

Aaron Merritt

Design Lead · Design Systems · AI-Augmented Product Design

Phone // (415) 341.6537

Email // asmerritt@gmail.com

Portfolio // imageotter.com/port

LinkedIn // www.linkedin.com/in/aaronmerritt

OVERVIEW

Design systems lead with 10+ years building scalable design infrastructure for enterprise SaaS. Expert in token architecture, component systems, and AI-augmented workflows — including developing LLM-powered tooling that automates design system compliance at scale. Proven track record driving cross-functional design strategy across network intelligence and financial services platforms.

EXPERIENCE

Lead Product Designer, Design Systems

June 2020 - Present

Cisco ThousandEyes; San Francisco, CA

- Architected and maintain ThousandEyes' multi-theme design system, aligning a scalable token architecture with Cisco's Momentum brand standards across the full enterprise SaaS platform.
- Lead designer on AI Canvas — a Cisco AI product enabling customers to query their network in natural language, returning answers as data visualizations; defined the base template system and core interaction patterns shipped to production.
- Built an LLM-based audit tool to automate design system compliance review, eliminating manual audit cycles and enabling continuous compliance at scale.
- Developed and led a process to automate design token generation via AI, reducing tokenization effort and improving consistency across themes and platforms.
- Drove WCAG 2.1 AA accessibility compliance across the component library in partnership with engineering, supporting enterprise customers with regulatory requirements.
- Defined Figma library governance, contribution model, and documentation standards, reducing designer-to-engineer handoff friction across product teams.

Lead Product Designer

May 2018 - June 2020

Wells Fargo Commercial; San Francisco, CA

- Led design system evolution for Wells Fargo's commercial banking platform, including CEO — an application processing over \$11 trillion annually.
- Defined component architecture, tokenization strategy, governance frameworks, and accessibility standards across multiple enterprise applications.
- Managed contractors and coordinated cross-functional stakeholder reviews to align system growth with business, compliance, and engineering requirements.

UX Designer — Innovation & Commercial Banking

Nov 2015 - May 2018

Wells Fargo Innovation; San Francisco, CA

- R&D product designer (Wells Fargo Innovation) responsible for end-to-end design — research, experience architecture, interaction and visual design — for new financial digital products through to engineering handoff.
- Designed features and component specs for commercial banking software (Wells Fargo Commercial), partnering with front-end engineering to deliver accessible, responsive experiences conforming to WCAG standards.

EDUCATION

Louisiana State University / M.F.A.

Ohio University / B.F.A.

SKILLS

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| Design Systems | ●●●●●●●●●● | Accessibility | ●●●●●●●●●● |
| Design Token Architecture | ●●●●●●●●●● | Interaction Design | ●●●●●●●●●● |
| AI-Augmented Workflows | ●●●●●●●●●● | Figma | ●●●●●●●●●● |
| LLM-Based Tooling | ●●●●●●●●●● | HTML5/CSS3 | ●●●●●●●●●● |
| Agentic Prototyping | ●●●●●●●●●● | Agile Methodology | ●●●●●●●●●● |