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 Architectural Design   Aug 2024 – May 2026
Relevant Coursework: Designing AI Products, AI Augmented Designer, Introduction to Deep Learning, Building User-Centered Sensing Systems, Spatial Interaction Design, Customer Discovery for Tech Innovation

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

WORK EXPERIENCE

Design Researcher   [Dec 2024 – May 2026]
Carnegie Mellon University | Lab 4 Cybernetics
- Lead research assistant for newly established cybernetics lab: manage 3-person RA team, coordinate lab operations, and own product development for knowledge systems and matching tools serving 50+ practitioners and students.
- Implemented practitioner-student matching platform from intake flows to search interface; validated through testing with 25 early adopters across 3 departments.
- Launched 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: ran on-site employee research and developed spatial analysis methodology for first-time rural workforce needs.
- Analyzed industrial urbanism trends and existing conditions across five spatial systems: circulation, green infrastructure, wayfinding, workplace zones, and utilities.
- Proposed 4-phase implementation plan with cost-tiered solutions balancing employee well-being and operational constraints, starting with a $10,000 Phase 1 pilot.
- Produced environmental graphics for Shell Corporation: executed 8'x8' interactive wayfinding installation and 400+ sqft of laser-cut acrylic branding across 6 employee break-rooms, serving 200+ daily users.

Architecture Intern   [Jun 2021 – Dec 2021]
M9 Design Studio | Bangalore, India
- Delivered environmental graphics and produced architectural documentation for an 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
- Constructed training dataset for ArP-Gen GAN model: annotated and validated 2,000+ architectural floor plans with spatial feature labels.

SELECTED PROJECT

Dot Threads | *Browser Extension for Knowledge Management*
- Designed and shipped browser extension exploring spatial approaches to knowledge management, currently live on Chrome Web Store with +10 active users.
- Shipped 4 click workflow and graph-based canvas for organizing web links by context and relationships.

Piko | *Context-Aware Wearable Assistant*
- Developed a wearable system to detect phone usage with 91% accuracy and deliver behavior-based audio feedback.
- Prototyped a feedback system for CV pipeline detecting 6 gesture types and 3 posture cues using Raspberry Pi; contributed to real-time audio response logic adapting to user attention patterns and environmental 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, Project Management, Data Visualization, Survey Design, Product Ownership
Tools: Figma, Adobe Creative Suite, Framer, Sketch, Rhino 3D
Technical: HTML/CSS/JavaScript, React, TypeScript, Python, GitHub, AI-Assisted Prototyping