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Cover letter / 2026 / To the hiring team

PITCH

Most postings ask for a designer who can code, or an engineer with taste. I am the rarer third thing: someone who designs the product, builds it, and can show you the peer-reviewed research behind the decisions. 25+ years of it, most recently leading a team of ten.

PROOF

Three things are live right now, so you can check instead of taking my word.

design.izaias.xyz/design-system is a design system that ships as production code, powering a three-app Next.js monorepo.

compresso.izaias.xyz is open source, 3.6 KB gzipped, no server: one real run took a 3.3 MB photo down to 93.5 KB.

design.izaias.xyz/work/everyday-services-study is a pre-registered international experiment on interface language, platform built end to end, trilingual, WCAG 2.2 AA.

SCALE

At Netlex I grew design from 2 people to 10, set contribution standards in Storybook, and worked the roadmap with product and engineering: a core workflow up 300% in six months, 100 clients in year one, audits 70% faster. At Visa I standardized authentication across 15 regions so teams implemented 3x faster. Before that, ten years of my own studio for Google, Adidas, and Visa, with product leadership at Gigster in San Francisco and UNIT9 in London.

RIGOR

I studied Human-Computer Interaction and Digital Accessibility at the University of São Paulo; my paper on cognitive distance is in peer review at Information Systems (Elsevier); Nielsen Norman Group invited me to write as a guest author, and I have held working calls with Kate Moran about research craft and using AI with rigor. Claude Code, Cursor, and MCP are in my daily workflow, reviewed the way I would review a junior's work. **I move from concept to production by hand, and with AI in the loop when it makes sense.**

EDGE

One habit worth knowing about. In 2019 I authored my own market strategy; it now runs automated with live signals in production at izaias.xyz/signaldesk, on my own capital. Every signal stays on the public record, wins and losses, benchmarked live against the S&P 500 and the Ibovespa. Not a pitch to hire a trader. Encode judgment once, in a system, and let it compound.

TERMS

Plainly, so it is not a silent filter: I work in fluent English at GMT-3, overlapping the full US East working day (Portuguese native, Spanish conversational). For roles hiring internationally, directly or through an entity or EOR, I am ready now from São Paulo; for US-based roles I would need sponsorship and am open to relocation, having already worked in several US cities. If a document is the wrong way to decide, I will do a take-home, a paired session, or a short paid trial on something real.

THANK YOU
FOR READING

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