

NICHOLAS TILLMAN

Design Engineer | Digital Experience Architect | Design Systems Engineer

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SUMMARY

Design Engineer with 15+ years of experience across interface engineering, UX strategy, design systems, and frontend architecture. Builds component architectures and user interfaces for multi-team, multi-property digital platforms, from legacy modernization to shared engineering standards. Led an enterprise component library adopted across 64 software engineering teams and supported a distributed ecosystem of 150+ university sites held to WCAG 2.1 AA. Works in Vue, Nuxt, Astro.js, TypeScript, and JavaScript (ES6+), with REST and GraphQL API integration, headless architectures, and React/StencilJS for cross-framework interoperability. Partners with product, UX, and engineering teams to turn complex requirements into accessible, maintainable interfaces.

CORE EXPERTISE

Interface & Frontend Architecture: Component-Driven Development · Frontend Architecture · Design Systems & Governance · Cross-Framework Interoperability (Stencil JS) · Legacy Platform Modernization · Performance Optimization

Digital Experience: UX/UI Design · Design Systems · Component Architecture · Digital Transformation · Design-to-Development Workflows · Responsive Web Experiences · Accessibility (WCAG 2.1 AA)

Frontend Engineering: Vue.js / Nuxt.js · TypeScript / JavaScript (ES6+) · Astro · React / Next.js · HTML5 / CSS3

Integration & Content Architecture: REST APIs · GraphQL · Headless CMS Architecture · Sanity Studio · WordPress / Timber · PHP · Python · Node.js

UX & Accessibility: Accessibility (WCAG 2.1 AA) · Accessibility Auditing & Remediation · UX/UI Design · User Flows · Prototyping · Priority Guides · Style Guides · Design-to-Development Workflows · Figma · Penpot · Sketch · Adobe Creative Suite

Delivery & Collaboration: Git · Azure DevOps · Agile Development · Stakeholder Requirements & Technical Planning

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

UI/Web Developer | Design Engineer | *EMIC* Feb 2024 – Apr 2026

- Modernized five core platforms into Vue.js single-page applications and Nuxt-based full-stack implementations, improving maintainability and development velocity.
- Upgraded four network sites from Roots Sage 8 (2015) to Sage 11 (2026), remediating security vulnerabilities and restoring long-term framework support.
- Architected full-stack interfaces with Vue/Nuxt, TypeScript, PHP, Node.js, and headless CMS architectures to support scalable content delivery.
- Built headless WordPress implementations over GraphQL and REST APIs to distribute content across digital platforms.
- Translated stakeholder requirements into scalable technical solutions, prototyping user flows in Figma and rapid HTML/CSS/JS prototypes before production builds; applied component-driven development, responsive design, and accessibility practices.

Senior Front-End Developer | Design Systems Engineer | *ISN Software Corporation* 2021 – 2023

- Led design and development of ISN's enterprise component library, adopted across 64 software engineering teams; reduced reliance on third-party UI dependencies, saving approximately \$50,000 in first-year licensing costs while improving development velocity and developer experience.
- Contributed to Odyssey 2.0, using Stencil JS to deliver consistent UI integration across React, .NET, and framework-agnostic applications.
- Defined design system governance, implementation standards, and shared workflows with product managers, designers, and engineers.
- Worked with UX researchers, product designers, and engineers to improve product usability, serving as a front-end implementation resource across product teams.

- Mentored engineering teams on accessibility standards, modern CSS, frontend architecture, and maintainable UI development.

UI Developer | Digital Experience Engineer | *Texas Christian University* 2016 – 2021

- Contributed to custom WordPress platforms and web applications supporting a distributed ecosystem of 150+ college and department sites, verifying each met WCAG 2.1 AA before launch approval.
- Contributed to Web Standards 2.0, TCU Marketing & Communications Departments' initiative to bring independently managed university properties under unified brand and implementation standards.
- Developed and integrated a custom Timber-based WordPress theme for college sites not migrating to OMNI CMS.
- Conducted accessibility audits and implemented WCAG remediation strategies ahead of production releases.
- Collaborated with communications teams, designers, and stakeholders to deliver scalable web solutions aligned with institutional goals.

Web Developer | Digital Experience Developer | *Amplus Agency* 2014 – 2016

- Led technical planning and implementation across 22 client engagements in medical, residential building, and healthcare, from discovery through deployment.
- Designed CMS architectures and custom WordPress themes around client content workflows and business requirements.
- Worked directly with clients to translate brand goals and business requirements into technical solutions.

Founder | Design Engineer | *PHILOSOFIQ Development Group, LLC* 2010 – Present

- Provide frontend engineering, interface architecture, and UX consulting for clients in non-profit, music, healthcare, land management, and real estate investment.
- Design and build reusable component systems and design systems that establish consistent UI patterns and reduce rebuild time across engagements.
- Plan and deliver production web applications and digital platforms from requirements through implementation, using priority guides, style guides, and user flows to guide design and development.
- Prototype user flows in Figma and rapid HTML/CSS/JS prototypes, then translate brand systems and UX concepts into production-ready interfaces, bridging design and engineering.

EDUCATION

Technical Degree, Web Design & Development | *Francis Tuttle Technology Center*

A.A., Graphic Communications and Advertising | *Oklahoma City Community College*