

ALI SCHACHTSCHNEIDER

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Strategic innovation leader with over 10 years of experience driving sustainable material innovation, and developing circularity solutions within the fashion industry. Proven expertise in developing innovation strategies, systems design, and leadership. Advanced creative and complex researcher with strong track record of driving teams to deliver results. Passionate and committed to driving sustainable innovation for a healthier future for all people and planet.

RELEVANT WORK EXPERIENCE

Spiber Inc. – Textiles Circularity Consultant (Technical Director)

SEPTEMBER 2023 - PRESENT

REMOTE (SAN FRANCISCO, CA)

- Led global circularity program, building systems for biological materials circularity.
- Iteratively developed strategies and action plans, ensuring strategy implementation.
- Facilitated formation of industry alliance to build consensus around circular product design.
- Defined roadmaps and schemes for product traceability data, materials analysis, and criteria for circular product design for end-of-life biochemical recycling.
- Secured partnerships and managed relations with major international brand partners including but not limited to KERING, EILEEN FISHER INC., DyStar, and Johnstons of Elgin.

Spiber Inc. – Head Strategist, Sustainable Textile Systems (Circularity Director)

MARCH 2022 - SEPTEMBER 2023

REMOTE (TOKYO, JP & NYC, US)

- Created and led Circularity Department, managed people, mentoring a high-performing team.
- Founded circularity program developing systems for biochemical recycling of textiles, developed innovation roadmap and strategy with executive leadership, directed cross functional execution.
- Secured partnerships with international brand partners including Goldwin Inc and PANGAIA.
- Built industry relations and advised teams in public communications on product circularity.
- Developed and initiated testing of preliminary product circularity and traceability schemes.
- Served as global subject matter expert, delivering presentations at industry events in EU and US.

AAPETPEOPLE – Sustainable Product Development Consultant (Freelance)

FEBRUARY 2022 - PRESENT

REMOTE, NYC, NY

- Developed sustainable design strategies, ensured implementation, established partnerships.
- Designed and implemented product traceability scheme, facilitating collection of data to enhance transparency and accountability.
- Advised in preparation and application process for B Corp. certification.

BIOFABRICATE – Senior Design Researcher

JUNE 2020 - FEBRUARY 2022

NYC, NY & BROOKLYN, NY

- Led design research for all client projects, communicated results, and facilitated workshops.
- Contributed to industry reporting, launching a fashion industry report with Fashion for Good.
- Consulted and advised startups to optimize material development and brand collaboration.

BIOFABRICATE – Summit Production Associate

DECEMBER 2015 - JANUARY 2022

PART-TIME (ANNUAL EVENT), NYC, NY, BROOKLYN, NY, LONDON, UK

- Supported cultivation of a community of brands, investors, and sustainable materials startups.
- Managed all aspects of event planning and execution, including on-site staff management.

Modern Meadow – Senior Designer, Product Development Strategy

SEPTEMBER 2017 - MAY 2020

NYC, NY & BROOKLYN, NY

- Drove sustainable material design development strategy working cross-functionally with scientific, product, business development, and marketing teams.
- Worked closely with brand partners to support direction of product development.
- Led product analyses of product application performance, informing R&D teams in optimization.
- Designed prototype projects for global exhibitions, managing development through delivery.

Parsons School of Design, The New School – Part-time professor

NOVEMBER 2016 TO AUGUST 2017

NYC, NY

- Defined curriculum and led the 1st “Biodesign” course merging design and biotech.

Genspace Community Biotechnology Lab – Researcher & Instructor

APRIL 2013 TO JULY 2018

BROOKLYN, NY

- Designed and executed self-directed experiments, and designed and instructed workshops.

SKILLS

- Fashion/ textiles sustainability and circularity expertise, and deeply experienced in bio-innovation
- 9 years experience leading projects / 4 years experience managing direct reports
- Subject matter expertise in sustainable materials development, and textiles development
- Advanced business and research strategy development and implementation capabilities
- Excellent business acumen, market knowledge, and well connected within material innovation
- Advanced user, market, and technical research, synthesis, translation and applied insights skills
- Highly skilled and experienced project manager and program manager
- Exceptional creative and complex problem-solving skills
- Passionate and knowledgeable of the climate crisis and the role of product innovation in driving positive change and potentially reducing environmental impacts
- Highly organized with strong attention to detail
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills, and proven public presentation abilities
- Biotech laboratory skills, knowledge of biotech processes, experimental design skills
- Advanced software skills: Microsoft Suite, Adobe Creative Suite, project management (Airtable, Asana), data analytics, and marketing tools
- Beginner Japanese language skills, and basic Spanish language skills

AWARDS

- Listed Inventor: 'Biofabricated Leather Articles, & Methods Thereof', Modern Meadow, 2020.
- Finalist, RADO Star Prize US, RADO Switzerland, 2017.
- Design Innovation Award (Techmer PM); Founders' Portfolio Award; RSA, & Leadership Award for Fashion and Textiles, The Royal Society of the Arts US 2015.

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- *(Upcoming)* SynBioBeta, CA, US, 2024
- CLASS, Italy (Virtual), 2023
- Circularity23, WA, US, 2023
- Biofabricate Summit, NY, US, 2022

EDUCATION

Parsons School of Design, The New School – Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA), Fashion Design, NYC, NY