Emile Waterkeyn

I'm a designer working at the intersection of systemic and speculative design on bio-economy and circular systems. Trained in Industrial Design Engineering at TU Delft, I've led innovation and living lab work at SIGN and now work independently, translating transitions into things people can see, walk through and argue about.

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Work Experience

Project Manager, Living Lab
— Stichting Innovatie Glastuinbouw Nederland
Sep 2024 – Present | Rotterdam

SIGN is an sustainability innovation accelerator for the greenhouse horticulture industry. As Living Lab project manager, I lead innovation projects, coordinating growers, technology partners, and students to test and scale new solutions for the sector. Initiating new projects in circular growing.

Graduation Internship — *Logiqs*
Feb 2024 – Jun 2024 | Rotterdam

Worked within the vertical farming R&D department, designing a new vertical farm concept with improved climate control.

Documentary Producer / Designer
— Design Without Borders
Jun 2022 – Jan 2023 | Kampala, Uganda

What can the meaning and impact of design be in Uganda? Teamed up with Ugandan designers to initiate a product design project in hospitals, conducting research and filming a documentary.
yiiyadesign.com

Research Assistant, Mycelium Production
— Spore Eco Consult
2021 – 2024 | Rotterdam

Helped run research on mycelium and mushroom production at SPORE's research and pilot facility, contributing to experiments on a mushroom production line and building/maintaining lab equipment.
spore.nl

Service Design Internship — *KLM*
Sep 2023 – Feb 2024 | Amsterdam

Researched and designed new aviation catering solutions, aiming to cut down on overcatering. Worked in the Innovation- and IT department.

Founder
— De Print Bar
Dec 2019 – Jun 2023 | Antwerp

Founded De Print Bar in 2019 with the idea of creating low-cost custom clothing/prints on textile for students. Grew the company over four years before it was taken over, it is still operating.
deprintbar.com

Design Engineering Internship
— MX3D
Aug 2020 – Dec 2020 | Amasterdam

MX3D, a large-scale 3D metal printing company, using robotic Wire Arc Additive Manufacturing. I was responsible for marketing their technology and finding new applications.

Eductaion

MSc, Integrated Product Design — *TU Delft*
Jan 2022 – Jul 2024

BSc, Industrial Design Engineering — *TU Delft*
Sep 2018 – Jul 2021

Workshops & Summer Schools

Workshop Design & Facilitation
Aug 2025 | Kampala, Uganda

Designed and ran a month-long workshop in Uganda: design, art and architecture students building a pavilion for Bayimba Festival 2025.

Koshirakura Landscape Workshop
— Architecture Association London
Aug 2024 | Koshirakura, Niigata, Japan

Aalto ARTS Summer School: Living with Wood
— Aalto University
Aug 2023 | Helsinki, Finland

Biodiversity in Practice: Training
— IPC Groene Ruimte
2025 | Arnhem, Netherlands

Language

Dutch — Native
French — Native
English — Fluent (TOEFL iBT 104)
Spanish — Conversational