

# 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

<b>Design Consultant / Adjunct Lecturer</b> • <i>Western Illinois University</i> • <i>Remote</i>	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	
<b>Design Education Fellow</b> • <i>Design for America National</i> • <i>Remote</i>	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	
<b>Design Researcher</b> • <i>Nemera Insight Innovation LLC</i> • <i>Chicago, IL</i>	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	
<b>Design Strategist</b> • <i>Siebel Center for Design</i> • <i>Champaign, IL</i>	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	
<b>President / Managing Director</b> • <i>Design for America UIUC</i> • <i>Champaign, IL</i>	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

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