airline

Airline helps companies identify what products their customers need and then crafts how those products should look, feel and be experienced.

We are based in Tokyo and looking grow our team in 2017. Please read below to learn more about about the opportunities.

Designers at Airline are curious and fearless. Our clients are diverse and our need is for team members who can pivot between projects, platforms, tools and domains. You bring to Airline strong design craft: composition, form, typography, color and illustration. Your work has purpose. You have mastery of at least one of these tools: Illustrator, Photoshop, Sketch (highly preferred) or the 3D tool of your choice. Plus you have fluency in the others. As importantly, you can contribute beyond the confines of your computer. Your ideas are stories that you rationalize with "the why, the what and the how". You listen to users with empathy and make actionable insights from those conversations. With clients, you work to understand their needs and your professionalism instills confidence. Plus, you know how to use an Exacto knife to fashion a prototype out of things you find in the office garbage. We work very fast with opportunities to learn and do many things. You must be able to take direction and desire to grow as a designer as part of a highly productive team. Both Japanese and English are spoken in the studio.

Immediate needs are for short term, long term, contract, part time, full time, local and remote depending on experience and how you align with our needs.

You should have a beautiful online or PDF portfolio to share with us. Send your stuff to job@airline.design.

Designer-UX/Interaction
Products are experiences.

Our UX designers are able to look at a product concept and imagine all of the ways it will be encountered and used over its life–from retail to recycle. Every great product has two or three key experiences that will be essential for customers to love and adopt. The UX designer keeps the team focused on the simplicity of those features and overall product purpose. They are not afraid of the details and can quickly create diagrams and prototypes of multiple options and express rationale behind the solutions. They are expected to have great software UX skills but also able to move their ideas into the physical world and help create hardware and service offerings.

Job Requirements:
- A University degree in Design, Architecture, UX or related discipline
- 2+ years of professional experience
- Great verbal and written communication skills
- Demonstrated experience architecting mobile and/or desktop apps and documenting the design in wireframes, specifications, design libraries and/or simulations.
- Experience engaging with users to evaluate needs prior to design and after design to validate concepts and usability.
- Understand software development and ability to collaborate with developers.
- Point of view around UX design process, software trends, usability and design research

Additional Highly Desired Skills
- Photography
- Prototyping skills
- Xcode
- Visual Design acumen
- English and Japanese Fluency

Designer-Visual/Graphic Design/Illustration
Every chance we get we try to add a little beauty to this world.

This role is responsible for creating compelling interfaces, illustrations, and presentation artifacts. You will start projects with visual concepts and then create design systems all the way through production. The role demands pixel precision, but also provides the opportunity to use your artistic skills to create scenario sketches and super realistic photography compositions of product renderings. You get to be our studio-tastemaker, keeping us all up on the latest style trends and ensuring everything that leaves the studio has a consistently high visual treatment.

Job Requirements
- University degree in graphic design, art or related discipline.
- 2+ years of professional experience

- Great portfolio of professional and personal projects that share the kind of work you like to do and show a high-level of design acumen including typography, color, and composition.
- Demonstrated app design experience (ios, android, mac) including assets and collaboration with software developers.
- Demonstrated experience with design language systems such as developing icon systems and scaling a design across platforms
- Great Illustration skills (freehand or computer generated)
- Point of view around graphic design trends, brand and design strategy

Additional Highly Desired Skills
- Experience developing brand and identity
- Motion graphics
- 3D
- Photography
- Prototyping skills
- Xcode
- Interaction design skills
- English and Japanese Fluency

Designer-Product/Industrial Design
We want to be famous for making seamless hardware and software products.

You should have a degree in Industrial design and 2+ years professional experience is highly desired. A talented recent graduate will be considered. You must be comfortable quickly creating viable concepts and designs. Rendering concepts created by others on the team is also an important part of your role. You should understand CMF design and be able to make CMF recommendations and collaborate with external CMF designers. You should have a good understanding of fabrication process and be able to research and work with vendors to utilize new materials and manufacturing processes. You should have a good understanding and appreciation of UX design as at times you will be asked to contribute on UX projects. In addition, should have a good knowledge of 3D printing and 3D printers as you will be responsible for maintaining our small model shop. You will need good communication and organization skills and be responsible for coordinate with external vendors to make appearance models and prototypes. Fluency in Japanese and English is highly desired.

Job Requirements
- University degree in Industrial Design
- 2+ years of professional experience
- Great portfolio of professional and personal projects that share the kind of work you like to do and show a high-level of design acumen including form, composition, use of materials, and ergonomics.
- Great 3D and sketching skills
- Good understanding of fabrication and CMF
- Experience design integrated hardware and software products
- Point of view around consumer electronics, wearables and hardware trends

Additional Highly Desired Skills
- Model making skills including sewing, woodworking and other any other crafts.
- 3D printer operation and maintenance
- UX design skills

Design Internships

We have two 3-month paid internship opportunities available.   Interns are selected by portfolios that wow by designers that have the right interests and personality to contribute. Interns are plugged right into projects and given the chance to contribute from the time they start. Interns are not required to make the coffee and take out the garbage, unless you really want to. At the end of the internship, if you like us and we like you there is a good chance we will ask you to stay.

About Our Culture

We are new and small so our culture is still being established. We can share a few of our values that guide how we conduct ourselves. We consciously picked Shimokita for our office because we wanted to be in an area that feels local, authentic, creative and full of life. Our office is cozy but the kind of place where you want to spend time, thinking and making. We work hard but don't run a "black company". You get your job done and leave. No need to play heroics and be last one here at the end of the day. Sure we work late sometimes but when we do we take care of dinner and try to make as little impact on your personal life. And we want you to have a life; when you come to the studio on Monday morning we want to hear about what an awesome weekend you had in this great city. We intend to tell you about ours. We take inspiration from the things we do away from the computer and the studio. Everybody gets to play DJ in the office and we have a kitchen and foresee making and sharing our favorite foods. Not that we need to cook, outside our door is an amazing array of inexpensive curry, ramen, Thai and good coffee. Shimokita is isogashi on the weekends but during the week it is very calm and accessible.

We are really picky about the individuals we hire as we work in close-quarters and as a team. Designers with big egos, inability to take direction and collaborate are not a good fit. You will get the opportunity to do things you have never done before because Airline intends to do things never done before with our clients. You are joining an experienced leadership team and your potential for growth within the company is high. You will be rewarded with additional opportunities, compensation, and recognition accordingly!

As the company grows and when we are able to we intend to share profits back with the employees. We offer 15 days of paid vacation not including National Holidays. When schedule allows, we offer breakfast tacos on Friday mornings, made by Paul-San.