

# NIKITAA SIVAAKUMAR

PRODUCT DESIGNER | SOCIAL INNOVATOR | INVENTOR



## PORTFOLIO



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## CONTACT

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## PROJECT & EXPERIENCE

### MakeGlow

Founder and CEO  
[www.makeglow.com](http://www.makeglow.com)

#### *Product and System Design, Social Innovation*

MakeGlow is a low-cost, easy-to-fold solar lantern that is designed for students from schools in rural India to be built in classrooms as part of a hands-on learning session | Awarded **Poverty Alleviation through Sustainable Solutions Grant** by UC Davis Blum Center | Awarded **Second place (Energy and Resource Alternatives category)** with an \$8,000 grant in the Big Ideas 2016-2017 competition, UC Berkeley | Awarded **Honorable Mention** at Grand Prize Pitch Day, UC Berkeley.

### Innovator In Residence Fellowship

SELCO Foundation, *Bangalore, India*  
Jan 2018 - Jul 2018

#### *Social Innovation and Product Design*

Will be working on developing MakeGlow into a manufacturable product in collaboration with SELCO India.

### Design Intern

Sol Design Lab, *San Francisco, CA*  
Jun 2017 - Present

#### *Design Consulting for Infographics*

Consulting and collaborating on Project **Design with the sun** which is part of **Solaviz: The Solar Energy Visualization Project**, to design and develop infographics for public solar education materials, energy dashboards.

### Architecture Design Assistant

Designworks, *Winters, CA*  
Jul 2017 - Dec 2017

#### *Architectural Drawing and Design*

Worked on residential remodel and commercial building projects | Drafted site plans, roof plans, floor plans, building sections, elevations on computer-aided design and drafting software program PowerCADD.

### Assistant Instructor

UC Davis Design, *Davis, CA*  
Jan 2017 - Mar 2017

#### *Studio Practice in Sustainable Design (DES 127B)*

Taught a class of 16 design major students | Delivered lectures on sustainability, designing to change human behavior and user testing techniques | Developed problem statement and evaluation criteria for three studio projects | Mentored, graded and offered feedback, critique to students on projects.

### Teaching Assistant

UC Davis Design, *Davis, CA*  
Sep 2015 - Jun 2017

#### *Introduction to Design (DES 1), Introduction to Sustainable Design (DES 127A) Sustainable Development, Theory and Practice (LDA3)*

Held discussion sections for undergraduate students | Led critiques and creative exercises | Offered feedback to students on projects | Assisted in developing grading rubrics and project guidelines.

## Communications Design Assistant

Washington Program, *Davis, CA*  
May 2016 - Jul 2016

### *Graphic and User experience Design*

Managed website content using CMS Cascade | Developed prototype for an intranet service using InVision | Designed marketing material: brochures, banners and pamphlets | Involved in grassroots marketing and market research.

## Graphic Design Intern (Remote)

Last Forest, *Kotagiri, India*  
Jun 2016 - Jul 2016

### *Graphic Design*

Designed marketing material and brochures | Designed posters for products | Designed an infographic for the annual report and stats.

## Research Intern

TU Braunschweig, *Germany*  
May 2014 - Jul 2014

### *Structural Design*

Structural design and 3D printing of concrete formwork using Rhino and Grasshopper | Used CNC machine to create wax moulds for concrete forms designed on Rhino.

## EDUCATION

*Master in Fine Arts, Design*  
*University of California, Davis*  
2015 - 2017

*Bachelor of Technology, Civil Engineering*  
*National Institute of Technology, Tiruchirappalli, India*  
2011 - 2015

## AWARDS & HONORS

MakeGlow, **Second Place : Energy and Resource Alternatives, Big Ideas**, UC Berkeley 2016-17.

MakeGlow, **Honorable Mention : Grand Prize Pitch Presentation, Big Ideas**, UC Berkeley 2016-17.

MakeGlow, **Poverty Alleviation through Sustainable Solutions Grant**, Blum Center for Developing Economies, UC Davis, 2016.

**Dean's Fellowship UC Davis** : Funding for Non-Resident Supplemental Tuition, 2015-17.

**DAAD Wise Scholarship** : German Academic Exchange Service, Scholarship to meritorious students to undertake three months of internship at a German institution in the field of science and engineering, 2014.

**O.P.Jindal Engineering and Management Scholarship** : Awarded to the Top 100 meritorious students in India having the potential to become excellent leaders in entrepreneurial excellence and innovation, 2014.

**Winner at Inspinature**, a biomimicry inspired design competition at Pragyan, International techno-management festival at National Institute of Technology, Tiruchirappalli, 2015.

**Academic Proficiency Prize** for B.Tech Civil Engineering, **Second rank** in Semesters I, II, III, IV and **Third rank** in Semesters V, VI, VII & VIII, National Institute of Technology, Tiruchirappalli 2011-15.

## SKILLS & EXPERTISE

**Design Strategy | Design Thinking | Human Centered Design | Lighting Design | Furniture Design | Design Sketching | 3D Modeling | Design Research | Responsive Web Design | Layout Design | Information Design**

Photoshop | Illustrator | InDesign | Rhinoceros 3D | AutoCAD | Autodesk Fusion | SketchUp | PowerCADD | C++ | HTML5 | CSS3 | Wireframing | InVision | 3D Printing | Laser cutting | CNC milling | MS Office | Mac OS X