

# ALASTAIR MERRETT

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## PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

With over 6 years of professional experience, Alastair is a community-oriented design researcher discontented with an unsustainable world. He has nurtured a dream-lit approach for tackling diverse, complex social issues with his backgrounds in art, planning, and inexorable curiosity.

## WORK HISTORY

- Design Consultant / Adjunct Lecturer • Western Illinois University • Remote** 08/2023-Current
- Guides 14 campus representatives through 5-week college-level restructuring project
  - Remotely teaches 2-hour design-thinking seminar on community engagement
  - Mentors 12 students in developing their leadership and social entrepreneurship skills
  - Empowers 2-3 design teams throughout UI / UX processes and reviews portfolio
- Design Education Fellow • Design for America National • Remote** 07/2023-Current
- Ensures +30 teams across the country have a strong foundation for studio education
  - Elevates studio success by cultivating external partners and focusing partners' goals
  - Collaborates with 11 fellows to coach teams through roadblocks to create social change
- Design Researcher • Nemera Insight Innovation LLC • Chicago, IL** 03/2023-07/2023
- Devised, conducted, analyzed, & presented ethnographic research in medical product design
  - Created process maps and research protocols / questionnaires in 7 fields of healthcare
  - Partnered with engineers and designers on 5+ simultaneous end-to-end UI / UX projects
  - Traveled cross-country for qualitative research and stakeholder interviews in hospitals
- Design Strategist • Siebel Center for Design • Champaign, IL** 02/2019-12/2022
- Collaboratively designed on +5 projects and succinctly presents UI/UX research to clients
  - Built hi-fidelity digital and physical frameworks with +100 synthesized interviews
  - Directed co-creation sessions of blended groups and maps user journeys for +30 clients
  - Helped secure \$20 million in grant funding from the National Science Foundation
- President / Managing Director • Design for America UIUC • Champaign, IL** 08/2017-05/2022
- Oversaw the success of a 40-person studio and managed a 7-person executive board
  - Established year-long community partnerships for 14 client-based design projects
  - Planned longitudinal curricula, organized 2 poster sessions, and led 7 design sprints
  - Led a 3-day national design-thinking conference with 6 universities and +50 guests

## SKILLS AND AWARDS

- |                    |              |               |                     |
|--------------------|--------------|---------------|---------------------|
| • Microsoft Office | • Python     | • Illustrator | • Usability Testing |
| • Google Suite     | • HTML / CSS | • InDesign    | • Personas          |
| • B2B Experience   | • Miro       | • Premiere    | • User Journeys     |
| • Figma            | • SPSS       | • Adobe XD    | • Moderating        |
| • SketchUp         | • Rhino      | • UserTesting | • Technical Writing |
| • Axure            | • AutoCAD    | • Wireframes  | • Presenting        |

## EDUCATION

- University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign • Champaign, IL** 05/2022
- **Bachelor of Science:** Sustainable and Human-Centered Design
  - **Bachelor of Arts:** Urban and Regional Planning
  - Minors in Art & Design, Sociology, and Informatics
  - GPA: 3.85/4