PLATED

Elevate your cooking one swipe at a time

Plated Medium-Fidelity Prototype README

Figma Prototype Link

Design Tools:

We combined several tools to bring our app prototype to life. Starting with Notability, we sketched low-fidelity prototypes to brainstorm ideas and visualize the app's basic flow. Once the layout and task flows were set, we moved to Figma, where we built a medium-fidelity prototype, refining key features and interactions. To create consistent and polished icons and logos, we used SF Symbols, aligning the design with iOS standards. This approach offered several benefits: Notability allowed for quick ideation, Figma streamlined design and testing, and SF Symbols provided a cohesive visual style. However, since Figma is web-based, testing was limited to the desktop environment, which constrained our ability to fully simulate interactions on physical devices. Despite this limitation, this blend of tools helped us balance rapid ideation with a clean, user-friendly design.

Operating Instructions:

Our prototype offers a streamlined experience for discovering, sharing, and organizing recipes, with added support from an AI chef assistant. The bottom navigation bar provides easy access to the main sections of the app: *Home*, *Pantry*, *Recipe Posting*, *Chef Su*, and *Profile*.

- Home Screen: Before browsing recipes, users can set their personalized filters using the dropdown menu at the top. These filters allow users to customize their feed based on dietary preferences, cuisine types, and ingredient availability, ensuring that the recommendations align with their unique tastes and needs. Once filters are set, begin swiping through a curated feed of recipes. Swipe right to save a recipe to your collection or left to skip to the next one. Tap on a recipe to view detailed information, including ingredients and cooking instructions. The back button in the top left allows you to return to the main feed.
- Pantry Screen: This section helps you manage your ingredients, keeping track of items you have at home and what needs replenishing. The pantry is organized by categories for easy browsing, and you can add or remove items by tapping on the relevant category.
- Recipe Posting Screen: Use the center navigation button to share your own recipes. You can take a photo or select one from your library, then add a title, description, and any other details before posting. This feature encourages sharing creativity within the community.
- Chef Su Screen: Chef Su is our AI-powered cooking assistant, specifically designed to answer common cooking questions in real time. Users can ask Chef Su for guidance on cooking techniques, ingredient substitutions, or specific steps within a recipe. Chef Su's role is to provide helpful, focused answers to enhance the cooking process, rather than offering generalized advice or meal planning suggestions. This makes Chef Su an ideal resource for quick, targeted support when you're in the middle of cooking and need answers right away.
- Profile Screen: The profile page shows user preferences and dietary information, allowing for a more personalized recipe recommendation experience. Here, you can also access your saved recipes and adjust personal settings.

Throughout the app, interactive hotspots guide the user through each screen, with most actions relying on clicks or swipes. Remember that the back button in the top left corner is available on most screens for easy navigation.

Tasks:
Simple: Swipe to discover and save recipes
Moderate: post a new recipe
Complex: add items to your pantry

Limitations:

Our prototype includes several limitations due to its focus on design and flow rather than full functionality. First, user input is limited; there is no typing feature, as we prioritized visual design over text-based interactions. Similarly, while Chef Su is present as an AI helper, the chatbot functionality has not been fully implemented, so user interactions are simulated rather than dynamic. Additionally, customizable pop-up windows and other interactive elements were omitted to streamline the design process. The dietary profile is also limited to a single preset user, meaning that personalization options are restricted to predefined choices. Finally, many clickable items, like certain recipe or video options, are limited to one or a few selections to keep the interface simple. These constraints allowed us to focus on crafting a cohesive user experience, though they limit some interactive aspects of the app.

Wizard of Oz:

In our prototype, certain features are represented through Wizard of Oz techniques to illustrate intended functionality without fully building it out. For instance, Chef Su, the AI cooking assistant, is displayed as if it could interact with users, but it has no actual functionality in this version due to the absence of user input capabilities. This placeholder simulates the concept of a responsive cooking assistant without requiring complex backend development. Similarly, the camera function directs users to a specific pre-chosen photo rather than capturing a new image, allowing us to demonstrate the photo-upload feature without a working camera integration. These

Wizard of Oz elements help us portray the prototype’s vision and user experience goals while keeping development focused on core interface flow.

Hard Coded Items:

Our prototype includes a few hard-coded elements to streamline the demonstration and focus on design flow. For example, Chef Su, our AI cooking assistant, currently has no functionality, as there is no user input capability in this prototype. Chef Su is presented as a feature, but it doesn’t interact or respond in this version, serving instead as a placeholder for future development. Additionally, the camera feature is simulated, guiding users to a specific, pre-selected photo to simplify the testing process. By minimizing hard-coded elements, we concentrated on creating a smooth user interface experience, keeping interactions straightforward at this stage. Lastly, the filters are hard-coded, as we are not taking user input.