

Design Rationale

"Re-imagining Photoshop - The AI Editor of 2030"
Team 94

Arclight is an AI-powered mobile photo editor designed to make complex editing feel instinctive, quiet, and unobtrusive. The interface is built around a single premise: when design recedes, creativity advances. Every decision across layout, hierarchy, palette, and interaction is shaped to minimize friction and allow users to disappear into their craft.

A defining design innovation is the dual-workspace system: Flow Space and Lab Space, which reflects two modes of thought rather than two sets of tools. Flow Space offers a guided environment for immediate transformation, supported by automatic subject-background separation and layer-based editing that encourages exploration without setup. Lab Space provides an open field for controlled experimentation, where models are selected à la carte and editing decisions unfold intentionally. Though distinct in purpose, both workspaces share a consistent structural framework: identical canvas orientation, stable navigation anchors, and drawers that function and behave the same. This familiarity protects motor memory and preserves clarity while enabling radically different workflows.

The interface is spacious, giving the canvas visual dominance and letting silence shape the experience. Motion is restrained; apart from the startup transition, there are no animations. This creates decisiveness and speed, reducing the sense of waiting and reinforcing the app's cut-to-the-chase ethos. A fixed canvas strengthens the sense of focus by keeping the image still and central, rather than asking users to manage the interface around it.

Arclight's visual identity balances minimalism and clarity through low-contrast monochrome palettes (E8E5D8–222222 and 1A1A1A–E4E4E4) with a temperature-sensitive accent (3C44A8). Typography pairs the commanding geometry of Dela Gothic One with the calm precision of DM Sans. Iconography is bold and succinct, paired with labels only where necessary. Buttons differentiate function through form—circular controls, rounded rectangles for AI tools, and unobtrusive navigation guides.

Arclight transforms editing into instinct through restraint, precision, and the quiet confidence of design that knows when to step aside.