

shotbyKd

WELCOME TO SHOTBYKD

PHOTOGRAPHY



THE STORY BEHIND THE SITE

Deacon Twene

Photography. Technology. My vision.



01 / MEET THE CREATOR

Hi, I’m Deacon.

You can call me KayDee. I am 23 years old, a photographer based in New York, and the person behind ShotByKD.

I attend New York City College of Technology (City Tech), where I am in my senior year studying Computer Systems with a focus on Networking & Security.

Photography gives me a way to tell stories through people, milestones, and celebrations. Technology gives me another way to build something useful around that work. ShotByKD brings those two interests together.

I wanted a website that felt like my photography: personal, polished, and easy to connect with. It needed to show my work, explain my services, and give clients a clear way to request a session.

My role in the project

The website uses React and TypeScript, CSS for its visual design, and a Next.js-style structure running through Vinext. Cloudflare services support hosting and storage, while EmailJS handles booking emails. I directed the design, supplied the photography, chose the features, and reviewed the changes. I also used ChatGPT to help generate some code and refine code I had written myself.



02 / THE STARTING POINT

From an idea to a platform.

The goal

Build a photography portfolio and booking website that I could manage myself, with a visual identity consistent across the welcome screen, gallery, booking pages, and client emails.

The working foundation

The Sites project was created on October 2, 2026. The project record currently contains 72 saved versions. Those versions reflect an iterative process of building, reviewing, and refining the experience.

The public address

shotbykaydee.site
I obtained the custom domain through Namecheap. The domain is the address visitors use; the website itself is hosted through ChatGPT Sites infrastructure.

The original hosted address

kaydee-photography.deacontwene.chatgpt.site
The custom domain gives the project an address that belongs to the ShotByKD brand.

This book describes the project through November 7, 2026. The accompanying private technical volume documents the retrieved source snapshot. It does not include live client records or account credentials.



03 / FIRST IMPRESSIONS

A welcome with personality.

The website opens with my homepage portrait, the ShotByKD gold logo, and the words “Welcome to ShotByKD.” The logo reveal and typewriter text are coordinated so the welcome feels like one introduction.

The visual language

The palette uses warm cream (#F4F0E9), charcoal (#242322), a darker welcome background (#171615), and gold accents. The site stylesheet names DM Sans for body text and Playfair Display for headings, with system font fallbacks.

How the opening works

A short logo video is drawn onto a canvas. The code makes the near-black video background transparent, reveals the welcome text against the video clock, and finishes with a shine. The page can dismiss the reveal if playback fails or a visitor prefers reduced motion.

A static welcome for this book

The opening page recreates that visual identity with the real logo and homepage portrait. A PDF is a reading format; the live animation remains on the website.



04 / BUILDING THE PAGES

Make the work easy to explore.

1. Establish the identity

I chose the ShotByKD name, gold wordmark, warm background, and photography-led layout. I refined logo placement, photo cropping, spacing, and the welcome sequence through repeated reviews.

2. Organize the experience

The homepage introduces the brand and gallery. The booking page collects requests. The pricing page explains packages and policies. Separate owner pages handle site content and booking management.

3. Curate the photography

The gallery uses my uploaded photographs. The code supports image placement, positioning, and optimized sizes. Responsive layouts adjust the presentation for phones and larger screens.

4. Give clients useful information

I added service categories, package options, delivery expectations, add-ons, and booking guidance. Portrait and graduation bookings follow the lifestyle pricing approach; weddings, concerts, and events require a pricing conversation.



05 / BOOKING A SESSION

From browsing to a request.

Choose the session

The client selects a service and package or estimates coverage for a custom-priced event.

Choose the date and time

The calendar uses open days, available windows, session duration, and existing reservations to determine what can be selected. End time is calculated from the chosen start and duration.

Add contact details

The form collects the client’s name, email, phone, Instagram handle, and any additional notes needed to plan the shoot.

Submit and follow up

The server validates and saves the request. Owner alerts and later client emails support the follow-up process. A request becomes confirmed when I approve it; submitting alone is not final confirmation.

The website coordinates booking details. It does not contain a built-in card checkout; payment arrangements and custom quotes are handled separately.



06 / BEHIND THE SCENES

A system I can manage.

Manage requests

The private booking manager organizes pending, confirmed, and completed work. I can review client details, confirm or cancel a booking, and mark an approved shoot as completed.

Keep the calendar useful

I can manage open days and time windows. The availability code checks whether a full session fits and whether it overlaps another reservation.

Communicate at the right moment

EmailJS integrations support owner alerts and confirmation, cancellation, and completion messages. The code records email delivery states and includes checks to reduce repeat sends. Service acceptance is not proof an email reached an inbox.

Update the presentation

The editor provides controls for content and photographs, allowing the site to evolve without rebuilding every page by hand. Owner operations rely on authenticated access and server-side ownership checks.



07 / WHAT I USED

The tools behind ShotByKD.

React + TypeScript

Interactive components, typed application logic, forms, and owner interfaces.

Next.js conventions + Vinext

Page routing and server routes; the retrieved project runs through Vinext and Vite.

CSS + Tailwind tooling

Brand colors, layouts, animations, responsive styling, and component utilities.

Cloudflare D1 + R2

Configured database and file-storage bindings for application data and image assets.

EmailJS

Booking-related email requests using configured service and template settings.

Namecheap + Google Search Console

Custom domain registration and previously configured search ownership verification.

ChatGPT + Sites

AI-assisted code generation, refinement, troubleshooting, hosting, and saved project versions.



08 / GOING LIVE

Connect, review, improve.

Connect the domain

After obtaining shotbykaydee.site, I connected it to the hosted website using domain/DNS configuration. DNS directs the name to hosting; HTTPS provides the encrypted browser connection. The exact historical DNS values are not reproduced in this portfolio.

Publish and review

I reviewed the homepage, navigation, image placement, booking flow, owner screens, and email behavior, then requested fixes and refinements. Saved site versions provide a record of the project’s changes.

Improve the experience

The source includes image preloading and lazy loading, optimized photo variants, input validation, booking request limits, and reduced-motion behavior. These are implementation choices, not a claim that every possible device or network has been certified.

A real troubleshooting example

On November 7, Safari showed a certificate warning on school Wi-Fi. The site opened after I switched to cellular data. That points toward a network-specific difference, but the exact cause still requires the certificate details. It has not been confirmed as fixed.



09 / REFLECTION

More than a gallery.

Building ShotByKD showed me that a useful website needs more than a good-looking homepage. A booking button must connect to a clear form, accurate availability, stored information, and a workflow the owner can actually use.

I learned to turn business requirements into specific changes: separate booking states, automatic end times, consistent service categories, client email triggers, and a welcome sequence that matches the brand.

My Networking & Security studies also connect to this project. Domains, DNS, HTTPS, access controls, validation, and troubleshooting all affect whether a client can use the website confidently.

How I explain the project

“ShotByKD is my photography portfolio and booking website. It uses React and TypeScript, CSS, a Next.js-style structure running through Vinext, Cloudflare services, and EmailJS. I directed the design and features, and I also used ChatGPT to help generate, refine, and troubleshoot the code.”



10 / A LIVING STORY

A story you can turn.

The online experience

I added an animated project book to the website, linked below the About section and in the menu. It introduces my story with a logo opening and lets visitors turn pages, jump between chapters, and read in full screen.

Clear pages on different screens

The book uses vector pages so its text remains sharp when enlarged. Larger screens can show a spread, while smaller screens show one page with arrow controls and swipe navigation.

Editing through my private Studio

The Studio now includes a project book editor. I can change page titles and paragraphs, add chapters, and publish the book with a matching PDF. The update checks that the text fits before replacing the published version.

One story, two useful formats

The online book presents the brand interactively. The PDF provides a copy to download, email, print, or submit. My detailed code guide remains a separate private document.



Thank you for reading.

ShotByKD is a growing expression of my creativity, my photography, and my interest in building practical technology. Every change has been part of making the experience more personal and useful for the people who visit.

Thank you for taking the time to learn about the work behind the website.

Medaase 🙏🏾

Warm regards,

Deacon Twene

CEO | Deacon Twene

Creator of ShotByKD / KayDee Photography

shotbykaydee.site

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