

# Christopher Emerson

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## OBJECTIVE

Design-focused and research-driven Experience Architecture student passionate about creating impactful experiential and user-centered designs. Enthusiastic about leveraging expertise in environmental design, wayfinding, and UX research. Eager to apply strong project management and cross-functional collaboration skills to craft innovative solutions that enhance human interactions, shape meaningful experiences, and drive transformative outcomes.

## EDUCATION

### Michigan State University

*B.A in Experience Architecture*

**East Lansing, Michigan**

*Graduation Date: May 2025*

*Relevant Coursework: AutoCAD, Urban Planning, Construction Management, User Research, Adobe Creative Suite, Design Thinking*

*Dean's List (2022-2023) | UX Club Member | Men's Club Soccer*

*Languages: Advanced Chinese (Mandarin)*

## WORK EXPERIENCE

### Rockford Construction

*Project Manager Intern / Project Engineer Intern*

**Grand Rapids, Michigan**

*Jan 2023 - Jan 2025*

- Gained professional construction environment experience, coordinating with trade partners, foremen, architects, and project managers.
- Utilized Procore to streamline communication between various teams, ensuring project timelines and design specifications were integrated.
- Interpreted architectural drawings and design requirements, translating these into actionable tasks for on-site teams.

### YMCA

*Gym Counselor*

**Ann Arbor, Michigan**

*Jan 2018 - Aug 2022*

- Engaged community through youth programs and local health initiatives
- Resolved customer concerns using empathy and problem-solving
- Developed strong communication, conflict resolution, and empathy - soft skills critical in collaborative design environments.

## DESIGN EXPERIENCE

### Taproot Law Firm

*User Researcher (User Research Case Study)*

**Marquette, Michigan**

*Jan 2024 - May 2024*

- Applied user research principles to improve the accessibility and usability of the firm's client-facing services.
- Focused on accessibility principles and inclusive design methods
- Employed interviews, surveys, and usability testing to uncover pain points, ensuring an inclusive design approach.
- Demonstrated how user-centered methods can inform broader design practices, including environmental and digital touchpoints.

## SKILLS & TOOLS

**AEC & Environmental Design:** Familiarity with AEC collaboration processes (RFI, submittals, design specs), wayfinding principles, signage systems, and environmental graphics.

**Design:** Adobe Photoshop, Illustrator, InDesign; knowledge of brand identity and graphic communications.

**Prototyping:** Wireframes, Low & High-Fidelity Mockups, Clickable Prototypes, AutoCAD drawings, and basic 3D modeling (where relevant).

**Software & Collaboration:** Procore (construction coordination), Microsoft Office,

**Soft Skills:** Communication, Collaboration, Presentation, Iteration, Problem Solving

## LEADERSHIP & VOLUNTEERING

**Volunteering:** Local food distribution programs, Math tutoring for underserved youth

**Roles:** Camp Counselor, Youth Sports Instructor & Referee