

Vijay Gaikwad

Product Designer · UI/UX Lead · Design Engineer

15+ years · Pune, India · Remote-first, open to relocation

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PROFILE

Product designer with **15+ years** creating intuitive, engaging user experiences for complex enterprise SaaS — grounded in **user-centered design methodologies** and a passion for translating complex requirements into elegant, functional designs. I pair deep UI/UX craft with the rare ability to design *and* ship the front-end code (React/TypeScript, HTML/CSS), and I use AI-augmented prototyping to move from idea to validated experience fast. Strong in design systems, interaction design, usability testing, and articulating design decisions clearly to product, engineering, and stakeholders.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Principal UX Lead · Momentive Software Nov 2014 – 2026 · Pune, India

- Collaborated with **product managers, developers, and stakeholders** to define user requirements and design solutions meeting business goals — for a SaaS platform serving **500K+ users** (GiveSmart Events, Fundraise & CRM).
- Conducted **user research and usability testing** (Maze, UserTesting, Hotjar, FullStory) to gather insights and validate design concepts before build.
- Created **wireframes, prototypes, and high-fidelity mockups** that communicated user flows and design ideas — shipping clickable prototypes fast to iterate on data-driven feedback.
- Developed and maintained **design systems and style guides** (components, tokens, Storybook) adopted across **6 product teams**, ensuring consistency and cutting design-to-dev handoff by **40%**.
- Championed **responsive design and WCAG 2.2 AA accessibility** across the product suite (a company-first initiative); embedded automated a11y testing in CI/CD with engineering.
- **Mentored junior designers** and grew the team from 1 to 4 — defining career ladders, hiring rubrics, and a critique culture; authored a 16-week AI-UX curriculum and an executive-level rollout.
- Bridged design and engineering by building responsive, cross-browser UI (**React, HTML5, CSS3, JavaScript**) — production code, not just static mockups.
- Stayed ahead of **industry trends**, pioneering AI-augmented design (Claude Code, Lovable, v0) with validation guardrails anchoring output to real research.

EARLIER EXPERIENCE

Senior Software Engineer · Xpanxion Jan 2014 – Nov 2014 · Pune

Built responsive, cross-browser web interfaces (HTML5/CSS3/JS) and pixel-perfect UI components alongside UX designers.

Sr. Web Developer · Fiserv Jan 2013 – Jan 2014 · Pune

High-performance web apps for global fintech / banking clients; PHP backend integrations and WordPress customisations aligned to UX specs.

Web Designer · Quagnitia Systems Mar 2011 – Jan 2013

Responsive websites and digital marketing assets; delivered Android and web platform UX.

SELECTED ACHIEVEMENTS

- **40% reduction** in design-to-development handoff time through enterprise design-system ownership.
- **35% faster** UX research cycles by embedding AI into synthesis workflows, validated against primary research.
- **28% improvement** in user task-completion rates via research-led product redesigns.
- Led the company's **first WCAG 2.2 AA accessibility programme** across the full product suite.
- Grew and mentored the UX team **from 1 to 4 designers**; built the career ladder and critique culture.

TOOLS & TECHNOLOGIES

Design & UI/UX

Figma Sketch Adobe Creative Suite Adobe XD InVision Zeroheight
Storybook

Front-End

React TypeScript HTML5 CSS3 / SASS JavaScript Git

Research & Analytics

Maze UserTesting Hotjar FullStory Jira Confluence Agile / Scrum

AI Prototyping

Claude Code Lovable v0 Agentic Workflows AI-Augmented Research

EDUCATION & CERTIFICATIONS

B.A. English Literature · 2003–2006

Claude 101 — Anthropic · AI Literacy & Responsible Application

Succeeding as a First-Time Tech Manager · LinkedIn Learning

UX Foundations: Multidevice Design; Figma for UX Design · LinkedIn Learning

LANGUAGES

English Marathi Hindi