

Mani Nilchiani

Interdisciplinary designer, technologist & musician blending sound, systems thinking, and human-centered design to create meaningful digital experiences.

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Experience

BUILDING NEW BONDS — Co-Founder, 2023 - Present, NY

B new B crafts art-centered experiences, tools, and gatherings for inner harmony and collective connection.

- Co-lead concept, design, and production of immersive wellness offerings rooted in light and sound.
- Develop original tools for somatic connection and sonic introspection

INDEPENDENT CONSULTING — 2023 - Present, New York, NY

Providing design and technology services to a wide range of clients in various sectors such as mobility, music industry & early-stage start-ups

- Subaru of America – Connected Vehicle UX & Software Engineering
- Mississippi Records – Creative Direction + Visual Systems

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

Led product and experience design initiatives across healthcare, education, mobility, and finance sectors.

- Led cross-functional teams through discovery, prototyping & delivery
- Facilitated workshops & feedback sessions with end-users and clients
- Built high-fidelity prototypes for research and validation
- Designed internal tools for collaboration and knowledge-sharing
- Collaborated with IDEO.org on sound-based interaction, storytelling, and music for public sector projects

DISCO TEHRAN — Co-founder & CTO, 2018 - 2022, New York, NY

- Launched and scaled an internationally recognized cultural platform combining live music, digital experiences, and community gatherings.
- Designed and built bespoke systems for livestreaming, online cinema, ticketing, and publishing
- Co-Produced large-scale music and film events in the US, EY, and Mexico
- Performed live

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

- Co-created and exhibited a VR installation exploring speculative futures around privacy and technology
- Built with Unity and Oculus Rift using 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

Design & Facilitation

Human-Centered Design ·
Co-Design · Design Research ·
Workshop Leadership · UX/UI
Systems Thinking

Engineering

TypeScript · React · Redux ·
React Native · Node.js ·
PostgreSQL · MongoDB ·
Three.js · Web Audio API ·
WebXR · CI/CD · AWS ·
Firebase · NGINX · TDD · Git
Serverless · Native App
Distribution

Creative Tech & Sound

Ableton Live · Logic Pro
Audio Synthesis · Sound
Design · Spatial Audio

Tools

Figma · Adobe CC · Unity
(C#) · OpenFrameworks
Processing

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

- Led migration of legacy FE stack through RFC process
- Introduced React best practices, empowered team via internal training
- Hosted local engineering meetups and learning sessions

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

- Built A/B testing and analytics tools with a focus on user-centric interfaces
- Modernized business tools written in Angular.js 1.x and Backbone

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

- Developed modular UI components and helped shift to modern React-based infrastructure

VEESEE — Co-founder, fullstack engineer, 2014, New York NY

- Built and sold a Node.js app for deal tracking and valuation for VC firms

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

Projects

Tan Haw — Solo Artist

Composer and performer (Setâr, guitar, fretless guitar) collaborating across borders

Film Scoring

Winner: Best Music & Sound Design for "My Family Trees," LA Feedback Film Festival, 2020

Diffy.js

Open-source, dependency-free motion detection library for creative coding

Languages

English (Fluent)

Farsi (Native)

Spanish (Advanced)

French (Intermediate)

Arabic (Basic)

Other Interests

Machine Learning & creative applications of generative models.

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

Academic Experience

Parsons School of Design – Part-Time Faculty

Graduate-level instructor (JavaScript, UX architecture, deployment pipelines)

Code Nation – Volunteer Instructor

Web development basics (HTML, CSS, JS) for high school students

New Centre for Research & Practice – Lecturer

Taught artists JavaScript for procedural artmaking and creative programming