Merlijn Lewerissa

Product Designer and Maker

+ 316 250 418 98 | m.f.lewerissa@gmail.com | Rotterdam, Netherlands

education

Master Integrated Product Design, 2022-2024
Delft, The Netherlands
120-credit MSc-programme at the Technische Universiteit Delft. GPA: 7.90, Graduation Project: 9.0

ArtCenter College of Design, 2023
Pasadena, USA
14-weeks-exchange programme at ArtCenter College of Design. The courses in the program included: Product Prototype Process 2, Industrial Design Graphics, Documentary Filmmaking and Sewing Lab.

Bachelor Industrial Design Engineering, 2018-2021
Delft, The Netherlands
180-credit BSc-programme at the Technische Universiteit Delft. Minor: Architecture. GPA: 7.60

professional experience

Furniture Making Teacher, 2024-2026
Buurman Rotterdam
Buurman is a collective that sells circular wood and educative workshop. I work as a teacher in 4 - and 6 class furniture making courses, where participants learn to use several machines and pick up desgin skills.

Product Design Intern, 2022
Design Without Borders Africa
With the help of a local team of designers, I carried the responsibility for a project revolving around neonatal care units in hospitals in Kampala, Uganda. The project lasted three months and had a primary focus on local context and human-centered design methods.

UX/UI Designer, 2022
Vera Connect
VeraConnect, a young tech-startup, developed an app that aims to create a more safe and effective way of keeping and sharing contact information online. As the UX/UI-designer within the startup, my focus in the project was on brand identity and designing a minimum-viable-product.

Experience Design Intern, 2021-2022
Royal Schiphol Group
As part of the Passenger Experience team of Royal Schiphol Group, I worked on designing and testing interventions to make the airport a more pleasent place. These included the Schiphol Covid testing lane, a sanitizing station, and a concept design for all the excess grass cut from around the landing strips.

featured projects

Material Matters Workshop, 2025
SASA School of Industrial Design, Bayimba Festival
Joined by a group of 12 design - and architecture students and recent gradautes, I organised a 4-week workshop in Busika, Uganda. The goal was to learn about vernacular materials and building techniques, and finally to apply this in an open ended installation for the annual Bayimba Festival on Lunkulu Island. We organised workshops with local artists and designers on themes like textiles, bamboo, mud plaster and cultural exchanges. The project received an award from the Auckland Architecture Association.

featured projects

Tides: Design of a Circular Softtop Surfboard, 2024

Technische Universiteit Delft, Good, Thanks Surfboards

Tides is a product-service system for softtop surfboards, through which surf schools can access boards that can be repaired and reused more effectively. I received funding from Sportinnovator and ZonMW, allowing me to continue working on the project after my graduation. Link to the full thesis.

YIIYA: Rethinking Product Design, 2023

Independent project

Yiiya is a documentary about product design in Uganda, presenting a critical perspective on its current import culture. What is the value of incoming foreign products if they are not adapted to the Ugandan context? Local designers and craftsmen look ahead and reflect on the future of product design in Uganda. Link to the documentary.

skills

Adobe: InDesign; Photoshop; Illustrator; Premiere Pro; After Effects; **Digital Modelling**: SolidWorks; Keyshot; **Creative**: Figma; ProCreate; Model making; Sewing; Creative facilitation; Video production

languages

Dutch: Fluent; **English**: Fluent; **German**: Proficient;

interests

Surfing; Skateboarding; Photography; Cooking