

## SCOTT RUNKEL

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Scott's career journey is vast and varied. Taking him from the deserts of Australia designing software that operationalizes iron ore mines to the aisles of Walmart Supercenters in the U.S., devising how to blend robotics with human workforces.

Equal part artist and scientist he blends understanding of how design, business and technology intersect to drive results for both big brands and startups.

His journey began at IBM right after design school. He found himself in Paris with more responsibilities than he knew he was ready for (he was). There he learned three critical lessons that have been the cornerstone for how he has navigated differing cultural landscapes, tailoring relationships and solutions that resonate across borders throughout his career.

- let your curiosity lead the way
- trust your instincts (they're right more often than not)
- never underestimate the power of making friends

At McKinsey, he found himself in the eye of the storm as McKinsey Design sought to unite with its traditional 100-year-old institution.

As VP of Design and Product in Central Operations at Walmart, he employed technology, introduced robotics and streamlined in-store processes resulting in \$750M SG&A savings, maintained jobs, and redirected the savings as bonuses for store employees. He also launched "Ask Sam", the company's first voice-assistant which supported mental health for over 200,000 in-store employees.

His work with Caterpillar found him in a pit wearing a hard hat and steel-toed boots while reimagining software used to remotely control and monitor autonomous mining equipment and operations. By immersing himself in the end users' experience, he uncovered and addressed safety concerns with intelligently designed solutions that reduced incidents by 35% within the first 4 months.

Scott has found balance through frequent collaboration with startups. Working where speed is key, failures are stepping stones, and the belief that you can indeed *put a dent in the universe*, has been a game changer for him.

When he isn't working, he creates and sells contemporary art.

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