

NANDHA KUMAR ILANGO VAN

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SUMMARY

Product designer, five years in. I run research, design the flows, and write the React and SwiftUI to ship them. Master's in Human Computer Interaction from Iowa State (3.78). Most recent work: helped start Velotic, an AI fitness coaching product, and led design at Runara, a deployment platform for developers working with AI models. I like being the first designer on a product more than the tenth.

EDUCATION

M.S. Human Computer Interaction, Iowa State University • GPA 3.78 / 4.0 *Aug 2023 to May 2025*

EXPERIENCE

Product Designer, Runara (AI Deployment Platform) *Oct 2025 to Mar 2026*

- Led design for a developer facing AI deployment platform in the same category as Fireworks, Baseten, and Together AI. Most of the work was interaction patterns for model deployment and the observability dashboards.
- Built the design system in Figma and shipped it into the React frontend myself (Material UI, Recharts, D3). Walked developer customers through the heavier concepts to keep engineering and leadership pointed the same way on the roadmap.

Graduate Research Assistant, Iowa State University *Jan 2024 to May 2025*

- Ran product direction and interaction design on an internal research tool used by 50,000 people. Validation work cut a core workflow from 14 steps to 8.
- A/B tested a navigation redesign with 200 plus participants. Task completion jumped 18 percent and time on task fell almost a quarter.
- Took an AI detection tool from PRD to shipped product with the ML team. Accuracy went from 67 to 89 percent and gave the ops team back about 2,000 review hours a month.

Earlier: Product Designer at Alfaleus (Healthcare) and XR Labs (Consumer and Enterprise) *2019 to 2023*

- At XR Labs, shipped consumer and enterprise features used by 10,000 plus people. A/B testing got onboarding 34 percent faster and lifted checkout completion by 15 percent.
- At Alfaleus, built a WCAG 2.1 AA compliant healthcare design system. Usability testing with 25 plus clinical partners cut critical errors by 40 percent.

SELECTED PROJECTS

Velotic, AI fitness and nutrition coaching platform *Sep 2025 to Present*

Web and iOS • Firebase, React, SwiftUI, WhatsApp Business API, Stripe, Razorpay

- First designer on the team. Talked to coaches, built three product directions in Claude Code and Bolt, killed the two that did not land.
- Built the design system in Figma and pushed it into the codebase myself, dashboards included (D3, Recharts). Wired up a 10 phase WhatsApp coaching flow that handles onboarding, opt in compliance, and the retry plumbing.
- Got into the engineering side too. Firestore data model, an IAM permissions audit, the Stripe and Razorpay payment flows. Mostly so design decisions actually shipped without getting watered down.

Cafe Cal, consumer AI food tracking app for the Indian market *2026*

Solo designer and builder • Live on Apple App Store and Google Play • Gemini Vision API, SwiftUI, Firebase

- Solo built a Gemini Vision food tracker, now live on both stores. Downscaled images on upload and locked Gemini to a JSON schema, which killed the retry loop and dropped inference cost.

SKILLS

Design: UX, UI, and interaction design • high fidelity prototyping • design systems and component libraries • visual design • information architecture • user research and usability testing • A/B experimentation • accessibility (WCAG 2.1 AA)

AI native product: OpenAI, Claude, and Gemini Vision APIs • function calling and structured output schemas • prompt engineering • token cost and latency • multimodal pipelines • daily prototyping in Claude Code, Cursor, and Bolt

Tools and stack: Figma • React, TypeScript, SwiftUI, JavaScript • D3, Recharts • Firebase, Firestore, Cloud Functions • Stripe, Razorpay

Product: PRDs and roadmapping • customer validation • cross functional work with engineering, PM, and AI research • design decision communication