PERSONAL PORTFOLIO

NEXT.JS PERSONAL PORTFOLIO

Complete step-by-step user manual for building, understanding, testing and deploying the portfolio

Technology	Next.js 16 • React 19 • Tailwind CSS 4 • TypeScript
Development	Git • GitHub • Reusable React components • App Router
Deployment	Vercel with GitHub integration

Prepared from the supplied Personal Portfolio master guide.

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1. Tech Stack Overview

The portfolio uses a modern React/Next.js stack with utility-first styling and Git-based deployment.

Technology	Role
Next.js 16 App Router	Full-stack React framework for optimized server rendering and routing.
React 19	UI library for modular, reusable components.
Tailwind CSS 4	Utility-first styling through classes.
TypeScript	Static typing and improved development safety.
Git & GitHub	Version control and cloud repository hosting.

2. Create Project & Installation Settings

Open a command prompt in your workspace and create the project.

```
npx create-next-app@latest portfolio
```

RECOMMENDED INSTALLATION CHOICES

Prompt	Choice	Why
TypeScript?	Yes	Type checking and smart autocomplete.
ESLint?	Yes	Finds syntax issues and code-quality problems.
Tailwind CSS?	Yes	Utility-first styling directly in JSX.
Use src/?	No	Keeps /app and /components in the root.
App Router?	Yes	Modern routing and Server Components.
Import alias?	Yes (@/*)	Shorter imports such as @/components/Navbar.

```
cd portfolio
```

3. Tailwind CSS Core Concepts & Cheat Sheet

Tailwind CSS lets you compose styles using utility classes directly in JSX.

SPACING

- `p-4` — 16px padding on all sides.
- `py-16` — 64px vertical padding.
- `px-4` — 16px horizontal padding.
- `mb-6` — 24px bottom margin.
- `mx-auto` — centers an element horizontally.

COLORS

- `bg-indigo-600` — dark indigo background.
- `bg-indigo-50` — light indigo tint.
- `text-slate-900` — dark title text.
- `text-slate-600` — medium body text.
- `border-slate-200` — subtle border.

LAYOUT & INTERACTION

- `flex justify-between items-center` — horizontal layout with spacing and vertical centering.
- `grid grid-cols-1 md:grid-cols-2 gap-8` — responsive one/two-column grid.
- `hover:shadow-md` — shadow on hover.
- `sticky top-0 z-50` — sticky header above page content.

4. Git & GitHub Version Control

Git is local version control. GitHub stores repositories online and can connect them to deployment platforms.

.GITIGNORE

- `node_modules/` — downloaded dependencies.
- `.next/` — temporary build output.
- `.env.local` — private environment variables and API keys.

CORE COMMANDS

Command	Purpose
git init	Initialize a repository.
git status	Show changed files.
git add .	Stage changes.
git commit -m "message"	Create a snapshot.
git branch -M main	Rename the primary branch.
git remote add origin <URL>	Connect to GitHub.
git push -u origin main	Upload commits.

GITHUB WORKFLOW

```
# Stage all files
git add .

# Create the first commit
git commit -m "Initial portfolio commit"

# Rename the branch
git branch -M main

# Connect to GitHub
git remote add origin https://github.com/YOUR_USERNAME/portfolio.git

# Upload the project
git push -u origin main
```

5. Understand the Project Structure

The application uses the App Router and separates reusable UI into a components folder.

```
portfolio/
├── app/
│   ├── favicon.ico       # Website favicon
│   ├── globals.css       # Global styles & Tailwind import
│   ├── layout.tsx        # Main layout, fonts and metadata
│   └── page.tsx          # Homepage assembly
├── components/           # Reusable UI section components
│   ├── Navbar.tsx
│   ├── Hero.tsx
│   ├── About.tsx
│   ├── Skills.tsx
│   ├── Projects.tsx
│   ├── Contact.tsx
│   └── Footer.tsx
├── public/               # Static assets
├── package.json          # Dependencies & scripts
├── tsconfig.json         # TypeScript configuration
└── next.config.ts        # Next.js configuration
```

CREATE THE COMPONENTS FOLDER

```
mkdir components
```

6. Setup Layout & Global CSS

GLOBAL CSS

```
@import "tailwindcss";

html {
  scroll-behavior: smooth;
}
```

> **Concept:** smooth scrolling improves navigation to #about, #projects and other sections.

MAIN LAYOUT — APP/LAYOUT.TSX

```
import type { Metadata } from "next";
import { Geist, Geist_Mono } from "next/font/google";
import "./globals.css";

const geistSans = Geist({
  variable: "--font-geist-sans",
  subsets: ["latin"],
});

const geistMono = Geist_Mono({
  variable: "--font-geist-mono",
  subsets: ["latin"],
});

export const metadata: Metadata = {
  title: "RUCHI TALAVAR | Portfolio",
  description: "Personal Portfolio Web Application built with Next.js and Tailwind CSS",
};

export default function RootLayout({
  children,
}: Readonly<{ children: React.ReactNode }>) {
  return (
    <html lang="en">
      <body className={`${geistSans.variable} ${geistMono.variable} antialiased`}>
        {children}
      </body>
    </html>
  );
}
```

7.1 Navbar

Sticky navigation header with section links.

```
export default function Navbar() {
  return (
    <nav className="sticky top-0 z-50 bg-white border-b border-slate-200 shadow-sm">
      <div className="max-w-6xl mx-auto px-4 flex justify-between items-center h-16">
        <a href="#home" className="text-xl font-bold text-indigo-600">Ruchi.dev</a>
        <div className="flex space-x-4 md:space-x-6 text-sm md:text-base">
          <a href="#home">Home</a>
          <a href="#about">About</a>
          <a href="#skills">Skills</a>
          <a href="#projects">Projects</a>
          <a href="#contact">Contact</a>
        </div>
      </div>
    </nav>
  );
}
```

7.2 Hero

Main introduction banner with avatar and CTA buttons.

```
export default function Hero() {
  return (
    <section id="home" className="bg-gradient-to-r from-indigo-50 to-blue-50 py-20 px-4 text-center">
      <div className="max-w-4xl mx-auto">
        <img
          src="https://images.unsplash.com/photo-1534528741775-53994a69daeb?auto=format&fit=crop&w=400&q=80"
          alt="RUCHI TALAVAR"
          className="w-32 h-32 rounded-full mx-auto mb-6 object-cover border-4 border-white shadow-md"
        />
        <h1 className="text-4xl font-extrabold text-slate-900 mb-2">
          Hi, I'm <span className="text-indigo-600">RUCHI TALAVAR</span>
        </h1>
        <h2 className="text-xl font-semibold text-indigo-500 mb-4">
          Frontend Engineer & Web Developer
        </h2>
        <p className="text-slate-600 max-w-xl mx-auto mb-8">
          I build simple, fast, and beautiful websites using React, Next.js, and Tailwind CSS.
        </p>
        <div className="flex justify-center gap-4">
          <a href="#projects" className="bg-indigo-600 text-white px-6 py-3 rounded-lg">View Projects</a>
          <a href="#contact" className="bg-white text-slate-700 px-6 py-3 rounded-lg border">Contact Me</a>
        </div>
      </div>
    </section>
  );
}
```

7.3 About

Bio, education and career goals in a responsive two-column layout.

```
export default function About() {
  return (
    <section id="about" className="py-16 bg-white px-4">
      <div className="max-w-5xl mx-auto">
        <h2 className="text-3xl font-bold text-center">About <span className="text-indigo-600">Me</span></h2>
        <div className="grid grid-cols-1 md:grid-cols-2 gap-8 items-center mt-10">
          <img
            src="https://images.unsplash.com/photo-1522071820081-009f0129c71c?auto=format&fit=crop&w=800&q=80"
            alt="Working on code" className="rounded-xl shadow-md w-full object-cover"
          />
          <div className="space-y-4">
            <h3 className="text-2xl font-semibold">Passionate Web Developer</h3>
            <p>I am a Diploma Computer Science student passionate about building clean user interfaces.</p>
            <div className="bg-slate-50 p-4 rounded-lg border">
              <h4 className="font-bold">Education</h4>
              <p className="text-sm">Diploma in Computer Engineering (2nd Year)</p>
            </div>
            <div className="bg-slate-50 p-4 rounded-lg border">
              <h4 className="font-bold">Career Goals</h4>
              <p className="text-sm">To become a Full Stack Developer and build useful web apps.</p>
            </div>
          </div>
        </div>
      </div>
    </section>
  );
}
```

7.4 Skills

Dynamically renders skill cards using .map().

```
export default function Skills() {
  const skills = [
    { name: "HTML", desc: "Web structure" },
    { name: "CSS", desc: "Styling & Layouts" },
    { name: "JavaScript", desc: "Web logic" },
    { name: "TypeScript", desc: "Typed JavaScript" },
    { name: "React", desc: "UI components" },
    { name: "Next.js", desc: "React Framework" },
    { name: "Tailwind CSS", desc: "Utility CSS" },
    { name: "Node.js", desc: "Backend runtime" },
    { name: "Git", desc: "Version control" },
    { name: "GitHub", desc: "Code hosting" },
  ];

  return (
    <section id="skills" className="py-16 bg-slate-50 px-4">
      <div className="max-w-5xl mx-auto">
        <h2 className="text-3xl font-bold text-center">My <span className="text-indigo-600">Skills</span></h2>
        <div className="grid grid-cols-2 sm:grid-cols-3 md:grid-cols-5 gap-4 mt-10">
          {skills.map((skill) => (
            <div key={skill.name} className="bg-white p-6 rounded-xl border text-center hover:shadow-md">
              <h3 className="font-bold text-lg">{skill.name}</h3>
              <p className="text-xs text-slate-500">{skill.desc}</p>
            </div>
          ))}
        </div>
      </div>
    </section>
  );
}
```

7.5 Projects

Featured projects with image previews, technology badges and links.

```
export default function Projects() {
  const projects = [
    { title: "TaskFlow App", desc: "A simple task manager to track daily learning goals.", tech: "Next.js, Tailwind CSS" },
    { title: "DevMetrics Dashboard", desc: "Analytics dashboard showing GitHub commit activity.", tech: "React, TypeScript" },
    { title: "E-Commerce Website", desc: "A responsive online shopping site with product cart.", tech: "Next.js, MongoDB" },
  ];

  return (
    <section id="projects" className="py-16 bg-white px-4">
      <div className="max-w-5xl mx-auto">
        <h2 className="text-3xl font-bold text-center">My <span className="text-indigo-600">Projects</span></h2>
        <div className="grid grid-cols-1 md:grid-cols-3 gap-6 mt-10">
          {projects.map((p, index) => (
            <div key={index} className="bg-white rounded-xl border overflow-hidden shadow-sm hover:shadow-md">
              <div className="h-40 bg-slate-100" />
              <div className="p-5">
                <h3 className="text-xl font-bold mb-2">{p.title}</h3>
                <p className="text-sm text-slate-600 mb-4">{p.desc}</p>
                <span className="text-xs bg-indigo-50 text-indigo-600 px-2 py-1 rounded">{p.tech}</span>
                <div className="flex gap-2 mt-6">
                  <a href="https://github.com" target="_blank" className="flex-1 text-center bg-slate-100 py-2 rounded text-
sm">GitHub</a>
                  <a href="https://vercel.com" target="_blank" className="flex-1 text-center bg-indigo-600 text-white py-2 rounded
text-sm">Live Demo</a>
                </div>
              </div>
            </div>
          ))}
        </div>
      </div>
    </section>
  );
}
```

7.6 Contact

Contact details alongside a simple form.

```
export default function Contact() {
  return (
    <section id="contact" className="py-16 bg-slate-50 px-4">
      <div className="max-w-4xl mx-auto">
        <h2 className="text-3xl font-bold text-center">Contact <span className="text-indigo-600">Me</span></h2>
        <div className="grid grid-cols-1 md:grid-cols-2 gap-8 mt-10">
          <div className="space-y-4">
            <h3 className="text-xl font-bold">Let's Connect!</h3>
            <p>Feel free to reach out for projects.</p>
            <p><b>Email:</b> ruchi@example.com</p>
            <p><b>GitHub:</b> github.com/ruchi</p>
            <p><b>LinkedIn:</b> linkedin.com/in/ruchi</p>
          </div>
          <div className="bg-white p-6 rounded-xl border shadow-sm">
            <form className="space-y-4">
              <input type="text" required placeholder="Your Name" className="w-full border p-2 rounded" />
              <input type="email" required placeholder="Your Email" className="w-full border p-2 rounded" />
              <textarea rows={3} required placeholder="Your Message" className="w-full border p-2 rounded" />
              <button type="button" className="w-full bg-indigo-600 text-white py-2 rounded">Send Message</button>
            </form>
          </div>
        </div>
      </div>
    </section>
  );
}
```

7.7 Footer

Footer with dynamic current year.

```
export default function Footer() {
  return (
    <footer className="bg-slate-900 text-slate-400 py-6 text-center">
      <div className="max-w-5xl mx-auto px-4">
        <p>&copy; {new Date().getFullYear()} RUCHI TALAVAR. All rights reserved.</p>
        <p>Built with Next.js & Tailwind CSS</p>
      </div>
    </footer>
  );
}
```

8. Assemble Everything in the Main Page

Import all reusable components into app/page.tsx and render them in sequence.

```
import Navbar from "@/components/Navbar";
import Hero from "@/components/Hero";
import About from "@/components/About";
import Skills from "@/components/Skills";
import Projects from "@/components/Projects";
import Contact from "@/components/Contact";
import Footer from "@/components/Footer";

export default function Home() {
  return (
    <main className="min-h-screen">
      <Navbar />
      <Hero />
      <About />
      <Skills />
      <Projects />
      <Contact />
      <Footer />
    </main>
  );
}
```

FINAL PAGE ORDER

> Navbar → Hero → About → Skills → Projects → Contact → Footer

9. Run, Verify & Deploy to Vercel

Test the project locally before deploying.

START DEVELOPMENT SERVER

```
npm run dev
```

Open `http://localhost:3000` in the browser.

TEST THE PRODUCTION BUILD

```
npm run build
```

DEPLOY TO VERCEL

1. Log in to Vercel using your GitHub account.
2. Click **Add New...** → **Project**.
3. Import the portfolio GitHub repository.
4. Click **Deploy**.
5. Vercel provides the live deployment with a `.vercel.app` domain.

FINAL VERIFICATION CHECKLIST

- npm run dev starts successfully.
- Navigation links reach the correct sections.
- Skills and project cards render correctly.
- Contact fields display and validate.
- npm run build completes successfully.
- Latest changes are pushed to GitHub.
- The Vercel deployment opens successfully.

PERSONAL PORTFOLIO

Create → Style → Structure → Version → Verify → Deploy

Your portfolio moves from a local Next.js project to a version-controlled, tested and publicly deployed website.