

Severin Hackspiel

Industrial Designer and Researcher — design, interfaces, futures and sustainability

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PROFILE

Industrial designer with a master's degree in Strategic Innovation and Product Development. Four years of research at the Wuppertal Institute, now working on FAB.Region at Gut Einern e.V. I design products, interfaces and visualizations, and build the tools behind them: open-source smart-home software, environmental sensor dashboards and AI content pipelines.

EXPERIENCE

Gut Einern e.V. — FAB.Region 2025 – present
Wuppertal, Germany

- Open-source tools for senseBox environmental stations: a Home Assistant integration that pulls in public stations as local sensors, and a full-screen classroom climate dashboard, built in the context of a course at Gesamtschule Barmen.

Wuppertal Institute for Climate, Environment and Energy — Researcher 2021 – 2025
Wuppertal, Germany

- transform.NRW, a platform collecting good practices for a social and ecological transformation (joint project with the University of Wuppertal, funded by the NRW Ministry of Culture and Science): technical development and coordination with the design and development agency dform, Vienna.
- Built an AI pipeline in ComfyUI to generate content for the platform.

Huge Design — Industrial Design Intern 2018
San Francisco, CA, USA · four months

ErgoLabs / HFE — User Interface and Experience 2017
Wuppertal, Germany · one year

SELECTED PROJECTS

CMD Mobility Stations — client work for Connected Mobility Düsseldorf 2024
Concept, rendering and six animated films of mobility stations at their locations in Düsseldorf.

Domowoi and Dieter — open-source software for Home Assistant 2025
Domowoi: a dashboard card that turns room sensors into recommendations on indoor climate, energy and comfort, with a JSON rule set and a 3D character. Dieter: a light and dark theme in the spirit of Dieter Rams. Both solo projects, installable via HACS.

Solids.Work Soap Dish — design and small-batch production, with Philipp Czampiel 2020
A folded soap dish in UV-cured acrylic; developed the process to make every piece come out the same.

Strategic Mapping — master's thesis 2021
A visual method for mapping decisions onto goal and no-go areas, with a printable worksheet and the video-call interface concept howee.do.

MANU Spotting Scope — bachelor's thesis 2019
A spotting scope for birdwatching with built-in species identification and a companion app; form developed iteratively in 3D print, painted appearance model with milled acrylic lenses.

EDUCATION

Master's degree, Strategic Innovation and Product Development Bergische Universität Wuppertal · Thesis: Strategic Mapping	2019 – 2021
Bachelor's degree, Industrial and Product Design Bergische Universität Wuppertal · Thesis: MANU Spotting Scope	2014 – 2019
Exchange year, Industrial Design — DAAP, University of Cincinnati Cincinnati, OH, USA · DAAD scholarship	2017 – 2018
Paper and Packaging Science — Munich University of Applied Sciences	2014

SKILLS

Design: industrial and product design, interface and experience design, 3D visualization and animation, prototyping and 3D printing

Research and strategy: design research, user studies and interviews, strategic innovation, futures and sustainability transformation

3D: SolidWorks, KeyShot, Cinema 4D

2D and motion: Adobe Illustrator, InDesign, Photoshop, After Effects

Code and tools: Home Assistant, ComfyUI, TypeScript, Python, Processing, Arduino

Languages: German (native), English (fluent)