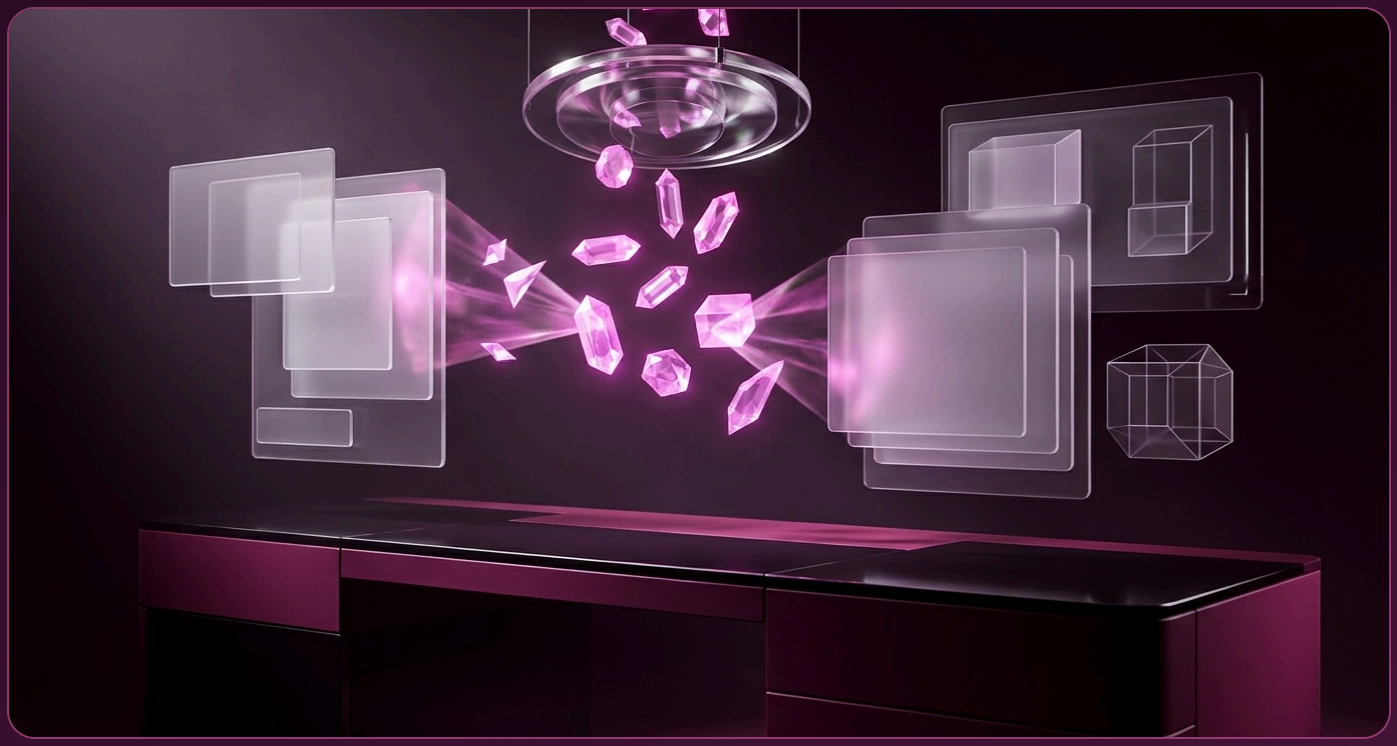
ANTHROPIC CLAUDE & WORKSPACE STUDIOS • FIELD GUIDE

Claude Design

Turning real codebases, brand guidelines, and natural conversations into on-brand interactive prototypes, UX wireframes, executive slide decks, and product one-pagers—with live Control Knobs and Figma or Claude Code handoffs.

Codebase & Brand Onboarding | 4 Visual Deliverable Modes | Live Studio Control Knobs | Inline Comments & Direct Tweaks | Figma MCP & Code Connect | Claude Code & Gamma Export



Never Start Off-Brand

Ingest React, Tailwind, shadcn/ui, tokens.json, and brand PDFs during onboarding so every frame uses your real system tokens.

Dial, Comment, Tweak Live

Adjust layout density, dark mode, type scale, radii, and variants through live Control Knobs and inline pins without hand-editing code.

Round-Trip Everywhere

Sync editable auto-layout layers via Figma MCP & Code Connect, hand components to Claude Code, or export to Gamma and headless stacks.

Bridging Conversation, Brand Systems, and Real Code

Generic AI UI generators invent throwaway buttons and mismatched fonts on every prompt. Anthropic Labs built **Claude Design** as an interactive visual prototyping studio grounded in your team's living Design System—so conversational ideas look and behave like your actual product from Draft 1.

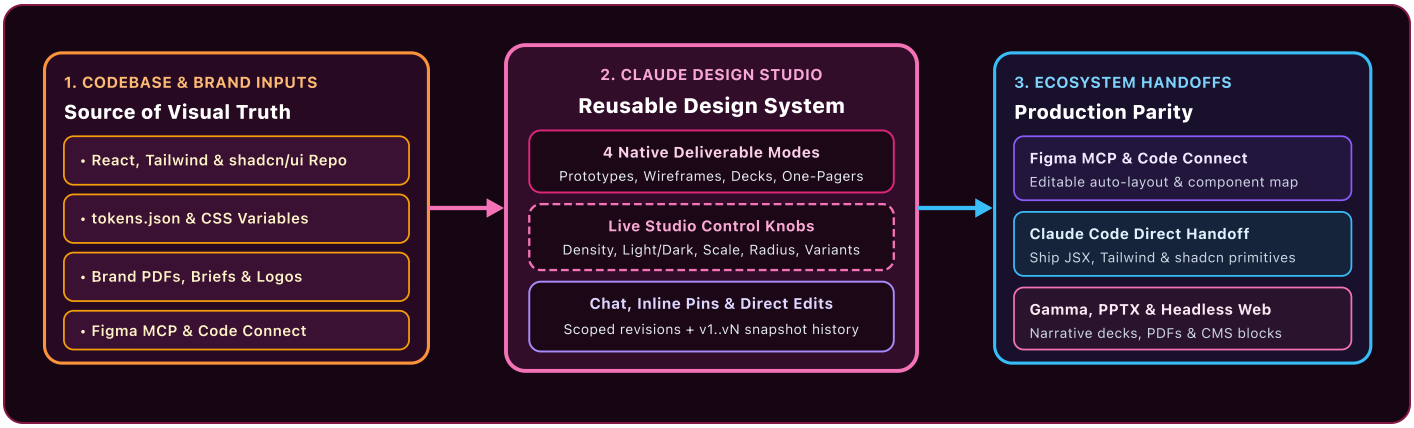
Quick Navigation

1. Mental Model: Token-Grounded Studio p. 2
2. Plans, Surface Access & Tool Matrix p. 3
3. Annotated Studio & Control Knobs Tour p. 4
4. Codebase & Brand Onboarding p. 5
5. 4 Deliverable Modes & Prompt Anatomy p. 6
6. Control Knobs, Comments & Variants p. 7
7. Bidirectional Figma & Code Handoffs p. 8
8. 5 Copy-Paste Design Recipes p. 9
9. Team Sharing & Org Governance p. 10
10. Cross-Tool Ecosystem Synergy p. 11
11. Troubleshooting Clinic & Pre-Flight p. 12
Golden Rule: Bind Tokens Before Pixel Tweaks All

Why Token-First Visual Generation Changes Everything

Instead of treating every layout like a disconnected drawing, Claude Design separates visual authoring into two coordinated layers: a persistent **Design System Registry** (ingesting your color tokens, typography scale, spacing rhythm, and mapped React or Figma primitives) and a **Live Generative Canvas** powered by vision-capable Claude Opus models. Product managers, founders, designers, and engineers can co-create clickable prototypes, multi-screen wireframes, executive slide decks, and product one-pagers that remain strictly faithful to brand rules.

Architecture: From Brand & Repo Onboarding to Bidirectional Handoffs



Not a Replacement for Figma or Engineering—The High-Speed Bridge Between Them

Claude Design eliminates blank-canvas bottlenecks and off-brand mockups: non-designers draft credible interactive concepts using approved company tokens, while designers and developers round-trip clean layers into Figma and production repositories.

Plans, Activation & Design Surface Decision Matrix

Born in Anthropic Labs, Claude Design runs natively inside main `claude.ai` (chat & **Artifacts** tab), Claude Desktop, mobile apps, and **Claude Code** (`/design`)—as standalone `claude.ai/design` closes on **Dec 14, 2026**.

1 Availability Across Plans & Surfaces

- **Free, Pro, Max & Ultra Plans:** Available across all individual tiers (Design Systems on by default for Pro/Max/Ultra; Free subject to message caps).
- **Team vs. Enterprise Defaults: On by default** for Team; on **Enterprise**, Design Systems (`Organization settings → Artifacts`) and standalone access are **off by default** until an owner enables them.
- **Dec 14 Closure & Migration:** Migrate `claude.ai/design` design systems before **Dec 14, 2026** closure (migrated standalone kits turn read-only; standalone chats, comments, and links stop working).
- **Web, Desktop, Mobile & Code:** Build and dial Control Knobs on web or Desktop; review on iOS/Android; sync components in **Claude Code** via `/design` and `/design-sync`.

2 Three Ways to Launch Claude Design

1. **In-Chat & Artifacts Tab:** Select **Design** in the `claude.ai` Artifacts tab or prompt in chat (and migrate pre-Dec 14 standalone `claude.ai/design` kits via the built-in tool).
2. **Codebase-First via Claude Code:** Run `/design` or `/design-sync` in your frontend repo so Claude imports `tokens.json`, Tailwind config, and `shadcn/ui` primitives.
3. **Inside a Claude Project:** Prompt directly inside a Project holding your product PRDs and brand PDFs so every generated flow matches existing specs.

60-Second Team Design System Setup

1. Connect GitHub frontend repo (or upload `tokens.json` + brand PDF). 2. Inspect extracted color palette, typography ramp, spacing scale, and component primitives. 3. Click **Publish to Team Workspace** so every teammate's prompts inherit approved brand styling automatically.

Visual Workspace Decision Matrix: Choosing the Right Surface

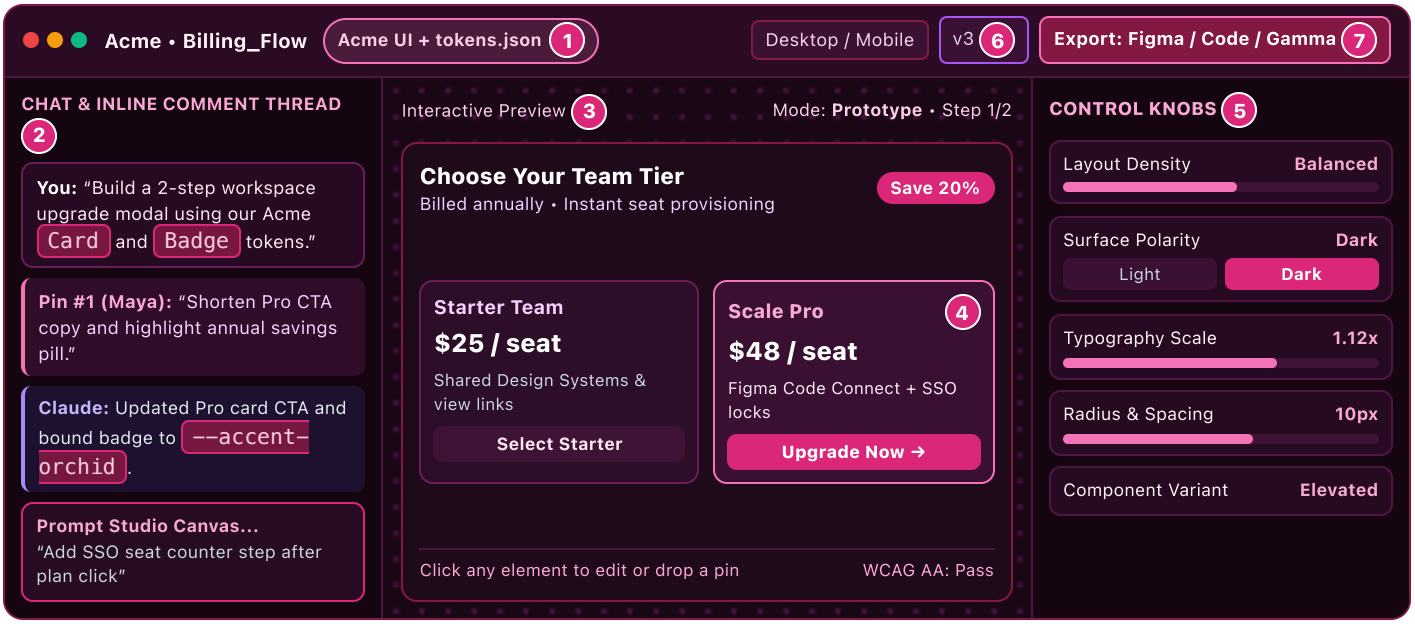
Tool / Surface	Best-Fit Output	Brand & Token Fidelity	Live Editing Controls	Handoff & Code Parity
Claude Design *Visual Prototyping Studio*	Clickable prototypes, multi-screen wireframes, exec decks & one-pagers.	**Highest AI Fidelity:** Locked to ingested repo, `tokens.json` & brand PDFs.	**Live Control Knobs:** Density, theme, type scale, radii, variants + inline pins.	**Bidirectional:** Figma MCP / Code Connect, Claude Code, Gamma & web.
Claude Whiteboards *Spatial Thinking Canvas*	Voice-to-board brainstorms, sticky clusters, swimlanes & retros.	**Semantic Stickies:** Color-coded by risk, owner & team rather than brand UI.	**Region-Box AI:** Lasso corner clusters and co-edit stickies with live cursors.	**Planning Export:** Converts to Claude Docs, Slides, Lucid, Miro & Vani.
Figma *Canonical Design Suite*	Pixel-precision vector libraries, master design systems & multi-team critiques.	**Source of Truth:** Authoritative variables, branching & component specs.	**Manual Vector & Auto-Layout:** Full frame-by-frame designer control.	**MCP + Code Connect:** Feeds real components directly to Claude Design & Code.
Standard React Artifacts *Single-File Code Previews*	Quick calculators, data charts & single-turn functional utilities.	**Ad-Hoc Styling:** Uses default Tailwind classes unless manually pasted per chat.	**Re-Prompt Only:** No live Control Knobs panel or canvas element pinning.	**Copy-Paste JSX:** Single component snippet; no Figma or Gamma pipeline.

Winning Sequence: Ideate in Whiteboards → Prototype in Design → Govern in Figma & Claude Code

Map messy product architecture in **Claude Whiteboards**, drop that flow into **Claude Design** to build a clickable prototype matched to your real `shadcn/ui` library, then export to **Figma** for polish or straight into **Claude Code** for production wiring.

Annotated Tour: Inside the Claude Design Studio

Every Claude Design session unites three live panels: a brand-aware prompt and comment stream on the left, an interactive clickable preview canvas in the center, and real-time **Control Knobs** on the right.



1 **Active Design System Pill:** Confirms which ingested codebase, `tokens.json`, or brand PDF governs every token and primitive on screen.

2 **Brand-Aware Chat & Comments:** Issue global instructions in plain English or resolve teammate feedback pins bound to exact components.

3 **Interactive Prototype Canvas:** Click buttons, switch tabs, and verify responsive desktop/mobile flows live—not static placeholder images.

4 **Inline Pins & Direct Canvas Tweaks:** Click any card or heading directly on canvas to edit microcopy inline or request a targeted component tweak.

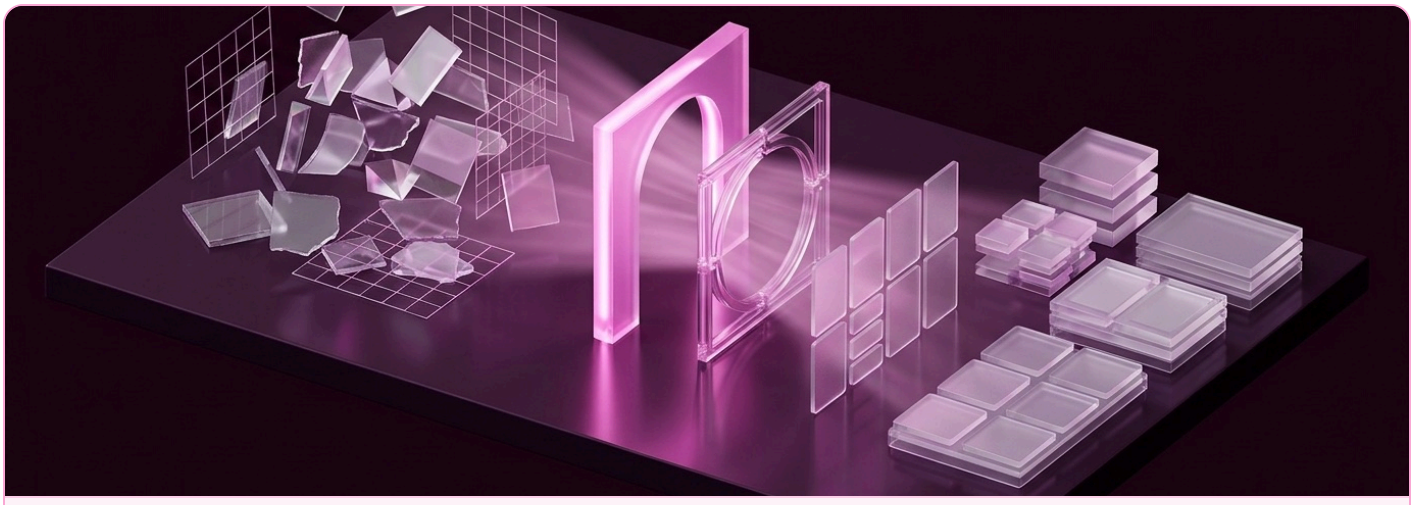
5 **Dynamic Control Knobs Panel:** Slide layout density, toggle light/dark mode, scale typography, adjust corner radius, or swap variants without coding.

6 **Artifact Version Snapshots (`v1..vN`):** Every major iteration saves a non-destructive checkpoint so you can compare directions cleanly.

7 **Bidirectional Export & Handoff Menu:** Round-trip editable layers to **Figma** (via Figma MCP & Code Connect), hand JSX components into **Claude Code**, or export slide decks and pages to **Gamma**, `.pptx`, PDF, and headless web bundles.

Codebase & Brand Onboarding: Your Living Design System

The secret to shipping production-grade visuals in Claude Design happens in the first two minutes. During onboarding, Claude ingests your actual frontend codebase and brand assets to construct a reusable **Design System** that governs every prototype, deck, and one-pager.



From Raw Code & Brand PDFs to Unified Primitives: Claude Design extracts semantic color variables, typography scales, spacing rhythm, and React/`shadcn/ui` component signatures into one persistent workspace Design System.

The 4 Onboarding Sources That Eliminate Off-Brand Output

1 Frontend Repo & `shadcn/ui` Primitives

Point onboarding at your React and Tailwind repository (or run `/design-sync` from Claude Code). Claude indexes your real `Button`, `Card`, `Input`, and `Dialog` props so prototypes mirror production components instead of inventing generic HTML tags.

2 Token Files (`tokens.json` & CSS Vars)

Import W3C `tokens.json` or `globals.css` files. Claude locks semantic surfaces (`--bg-card` , `--accent-primary`), type ramps, 4px/8px spacing multiples, and border radii into the Design System registry.

3 Brand Guidelines, Briefs & Decks

No code repo yet? Upload a brand guideline PDF, SVG logo marks, marketing brief, or two screenshots of your live app. Claude infers color roles, visual tone, and editorial hierarchy into a shareable starter kit.

4 Explicit `DESIGN.md` Rule Layer

Attach crisp plain-English guardrails alongside tokens—for example, *“reserve berry-pink exclusively for primary CTAs, keep data tables borderless, and never use gradients behind body copy.”*

```
# Recommended Onboarding Sequence (Codebase + Brand Brief):
1. Open Claude Code in your web repo and run: /design-sync (indexes tailwind.config, tokens.json, components/ui/*)
2. Upload Brand_Guidelines_2026.pdf + Product_Voice_Brief.md inside claude.ai Design onboarding (Artifacts tab)
3. Inspect the generated Design System preview (Colors, Type Scale, Spacing, Primitives) → Click "Lock & Publish"
```

Pro Tip: Organize Tokens by Semantic Intent, Not Literal Color Names

Map variables by role (`surface-subtle` , `border-focus` , `text-secondary`) rather than `pink-500` or `gray-100` . Semantic naming guarantees that toggling Light and Dark Control Knobs preserves accessible contrast automatically.

The 4 Deliverable Modes & 5-Part Prompt Anatomy

Once your Design System is locked in, a single workspace switches smoothly across four core output formats—serving product, design, engineering, and marketing workflows without shifting tools.

1 Interactive Clickable Prototypes

Working multi-step web and app prototypes with real hover states, clickable tabs, conditional modals, and responsive mobile views—ideal for stakeholder demos, user testing, and direct **Claude Code** handoffs.

2 Multi-Screen UX Wireframes

Rapid 4-to-12-screen architectural flows (such as Onboarding, Empty States, Error Recovery, and Checkout) focused on information hierarchy and navigation logic before investing in high-fidelity graphics.

3 Executive Slide Decks

Board readouts, GTM launches, and customer pitch decks laid out with crisp KPI grids, visual comparison cards, and consistent brand headers—exportable directly to `.pptx`, PDF, or **Gamma**.

4 Marketing & Product One-Pagers

High-polish launch briefs, pricing comparison pages, and solution summaries adhering strictly to brand typography and voice—exportable as print PDFs or clean headless web blocks.

The 5-Part Claude Design Prompt Anatomy

Combining these five color-coded prompt blocks generates on-brand, interactive layouts with ready-to-use Control Knobs on the very first pass:

[1. Deliverable Mode & Viewport] Create a 4-screen interactive desktop + mobile UI prototype [2. Bound Design System] bound strictly to our Acme UI Design System (`shadcn/ui` Tabs, Card, Badge + `tokens.json`) [3. Screen Flow & Content] guiding a new workspace admin through Team Name → Repo Sync → Role Permissions → Ready Confirmation with real Back/Continue navigation and realistic sample data. [4. Control Knob Defaults] Expose live Control Knobs for Layout Density (start Balanced), Light/Dark Mode, Typography Scale, Border Radius, and Card Variant. [5. Parity & Handoff Guardrail] Use zero custom hex overrides so every screen passes WCAG AA contrast and exports cleanly to Figma Code Connect and Claude Code.

Prompt Component	What It Controls in the Studio	Failure Mode When Omitted
Deliverable Mode & Viewport	Selects Prototype, Wireframe, Slide Deck, or One-Pager + target screen sizes.	Claude guesses a static marketing sheet when you wanted clickable app screens.
Bound Design System	Locks active palette, typography scale, and exact `shadcn/ui` or Figma primitives.	Generic blue buttons and unmapped CSS appear, breaking Code Connect parity.
Screen Flow & Content	Defines exact screen sequence, interactive states, and domain-specific sample data.	Outputs 1 disconnected screen filled with shallow placeholder copy.
Control Knob Defaults	Generates tailored live sliders and toggles in the right-hand inspector.	Requires manual chat prompts every time you want tighter padding or dark mode.
Parity & Handoff Guardrail	Enforces semantic tokens, accessibility contrast, and clean export structure.	Hard-coded colors break Dark Mode toggles and force manual rewrite in Claude Code.

Refining Live: Control Knobs, Comments & Variants

Traditional AI chat tools punish small visual tweaks: asking to *"make cards slightly tighter and softer"* often triggers a slow full-screen rewrite that scrambles copy you already approved. Claude Design gives you three fast, surgical refinement levers.

1 Live Control Knobs
Drag dynamic sliders generated directly alongside your preview to adjust layout density, light/dark polarity, type scale, corner radius, spacing rhythm, and component variants instantaneously—zero code edits needed.

2 Inline Element Pins
Click any individual badge, navbar, or pricing card on canvas to attach a targeted comment pin. Claude modifies only that anchored element subtree while keeping surrounding screens untouched.

3 Direct Canvas Tweaks
Click straight into headlines, button labels, or table columns to edit wording manually or reorder cards in place without spending another prompt turn.

Mastering the 5 Core Studio Control Knobs

Control Knob	Live Range / Options	When & Why to Dial It During Review
Layout Density	`Compact ↔ Balanced ↔ Airy`	Slide toward **Compact** for dense B2B dashboards and data tables; slide to **Airy** for executive one-pagers and marketing heroes.
Light / Dark Mode	`Light` · `Dark` · `High-Contrast`	Test semantic `tokens.json` surface swaps live in front of stakeholders to catch unreadable borders or muted badge contrast early.
Typography Scale	`0.90x — 1.30x` ratio slider	Scale headline drama upward for slide decks and landing pages, or tighten heading ratios so multi-pane app screens fit without vertical scrolling.
Radius & Spacing	`2px Sharp — 16px Pill`	Tune corner softness and card-to-card gutter rhythm uniformly across every button, modal, and input box in a single drag.
Component Variant	`Minimal | Elevated | Outlined`	Cycle through mapped `shadcn/ui` or Figma Code Connect styles without rewriting component props or losing interactive states.

Pro Habit: Explore 3 Structural Variants First, Then Fine-Tune With Knobs

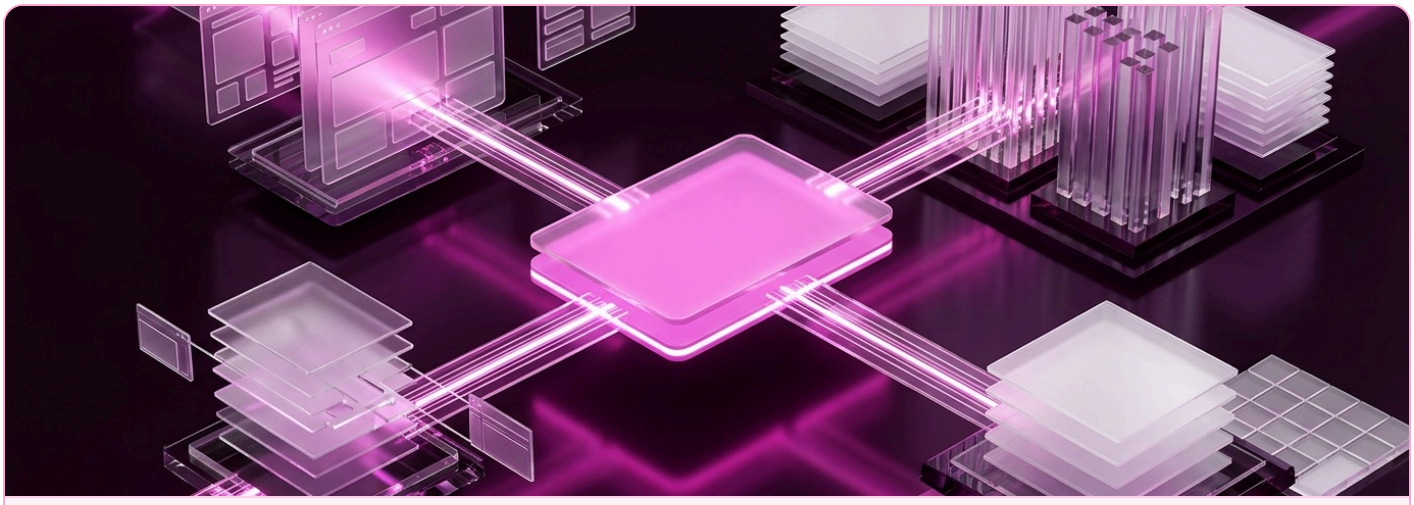
Before dialing details, prompt: *"Generate 3 structural variants of this dashboard side by side: (A) left sidebar rail, (B) top tabbed bar, and (C) split master-detail drawer."* Pick the strongest layout skeleton, lock a `vN` snapshot, and only then refine proportions with Control Knobs and inline comment pins.

Keep Knobs Live by Avoiding Hard-Coded Hex Overrides in Chat

If you ask in chat to force an arbitrary hex like `#ff0099` on one card, that element stops responding smoothly to Light/Dark Mode knobs. Always request semantic overrides such as *"swap Card 2 border to `--border-accent-strong`."*

Bidirectional Handoffs: Figma, Claude Code & Web Stacks

Design momentum collapses when prototypes stay trapped as throwaway mockups. Claude Design provides clean round-trip bridges into **Figma**, **Claude Code**, **Gamma**, and modern headless web architectures.



One Token-Accurate Prototype, Four Downstream Pipelines: Round-trip editable auto-layout layers via Figma MCP & Code Connect, hand JSX directly into Claude Code, export narrative decks to Gamma, or publish headless web blocks.

1 Figma Round-Tripping (MCP + Code Connect)

- **Pull via Figma MCP Server:** Paste a Figma frame URL so Claude reads exact auto-layout constraints, variable collections, and component props before prototyping.
- **Code Connect Mapping:** Map Figma components directly to repo primitives (`<Button />`, `<DataTable />`) so generated prototypes use real production imports.
- **Push Editable Layers Back:** Export settled screens into Figma as structured, editable auto-layout frames via Figma MCP or HTML-to-Figma conversion layers—never flat bitmaps.

2 Claude Code, Gamma & Headless Stacks

- **Direct to Claude Code:** Hand off finalized React, Tailwind, and `shadcn/ui` component bundles straight into a Claude Code session (or via `/implement-design`) to wire live APIs and tests.
- **Gamma & Slide Exports:** Push structured executive decks directly to **Gamma** (or download crisp `.pptx`, PDF, and Canva-ready assets) with slide hierarchy intact.
- **Headless Web Stacks:** Export clean HTML/CSS/JSX modules or structured JSON block payloads for Next.js, Astro, and headless CMS platforms (including Wix Headless).

Ecosystem Export & Round-Trip Reference

Target Platform	Recommended Handoff Trigger	What Carries Over & Ideal Next Step
Figma (Bidirectional)	`Export → Send to Figma` (MCP / Auto-Layout)	Editable auto-layout frames, token variables, and Code Connect component links for design-system polish.
Claude Code	`Hand off to Claude Code` / `.zip` JSX bundle	Repo-matched React + Tailwind + `shadcn/ui` components ready for API wiring, state hooks, and PR review.
Gamma / PPTX / PDF	`Export → Gamma` or `.pptx` / Print PDF	Structured slide acts, narrative callouts, and brand-locked headers for leadership pitches and board meetings.
Headless Web Stack	`Export → HTML/JSON Bundle`	Clean semantic sections, responsive grid tokens, and reusable marketing blocks for Next.js or headless CMS stacks.

5 Real-World Copy-Paste Claude Design Recipes

Paste any recipe below into Claude Design with your published Design System active to produce high-precision prototypes, UX wireframes, slide decks, product one-pagers, or Figma-to-Code round-trips immediately.

Recipe & Use Case	Copy-Paste Prompt (Zero Ambiguous Placeholders)	Output & Next Move
1. Repo-Synced Interactive Prototype *Product & Eng*	`Build a 3-screen interactive Seat Billing & SSO Settings prototype bound to our Acme UI Design System (shadcn/ui Tabs, Table, Dialog + tokens.json). Include realistic member rows, an active seat-limit warning modal, and working Light/Dark, Density, and Radius Control Knobs. Keep all imports repo-valid for Claude Code handoff.`	Clickable React/ `shadcn/ui` prototype; dial knobs live, then hand straight to Claude Code.
2. Multi-Screen UX Wireframe Flow *UX Architecture*	`Switch to Multi-Screen Wireframe mode and map a 6-screen responsive onboarding journey (Welcome → Connect GitHub → Pick Tokens → Preview Theme → Invite Team → Empty Dashboard). Include mobile breakpoints, loading skeletons, and explicit error-recovery states, with a Layout Density Control Knob.`	6-screen desktop/mobile blueprint ready for inline pin critique before visual polish.
3. Executive Launch Slide Deck *Leadership & PM*	`Convert our Q3 Launch PRD attached in this Project into an 8-slide Executive Deck using our Brand Design System. Structure slides as: Title Hero, Customer Pain, Product Demo Flow, Adoption Metrics, Competitive Grid, Architecture Summary, GTM Timeline, and Budget Ask. Expose Type Scale and Density Control Knobs.`	Brand-locked 8-slide deck; export directly to **Gamma** or `.pptx` for VP readout.
4. Product One-Pager & Pricing Sheet *Product Marketing*	`Design a crisp 1-page Enterprise Security Datasheet and 3-tier Pricing Comparison bound to our official Brand PDF and tokens.json. Include a top value summary, 3 proof pillars, a clean feature comparison grid, and an executive CTA footer. Expose Compact/Airy Density and Card Variant Control Knobs.`	Sales-ready PDF one-pager + clean headless HTML/JSON section blocks for web launch.
5. Figma Code Connect Round-Trip *Design Systems*	`Read our linked Checkout Card frame via the Figma MCP server and match every button, badge, and input to our repo's Code Connect mappings. Generate 2 responsive interactive promo-code state variants using tokens.json only, then prepare an editable auto-layout export for Figma plus JSX diff for Claude Code.`	Bidirectional sync keeping Figma layers and production React primitives 100% aligned.

Power Combo: Feed Whiteboards & PRDs Straight Into Recipe #1 or #2

Already mapped a user journey in **Claude Whiteboards** or drafted a spec in a **Claude Project**? Reference it directly in your prompt so every button label, edge case, and error message on screen matches real product requirements.

Snapshot Separate Desktop & Mobile Knob States

Before exporting a bundle to engineering, dial your Control Knobs for desktop spaciousness (save `v4`), then toggle mobile preview with tighter density (save `v5`) so developers inspect both responsive snapshots.

Collaboration, Org Governance & Sharing Permissions

Interactive prototypes often reveal unannounced features, pricing models, and proprietary design tokens. Claude Design enforces org-scoped sharing boundaries, role-based review controls, and Design System governance across every tier.

1 Org-Scoped Sharing & Granular Roles

- **View, Comment & Edit Tiers:** Share prototypes as read-only **Viewers** for leadership demos, **Commenters** for inline element feedback pins, or **Editors** for live co-prompting and Control Knob adjustments.
- **SSO-Bounded Team & Enterprise Links:** Shared design URLs require authenticated workspace SSO login by default—preventing accidental public internet leaks of unreleased roadmaps.
- **Published Brand Locks:** Design leads lock foundational colors, logos, and typography rules inside shared Design Systems so teammates explore freely without drifting off-brand.

2 Admin Policy & Connector Governance

- **Central Feature Controls:** Primary Owners enable Design Systems under `Organization settings → Artifacts` (off by default on Enterprise), custom RBAC roles, and shared publishing rules.
- **Zero Model Training Guarantee:** On Claude Team and Enterprise plans, ingested code repositories, `tokens.json` schemas, brand PDFs, and generated designs are **never** used to train Anthropic models.
- **Approved MCP Export Targets:** Security admins independently allowlist **Figma MCP**, Canva, Gamma, and headless CMS connectors to enforce strict data-egress boundaries.

Permission & Governance Matrix Across Tiers

Capability / Guardrail	Free, Pro, Max & Ultra	Team Plan	Enterprise Plan
Studio Access & Roles	Included (Free subject to msg limits)	**On by default**; shared Projects	**Off by default** (standalone); owner-enabled in `Org settings`
Design System Governance	**On by default** (Pro/Max/Ultra kits)	**On by default**; shared team libraries	**Off by default** (`Org settings → Artifacts`); owner approval
Prototype Link Scope	Private or shareable preview link	Workspace-authenticated View/Comment/Edit	Strict SSO-only org scoping + audit logs
Figma, Gamma & Code Sync	User OAuth / local repo sync	Team connector policy	Admin MCP allowlist + DLP/egress controls

Security Hygiene: Scope Codebase Onboarding Strictly to UI Directories

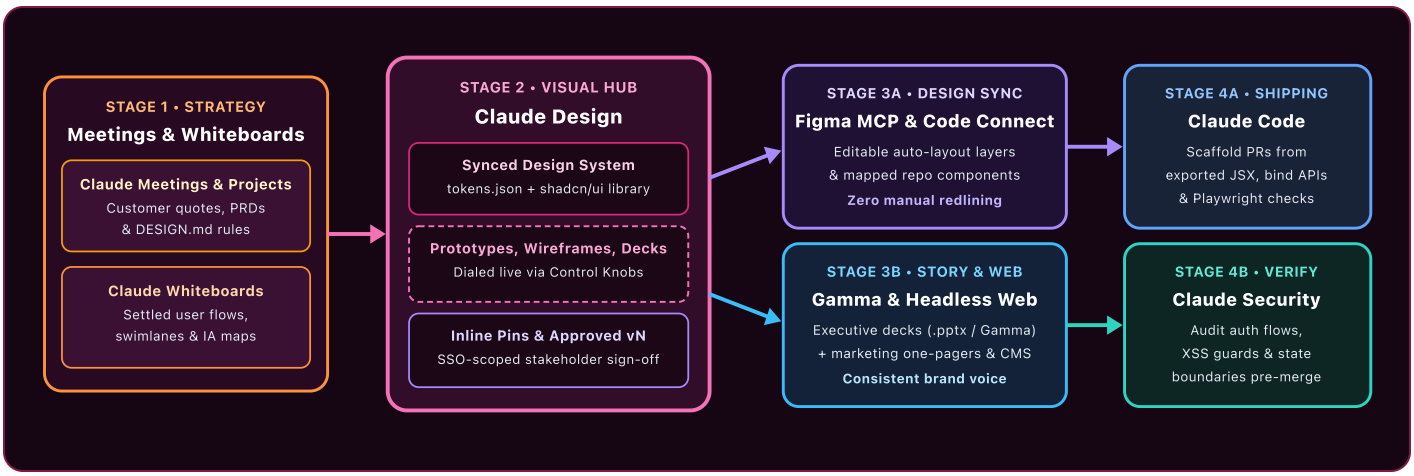
When syncing a repository via `/design-sync` or GitHub onboarding, include only frontend styling and primitive directories (`tokens.json`, `tailwind.config.*`, `src/components/ui/`). Never attach `.env` secrets, private backend credentials, or real customer database exports into a visual Design System context.

Sanitize Sample Data Before External Usability Testing

Before exporting standalone HTML or `.zip` bundles for external user research, instruct Claude Design: *"Replace all sample account names, revenue figures, and email strings with realistic synthetic fixtures."*

Cross-Tool Synergy: From Discovery to Shipped Code

Claude Design acts as the visual synthesis hub in Anthropic's wider ecosystem—converting early strategy from **Claude Meetings**, **Projects**, and **Whiteboards** into living prototypes that flow smoothly into **Figma**, **Gamma**, **Claude Code**, and **Claude Security**.



Walking the 4-Stage Pipeline in One Afternoon

1 Meetings + Whiteboards → Design Prompt

Take an approved user journey from **Claude Whiteboards** and customer insights from your **Claude Project**, then prompt Claude Design to render an interactive multi-screen flow locked to your active Design System.

2 Control Knobs + Figma Code Connect

Tune layout density and dark mode live with stakeholders, drop inline pins on copy edge cases, and push editable auto-layout layers to **Figma** with real Code Connect mappings intact.

3 Simultaneous Gamma Deck & One-Pager

In the same project thread, ask Claude Design to package the finalized product concept into an executive slide deck (exported to **Gamma** or `.pptx`) plus a headless web launch one-pager.

4 Hand Off to Claude Code & Security

Send exported React + Tailwind + `shadcn/ui` components directly to **Claude Code** to wire live endpoints, then verify auth and XSS safety through **Claude Security** before merging.

Keep One Canonical Token File as Your Shared North Star

Whenever engineering updates spacing, fonts, or semantic colors in `tokens.json`, run `/design-sync` again so Claude Design, Figma Code Connect, and Claude Code never drift out of sync.

Troubleshooting Clinic & Pre-Flight Checklist

Use this diagnostic reference whenever generated screens drift off-brand, Control Knobs behave unexpectedly, or a Figma/Code handoff needs repair—followed by our 6-point launch checklist.

Symptom / Issue	Root Cause	10-Second Fix
1. Generated UI looks generic and ignores brand fonts/colors	Prompted inside an isolated chat with no active Design System bound.	Complete codebase/brand onboarding (attach `tokens.json`, Tailwind config & brand PDF), select your published Design System pill, and regenerate.
2. Dark Mode Control Knob leaves bright white blocks or unreadable text	Hard-coded hex values (like `#ffffff`) injected during a manual chat tweak.	Prompt: *"Audit all components and replace hard-coded hex colors with semantic surface, border, and foreground variables from tokens.json."*
3. Figma export lands as flat images instead of editable layers	Downloaded static PNG/PDF snapshot or skipped Figma MCP / conversion bridge.	Connect the official **Figma MCP server**, enable **Code Connect** mappings, or export via the HTML-to-Figma auto-layout layer pipeline.
4. Small copy or card tweak accidentally rewrote surrounding screens	Issued a broad conversational prompt instead of targeting one element.	Step back one version via the `v1..vN` selector, click directly on the target component to drop an **Inline Comment Pin**, and re-apply locally.
5. Expected Control Knobs sliders are missing from the right panel	Initial prompt omitted adjustable design parameters.	Ask in chat: *"Expose live Control Knobs for layout density, light/dark mode, typography scale, border radius, and card variant."*
6. Claude Code rewrites exported JSX instead of reusing repo components	Design System lacked exact component paths or Code Connect signatures.	Run `/design-sync` inside your frontend repo to index `shadcn/ui` and local component props, then re-export the React bundle.
7. Reviewer hits "Access Denied" on a shared prototype link	Org-scoped SSO protection blocked a personal account or external email.	Ask the reviewer to sign in with corporate SSO, or request an Enterprise admin to approve external View/Comment link sharing if policy allows.

6-Point Claude Design Pre-Flight Checklist

- ☑ **1. Bind Design System First:** Verify `tokens.json`, Tailwind config, and brand PDFs are active before generating Screen 1.
- ☑ **2. Name Deliverable Mode Clearly:** Specify Prototype, Wireframe, Slide Deck, or One-Pager up front.
- ☑ **3. Enforce Semantic Token Roles:** Avoid hard-coded hex values so Light/Dark Control Knobs stay WCAG AA compliant.
- ☑ **4. Use Inline Pins for Local Tweaks:** Anchor comments to specific elements instead of triggering full-flow rewrites.
- ☑ **5. Checkpoint Before Bold Variants:** Lock a `vN` snapshot prior to testing extreme knob settings or new layouts.
- ☑ **6. Validate Handoff Parity:** Check Figma Code Connect component names, Gamma slide breaks, or Claude Code imports pre-export.

Final Takeaway: Speak Product Intent, Let Your Design System Govern the Pixels

When your codebase tokens, brand guidelines, and Figma Code Connect sit underneath Claude Design, every creative conversation produces cohesive, interactive, ship-ready artifacts—compressing the trip from early sketch to production code into a single afternoon.