

Clay Bachmeier

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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Tesla — Design Quality Intern

2/2023 – 8/2023 | Austin, TX

- Guided the launch of a new seat assembly facility for Model Y production, giving final design-quality approval, working directly with assemblers to direct, and define aesthetic standards.
- Managed appearance, quality, and timelines for 100+ parts leading up to the Cybertruck launch, traveling internationally to direct suppliers on color, texture, and design intent.
- Directed reviews and gave final aesthetic approval of launch of a new paint line at Gigafactory Texas, doubling paint capacity.
- Approved components across textiles, plastics, paints, and molding against master samples while serving as the link between suppliers, CMF, purchasing, and engineering.

General Motors — Design and Prototyping Intern

5/2022 – 8/2022 | Detroit, MI

- Built hands-on prototyping skills across pattern making, hand-sewing, carbon fiber layups, and mold making while working on concept vehicles slated for production five to ten years out.

Aircorps Aviation — Fabricator

10/2022 – 10/2025 | Bemidji, MN

- Fabricated precision metal components for vintage WWII aircraft to strict historical-accuracy standards, and redesigned paint-department workflows that increased output 3–5x.

IED CLIENT PROJECTS

Luce di Carrara — Brand Strategy and Product Designer

January 2026 | Milan, Italy

- Developed a brand strategy for a heritage marble company, grounded in brand, market, and user research, translating their greatest strength, material craft, into clear market positioning.
- Co-designed two objects and a communication and engagement strategy focused on acquiring new architectural partners and maintaining current clients.

OSRAM-Ledvance — Product Designer

April 2026 | Milan, Italy

- Redefined the brand's core values through research grounded in brand, user, trend, and market insights, repositioning a legacy global manufacturer as a design-led brand.
- Co-designed a modular lighting family where every decision: form, CMF, interaction — communicates brand values and pitched a go-to-market strategy directly to the client.

EDUCATION

Institute of European Design (IED) Milan, Italy

Expected November 2026

Master's — Design: Innovation, Strategy, and Product

Bemidji State University

BS — Technology, Art, and Design | Minor — Project Management

Minnesota State Community and Technical College

AAS — Automotive Service Technology

SKILLS

Strategy & Collaboration: Customer, trend, and market research, brand strategy, cross-functional collaboration, stakeholder communication, project coordination

Automotive & Technical: Design intent and appearance evaluation, CMF development, physical prototyping and fabrication, supplier coordination

Software: Microsoft Excel, Powerpoint, KeyShot, Fusion 360, Vizcom, Claude, Adobe Illustrator