

**Maciek Sitkowski**

**Past experiences that help me to  
be a better frontend developer**



2013-2015

# Gap year + Architecture

After high school I took a **gap year** to prepare for the entrance exam. I spent this time **working and learning how to draw**.

Although I got into university, after nearly a year there I realized that being an architect is not something that I want to do for the rest of my life.

I made a **conscious decision to quit**.

Still, I consider that time to be very valuable and here is why →

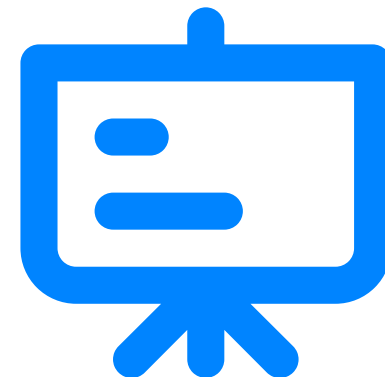


# What I **learned/improved** while preparing for and **studying architecture**



## Attention to detail

Whether it's a typo, two misaligned objects or two colors with different hues.



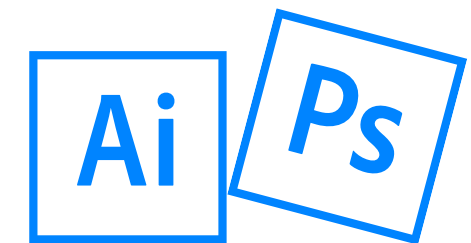
## Communicating ideas in a clear way

Learned that even the best idea may be worth nothing if we cannot effectively communicate



## Creativity and thinking out of the box

Constantly looking for new ideas and inspirations everywhere around me.



## Using Adobe's flagship products

Spent a lot of time working with both Photoshop and Illustrator.





2015-2018

# On Her Majesty's Secret Service

After quitting architecture I didn't want to start another subject just for the sake of studying. I wanted to find something I'm really passionate about.

To think my life through and get some perspective I decided to move to England.

During my time there I have been working for various companies but the biggest impact on myself had a time I spent working for Clothes2Order, where I worked as **Customer Service Assistant**.

Though I haven't found my passion there, the time in England was extremely valuable and here are a few reasons why →

# What I **learned/improved** during the time **in England**



## **Adapting easily in new environments**

Going to a different country on my own was a great lesson of adaptability.



## **Written and spoken English**

Especially by talking on the phone with customers and responding to their emails.



## **Explaining technical processes**

As a Customer Service Team we helped our customers to understand what's hidden under the hood of the production process.



## **Collaboration skills**

By sharing ideas with other teammates, we could improve each other's work.



2018-2019

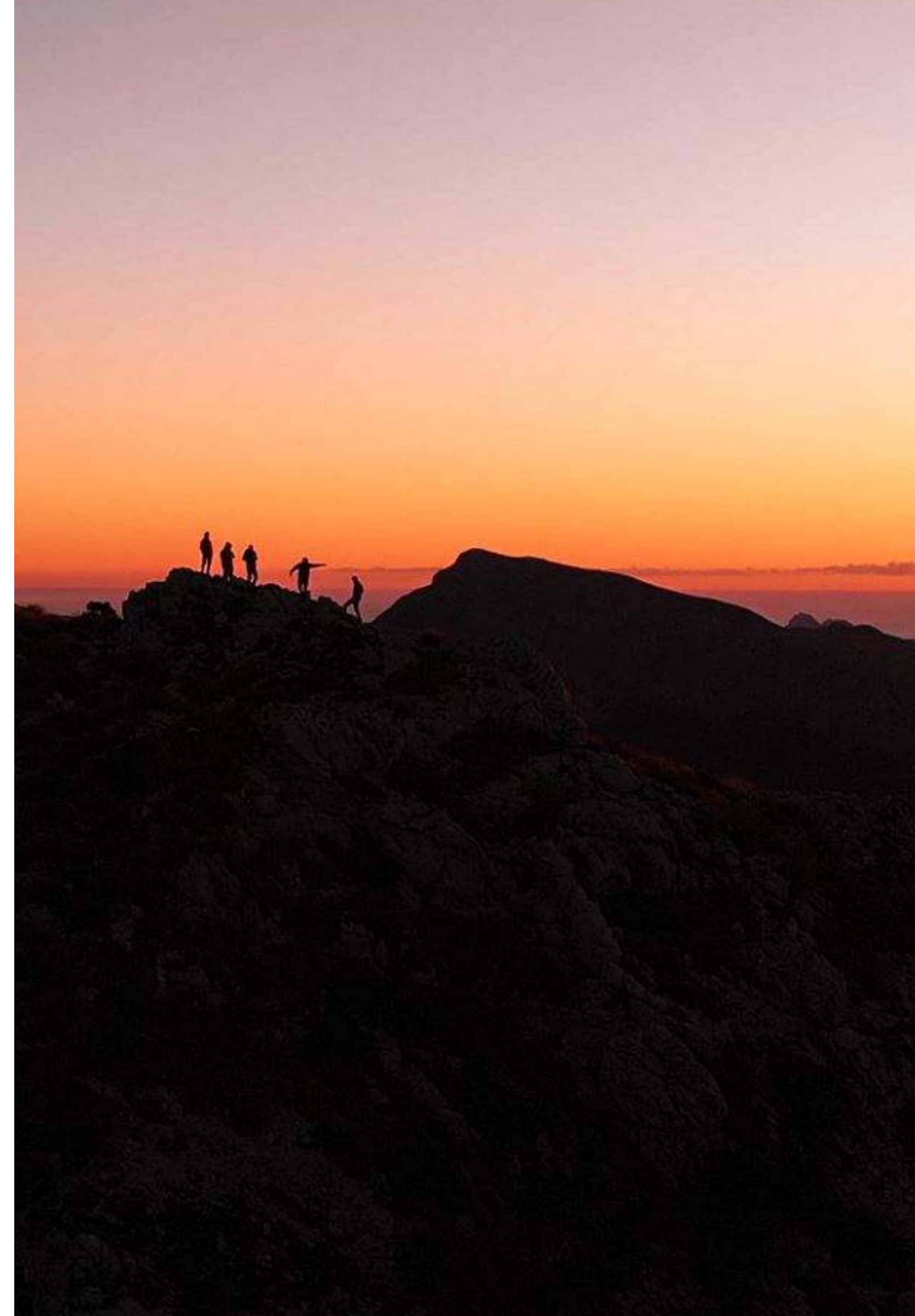
# Hola, ¿cómo estás?

At some point, when living in England, my friends and I started taking Spanish classes at weekends. We liked it so much that we actually decided to move to Spain.

This is how my **2-year-long adventure in Mallorca** has started.

When we got there I found a job as a barman/waiter in one of the busiest restaurant on the island. Not only was it very exciting but also a great opportunity to learn language and improve my client-facing skills.

Here's a brief summary of the time I spent in Spain →



# What I **learned/improved** during the time **in Spain**



## **Communicative level of Spanish**

Achieved by going to school and surrounding myself with native speakers daily.



## **Working as a team**

We wouldn't be able to get through some really busy hours at the restaurant if we hadn't stucked together.



## **Better understanding of clients' needs**

Understanding the customers and seeing things from their point of view.



## **Working well under pressure**

No matter what I always try to remain calm and stay positive.

A blurred background image of a code editor with a dark theme. The code is in JavaScript and includes comments like 'App default.js', 'App', and 'App'. It shows a function 'getPost' using 'fetch', a function 'App' with a 'post' state and 'updatePosts' function, and a 'useEffect' hook with an 'async' function that calls 'updatePosts'. There's also a 'Loading...' text at the bottom.

2019-now

# My Frontend Journey

I started learning to code in my spare time when I was living in Spain but working 6-7 days a week in a restaurant wasn't really helping.

It wasn't until I got back to Poland, by the end of 2019, when I could really dedicate myself to it.

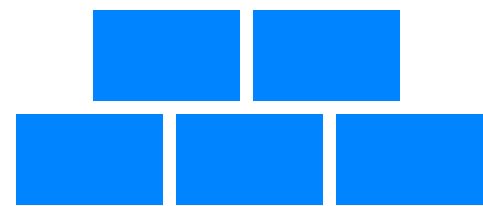
When I got a grasp of **HTML**, **CSS** and **JavaScript** I finished **Harvard's CS50x** where I've been learning about programming concepts in general using such languages as **C**, **Python** and **SQL**.

Once I felt confident with the fundamentals I moved on to **React** and absolutely fell in love. I live and breathe React and everything React related.

This is a very brief summary of my journey but if you're interested, check out my [Frontend Journey Log on Notion](#) where I document all the courses I've taken.



# The **most impactful** things that happened to me **programming-wise**



## **CS50: Introduction to Computer Science**

This is when I have truly  
discovered my passion for  
coding.



## **Contributing to freeCodeCamp**

One of the things I love most about  
Open Source is that you can help  
others and learn new things in the  
same time.



## **Reactathon 2020 Conference**

Opportunity to meet, talk and  
learn from an amazing community  
around React and JS.



## **Eloquent JavaScript by Marijn Haverbeke**

The book that was a stepping  
stone in my understanding of  
JavaScript and its quirks.



**THANK YOU**