

# Ben Saks

## Design

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### Benjamin Saks

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### Skills

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An experienced design professional who takes pride in the details, Ben has the ability to organize, inspire, and lead diverse teams to execute a plan to completion. A multifaceted creative thinker and problem solver who has extensive experience in architecture, design, sales, business development, media production, and consultation.

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### Experience

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#### **KerfCase** / Founder, CEO, Lead Designer

June 2013 - PRESENT, Pittsburgh

Founded a specialty manufacturing company that produces high-end consumer hardware accessories in a highly competitive industry. Granted a utility patent, worked with clients internationally, and generated revenues in excess of \$200,000.00 annually.

#### **Clock Shadow** / Producer

January 2011 - PRESENT, Pittsburgh + NYC

Oversee and deliver digital media to all relevant parties while preserving the integrity, voice and vision of the projects that I passionately produce. Branded content, crowdfunding media, feature films, corporate content.

#### **Carnegie Mellon University** / Adjunct Faculty

August 2016 - January 2017, Pittsburgh

Design studio instructor for 2nd year studio, focusing on tectonic assemblies for building design and construction.

#### **TechShop Pittsburgh** / Instructor

March 2013 - January 2017, Pittsburgh

Instructor at TechShop's Pittsburgh location. Teacher of classes ranging from sheet metal fabrication, carbon composites, to wood lathe, CNC Routers, and 3D printers.

#### **Carnegie Mellon University** / Assistant Director

August 2011 - May 2013, Pittsburgh

Assistant Director of the Wood and Metal Shops for the School of Architecture. Instruction, supervision, machine maintenance, and one-on-one design teaching in a state-of-the-art facility.

## **Taktl / Architectural Projects Manager**

July 2010 - February 2011, Pittsburgh

Provided technical client support and project management, outside sales and business development, market research, participating in design and product development activities, creation and maintenance of product documentation materials, and assisting with any aspect of mold development and manufacturing setup within a fast paced Startup environment.

## **WET Design / Project Designer**

June 2008 - July 2009, Los Angeles

Designer for international projects, construction and project management, architectural design and detailing, computer programming, and choreography.

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## **Education**

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### **Carnegie Mellon University / Bachelors of Architecture**

August 2003 - May 2008, Pittsburgh

Graduated with College and University Honors. Recipient of The Stewart L. Brown Memorial Scholarship. This award is presented on the basis of professional promise. Recipient of the Luther S. Lashmit 4th year Design Award. Solar Decathlon, Woodshop Monitor, SURF Grant Recipient, Study Abroad, Frame Gallery Exhibition.

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## **Awards**

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### **Create Award / Pittsburgh Tech Council**

2016

### **Maker of Merit / Maker Faire Pittsburgh**

2016

### **Peace it Together Award / Center for Victims**

2015

### **Fly NY Competition / Architecture for Humanity**

2011

### **Stewart Brown Scholarship / Carnegie Mellon University**

2008

### **Luther S Lashmit Design Award / Carnegie Mellon University**

2007

### **The Carnegie Hero Award / The Carnegie Hero Fund Commission**

2006

### **USA F1D Team / Federation Aeronautic International**

2002

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## Exhibitions

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### **John Riegert / Digital Prints, Fly Fishing Flies**

Space Gallery - Pittsburgh - 2016

### **Architectural Perspectives/ Sculptures**

Gallerie Chiz - Pittsburgh - 2013

### **Life After / Short Documentary**

Pittsburgh Filmmakers - 2013

### **Hyperlocal / Acrylic Paintings**

Assemble Gallery - Pittsburgh - 2012

### **Transformer Workshops / Performance**

Watson Festival - CMU - 2008

### **Group Show / Installation**

4701 Gallery - Pittsburgh - 2010

### **Examinations in Polarity / Digital Prints**

The Frame Gallery - Pittsburgh - 2006

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## Clients

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**Video Production Clients:** Visionary Effects, Alpha Lab Gear, City of Play, Velocity Robotics, Identified Technology, Switcheroo, Boxzy, ShoeFitr, The Mattress Factory, Salt of the Earth, Rostrum Records, Peoples Indian, Center for Victims

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## Press Coverage

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The Wall Street Journal, GQ, Elle, TechCrunch, Gizmodo, BoingBoing, This is Colossal, Swiss Miss, The Post Gazette, The Cleveland Plain Dealer, The Boston Globe.