## Varun Thota

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#### **EXPERIENCE**

#### LIVE IN STYLE TODAY INTL, MACAU, CHINA

**AUG 2011 - JAN 2012** 

## Technology & Social Media Manager

Live In Style Today is a startup web company specializing in offering luxury lifestyle experiences in Macau and Hong Kong based around daily deals.

- Managed launch project, including creating project plans and documentation
  - o Led and managed design and development team of two contract designers in Hong Kong
  - o Led user experience testing, bug fixing and feedback from users
  - Used a user email platform (MailChimp) to do A/B testing with newsletter design and subject heading
- Re-designed website experience and workflow by adhering to modern web standards while improving user interaction
  - o Created and designed launch page to create awareness, hype and subscriptions
  - Re-developed and designed checkout process and user pages; wrote documentation for user privileges
  - o Re-designed logo and added Chinese branding to connect and appeal to local users and market
- Created and developed social media campaign using Facebook & Twitter and various other social media
  - o Exponentially grew fan base and used Facebook targeted ads to grow awareness
  - Used Facebook analytics to target primary users in Hong Kong & Macau
  - o Designed email newsletter and used MailChimp platform to grow subscriber base
  - Spread awareness of lifestyle, luxury and PR news by leveraging other news sources using newspaper aggregator (Paper.li)
- Designed business to business flyer highlighting business product offers geared towards merchants. Used by sales staff to market to merchants.
- Attached Google Analytics to manage, analyze and track data coming to site
  - Analyzed the flow during the checkout process and make actionable insights to test and measure via Google Analytics

# ZIBA DESIGN, PORTLAND, OR

JUN 2010 - MAR 2011

#### IT Administrator/Analyst

Ziba is a world-class design and consultancy firm of about 200 employees with clients such as Nike & Microsoft

- Managed multiple projects to improve productivity for global design company specializing in product design and branding
  - o Provided user experience and user interface expertise for a workflow management solution implementation. Worked with outside vendor and Ziba users to test and implement solution.
  - Selected and implemented recruiting web application solution tailored for Ziba to replace current on-site, Lotus Notes-based recruiting application
  - o Enhanced and deployed font server to better suit the needs of designers and the company
  - Aided in company-wide rollout of Apple software and products, including training, implementation and documentation
  - Tested and led project to replace existing e-mail system by setting up virtual systems to simulate real world situations using mail servers such as Kerio Connect, Exchange and Google applications
  - Evaluated and implemented a solution for on-site cloud computing (sharing of files with coworkers, clients and customers). Products evaluated include Sharepoint, Box.net, Dropbox, and PogoPlug.
- Improved cost savings and productivity by suggesting and implementing various Windows and OSX applications.
  - Examples include project management solutions such as Parallels for dual OS systems and Forensit user profile manager for custom, default user accounts.
- Created procedural and process oriented documentation
- Received in-depth training on marketing and branding through various Ziba led workshops including
  - o Brand DNA
  - o Technology trend forecasting
  - Design thinking vs design making

### Technical Operations

Mugasha is a startup web company specializing in electronic music that caters to a niche community.

- Created specifications for software application that would leverage social networks and create dynamic suggestions for potential users
  - o Actively contributing to the Mugasha blog
  - o Worked with COO to find new Mugasha marketing campaigns
  - Wrote specifications and created data model to implement new tracking system, using Twitter as a search tool
- Contributed to all IT team meetings concerning user experience and bug reporting
- Updated and created new UX on website by modeling new wireframes, followed by A/B testing
- Used various social media outlets such as Twitter, Facebook to promote and get in touch with artists and users.
  - Collected and analyzed key metrics from different social networks such as Facebook, Twitter and MySpace
  - Created and delivered presentation to technical and marketing leads with the research performed
  - Leveraged Twitter as a way to find and contact DJs, and then successfully added them to Mugasha

#### **EDUCATION**

**Portland State University**, PORTLAND, OR Bachelors of Science in Business Information Systems

**SEPT 2005 - MAR 2010** 

#### **SKILLS**

- Programming (Visual Basic, VBA, SQL, Visio, Rails, Ruby)
- Web Design (FrontPage, Adobe Illustrator, HTML, CSS, Adobe Photoshop)
- Database (Microsoft Access, SQL Server)
- Project Management (Pivotal Tracker, GoPlan, Trello)
- Systems Administration (Windows Server, Active Directory, Mac Server, Mac Administration, Open Directory, Font Server, SharePoint, Microsoft Exchange)
- Expertise in social media marketing & strategy
- Highly proficient in Office programs
- Fluent in English, Conversational in Mandarin, Cantonese and Hindi

### **PERSONAL**

Interests include reading, fitness and sports (basketball and snowboarding), technology and social networking, user experience and user interface, web and mobile applications