Design Rationale: Making Pro Editing Accessible

Design Philosophy

Aurora bridges the gap between casual mobile photography and full-scale studio editing. Our goal is to make advanced editing tools feel natural and approachable for all users.

User Interface & Interaction

- **Aesthetics** We adopted a clean, modern visual style inspired by Apple's Liquid Glass design. As future editing moves toward AR/VR environments, this style provides a soft, adaptable foundation that works well across both 2D and immersive interfaces.

- **Accessibility** All controls are designed with large, ergonomic touch targets to ensure a comfortable and error-free editing experience.

- **Human-in-the-Loop Editing** Aurora avoids one-tap "black-box" AI outputs. Instead, users guide the AI through direct manipulation:

  Users actively guide the AI:

  - **Relight:** Users move a Virtual 3D Light Source, similar to adjusting a real studio light. This gives precise control over shadows and mood without complex sliders.
  - **Reframe:** A simple tap-and-drag pose system (powered by skeletal rigging) lets users correct posture, while Generative Fill naturally restores the background.

  This approach keeps users aware of what is changing and why.

- **Chat Feature** Aurora's chat goes beyond basic prompting by offering context-aware suggestions. Prompts are processed on-device, and users can preview or adjust the AI's plan before applying the final edit. This blends natural language with hands-on control for faster, more reliable results.

- **History** Aurora displays a clear, visual timeline of all edits in a project. Each step includes simple metadata that shows what changed and when, making it easy to revisit or restore any stage.

Tool Features

- **Transform** Crop, mirror, and rotate with precision.

- **Relight** Add realistic **3D light sources** including spot light and ability to draw custom light path to sculpt depth, shadows, and atmosphere beyond what filters can achieve.

- **Reframe** Adjust poses naturally using **skeleton-based manipulation**, supported by seamless AI background restoration.

- **Chat** AEach prompt routes users to the right tool, where they confirm or fine-tune the final change.