BEGINNER · 8 min read · October 29, 2026 · By Kelly Stratton

Free Website Design Inspiration Sites for AI Websites

Get a website that looks custom, not AI-made. Five free galleries to find the look you love, the screenshot method that shows ChatGPT, Claude, or Lovable exactly what you want, and a copy-and-paste prompt that turns your favorite pages into a design your AI can follow.

You built a website with AI, and it works. It just looks like every other website AI has ever made. You don’t need a designer to fix that, and you don’t need to learn design. You need a few pages you love and one prompt. These five free sites are where you find them, and the method below shows your AI exactly what you want, so your site looks like you paid for it.

> IN A NUTSHELL
> Website design inspiration sites are free galleries of hand-picked, well-designed websites. You browse them, screenshot the pages you love, and upload the screenshots to ChatGPT, Claude, or Lovable as a reference, so the AI builds in that style instead of its usual default look.

> WHAT YOU NEED
> Any plan of ChatGPT, Claude, or Lovable, including the free ones. All three let you attach an image. Nothing to install and no account needed on any of the five sites.

PART 1 Why Do AI Websites All Look the Same?

AI doesn't know what good looks like until you show it. When you type "make my website look better," it has nothing specific to aim for, so it builds the most typical website it can. That's why so many AI-built sites share the same look: a big centered headline, a purple or blue gradient, three boxes with icons, rounded buttons. It isn't wrong. It's just average.

The fix isn't a better adjective. It's a picture. A screenshot of a page you love tells the AI more in one second than a paragraph of "modern, clean, professional" ever will.

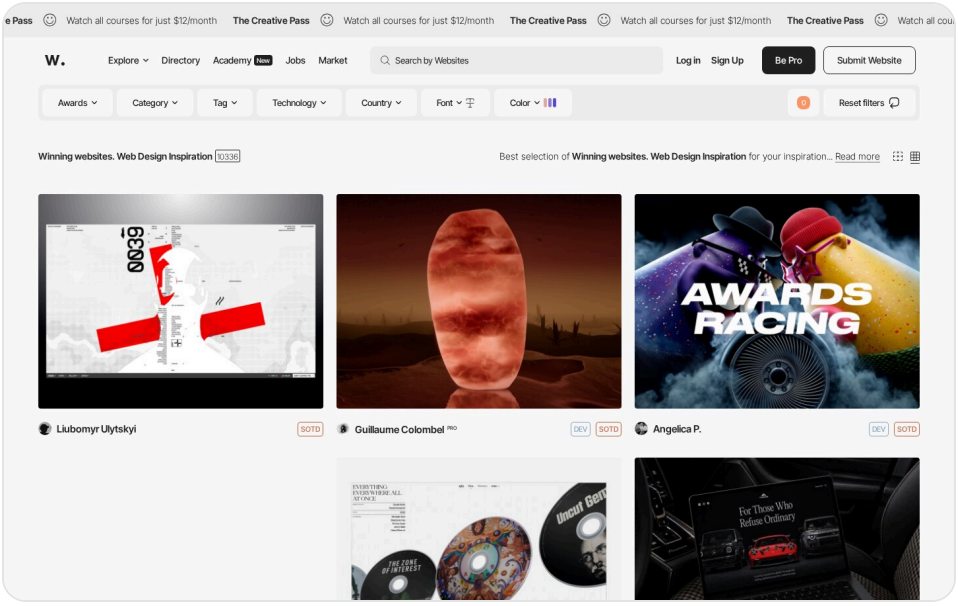
PART 2 The 5 Free Sites

Which one to open first
Awwwards To see what expensive looks like. Award winners, judged by a jury.
Recent When the whole look has to match: website, logo, posters, app screens.
Dark Mode Design When you want a dark site that feels bold and a little mysterious.
Httpster When you refuse to look like a template. Bold type, odd layouts.
Minimal Gallery When less is more. Clean, quiet, lots of space.

1. Awwwards

awwwards.com

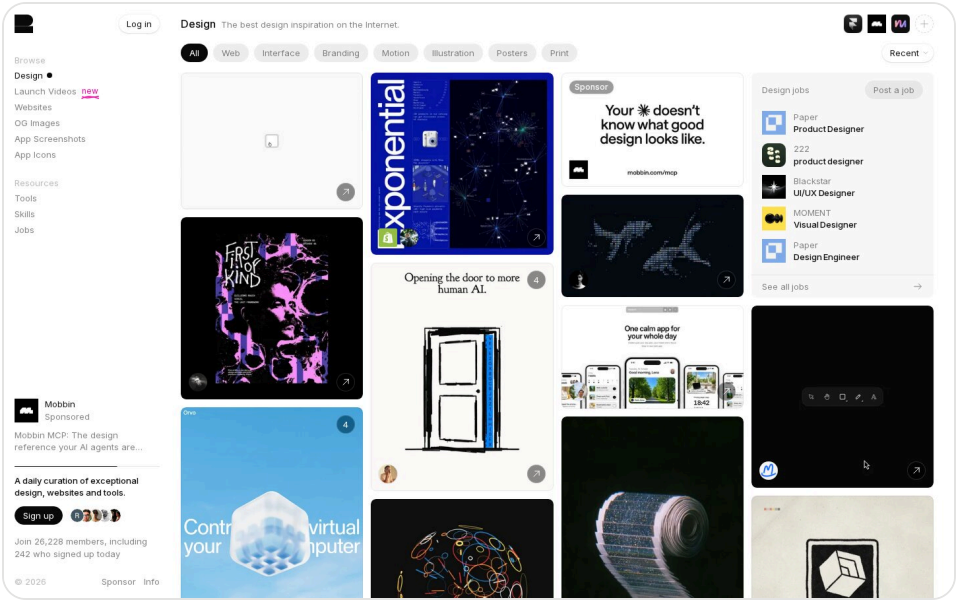
A jury of designers scores websites and picks a Site of the Day, every day. This is the top shelf. Start here to see what expensive looks like, then use the filters (category, color, font) to find winners close to what you're building.



2. Recent

recent.design

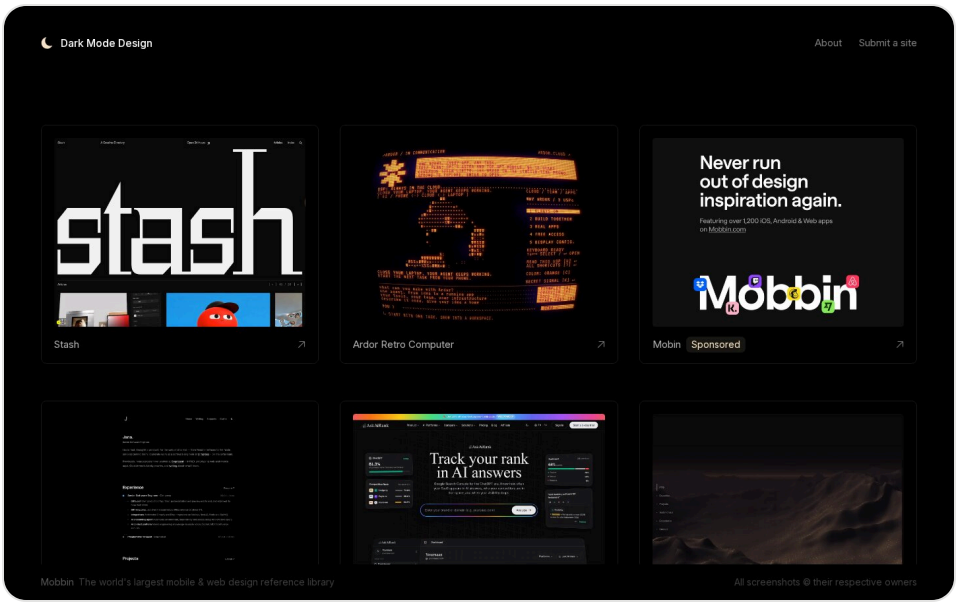
Websites, logos, posters, app screens, and launch videos, all in one feed. Use it when the whole look has to match, so your website, your logo, and your social graphics feel like one brand. If you knew it as Godly, this is the same site under its new name.



3. Dark Mode Design

darkmodedesign.com

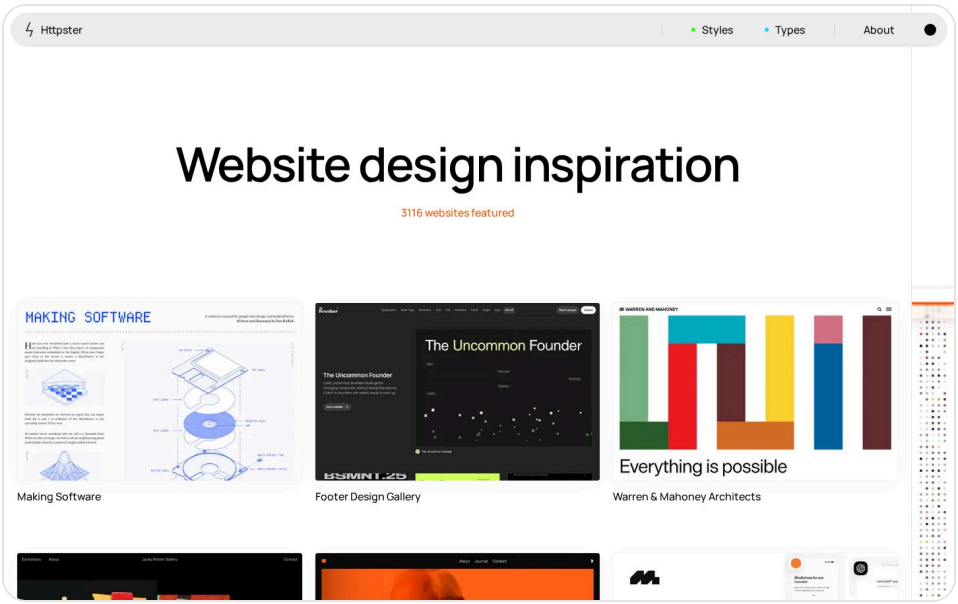
Only dark websites. Black backgrounds, bold type, a little mystery. If that's the look you want, every page on this site is it, and you won't waste time scrolling past white ones.



4. Httpster

httpster.net

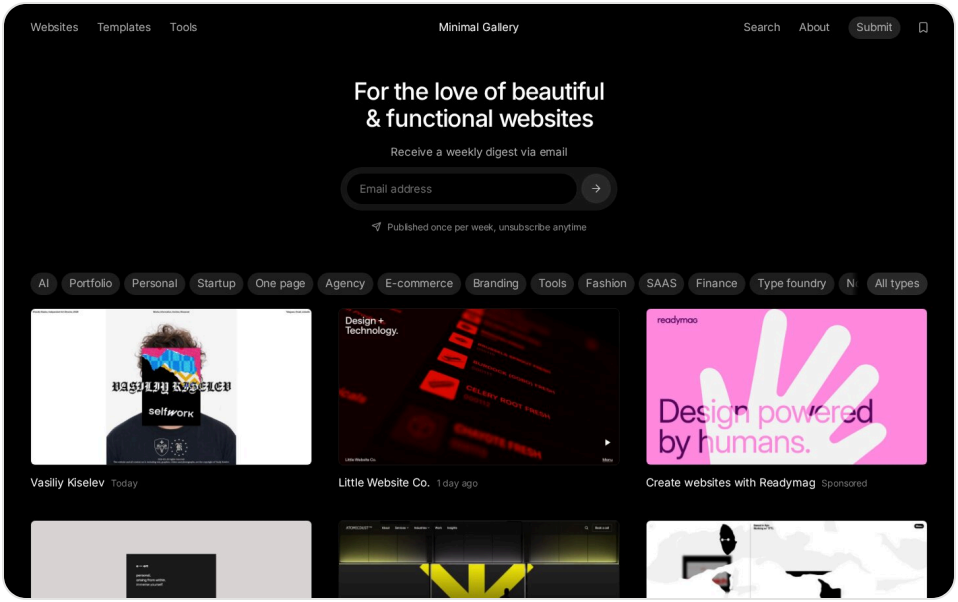
More than 3,000 hand-picked sites with personality: bold type, odd layouts, brutalist and minimal styles. Every one links to the live page, so you can click through and scroll the real thing. For when you refuse to look like a template.



5. Minimal Gallery

minimal.gallery

Clean, quiet websites, picked by hand since 2013. Filter by type (portfolio, startup, e-commerce, one page, and more) to find sites like yours. Proof that expensive usually means less, not more.



PART 3 How Do You Give AI Your Taste?

1. **Pick three pages you love.** Open one or two of the sites above and save anything that makes you stop scrolling. Three is the sweet spot: enough to show a pattern, not so many that they fight each other.
2. **Screenshot them.** Just the top of each page is usually enough. That's where the look lives.
3. **Upload all three to ChatGPT, Claude, or Lovable.** Use the paperclip or the plus button in the chat box.
4. **Say what you like about each one.** This is the step most people skip, and it's the one that matters. Paste this prompt and fill in the blanks:

PROMPT

```
I'm building a [homepage / landing page] for [what your business is]. It's for [who it's for]. The one thing I want visitors to do is [book a call / buy / join my email list].

I've attached 3 screenshots of websites I love. Use them as a style reference only. Don't copy their words, logos, photos, or exact layout.
```

```
What I like about each one:
Screenshot 1: [for example, the huge headline and all the empty space around it]
Screenshot 2: [for example, the colors: black, cream, and one orange accent]
Screenshot 3: [for example, the simple menu and the thin lines between sections]

Before you build anything, study the screenshots and write me a short style guide:
- Colors: a background color, a text color, and one accent color, with hex codes
- Fonts: a headline font and a body font (free Google Fonts), and how much bigger the
headlines are than the body text
- Spacing: how much empty space goes between sections
- Shapes: square or rounded corners, lines or no lines, shadows or flat
- Layout: how the top of the page is arranged, and which sections come after it
- Photos: what kind of images to use and where they go

Then build the page and follow that style guide exactly.

Rules:
- No gradients
- No emoji or clip-art icons
- No row of three "feature" boxes
- Don't center every block of text
- One accent color, used only for buttons and links
- Design it for a phone first, then for a computer
- [anything else you never want to see]

My page needs to say:
Headline: [the main promise, in one line]
What I offer: [your service or product, in two or three sentences]
Why me: [your story, your results, or a review from a customer]
Call to action: [the exact words on your button]
```

5. **Read the style guide before you look at the page.** If it got something wrong (“rounded corners” when your screenshots are all square), correct it in one line and ask for a rebuild. Fixing the style guide fixes every page built from it.
6. **Fix one thing at a time.** If something is off, name it: “the headline is too small,” “use more space between sections,” “the buttons should be square, like screenshot 1.” Short, specific notes get you there faster than starting over.

SAVE YOUR STYLE GUIDE

Copy the style guide your AI wrote into a note. Every time you add a page, paste it in and say: "Build this page using my style guide." Your about page, your contact page, and your sales page will all match, even months from now, in a brand new chat.

ALREADY HAVE A SITE?

Screenshot your own page and upload it with the three you love. Say: "This is my current page. Redesign it in the style of the other three. Keep my words." Now the AI can see exactly what needs to change.

PART 4 How Can You Tell a Website Looks AI-Made?

Once you've spent ten minutes on these galleries, you'll start spotting the default look everywhere. If your page has several of these, it's worth a redo with your screenshots.

The tells
A purple or blue gradient Behind the headline, on the buttons, or both.
Three boxes with icons A row of "features," each with a little emoji or icon on top.
Everything centered Every headline and paragraph in the middle of the page.
Same rounded everything Rounded cards, rounded buttons, soft shadows on all of it.
Words that say nothing "Unlock your potential." "Elevate your experience." Your page should sound like you.

PART 5

Where You Still Come In

These galleries fix how your page looks. Four things still have to come from you, and they matter more than any layout.

Write Your Words First

A beautiful page that says “Elevate your experience” still doesn’t sell anything. Before you open a gallery, write the four lines the prompt asks for. If your headline is hard to write, use this and fill it in:

PROMPT

```
I help [who you help] [get what they want] without [the thing they hate].
```

Then pick one action you want every visitor to take. One button, said the same way everywhere on the page. A page that asks for three things usually gets none of them.

Use Real Photos

A real photo of you, your product, or your work does more for a site than any font. Stock photos are the fastest way to look AI-made again.

- **Take them on your phone,** near a window, in daylight, with a plain background.
- **Shoot a few wide,** with room on one side. A wide photo with empty space is what sits behind or beside a headline.
- **Edit them all the same way,** same filter, same brightness, so they look like one set.
- **Tell your AI where each one goes:** “Use photo 1 at the top, next to the headline.”

Borrow, Don’t Copy

Three screenshots, not one, is what keeps you safe. Take the spacing from one, the colors from another, and the menu from the third, and the result is yours. Here’s the test: if the owner of one of those sites saw your page next to theirs, would they think you copied it? If yes, change the layout or the colors until the answer is no.

Check It on Your Phone

Most people will see your site on their phone, and that’s where AI-built pages break first. Open the preview link on your phone and check:

- Can you read the text without zooming in?
- Is the button big enough to tap with your thumb?
- Does the headline fit without one word on a line by itself?
- Does the photo still show the important part, or did it get cropped?

If something is off, screenshot it on your phone, upload it, and say what’s wrong: “On my phone the headline breaks into four lines. Make it smaller on mobile only.”

FAQ Questions People Ask About AI Website Design

Straight answers

Why do AI-generated websites all look the same?
When you ask for a website without showing an example, AI builds the most typical version it can: a centered headline, a gradient, three feature boxes, rounded buttons. That's the average of what it has seen. Show it a few pages you love and it has something specific to aim for instead.

How do I make my AI website look better?
Find three pages you love on a design gallery like Awwwards or Minimal Gallery, screenshot them, and upload the screenshots to ChatGPT, Claude, or Lovable. Then say exactly what you like about each one: the spacing, the font, the colors, and what to leave out. Specific words beat "make it look better."

What are the best free website design inspiration sites?
Awwwards for award-winning sites, Recent for a whole brand look across websites, logos, and posters, Dark Mode Design for dark websites, Httpster for bold sites with personality, and Minimal Gallery for clean, quiet design. All five are free to browse with no account.

Can I copy a website I find on these sites?
Use them as a reference, not a template. Borrow the feel: the layout, the spacing, the kind of font, the color mood. Don't copy their words, logos, photos, or the exact page. Asking AI to build something in the same style, for your own business, is the right way to use them.

Is Awwwards free to use?
Yes, browsing is free and you don't need an account. Awwwards sells memberships and courses, and designers pay to submit their own sites, but you can look through the winners, including a new Site of the Day every day, without paying anything.

Can ChatGPT build a website from a screenshot?
ChatGPT, Claude, and Lovable all let you attach images, so you can upload a screenshot and ask for a page in that style. You get the closest result when you also say in words what you like about the screenshot, and what your own page needs to say.

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