Nikolas Astra

Front-End / UI Engineer | Product-Focused Full-Stack Developer

Los Angeles, CA

contact@nikastra.com | nikastra.com | GitHub: astra-media | LinkedIn: in/nikastra

SUMMARY

Product-focused Front-End / Full-Stack Engineer with hands-on experience building, launching, and maintaining production e-commerce applications used by real customers. Specialized in React and Next.js with a strong UI/UX mindset, performance awareness, and end-to-end ownership of features from concept to deployment. Known for shipping real-world products, improving usability, and translating business requirements into reliable, scalable web experiences.

Credibility anchor: Shipped and maintained a live, customer-facing e-commerce platform handling real transactions and production traffic.

CORE SKILLS

- **Front-End:** JavaScript, React, Next.js, HTML, CSS, UI/UX, GSAP, Shopify Liquid
- **Back-End:** Node.js, Express
- **Databases:** MongoDB, Mongoose, PostgreSQL
- **APIs & Auth:** REST APIs, JSON, Axios, JWT, bcrypt
- **Payments:** Stripe.js, PayPal
- **State & UI:** Redux Toolkit, Swiper, Bootstrap
- **Tools:** Git, npm, Yarn, Command Line
- **Other Languages:** Python, C++, C#
- **Design & Creative:** Adobe Creative Suite, TouchDesigner, Fusion 360

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Science
Woodbury University - Burbank, CA

CERTIFICATION

- **MERN From Scratch:** Build a Complete eCommerce Platform (Udemy)

SELECTED WORK

- **Variable Z E-Commerce Platform:** End-to-end React/Next.js e-commerce application with authentication, payments, and product workflows.
- sakeeb.dev | github.com/astra-media

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Full-Stack Developer (Product & Front-End Focus)
Variable Z - Los Angeles, CA | 2021 - Present

- Built and maintain a live e-commerce platform using React, Next.js, Node.js, and Express.
- Led front-end development and UI/UX implementation for a customer-facing product.
- Developed back-end services supporting authentication, orders, and payments.
- Integrated Stripe, PayPal, and third-party REST APIs.
- Improved performance and stability through debugging, refactoring, and iterative releases.

Freelance Full-Stack Developer
Remote | 2020 - Present

- Delivered custom web applications and feature development for multiple clients.
- Collaborated with designers, marketers, and developers to implement front-end and back-end solutions.
- Gathered requirements, communicated timelines, and translated business needs into technical execution.
- Worked in shared codebases using Git workflows and coordinated deployments.
- Provided ongoing support, debugging, and performance optimization.

UI Developer
SeePoint, LLC - Redondo Beach, CA | 2019 - 2021

- Led redesign and maintenance of company e-commerce website.
- Developed UI components for kiosk-based systems.
- Collaborated with engineering and R&D teams to refine usability and interface clarity.

Computer Lab Technician
Woodbury University - Burbank, CA | 2016 - 2018

- Provided technical support across Mac and Windows environments.
- Troubleshot hardware, software, and network issues in a high-traffic lab setting.

Interactive Design Intern
VirtuLabs - San Francisco, CA | 2017

- Contributed to Project SkyLights installation presented at Digital Design Days + OFFF Milano.
- Integrated TouchDesigner with hardware systems for real-time visual experiences.

References available upon request.