



## AKASH PANICKER

User-centered designer with **6+ years** of experience in creating user experience solutions impacting over **1M+ users**

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## WORK EXPERIENCE

### Fugro USA Marine, Inc.

FEB 2024 – OCT 2025

UI/UX Designer · Houston, TX

- Led end-to-end research & design of 3 web apps in the same product family, expected to help regain major clients and **\$4M+** revenue
- Designed user-centered interfaces for 7+ Fugro products using design thinking, reducing design-to-development rework by **30%**
- Conducted user interviews and user testing to validate designs, refine interactions on Figma, enhance UX, and cut process time **87%**
- Facilitated **4+ Product discovery workshops** to gather user insights, define workflows, and establish a strong foundation for products
- Built first design version of a machine learning product and ensured seamless implementation and alignment with **UX best practices**

### Variety of Illinois

MAR 2023 – FEB 2024

UI/UX Designer · Chicago, IL

- Created design system & high-fi prototype incorporating Design Principles, resulting in **40%** increase in user satisfaction
- Built site maps, & mockups; Used **usability testing** methodologies to optimize UX, leading to 15% improvement in task success rates
- Performed **user research**, **heuristic evaluation**, competitive analysis, and accessibility audit using WCAG 2.1 guidelines
- Developed user-centered design that fulfilled user requirements, applying market analysis and innovative **design thinking** skills

### Data Products LLC

SEP 2022 – MAR 2023

UI/UX Design Intern · Chicago, IL

- Led UX research, **user interface design** process & implemented visual design guidelines, resulting in **20%** increase in lead generation
- Implemented graphic design and interaction design skills using **Figma** and Photoshop to enhance average session duration by **25%**
- Collaborated cross-functionally with stakeholders and engineers to build **4+** UX/UI design patterns for each web page

### Salt Web Technologies Pvt Ltd

AUG 2020 – APR 2021

UI/UX Designer · Pune, India

- Conceptualized multiple design iterations for **20+** client-facing projects in Adobe Creative Suite, boosting customer acquisition **15%**
- Crafted **user experience strategies** focusing on user empathy, Information Architecture & user testing plan for healthcare website
- Promoted to **Design Team Lead**, developed an end-to-end design roadmap, increasing online sales for e-commerce websites by **25%**
- Conducted **A/B testing** with teamwork in collaboration with product management team, reducing navigational errors by **30%**
- Created wireframes and high-fidelity prototypes using Adobe XD, boosting user engagement **40%** and reducing bounce rates **30%**

### Techflux (Startup)

JAN 2020 – JUL 2020

Product Designer · Navi Mumbai, India

- Analyzed consumer requirements with **quantitative and qualitative data**, to create B2B software applications solutions using Figma
- Designed dashboard UI & data visualization components for a **digital product**, increasing client's business revenue by **23%**
- Defined **user journeys** and assessed digital product performance in a fast-paced agile environment, applying Figma & HTML/CSS skills
- Developed **responsive design** and rapid prototypes based on user research to serve fintech, healthcare, CRM, and SaaS products
- Enhanced UX through **iterative design** by performing user interviews to build user personas, user flows & integrating user feedback

### Freelance

MAY 2018 – DEC 2019

Full Stack Designer · Remote

- Designed web & mobile applications that met clients' needs and goals by wearing different hats as a designer and **front-end developer**
- Coordinated with stakeholders to ensure **product design strategies** were aligned with industry trends and met client product vision
- Delivered visually appealing design layouts and focused on **typography** using Adobe Illustrator, aligning with branding guidelines

## EDUCATION

### DePaul University · Chicago, IL

M.S in Human-Computer Interaction (HCI)

June 2023 · GPA- 3.84/4.0

### YCMOU · Mumbai, Maharashtra

B.S in Media Graphics and Animation

May 2019 · GPA- 3.68/4.0

## SKILLS

### Software/Tools/Development

Figma	FigJam
Miro	Qualtrics
Adobe XD	Figma Makes
Axure RP	Vibe coding
Photoshop	UserTesting.com
After Effects	Copilot Studio
Atlas.ti	Balsamiq
Webflow	Illustrator
JavaScript	Optimal Workshop
React	Adobe Creative Suite
Angular	HTML/CSS, Bootstrap

### Design and Research

Prototyping	Wireframing
Interaction Design	Visual Design
UI Design	Typography
Graphic Design	2D/3D Animation
Full Stack Design	Design Communication
IA Testing	Storyboarding
Usability Research	Journey Mapping
UX Strategy	Affinity Diagramming
Surveys	Competitive Analysis
User Flows	Thematic Analysis
Card Sorting	Contextual Inquiry
Agile Thinking	Project Management

## UX PROJECT EXPERIENCE

### ML Model Management Portal

UX Designer · Houston, TX

- Designed a self-service web interface enabling non-technical stakeholders to upload data, validate models, and deploy updates independently, reducing model update turnaround time by **60%**
- Implemented automated validation, version comparison, and region-specific fine-tuning workflows, improving model accuracy and reliability by **25%**
- Developed centralized model traceability and shared insights dashboards for global teams, enhancing cross-functional collaboration across **5+** teams