RYAN SLICKLEIN

AI-Native Product Designer · Accessibility-First · Ships Live Software
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SUMMARY

AI-Native Product Designer who ships live software — two products in production, built solo. SlickSessions: an AI EdTech platform that pivoted on pre-launch user testing from a single-role SLP tool into a 7-role closed-loop intervention engine. SlickLeads: a signal-based lead-generation platform that researches public data with AI and wins real clients. Three years in Special Education shape the accessibility-first design (WCAG 2.2 AA, neurodivergent-inclusive) and Claude-native shipping cadence behind every project; seeking Product Designer or Founding Designer roles where designers ship the product.

Process: *Real person, not a persona → non-negotiables first → Rejected vs. Chosen → AI produces, I direct and gate → ship small, listen*

SELECTED WORK · RYANSLICKLEIN.COM

SlickSessions — AI Intervention Platform for Educators **Apr 2026 — Present**

Live SaaS · slicksessions.com · 100+ educator signups (49 in first 48 hours)

- Pivoted on pre-launch user testing from a single-role SLP tool into a 7-role closed-loop intervention engine serving SLP, SPED, Reading, Counselor, ENL, Math, and Gen Ed teachers across 14 grade bands; aligned to all 50 state standards
- Architected the AI engine: 22k-token cached curricula brain, 98 grade-band-by-role sub-prompts, 23 interactive games and tools, and a closed-loop IEP DataSheet-to-PLAAFP drafter
- WCAG 2.2 AA verified and neurodivergent-inclusive throughout — sensory-aware visuals, predictable navigation, plain-language copy, full keyboard support; built solo with Claude Code

SlickLeads — Signal-Based Lead Generation Platform **Aug 2026 — Present**

Own Product · In Daily Production · 520 signals captured on day one

- Designed and built an end-to-end lead engine solo: five public-data signal streams (business filings, liquor licenses, building permits, SEC Form D raises, website-health checks), AI research with a cited source behind every fact, and a nightly outreach queue
- Shaped the UX through an 11-platform competitor teardown (Clay, Apollo, Close, Attio, Instantly): explainable lead scoring, verified-vs-guessed contact transparency, and a single nightly work queue
- WCAG 2.2 AA liquid-glass interface with reduced-motion and reduced-transparency fallbacks; in production for my own client practice from launch day

Monti Transportation — Mobile Trucking Management App **Feb 2026**

Real Paying Client · 8 Hi-Fi Screens · Interactive Prototype

- Conducted 1-on-1 client discovery, identified 5 core pain points, grounded the design in competitive analysis of 4 tools, and secured client sign-off on 8 validated wireframes before high-fidelity work began
- Validated in usability testing: 94% task completion, sub-30-second average task time, 87/100 SUS score; projected $15K/year recovered for the client through previously-missed tax deductions

ryanslicklein.com — Two-Audience Portfolio, Built Solo **Mar 2026 — Present**

Live Site · Redesigned Aug 2026 · Next.js 16 · GSAP · Tailwind v4

- Designed and shipped a glassmorphic portfolio serving two audiences — product case studies for hiring teams plus a fixed-price client landing page — with a site-wide reduced-motion-safe animation system; reviewed by a senior product leader at Deel, network introductions offered

EXPERIENCE

Founder & Product Designer **2025 — Present**

SlickSessions · SlickLeads — Live AI Products

- Solo operator across product, design, engineering, infrastructure, brand, and growth — every decision shipped under one roof

Freelance Product Designer **2026 — Present**

AuraPath AI — AI Consulting Agency · plus independent clients

- Product and web design for an AI consulting agency plus a fixed-price website practice for local businesses — live client sites shipped (art-retreat studio; trucking company app), new builds in progress; research through high-fidelity, shipped with Claude

Special Education Teacher **Sept 2022 — Present**

Greenport School District, NY · Poway Unified School District, CA

- Wrote and updated IEPs aligned to NY and CA standards; assessments and behavioral observations with 60+ students annually
- Designed, tested, and iterated differentiated materials for students with diverse cognitive and physical needs — rapid iteration on continuous data, every day; ran MTSS Tier 2 and Tier 3 caseloads

EDUCATION & CERTIFICATIONS

Anthropic Claude Certifications (4 completed) **2026**

Anthropic Academy — Claude Code in Action · Building with the Claude API · Agent Skills · Model Context Protocol; further certification in progress

Google UX Design Professional Certificate **2025**

Coursera — End-to-end UX process, Figma, user research, prototyping, usability testing

BA Child Study, Concentration: Speech Communications **May 2022**

St. Joseph's University, Patchogue, NY — Focus on human behavior, cognitive development, and communication

SKILLS

Design: Design Systems, Prototyping, WCAG 2.2 AA Accessibility, Neurodivergent-Inclusive Design, Mobile-First, Responsive, Visual Identity
Research & Strategy: User Interviews, Usability Testing, Wireframing, Domain Deep-Dives, Competitive Analysis, Customer Discovery, Stakeholder Communication, Rapid Iteration
Shipping with AI: Claude, Claude Code (multi-agent workflows, CLAUDE.md specs, agent orchestration), Vercel, Stripe, GitHub, Next.js