

Chaitra Alankar

ARCHITECT & MULTIDISCIPLINARY DESIGNER

Driven by a passion for crafting immersive, human-centered experiences, I specialize in weaving together interaction design, spatial thinking, and visual storytelling to create environments and experiences that are both emotionally resonant and functionally effective. Experienced across architecture, urban design, UX, and visual communication, I bring a systems-level approach to design - navigating across disciplines to uncover unexpected insights, bridge gaps, and build cohesive, experience-driven solutions.

(Residency Status – US Citizen)

EXPERIENCE

School of Design & Creative Technology / Teaching Assistant

JUL 2023 – JUL 2024 / University of Texas at Austin

- Mentored 30+ undergraduate seniors in industrial design, UI/UX Design, graphic design, interaction design & design history in their capstone development & execution.
- Conducted a design thinking workshops series for 25+ students, improving creative confidence and ideation by 40%.
- Provided constructive critiques that refined design concepts and narrative clarity.
- Facilitated group collaboration, conflict resolution, & a productive studio environment contributing to a 95% on-time completion rate.

Intessence Solutions Pvt. Ltd. / Visual Designer - Consultant

JUN 2021 – PRESENT / Remote

- Designed and executed 60+ visual assets - branding, brochures, catalogs, medical exhibition layouts - that increased brand visibility and market reach.
- Led designs for 5+ national med-tech exhibitions, supporting booth layouts and communication design that helped secure new clientele.
- Developed a scalable visual identity system that increased startup's brand recall across digital and print media by 30%.

Nikaya Design Studio / Architect and Interior Designer

JAN 2023 – JULY 2023 / Bangalore, India

- Led design and documentation for 6+ residential, retail, and industrial projects, delivering working drawings and renderings.
- Produced detailed working drawings, 3D visualizations and presentations for effective communication amongst clients, vendors, contractors, and consultants.
- Delivered complex project pitches under tight timelines, balancing design innovation with functional, budget, and user constraints.

Foley Designs / Spatial Experience Design Intern

WINTER 2022 / Bangalore, India

- Collaborated on 3+ experiential retail environments focusing on user movement, accessibility, and brand storytelling.
- Worked with cross-functional teams to rapid prototype across project typologies.
- Applied environmental psychology principles to spatial layouts, optimizing transitions, visibility, and emotional resonance.

mayaPRAXIS / Architectural and Urban Design Intern

JUN 2021 – DEC 2021 / Bangalore, India

- Contributed to 11 diverse projects ranging from memorials and footbridges to urban streetscapes, housing, and high-rise developments across concept, competition, and execution phases.
- Delivered over 190+ outputs, including working drawings, schematic design sets, high-fidelity renders, and physical models.
- Played a key role in time-sensitive competition pitches and client presentations, translating abstract briefs into compelling, buildable pitches.

Wienerberger / Green Building Materials Intern

WINTER 2021 / Bangalore, India

- Contributed to case studies and documentation promoting eco-friendly solutions in Indian architectural practices.
- Gained hands-on exposure to sustainable systems, informing design decisions around materiality and climate responsiveness.

+1 (737) 781 1490

chaitra.alankar@utexas.edu

Portfolio: chaitraalankar.com

[LinkedIn profile](#)

EDUCATION

MFA Interdisciplinary Design

University of Texas at Austin

GPA:3.8, AUG 2023 – MAY 2025

Awards: COFA Fellowship, Full Tuition Scholarship, GS University Graduate Continuing Fellowship

Relevant Coursework: Interaction Design, Design Thinking, Immersive Art Installations, Learning from Places, Creativity in AI

Bachelors of Architecture

National Institute of Technology, Nagpur, India

GPA: 8.4, AUG 2017 - MAY 2022

Awards: Academic Excellence Award

Relevant Coursework: Urban Planning and Design, Green Architecture, Appropriate Technology, Climate Responsive Architecture, Visual Communication, Working Drawing

SKILLS

Certifications & Licenses

Architectural License
Council of Architecture, India

Autodesk Certified Professional:
Revit for Architectural Design
Autodesk, Coursera

Designing a Low Fidelity
Prototype in Figma
Coursera

Google UX Design Professional
Certificate
Google, Coursera

Tools

Adobe Creative Suite, AutoCAD, Sketchup, Vizcom, Unity, Figma, Python Programming, Touch Designer, Arduino, C++, V-Ray, Enscape, Revit, Lumion, Wix Studio, AI tools for Design, Rhino

AWARDS & HONOURS

Global Winner 2022 / [120 Hours International Design Challenge](#)

2022 / Oslo School of Architecture and Design, Norway

Applied rapid ideation, prototyping, and problem-solving strategies to address a complex design challenge dealing with concepts of urban design and visionary architecture within a highly compressed 120-hour timeframe. – [Winning Entry](#) (Search 2022 > Winners)

GS University Graduate Continuing Fellowship / [University of Texas at Austin](#)

2024 - 2025 / Austin, TX

Awarded in recognition of my MFA thesis, providing funding to further develop my research on urban revitalization, interactive media and cross-cultural urban engagement.

Academic Excellence Award / [National Institute of Technology Nagpur](#)

2022 / Nagpur, India

Recognized for outstanding academic performance and commitment to excellence in design and research.

National Finalist / [Solar Decathlon - Net Zero Energy Design Challenge](#)

2022 / India

- Placed among the top 8 teams nationally in a year-long competition to designing a net-zero energy development.
- Worked on data-driven sustainable design strategies, integrating energy-efficient systems, climate-responsive architecture, and material optimization to develop a scalable and cost-effective solution addressing real-world challenges.

LEADERSHIP & EXTRA-CIRRICULARS

Working Member / [Moritz Good Neighbor Project](#)

AUG 2024 – JAN 2025 / Austin, TX

- Collaborated with a small multidisciplinary design team and applied human-centered research methods to identify community needs and design learning tools to enhance engagement an underutilized public space in North Austin.
- Iterated designs based on user feedback, ensuring practical, accessible, and sustainable solutions that suited the design need.
- Strengthened problem-solving through community engagement, prototyping, production, installation, and on-site testing.

National Level Badminton

2024 - 2025 / India, US

- University of Texas Badminton Team Member - Nationals Bronze Medalist
- India National Level Badminton
- NIT Nagpur Badminton Team Captain - National Gold Medalist

Volunteer / [South by South West](#)

2024 / Austin, TX

- Supported the organization and execution of large-scale events by enhancing visitor engagement, experience and participation.

Student Mentor / [National Institute of Technology, Nagpur](#)

JUL 2019 – JUL 2021 / India

- Guided incoming students to adapt to academic and residential life over their first 3 years of undergraduate life.
- Trained by the Tata Institute of Social Sciences to navigate complex mental health situations and provide empathetic, solution-oriented support. Developed conflict-resolution skills to support mentees through sensitive and challenging situations.

Department Sports Representative / [National Institute of Technology, Nagpur](#)

JUL 2019 – JUL 2020 / India

- Represented the department in organizing inter & intra-college sports events - Encouraged sports participation among students.

Social Work Intern / [Prashraya Welfare Association](#)

WINTER 2022 / India

- Led fundraising initiatives to support the mission of providing education, dignity, and opportunity to underprivileged children.