Narayan Ashanahalli

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Professional Summary: Product designer with architecture background bringing systems thinking to building products and interactions. Skilled in visual design, research, and iterative design with 2+ years experience building products, developing strategies, and leading small teams through prototyping and iteration.

EDUCATION

Carnegie Mellon University   Pittsburgh, PA
Master of Advanced Architecture Design   August 2024 - May 2026

JNAFA University   Hyderabad, IN
Bachelor of Architecture   Sept 2018 - July 2023

WORK EXPERIENCE

Design Researcher   [Dec 2024 - Present]
Carnegie Mellon University | Lab 4 Cybernetics
- Lead research assistant building internal product infrastructure for newly established cybernetics lab: manage RA team, coordinate lab needs, and own end-to-end design and development of knowledge systems and matching tools from inception.
- Designed and launched practitioner-student matching platform: created intake flows and search interface, conducted user testing with 25 early adopters, currently leading platform redesign based on feedback and usability constraints.
- Built knowledge management system converting 200+ nodes of cybernetics literature into structured repository with obsidian metadata architecture enabling concept navigation and search

Project Designer   [Aug 2023 – July 2024]
Studio Chintala | Bangalore, India
- Led design strategy for Amara Raja's ~7.5M sqft manufacturing campus: conducted on-site employee research, developed spatial analysis methodology, designed comprehensive interventions for wayfinding, workplace experience, and green infrastructure addressing first-time rural workforce needs.
- Delivered strategic campus transformation study: researched industrial urbanism trends, analyzed existing conditions across five spatial systems, proposed phased implementation plan with cost-tiered solutions balancing employee well-being and operational constraints.
- Designed and delivered environmental graphics for Shell Corporation: created 8'x8' layered map installation and 400+ sqft of laser-cut acrylic and vinyl installations across 6 employee breakrooms.

Architecture Intern   [Jun 2021 – Dec 2021]
M9 Design Studio | Bangalore, India
- Designed environmental graphics and produced architectural documentation for award-winning memorial project; drawings featured in Emergent Practices in South Asia (Harvard GSD publication)

Machine Learning Intern   [Aug 2020 – Dec 2020]
Uniworks Design | Hyderabad, India
- Contributed to ArP-Gen, a machine learning project automating architectural floor plan generation.

SELECTED PROJECT

Dot Threads | *Browser Extension for Knowledge Management*
Designed and shipped browser extension exploring spatial approaches to knowledge management. Built right-click workflow and graph-based canvas for organizing web links by context and relationships. Implemented using AI-assisted development, currently live on Chrome Web Store with active users.

Piko | *Context-Aware Wearable Assistant*
Developed a shoulder-mounted wearable system that detects phone usage through a Raspberry Pi camera and delivers behavior-based audio feedback. Explored how subtle gestures, posture cues, and environment-aware sensors can drive effective computing. Contributed to CV pipeline design and real-time feedback loops for shaping attention and emotional context.

In Search of Third Place - | *Undergraduate Thesis*
Conducted user research with 200+ IT park workers using QR-based surveys to identify leisure space needs, analyzing 800+ data points across categories including greenery, affordability, and accessibility. Designed spatial interventions based on findings: integrating libraries, social zones, and outdoor gardens to address demand for third places.

SKILLS

Design: User Research, Product Strategy, Interaction Design, Information Architecture, Prototyping, Wireframing ,Visual Design, Systems Thinking, Data Visualization, Survey Design
Tools: Figma, Adobe Creative Suite, Framer, Sketch, Rhino 3D
Technical: HTML/CSS/JavaScript, Python, GitHub, AI-Assisted Prototyping