Howard Suissa   (780)-275-2701   howard@suissa.ca

Introduction

Innovative design director with 20 years experience integrating design and operations. Looking for a new challenge that will allow me to leverage my skills within a team of visionary educators. I want to help create a place where the future is envisioned and strategically planned. Where I can become part of the groundwork for a future of excellence that asked "What is possible if nothing is impossible?" I excel at absorbing complex information, turning it into stories and leading teams through ideation processes that expand the possible, inform decisions and cultivate change. I listen, and seek to understand in order to find the deep seeded needs that are not being met both internally and externally. I have found over the years, you can design for a user, but to redesign yourself alongside solving your users needs, creates a cohesiveness and connection that defines the future.

Work Experience

Suissa Design   *Founder, Principal, Edmonton*   2008 - Present

I work alongside visionary leaders to establish environments and processes that foster creativity and lead to more innovative solutions. Solutions that solve their own and their customers' needs for years to come.
I support my clients in managing projects and those who execute against it, by providing coaching and mentorship to help them level-up, so 'being more innovative' isn't just a catch phrase but rather an internalized actionable statement.
Suissa Design has worked with surgeons, scientists, business leaders and institutions to create life changing products and services.
Most exciting project: Tevosol – Exvivo perfusion device for lung transplant. The design I worked on was used in clinical trials and aided in lifesaving surgery for 12 people.

NAIT   *Professor & Entrepreneur in Residence*   Jul 2020 - Present

I have taught the Ideation and Innovation class, Systemic Design intensive and the Writing Effective Business Plans classes over the last 2 years within the J.R. Shaw School of Business. I help students gain practical experience in creativity, as it applies to innovation, as well as provide them with current real-world examples direct from my consultancy.
As a champion for the user in my own practice, I love teaching the underlying mindset, ideology, process and tools that I have been developing over the last 20+ years.
Most exciting thing: Being part of the judging panel each year for the Innovation Challenge and seeing students I have taught solve wicked problems.

Cleankeys Inc.   *Director of Design, Edmonton*   2012 - 2013 (1 Year)

I provided overall design direction and user experience expertise, for infection control in hospitals and medical clinics through the Cleankeys product offerings. Working on next generation solid surface

input devices, I was responsible for the creation and development of a number of future products as well as improvements in the usability and User Experience of the service offerings.

Most exciting thing: Developing a solid surface keyboard that resulted in a design that measurably improved touch typing.

Suissa Computers   *Founder, Partner, Toronto*   2004 - 2010 (9 Years)

Suissa Computers was an exploration into the relationship people have with technology. It was conceived as a way to apply design thinking to the problem of getting noticed as a designer. The designs and business ideologies I came up with, were rewarded with extensive media coverage in print, online and television, as well as, decent sales.

We eventually evolved into a design consultancy for high tech consumer products, medical devices and scientific equipment becoming Suissa Design.

Most exciting thing: Suissa Computers' Enlighten computer design ranked as #1 on Wired Magazine's Wish List in 2009

LECIP Corporation   *Design Consultant, Gifu, Japan*   2003 - 2004 (1 Year)

I was tasked with supporting the company's IPO through the creation, development, and action plan, for an open studio design department. A living space where designers became the central hub around which sales, manufacturing and customers gathered to collaborate. Regular duties also included the project management and industrial design of interior lighting for Honda, Toyota and Hino vehicles and digital signage for train and bus platforms.

Most exciting thing: Being thrown headlong into the deep end of central Japan with no understanding of the language, learning the culture along the way and no support system. Gaining an experience that has lasted a lifetime.

Education

OCAD University - *Industrial Design, User Experience Design, Design History*   BA Industrial Design
Toronto, Ontario, 1996 - 2000

University of Toronto - *English, Art History, Mass Media*   No Degree
Toronto, Ontario, 1992 - 1996

Information Technology Institute - *Applied Information Technology*   Post Graduate Diploma
Toronto, Ontario, 2000 - 2001

Masterclass in Field Research – Intensive - hosted by EEDC featuring Jan Chipcase of Studio D
The workshop taught us how to run international focus groups and market studies to identify new growth opportunities, understand the motivations of international users and drive impact in our organisations.

Volunteer Experience

Technology Alberta - Operations team - Jun 2017 - 2019
NAIT - Entrepreneur in Residence - Sept 2018 - ongoing monthly
Futurepreneur - Mentor - June 2018 - 2020
Rainforest Alberta - Member - Jul 2017 - Present

Skills and Expertise

design thinking, systemic design, user experience and customer experience champion, strategic planning and optimization, budget development, project management, training, Solidworks, Illustrator, Photoshop, XD, movie quoter, lover of a blank sheet of paper

Languages

English: Native
French: Professional working proficiency
Japanese: Limited working proficiency

Contact Information

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