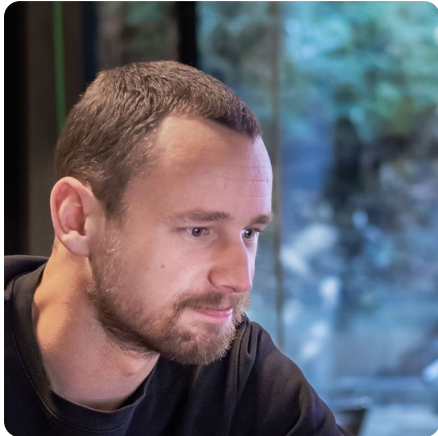


Thilko Limbeck

— Staff Product Designer · Design Systems



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T +49 151 40521691

L Cologne, Germany

Portfolio

Website thilkolimbeck.com

Password just ask

Leader & Mentor

Design Leadership & Collaboration

Mentoring · University Teaching

Peer Recruiting & Interviewing

Core Design Skills

Design Systems · UI Libraries

Design Tokens & Theming

Digital Product Design · UI/UX

Wireframing · Prototyping

User Research & Testing

Technical Skills

Figma · Plugin API · MCP

Tokens Studio · Style Dictionary

CSS Modules · HTML · GitHub

React · TypeScript · MUI

Webflow · VS Code · Cursor

Technical Documentation

Profile

I build and evolve design systems at scale — Figma libraries, React component code, token pipelines, and the linting and tooling that keep them consistent across web, desktop and mobile. I care as much about adoption and design ops as the components themselves, and I'm making the system machine-readable so AI agents can build with it the way designers do.

Experience

Staff Product Designer | Design Systems

Present

Nov 2018

sipgate · Full-time

Düsseldorf, Germany · Hybrid

- Built sipgate's design system from scratch and own it end to end: a Figma library with a React codebase, used across 10 product teams. 33 components, 500+ Storybook stories, 1,100+ Figma variants, ~10k inserts a week, with public docs at pandaUI.de.
- Ship production code alongside engineers: 1,000+ commits (top-5 all-time), pairing so the best handoff is no handoff. Built the system's tooling: a Figma plugin that syncs tokens to GitHub in four clicks (from a brittle 12-step ritual), ESLint/StyleLint plugins, and a WCAG contrast checker for every token pair.
- Architected 500+ tokens (primitive → semantic → component) in Tokens Studio and Style Dictionary, driving theming, dark mode and localization across web, desktop, Android and iOS, then rolled a full rebrand on top, system intact.
- Lead the system's AI-readiness so agents build with it like designers do: an agent-evaluation harness scored against our standards, exploratory Figma MCP server spikes, a custom MCP server, and machine-readable docs. Built Cursor/VS Code extensions and shipped tickets agentially.
- Shipped its most technical components: a Table/ListView on MUI (Material UI) X DataGrid (sorting, resizable/pinned columns, nested rows, row actions) with a custom virtualization wrapper, inline-edit form-builder patterns, and a responsive, keyboard-accessible navigation redesign.
- Cut design debt with evidence: a 600-screen interface inventory, library-adoption analytics, icons consolidated 456 → 159, and a Chromatic suite trimmed 893 → 321 with better coverage. Moved styling from Tailwind to CSS Modules so any CSS-fluent dev can contribute.
- Onboarded two designers over six months each and mentored a three-year apprentice into a full-time role, ran hiring panels and design-system critiques, led the 2020 company-wide Figma migration, and speak at Into Design Systems. Co-founded the IDEA inclusion newsletter and started the company Pride group, six years running.

University Lecturer and Certified Tutor

Present

Apr 2024

DIPLOMA University of Applied Sciences · Freelance

Remote

- Teach a user interface and a web development course as live online seminars.
- Supervise bachelor theses as advisor and examiner, and give each student detailed, individual written feedback.
- Run the seminars workshop-style with breakout rooms: students design a site in Figma and build it in Webflow, graded as a project with a live presentation.
- Wrote the official study booklet for the usability module as its credited author, and review other booklets and the module handbook.
- Keep the seminars grounded in real product work, bringing current industry practice to the next group of designers.

Interests

Active Meditation
Magic the Gathering
Pumping up the Jam
Politics & Activism
Cocktails & Cartoons
Running & Swimming

Languages

English · fluent
French · basic
German · native

Design Mentor

ADPList · Volunteer
Remote

- Mentor design students and working product designers one-on-one on ADPList: portfolio and résumé reviews, design-system questions, and career decisions.
- Focus on the practical craft, critiquing real work, talking through trade-offs, and helping people present themselves well.
- Coach mentees to sharpen their thinking, tighten their deliverables, and find their footing in the job market.

Present
Apr 2025

Freelance Designer

Neithernor & Co.
Cologne, Germany

- Ran my own studio, Neithernor & Co., doing branding, web and identity for local businesses and artists before moving into product design.
- Delivered full identities across trades, healthcare, engineering and hospitality: logos, typography, print, and websites.
- Built and ran the studio itself end to end, from its logo and stationery to invoicing, contracts and naming conventions, an early version of the systems thinking I do now.

Nov 2018
Jan 2017

Education

Köln International School of Design

Master of European Studies in Design
Cologne, Germany

2017
2016

Konstfack · University of Arts, Crafts and Design

Master Exchange Year
Stockholm, Sweden

2016
2015

ENSCI · Les Ateliers

Bachelor Exchange Year
Paris, France

2015
2014

Köln International School of Design

Bachelor of Arts, European Studies in Design
Cologne, Germany

2013
2011

North Butler High School

Exchange Year during High-School
Iowa, USA

2008
2007

Gesamtschule Veenhusen

High-School Diploma / Abitur
Veenhusen, Germany

2010
1997