

Nikki Ojer



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Seattle, WA

Design leader with over two decades of expertise in branded, scalable interior environments. I specialize in holistic solutions that inspire meaningful experiences and push the boundaries of what's possible.



Education

Milwaukee Institute of Art and Design, Milwaukee, WI 53202
Graduated May 2006 - Bachelor of Fine Arts
Major - Interior Architecture + Design (IA+D)

Background

+ June 2023 - Current

Senior Design Lead, Concepts **Starbucks, Seattle, WA**

- Lead the Catalog & Environment team in commercializing new brand standards and methodologies aligned with Coffeehouse Strategies, developing scalable systems, tools, and execution frameworks.
- Oversee cross-functional commercialization efforts, partnering with key stakeholders to ensure alignment and seamless execution.
- Integrate industry insights—including design trends, innovation, emerging skills, and cultural influences—to inform strategy and elevate project outcomes.
- Guide teams across multiple workstreams, establishing priorities and ensuring alignment with organizational objectives and leadership direction.

Design Manager, Catalog + Environments **Starbucks, Seattle, WA**

- Supporting the implementation of new brand standards and methodologies within a dynamic environment, ensuring the balance between creativity and efficiency while maintaining consistency across projects and teams.
- Developing code guidebooks for internal team utilization covering spatial codes and element codes for IBC, ADAAG, and Life Safety.

+ September 2013 - June 2023

Creative Director **Elkay Interior Systems, Milwaukee, WI** **(Formerly Interior Systems, Inc.)**

- Leading and inspiring a creative team developing environments for brands within Restaurant, Retail, Office, and Hospitality.
- Creating scalable designed packages that build and align with the brand's ethos from logo to interior environment.
- 3D models of the designed experience. Fly-through and live manipulation.
- Daily engagement with clients, defining scope, reviewing, and guiding assignments, presenting design decks, and managing expectations and relations.
- Overseeing project processes from initial concept development to technical drawings and production execution
- Work with our production facility on shop drawings, millwork details, and material techniques.
- Collaborating with our marketing team aligning and creating materials for the EIS brand.

Skills

Technical

Revit	●●●●●●●●●●
AutoCAD	●●●●●●●●●●
Sketch-Up	●●●●●●●●●●
Sketch-Up Layout	●●●●●●●●●●
Enscape	●●●●●●●●●●
Illustrator	●●●●●●●●●●
In-Design	●●●●●●●●●●
Photoshop	●●●●●●●●●●
Microsoft Office	●●●●●●●●●●
Epicor	●●●●●●●●●●

Professional

Brand Design	●●●●●●●●●●
Interior Design	●●●●●●●●●●
Graphic Design	●●●●●●●●●●
Sketching	●●●●●●●●●●
3D Modeling	●●●●●●●●●●
ADA	●●●●●●●●●●
LEED	●●●●●●●●●●
Document Preparation	●●●●●●●●●●
Shop Drawings	●●●●●●●●●●
Millwork details	●●●●●●●●●●
Material specification	●●●●●●●●●●
Contract Development	●●●●●●●●●●

Soft

Creative Direction	●●●●●●●●●●
Storytelling	●●●●●●●●●●
Studio Management	●●●●●●●●●●
Business Development	●●●●●●●●●●
Strategic Alignment	●●●●●●●●●●
Client Relation	●●●●●●●●●●



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Background (cont.)

+ March 2012 - September 2013

Senior Interior Designer, Studio Lead Interior Systems, Inc., Milwaukee, WI

- Focused within the restaurant division my role was leading a team of 15 designers managing our legacy QSR accounts including one-off and flagship projects.
- Developed Revit templates for portfolio packages for our McDonald's client managing workbooks, SKU's, and production details.

+ September 2008 - March 2012

Part Time Faculty - Interior Architecture + Design (IA+D) Milwaukee Institute of Art and Design, Milwaukee, WI

- Instructing "Green/LEED Studio" - 4th year, IA+D. Created course curriculum and worked with Habitat for Humanity developing sustainable building model homes.
- Instructing Computer Drawing 1 (Auto CAD, Revit, Sketch-up) - 2nd year, IA+D. Developed course curriculum.

+ May 2005 - July 2011

Interior Designer, Marketing Coordinator, Graphic Designer Workshop Architects, Inc., Milwaukee, WI

- Designing both large and small scale projects hitting all facets of project experience from programming to construction documents. Specialties - education, mixed-use developments (residential + commercial), and restaurants.
- Managing material specifications and reviewing shop drawing details.
- Other responsibilities include designing and building all marketing materials plus business development (Request for Proposals).

Awards

restaurant development + design

2019 Award Winners rd+d
Best New Concept Launch
Grate Modern Mac & Cheese

2022 Award Winners rd+d
Best Design Limited Service
Sake Express

Publication



EIS RESTAURANT
2023 Trends Ebook

<https://bit.ly/3CS2qdb>

Interests



References

Greg Cardellini

Past Boss

E: greg.cardellini@treston.com

Kelly Harden

Past Peer

P: 1 (215) 620-4688

Scott Hoopingarner

Past Peer

P: 1 (704) 575-7026

Kendra Gibson

Past Direct Report

P: 1 (616) 443-4159