

Melika Akhteh

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SUMMARY

MFA candidate in Design Research & Development at The Ohio State University, specializing in Disability Studies, with a strong foundation in industrial design. Skilled in design research, co-design, and human-centered problem solving, with hands-on experience in sketching, 3D modeling, and rendering. Passionate about contributing to collaborative design teams and developing inclusive, impactful products and experiences.

EDUCATION

MFA in Design Research & Development The Ohio State University Overall GPA: 3.85/4	(2024-Present)
B.Sc. in Industrial Design Semnan University, Semnan, Iran Overall GPA: 3.55/4	(2018-2023)
Final Project: Designing a toy to improve the cognitive skills of children aged 3 to 7 years Project Supervisor: Dr. Bagheri Taleghani	(2023)

WORK EXPERIENCES

The Ohio State University, Columbus Graduate Research Associate, Industrial Designer , Part-time	(Aug 2025 - Present)
Industrial Designer at Project Circle, an interdisciplinary collaboration guided by Professors Kyoung Swearingen and Scott Swearingen, designing the wearable product of a digital game for children with autism.	
The Ohio State University, Columbus Graduate Teaching Associate , Part-time	(Aug 2024 - May 2025)
Teaching assistant for Design Foundation course, guiding students in creating portfolio websites and assisting with design principles for college students.	
Risense Start-up Studio Main industrial designer , Full-time	(Jan- Aug 2024)
Ideation and designing medical products and laboratory equipment.	
Freelance Project, New York Main industrial designer , Remote	(May 2023- Jul 2024)
Ideation and designing the body of a robotic catheter.	
Veerasense AI Start-up Main industrial designer , Part-time	(May 2022- Jul 2023)
Ideation and designing artificial intelligence-based products, including medical equipment.	
Sakuren Design Studio Ideator and Industrial designer , Part-time	(Oct 2021- Aug 2022)
Ideation and designing technological devices, including a clock for the future, and a digital wrench.	

INTERNSHIPS

Zukun Plan Design Studio, Columbus

Industrial designer

(May- Aug 2025)

Contributing to a tablet-based UI design project for pre-construction radar technology, focusing on improving usability, refining the interface, and supporting branding through logo and font development.

Veerasense AI Start-up

Industrial Designer

(Feb-May 2022)

Designed a domestic intraoral scanner in collaboration with industry professionals, advancing to the product testing and prototyping stages.

Archeh Industrial Group

Wooden Packaging Designer

(Jun-Nov2021)

Gained experience in designing luxury wooden packaging for export products, focusing on high-quality craftsmanship and presentation.

Deghat Furniture and Wood Company

Production Manager Assistant

(Jun-Sept2020)

Assisted in managing production processes for high-end furniture and wood products used in luxury hotels and home interiors, gaining hands-on exposure to industrial production workflows.

GUEST LECTURES & WORKSHOPS

The Ohio State University

Guest Reviewer

(Jun 2025)

Provided feedback to undergraduate Industrial Design students during their final Chair/Low Seat Design presentations.

99P Lab

Design Researcher, Co-design Facilitator

(Feb-Apr 2025)

Facilitated two co-design workshops with youth to envision an ideal future of education in 2050 and create artifacts that represent it.

The Ohio State University

External Guest

(Jan 2025)

Inclusive Tech Lab Virtual Tour, Microsoft

SKILLS

Software: Rhinoceros, Keyshot, Gravity Sketch, Figma, Autodesk Sketchbook Pro, CATIA, Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Illustrator, Generative AI

Material & Skilled in working with plastic, wood, metal, and clay, with hands-on experience using
Tool Expertise: machines and tools for wood and metalworking, as well as 3D printing techniques.

Core Ideation, Prompt design & iterative refinement for AI-assisted design and research
Competencies: workflows, Ergonomics, Human Factors, User-Centered Design, Creativity, Teamwork, Leadership, Problem-solving, Critical Thinking, Flexibility

AWARDS & ACHIEVEMENTS

Award Nomination for Jobin in the International Design Awards – USA

(2023)

Ranked 3rd for Dentity in the International Design Awards – USA

(2022)

Award Nomination for Mediteradent in International Design Awards – USA	(2022)
Award Nomination for Naghal in International Design Awards – USA	(2022)
Award Nomination for Bloodtech in International Design Awards – USA	(2022)
Award Nomination at the National Jewelry Design Competition	(2022)
Ranked 3 rd in the National Competition for Saffron Packaging Design	(2022)
Award nomination at BASTEHA International Packaging Design Biennial	(2021)
Ranked 3 rd in the Industrial Design Field of the National Student Olympiad - Iran	(2021)

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCES

Search Committee in Department of Design at OSU

<i>Committee member</i>	(Aug 2025 – Present)
Search for a new tenure-track faculty member in the Department of Design at OSU: Assistant Professor of Systems Design.	

CERTIFICATES & WORKSHOPS

Social and Behavioral Certificate, CITI Program	(Jul 2025)
Responsible Conduct of Research Certificate, CITI Program	(Jul 2025)
Advanced level design training in CATIA	(March 2023)
Rhinoceros 7 in Sub D training workshop	(Aug 2022)
Packaging design workshop	(Jul 2022)
Workshop for lighting principles of Keyshot	(Aug 2021)
International Workshop: Flexible Living (Dr. Simona Canepa)	(Feb 2021)
International Workshop: Interior Design to Furniture (Karim Rashid)	(Mar 2021)
Principles of product-service system (PSS) design	(Dec 2020)

EXHIBITION

The National Jewelry Design Competition	(Jun 2022)
The National Competition for Saffron Packaging Design	(Feb 2022)
BASTEHA International Packaging Design Biennial	(Feb 2021)

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Industrial Designers Society of America	(Mar 2025- Present)
Secretary of the industrial design students' scientific association, Semnan University	(Sept 2020-2022)

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCES

The Ohio State University	
Collaborating with Iranian Students Association at OSU	(2025)
· Decoration design and assistant for the Persian New Year at the Ohio State University	
Semnan University	
Instructor of Industrial Design Olympiad , Workshop	(2022)
· Teaching the principles and rules of attending the national Student Industrial Design Olympiad.	
· Teaching the process of ideation and how to utilize creativity in product design.	
Danesh-Honar High School	
Painter and lead designer	(2018)
· Design and mural painting of Danesh-Honar High School	

REFERENCES

Elizabeth (Liz) Sanders, Ph.D.
Associate Professor, The Ohio State University

sanders.82@osu.edu

Terry Birchler
President, Senior Industrial Designer, Zukun Plan

tbirchler@zukun.com