

MARIO SMITH-MENA

Designer

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An Engineering Naval Officer turned designer dedicated to placing the **human experience first**. Living on three separate continents has equipped me with the compassion required to **effectively engage** a multi-faceted audience. A believer in form following function, I strive to deliver **creative solutions** via logic-driven rationale.

Experience

UX Designer/FINRA

Apr 2020 - Present
Rockville, MD

UXDI Teaching Assistant/GA

Mar 2020 - June 2020
Washington D.C.

Founder/Yugen International

Dec 2018 - Dec 2019
Tokyo, Japan

Manager, Roaster/Cafe del Barista

Jan 2018 - Dec 2018
San Jose, Costa Rica

Lieutenant (O-3)/US Navy

May 2012 - Jan 2018
Virginia Beach, VA

Accomplishments

- Designed visual assets to communicate product function efficiently, including screen layouts, color palettes, UI elements, and icons.
- Met with stakeholders and applied a blend of left/right brain thinking to guide production of journey maps, personas, and interactive prototypes.
- Participated in conceptual development/ideation in a multidisciplinary team consisting of product management, developers, and creatives.
- Designed and led engaging lessons and workshops for prospective UX professionals on topics ranging from Accessibility to User Research.
- Translated intricate information into visually engaging, easy to digest illustrations and infographics.
- Singlehandedly registered a Tokyo coffee roastery and export business.
- Operated as Creative Director and Head Roaster, creating illustrations, stop motion videos, and coffee bag designs for the Yugen Brand.
- Increased daily average earnings by 17% and reduced debts by 22% over the course of 6 months by creating a more user friendly menu and enacting a live inventory.
- Led three Chief Petty Officers and thirty seven Engineers in the upkeep of ship's engines and supporting machinery, allowing for three successful engineering certifications and multiple deployments.

Education

BSc, Ocean Engineering

United States Naval Academy (2008-2012)

Languages

Japanese

Professional Working Proficiency

Spanish

Fluent

Skills

Clearance: Secret, Expired

Software

Adobe Creative Suite
Sketch
Figma
InVision
Axure
WordPress
Miro
HTML/CSS

Design

User Research
Usability Testing
Responsive Design
Web/Mobile Design
Wireframes/Mockups
A/B Testing
Rapid Prototyping
Affinity Mapping

Other

Illustration
Stop-Motion
Photography
Video Editing
Graphic Design
Branding
Podcasting
Sound Design