

Esmeralda Nava

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Design engineer bridging design and code. I ship net-new products end to end and now lead design and frontend for an AI underwriting platform.

EXPERIENCE

Shepherd · Founding Design Engineer 2024 - Present

- Lead design and frontend for the fully autonomous underwriter. Designed and built the email-to-price flow, an AI layer over broker emails that cut underwriting from hours to under 6 minutes.
- Designed the AI UX across the platform, from AI-generated payroll out of a file to every pricing input. 90% of inbound emails now arrive with AI-suggested inputs.
- Built the design system from scratch in Figma and in code on top of Mantine, with a Storybook every engineer builds against. Migrated all platform surfaces onto it.
- Shipped Builder's Risk, a net-new inland marine product line, in three months. Its opinionated design became the template for every other product line.
- Started as a full-stack engineer shipping Excess Admitted, translating an actuarial pricing model into code and standing up backend for a new product line. It now drives 30% of business; Builder's Risk another 10%.
- Sole designer for the platform's first three months and the past year. Run weekly design syncs, designed the design interview loop, and hired and now mentor the first product designer.

MantleBio · Founding Frontend Engineer & UX Designer 2023 - 2024

- Led design and owned all frontend for a life-sciences platform, redesigning the founder-built product end to end with Ant Design for speed.
- Ran customer calls, product discovery, and UX research to define scope as the sole designer. The company was acquired a year after I left.

YouTube · Software Engineer, Comments 2021 - 2023

- Built frontend and mobile across iOS and Android, and refactored the notification inbox from C++ to Elements.
- Shipped the comment satisfaction survey seen in the comments section; its results fed directly into the comment ranking algorithm.
- Turned internal research on how Gen Z uses YouTube into hi-fi mocks for a comments easter egg that won an internal competition.

EDUCATION

Stanford University 2023
M.S. Computer Science, Human-Computer Interaction

Stanford University 2021
B.S. Architectural Design

COMMUNITY

Growth, Unwind & Connect 2026 - Present
Technology board member. Teach K-8 students to keep creative and critical thinking, and digital wellness, alive in an age of AI.

SKILLS

Design
Figma, design systems, prototyping, UX research, hi-fi mocks

Frontend
React, Next.js, TypeScript, Mantine, Ant Design, Storybook

Focus
AI product UX, regulated workflows