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DRESDEN / REMOTE

Notes

Where I stand, how I work, influences, and what I want to find out.

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What isn't in the CV or the skill profile. The self-portrait on the home page draws on this too.

WHERE I STAND

- I start with who has to read or use something, not with the technology.
- I prefer fewer parts to clever ones.
- A codebase should be laid out so that new people and coding agents can join in without a long induction.
- I label synthetic content clearly. Every generated text on this site says that it was generated.

CHANGED MY MIND

- I used to want to write every detail myself. Now I more often write the rules that agents write by.
- I used to see tests as something you add at the end. Now automated tests are what make fast change possible in the first place.
- I used to think good software would win people over on its own. Now I know that getting everyone involved on the same page is at least as much work as the code.

HOW I WORK

- I'd rather talk directly to the people who use or commission the product than go through intermediaries.
- I teach in almost every project. I want the team to carry on without me once I'm gone.
- I'd rather show an early prototype than spend a long time describing a concept.
- A good moment in a project is when things come together: the foundations are in place and the project picks up speed. Or when a group of individuals turns into a team.

BACKGROUND AND INFLUENCES

- Alongside computer science I studied art and design and made experimental films. The eye for images and editing has stayed with me.
- Latin America shaped me: the way pragmatism and culture are woven together there. And realising what opportunities there are in Europe.
- German and French are both my native languages.
- Typography and architecture interest me outside work as well.
- Road cycling and triathlon: measuring, understanding and improving performance. Climbing passes.

WHAT I WANT TO FIND OUT

- Where the limits of agents in products lie, and how people actually want to use them.
- Whether open geodata can make a digital twin of Dresden that is beautiful without being photorealistic.
- Where to take the road bike, and when: which passes and climbs in the Alps, the Ore Mountains or on Mallorca are rideable right now.

LIMITS

- I'm not a back-end specialist for large distributed systems.
- I'm reluctant to take on projects where I'm only meant to execute and not to think along.
- With AI I get Kubernetes working and can read it afterwards. Knowing all the commands by heart doesn't interest me.

OUTSIDE WORK

- I take photographs.
- Music: I listen to almost everything. I play the violin and sometimes sing in a band.
- I like cooking, often from Ottolenghi.