

Mani Nilchiani

Creative leader, interdisciplinary designer, technologist & musician passionate about creating meaningful, human-centered products, services and communities.

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Experience

BUILDING417 — Co-Founder, 2018 – Present, New York, NY

- Providing human-centered design and technology services to a wide range of clients in various sectors such as mobility, music industry & early-stage start-ups
- **Building New Bonds:** Developing and launching an art-as-a-service business offering creative workshops in workplaces across industries to foster empathetic team bonds and cultivate a collaborative, creative work culture.

IDEO — Software Design Lead, 2019 – 2023, New York, NY

- Managed clients and led multidisciplinary teams of designers in research, prototyping, testing and validating cutting-edge products and services across various industries such as healthcare, education, mobility and finance.
- Facilitated workshops, co-design & feedback sessions
- Coordinated work streams & priorities on tight timelines across multiple locations and timezones, ensuring high quality and timely software delivery
- Rapidly prototyped software concepts for quantitative and qualitative user testing.
- Co-developed feature sets with client product & engineering teams. Led knowledge transfer, documentation and hand-off efforts.
- Proposed and developed internal software tools to streamline workflow and knowledge management at IDEO.
- Successfully contributed to IDEO.org projects in the public sector beyond software development: interaction design, sound design, music composition and research.

DISCO TEHRAN — Co-founder & CTO, 2018 – 2023, New York, NY

- Co-created a critically-acclaimed international platform for music, independent publishing, live events and community building.
- Designed and developed various software systems for live streaming, an online cinema experience, ticketing systems and online publishing.
- Co-coordinated, organize and ran large-scale international music and film events.
- Consistently performed live music as the “house band” in many events.

PIONEER WORKS — Technology Resident, 2018, New York, NY

- Co-designed, Prototyped, built and exhibited an interactive Virtual Reality film titled Dark Patterns which examines a speculative future where privacy is traded as currency.
- Developed a working knowledge of Unity and C# targetting Oculus Rift with no prior experience.
- Worked closely in collaboration with a co-creator and writer, learned and used novel volumetric imaging techniques

Education

MFA Design & Technology
Parsons School of Design,
New York, NY – 2013

BFA Print Media
Tehran University of Art
Tehran, Iran – 2009

Skills

Proficient in:

Human-Centered Design methodology, Co-Design and workshop facilitation, Design Research, User Testing, Wireframing, UX / UI design

JavaScript, TypeScript, Isomorphic React, Redux / RTK, GraphQL, TDD, Tooling, Data Visualization, Web Audio, THREE.js, WebXR, React-Native for iOS & Android. HTML, CSS and related templating engines and preprocessors, JS build tools.

Node.js API development, PostgreSQL, MongoDB, Serverless with AWS, Firebase

CI/CD, Linux, Git, NGINX, Native app distribution

Logic Pro, Ableton Live

Adobe Creative Suite, Figma

Prior exposure to:

Go, C# & Unity, PHP, Python (Django), OpenFrameworks (C++ Creative Coding library), Processing (Java Creative Coding library), Docker, SOLR, Arduino (Hardware prototyping platform)

ARCHITIZER — Technical Lead, 2017 - 2018, New York, NY

- Created a detailed proposal for gradual migration of obsolete front-end technology through an RFC process, presented to stakeholders and led its successful planning, execution and roll out.
- Wrote and shipped modular and well-tested isomorphic React code.
- Worked closely with product managers and designers to plan and execute agile sprints.
- Led knowledge sharing and learning initiative for React, empowering the entire engineering team to productively contribute to the front-end.
- Hosted talks by external engineering leaders and local JavaScript meetups in office to promote a dynamic learning culture and foster community.

YIELDMO — Frontend Engineer, 2015 - 2017, New York NY

- Built, shipped and maintained internal A/B testing, reporting and user management software in close collaboration with product designers, product managers and back-end developers with a focus on exceptional user experience.
- Maintained and contributed to gradual improvement of legacy business software written in Angular.js 1.x, Backbone and CoffeeScript.

VEESEE — Co-Founder & Fullstack Developer, 2014, New York, NY

- Designed, developed and sold a Node.js app to streamline deal tracking and business valuation for venture capital firms in close collaboration with co-founder.

THE DAILY BEAST — Frontend Engineer, 2013 - 2015, New York NY

- Developed and maintained front-end modules for mobile and desktop News products with a focus on code reusability and maintainability in close collaboration with product designers and back-end engineers.
- Helped re-think the technology roadmap and migration effort from a legacy jQuery-based custom JavaScript framework to React.

Selected Music Performances

Cinco Pies — Mexico City, 2024

Barbes — NYC, 2023

Trestle Gallery — NYC 2023

Symphony Space — NYC 2022

Public Records — NYC 2022

ATEA — Mexico City 2021

Jardines Pedregal — Mexico City 2021

Baby's Alright — NYC 2018, 2019

MoMA PS1 — NYC 2020

BRIC — NYC 2019

Languages

English (Fluent)
Farsi (Native)
Spanish (Advanced)
French (Intermediate)
Arabic (Basic)

Other Interests

Machine Learning & creative applications of generative models.

Projects

Tan Haw — Multi instrumentalist, Singer & songwriter

Composing and performing on the setâr, guitar and fretless guitar, performing and releasing original music with a wide range of international collaborators.

Film Scoring — Composing music for film and videos

Winner of Best Music and Sound Design for My Family Trees, LA Feedback Film Festival, 2020.

Diffy.js — A dependency-free motion detection library for creative coding.

Selected Press

NY Times: *Reimagining the '70s Tehran Music Scene, One Party at a time* • May 2019

NY Times: *The Middle Eastern Party Scene Thriving in Brooklyn* • July 2022

NY Times: *What Inspired Two Iranian Immigrants to Start a Global Film Series* • Sept. 2022

It's Nice That — Disco Tehran merges music, community and design through its world-wide parties and collaborations • May 2022

Vice Noisey — Celebration of Spring and Belonging • March 2019

Academic Experience

Parsons School of Design — Part-time Faculty, 2014 & 2018, New York, NY

Designed and taught a graduate JavaScript development course focused on:

- Core language features & best practices
- Design patterns, MV* architecture, functional and object oriented paradigms
- UNIX command line basics
- RESTful back-end development with Node.js, Express and MongoDB.
- Deployment

Coordinated and led career orientation for graduating students, organized a diverse panel of alumni across disciplines and industries to support students in their career paths.

Code Nation — Volunteer Teacher, 2014 - 2015

Co-taught a curriculum of web development to a class of 16 students at High School for Global Citizenship, Brooklyn, NY. Curriculum covered: HTML, CSS and JavaScript basics.

New Centre for Research & Practice — Lecturer, 2015, New York, NY

Designed and taught a curriculum titled Internet as Platform, Programming as Medium, focusing on JavaScript for procedural drawing to artist without prior programming experience.