

Grant Elliot Carmichael

1825 Woodward Ave. SE
Grand Rapids, MI
49506

M 616.822.8912

grant@thinkxd.com

www.thinkxd.com

www.linkedin.com/
in/grantcarmichael

Twitter: @thinkxd

Profile

I am an interaction designer with a passion to define user experiences that 'make it easy for end users to be happy'. I am a visual thinker who thrives in a collaborative team setting and approaches interface design projects with an outside-in perspective to help ensure alignment of the end user experience with business goals, technical opportunities and brand strategy.

Experience

ThinkXD LLC
Grand Rapids, MI

Owner, User Experience Designer
February 2008 – Present

I founded ThinkXD to specialize in the research, planning and design of user interface frameworks as expressed with flow diagrams, wireframes and interactive prototyping. I collaborate with visual designers, industrial designers, developers, engineers and human factors specialists to iteratively design user interfaces for web/desktop applications and consumer products (including energy management, sport technology, automotive and HVAC products).

Knoware
Grand Rapids, MI

Solution Architect, Interaction Designer
January 2005 – February 2008

Knoware was a software studio that focused on user interfaces for product development.

I was responsible for the visualization and coherence of a product's behavior by researching use cases and defining UI design models. My role involved extensive creation of wireframes, task flow diagrams, rapid prototypes and support through implementation with usability testing and QA. I often managed projects of varying complexity involving our internal team and at times external resources in a client-facing role. I also maintained the company UX blog: knobs.wordpress.com.

Square One Design
Grand Rapids, MI

Project Leader, Interactive Designer
March 1998 – January 2005

Square One is a design firm specializing in branding. I worked closely with the team and clients to design and build web sites, interactive presentations, tradeshow displays, identities, packaging and signage.

My role expanded from an interactive design focus to a project leader, where I continued design work but also coordinated a team of designers, writers and project managers on a broader variety of projects. I was involved in the sales process, prepared estimates and proposals and periodically served as a project manager and main contact with clients.

I also performed the IT duties for the company including web site, email and backup administration, management of the hardware/software purchasing, installation and tech support.

Trillion Post Production
Grand Rapids, MI

Senior Designer
July 1991 – March 1998

I was involved in a wide array of communication design projects. I created storyboards, motion graphics and 3D animation to support post production editing of promotional and instructional video and multimedia.

Education

Carnegie Mellon University
Pittsburgh, PA

B.F.A. Industrial Design with University Honors
May 1991

Professional Skills

Interaction Design: Wireframes, task flows, scenarios, prototyping, user research and personas
Information Architecture
Brainstorming, visual problem solving, presentations
Project Management
Positive attitude to facilitate creative problem solving
Plays well with others
Harmonious internal and external multi-disciplinary team coordination
Client communications, proposals, documentation and estimates
Drawing, illustration and 3D prototype development skills
DSLR photography and video production and editing

Software Proficiency

Adobe Platform: Ai Dw Fl Fw Fx Id Lr Ps AE Acrobat
Omnigraffle Professional
Microsoft Word, Powerpoint, Excel
Web design: HTML, CSS and JavaScript
Macintosh and Windows OS
Maya and other 3D modeling and animation programs
Video editing with Final Cut Pro
Social Media Applications

Activities

Activesite | Activesite.org
A biannual art event and catalyst for collaboration between the Art, Business, and Development
Member of the Collaborative for the 'Activesite | artspace' entry for ArtPrize.org
5.2009 - Present

MichiganXD | michiganxd.com
User Experience focused Adobe User Group
Founding Member
Speaker: Cooper's Goal Directed Design
2.2009 – Present

Momentum | Momentum-mi.com
A venture firm that invests in web based technology start ups
Speaker: Interaction Design Insights
<http://www.momentum-mi.com/go/blog/entry/the-user-experience/>
4.2009 – Present

2nd Monday
A monthly West Michigan-based creative business forum
Leader and Contributor
8.2007 – 12.2007

Recently attended conferences:
IxDA Interaction '09 | Vancouver
Adaptive Path UX Intensive Chicago Spring 2007
Adobe Max Conference 2006 and 2007

References and Portfolio provided upon request

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Twitter: @thinkxd

References

Mike Gorman
Principal
Square One Design
mike@squareonedesign.com
616.774.9048

Erik Loehfelm
Universal Mind
erik.loehfelm@universalmind.com
616.821.1175

Kirk Senkowski
Information Architect
RCM Technologies
kirk@process2project.com
616.889.5357

Tom Stryker
Program Management & Business Development
Formerly at Knoware
tom.stryker@yahoo.com
616.403.6547

Kristin Tennant
Writer
ktennant@gmail.com
217.377.8090

Lin Ver Meulen
Principal
Square One Design
lin@squareonedesign.com
616.774.9048