

Tristan

Product Designer focused on new product innovation, emerging technologies, and rapid prototyping. I combine creative problem solving with technical and user-centred thinking to develop, test, and refine novel feasible product concepts. I work across digital and physical design to explore, build, test, and refine solutions.



I'm
Tristan
Ward

product designer | industrial designer | maker



rhino



blender



fusion 360



indesign



illustrator



figma



photoshop



framer



cursor



microsoft suite



ai tools

↘ contact

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based in the uk

experience

VPI Codes2026

Independent Design & Engineering

Identified an opportunity created by Digital Product Passport legislation and developed VPI Codes, a machine-readable physical identifier designed for manufacture, linking products to dynamic lifecycle data.

Engineered a scalable coding architecture combining positional, data, and error checking elements to generate over 3.4 billion unique IDs. Prototyped and tested codes through milling, 3D printing, casting, laser engraving, and acid etching, evaluating manufacturability, material tolerances, and integration across products.

Independently developed the complete scanning software and smartphone application using AI assisted coding workflows, building a computer vision and machine learning pipeline trained on over 150,000 synthetic and real world samples. Tested recognition across devices, lighting, orientation, materials, surface imperfections, grain, and reflective properties, feeding real world results back into the model to improve accuracy and robustness.

Worked with Benchmark Furniture, a leading sustainable furniture manufacturer responding to DPP legislation, and Stykka, a Danish LCA and product data specialist, using industry expertise and feedback to inform development and implementation. The project is in early stage discussions with companies interested in further development.

Bang Creations2025-present

User Research

Contributed to the development of an emerging AI design tool. Worked iteratively with users and prototypes to explore, evaluate, and refine emerging product concepts, challenging assumptions and guiding development. Synthesised qualitative and quantitative findings into actionable insights that informed product decisions. Communicated research findings and recommendations to senior stakeholders, collaborating across disciplines to translate insights into tangible product opportunities.

HM Coastguard2021-present

Maritime Operations Officer

Part-time alongside full-time degree. Qualified Mission Coordinator executing UK maritime emergency responses, coordinating rescue teams and making time critical decisions in complex, evolving situations. Developed strong leadership and communication skills, communicating critical information to rescue teams, senior leadership and the public. Applied problem solving under pressure, and attention to detail when monitoring and responding to maritime activity.

Freelance Designer2026

Centre of Ecology Exeter University

Designed and developed bespoke laboratory equipment for virology research, translating evolving research requirements into functional, user focused solutions. Applied CAD, prototyping, material knowledge, and iterative problem solving to develop and refine designs under real-world constraints. Worked closely with researchers and non-design specialists, communicating concepts and progress through to final implementation.

education

Falmouth University2023-2026

1st Class BA (Hons) Product Design

Developed an industry engaged design practice focused on new product innovation, emerging technologies, technical development, and sustainable design.

- * **Design innovation.** Applying emerging technologies and AI assisted workflows to develop novel, disruptive solutions to opportunities created by Digital Product Passport legislation.
- * **Technical experimentation.** Adapting industrial ultrasonic technology for domestic use in Spring - a smart home water meter. Using Raspberry Pi prototypes to investigate transducer performance, packaging and pipe attachment in addition to prototyping UX/UI flows to create full, cohesive product experiences.
- * **Rapid prototyping.** Developing and testing physical concepts through iterative model making, hands-on experimentation, milling and 3D printing to create the Siglo Chair - a flat pack, single material active seating solution.
- * **Sustainable design.** Applying circular economy principles, sensitive material awareness and design for longevity to Hestia, a repairable and customisable lighting system designed to support family health, sleep and wellbeing.
- * **Industry collaboration.** Leading user research with Bang Creations, translating findings into insights and communicating outcomes to senior stakeholders.

SculptureCERTHE

University of the Arts London

Foundation Art & DesignDiploma

University of South Wales

UX DesignGoogle Cert

Google

AI ProfessionalGoogle Cert

Google