

# Rénel Sun

Culinary Creative / Research Chef / Product Lead

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## EDUCATION

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<b>New York University</b> <i>Bachelor of Arts : Food Systems, Food Science, Social Entrepreneurship</i>	2011 – 2018
<b>Cornell University</b> <i>Plant-Based Nutrition</i>	2018
<b>University of Illinois Urbana Champaign</b> <i>Online Master of Science : Food Science</i>	2021 – 2023

## EXPERIENCE

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<b>Friends International</b> – Phnom Penh, Cambodia <i>Chef Coordinator</i> Trained and led the culinary curriculum for marginalized youth aspiring to build careers in hospitality across SE Asia Created bi-lingual culinary education tools for student learning and business operations (cooking videos, recipe step by steps)	2019 – 2020
<b>Junzi Kitchen</b> – New York, New York <i>Culinary Innovation and Food Designer</i> Led product development, sourcing, launch and QC for the restaurant's food product offerings across four locations Developed recipes and wrote SOPs to build a strong foundation for operations training Collaborated with chefs, supply chain, marketing, operations and finance to design appropriate formulas and processes	2018 – 2019
<b>UMi Food Design</b> – Shanghai, Phnom Penh, San Francisco and New York <i>Co-founder and Food Designer</i> Led R&D, sourcing, launch and QC for health-focused consumer packaged goods and scalable restaurant menus Conducted consumer research interviews, sensory tests, and data analysis to present and synthesize research into actions Sourced and managed ingredient selection with clients to encourage balance between ecological and economic sustainability Produced thorough formulas and training materials to ensure maximum product success post-development Curated, cooked and collaborated on creative dining experiences for various private events	2016 – present
<b>Hunter Gatherer</b> – Shanghai, China <i>Food Designer</i> Brought the restaurant and grocer f&b from zero-to-one and aided in launching five restaurant storefronts in three years Developed and launched seasonal food, beverage, packaged prepared foods & bakery menus Established the foundation for new menu R&D, costing, and sourcing standards to keep up with evolving consumer tastes	2014 – 2017
<b>UMi Bushwick</b> - Brooklyn, New York <i>Co-founder and Pastry Chef</i> Developed and executed a late night pop-up restaurant that makes and sells bunwiches: chip encrusted brioche buns cradling homemade fillings inspired by places lived in or traveled to in Asia with my best friend Managed accounting and finances, sustainable sourcing community, visual identity, operations and new dish development	April – August 2015
<b>IDEO</b> – Shanghai, China <i>Food Designer</i> Researched cross-functionally with communications, interaction and business designers, chefs, consumers, and client to build a seed-to-table restaurant and grocer brand grounded in ecological sustainability and nutrition research Conducted food prototypes to collect sensory and brand perception analyses	March – May 2014
<b>Hu Kitchen</b> – New York, New York <i>Baker and Line Cook</i> Collaborated on and innovated recipes with managers and owners to reduce restaurant waste Streamlined the production of Paleo* dessert items with the Pastry Chef for individual and packaged sales * Paleo desserts: no wheat flour, dairy, or refined sweeteners (gluten-free, dairy-free, unrefined, and plant-based baking)	2013
<b>IDEO</b> – Palo Alto, California <i>Toy Design and Exec Assistance</i> Brainstormed cross-functionally with product designers, engineers, and developers to bring new tech to toys and games Managed and organized an IDEO Partner's global business trips, speaking engagements & schedule Built prototypes, edited movies, and drafted Illustrator renderings for toy product design pitches	February – Aug 2011

## SKILLS & ACTIVITIES

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**Computer Proficient** – Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Adobe Photoshop, Illustrator, InDesign, Premiere

**Languages** – English (native) and Mandarin Chinese (reading, writing, speaking)

**Licenses** – Driver's License, New York State Food Handler's License, Hunting (in progress)