

The Screenshot-to-Design Prompt

Turn reference screenshots into custom screen designs for your app. Not copies. Adaptations.

You found an app whose look and feel you love. Now you need that same energy for *your* product. This prompt takes your reference screenshots and turns them into custom screen designs for your app.

This pairs directly with the design workflow from **Chapter 5** of *Software Secrets 2.0* — the step-by-step guide to building software products with AI, no coding required. Chapter 5 walks you through an entire 48-hour MVP sprint, and this prompt slots into the design phase (Hours 2–4). If you don't have the book yet, grab a copy at softwaresecrets.com.

The Prompt

I want to design a [mobile app / web app] for [one-sentence product description from your scope].

I've attached screenshots from a reference app whose style and feel I want to emulate – NOT copy. Use them as a design baseline.

Generate the following screens:

1. Onboarding / Sign-up
2. Home / Dashboard
3. [Your core feature screen – e.g., "Create new statement"]
4. Detail / Item view
5. Settings / Profile

For each screen:

- Match the visual tone of the reference screenshots – layout patterns, spacing rhythm, color temperature, typography weight, and overall "feel."
- Adapt the design to MY app's purpose and content, not the reference app's.
- Keep the UI clean and intuitive for non-technical users.
- Maintain visual consistency across all screens so they feel like one product.

Design style notes:

[Add specific preferences – e.g., "dark mode," "minimal with lots of white space," "bold accent colors," "rounded friendly components"]

Customize It to Your App

The five screens listed above are a starting point, not a requirement. Your MVP might not need all five. It might need different ones entirely.

Go back to the user flow you mapped in Hour 1 of your sprint. That flow tells you which screens matter. If your app is a single-screen chat interface like Whit, you don't need a "Dashboard." If your app doesn't have a detail view, drop it. Replace the screen list with whatever matches *your* product's core path from first open to first value.

The bracketed sections are where you make it yours:

- **[mobile app / web app]** — Pick your platform. This changes layout patterns and interaction expectations.
- **[one-sentence product description]** — Use the one-sentence description from your scope. If you can't fill this in, your scope isn't clear enough. Go back to Hour 1.
- **[core feature screen]** — The screen where the user gets the payoff. For StatementsReady: "Create New Statement." For Whit: "Chat Screen."
- **[design style notes]** — Optional. Steer the output with a few words. Skip this and the tool defaults to your reference screenshots' style, which is fine.

How to Use This Prompt

Step 1: Find Your Reference Screenshots

Browse these resources and screenshot 3–5 key screens from an app whose style you want to borrow:

- **Mobbin** (mobbin.com) — Real screenshots from live iOS and Android apps, organized by screen type and pattern. Strongest for mobile design.
- **Screensdesign** (screensdesign.com) — Full-screen captures of top apps. Great for studying complete design flows.
- **Dribbble** (dribbble.com) — Designer portfolios and concept work. Best for finding aspirational UI styles, even if the designs aren't from live apps.
- **SensorTower** (sensortower.com) — App market intelligence platform. Use it to find top-performing apps in your category, then screenshot the ones with the best UX.

Focus on: Screens that show the core experience — home screen, a detail view, and any unique UI patterns you like. You're not copying these. You're borrowing patterns, layouts, and structural ideas. Every great architect studies buildings before designing one.

Step 2: Pick Your Design Tool

Three options work well with this prompt:

- **Sleek.design** — Best for mobile app designs. Fast, clean results with minimal iteration. If you're building a mobile-first product, start here.
- **Google Gemini Stitch** (stitch.withgoogle.com) — Handles both mobile and web app designs. Great for flexibility across platforms. Also useful for wireframing your flow before generating higher-fidelity screens.
- **Your AI builder directly** (Lovable, Bolt, etc.) — If you'd rather skip a separate design step, paste the prompt and your reference screenshots directly into your build tool. It handles design and code at the same time. This is what I did with Whit.

Fastest path: All three accept screenshots and text descriptions. For your first sprint, going straight to your builder is the fastest path. Use Sleek or Stitch when you want more design control before committing to a build.

Step 3: Attach Screenshots and Paste the Prompt

Open your chosen tool. Attach your 3–5 reference screenshots. Paste the prompt above with the bracketed sections filled in. That's it.

If you're using Sleek or Stitch, you'll get visual layouts you can refine through follow-up prompts — “make the header smaller,” “add a back button to the second screen,” “swap the card layout for a list view.” Each tweak takes seconds.

If you're feeding this directly to your AI builder, it'll generate working screens you can iterate on immediately inside the build tool. Same iteration loop: look at what the AI built, describe what's wrong, direct the fix, review.

Step 4 (Optional): Add Style Notes

Use the “Design style notes” line at the bottom of the prompt to steer the output. Examples:

- “Minimal SaaS dashboard feel, light mode, blue accents”
- “Bold and playful, dark background, rounded cards, large typography”
- “Professional and clean, similar to a banking app”

If you skip this, the tool defaults to the style of your reference screenshots. That's fine for most first sprints.

Quick Reference

Step	What to Do
1. Find references	Screenshot 3–5 screens from Mobbin, Screensdesign, Dribbble, or SensorTower

2. Pick your tool	Sleek for mobile, Stitch for web/mobile, or paste directly into your AI builder
3. Paste the prompt	Attach screenshots + fill in the brackets + hit enter
4. Add style notes	Optional — steer the visual direction with a few words



Don't have the book yet? *Software Secrets 2.0* walks you through the entire journey — from finding your idea, to scoping your MVP, to building and launching a real product in 48 hours. No coding required. No technical co-founder. Just your domain expertise and the AI tools that changed everything.

Get the book at softwaresecrets.com

More Prompts, Templates, and Tools: The **Software Secrets Vault** has every prompt from the book — organized by category, ready to copy and customize. Plus templates, tools, and an AI chatbot trained on the entire Software Secrets system.

Explore the Vault at vault.softwaresecrets.com

Ready to Build? Start in the Studio: **Software Secrets Studio** is where ideas become products. Use the AppBlueprint tool to scope and validate your idea, the Reverse Prompt tool to turn screenshots into build-ready prompts, and more — all designed to get you from concept to code faster.

Start building at studio.softwaresecrets.com