

Top 50 U.S. Bank's New Design Library Improves Operational Agility, Time-to-Market, and Brand Consistency

Building an internal design library to develop a common visual language and increase efficiency across designers

DESIGN SYSTEMS

AGILE WORKFLOWS

Introduction

Looking to be more agile, speed up development time, and promote brand consistency, a top 50 U.S. bank decided to construct an internal design library. Having design elements in one centralized location would develop a common visual language, improve design efficiency, and unite internal teams across multiple lines of business.

Challenge

The primary challenge was the many siloed, internal teams with parallel design efforts to innovate. This was further complicated by each internal team having its own development team, third-party tech stack, and visual library.

Other challenges included:

- Incongruous brand experience across multiple products
- Repetitive design elements (lack of consistent color files and typography)
- Development needed to create custom code
- Inconsistencies with each team's stakeholders' vision
- Switching to a new design tool (from Sketch to Figma)



Figma is a much better design tool for collaboration. We helped with the learning curve of a new software and provided best practices in how to build a design system within Figma. Most importantly, we identified similar elements and led the discussion to create common core styles and components for a unified design system across all products.

Amy Henty, Design Manager, Level



Approach

Level's mission was to help create a core design library so the bank could promote brand consistency and communicate design needs across teams. The client switched the design system tool from Sketch to Figma, a collaborative interface design tool. Figma is a newer software, so internal teams were relying on Level's expertise to onboard, train, and promote best practices.

Level's approach included:

- **Design Software Strategy:** Level helped lead an exercise on styles (buttons, typography, etc.) with stakeholders and the larger team to get a better understanding of establishing core design components in Figma.
- **Design Audit:** Level team members helped complete a design audit to take stock of different components and repeated elements, including headers, footers, colors, buttons, and typography styles across the brand.
- **Design Implementation:** After the audit was completed, the approved elements were created in Figma to create a core design file. That way, the separate, internal teams could pull from one core library and be consistent across all channels.

Results

With the new design library in place, the top 50 U.S. bank's designers could easily pull from the common design components to develop products and experiences. With a new, common visual language across teams, the client could:

TEAM SIZE



x2

TIMELINE



3 months



Accelerate development time and scalability



Create agile workflows to develop design best practices



Promote visual consistency across products and platforms



Bolster internal communications across teams (vs. silos)



Uphold process uniformity when introducing new design elements

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