Ricardo Saavedra

UX & Product Designer

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Education

MFA in Generative Art and Computational Design

Mills College

Oakland, CA 2015–2017

MA in Interaction Design and Information Architecture

Pontifical Catholic University

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil 2011–2012

BA in Media Studies & Communications

University of Rio de Janeiro

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil 2004–2008

Languages

English

Portuguese

Spanish

Legal Work Status

U.S. (valid H1B)

E.U. (permanent resident)

Professional Experience

Design Lead

Wonder

Berlin | 2020-Present

Designer & Co-Founder

Metasphere

Berlin | 2018-2020

Lead Designer

The Metagovernance Project

Remote | 2018-2019

Product Designer

XaiPient

NY, Remote | 2019-2020

Researcher In-Residency

Strelka Institute

Moscow | 2019-2020

Product Designer & Researcher

Status.im

Remote | 2017-2018

UX Design Lead

Samsung UX Mobile Lab (R&D)

San Francisco, CA | 2012-2015

Senior Information Architect

Globo.com

Brazil | 2012-2013

I currently lead product design, and UX research to translate user goals into new ways to meet online in large groups. I work closely with the product manager and founders on strategy, and UX/product design. I also mentor and manage a small team of UX designers and researchers.

I led the development of applications on the intersection of data science, data viz, and UI/UX design. My role included facilitating workshops with clients, interviewing users to define UX goals, and validate solutions. I also collaborated with ML engineers to develop new solutions that supported the conversion from data to knowledge.

I helped the founding team to move from theoretical research to a tangible product roadmap. I used different UX research methodologies to clarify use cases and produced many low/high fidelity prototypes to solidify the vision across stakeholders and validate hypotheses with users. Additionally, I oversaw the adoption of the Metagov editor by Seed, and other blockchain-based projects.

I worked on new data viz techniques that enabled users to inspect model predictions to increase trust and transparency in AI systems. I met with different users (stakeholders, engineers, and end-users) to better understand the problem space, following R&D, and user validation.

My work consisted of mapping out opportunity spaces at the intersection of architecture, spatial computing, and machine learning to gather feedback from main stakeholders (policy-makers, urbanists, and technologists). In the period of 6 months, I led the design and development of projects and concepts in the space of urban sensing, computer-aided-design, simulation, and VR/AR.

I helped to democratize blockchain technologies to the wider public by deeply understanding user needs and usability issues to inform the design of new technologies and UX/UI solutions.

I led design research and helped drive multiple interactive products successfully to market by interfacing with different executive teams – translating user insights into successful product launches. Products I helped to develop include Gear S, Samsung Galaxy Tab, TouchWiz redesign, and Samsung Accessibility strategy.

I worked alongside a team of 5 developers, and one visual designer on the development of many award-winning mobile apps. My work included leading product discussions to translate user needs and business requirements into compelling products that users loved.

Skills & Tools

Design
Design Systems
Mobile Design
Information Design

Interaction Design
Product Design
Visual Design

Agile (Scrum, Halocracy)

User Research

Prototyping Tools

HTML, CSS
Figma, Sketch
Illustrator
Framer, Principle
After Effects & Animation

Data Visualization

Tableau D3

Statistical Concepts

Programming

JavaScript, P5, D3, Visual Programming Languages