

EVAN KAMANJA

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Portfolio & profile

- <https://evankamanja.com/>
- <https://www.linkedin.com/in/evan-kamanja/>

Professional Summary

With a proven track record at ABSA, I excel in transforming user feedback into design excellence, enhancing customer satisfaction and brand identity. My expertise in Figma and design leadership, coupled with a knack for fostering collaborative environments, has significantly reduced development times and propelled product functionality to new heights.

Skills

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Data-driven Design• Client Communication• Visual design• Design thinking• Design leadership• Responsive design• Agile Methodology | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Adobe Creative Suite• Figma Expertise• HTML and CSS Knowledge• Usability Testing• User Research• Mockups and prototypes• Product Design |
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Work history

Senior Product Designer, Absa (Activate): Jan 2023 - Mar 2024

Absa: Johannesburg, South Africa (Remote)

- Increased customer satisfaction by addressing user feedback and incorporating design improvements accordingly.
- Implemented design best practices to ensure seamless integration between visual aesthetics and technical functionality.
- Elevated brand identity through the creation of visually appealing and cohesive product designs.
- Mentored junior designers, fostering a collaborative environment and promoting professional growth within the team.
- Optimised product functionality by identifying and solving complex design problems based on user research insights.
- Reduced development time through rapid prototyping, iterative design, and efficient communication with stakeholders.
- Core tasks include liaising with different stakeholders (internal and external), research, ideation, wire-framing, prototyping, usability testing and iteration, handover for development and review before updates are available in the app stores.

Senior Product Designer, Absa (Ultimate Banking): Feb 2022 - Jan 2023

Absa: Johannesburg, South Africa (Remote)

- Implemented design best practices to ensure seamless integration between visual aesthetics and technical functionality.
- Streamlined product development processes by collaborating closely with cross-functional teams and implementing agile methodologies.
- Reduced development time through rapid prototyping, iterative design, and efficient communication with stakeholders.
- Conducted extensive competitor analysis to identify opportunities for differentiation within the market landscape.
- Core tasks include alignment with business units, developers, systems and business analysts on product offerings, research, analysis, design of low fidelity wireframes, user testing, creation of high fidelity wireframes

after collating user testing feedback, handover to developers and review of developed app screens.

Senior UX Designer, Absa (Open Web): Jan 2021 - Feb 2022

Absa: Johannesburg, South Africa (Remote)

- Evaluated existing user interfaces for improvement opportunities, leading to significant enhancements in overall user satisfaction.
- Streamlined workflows for design projects, optimizing collaboration between team members and reducing project timelines.
- Conducted regular usability testing sessions, gathering valuable feedback from users to inform iterative improvements on designs.
- Implemented best practices in accessibility, catering to diverse user needs and promoting inclusivity within product designs.
- Core tasks included creation of prototypes, consultation with stakeholders from different business units, user testing, revision of ideas/concepts and implementation of feedback.

Senior UX Designer, Absa (Stockbroking and Portfolio Management): Feb 2020 - Jan 2021

Absa: Sandton, Johannesburg, South Africa (Remote)

- Streamlined workflows for design projects, optimizing collaboration between team members and reducing project timelines.
- Leveraged data-driven insights from analytics tools and user feedback, driving continuous improvements in UX design quality.
- Investigated competitor products and industry trends to stay ahead of the curve in creating cutting-edge UX designs.
- Developed detailed documentation outlining design specifications and requirements for seamless handoff to development teams.
- Led workshops and brainstorming sessions with stakeholders to explore innovative ideas and foster creative problem solving.
- Presented design concepts persuasively to stakeholders, securing buy-in for proposed solutions and driving project success.

- Core tasks for ABSA Stockbroking and Portfolio Management (SPM) included; research, competitor analysis, user testing, prototype creation and user testing.

Senior Product Designer, iOCO (EOH Group): Jul 2019 - Jan 2020

Midrand, South Africa

- Managed multiple design projects simultaneously, ensuring timely delivery within budget constraints.
- Developed innovative design concepts for improved brand recognition and customer engagement.
- Produced high-quality mockups for client approval during the iterative design process, saving time on revisions later down the line.
- Presented creative solutions to client challenges, resulting in high levels of client satisfaction and repeat business opportunities.
- Analyzed user behavior and feedback to optimize design and user experience.
- Enhanced user experience by creating intuitive interfaces and visually appealing designs.
- Conducted user research to identify customer needs and preferences for customer-centric designs.
- Obtained approval of concepts by submitting rough drafts to management or to client.
- Championed the adoption of new design software tools, improving overall team productivity and capabilities.
- Mentored junior designers, fostering a collaborative and supportive team environment.

UX/UI Designer, Nedbank: Sep 2018 - Jun 2019

Rivonia, Sandton, South Africa

- Enhanced user experience by conducting thorough research and creating intuitive wireframes for digital products.
- Identified and addressed usability issues through heuristic evaluations, leading to product refinements that better served user needs.

- Designed engaging visuals optimized for various devices, enhancing overall user experience across platforms.
- Conducted competitive analysis to identify UX/UI trends, incorporating best practices into product designs.
- Research, testing, journey mapping, prototyping, iteration, and ongoing evaluation of the current strategy were fundamental to the process.

Interaction Designer, Bamboo Network: Jul 2016 - Aug 2018

Parktown, Johannesburg, South Africa

- Mentored junior designers, fostering a supportive team environment and encouraging professional development.
- Facilitated workshops for clients, helping them understand the importance of human-centered design in their projects.
- Resolved bottlenecks in workflows by implementing innovative interaction patterns that simplified tasks for users.
- Created style guides and pattern libraries to maintain consistency across multiple products within a portfolio.
- Created proofs of concept for innovative new solutions.
- Designed and developed microsites, websites and apps for various clients.
- Assisted with the maintenance of ecommerce client websites, ensuring content and look and feel were kept up to date.

Lead Digital Designer, 3Way Marketing: Jun 2014 - Jun 2016

Ferndale, Randburg, South Africa

- Optimized web pages by implementing responsive design techniques, improving accessibility across devices.
- Tested proposed designs using usability testing methods such as A/B testing or user interviews, refining concepts based on results obtained.
- Designed compelling visuals for various digital marketing campaigns, resulting in increased brand awareness and engagement.
- Aligned designs with brand image while meeting usability and website standards.

- Reviewed product positioning and online marketing content to identify room for improvement.
- Mentored junior designers, providing guidance on best practices and fostering a collaborative team environment.
- Provided advice and guidance on aesthetics for campaigns, projects and promotional events.
- Prepared briefs for projects and presented design ideas to stakeholders.
- Developed creative solutions that drove engagement with published content.
- Enhanced user experience by designing visually appealing and easily navigable digital interfaces.
- Worked closely with developers to execute pixel-perfect designs that met both aesthetic and functional requirements.
- Participated in regular design critiques, incorporating feedback from peers and stakeholders to continuously improve output quality.
- Streamlined workflow processes by creating reusable assets and templates for the design team's use.
- Developed wireframes, prototypes, and mockups for a diverse range of digital projects, ensuring alignment with overall project objectives.

Print and Electronic Communications Designer, BlueIQ: Mar 2011 - May 2014

Newtown, Johannesburg, South Africa

- Managed multiple design projects simultaneously, ensuring timely delivery within budget constraints.
- Developed innovative design concepts for improved brand recognition and customer engagement.
- Used Adobe Creative Suite to edit images for use in marketing materials and website content.
- Designed eye-catching promotional materials, driving increased event attendance and participation rates.
- Maintained consistent use of graphic imagery in materials and other marketing outreach.

- Obtained approval of concepts by submitting rough drafts to management or to client.
- Leveraged industry knowledge and emerging trends to build innovative messaging and bring design concepts to fruition.
- Created marketing materials, including brochures, flyers and product catalogues to brand standards.
- Collaborated with clients to address brand imaging and marketing style.

Web Designer, Verpakt Management Services: Jul 2010 - Mar 2011

Woodmead, Sandton, South Africa

- Developed graphic and image assets for both content and digital marketing efforts.
- Coordinated copywriting and designed images to craft website content.
- Improved overall site aesthetics through the use of high-quality graphics, typography choices, color schemes, and layout principles.
- Completed domain name registrations and maintained website and web hosting account.
- Configured templates for clients to easily customize.
- Optimized website performance with regular evaluations and adjustments to page load times, image optimization, and code efficiency.
- Maintained a strong understanding of current web design trends through continuous learning opportunities like online courses or attending industry conferences.
- Worked closely with copywriters to ensure content was effectively integrated into web designs, leading to cohesive and engaging user experiences.
- Designed eye-catching email marketing campaigns that effectively communicated promotional messages while remaining consistent with brand aesthetics.

Web Designer, Ananzi Search: Sep 2009 - Jun 2010

Bryanston, Sandton, South Africa

- Developed graphic and image assets for both content and digital marketing efforts.
- Coordinated copywriting and designed images to craft website content.

- Determined coding requirements for specialized scripts.
- Worked closely with copywriters to ensure content was effectively integrated into web designs, leading to cohesive and engaging user experiences.
- Developed custom WordPress themes that aligned with clients' brand identities while offering easy site management capabilities.
- Delivered services as web developer and webmaster, acting as project manager for platform transition.
- Ensured websites remained accessible across multiple devices by adhering to industry-standard coding practices for adaptive design.
- Implemented search engine optimization strategies to improve clients' organic search rankings and drive targeted traffic to their websites.

References

Gemma Faerch

Design Director: Absa Open Web & Absa Activate:
gemma.faerch@absa.africa

Prajay Nathoo

Design Project Lead: Absa Activate: prajay.nathoo@absa.africa

Kgodisho Mowa

UI Designer: Absa Open Web: +2771 439 8795

Wanda Zilwa

UI Designer: Nedbank RBB: +2771 305 8360

Education

Bachelor of Information Science with Specialisation in Publishing

University of Pretoria - Nov 2008

Higher International General Certificate of Secondary Education (HIGCSE)

Sifundzani High School - Oct 2002

International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE)

Sifundzani High School - Nov 2001