

Aki Fukai

Principal Product Designer
B2B/2C SaaS Platforms Specialist
& Venture Builder

I'm curious to learn about your strategic objectives and biggest challenges.

[Let's talk](#) and see how we can solve them one at a time and push the limits together.



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Credo

I make people's interactions with connected devices simple so that the products we build create real value for users, businesses, and the planet.

What we build

Device agnostic **platforms** and **products**, dynamic data-driven **applications (web, mobile, POS)** — whatever helps your multilingual customers and your business thrive — from **zero to one and beyond**.

Typical role what I bring

Principal Product Designer. I oversee the full stack of product-driven design, including product strategy, UX research, IA, interaction and UI design, coaching, mentoring, and UX consulting — in tandem with product leadership/CPO and Tech Lead/CTO.

I bring a curious, product-driven design mindset and approach to product discovery and delivery. I utilize customer and user journey mapping, JTBD informed user insights, wireflows, user flows, LoFi to HiFi prototypes, UI mockups, component libraries, and design systems — based on lean UX and Shape Up's principles.

I lead hands-on and aligned across functions, together with leadership and key stakeholders driving strategic decisions and tradeoffs forward.

Tools

Pencil & paper/Whiteboard, Figma, Miro/FigJam, Notion, VS Code, Git, HTML/CSS, Markdown, Google Sheets, Slack, JIRA/Asana/Linear

Experience

Over 12 years of hands-on, product-driven design leadership from product discovery to delivery, from zero to one and beyond.
Previously, I worked as an art director and UX consultant in digital agencies and consultancies with world-renowned clients and brands.

View responsive prototypes: [Dashboard desktop](#)[Dashboard mobile](#)[Complete flow](#)

PlasticPlan: Making Plastic packaging sustainable, AI-powered, zero to one.

Worked as Principal Designer with CPO and Tech Lead to build the first version of a much bigger idea.

Improved product delivery speed and quality

- Resulting in faster time-to-market and successful deployment of 12+ product initiatives.
- By introducing Shape-Up, aligning cross-functional stakeholders, and mentoring design talent.

Enterprise Impact and Validation

- Secured LoI from Landbell, Bahlsen, and Melitta
- UX/UI design enabled up to 80% AI-driven reduction in plastic tax reporting costs
- Data Scale: 236M+ data points processed, 800K+ packaging comp., 160K+ products classified

Role: Principal Product Designer

Duration: 6 months contract, from zero to ready to scale

Technology: Web, Vue.js, Tailwind

Impact: SDG 12 (responsible consumption and production), SDG 13 (climate action), (SDG 14, 9)

Established scalable multilingual design infrastructure

- Facilitating a smooth rollout in multiple locales.
- By building a complex responsive design system in collab with the FE lead and integrating Lokalise.

Shipped product capabilities in a nutshell

Collect, evaluate and visualize packaging data and its impact on the environment with built-in collaboration.



Receivables redefined, customer centric & data informed – collectAI.

Led the UX as the founding product designer simplifying collections end-to-end, with a data informed and adaptive payment journeys.

Designed and helped shipping from scratch

- Next generation **claim management platform**
- Mobile first modular end customer facing **white label payment journeys**
- Established **design system/ops** as a team of one
- **Hackathon** (AI-powered financial forecast tool)

Results

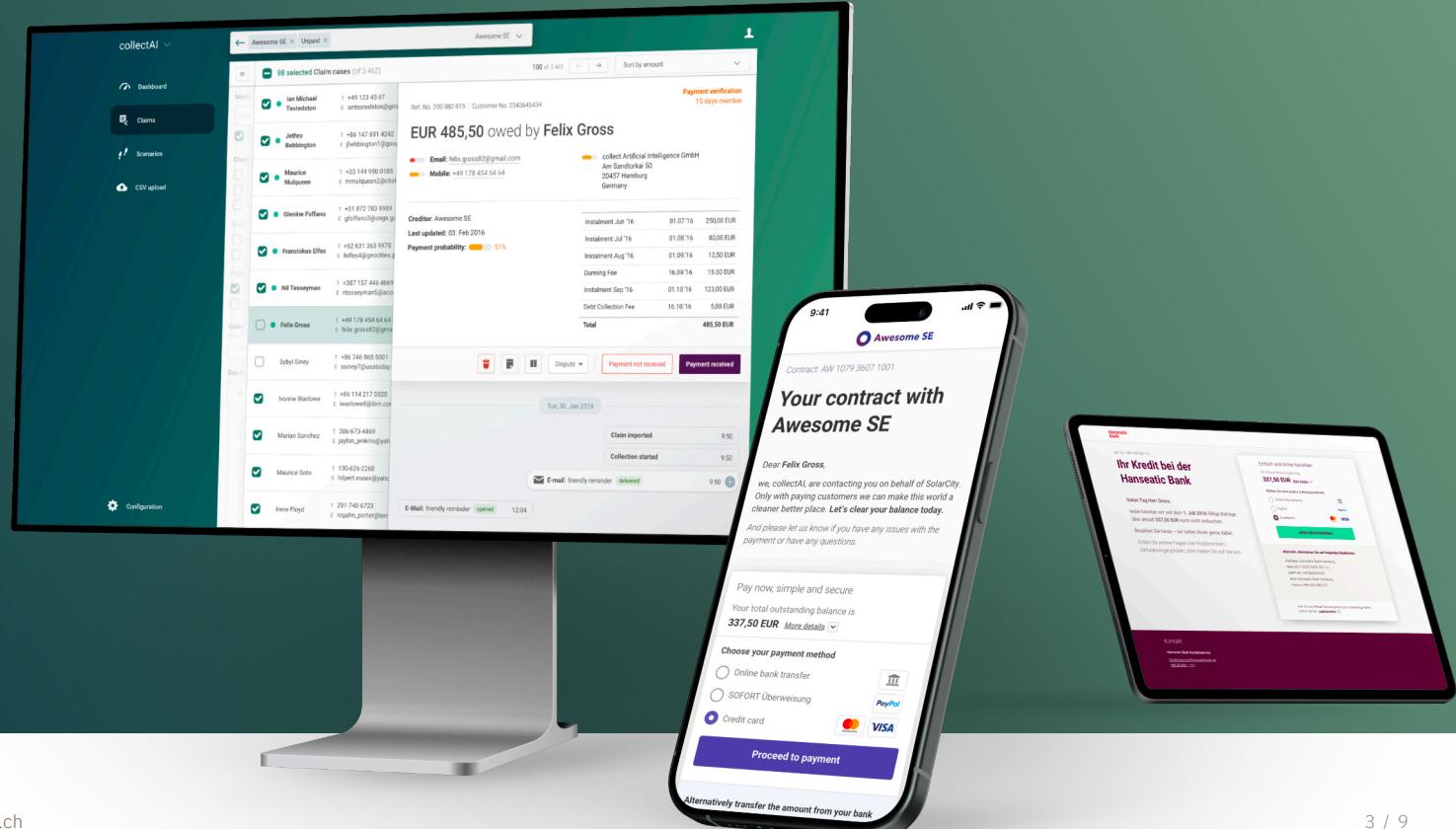
- Crafted the product design that scaled receivables management to **€25M in 18 months**
- Increased **realization rate by 33%**
- Processing **cost reduction by >30%**
- Helped ship **regulatory compliant** receivables management workflows and payment flows **within strict financial and GDPR rules**

Role:

Senior Product Designer

Duration: 2 years, from inception at Liquid Labs (Otto Group) to scale; Contract extended to perm. employment after 7 months

Technology: mobile first responsive web/email, React



Helping local stores to run their business – enforePOS.

Led key UX & UI design initiatives for a retail and hospitality ERP platform serving small and medium-sized businesses.

Designing for complex journeys across a multi-device landscape

End-to-end discovery and delivery of:

- Reservations at POS and online
- Pick-up & delivery at POS and online
- Data driven dashboard KPI widgets
- Continues improvement of enforePOS
- Designed and shipped Online Presence
- Dynamic email & business docs
- Extension of the design system across proprietary mobile, tablet, desktop devices, web and email

Role: Senior Product Designer

Duration: 2 years, started at precious design studio.

Technology: enforePOS software, React, Foundation 4 Emails

Contract extended to perm. employment after 8 months



Hello Meet: Finding time together made simple. Finally.

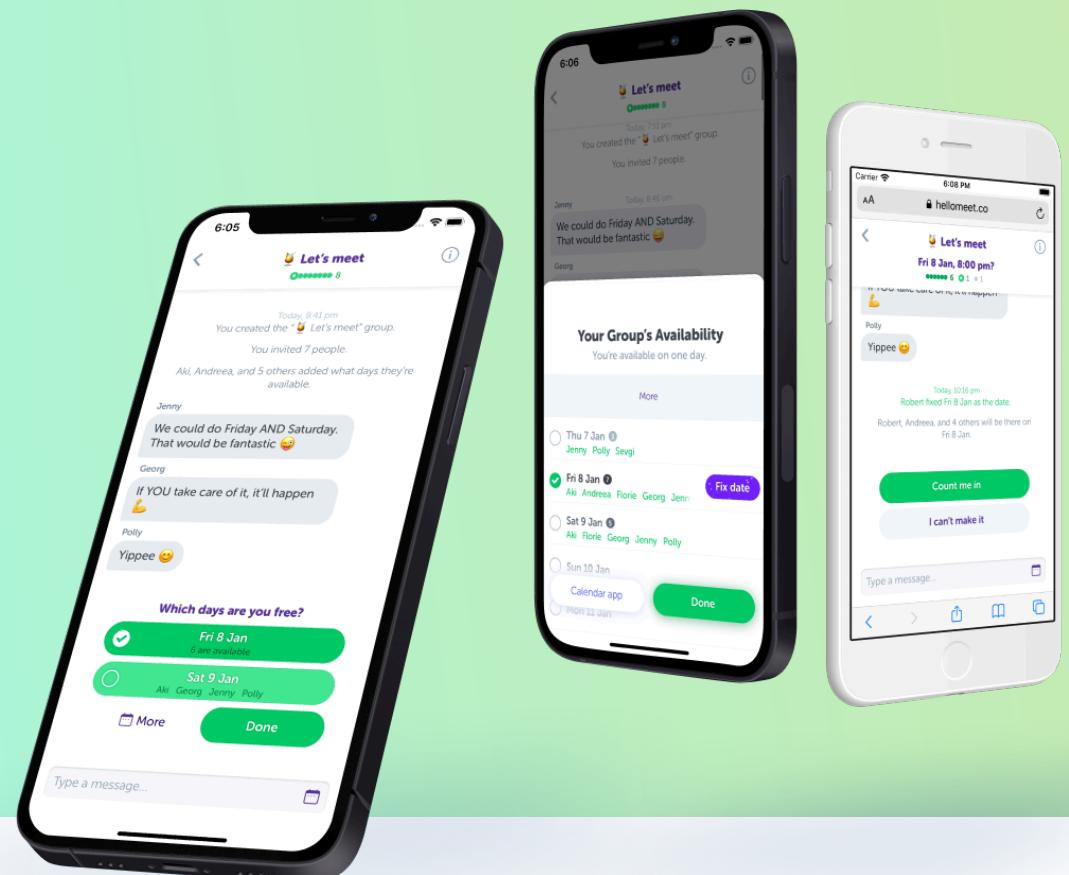
Making group appointments super simple for everyone.
Privacy first. Customer-to-business. No ads.

- Established hypothesis driven product design and developments
- Introduced JTBD based user flows and UIs
- **Shipped multiple iterations** based on qualitative insights
- Developed and tested **new feature discovery**, testing and development
- Drove Continuous improvements and **UI component library**
- Continuous **sensing and responding**
- Co-shaping and testing the **C2B business model**

Role: Partner & Product Designer

Duration: ~2 years (net), started as a side project, evolved into full time*

Technology: iOS, Android, Web, React



whatever.works: Freedom to work from anywhere, legally compliant.

Scaled the JobRad-backed HR Tech SaaS from zero to MVP to 30+ enterprise clients in under a year, rebranding it while locking in product-market fit.

Turned a chaotic initiative into an award-winning compliance platform for remote work

Led product design hands-on in tandem with interim CPO and Tech Lead

- MVP launch in 14 weeks, scaling to 30+ enterprise clients and coverage of 150+ countries.
- Introduced Shape-Up for continuous discovery for faster and higher quality delivery.
- Fostered alignment with key stakeholders
- Hired and mentored fresh design talent.

Established scalable multilingual design infrastructure

- Resulting in a smooth rollout of compliant customer journeys across geographies.
- By building a custom responsive design system and integrating Lokalise, aligned with HR workflows.

Recognized as Best HR Startup 2023

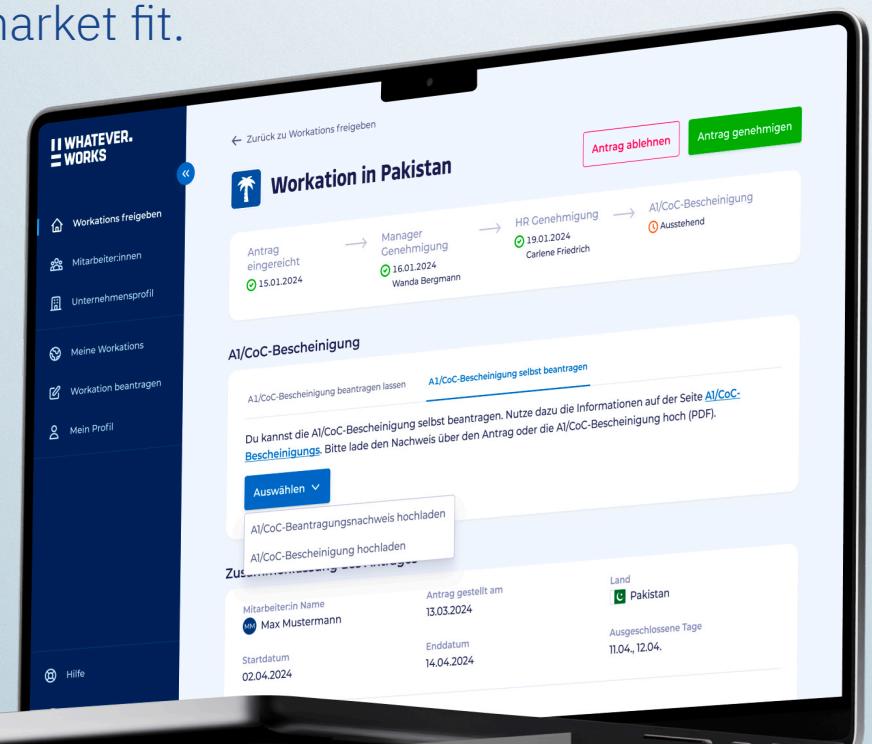
→ Through combining product delivery excellence with user-centric compliance flows.

Role: Principal Product Designer → Design Director

Duration: 14 months contract, from zero to one

Technology: Web, React, Material UI

Impact: SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth)



Unify Project Ansible.

Business is about relationships. And relationships start with a conversation.

Together with frog and Unify I had the honor to envision and define the user experience throughout web and mobile from overarching concepts to detailed features, interactions and UI.

Technology: iOS, Android, Web, WebRTC

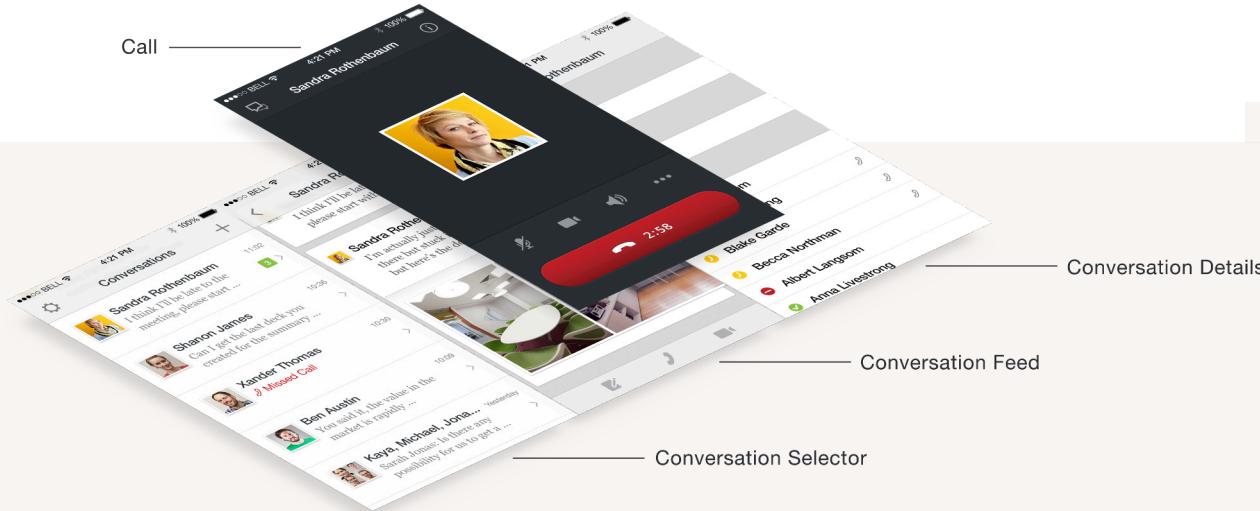
Role: Senior Interaction Designer

Duration: 5 months contract



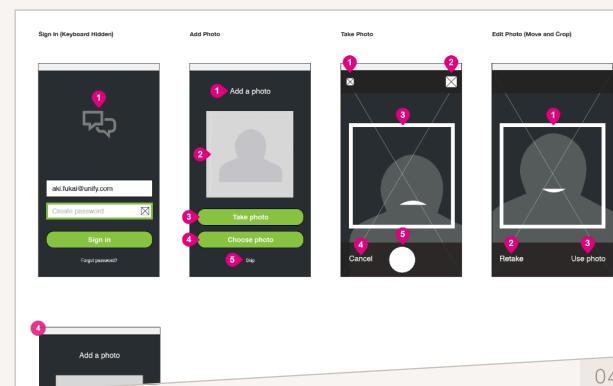
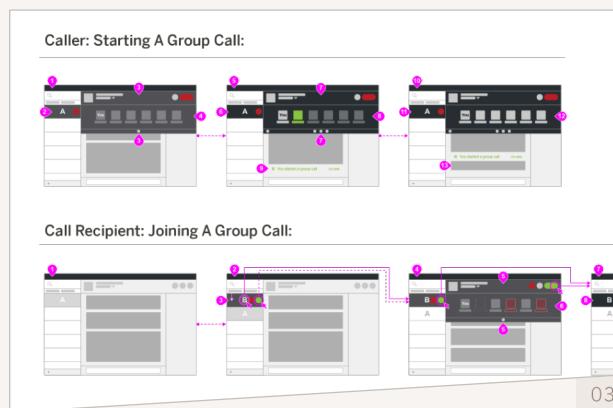
Unify Project Ansible.

Making work more productive, connected and human centered.



Project's story: Unify – formerly Siemens Enterprise Communications – in close partnership with frog envisioned and defined workforce communication with the end-user at its core to build a single platform that works across multiple devices.

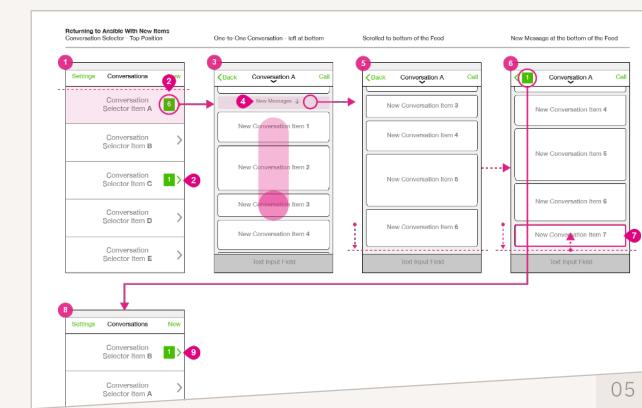
I helped designing and specifying overarching concepts, user flows, detailed interactions and UI components throughout web and mobile for a broad range of features e.g. conferencing, (group) voice/video calls, textual conversations, notifications, first use etc. in collaboration with frog's designers and Unify's product owners.



Screens

- 01 Previous page: Multi-device strategy
- 02 iOS and iPhone: UI structure
- 03 Desktop/Web: Ad hoc group call flows

- 04 iOS and iPhone: First use flow
- 05 iOS and iPhone: Read and unread flows



Role: Senior Interaction Designer
Agency: frog design

Clients & Agencies

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Mobility and availability	Nationality Location and time zones	Swiss citizen Hamburg, Berlin, Zurich (hybrid) · EST to GST (remote)		
References	Clients I have worked with	academics (Die Zeit, Forschung & Lehre) Audi Beiersdorf (Eucerin) collectAI (Liquid Labs/Otto Group) CTS Eventim Daimler/Mercedes-Benz enfore AG	Henkel (PlasticPlan Venture) Immonet (Axel Springer) JobRad (whatever.works Venture) Liebeskind Berlin Netbreeze (acquired by Microsoft) receeve Rossmann	SAP SE Swiss Federal Railways SBB Sony Deutschland Telefónica Germany (o2) Unify (formerly Siemens Enterprise Comm.)
	Agencies I have worked with	D-LABS DDD Design Experience One EYELABEL Digital Communication Freiland Netzlösungen frog design Häberlein & Mauerer Interone	MVPF Technologies Neue Digitale/Razorfish Nolte & Lauth precious design studio Sturm und Drang, Innovation Insights superReal (now Dept) Tempodome (SinnerSchrader Studios leadership)	
Studies		University of Applied Sciences, Department of Design HAW Hamburg Major field of study: Design conception for digital media, advertising (print), corporate design. Furthermore Bauhaus-inspired design studies in typography, photography: b&w (darkroom). drawing, color and form.		
Languages	German English French Japanese & isiZulu	Native tongue Full professional proficiency in speaking and writing Intermediate level (B1) Beginner level		