



Susan Fireside, Design and Direction



I am a multi-disciplinary design director with a focus on creating modern and engaging work. I'm a big picture thinker who looks at the intricate details. I work in multiple mediums that include print, interactive, environmental, packaging and surface design.

I synthesize methods and technologies. I am able to lead through collaboration and consolidate essential research, strategy and tactics. Design thinking is at the core of who I am and how I approach the creative process. These qualities flourish when working with organizations doing work that matters.

As a creative, some of my influences are rich and beautiful textiles, architecture, nature and interior environments. I am passionate about learning the cultural anthropology around us and find inspiration comes from anywhere, anyone and anything. I enjoy collaborating with other creatives to solve design challenges outside traditional thinking. My motto is "always keep your eyes and ears open and keep a curious mind".



Leadership and Management Providing strong working knowledge of principles and techniques in today's changing marketplace. Ability to manage a creative team and outside vendors as well as working with key stakeholders. Collaborating across all departments and constructive feedback along the way. Leading by example.

Reasoning Solving practical challenges. Remaining open-minded, receptive and open to change. Navigating new information and transitioning change with ease. Streamlining large amounts of information.

Communication Speaking effectively. Connecting. Deep understanding. Clarified outcomes. Being a leader and a listener. Understanding expectations and using my voice for forward movement.

Decision Making Ability to apply common and big picture understanding. Solution driven focus. Flexibility and fluidity. Weighing the importance of time and money. Solving challenges and supporting people. Agility under short turn arounds.

Time Management Setting priorities and creating structure. Manage, coach, lead and being led. Urgency without chaos. Deadlines with more ease. Flexibility with new information. Adaptable to a variety of tasks.

Design Instructor Working with undergraduates to understand the principles of design, communication, and the foundations of graphic design, identity, and brand development. Mentoring students, working with other instructors, creating course work that will allow students to understand critical thinking, ideation and how to articulate, defend, and create communications that are engaging and strategic.



Projects include: Identity design, Development of Brand Systems, Naming and Tagline Development, Annual Reports, Environmental Design, Exhibit Design, Packaging, Advertising, Internal Communications and Brand Launch, Collateral Systems, Direct Mail, Advertising Campaigns, Packaging for Consumer Goods, Corporate Communication, Data Visualization, Information Design, Web Design, New Media, Wayfinding, Surface Design

Companies I have worked with include: Anti-Defamation League, AXA Advisors, Abbott, Andersen Consulting, BP, Common Threads, CDW, Discover, DePaul University, Fujitsu, Heartland Health Centers, Hospira, Illinois Poison Center, Komatsu, Milwaukee Public Museum, Philips, McDonalds Corporation, SWC Technology Partners, The Museum of Science and Industry, Jewish Community Centers of Chicago, Taproot Foundation, PCC Community Wellness



Portfolio of work www.designfireside.com
Detailed work history and education on [LinkedIn](#)
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B.S. degree is from Bradley University
MFA in Communication Design from Harrington College of Design
Graphic Design Adjunct Instructor Tribeca College

Member of the AIGA
Member of The Society of Typographic Arts
Mentoring new talent with the AIGA
Board Member Parks Foundation of Highland Park

Ongoing pro-bono work with Taproot Foundation
2017 Participant Focus on the Arts
Speaker/Branding The Yoga Journal Conference