

# AHMET BURAK AKTAS

aburakaktas.com // aburakaktas@gmail.com // linkedin.com/in/aburakaktas

## EXPERIENCE

### Spirohome // Ankara, Turkey

Senior Product & Experience Designer // 2017 - Ongoing

- Leading a team of designers and engineers to create a connected respiratory care platform.

### IIT Institute of Design // Chicago, IL

Teaching Assistant & Workshop Manager // 2016 - 2017

- Assisted graduate level course "Product Design Workshop".
- Worked as workshop manager to help students use digital fabrication tools.

### Inofab // Ankara, Turkey

Partner - Product / Interaction Designer // 2014 - 2016

- Founding partner of start-up located in the biggest technopark in Turkey focusing on design and production of an innovative personal pulmonary health monitoring device.
- Provided user research, ideation, product strategy, product and interaction design, user experience design and prototyping.
- Won several grants from government and entrepreneurship competitions.

### METU Industrial Design Department // Ankara, Turkey

Research / Teaching Assistant - Usability Researcher // 2013 - 2015

- Developed a government-funded project focusing on improving blood donation system in Turkey using design thinking methods.
- Worked as a part-time usability researcher for various start-ups.
- Assisted product design studio classes as a teaching assistant and taught CAD and digital fabrication tools to undergraduate students.

### Metaphys & Hers Experimental Design Lab // Osaka, Japan

Industrial Design Intern // 2012

- Contributed to design process of several products. Contributions included ideation, concept development, 3D modeling and prototyping.
- Developed a personal "social design" concept which was presented at Kyoto University of Art and Design.

### Turk Traktor Inc. Case & New Holland // Ankara, Turkey

Intern at R&D Design Department // 2011

- Gained experience and working knowledge on metal mass-production techniques and worked with production engineers.

## EDUCATION

### IIT Institute of Design // Chicago, IL

Master of Design // 2015 - 2017

- Focused on interaction design, design research and innovation strategy.

### Middle East Technical University // Ankara, Turkey

MS in Industrial Design // 2013 - 2015 (Transferred Out)

- Focused on interaction design, interactive prototyping using embedded systems, and social innovation.

### Middle East Technical University // Ankara, Turkey

Bachelor of Industrial Design // 2009 - 2013

- Graduated with highest honors.
- Developed "AquaKit", a product system for villagers living without water plumbing system. The project won several international design awards, won a grant from UNDP and was exhibited in Tokyo and Istanbul.

## LANGUAGES

English - Fluent, Japanese - Elementary, Turkish - Native

*I am a designer with a passion for creating experiences that make life more meaningful. I enjoy being at the intersection of design and technology, and I get my energy from creativity.*

## SKILLS

### Software

**3D:** Rhinoceros 3D, Grasshopper, Fusion 360, SolidWorks, 3ds Max, V-Ray, KeyShot, T-Splines

**2D:** Sketch, Photoshop, InDesign, Illustrator, Experience Design, Flinto, InVision, Tableau, After Effects, Premiere, Muse

### Coding

Arduino, HTML / CSS, D3.js

*Learning:* Python, Java, Processing, JavaScript

### Workshop

3D printing, Laser cutting, Sewing, Soldering, Clay modeling, Styrofoam, Plastic thermoforming, Wood, Metal

## AWARDS + SCHOLARSHIPS

2018 **IxDA Interaction Awards**, Shortlisted

2015 - 2017 **Fulbright Scholarship**, for master's degree

2015 - 2017 **Doblin Fellowship**, for attending IIT Institute of Design

2014 **Bogazici Uni. Entrepreneurship Awards**, First Rank

2014 **YFYI Entrepreneurship Awards**, Finalist

2014 **UNDP Every Drop Matters Water Awards**, First Rank

2014 **TUBITAK Entrepreneurship and Innovation Awards**, First Rank

2014 **International Design Excellence Awards**, Bronze

2014 **Ghost Project**, Winner

2014 **The Dieline Awards**, Third Rank

2014 **iF Concept Design Awards**, Shortlisted

2014 **Automotive Component Design Awards**, First Rank

2014 **Cardboard Package Design Awards**, Mention

2013 **WPO Worldstar Student Awards**, Mention

2013 **ASD National Packaging Design Awards**, Mention

2013 **International Design Excellence Awards**, Bronze

2013 **A' Design Awards**, Silver

2012 **iF Concept Design Awards**, Winner

2011 **IMMIB National Design Awards**, Mention

2010 **WPO Worldstar Student Awards**, Mention

2010 **ASD National Packaging Design Awards**, Second Rank

## SELECTED VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

### Chicago Student Invention Convention // 2017

I volunteered as an "Invention Judge" to evaluate and provide feedback to K-8 students on their designs and inventions.

### IDEAL - Student-led design swarm for local companies // 2017

I led the product design team to create solutions for Healthy Soil Compost, a start up in Chicago that collects organic waste using bikes.

### Darussafaka Schools x Children's Research Center // 2015

I taught design thinking to middle school students for "Children as Researchers" class and helped them create prototypes using 3D printers.

## EXHIBITIONS // PRESS

2015 Sheepd // **Ankara Maker Faire**

2014 AquaKit // **Innovation Magazine**, Fall Issue

2014 Spaghet-i // **Paris Emballage Fair**

2014 Guide and EcoStand // **Turkey Innovation Week**

2013 Washit and AquaKit // **Tokyo Designers Week**

2013 Washit // **Fast Company Magazine**, March Issue

2013 Flora // **CNR-Expo Office Fair**

2012 Washit // **Turkey Innovation Week**

2012 Washit // **DailyMail**

2012 Washit // **Fast Co.Exist**