

Design study summary · 2026

Turia Institute

Design, technology and the city.

A university website for a fictional English-taught institute in Valencia, built in a language with almost nothing in common with Lanternhouse, then rebuilt after studying four European universities.



Turia Institute is a fictional university I invented for this study. The website is real: 55 pages, live and working, held to the standard I hold client work to. It is not presented as client work, and it asks search engines not to index it.

55

pages: 14 programmes, 5 schools, 4 research labs

4

European universities reviewed before version 3

62 to 125%

the width range each letter of the logotype is drawn from

43

photographs, art-directed in a second visual world

0

cookies, so no cookie banner

1

signal colour, kept for action and the river line

The brief

Design a credible university site for prospective students, parents, international applicants and research partners, in a visual language unlike anything else in this portfolio.

The method

Borrow a proven idea openly, test the structure against four real universities, adopt what serves visitors, and write down what I chose not to adopt, and why.

What it shows

Range across sectors and styles, research that changes the build, and engineering rules carried from one project to the next instead of relearned.

Organization	Fictional, invented for this study
Role	Brief, research, content, art direction, design and development
Platform	Python static generator (standard library only), hand-written CSS and JavaScript, Vercel
Built	October 2026; version 3 followed the benchmark review
Language	English, the institute's teaching language

Chapters

- 01 The same rigour, and nothing else in common
- 02 A typeface programmed to be different every time
- 03 Four universities, studied before version 3
- 04 Every audience, one click from its next step
- 05 The questions applicants actually ask
- 06 Research a city can see itself in
- 07 Mediterranean light, by written direction
- 08 Rules carried forward, not relearned
- 09 What an honest audit found