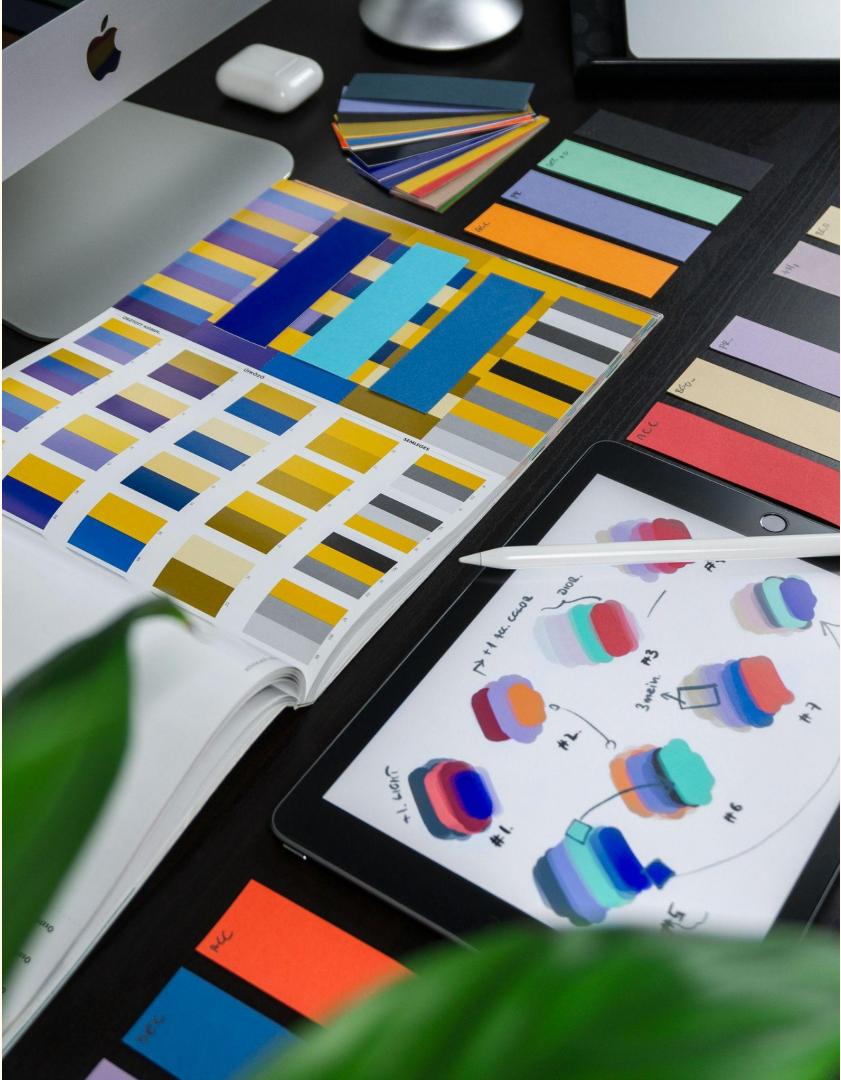


# Designing Your Tech Career: Find Your Niche

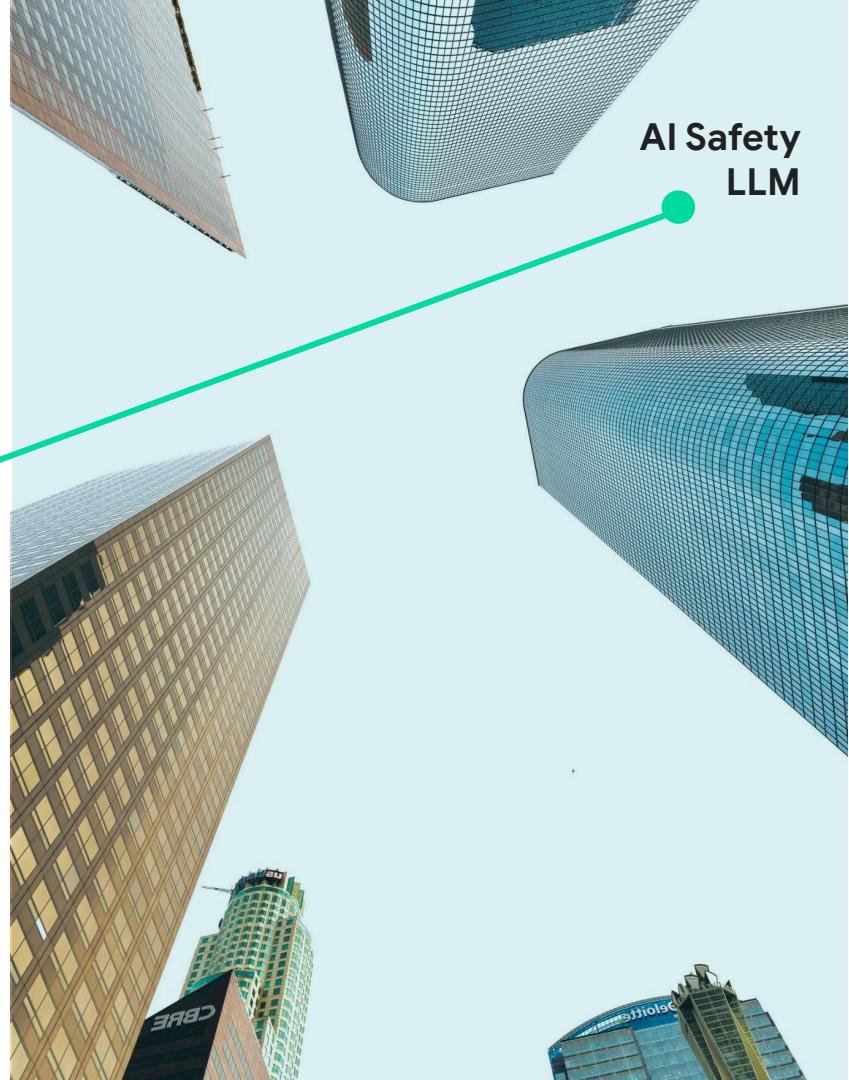
**ChengCheng Tan**

AI Education & Communications  
Cheng2 Designs & FAR AI



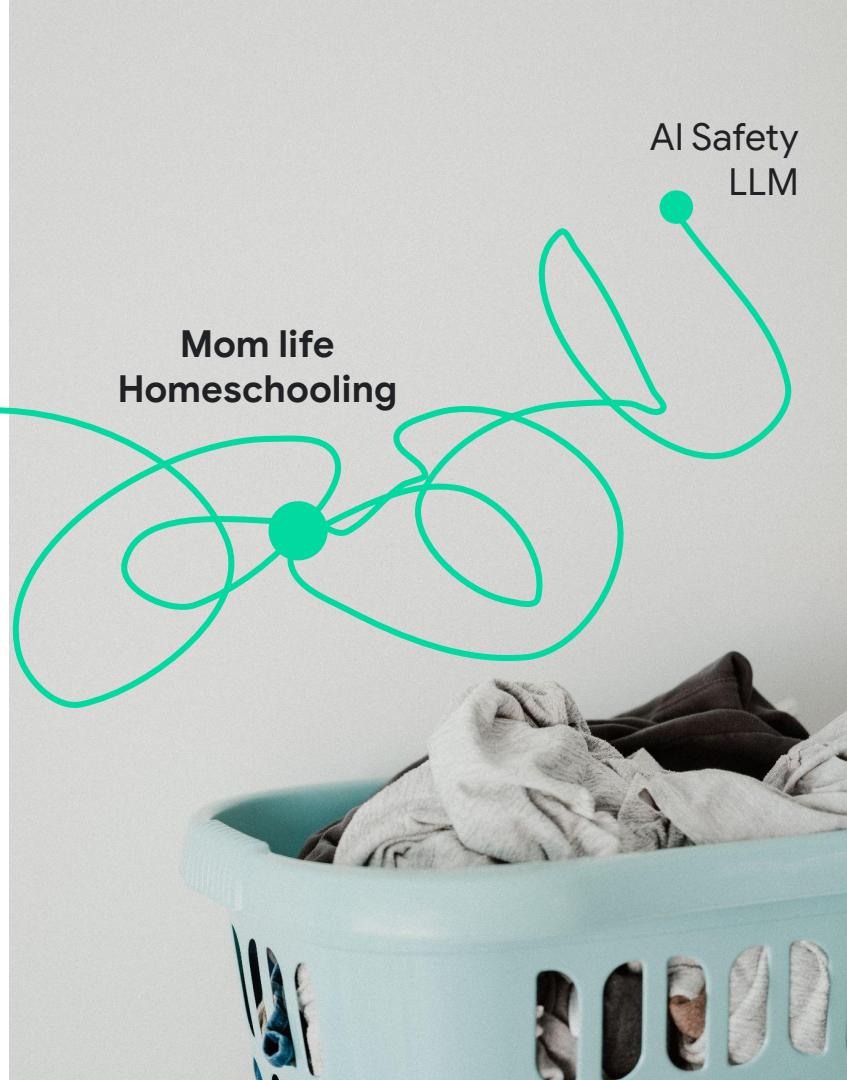
**How's it going?**

# Illustrious Career



AI Safety  
LLM

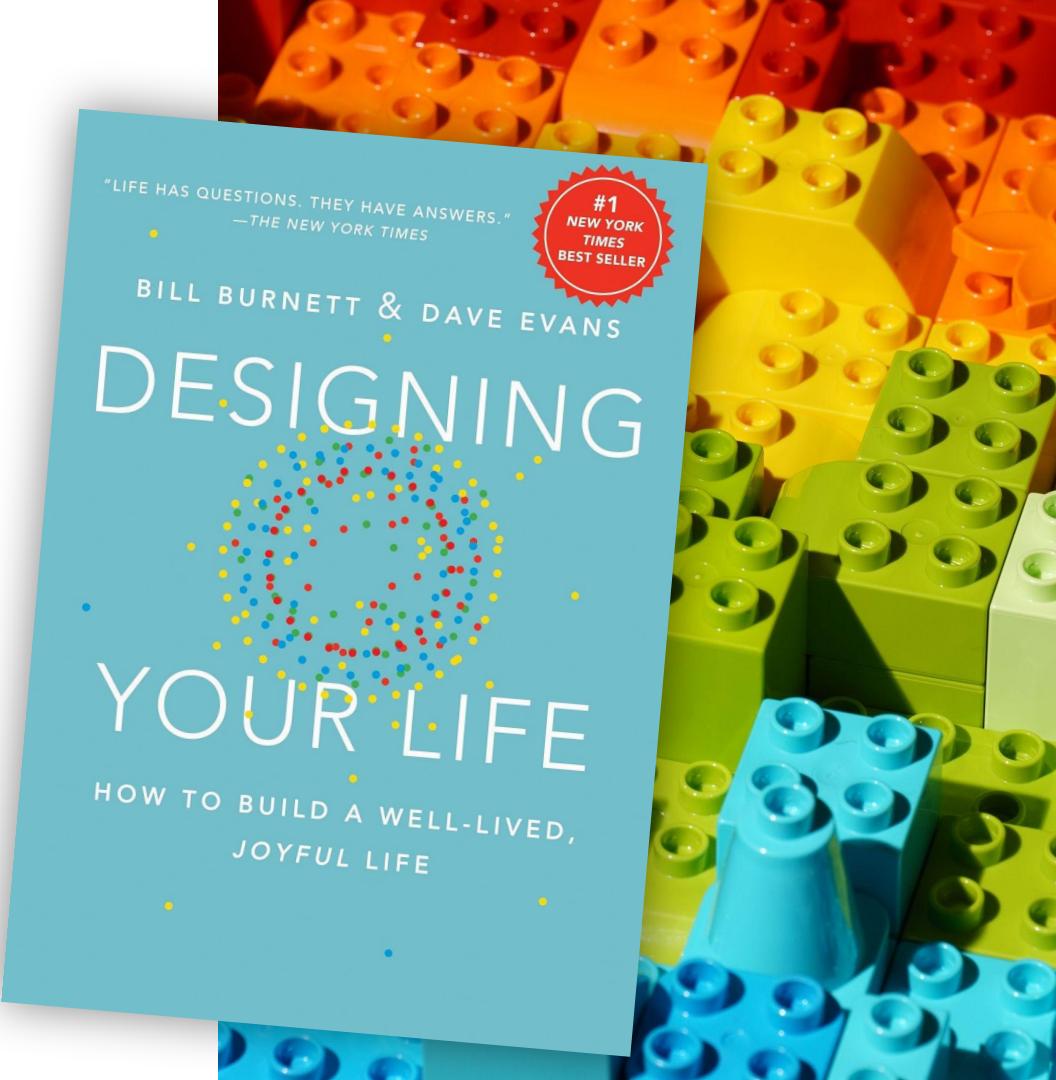
# Winding Reality



# **Key Lessons**

# Design Thinking

- Be Curious
- Try Stuff
- Reframe Problems
- Know It's a Process
- Ask for Help



# Be Curious

- Embrace play
- Invite exploration
- Opportunities everywhere



# Try Stuff

- Bias to Action
- Build forward
- Fail often



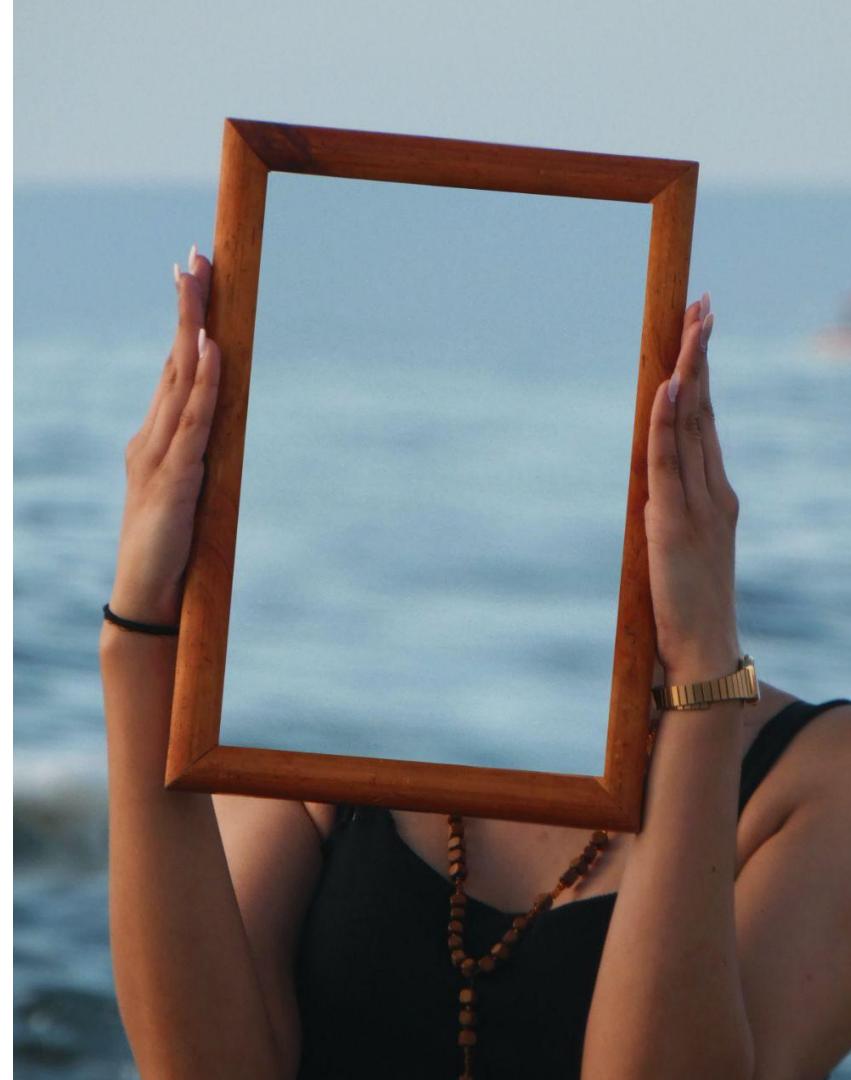
“

**Luck is what happens  
when preparation  
meets opportunity.**

Seneca  
Roman philosopher

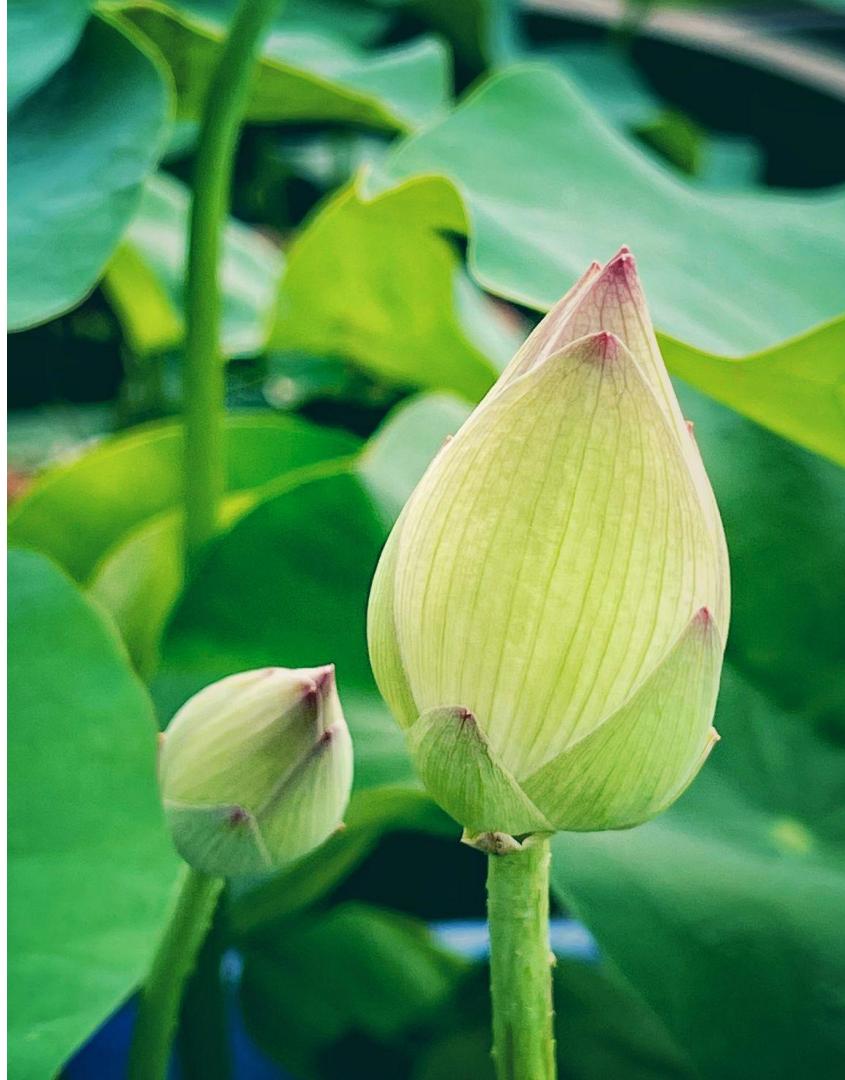
# Reframe Problems

- Get unstuck
- Rid dysfunctional beliefs
- Ideas: quantity > quality



## Know It's a Process

- Progress not perfection
- Life's a journey
- Judging to exploring



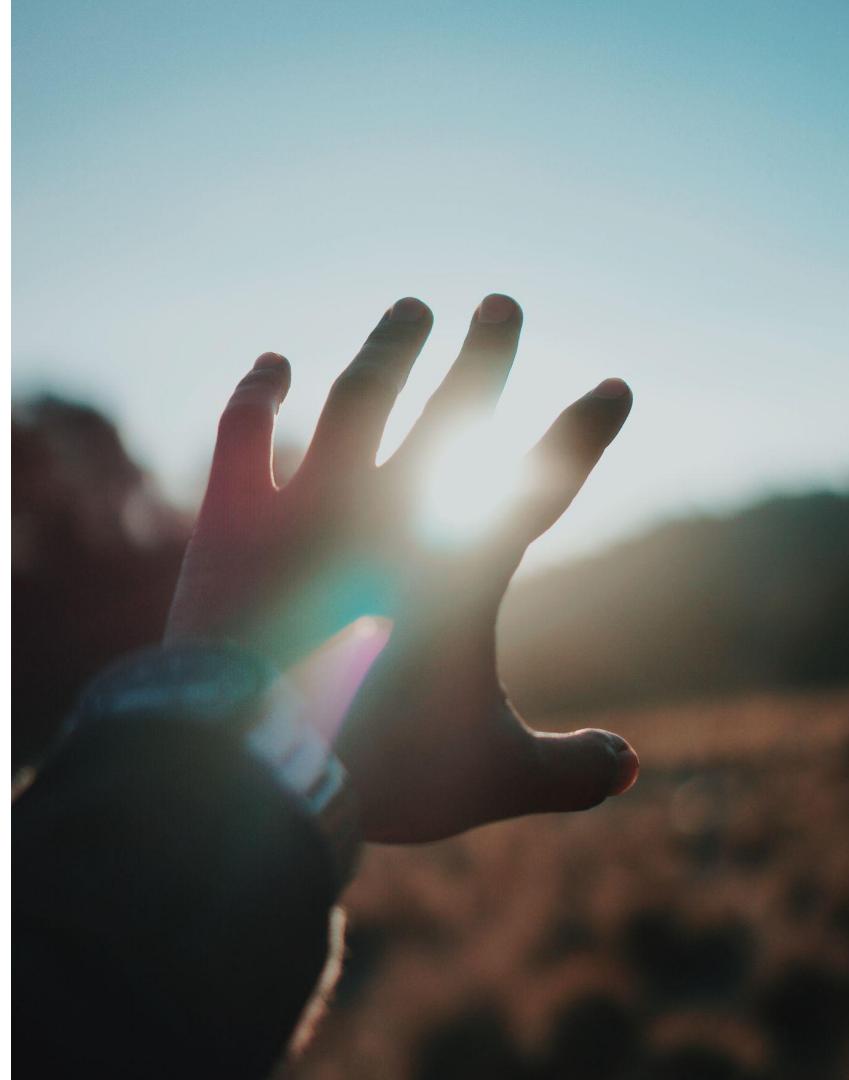
“

The **good life** is a **process**,  
not a **state of being**.  
It is a **direction**,  
not a **destination**.

Carl Rogers  
Psychologist

# **Collaborate**

- Ask for help
- Share learnings
- Find your community



# Exercises

# Life Assessment

- Health
- Work
- Play
- Love



# Reflection

- Workview
- Lifeview
- Coherence



“

Be yourself;  
everyone else  
is already taken.

Oscar Wilde

# Odyssey Planning

Assess 3 alternate 5-year plans

- Resources
- Likability
- Confidence
- Coherence



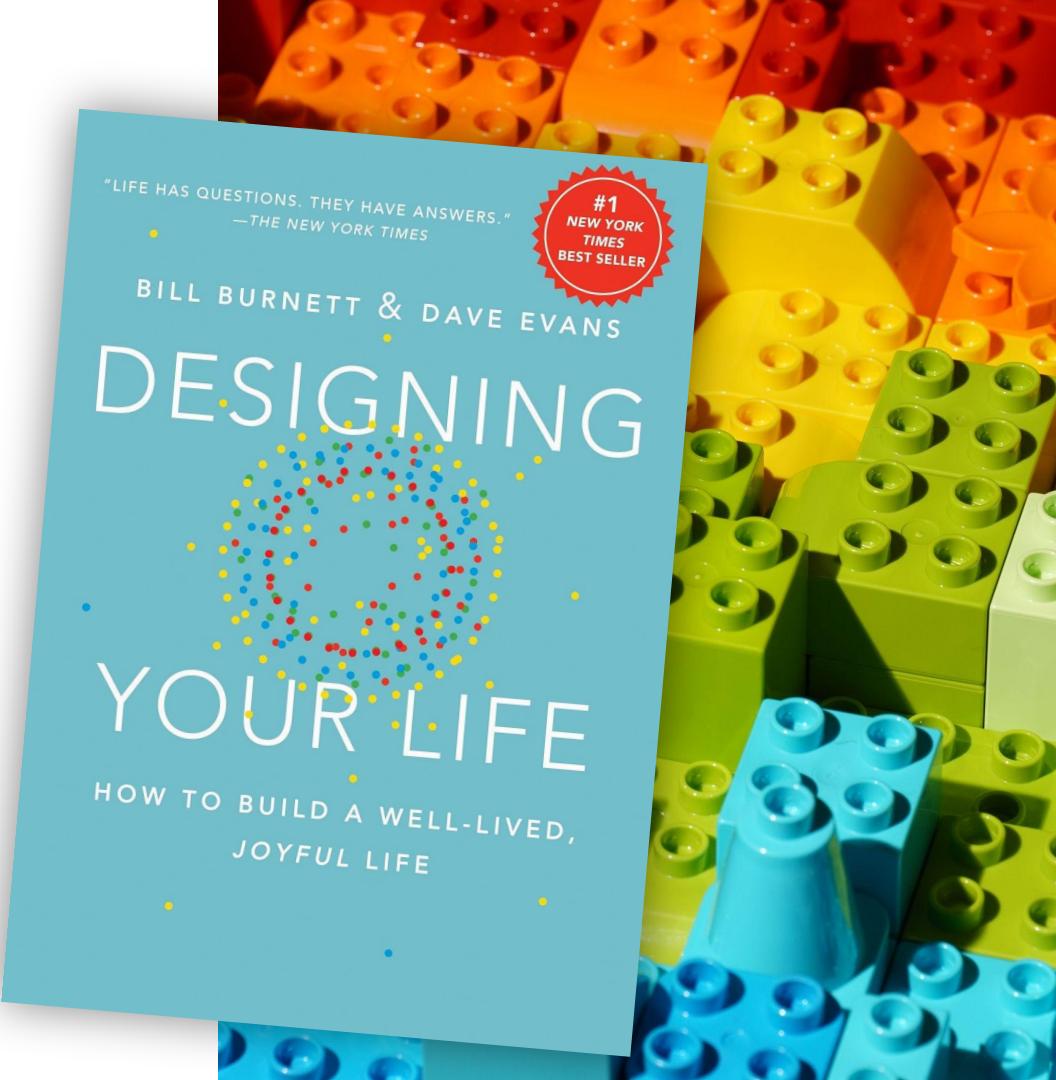
## In tech or life, know:

- Who are you?
- What do you want?
- What can you offer?



# Design Thinking

- Be Curious
- Try Stuff
- Reframe Problems
- Know It's a Process
- Collaborate



“

**Stay curious.  
Keep learning.  
Try new things.**

# Stay in touch!

 cheng2-tan  
 @cheng2\_tan



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