TUGRUL GUNER

AI Engineering Leader | Portfolio Strategy | Hands-on Architecture

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PROFILE

AI engineering leader and hands-on architect leading two cross-functional pods across more than six products. Build high-performing teams and scalable backend, AI, and agentic systems, combining product direction, stakeholder leadership, and production delivery. Make difficult decisions under pressure without lowering engineering standards.

EXPERIENCE

AI Engineering Manager | CDAI

Toronto, Ontario, Canada | Jan 2026–present

- Lead two separate cross-functional pods of five and seven people across more than six products, with responsibility for technical direction, cross-team alignment, and delivery.
- In under six months, led one pod to a 2.5× increase in feature and product delivery velocity and helped the team launch three products. This improvement led to responsibility for the second, separate pod.
- Helped deliver a recommendation system that improved menu-item attachment rate by 4×.
- Deliver production architecture and shared platforms to reduce redundancy and improve scalability; build team ownership and standards.
- Started the AI & Science channel and co-host the company-wide AI Center of Excellence meeting.

Technical Manager, AI Architect | Haptiq

Toronto, Ontario, Canada | May 2025–Jan 2026

- Built Haptiq's AI team and first AI infrastructure; recruited and led seven people across ML engineering, MLOps, and backend development.
- Led delivery and client conversations for the first AI product, helping sell AI solutions and contributing to more than $2M in new revenue.
- Worked with clients and executives on product direction, architecture, delivery, risk and performance reporting; established ownership, knowledge-sharing, reviews, documentation, releases, and sprint planning.

Senior Tech Lead | Quotograph.io

Waterloo, Ontario, Canada · Remote | Jul 2025 – Present

- Provide technical guidance on software and AI development in an advisory capacity.

Chief Technology Officer | Quotograph.io

Waterloo, Ontario, Canada · Remote | Jan 2024 – Jul 2025

- Designed and developed the consumer-facing marketplace application for instant quotes from photos and images. Contributed to product direction and the B2B transition.
- Designed and developed Quoto Report and Quoto Measure for construction reporting and floorplan takeoffs; developed PermitX's chatbot, AI reporting tool, and supporting software.

Lead MLOps Engineer | Arteria AI

Toronto, Ontario, Canada | Dec 2024–May 2025

- Architected scalable AI and backend systems aligned with business goals and integrated Ray with Kubernetes.
- Led cross-functional delivery, mentoring, cost optimization, availability, and fault-tolerance work.

Senior MLOps Engineer | Arteria AI

Toronto, Ontario, Canada | Sep 2022–Dec 2024

- Automated backend systems for model integration and scaling, and built user-friendly APIs for rapid experimentation and deployment.
- Reduced Kubernetes infrastructure costs by 60% with KServe and reduced model latency by a factor of 10 with quantization and ONNX.
- Built CI/CD pipelines with GitHub Actions and Databricks to streamline the machine-learning lifecycle.

TECHNICAL RANGE

Harnesses: Hermes Agent, Claude Code, Cursor Agent, deepagents; CLI execution, model routing, multi-agent coordination, subagents
Agent development: Pydantic AI, LangGraph, DSPy | **Skills:** Superpowers, custom skills | **Protocol:** MCP | **MCP framework:** FastMCP
Inference: PyTorch, llama.cpp, vLLM, ONNX; low-level LLM optimization | **MLOps:** KServe, MLflow, Ray Serve
Backend/data: FastAPI, Django, PostgreSQL, DynamoDB, MongoDB | **Platforms:** Python, SQL, AWS, Azure, GCP, Docker, Kubernetes, GitHub Actions

EDUCATION & RESEARCH

Postdoctoral Fellow, University of Ottawa, 2021–2022 — deep learning for quantum optics and beam shaping
Postdoctoral Fellow, Institut national de la recherche scientifique (INRS), 2018–2021 — ultrafast transmission electron microscopy and measurement algorithms
MBA, Quantic School of Business and Technology, 2025 | **Ph.D., Materials Science and Engineering**, Izmir Institute of Technology, 2018
30 journal publications, one patent, 1,023 Google Scholar citations, h-index 19, i10-index 21 (September 2026).

OPEN SOURCE & WRITING

Created **ModePot** (modepot.io): Dexpot, Intpot, Summonpot, LifePot, RefPot, SkillPot, UtilityPot. Modern open-source frameworks, tools, engines, and games. Landed contributions to **Hermes Agent** (session-list performance) and **Superpowers** (dev branch); write **Passionately Curious** and publish X Articles and Medium essays.