



ABOUT

I work at the intersection of product design and strategy — helping organizations turn complex problems into products, brands, and systems that connect people to information, experiences, and each other. Over 15 years, I've done this across fintech, biotech, healthcare, publishing, dev tools, and civic tech, often as the person bridging business goals, engineering constraints, and user needs.

I've worked at the New York Times, Google's Creative Lab, and Nestlé, and for dozens of startups — several acquired, including Tilt, ENSO Financial, and TrustYou. I also co-created the Community Canvas, a framework used by over 200,000 community builders worldwide, and teach interaction design at SVA.

I operate as both strategist and maker — leading product direction, aligning cross-functional teams, and running design sprints and workshops, while also building prototypes and production apps with AI tools. The best products come from aligning teams around a clear vision and iterating with intention.

EXPERIENCE



The Office for
Visual Affairs

Brand & Product

2011 - Present

As founder of Office for Visual Affairs, I partner with startups and organizations to turn complex challenges into clear strategies and compelling experiences. My work spans branding, product management, and design – helping teams articulate their value and build products that resonate.

Select list of clients: Abiomed, Adobe, AirBnB, Barranquilla Chamber of Commerce, Centric Digital, Chess.com, City Atlas, CUNY, Code Ocean, Contently, curefab, DataMonster, Dylan Ratigan, Early Career Women Collective, ENSO, Google, Grameen America, Holstee, Independent Diplomat, Innoleaps, IOVIA, KIND, Lolly Wolly Doodle, NBC Universal, Nestlé, New Lab Ventures, New York Times, NYU, Nielsen Business Media, Pittsburgh International Airport, Pluto.tv, Princeton Review, StackExchange, StartUp Health, The ImPact, Tilt, Time Inc., TrustYou, UNFPA, Unlock, Urtak, News Corp, WayCount.



OpenDollar

Head of Product

2022 - 2024

Open Dollar is a stablecoin lending protocol that introduced Non-Fungible Vaults, enabling users to borrow OD stablecoins against their staked Ethereum.

Led brand, product design working closely with leadership and engineering. Facilitated the name finding and brand design as a company wide effort. Established design principles and processes to streamline development collaboration. Defined features and requirements together with engineering and iterated on product releases. Designed and built landing pages in Webflow, as well as the interactive data visualization for Non-Fungible Vaults using SVG, JavaScript and CSS.



TILT

Creative Lead

2020 - 2022

A microservice development toolkit for engineering teams that automates development environment setup and processes. Acquired by Docker.

Directed identity, visual and animation design as well as brand guidelines for the re-brand. Worked on product design in collaboration with project managers and lead engineers, creating an interactive CLI interface for real-time status, logs, and reports. Designed and launched a new landing page and educational YouTube channel.

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CONTACT

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EXPERIENCE



Co-Author
2017

As co-author, I developed a comprehensive 60-page framework that has become a leading resource for community building, providing clear strategies for fostering engagement and long-term growth. Adopted by organizations ranging from global nonprofits to leading universities, it has been translated into 15 languages and used by over 300,000 community builders worldwide. Its impact spans grassroots initiatives to Fortune 500 companies, helping communities thrive through proven, actionable strategies.



Lead Designer
2016 - 2018

Nestlé’s internal innovation group focused on ideating, pitching, and building employee-led product and services.

Led cross-functional teams to conceptualize, design, pitch and launch apps and products, including an on-demand delivery service for Nespresso and a loan tracking app for cacao farmers in Ghana.



Lead Product Designer
2013 - 2016

A provider of analytics and insights for fund managers, recognized as the “Most Innovative Web App” by Hedge Fund Magazine, later acquired by NEX Group (formerly ICAP).

Lead the re-brand and brand guidelines creative direction as well as the landing page design. Worked on the design of the fintech product from inception to implementation. I collaborated with analysts and engineers to draw up requirements, understand the nuanced complexities of the platform and translate the information dense analytics into a user-friendly and interactive interface. Worked with the ENSO from 15 to 60 employees and through its acquisition.



Designer
2009

Worked across digital, motion, and print projects for Google's Creative Lab. Led the design of the Nexus One Style Guide, establishing comprehensive branding guidelines from spacing to point-of-sale elements. Contributed to the Chrome browser campaign, concepting online and TV advertisements and producing short films and animations.

Previous & Freelance



PROJECTS

For a list of self initiated projects, tools and apps please visit the projects section of my digital CV: mombartz.com/working-with-me

EDUCATION

2005 - 2008

2003 - 2005

The Cooper Union, New York City
BFA Communication Design

University of North Texas, Denton
BFA Communication Design, Incomplete



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