

As a Spatial Experience Designer and Design Strategist with 4+ years of experience, I utilize my craft to promote social change by creating environments that foster empathy and community involvement. My commitment to inclusive, human-centered, and sustainable design consistently drives essential transformation. Let's build a better world, one thoughtfully designed space at a time!

Professional Experience

FFEN _ Foundation for Essential Needs, Minneapolis, MN

March 2023 — December 2023

Spatial Experience Designer

- **Conducted Research:** Organized participatory research with live surveys via Mentimeter and focus groups, engaging with food banks, food shelf leaders, and volunteers to develop a fresh food first toolkit funded by the MPCA grant.
- **Developed Toolkit:** Initiated and led the creation of a data-driven toolkit for distributing and preserving rescued food, resulting in 50% developed assets further co-designed with a focus group of ten food shelf leaders.
- **Refined Toolkits:** Led the refinement of food preservation toolkits, evaluating them at ten active food shelf sites, to improve feedback reliability.
- **Evaluated Spaces:** Assessed diverse spaces, including retail stores and mixed-use buildings, transforming them into functional food shelves with accurate space planning solutions, increasing usability by 50%.
- **Partnered with Leaders:** Collaborated with 2 food shelf leaders by conducting co-design workshops to understand their needs to apply for DHS grants, ensuring effective project planning and execution, which led to securing a grant for 1 food shelf.
- **Designed Guidebooks:** Created a trauma-informed onboarding guidebook for volunteers, enhancing their ability to create welcoming and practical spaces, leading to an increase in volunteer satisfaction.
- **Fostered Collaboration:** Conducted co-design workshops on trauma-informed design, engaging volunteers from various disciplines, and increasing volunteer engagement and collaborative efforts.
- **Clients served:** McLeod Food Shelf, Glencoe, MN Winona Food Shelf, Winona, MN Outreach Food Shelf, Alexandria, MN OROMO Resource Center, MN LFPC Food shelf, Duluth, MN UCAP Food shelf, Worthington, MN Cross Center of Benton County IOCP (Interfaith Outreach and Community Partners)

Steelcase, Inc, Grand Rapids, MI

November 2021 — January 2023

Interior Designer

- **Innovated Materials and Trends:** Pioneered material innovations, historical context, and design trends, shaping spaces for high-profile projects like the Frank Lloyd Wright collection and Neocon 2022, resulting in client engagement during trade shows.
- **Directed Relationships:** Managed vendor and contractor relationships to ensure timely, quality project completion within budget, aligning with brand identity and reducing delays.
- **Conceptualized Design Solutions:** Analyzed spatial requirements and user needs. Contributed to projects like Leaders Common at Steelcase HQ with 3D models using CET and SketchUp and created comprehensive documentation with AutoCAD.
- **Formulated Competitive Analysis:** to identify industry trends and benchmark designs, informing strategic decisions to enhance market competitiveness.

Unarco Architects, Belgaum, India

June 2018 — July 2019

Junior Architect

- **Optimized Space Designs:** Created detailed space designs for institutional, commercial, multi-family, and residential buildings, optimizing available space and drafting accurate construction documents, including structural, electrical, plumbing, and FF&E specifications.

- **Negotiated FF&E Purchases:** Successfully negotiated FF&E purchases to ensure compliance with client specifications and design standards, reducing costs by 15% while maintaining quality.
- **Planned Finances and Schedules:** Planned project finances and schedules, ensuring deadlines and budget constraints were met, achieving a 90% on-time delivery rate for all projects within the fiscal year.
- **Oversaw Installations:** Coordinated with vendors and contractors for smooth installations, promptly resolving challenges, resulting in installation efficiency within six months.
- **Facilitated Client Meetings:** Conducted regular client meetings to discuss design concepts, gather input, and ensure alignment with sustainability goals and customer vision.
- **Mentored Interns:** Mentored interns on best practices for creating detailed and accurate construction documents, enhancing their technical skills, which led to promoting intern professional growth and improved productivity within six months.

Enso Architects, Bengaluru, India
Architectural Design Intern

January 2017 — June 2017

- **Collaborative Brainstorming:** Brainstormed with Principal Architects and team members on diverse projects, including residential, commercial, and hospitality, contributing to innovative design solutions.
- **Detailed Site Assessment:** Conducted site visits, measured spaces, and illustrated detailed floor plans of multi-family apartments for brochures using Photoshop and 3D renderings with Lumion, enhancing client presentations and increasing brochure engagement.

Studio 13, Goa, India
Architectural Design and Planning Intern

August 2016 — December 2016

- **Supervised On-Site:** Supervised the on-site execution of various projects, ensuring compliance with specifications and standards, which resulted in a reduction in rework and errors within two months and led to an increase in stipend in the third month.
- **Implemented Residential Interiors:** Spearheaded the implementation of residential villa interiors and prototyped physical models, demonstrating visual storytelling for the client's understanding.

Education

Master of Science in Strategic Management
University of the Cumberland, Williamsburg, KY

March 2024 — August 2025

Master of Science in Environmental Design
Art Center College of Design, Pasadena, CA

September 2019 — April 2021

Bachelor's in Architecture
KLS Gogte Institute of Technology, Belgaum, India

June 2012 — July 2017

Areas of Expertise

- Qualitative & Quantitative Research
- Critical Thinking
- Design Management
- Stakeholder Engagement
- Human-centered Design
- Design Advocacy
- Spatial Branding
- Visual Storytelling
- Interior Design
- Active Listening & Communication
- Leadership
- Strategic Management