# Thomas Morrell

Experienced design leader seeking to join a dynamic team to help drive product design excellence and team growth. Eager to craft meaningful digital experiences by contributing strategic thinking, with hands-on expertise and a coaching mentality.

## Experience

#### Lead Product Designer at Advisor Engine

#### Oct 2020 - Current

July 2018 - Oct 2020

Oct 2017 - July 2018

At AdvisorEngine, a forward-thinking fintech company, I play a dual role as an individual contributor and design coach, shaping the vision for a revolutionary wealth management suite trusted by 1,200+ firms managing \$600 billion in assets. I help define and refine our digital experiences, guiding end-to-end design processes and collaborating closely with clients to gather insights for continuous product enhancement.

A significant highlight of my role involves partnering with cross-functional teams, particularly in the realm of design system development. This initiative was pivotal in orchestrating a CRM overhaul, a net-new Dashboard service, new financial planning tools, and updating outdated UI patterns across the platform. The design system serves as the backbone for these transformative changes.

#### Furthermore, I took on the responsibility of coaching and upskilling a junior design team, entrusted to me by a past manager who recognized my leadership and mentoring abilities. This experience allowed me to contribute to the team's growth while reinforcing my commitment to fostering a collaborative and innovative design culture.

#### Lead Product Designer at Prudential

# As the design lead for the Prudential Retirement mobile app, I helped orchestrate a remarkable transformation, turning a once-rated 1.2-star app into an award-winning 4.7-star rating on both iOS and Android platforms. This achievement was more than a numerical boost; it represented a user-centric overhaul that streamlined fund allocation, investment transfers, and contribution management. Notably, this and other projects I was a part of played a pivotal role in the sale of the business unit, highlighting the tangible impact of design on business success.

Beyond the screen, I worked to cultivate strong partnerships with business and technology, reinstating mutual respect and making innovative thinking a cornerstone of our digital product offerings. My contributions extended to the broader team, where I helped foster a culture of learning by mentoring junior designers, leading design sprints, conducting user research, and enhancing the user experience for millions of customers.

#### UX Manager at IDT Corporation

In my role at IDT, a leading player in Communications and Payment Services, I led a global team of ten designers and front-end developers through a transformative journey to enhance customer experiences across digital touch points, including native apps, mobile websites, retail POS, vendor portals, and digital kiosks.

I personally oversaw the redesign of two key native mobile apps, Boss Revolution Calling and Money Transfer, which together achieved stellar app store ratings of 4.5+ stars, 5 million+ subscribers, 11.3 billion calling minutes annually, \$2.5 billion in money transfers annually, and 41 million+ mobile top-up transactions annually.

UX Design UI Design Product Strategy Design Management Prototyping Interaction Design Workshop Facilitation Design Systems Branding Art Direction

### Craftsmanship

Figma, Sketch Freehand, Figjam, Miro Adobe Creative Suite Procreate Jira, Trello, Basecamp Notion Keynote

LinkedIn.com/in/ thomasmorrelldesign

Skillset

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# Experience (continued)

#### UX/UI Lead Developer at Aon Hewitt

#### Dec 2015 - Oct 2017

As a design leader for an innovative enterprise technology suite, I directed the overall UX architecture, UI, aesthetic, and brand development of web-based applications supporting Employee Engagement and Leadership consultants.

Collaborating closely with executive and development teams, I facilitated design thinking workshops to uncover customer insights and conceptualize the product vision across the digital ecosystem. Building and leading a globally dispersed design team, I oversaw the execution of wire frames, user flows, high-fidelity prototypes, front-end development, and a robust design system. Additionally, my role involved recruiting, interviewing, hiring, and placing design talent on product groups throughout the organization. The products and teams we built played a crucial role in the eventual sale of the business unit to BlackRock.

#### **Owner & Creative Director of Swell Media Group**

As the co-founder and leader of a marketing and design studio, I played a pivotal role in serving diverse clients across various industries, including interior design, food services, architecture, and manufacturing. I functioned as the primary resource for branding and digital marketing campaigns, effectively managing teams, time lines, budgets, and engaging freelance developers. Clients included: Novartis Pharmaceuticals, Aon Hewitt, Zabar's, The International Sign Association (ISA), MetLife, and several mid-size businesses.

Lead Graphic Designer, <u>Zeff Design</u>	2006 - 2009
Art Director, <u>Tourneau Watches</u>	2004-2006
Graphic Designer, <u>Department.X</u>	2002-2004

# Education

#### Interaction Design Specialization UC San Diego Design Lab

l received a certificate for completing an 8-course series focused on human-computer interaction, social computing, interaction design, research, prototyping and more. With instructors like Scott Klemmer and Don Norman this was an excellent program.

#### Bachelor of Arts from Coastal Carolina University

Recipient of a full scholarship to serve as the Art Director of Tempo Magazine, a student-led publication awarded Best of Collegiate Design by the College Media Advisers Association under my direction in both 2001 & 2002.

## Mentorship

tm@thomasmorrell.com

Get in touch.

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#### User Experience Mentor & Career Coach at Springboard.com

Mentored UX Design students in a nine-month career boot camp, offering 1-on-1 coaching sessions covering diverse aspects of UX design. Addressed topics ranging from identifying design problems to conducting user research, sketching solutions, and delving into visual design details.

#### Creator & Host of the <u>UserFlows Podcast</u>

I created this podcast in order to scale the UX Design & Career conversations I was having 1 on 1 with design students and others interested in the field.

#### Notable episodes:

Episode 8 - <u>Building UX Products</u> <u>with Impact!</u>

Episode 12 - <u>The journey from UX</u> <u>Mentee to UX Mentor</u>

2015

1998 - 2002

2009 - 2015