



About me: I'm a journalism student trying to navigate my way through the world of mobiles. Look me up on Twitter: @Nexus



The year is 2005. Nokia announced an elite class of smartphones that would embody company's desire to deliver the most advanced mobile technology.

And thus, Nokia Nseries was born.

Spearheading company's new high-end line were three Symbian smartphones - N70, N90 and N91. Each phone had its own distinctive feel and focus, and all were highly desired by mobile tech enthusiasts around the world.

The main purpose of Nokia N90 was crystal clear - to become the grand master of mobile photography.

Photography, however, is not the only reason why N90 is fondly remembered to this day...



Visually, the futuristic looking clamshell from Nokia commandeered respect. Even when N90 was released, it was considered a sizeable and heavy handset - quite understandably so, given the amount of features that were packed inside.

But rather than trying to hide this, Nokia saw an opportunity to create a phone that was exceptional to behold, and built to last. N90 is mainly comprised of high-grade plastic, but a generous layer of stainless steel engulfs its sides, masterfully supplementing the solid and expensive feel of the smartphone.



Camcorder mode: A versatile pocket camera is but a twist away

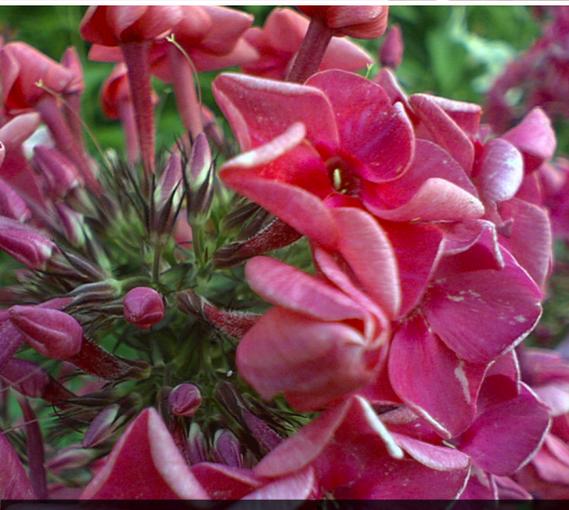
Even more impressive than the premium materials and high build quality is the innovative form factor of Nokia N90. Its typical clamshell look shatters the moment you begin rotating the unique hinge that gives N90 a surprising amount of flexibility for a camera phone.



Take the numerous positions N90 can take is easier to explain in pictures, or better yet - experienced in real life for a maximum effect. No wonder then, that one of its successors, Nokia N93i, was prominently featured in the first Transformers movie.



There's simply no other way of putting this - N90 feels like a breath of fresh air in this age of identical looking monoblock touchscreen phones that considerably limit the imagination of phone designers.



The unspoken beauty of N90 is the sheer amount of detail its camera can produce with just a 2 Mpix sensor

In the center of Nokia N90 transformations lies the 2 megapixel Auto-Focus camera with optics from the world class manufacturer Carl Zeiss. The camera is a nifty little monster that illustrates perfectly how even just 2 megapixels can provide impressive results if given good quality optics.

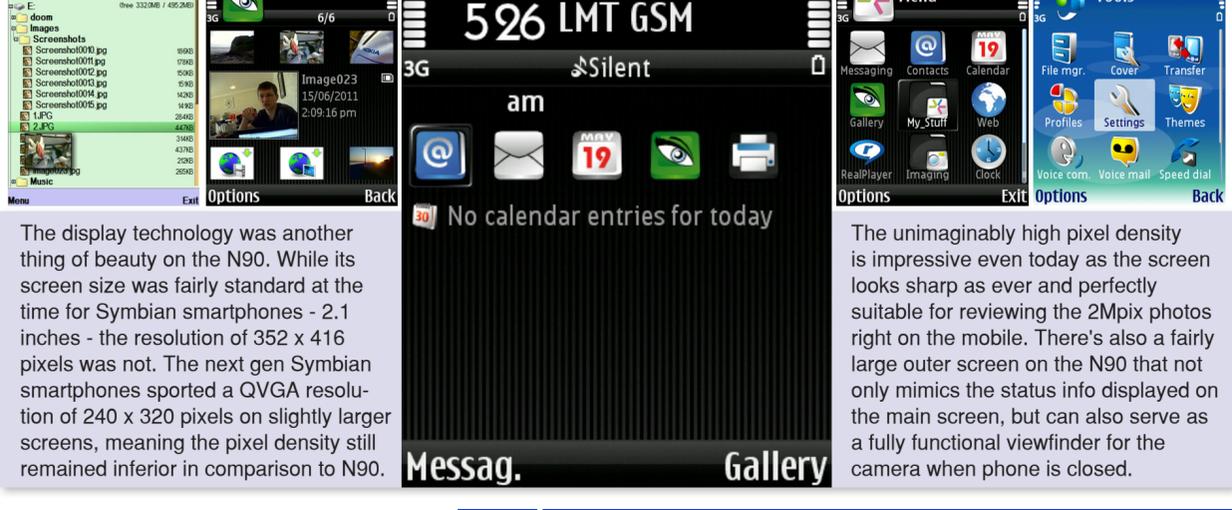
The 2 Mpix shooter is a constant source of pleasant surprises for me even today, a good 6 years since N90's launch. Now, how many phones can boast about having such a long tail outside its natural lifespan?



Not only the end result was thoroughly impressive, but also the whole process of taking photos with N90 was a pure joy. Your camera was only a flip and twist away, and moments later you would find yourself in front of the viewfinder with an inviting shutter key resting right under your thumb.

In this configuration, the N90 closely resembles a camcorder, so holding it steady to take a macro photo or record a lengthy video is a piece of cake. The great thing is that you can also independently adjust the vertical angle of both the camera module and the screen, thus providing the ultimate flexibility when capturing content.

With such an ease of capturing every passing moment in life, there was little else in the way of creativity. If you fancy a smartphone, and you're into photography - there was no escape. The Nokia N90 was your go-to phone.



The display technology was another thing of beauty on the N90. While its screen size was fairly standard at the time for Symbian smartphones - 2.1 inches - the resolution of 352 x 416 pixels was not. The next gen Symbian smartphones sported a QVGA resolution of 240 x 320 pixels on slightly larger screens, meaning the pixel density still remained inferior in comparison to N90.

The unimaginably high pixel density is impressive even today as the screen looks sharp as ever and perfectly suitable for reviewing the 2Mpix photos right on the mobile. There's also a fairly large outer screen on the N90 that not only mimics the status info displayed on the main screen, but can also serve as a fully functional viewfinder for the camera when phone is closed.

NOKIA Nseries



Conclusion

Nokia N90 was a screamingly wild idea, barely saddled and contained, yet also ambitious and daring enough to ultimately succeed. An exclusive sneak peek into the future you could embrace today. It is, quite easily, what Nseries was born to represent.

From exceptional built quality to the innovative form factor and cutting-edge mobile technology, Nokia N90 possessed the genes of a true legend and the iron will to take things two steps ahead of the world, ensuring its long lasting legacy in the history of super-phone evolution.

Thanks

A special thanks to my good friend Richard (@Sheridan01) for gifting me this kick ass phone that is N90 - it shall forever remain in my collection alongside my Nokia 7650.

>> Colliding the past with present...

Mobile cameras have come a long way. Not only the resolution has increased, but also the camera built-in image processing software has become more sophisticated. Here are some of the most notable corner stones in the evolution of cameraphones from Nokia, and where does N90 fit in.

