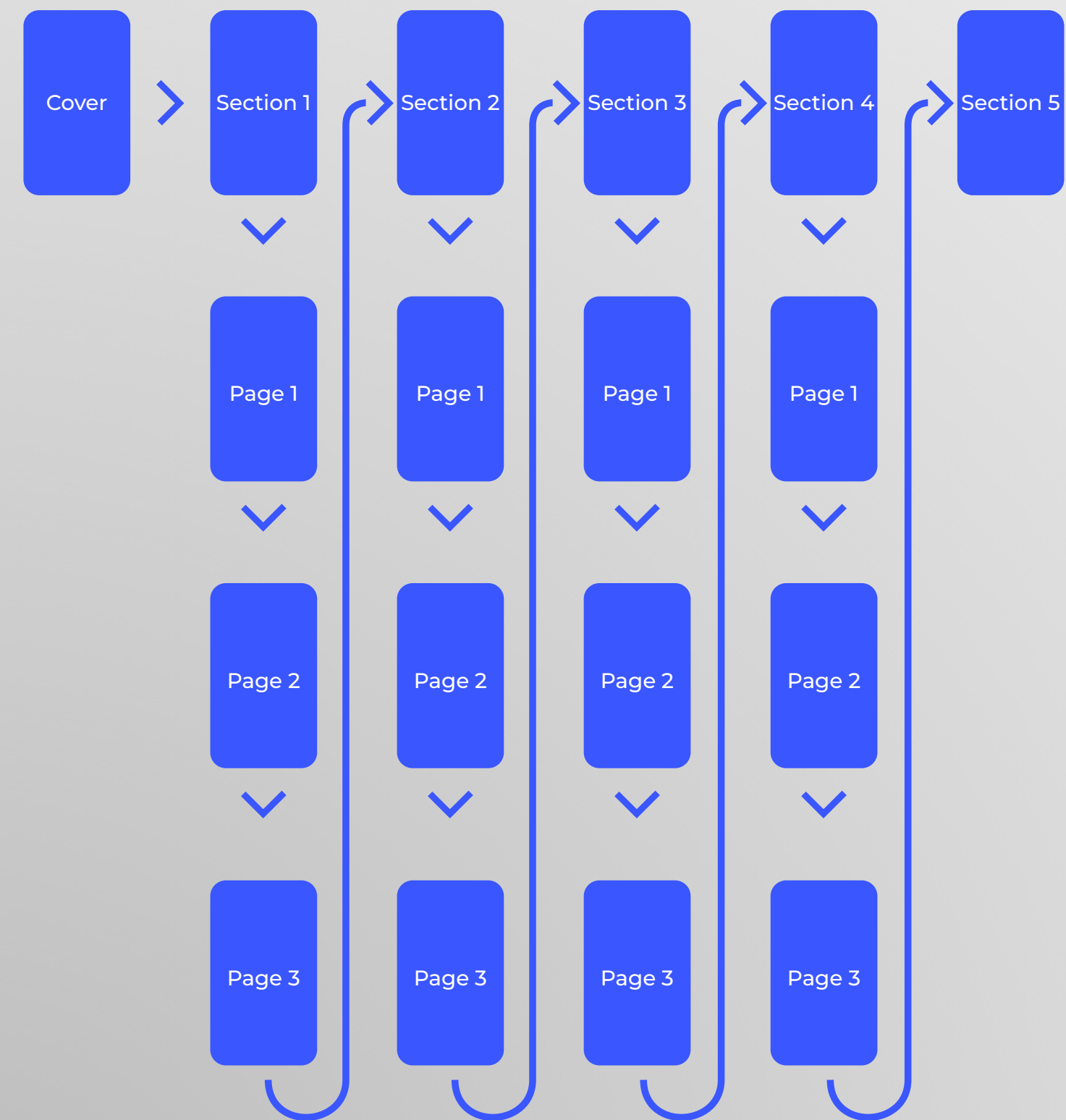
One-Way Orientation

The one-way Folio orientations are most suited for shorter and more visual Folios. This quick orientation allows users to swipe through the pages and get the information they need without diving deeper into sections.



Two-Way Orientation

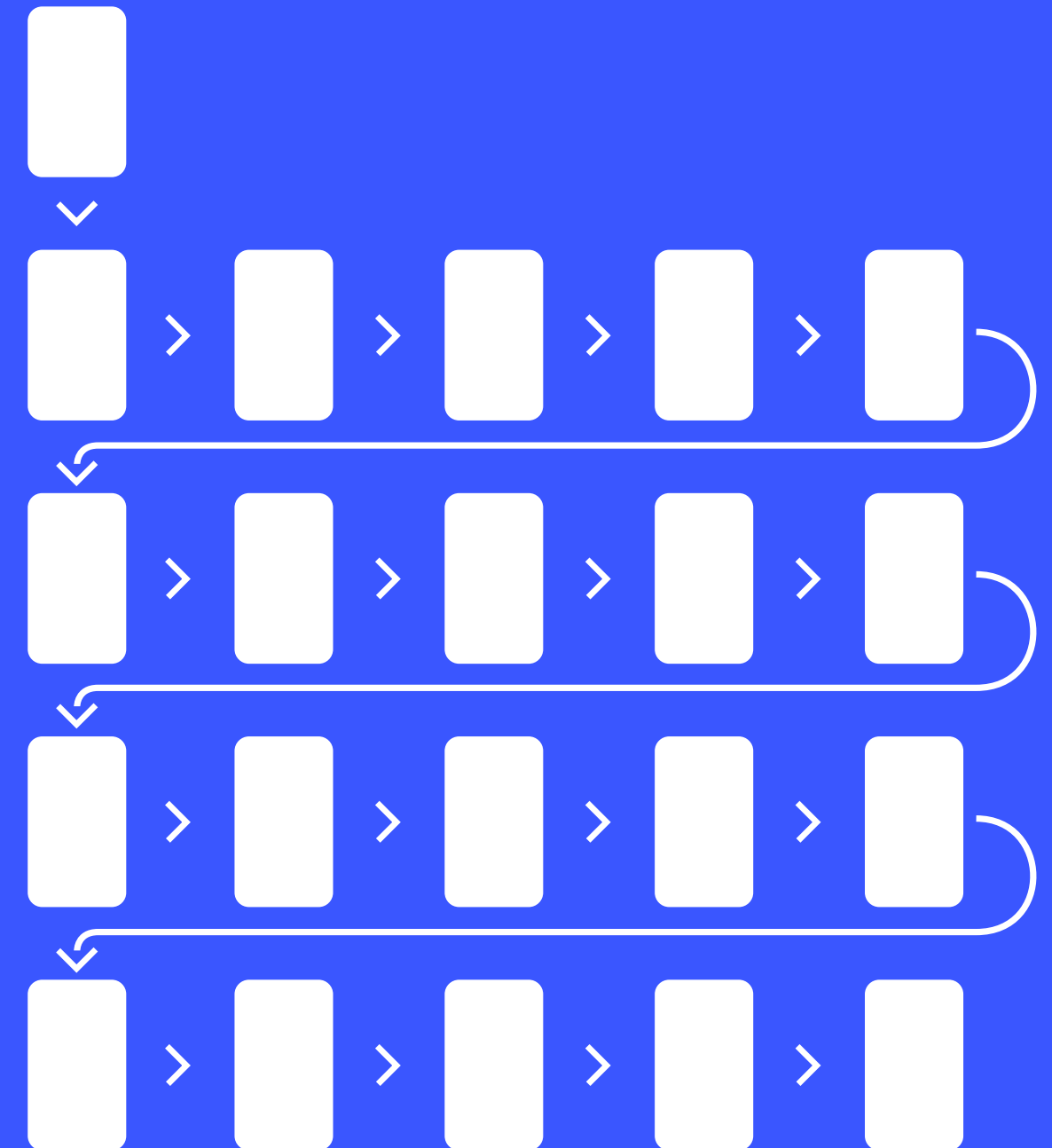
The two-way Folio orientations are most suited for longer, more text-heavy Folios. This sophisticated orientation allows users to choose sections of information to read and then explore a given section for further details.



Folio Rhythm

Folio rhythm refers to how easily a viewer can navigate through your Folio design. It's an important consideration for all orientations but it becomes especially important in two-way Folios.

Learn the rules then break the rules! A Folio that is purposefully disorienting can be very impactful.

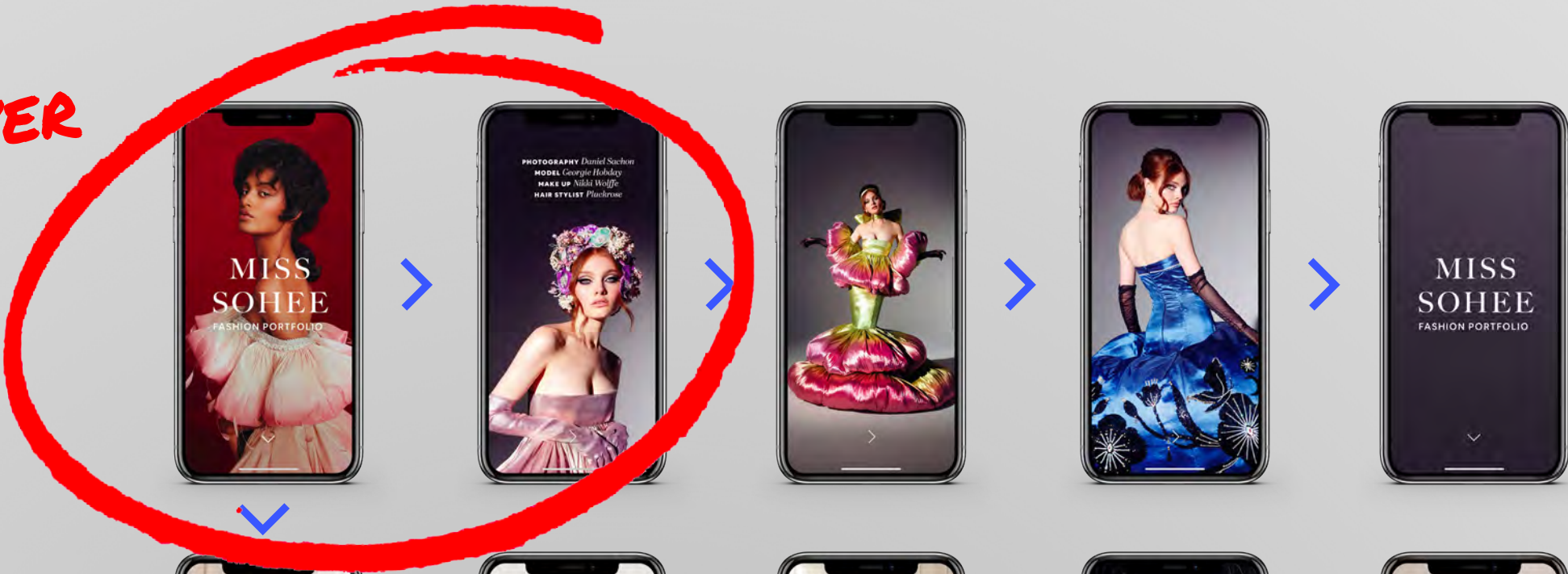


Design Recommendations

Folio Rhythm

Have a clear cover and subcover that swipes in the direction of your orientation. Don't turn your cover into a section; it's disorienting for your viewers.

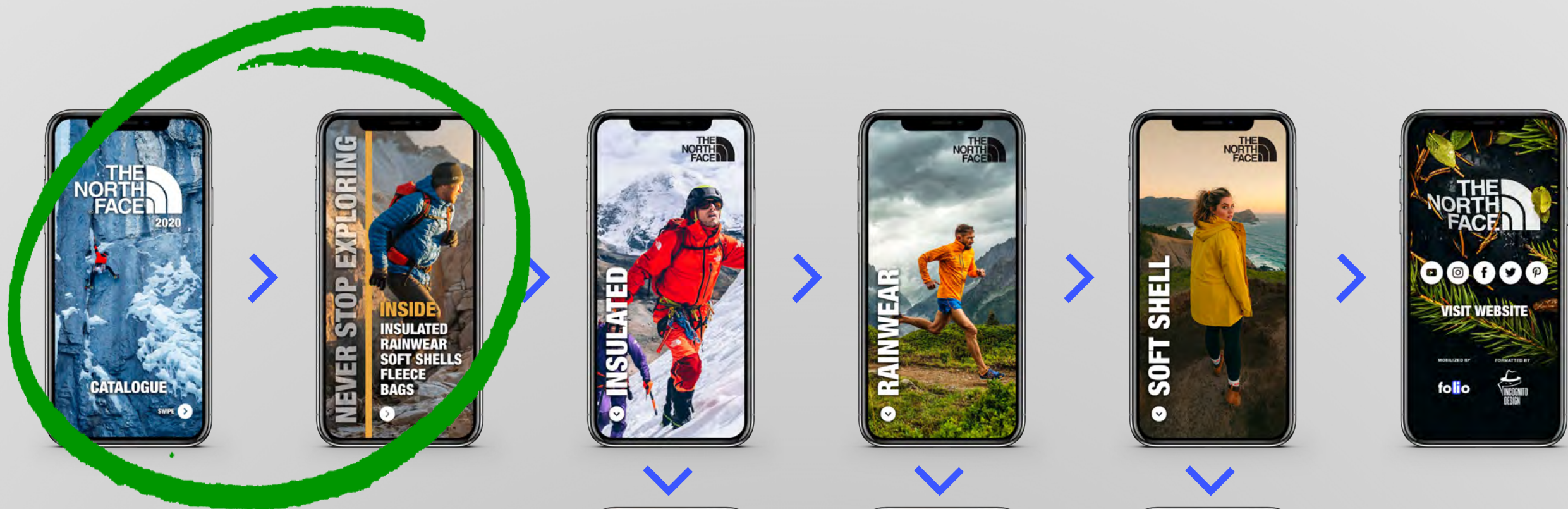
NO DISTINCT COVER
OR SUBCOVER
X



Design Recommendations

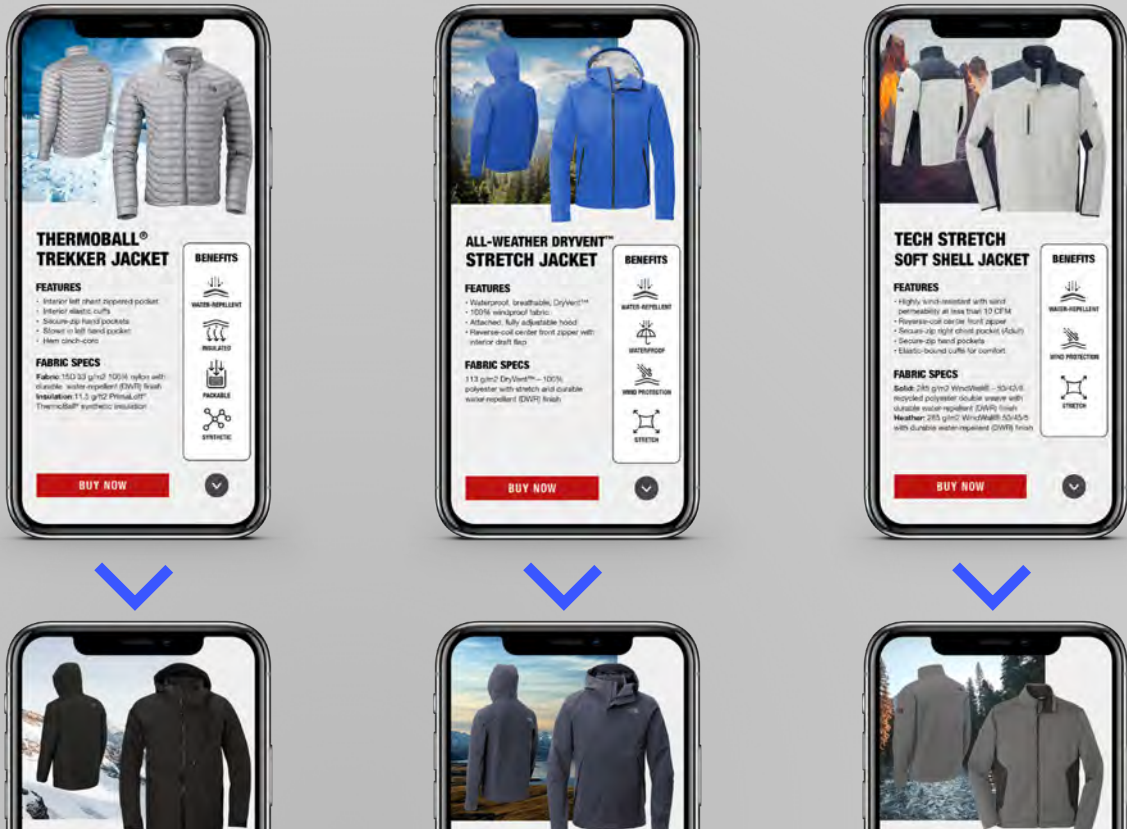


Folio Rhythm



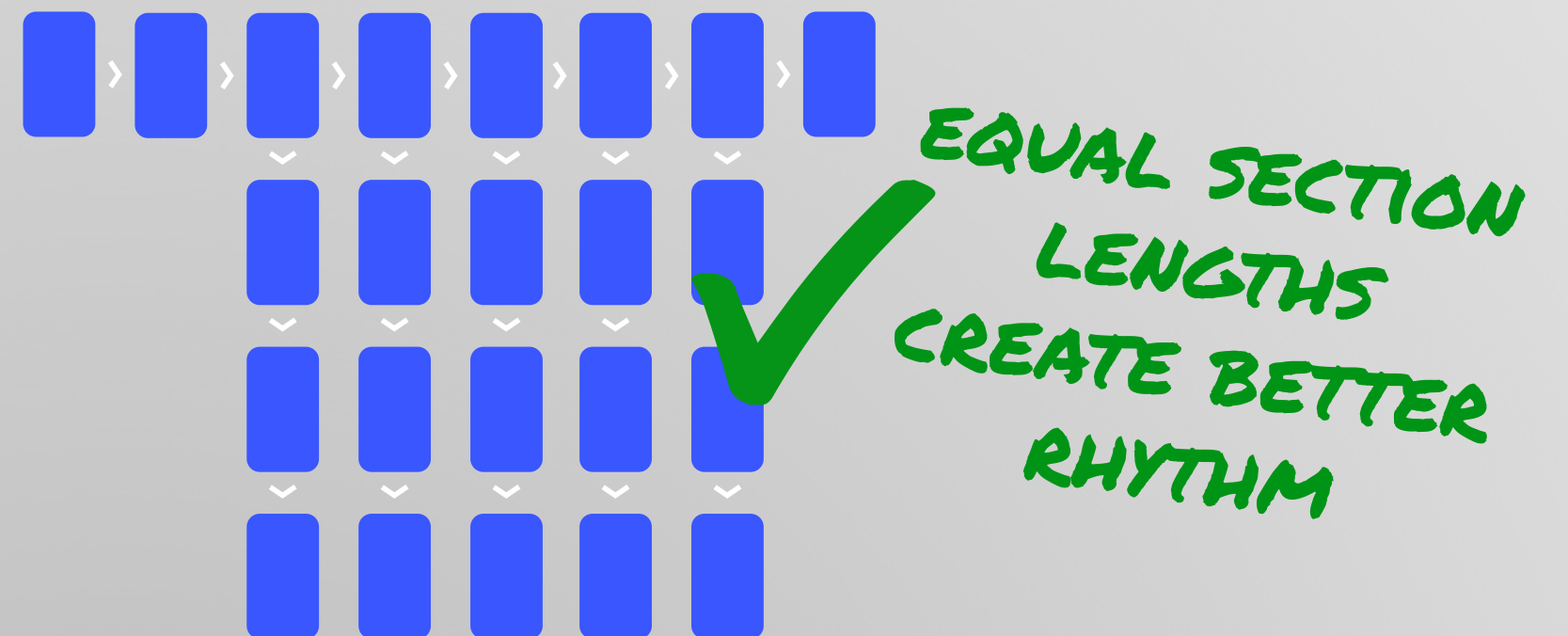
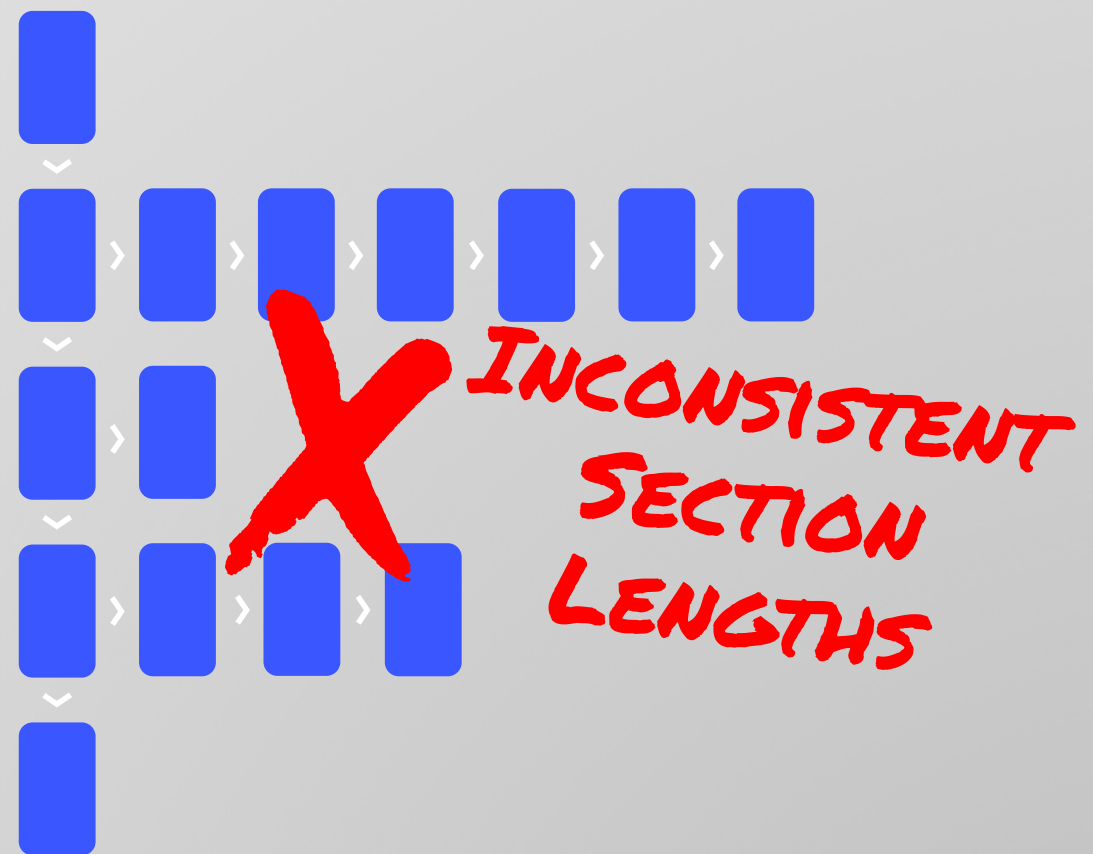
CLEAR COVER AND SUBCOVER ✓

Design Recommendations



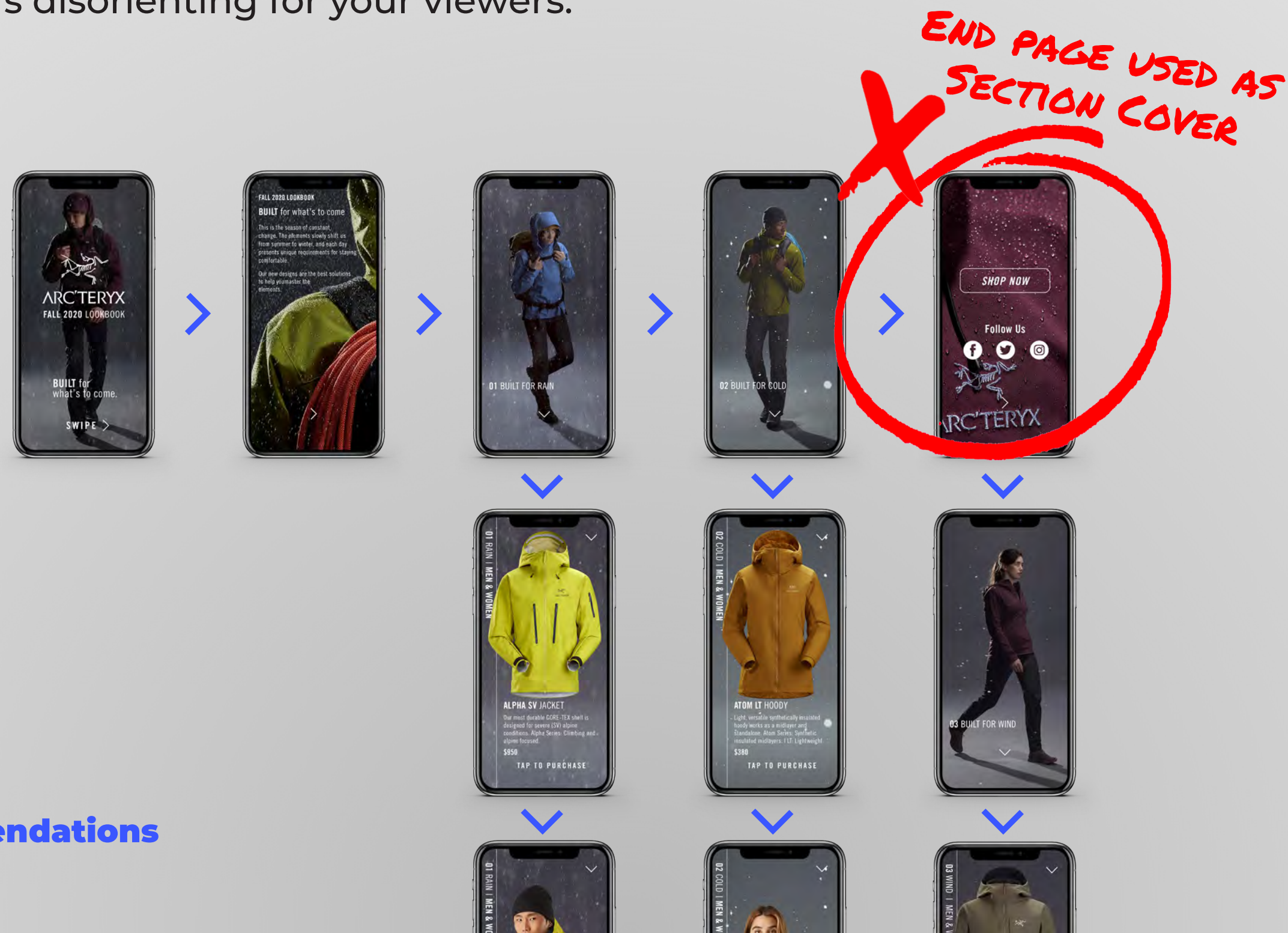
Folio Rhythm

Provide **consistent section lengths**. If one section has 3 pages and the next one has 15, it can be disorienting for the viewer.



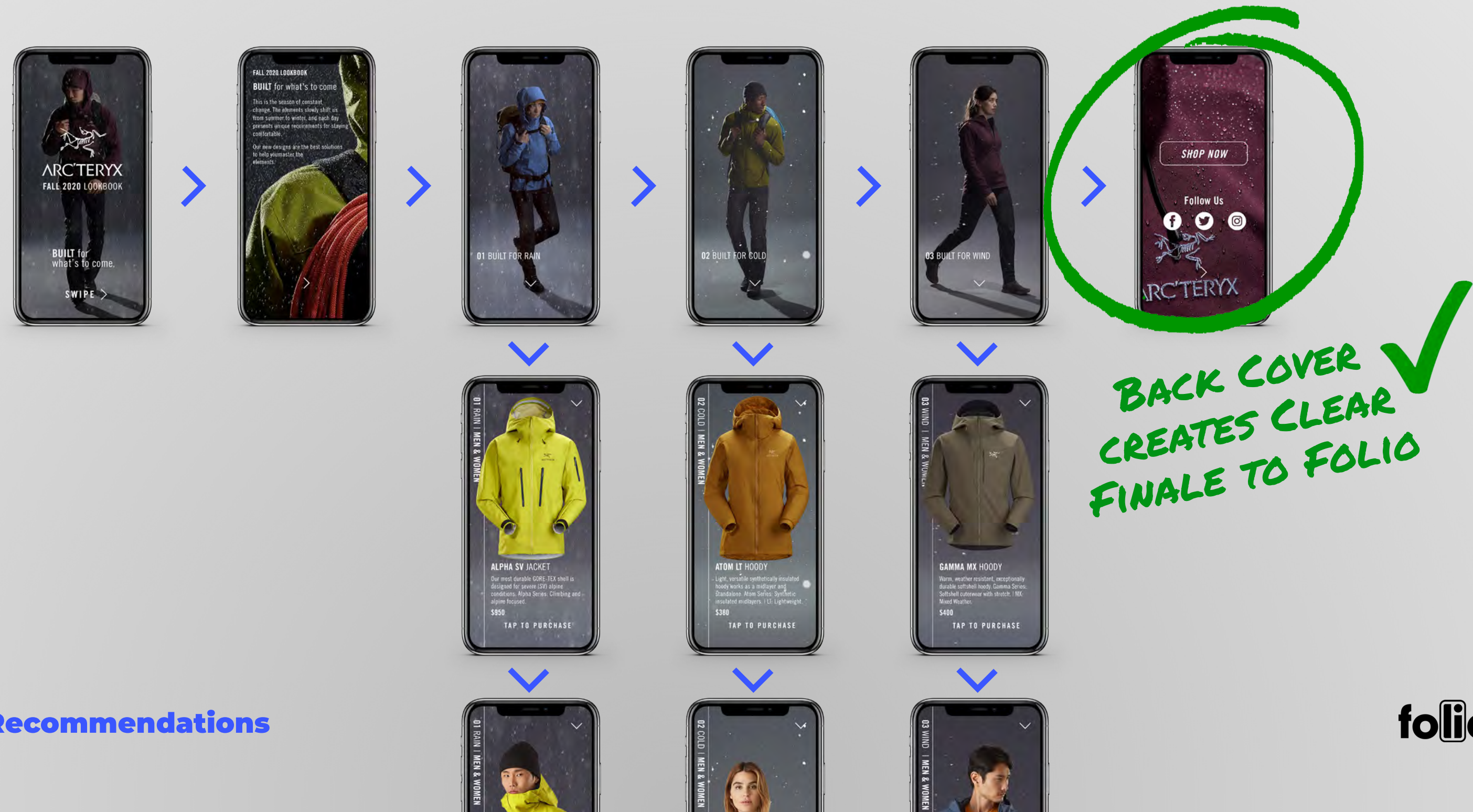
Folio Rhythm

Have a **clear back cover that swipes in the direction of your orientation** to show your reader they've reached the end. Don't turn your back cover into a section; it's disorienting for your viewers.



Design Recommendations

Folio Rhythm



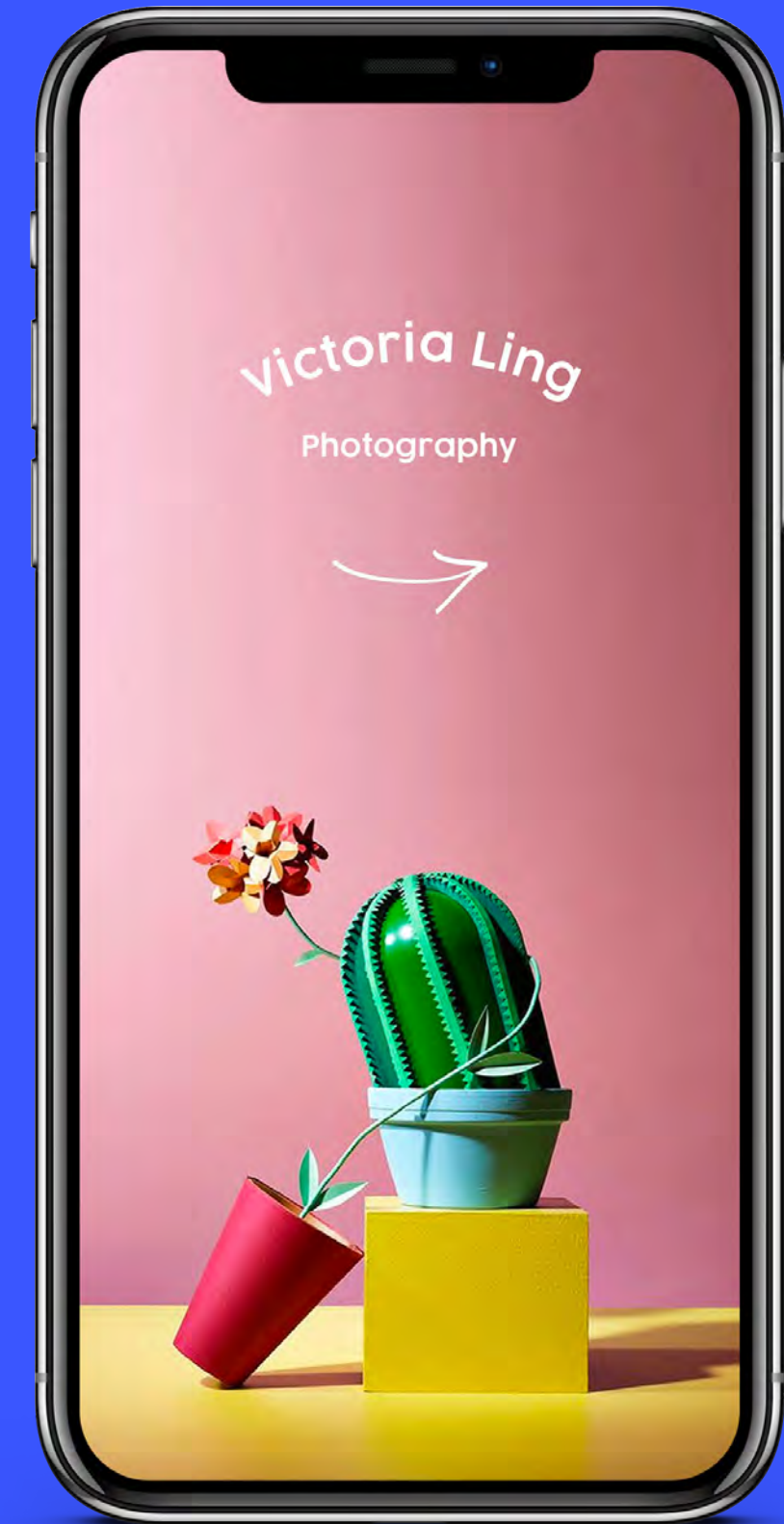
Design Recommendations

Vibrancy

The treatment of your design assets will determine the engagement level of the viewer and therefore the effectiveness of your Folio design.

Some elements you will want to consider while designing your Folio are **bold color choices, contrast, and open space.**

Design Recommendations



Vibrancy

Choosing bold, vivid color is one easy way to make a striking Folio design.



Use contrasting colors and text sizes to add a level of dynamism to your design.



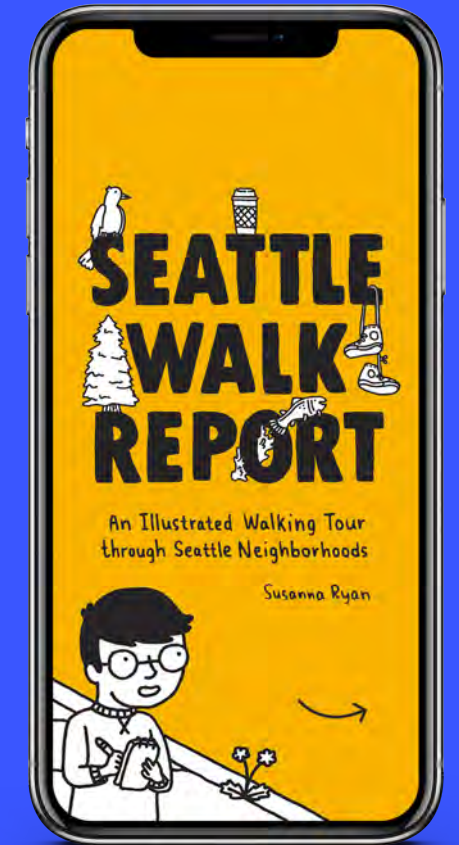
Allowing open space in your design brings balance to your layout and prevents eye fatigue.



Covers

All Folios start with a cover page. This page usually contains the brand's logo/name and an evocative fullscreen image which conveys important information about the content of the Folio.

Design Recommendations





Transition Pages

At the end of each Folio section, we include a section transition page. This page tells the user that this section has ended and provides some information about what they can read in the next one.

It is Important to include **open space** in these pages. Keep these screens uncluttered to allow the viewer's eyes to rest and also signal the end of a section.

End Pages

At the end of all Folios, we include an end page. This page usually contains the contact information for the brand and any final messages before the user ends the Folio experience.

Design Recommendations



End Pages

Try to use photography assets that are consistent with the rest of your Folio as a background. It helps make your page pop.

An end page design using background imagery that interacts with logos and text creates a dynamic final message.

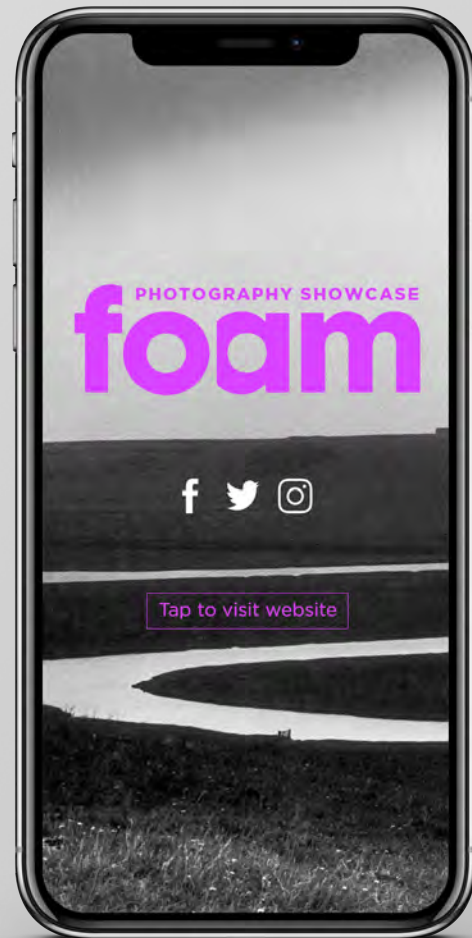


Design Recommendations

End Pages

Your company's logo should be prioritized over social media buttons. Choose a smaller size for buttons as they are recognizable at a small scale.

Use variations of text size and color to place emphasis on more important elements of your end page's hierarchy.

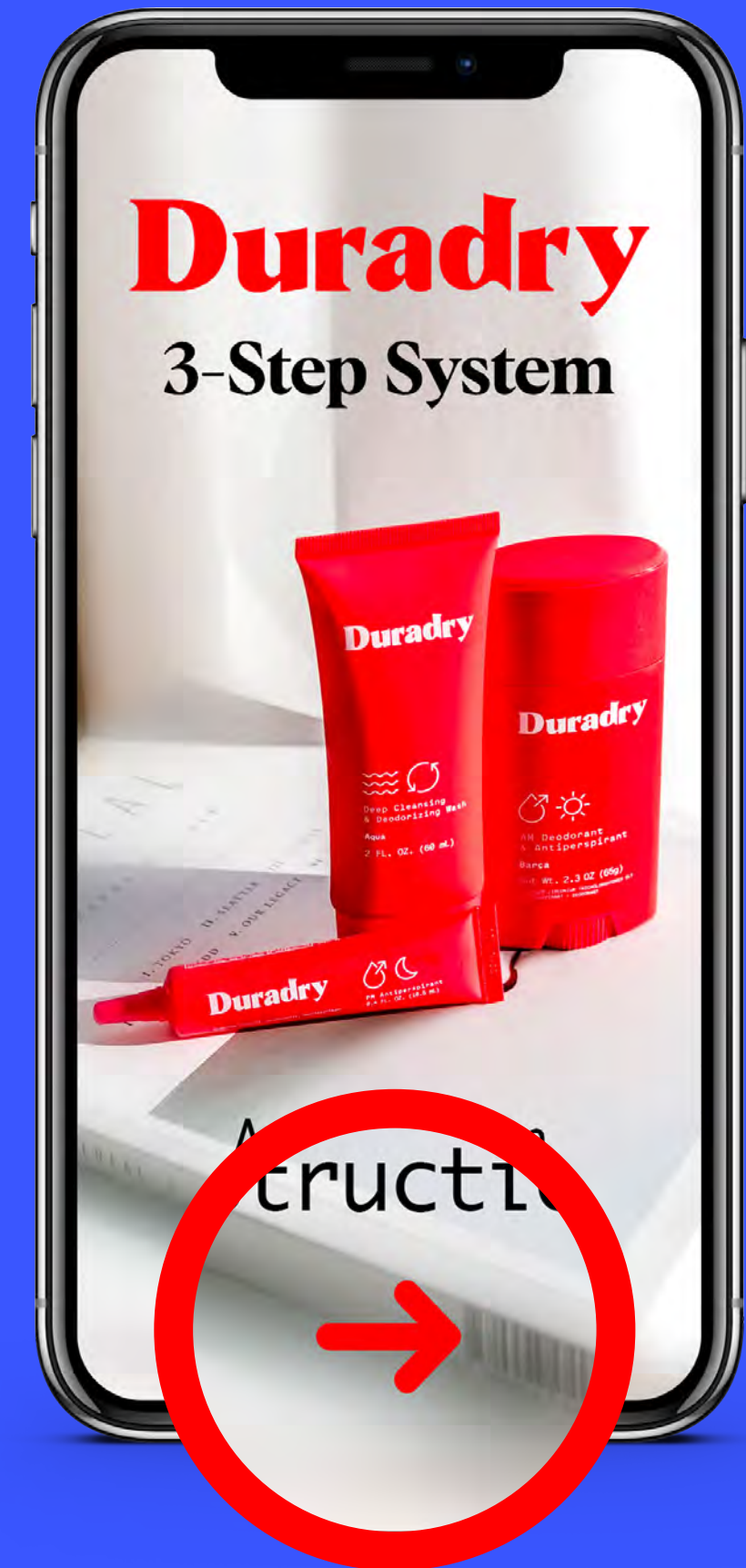


Wayfinding

Providing visual signs that help users navigate easily through a Folio will enhance their experience.

Having explicit wayfinding in a consistent place is key to getting users started.

Design Recommendations



Wayfinding

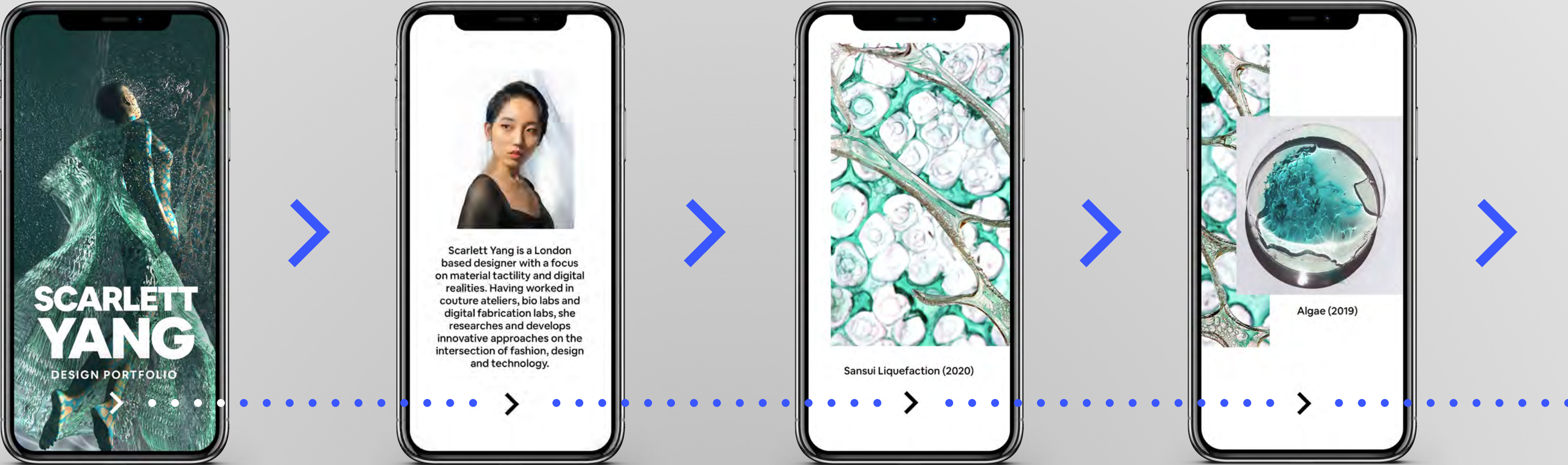
The wayfinding signs and text on the cover are the most crucial way to set up a user's positive experience. Consider a graphic that explicitly says "swipe" with an arrow.



Design Recommendations

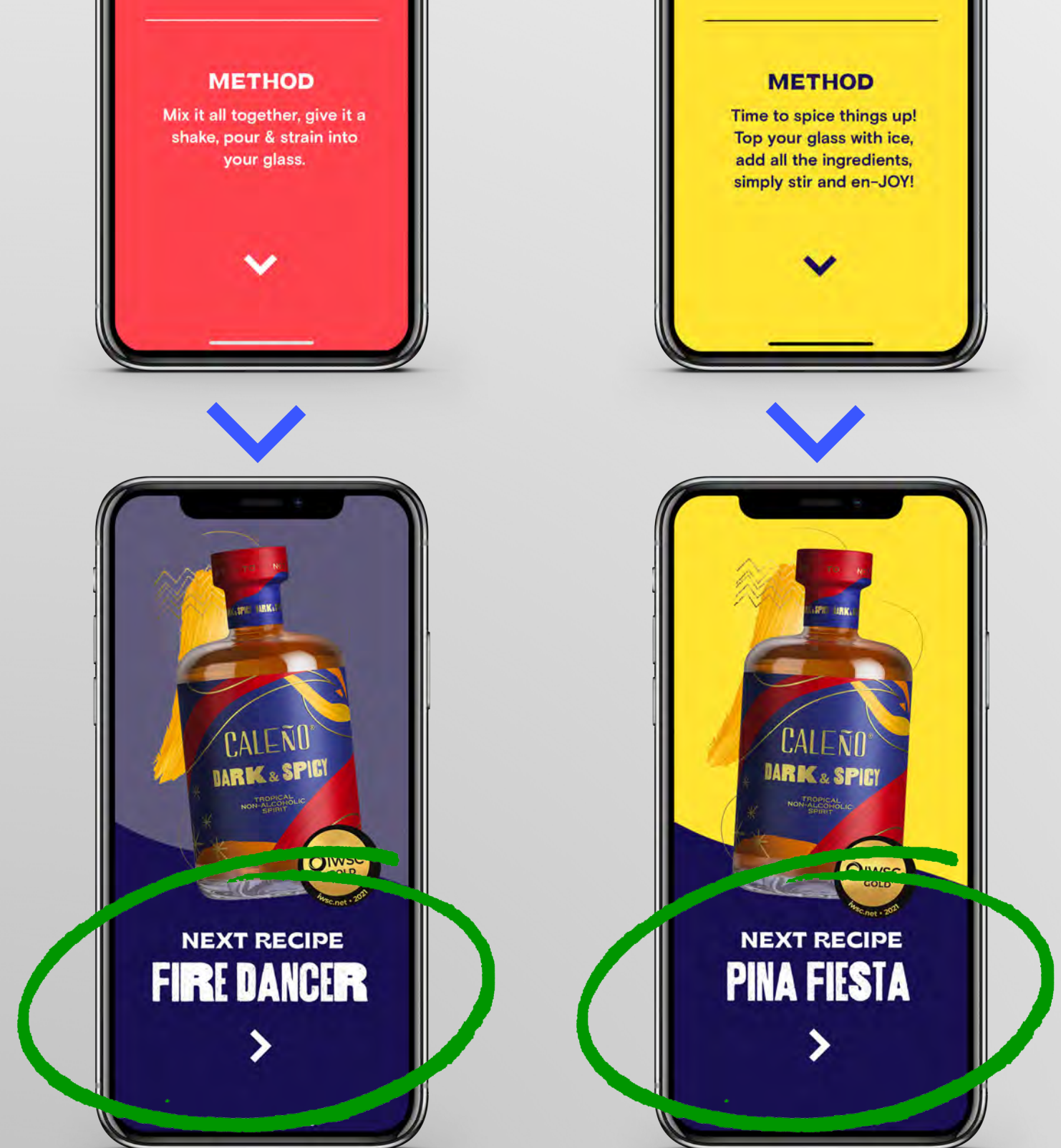
Wayfinding

Place the wayfinding sign/text in the same location on each slide for a smoother user experience.



Wayfinding

If there is a change in the direction of your wayfinding, such as at the end of a section, **be very explicit about it.**



Images in Folio

When choosing images for your Folio, you want to make sure they are high quality and take up as much of the screen as possible.

The portrait shape of the phone screen can be a limiting format when it comes to implementing existing photography assets into your Folio design. Luckily, there are a number of solutions to accommodate most image formats.

Design Recommendations



Images in Folio

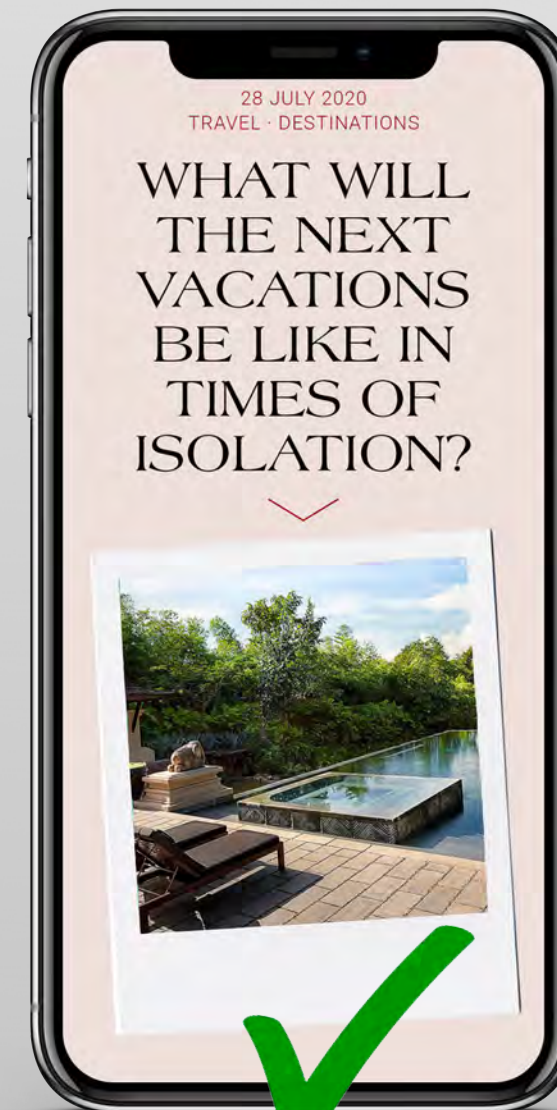
The best solution for using images that are longer than the phone screen format is to spread the image across two pages so you can see the entire picture without compromise.

Using long vertically formatted images can help tie vertical sections together.



Images in Folio

Using a framing device to crop wider landscape images can help you incorporate them into your Folio design. Use the frame to prioritize the area of importance you wish to highlight



USE FRAMING
DEVICE TO CREATE
FOCAL POINT



BETTER PART OF
IMAGE LOST BY
STRETCHING TO FIT
SCREEN

Images in Folio

When it comes to including portrait images in your design, use close-cropped images of faces to increase the intimate feel of your Folio.



Gifs in Folio

Adding GIFs to your Folio can create a more dynamic and compelling viewing experience. The following are some important recommendations that will make the viewing experience as seamless as possible.

GIF File Size:

- GIFs around 5 to 6 MB allow for efficient asset loading.
- GIFs larger than 10 MB will have significant loading time.
- Maximum GIF length 5 seconds for efficient loading.

Design Recommendations



Gifs in Folio

To keep GIF file sizes low and create the best viewing experience possible for your viewers, follow these recommendations: **choose flat vector animations rather than high resolution raster video.** GIF size is directly related to the number of colours and frames in a file. By using flat vector animations rather than video footage, you can significantly reduce the size of your GIF.



USE FLAT
VECTOR
ANIMATIONS



AVOID HIGH
RESOLUTION
RASTER VIDEO

Gifs in Folio

To significantly reduce GIF file size, **create a stop-motion-style animation with only 5 or 6 frames.** Using raster footage for this approach is very easy.



Design Recommendations



Videos in Folio

Using videos in your Folio design can create a more engaging and immersive viewing experience. Video is effective because it is a progressive loading experience. This means that your viewers don't have to wait for the file to load to begin viewing the video. Although you can upload longer videos, shorter videos (under 2 mins) will retain your viewers' attention. MP4s can also include sound, allowing you to create an even more dynamic Folio.

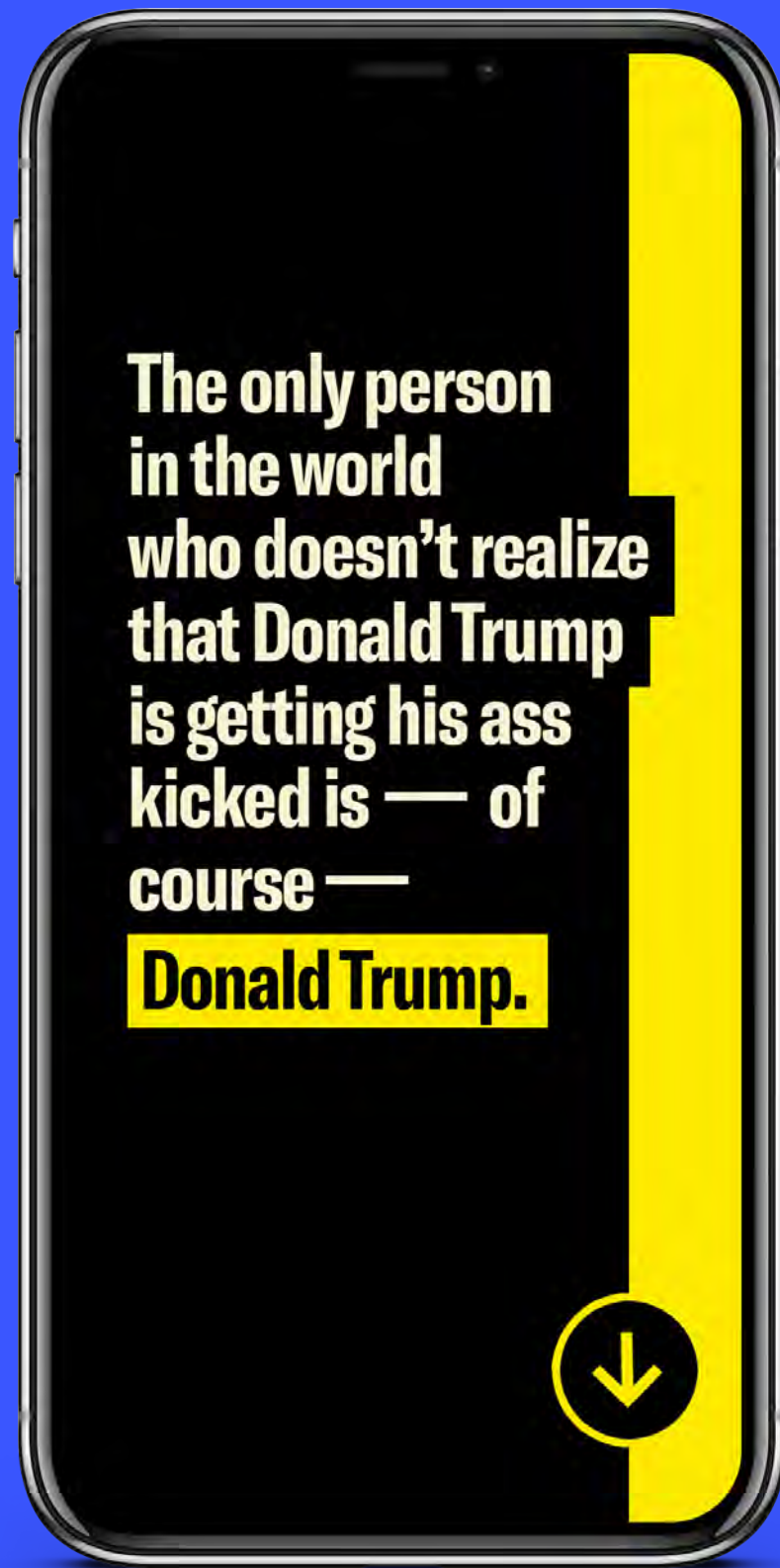
Videos in Folio

How videos work in Folio:

- Portrait videos work best to utilize the full screen.
- Videos auto-play in the Folio Reader app.
- Viewers press play in the browser.
- Videos loop, making rewatching easy.
- Videos play with audio.
- No adding links to your video.

Design Recommendations



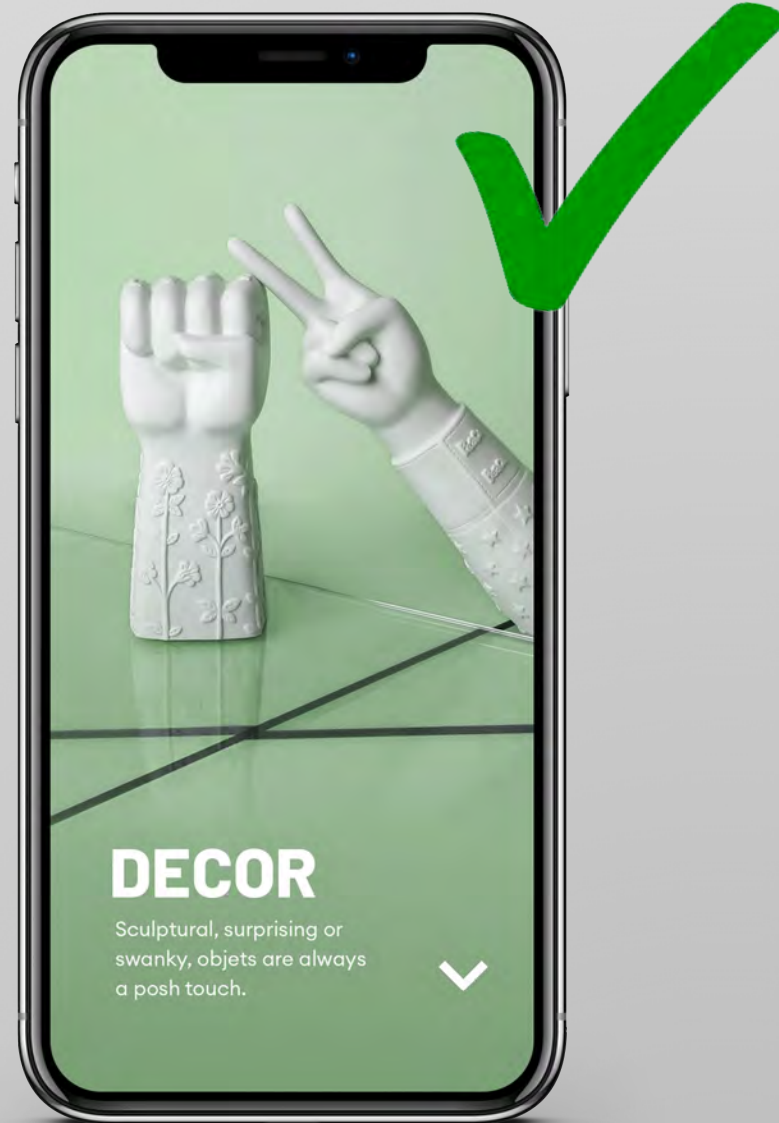


Text in Folio

We want to make the viewing experience as easy as possible for our audience, so using a large font and spreading text out over more pages will help. This tactic also helps to bring open space to the screen which can reduce eye fatigue and balance your design.

Text in Folio

KEEP TEXT
SHORT AND SWEET AND
SPREAD OVER MORE
SCREENS



AVOID THICK PAGES
OF TEXT TO PREVENT
EYE FATIGUE



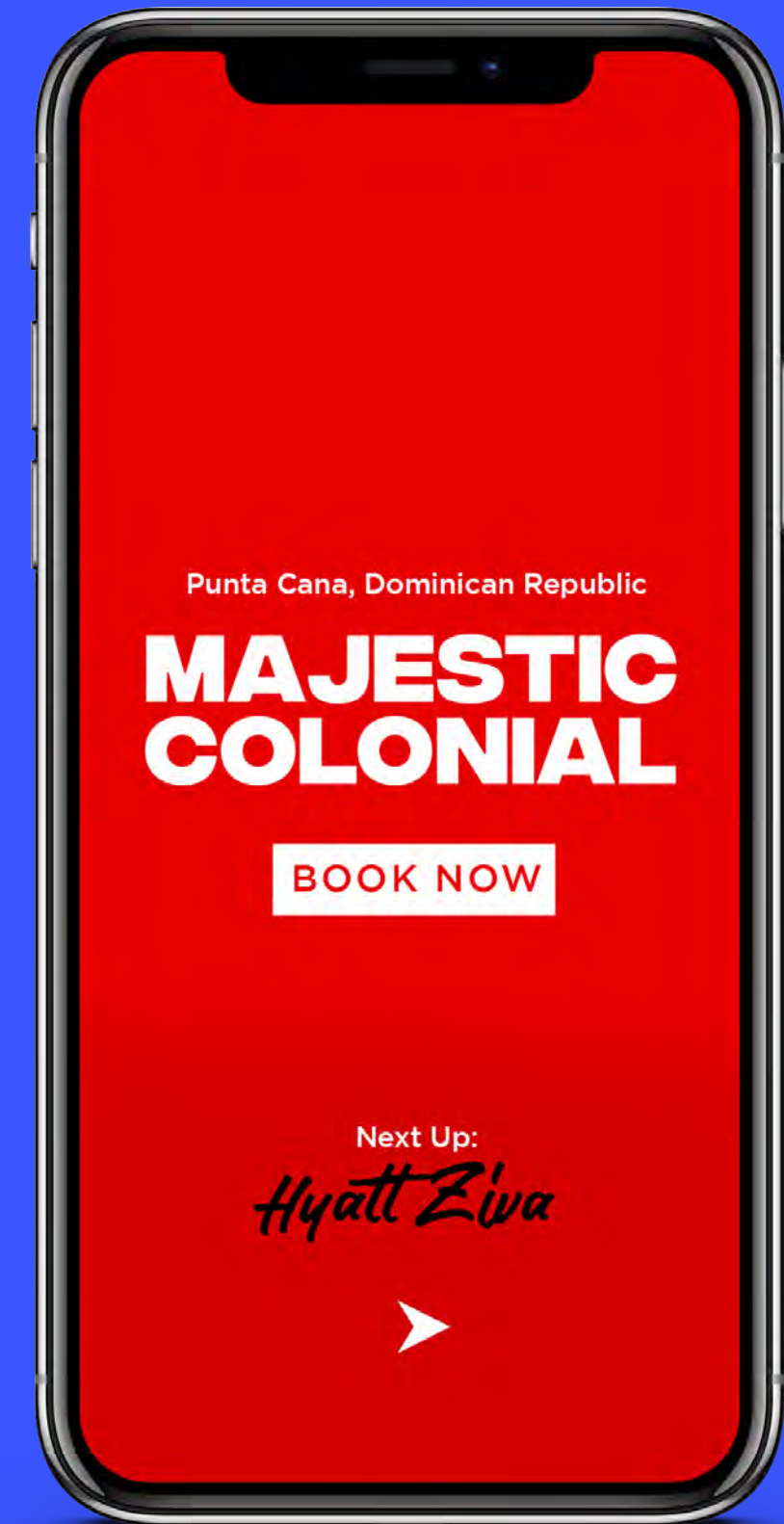
Text in Folio



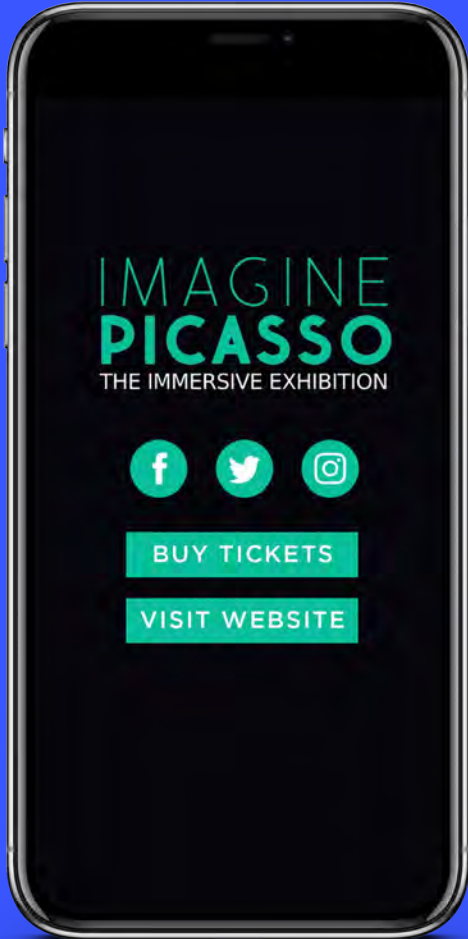
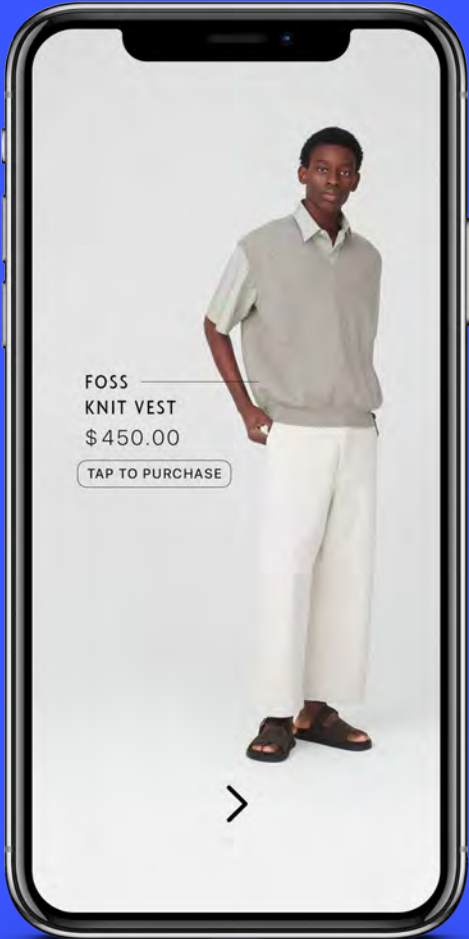
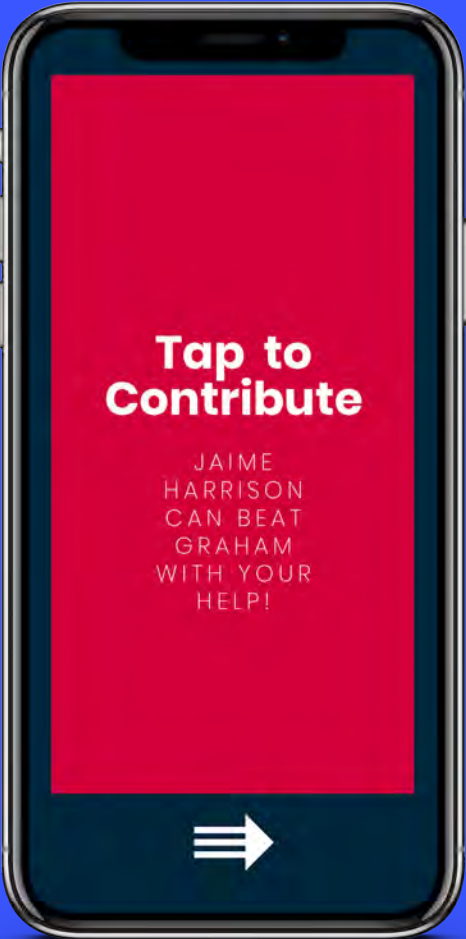
Links and Buttons

You can also add links to websites, phone numbers, or emails in your Folio. This is an excellent opportunity to increase user engagement with your brand. Add buttons and calls to action in your Folio.

Design Recommendations



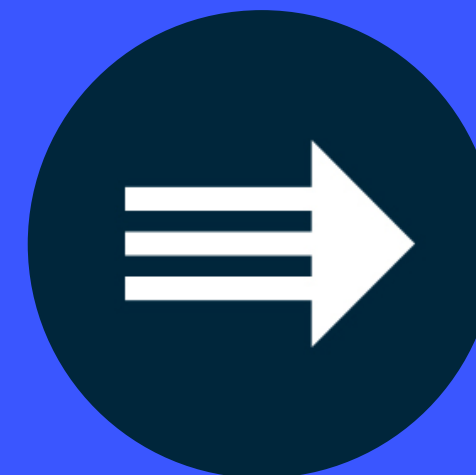
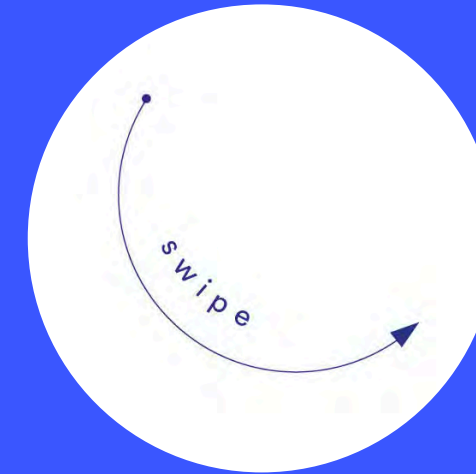
Links and Buttons



Creative Wayfinding

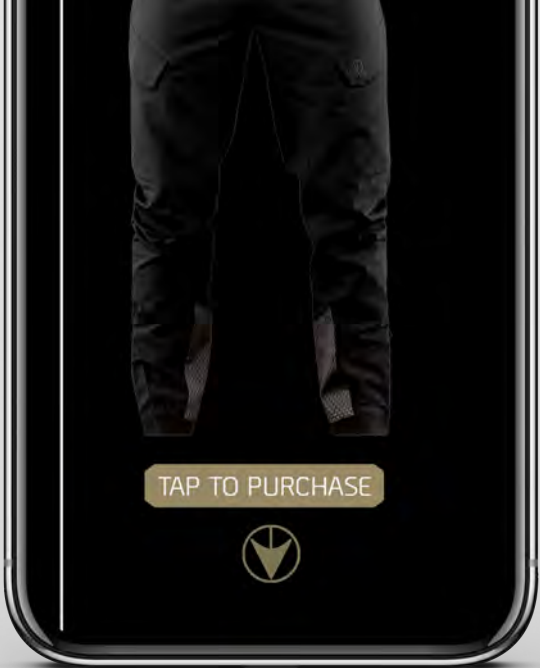
It's simple to just add a small chevron arrow or use Folio's embedded wayfinding, but creating your own integrated navigation makes a big difference in your page design.

Design Recommendations



Creative Wayfinding

Tying your Folio screens together with creative wayfinding elements not only enhances your Folio’s visual appeal but also guides the viewer efficiently through your layout.



Design Recommendations



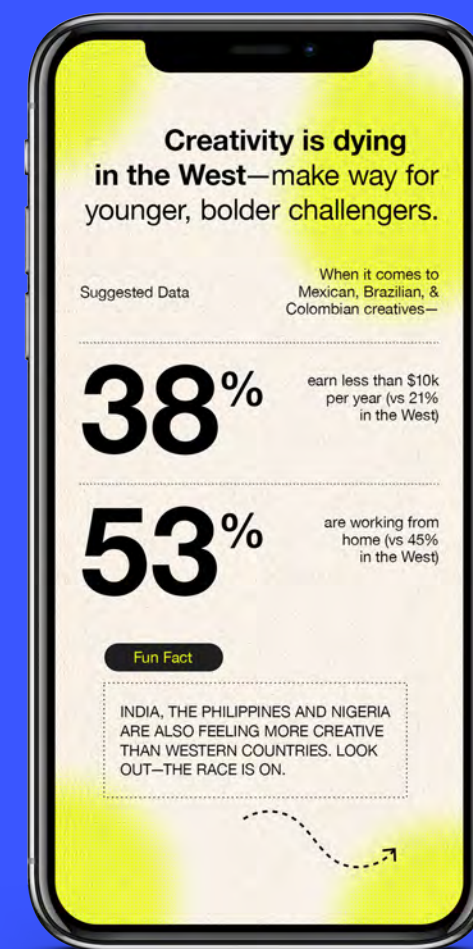
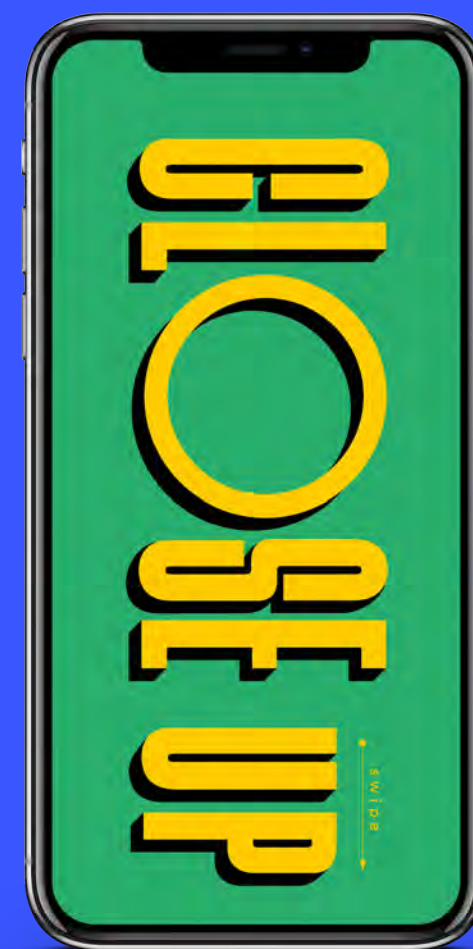
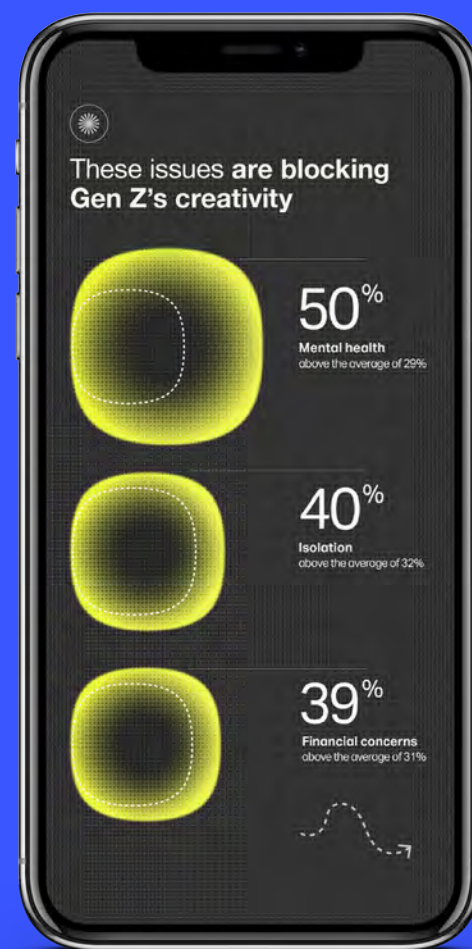
Supergraphics and Infographics

Another **very effective** way to elevate your Folio's look is with the use of supergraphics and infographics. Large visuals and bright colors make your Folio pop. This is a great way to show information without the use of too much text.

Design Recommendations



Supergraphics and Infographics



Happy Designing!