



Chan Meng

A minimalist. **Subtraction for life, addition for thought.**

This isn't a résumé. It's a short field guide to how I think and what I make — written for anyone curious about my products and the way I work.

If you're here to hire, my two-page CV is one click away: chanmeng.org/cv.



Arms up, out on the water — the spirit I'd like this read in.

My Story

I started with maps, taught maths, watched an industry vanish, and at thirty crossed the world to begin again.

My degree was in geography; my first real job was teaching maths to teenagers in China. Then, almost overnight, the private-tutoring industry I worked in was regulated out of existence. At thirty — the age everyone says is too late — I moved to a place where I could breathe freely and rebuild, and read for a Master of Applied Computing at [Lincoln University](#), finishing with **Distinction**.

I never learned to code the old way. From my first assignment I built alongside AI, pairing with a model the way other students paired with a lab partner. That wasn't a shortcut — it's the origin of how I work now: someone who **directs** coding agents rather than typing every line.

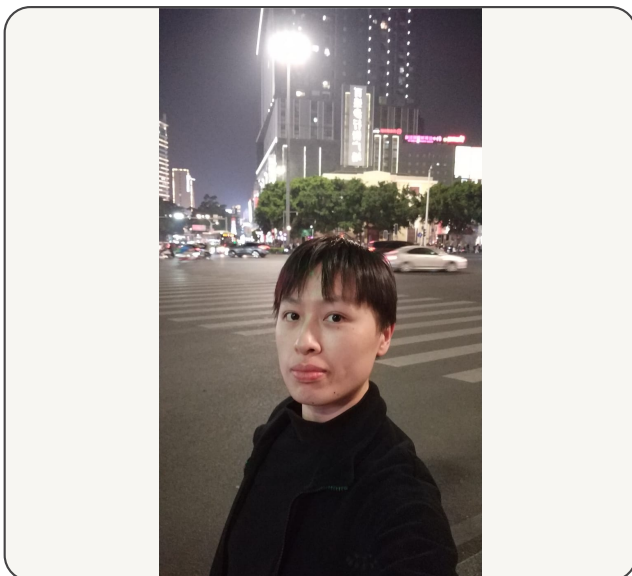
The proof came from an unexpected place. An early-stage founder asked his own Claude agent to find him an engineer. It read the open web and recommended me — which the founder, [Engram's](#) Luka Madzarac, later [confirmed in public](#). I hadn't applied. The work had. Auckland, for its part, met me with more kindness than I expected.



📍 On a She Sharp panel in Auckland — the community that took me in.



Lincoln University, Canterbury — November 2023, my first weeks in the programme.



Before: a night street in Nanning, Guangxi — my hometown, where I grew up.



After: on site at CORDE in Canterbury — the infrastructure firm my Lincoln industry placement shipped into, 2024.

When execution gets cheap, the work that matters is choosing what to build — and having the taste to keep only what's worth keeping.

A Minimalist

Subtraction as a daily practice — and, it turns out, as an engineering philosophy.

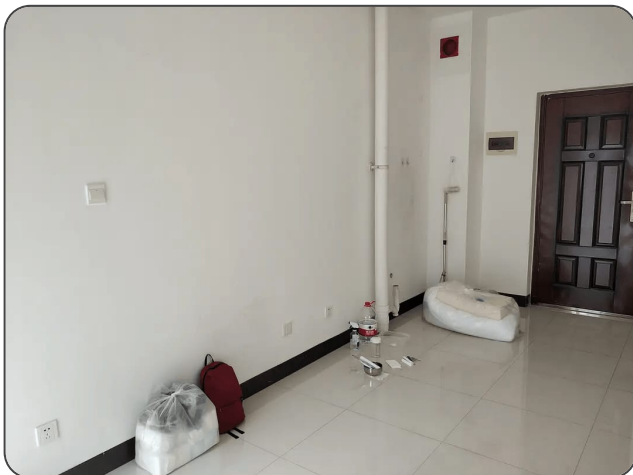
It began with a broken charging cable and a bent hairpin. I threw them out, felt lighter, and kept going. Today everything I own fits into one backpack and one suitcase. I don't keep a living room — I borrow the city's.



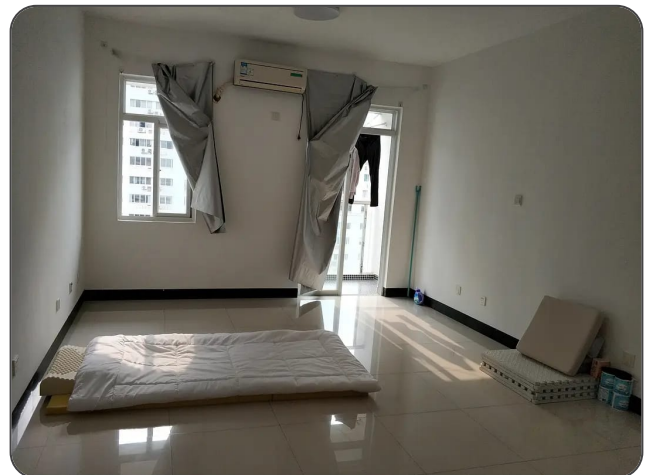
One room, almost empty.



Front door, bathroom, bare walls — the room corner to corner.



Everything I own, packed — one backpack and one bundle.



A mattress on the floor, the city out the window.

People read along. A few pieces travelled far:



Girl on Mattress

100k+ reads · 3,864 reshares

mp.weixin.qq.com/s/hRh8rTF9gjdpl8KEixuSFQ



A Glimpse of My Minimalist Home

100k+ reads · 14k reshares

mp.weixin.qq.com/s/eZx_Mo5F6BRfVNVceQCS8Q



I Threw Away My Old Name

29k+ reads

chanmeng.org/blog/threw-away-my-old-name

At thirty I legally changed my name and remade who I am. I wrote about it [on the blog](#).

It's the same instinct in my software: **stripping away what isn't needed so the essential works better** — whether that's a living space or a system. It shows up as calm dashboards, as anti-bloat discipline (my [CopilotKit](#) contribution cut a flow from eight paths down to three), and as [npx chanmeng](#) — a whole introduction in one command.



Nothing on the floor that doesn't earn its place — the same rule I bring to a codebase.

Living alone, I finally learned to confirm my own existence through my own eyes — my own perspective, my own taste.

What I Build

The largest chapter — because the work is the argument. Six products I designed and shipped; every name is a link you can open.

These are the products I keep coming back to — the ones that show what I care about when I build: precise artifacts over pretty pictures, tools you operate in plain language, and systems small enough to hold in your head.



ArchCanvas

An AI design agent for architects and self-builders: describe a building and it draws a dimensioned floor plan you can actually build from, plus a realistic rendering. Refine it by talking, on an infinite zoomable canvas; every plan is real ArchLang underneath, exportable as a full git history.

 archcanvas.uk



ArchLang

A small language for floor plans: write walls and rooms in plain text, get back a precise dimensioned drawing, change one number and exactly one thing moves.

A zero-dependency TypeScript compiler exporting SVG, DXF, PDF, and PNG — and it checks whether a plan is actually livable. The engine behind ArchCanvas.

archlang.uk



Vitex — AI Career Agent

Paste a job ad and describe your background, and Vitex writes a resume and cover letter tailored to that job as an ATS-ready PDF in about thirty seconds. Reachable over the web, a public API, a command-line tool, and an MCP server — so an AI assistant can drive the whole product without a browser.

vitex.org.nz



echook

An audio-and-status plugin for Claude Code, Cursor, and Codex — you never learn it; you just tell your AI agent “install echook” or “snooze for 30 minutes.”

Pure Python standard library, 39 hook events and a context-window status bar, tested on Windows, macOS, and Linux. Open source under MIT.

github.com/ChanMeng666/echook



Google News MCP Server

Google News MCP Server

One of the earliest servers for the Model Context Protocol — the open standard Anthropic launched in late 2024 — and this one shipped just five weeks later.

It lets Claude, Cursor, and Cline search live Google News by topic in ten languages; published on npm and carried across 15+ MCP catalogs, a PulseMCP “Top Pick.”

github.com/ChanMeng666/server-google-news



gradient-svg-generator

Paste a URL into any Markdown file and your README grows an animated gradient banner that renders live in the browser — no image files, no build step.

355 parametric templates streamed as live SVG XML from a serverless function, using SMIL animation, CSS keyframes, and SVG filters.

 gradient-svg-generator.vercel.app

Precise artifacts over pretty pictures. Every one of these you can open, run, and read the source of — that's the whole argument.

Teaching

Three years, five cohorts. My whole method in one line.

“Natural language is the source code.”

Students arrive knowing only browser ChatGPT. Weeks later they have shipped a live, multi-user AI product by directing coding agents — the same way I work. I have run this five times since 2024, most recently for [TechNest](#) and at a [hands-on workshop](#) where a banana piano taught younger students that code can be playful. They range from twelve-year-olds at that workshop, through high-school students I mentored at an AI hackathon, to adults retraining for a new career — the method holds; only the pace changes.



AI Hackathon Festival 2025 at AUT — walking Westlake Girls High School students through AI coding tools.



A She Sharp workshop for teens — a browser game on the laptop, the room crowded in.

“Chan’s teaching style is meticulous and thorough, with patient and in-depth explanations for the use of each tool.”
— Jessie Wan, course student.

Voices

Twenty-seven people who've worked with me — every one of them, in their own words.



Kwame



Suliat



Abiodun



Ikenna



Swayam



Mahdieh



Shivani



Prasanth



Lesley



Saba



Nirmala



Yesha



Siyu



Cecilia



Amy



Paige



Gabby



Chaste



Mi Su



Shushu



Patricia



Robin



Shiyu



Jessie



Di



Qiao Jun



Daryll

... she often goes out of her way to build things that genuinely help others learn ... To me, that is what true empowerment looks like.



— Lesley Gao · She Sharp website team

... what I witnessed at the hackathon was something that doesn't show up on a resume: her instinct to mentor ... she's the kind of person who genuinely raises the bar for everyone around her.

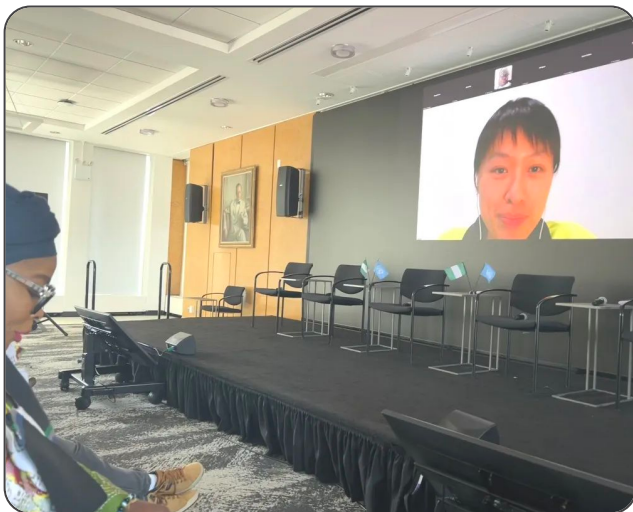


— Shivani Dhandabani · AI hackathon

All 26 public recommendations in full: [linkedin.com/in/chanmeng666](https://www.linkedin.com/in/chanmeng666).

Recognition

Where the work has been seen.

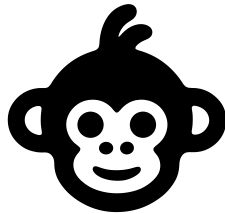


Speaking at UN CSW69, UN HQ New York — March 2025.



Presenting at the AI Hackathon Festival 2025, Auckland.

- **UN CSW69 Speaker** — UN HQ, New York, March 2025 · drew IBM pilot interest and an endorsement from Sierra Leone's Minister of Gender and Children's Affairs.
- **Outstanding Mentor Award** — AI Hackathon Festival 2025 · 1 of 14 expert mentors, guiding 11 teams / 80+ participants.
- **UN Women FemTech Hackathon — Outstanding Performer** — FemTech Weekend, Beijing, March 2025.
- **Excellence Award** — FemTech China, Women's Health Technology Challenge, December 2024.



Where to find me



chanmeng.org



chanmeng.org/blog



[Newsletter](#)



linkedin.com/in/chanmeng666



github.com/ChanMeng666



youtube.com/@ChanMeng666



cal.com/chan-meng/30min