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📍 Cape Town, South Africa



github.com/natia



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SKILLS

Java	<div><div></div></div>
Python	<div><div></div></div>
Spring Boot	<div><div></div></div>
Django	<div><div></div></div>
SQL	<div><div></div></div>
CSS	<div><div></div></div>
HTML	<div><div></div></div>
JavaScript	<div><div></div></div>
Vue (Nuxt)	<div><div></div></div>
React	<div><div></div></div>
Docker	<div><div></div></div>
Git / GitHub	<div><div></div></div>
Render	<div><div></div></div>

PERSONAL PROJECTS

Split & Tip 📄
Dinner planner 📄

COURSES

- React - The Complete Guide** 📄
by Jonas Schmedtmann - Udemy /JAN 2025
- Vue - The Complete Guide** 📄
by Maximilian Schwarzmüller - Udemy /OCT 2024
- The Web Developer Bootcamp** 📄
by Colt Steele - Udemy /NOV 2023
- Spring Boot & Hibernate for Beginners** 📄
by Chad Darby - Udemy /JAN 2023
- Docker & Kubernetes** 📄
by Maximilian Schwarzmüller - Udemy /AUG 2022
- The Git & Github Bootcamp** 📄
by Colt Steele - Udemy /MAY 2022
- JDBC, DAO & SQL** 📄
by Andrii Piatakh - Udemy /APR 2022
- The Ultimate MySQL Bootcamp** 📄
by Colt Steele - Udemy /JAN 2021
- Java Masterclass** 📄
by Tim Buchalka - Udemy /Aug 2021
- The Modern Python 3 Bootcamp** 📄
by Colt Steele - Udemy /JAN 2021

EDUCATION

- BA Honours - First Class** /2007-2011
INTERIOR ARCHITECTURE
AKTO Art & Design College
(validated by Middlesex University)
Athens, Greece
- Diploma - First Class** /2004-2006
PHYSICAL THERAPY AND
KINESIOLOGY
Institute for Professional Training
(IEK AKMH)
Athens, Greece
- Senior Certificate** /2001-2004
HIGH SCHOOL
Kykkou A Lyceum
Nicosia, Cyprus



ABOUT ME

After over 10 years in the design field, I felt I had reached a point of stagnation, where each year felt like a repetition of the last. In 2021, I decided to pursue a long-held dream: learning to code and transitioning to the tech industry. While doing so, I maintained part-time design work for a select clientele. Since then, I've actively engaged in various courses and developed several small, self-contained projects. At the end of 2024, I had the opportunity to gain firsthand experience in the tech industry through an internship, which allowed me to observe and participate in the software development cycle. Following the internship, I have continued to expand my knowledge by working on several projects and actively seeking a new role in tech.



WORK EXPERIENCE

JANUARY 2025-PRESENT | Cape Town

Freelance Software Developer

Following my software engineering internship, I transitioned into developing bespoke software solutions. These solutions currently include:

- An advertising website for a small independent bakery for a client.
- A tool for generating cutting lists with dimensions which can be used for joinery manufacturing for the joinery manufacturing industry. This is a MVP I am working on for myself and interested potential clients.

This work involves:

- Creation of technical specifications detailing solutions to be implemented.
- Implementation of MVP in Java Spring with, dockerized Postgres database, enhanced testing methodologies including testcontainers, and React frontend.
- Implementation of React website for advertising client.

SEPTEMBER 2024-DECEMBER 2024 | Cape Town

Superbalist

Software Engineering Intern (Fixed Term Contract)

As a software engineering intern, my primary responsibility was to support the engineering team while gaining hands-on experience across various aspects of the development process.

My role day to day included:

- Streamlined documentation processes by updating, writing, and organizing to ensure clarity and ease of access for the team.
- Actively participating in daily stand-ups, sprint meetings, and planning sessions to discuss progress, address blockers, and refine project priorities.
- Taking ownership of smaller projects, managing them from initial development to completion.
- Drafting concise technical specifications that guide the implementation of solutions to project requirements

In my time as an intern I personally developed the following:

- A detailed onboarding and installation guide for linux developers. This is a development environment which originally lacked support.
- A visualisation tool which reports on the roles and permissions granted to various employees according to employee rank and position. This information was previously unknown before the development of this tool. The technical stack for this project was:
 - Backend: Python 3, Django, MySQL, SQLite
 - Frontend: Vue, Nuxt, Chart.js, V-network graph with 3D Force.

JANUARY 2021 - AUGUST 2024 | Cape Town

CAD Designer & Project Manager (Part time)

Simultaneously with my studies in software engineering fundamentals, I worked as an Independent Contractor. In this role, I specialized in detailed 2D and 3D CAD drawings and managed projects comprehensively from initiation to completion. Identifying client needs and presentation of solutions, with alternatives, as well as providing cost estimation and scheduling. Project management includes coordination between client, builder, and subcontractors, as well as:

- Providing supportive detailed plans as needed.
- Site visits to verify work quality.
- Cost and timeline management.
- Addressing any unforeseen circumstances with revised cost estimates and timelines.

LANGUAGES

- English: Fluent working proficiency
- Greek: Fluent working proficiency
- Russian: Limited working proficiency
- Georgian: Limited working proficiency

PERSONAL DETAILS

- Nationality: Greek
- Residency: Permanent resident of South Africa

ACHIEVEMENTS

- 2020 Increase number of new jobs by 45%
- 2019 Reduce error rate by 20%
- 2016 Autodesk REVIT Architecture Certified User (100% mark)
- 2015 Created and roll out introductory training of iSell (operating system used by IKEA to process orders)
- 2015 The sales of IKEA Tottenham for FY15 reached 120% which was the highest growth for all IKEA stores in the UK. This growth was achieved shortly after my training schemes were implemented.
- 2014 Selected to roll Centiro training for the IKEA Tottenham store – the new way of processing orders.
- 2014 Awarded role of METOD Project Coordinator for IKEA Tottenham
- 2007- 2011 Awarded position of teaching assistant due to excellence throughout course.
- 2010 Top 5 out of 200 applicants due to presentation of originality. Showcased design project to Arab Emirates University academics
- 2009 Appointed project leader for creating a proposal to renew a block of abandoned houses in Athens, Greece. Was chosen among more than 100 other candidates to present the plan at an event which was sponsored by the Mayor of Athens.

INTERESTS

- Lego
- Fantasy and adventure literature
- Computer games
- Space exploration
- Yoga
- Photography
- Sudoku

REFERENCES

Available on request

AUGUST 2017 - JANUARY 2021 | Cape Town
CORE Cabinets & Interiors

Senior Designer and Project Manager

Combining Design, Operations, and Project Management, I specialized in kitchen, bathroom, BICs, and custom furniture. My responsibilities included:

- Analyzing client needs.
- Presenting solutions with revisions, highlighting pros and cons.
- Providing costing and timelines for projects.
- Managing the ordering process, including sourcing materials from different suppliers and ensuring their timely arrival.
- Scheduling and overseeing production in the factory.
- Maintaining open communication with clients, builders, and subcontractors.
- Handling delivery and installation, with frequent site visits during installation to ensure smooth operation and address any unforeseen circumstances.
- Providing aftercare, including basic care and maintenance information, and handling any additional client requests.
- Conducting follow-ups after job completion.

Key Achievements

- Automated and standardized processes to maximize efficiency and minimize human errors by 30%.
- Identified and addressed problems and opportunities for the company.
- Built alliances and partnerships with other organizations and promoted company culture.
- Increased the number of jobs by 45% and helped secure high-profile projects.

OCTOBER 2015 - AUGUST 2017 | London, UK & Cape Town, SA

CAD Designer

Independent Contractor specializing in detailed 2D and 3D CAD drawings and graphic design. My skills encompassed:

- Translating hand drawings into AutoCAD.
- Producing 2D and 3D layouts, elevations, sections, and other details (e.g., electrical wiring).
- Creating custom 3D textures using Photoshop.
- Graphic communication using InDesign and Photoshop. This includes crafting custom CVs and occasional cards.

MARCH 2014 - OCTOBER 2015 | London, UK
IKEA

Senior Kitchen Designer & Trainer

As a Senior Designer, I played a pivotal role in fostering a collaborative environment by training and mentoring fellow designers. I developed comprehensive training programs that equipped them with essential design principles, CAD technologies, and crucial client communication skills, significantly enhancing their ability to contribute to successful kitchen projects, including sales and related services. While providing ongoing support to colleagues, I continued to excel in my own design role. Additionally, I collaborated with other departments to create and maintain impactful store displays.

Key Achievements

- Empowered co-workers through training programs, leading to increased confidence and improved project execution.
- Focused on high-margin products, driving a 120% increase in sales.
- Reduced error rates by 80% through effective training and process improvements.

SEPT 2013 - MARCH 2014

Kitchen Designer & Project Support

My primary responsibility was to facilitate a smooth transition between kitchen ranges. This involved providing in-depth training on the new range to the team and general store training to all members. Additionally, I managed the ordering of all materials for the new display and coordinated, monitored, and assisted with the construction during the rebuild process.

Key Achievements

- Ensured a seamless transition between kitchen ranges by planning refresher training sessions and guaranteeing ongoing support from senior staff.

MAY 2012 - SEPT 2013

Kitchen and Dining Co-Worker

Leveraging my design expertise, I conducted in-depth customer need analyses and translated them into captivating kitchen designs using CAD software. I efficiently managed the assembly and dismantling of visual in-store displays, ensuring a seamless customer experience. Additionally, I showcased key design features through creative use of space and lighting.

Key Achievements

- Selected for the prestigious IKEA Home Planning Service