Jess Vanam

Summary

I'm seeking opportunities to work in web development, interaction design, and digital archiving. I bring a critical perspective, a curiosity of the values inherent in everyday technologies, and an attachment to playfulness.

Education

Cornell University
Ithaca NY
Bachelor of Science in Information Science

Skills

Stack

Languages and Frameworks ⸻ HTML, CSS, Javascript ES6, GraphQL, Python, Arduino, Vue, Nuxt, React, Next.js, Svelte
CMS, eCommerce, hosting ⸻ Contentful, Prismic, Shopify (headless), Stripe, Netlify, Firebase, Github
Misc ⸻ Airtable, Storybook, p5.js, TailwindCSS, Anime.js, Lottie, Figma

Web Development
Building unique websites with cross-browser compatibility. Developing interactions and layouts to spec. Experience with SPAs, SSR, and static-generated sites. Working with cloud functions and e-commerce. Animating SVGs and variable fonts.

Interface and Interaction Design
Designing interactive and accessible websites in Figma. Translating brand guidelines, designed assets, or references to fully responsive and engaging sites. Adapting existing layouts from designers to be mobile responsive and fleshing out interactions. Inspired by new media art and critical theory regarding technology & interaction design.

Technical Project Management
Scoping projects and writing requirements documents. Communicating technical limitations + possibilities to clients and designers. Managing tasks and timelines.

CMS
Using graphQL with headless CMSes (Prismic, Contentful, Shopify). Designing and implementing custom data schema. Customizing CMS interfaces where possible. Working with clients during QA to ensure CMSes are usable and efficient.

Physical Prototyping
Working with microcontrollers, sensors, and motors, lasercutting, 3D CAD modeling, and some circuitry.

Experience

Please look to my website (jvanam.net) for documentation of my work on specific projects

Freelance   Brooklyn NY / Portland OR / remote, May 2022 - present
Fullstack Engineer and Designer
I have worked on a variety of projects in different capacities. Notable recent sites include:
* Lead developer of ISLAA's website (The Institute for Studies on Latin American Art) following a full redesign and including a backend migration → https://islaa.org
* Interaction designer for T Magazine's 2023 Culture Issue → https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2023/04/20/t-magazine/women-artists-culture-mentors.html

FISK   Portland OR, May 2021 - May 2022
Developer
Worked at a fast-paced design studio as a developer and UX/UI designer on a small dev team of two.

Perkins Coie   Portland OR, Sept. 2020 - June 2021
Litigation Intern
Drafted and filed legal documents, conducted research, and communicated with clients and opposing counsel.
Assisted attorneys with cases on a wide range of topics, including immigration law, intellectual property, and post-conviction relief.

Robots in Groups Lab @ Cornell University   Ithaca NY, May 2017 - May 2018
Research Assistant
Behaviorally analyzed and coded video data from human-robot interaction studies.
Assisted with the design of future HCI studies and academic literature reviews.