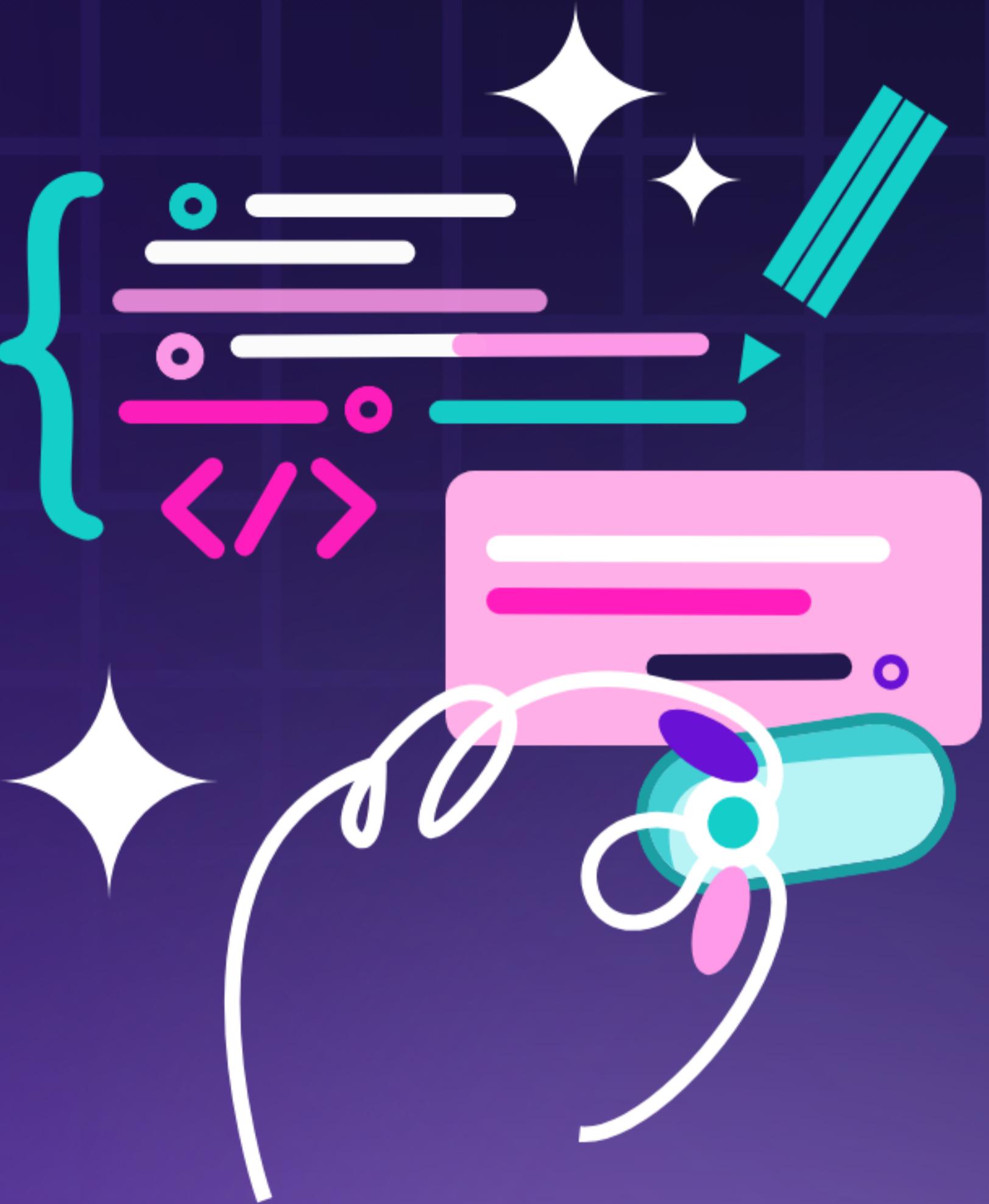




# Open Source Design

The wake-up call for  
developers!



# Hi!

I'm Pablo Ruiz-Múzquiz  
CEO & Co-founder of  
Penpot.

This is my 18th  
FOSDEM!



# I will try to convince you about three ideas



**Dispossessed**



**Design  
Contributions**



**Open Source  
OSC+OSD**

# Dispossessed

## ➡ Specs-driven wishful thinking

Good user experience doesn't emerge from a collection of well defined requirements.

## ➡ Downplay of the value of Design

We don't appreciate what we don't fully understand.

## ➡ No Open Source UI design tools

The perfect excuse to stay away from an entire discipline.

# Design contributions

## **Internet as pressure and opportunity**

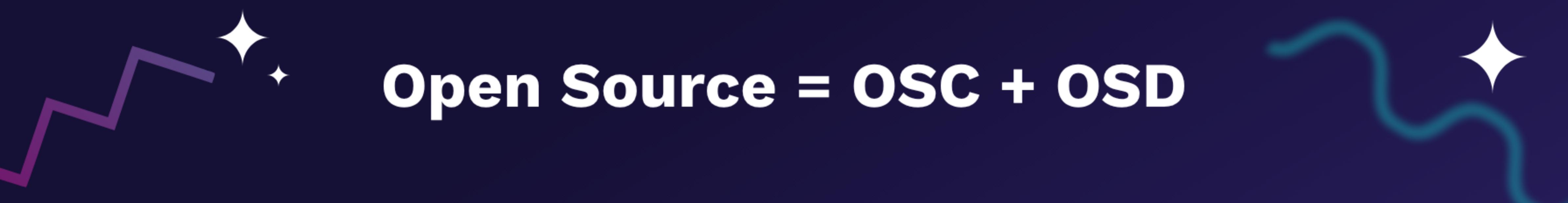
The advent of the Internet was the catalyst to govern code contributions in a scalable way.  
How can we apply that to design?

## **Rules and workflows**

Being able to "undo" a code contribution allows for bolder moves. How can we apply that to design?

## **Recognition matters**

Contributing code fosters recognition and agency. How can we apply that to a design contribution?



# Open Source = OSC + OSD

- ⇒ We have to go from just "owning what's running" to include "owning the conversation".
- ⇒ OSC + proprietary design tools means you are being mediated. OSC w/o any design tool means handicap.

**DRAFTS**

# New app

LAYERS ASSETS TOKENS

THEMES

No theme active EDIT

SETS

globals

- color
  - blue
  - purple
  - pinky
  - green
- mode
  - light

TOKENS - GLOBALS

Color 23

- black blue-dark
- blue-grayish blue-light
- green-dark green-light
- lilac-dark lilac-light
- nord-0 nord-1 nord-2
- nord-3 nord-4 nord-5
- nord-6 nord-7 orange-light
- pink-dark pink-darker
- pink-light purple-light
- yellow-dark yellow-light

Dimensions 1

TOOLS

Icons

Board

Welcome back 🙌 Marion Case

Your courses

COMPONENT Main

Icons

Property 1 code, image

Property 2 lightblue, blue, purple, or...

Front-end development

Path: Code

Front-end

Path: Code

Ally for Designers

Path: Code

Ally for Designers

Path: Code

Front-end development

Path: Code

Ally for Designers

INFO CODE

COPY ALL CODE

css

```
font-display: block;
src: url(https://design.penpot.dev/i
unicode-range: U+0100-02BA, U+02BD-0
}
/* latin */
@font-face {
  font-family: 'DM Sans';
  font-style: normal;
  font-weight: 500;
  font-display: block;
  src: url(https://design.penpot.dev/i
unicode-range: U+0000-00FF, U+0131,
}
/* latin-ext */
@font-face {
  font-family: 'DM Sans';
  font-style: normal;
  font-weight: 700;
  font-display: block;
```

Board

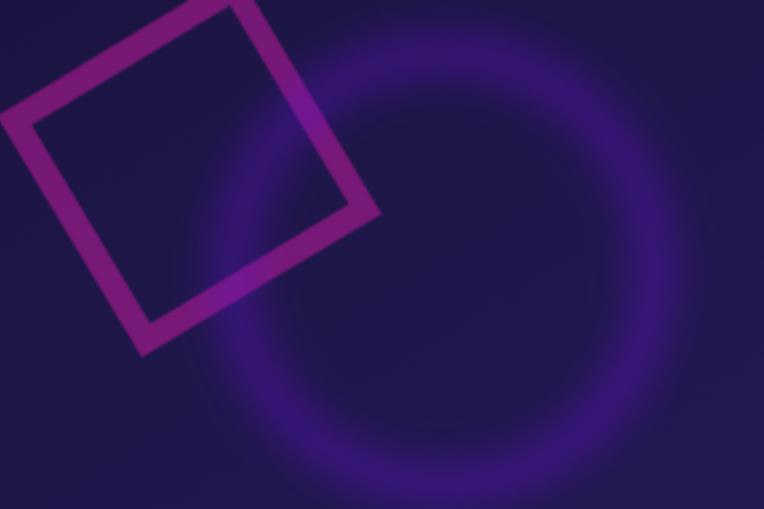
Last

Front-end development

Path: Code

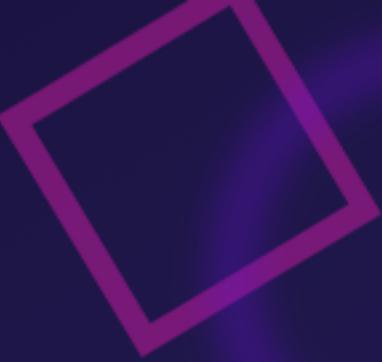
Ally for Designers

A screenshot of the Penpot design editor interface. The main workspace shows a dashboard with course cards for "Javascript 101", "React", "Ally for Designers", and "Front-end development". A modal window titled "COMPONENT Main" is open, showing properties for "Icons" and two other components. The left sidebar contains sections for "TOKENS", "THEMES", and "SETS", with "globals" selected. Under "globals", there are sections for "color" and "mode". The "color" section lists tokens like "blue", "purple", "pinky", "green", and "nord" variants. The "mode" section lists "light". The bottom left shows "Dimensions 1" and "TOOLS". The right side has an "INFO" tab and a "CODE" tab with CSS code, and a "COPY ALL CODE" button. A large pink arrow points from the bottom right towards the "CODE" tab.



⇒ Am I saying that developers  
should learn how to design?





- ⇒ Am I saying that developers should learn how to design?
- ⇒ Wouldn't it be possible to design through LLMs?

NO



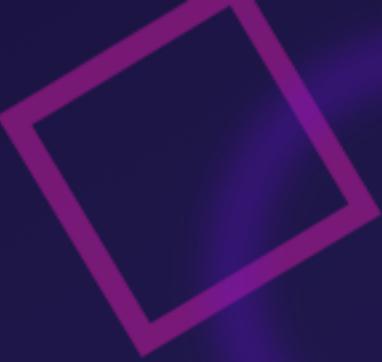


- ⇒ Am I saying that developers should learn how to design?
- ⇒ Wouldn't it be possible to design through LLMs?
- ⇒ Should we boycott proprietary design tools in our teams?

NO

NO





- ⇒ Am I saying that developers should learn how to design? **NO**
- ⇒ Wouldn't it be possible to design through LLMs? **NO**
- ⇒ Should we boycott proprietary design tools in our teams? **NO**



This is what  
we can do



# ★ Treat design and design practitioners as true allies ★





DRAFTS

• Looptools

LAYERS

ASSETS

TOKENS

THEMES

Low-Fidelity (Light)



EDIT

SETS



Low-Fidelity (Light)



High-Fidelity (Dark)



TOKENS - LOW-FIDELITY (LIGHT)

&gt; ⚡ Border Radius 1

&gt; ⚡ Color 32

&gt; % Opacity 1

&gt; ↗ Sizing 6

&gt; ⚡ Spacing 1

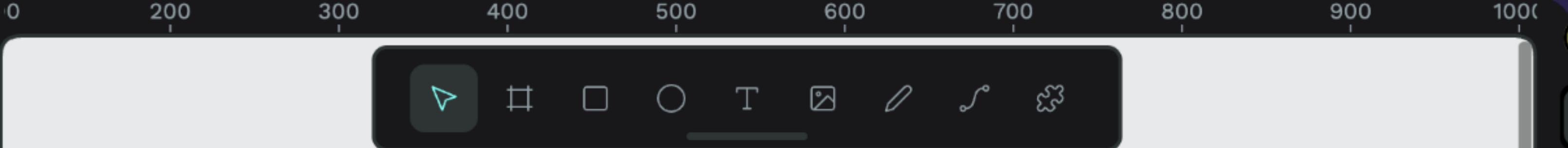
&gt; ⚡ Stroke Width 3

&gt; ⚡ Typography 6

&lt; Dimensions

^A Font Family

↑A Font Size



Circle

▼ To Circle

Factor Method Rotation Radius   Space Evenly FlattenLock   

Space

▼ Space Evenly

Factor  Parallel LoopsLock   Interpolation 

Relax

▼ Relax

Iterations  Space Evenly Parallel LoopsInterpolation 

▼ Circle

Method:  Flatten Radius RegularAngle  X Y ZInfluence 

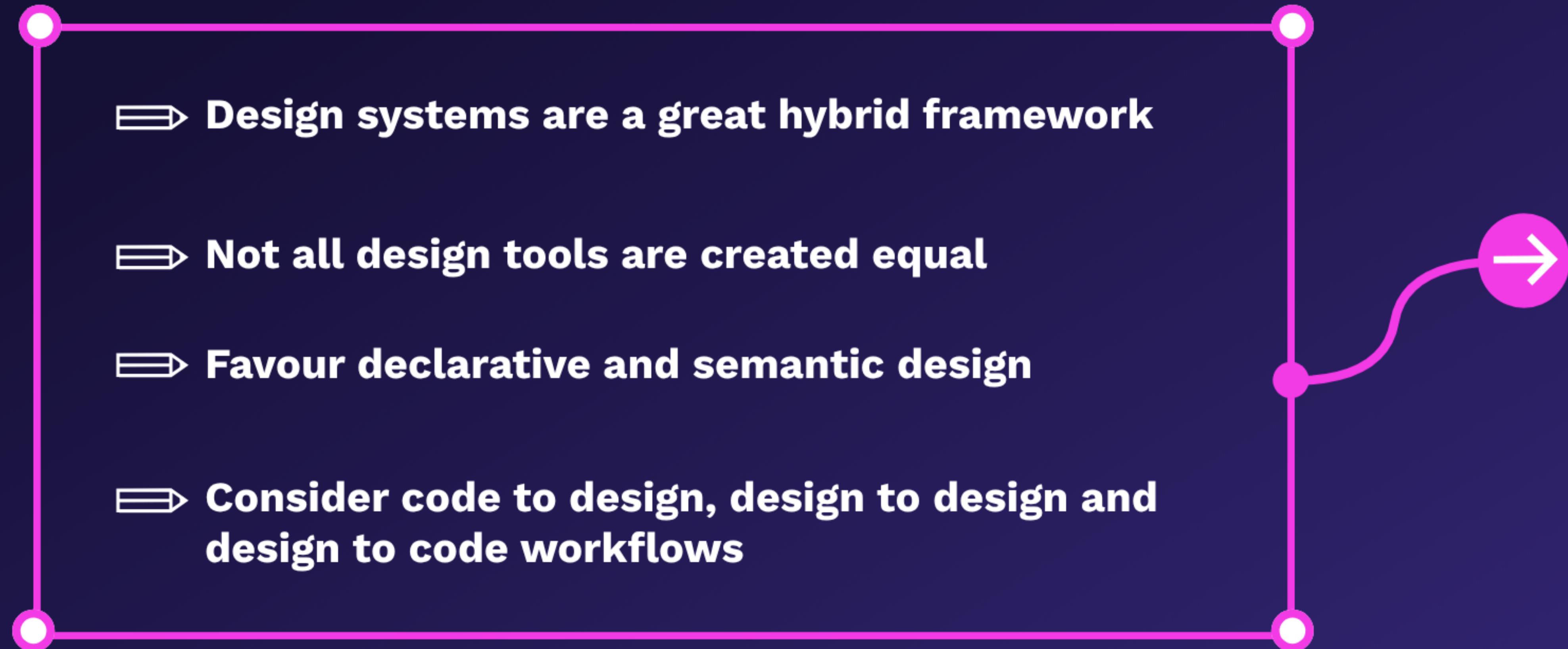
▼ Space

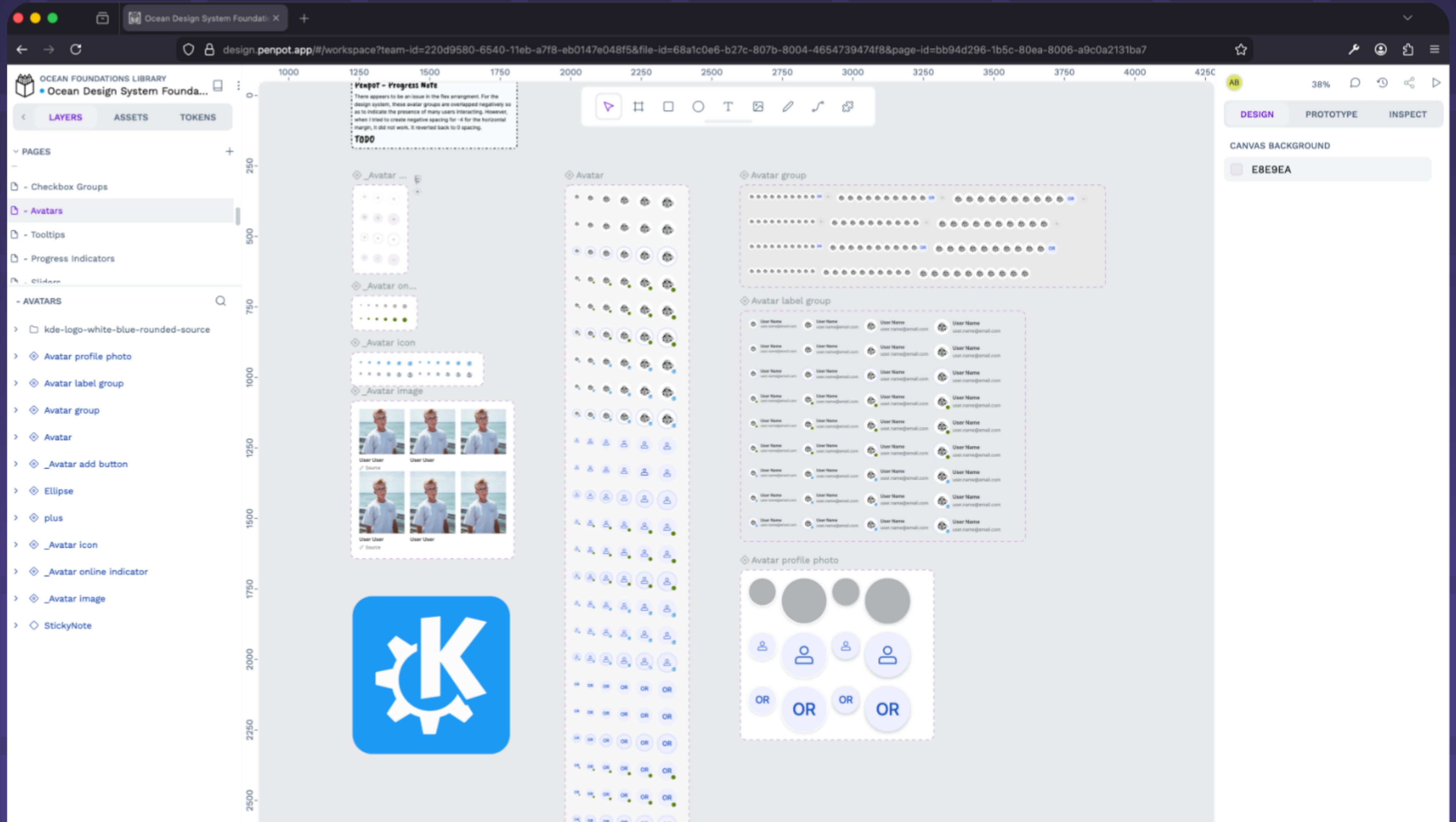
Interpolati... Input:  X Y ZInfluence 

▼ Relax

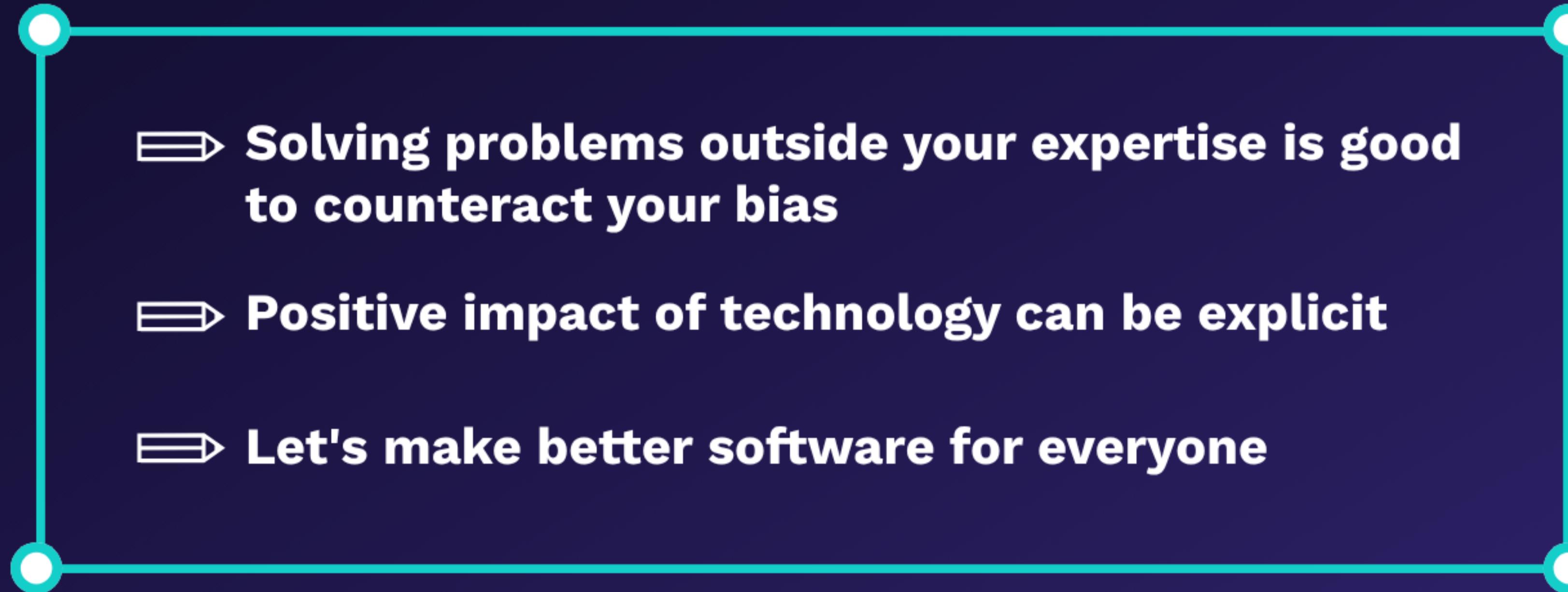
Interpolati... Input: Iterations:  Regular

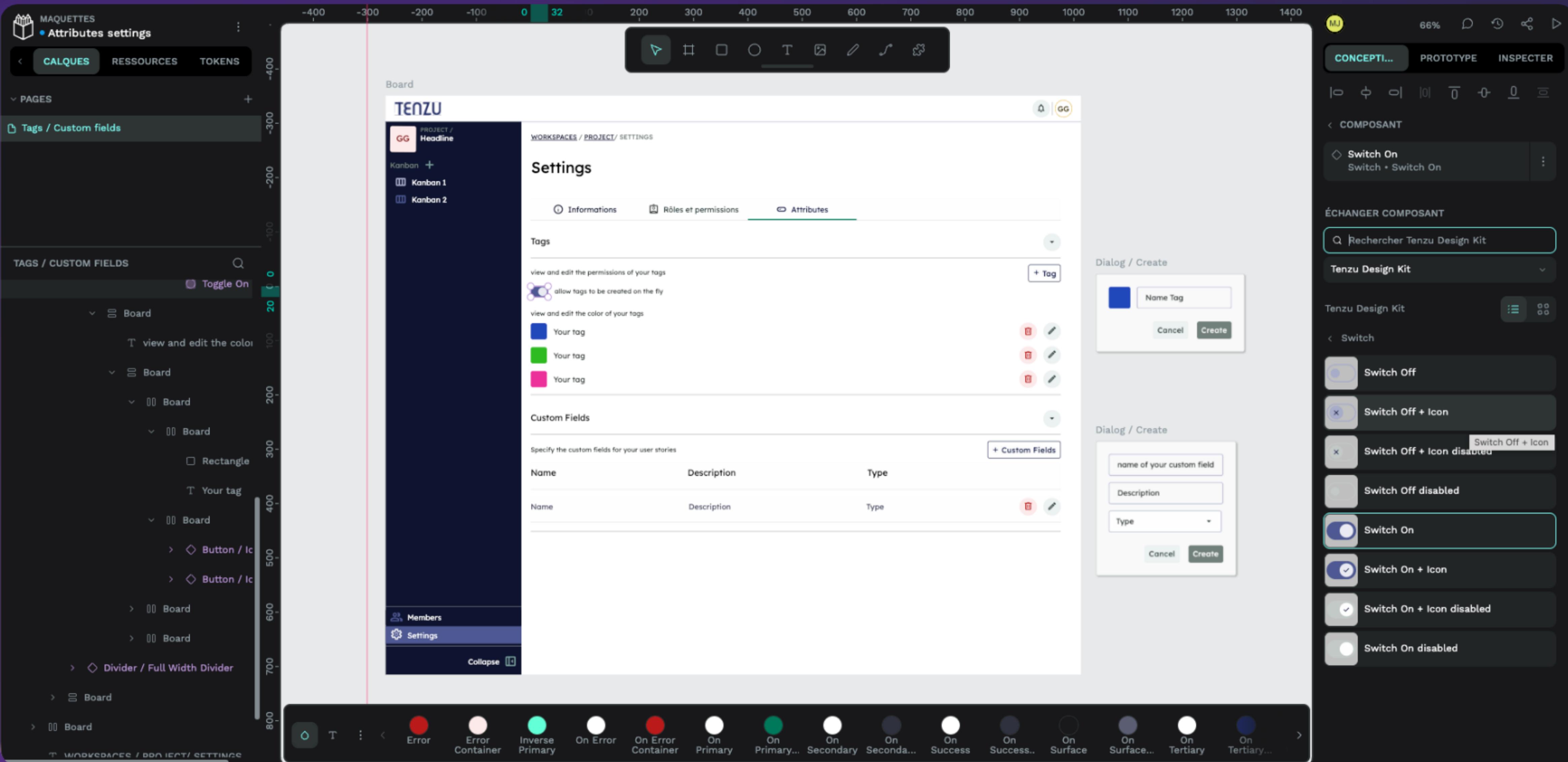
# Explore the liminal space between design & code





# Shift priorities to non-technical users





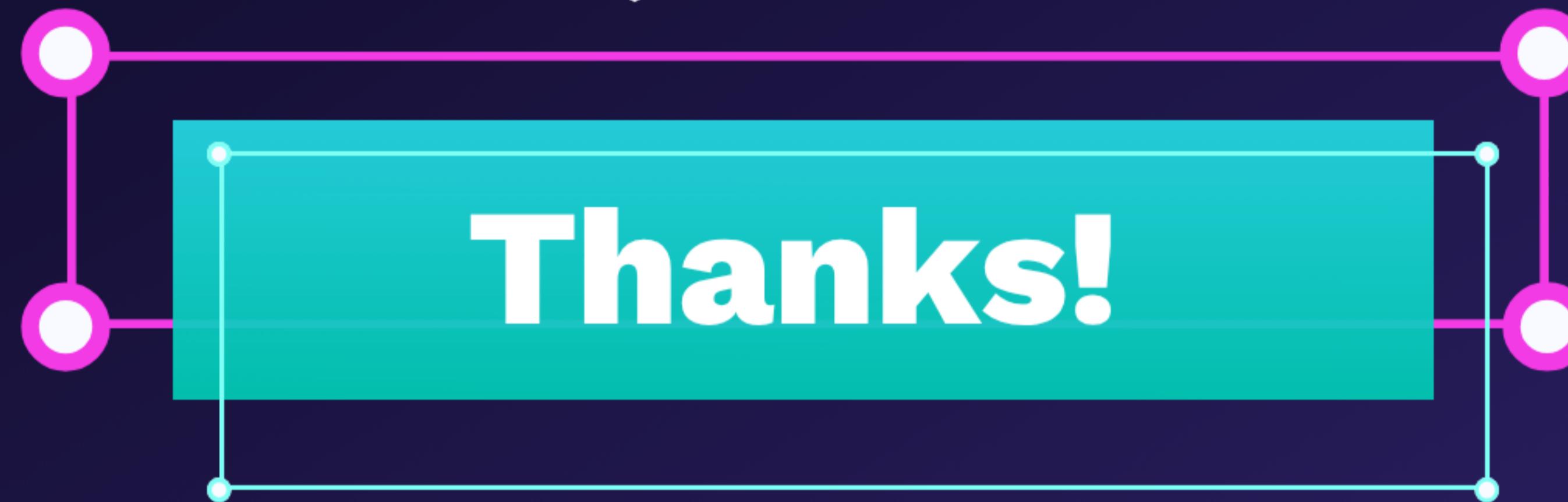


**But, most fundamentally,  
be extremely aware of the  
territory you're giving away if  
you change nothing**









FOSDEM 2025