

NIKA UMNOV

EXPERIENCE

The Live Well Collaborative | Senior Design Researcher

AUGUST 2024 - DECEMBER 2025 | Cincinnati, OH

- Led 8 end-to-end research and design projects with cross-functional teams of 5-15 designers, engineers, and client stakeholders, delivering validated concepts adopted by client organizations for further development.
- Executed design research methods, including over 100 interviews and co-creation activities to inform visual and usability direction.
- Created personas, storyboards, and interactive prototypes to define creative direction and developed strategy to implement design changes.

DAAP Rapid Prototyping Center | Prototype Technician

AUGUST 2023 - MAY 2024 | Cincinnati, OH

- Led training for 50+ students on laser cutting and 3D printing machinery use, improving project throughput and reducing equipment misuse incidents.
- Responsible for completing over 300 student orders on CNC Kongsberg.
- Trained on maintenance of laser cutters, 3D printers, and CNC mill.

THRIVE Thinking | Design Researcher

JANUARY 2023 - MAY 2023 | Atlanta, GA

- Conducted over 40 qualitative interviews, translating findings into personas and opportunity frameworks used in client strategy and packaging decisions.
- Synthesized and analyzed transcripts to generate opportunity areas for clients to gain a meaningful understanding of their customer base.
- Co-facilitated in a 2 day co-creation workshop with client to present findings and provided visualizations for shared understanding.

Chamberlain Group | UX/UI Designer

MAY 2022 - AUGUST 2022 | Chicago, IL

- Served as UX team lead on warehouse system redesign; resulting concepts reduced workflow friction by 30%, improving in time and accuracy.
- Conducted primary research through user-centered design methods such as field site visits, interviews, and persona development to identify pain points.
- Designed and prototyped mobile application that integrated into existing warehouse management system, streamlining communication between dispatch, warehouse, and truck.

Smurfit Westrock | Packaging Design Co-Op

DECEMBER 2020 - DECEMBER 2021 | Richmond, VA

- Conducted research to understand trends, synthesized data to come up with 10 sustainable packaging concepts, developed testing guides for prototypes.
- Worked in softwares such as ArtiosCAD, SolidWorks, and Keyshot to design, refine, and render packaging.

EDUCATION

University of Cincinnati | B.S. in Industrial Design

AUGUST 2019 - APRIL 2024 | GPA: 3.8

Delft University of Technology | Minor in Interactive Environments

AUGUST 2022 - FEBRUARY 2023

Co-created an interactive exhibit in collaboration with Philip Beesley for TU Delft's Science Center. Work exhibited in 2023 Delft Highlights Festival.

CONTACT

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SKILLS

Generative Research
Systems Thinking
Qualitative Interviews
Quantitative Research
Usability Testing
Research Synthesis
Persona Development
Journey Mapping
Data Visualization
Wireframing & Prototyping
Storyboarding
Design Strategy

SOFTWARE

Adobe Suite (Photoshop, Illustrator, InDesign, XD)
Figma
Procreate
Miro
Fusion 360
SketchUp
SolidWorks
ArtiosCAD

AWARDS

Fulbright Semi-Finalist
University Honors Program
Dean's List 2019-2024
Cincinnatus Scholarship

LANGUAGES

English
Russian
Spanish