



CC STRATEGIC | CLAUDE CODE PLAYBOOK

OPEN DESIGN INSTALL. SHIP. OWN IT.

The open-source, local-first AI design tool that runs on the CLI you already have. Mac + Windows install. Apache 2.0. Free.

v0.6.0 - Released May 9 - 16 agent CLIs - 31 skills - 72 design systems

REPO

github.com/nexu-io/open-design

By Charles J Dove

C&C Strategic Consulting | ccstrategic.io

```
$ corepack enable
$ pnpm install
$ pnpm tools-dev run web

open-design daemon listening on http://127.0.0.1:7456
ready -> drop a prompt, pick a skill, ship the artifact
```



Anthropic shipped a Figma killer. Then locked it in their cloud.

Claude Design dropped in April. Closed source. Anthropic-only. Cloud-only. Pay-per-use.

Two weeks later **Open Design** dropped. Apache 2.0, runs on your laptop, talks to whatever coding-agent CLI you already pay for. Claude Code, Codex, Cursor Agent, Gemini CLI, GitHub Copilot CLI, plus 11 more. Bring your own keys, your own model, your own filesystem.

"Design with the agent already on your laptop."

Project tagline

This playbook walks you through install on Mac and Windows, agent setup, the four-stage workflow that produces every artifact, and the five gotchas that will trip you up if you read the README at 1am.



02 / WHAT IT IS

Read this before you install.

Half the people who try Open Design bounce in five minutes because they expect Figma. It is not Figma. Set the frame straight, then install.

WHAT IT IS

A local-first agent dispatcher. Pick a **skill** (saas-landing, dashboard, mobile-onboarding, magazine-poster, etc.) and a **design system** (Linear, Stripe, Notion, Apple, plus 68 others). Fill a 30-second discovery form. An agent CLI on your machine streams an artifact (HTML, PDF, PPTX, MP4) into a sandboxed iframe. You save it to disk. The file is yours. Git it, ship it, deploy it to Cloudflare Pages from the app.

WHAT IT IS NOT

A vector editor. No canvas. No pen tool. No frames you push pixels around in. If you need to nudge a rectangle by 2px, open Figma. If you need to generate 20 variants of a landing page in an afternoon with brand tokens baked in, this is the tool.

THE FOUR-STAGE METHOD

Detect what surface and audience matter.

Discover brief, brand, constraints.

Direct the agent with the chosen skill and design system.

Deliver the artifact to disk, share link, or PDF.



Check the small print first.

Two release-specific facts will save you a wasted hour. Read both before you click Download.

MACOS - APPLE SILICON ONLY

The v0.6.0 macOS binary is **Apple Silicon only** (arm64). Intel Macs (any pre-M1 MacBook, iMac, Mac mini) cannot run the .dmg. Use the build-from-source path on page 7 instead. Verify your chip: Apple menu -> About This Mac -> Chip line.

WINDOWS - SMARTSCREEN WILL WARN

The Windows installer is **unsigned**. Microsoft Defender SmartScreen will block it on first run with a blue screen. This is normal for indie open-source Electron apps. Click "More info" then "Run anyway" to install.

PREBUILT BINARIES

macOS	11 Big Sur or newer, Apple Silicon (arm64), ~250 MB free
Windows	10 or 11 (x64), ~250 MB free, admin OR per-user install
Linux	No desktop GUI in 0.6.0. Use build-from-source or Docker

BUILD FROM SOURCE (ANY OS)

Node.js	24.x (enforced in package.json)
pnpm	10.33.2+ via Corepack
Docker	Optional, Compose v2 for containerized path
Agent CLI	Optional but recommended - Claude Code, Codex, Cursor Agent...



macOS in five clicks.

Apple Silicon Macs only (M1, M2, M3, M4). On Intel hardware, skip to page 7 for build-from-source.

STEP 1 / Download the .dmg

Download **open-design-0.6.0-mac-arm64.dmg** from the GitHub release page. Direct URL prints in the code block below.

```
https://github.com/nexu-io/open-design/releases/latest
```

STEP 2 / Drag into Applications

Double-click the .dmg. A Finder window mounts with the Open Design app. Drag **Open Design** into the **Applications** folder shortcut. Eject the disk image (right-click -> Eject).

STEP 3 / First-launch Gatekeeper handshake

In Applications, **right-click Open Design and choose Open**. macOS will warn "app from an unidentified developer." Click Open in that dialog. Double-clicking without the right-click step will fail the first time. After this, double-click works.

STEP 4 / If still blocked

If macOS still refuses, open **System Settings -> Privacy and Security**, scroll to "Open Design was blocked from use," click **Open Anyway**. Re-launch the app.



Windows in six clicks.

Windows 10 or 11, x64. The installer is unsigned, so SmartScreen will warn. Walk through the steps in order.

STEP 1 / Download the installer

Download **open-design-0.6.0-win-x64-setup.exe** from the GitHub release page.

```
https://github.com/nexu-io/open-design/releases/latest
```

STEP 2 / SmartScreen bypass

Double-click the .exe. SmartScreen pops up: "**Windows protected your PC.**" Click the small "**More info**" link. A new button appears: "**Run anyway.**" Click it. This is the entire SmartScreen bypass.

STEP 3 / Install location

If a UAC prompt appears asking for admin, you have two choices. Approve to install for **all users** at C:\Program Files\open-design\. Cancel to install per-user at %LocalAppData%\Programs\open-design\. Per-user skips the admin prompt entirely.

STEP 4 / Launch from Start menu

After install completes, launch **Open Design** from the Start menu. First launch loads the welcome screen and scans your PATH for installed agent CLIs. If nothing is detected, you can still use BYOK mode (next page).



Linux, Intel Mac, WSL2, or the bleeding edge.

Three reasons to build from source: you are on Intel Mac, you are on Linux, or you want commits ahead of the last tagged release. Pick one of the two paths below.

PATH A - PNPM (NATIVE, FASTEST)

```
git clone https://github.com/nexu-io/open-design.git
cd open-design
corepack enable
pnpm install
pnpm tools-dev run web
```

The last command boots a daemon and prints a localhost URL. Open it in any browser. To get the full Electron desktop shell instead, run `pnpm tools-dev` with no args.

PATH B - DOCKER (NO LOCAL NODE)

```
git clone https://github.com/nexu-io/open-design.git
cd open-design/deploy
docker compose up -d
# open http://localhost:7456 in your browser
```

Docker path works on any host with Docker Desktop or Compose v2. Useful for Linux boxes without Node, or if you do not want to touch your local Node version.



Wire up your CLI in 60 seconds.

No account creation. No sign-in. Auth lives at the agent layer (the CLI you already use). Two paths to a working session.

PATH 1 / USE AN INSTALLED CLI

Open Design scans your PATH on launch and lists every supported CLI it finds. If you already run Claude Code on this machine, it shows up automatically. Verify auth with: `claude auth status --text`. If a CLI shows "not installed," your shell PATH does not match the daemon's PATH. Fix that, then click **Rescan** in Settings.

PATH 2 / BRING YOUR OWN KEY

No CLI? Open **Settings -> Execution and model**. Paste an API key for Anthropic, OpenAI, Azure OpenAI, or Google Gemini. Open Design proxies all traffic through the daemon at `/api/proxy/<provider>/stream`. Same UI either way.

ONE-CLICK MODEL SWAP

16 CLIs supported: Claude Code, Codex, Devin, Cursor Agent, Gemini CLI, OpenCode, Qwen Code, Qoder, GitHub Copilot CLI, Hermes, Kimi, Pi, Kiro, Kilo, Mistral Vibe, DeepSeek. Pick whichever is fastest or cheapest for the surface you are designing. Swap mid-project from the model picker.

ARTIFACTS ARE REAL FILES

Every project gets its own folder under `.od/projects/<id>/`. Artifacts land there as real files. Commit them to git. Move them between machines. Override the data dir with `OD_DATA_DIR=<path>`.



What to try this week.

Five workflows that pay off on day one. Pick whichever maps to a deliverable you already owe a client.

SaaS landing page

Skill: `saas-landing`. Design system: Linear, Stripe, or Vercel. Discovery form (audience, tone, brand) takes 30 seconds. Output: standalone HTML with inline assets. Drop it on Vercel or Cloudflare Pages in one click from the app.

Investor or sales deck

Switch to Deck Mode. Pick `guizang-ppt` for magazine-style decks with WebGL hero, or `simple-deck` for clean slides. Export as PPTX or vector PDF (new in 0.6.0).

Mobile onboarding flow

Skill: `mobile-onboarding`. Device frame: iPhone 15 Pro or Pixel. Get a 5-screen flow with copy, illustrations, and CTA buttons in one shot. Iterate inline with chat or sliders.

Email + social burst

Stack `email-marketing` + `social-carousel`. Same brand context, same brief. Output a launch email and a 10-slide Instagram carousel that share a visual system.

Dev handoff

Open any artifact, export as HTML (inline assets) or new vector PDF. Or wire Open Design's MCP server into Claude Code so your editor can query saved artifacts directly.



09 / TROUBLESHOOTING + NEXT

Five gotchas, then ship.

Agent shows "not installed"

Daemon PATH != shell PATH. Fix PATH, click Rescan.

Claude Code exits with code 1

Run `claude auth status --text` in same shell that started daemon.

Media generation: OD_BIN missing

`pnpm --filter @open-design/daemon build`, then restart.

better-sqlite3 ABI mismatch

Re-run `pnpm install` to trigger native rebuild.

Artifact never renders

Check the model wrapped its output in `<artifact>` tags. Check daemon logs.

JOIN CC STRATEGIC AI ON SKOOL ->

Where we build Claude-powered design systems that ship.

skool.com/cc-strategic-ai/about

FIND YOUR BIGGEST BOTTLENECK ->

5-minute diagnostic. Personalized AI playbook in your inbox.

charlieautomates.com/diagnose

RESOURCES

REPO

github.com/nexu-io/open-design

LATEST RELEASE

[/releases/latest](https://github.com/nexu-io/open-design/releases/latest)

DOCS / SITE

open-design.ai

DISCORD

discord.gg/qhbcCH8Am4

Charles J Dove / C&C Strategic Consulting / ccstrategic.io