

Diksha Pilania

LEED GA

Interdisciplinary designer

Bio

Diksha Pilania, with 11 years of interdisciplinary design expertise, excels in conceptual presentations, design ideation, and brand management. She has consulted for 5+ brands, co-founded Vanvaasi, and possesses a keen eye for detail, shaping impactful experiences and improving lives. Currently seeking interior and conceptual designer positions.

Spatial Design Experience

Interior Design Intern

June 2022 - August 2022

Collins Cooper Carusi Architects, Atlanta (GA)

- Assisted with Jackson Healthcare Cafe (4,900 sq.ft.) and Fort Valley State University (25,560 sq.ft.) design development phase.
- Produced client presentations with 5+ concepts, material boards, and extensive research.
- Solely responsible for developing hand sketches, bubble diagrams and space planning.
- Worked on material spec, FF&E spec sheet through vendor communication.
- Volunteered for "Design Soiree," converting design materials into garments.

Design Consultant

September 2021 - June 2022

Reimagining Diversity, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg (VA)

- Worked with a team of 6 creating inclusive virtual reality space with diverse furniture library.
- Designed brand identity materials, including fonts, colors, and logos for the project.
- Researched workplace diversity, creating thematic mood boards for 7 rooms.

Art Direction and Event Designer

December 2017 - April 2018

DNA Entertainment and Networks, Bangalore (KA)

- Designed 5 themed events for clients like Unilever, Bosch, IPL with 5,000+ attendees.
- Assisted in on-set assembly for events in 2 cities, collaborating closely with clients.
- Designed costumes, trophies, and booth displays for 2 IPL(Indian Premier League) teams.

Visual Merchandising Intern

May 2017 - July 2017

Aditya Birla Fashion Retail Limited, Bangalore (KA)

- Researched 10+ store layouts, crafting a detailed visual merchandising manual.
- Developed merchandising plans to boost product exposure and customer engagement.
- Created innovative concepts in line with the brand's aesthetic.

Assistant Scenic Design Intern

June 2021 - August 2021

The Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey, Madison (NJ)

- Researched and ideated for Props, Scenic Design departments for 3 productions.
- Attended meetings and rehearsals to grasp theater operations.
- Collaborated with Scenic Art to create top-quality backdrops and set pieces.

Graduate Teaching Assistant

August 2018 - May 2021

School of Performing Arts, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg (VA)

- Helped construct sets for 10+ productions, showcasing skills in welding, and woodworking.
- Guided 15+ students in scenic painting for 10+ productions, ensuring excellence.

Scenic & prop Designer

August 2018 - May 2021

School of Performing Arts, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg (VA)

- Designed 5 productions for a 200-seat studio theatre independently.
- Worked on script analysis, mood boards, renderings, technical drawings, and set dressing.
- Led teams of 10+ individuals, overseeing production processes from start to finish.
- Independently designed, sourced, and built props for 3 productions.
- Managed budget constraints by strategic prop procurement.



Theatre Experience

Diksha Pilonia

Design Strategy + Research Experience

Design Consultant and Brand Manager


October 2021 - Present

Izen Imaging and Interventions, Noida (UP) 

- Established brand identity guidelines, including name, logo, and color palette for consistency.
- Oversaw interior design, ensuring industry standards and a client-centered environment.
- Led a team of 5, enhancing clinic visibility through creative marketing campaigns.
- Partnered with 2 NGOs on murals, merchandise projects for social impact.

Co- Founder

September 2020 - Present

Van Vaasi (Virtual presence) 

- Startup connecting freelancers, underserved talent, and clients for diverse design solutions.
- Mentored 15+ individuals, and collaborated with 2 NGOs, impacting 200+.
- Effectively worked on brand guideline package, funds generation and revenue planning.
- Managing social media and collaborating with industry leaders for effective marketing.

Graduate Assistant

August 2022 - May 2023

Graduate Life Center, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg (VA)

- Planned 20+ events, fostering personal well-being and community engagement for students.
- Managed logistics, vendor coordination, and event operations to ensure seamless execution.
- Created impactful marketing materials (flyers, posters, presentations) for 50+ events.

School of Public & International Affairs, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg (VA) 


- Developed civic discourse games, resources for 100+ using arts-based methods.
- Designed spaces fostering civil discourse and collaboration environments.
- Assisted with event logistics, including room reservations, catering, and audio-visual setup.



Education

Virginia Tech

Ms in Architecture (Interior Design)
(Graduated: Sep'23)

Thesis: Upaya-Transforming
slum interiors, Uplifting lives.
(Pilot project in India) 

Virginia Tech

MFA in Theatre
(Scenic & Props Design)
(Graduated: Sep'21)

NIFT, New Delhi

B.Des
(Accessory Design)
(Graduated: May'18)

Soft Skills

- Design and market research (Qualitative & Quantitative)
- Client presentations and Sacrificial concepts
- Collaborative, enthusiastic team-player
- Efficient in project management, budgeting and scheduling
- Dynamic Entrepreneurial Leader

Hard Skills

- Proficient in Adobe Photoshop, Revit, Enscape, MS Office Suite
- Experience in AutoCAD, SketchUp, DesignSpec, Adobe Creative Suite
- Experienced artist proficient in mixed media rendering and digital illustrations(ProCreate)

Certifications

- Preparing Future Professoriate (Virginia Tech)
- Material Health (Parsons Material Lab)
- Specifying Residential Upholstered Furniture to Safeguard Human Health (Chemical Insights)
- Modern Art & Ideas (Museum of Modern Art)

Awards & Recognition

- Winner (48 hr Start-up Creation) - Innovate, Virginia Tech
- Best Pitch & Audience Favorite for Vanvaasi - APEX Centre
- Best Implementation (Blockchain in Business) - APEX Centre
- Honorable mention (Scenic Design) - SETC 2020
- Best Garment design - NIFT, New Delhi

Affiliations

- IIDA (Student member)
- ASID (Student member)
- NEWH (Student member)

Panelist & Lecturer

- Panelist (Women in Entrepreneurship) - APEX Centre
- Guest Lecturer (Interdisciplinary nature of design) - Symbiosis, Nagpur, India
- Guest Lecturer (Career trajectory & guidance in design) - AlagAngle, Nagpur, India
- Panelist (Enhancing sense of belonging) - Virginia Tech