

Kay van den Aker

Designer and prototyper, exploring interactions that fuse digital and physical. Turning ambiguous ideas into experiences by gluing together various hard- and software.

Outside work, you can find him travelling, reading philosophy, or in the ocean doing various water sports. He's also been a surf instructor in Spain before.

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EXPERIENCE

Google

Creative Technologist Contractor (remote) | 2024 – Now
SOTA gen AI model explorations at the Envisioning Studio.

Freelancer

Interaction Designer and Prototyper (remote) | 2022 – 2024
Clients include Modem Works, Above, Hapticlabs, ProtoPie and Rolls-Royce Motor Cars.

Archetype AI

Interaction Design Master Thesis in Umeå, Sweden | 2024
Exploring physical AI as an interaction design material.

Above

Design Technologist Intern in Malmö, Sweden | 2022 – 2023
Projects for Google X and Mercedes-Benz.

Arduino

Content Creator in Malmö, Sweden | 2022
Created educational and uPython content.

BMW Group

Creative Technologist Intern in Munich, Germany | 2021
Experience prototyping at the concept car department, mostly on the Vision i Circular.

Team RED

Designer / Co-Founder in Eindhoven, Netherlands | 2017 – 2019
Student startup building an interactive map to simulate the impact of sustainable innovations on the energy grid.

TEACHING

Stanford d.school

San Francisco Bay Area, USA | 2025
Physical computing workshop at the Creative Computing Studio.

Copenhagen Institute of Interaction Design

Bergamo, Italy | 2025
One-week course on designing and prototyping multimodal AI systems.

Amsterdam University of Applied Sciences

Amsterdam, Netherlands | 2025
Project coach at the IxD master.

Technical University Munich

Remote | 2025
Prototyping with AI workshop.

SKILLS

Interaction Design
Experience Prototyping
Electronics and Programming

HTML, CSS, JS, React, Next, Python, P5, Arduino, ProtoPie, Unity, Blender, SwiftUI, MadMapper, Laser-Cutting, Figma, 3D Printing, TouchDesigner

EDUCATION

Umeå Institute of Design

MFA, Interaction Design | 2021 – 2024
Class representative.

Eindhoven University of Technology

BSc (Hons), Industrial Design | 2016 – 2021
Student council of the Honors Academy, chairman of study association Lucid, exchange semester at Umeå Institute of Design, surf committee of Avalanche Boarders.