

Richard Avery

Architect & Interior Designer
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Summary of Qualifications

Design Director & Architect with a focus on retail, hospitality and mixed use projects. Experience working with brands including Starbucks, Equinox Fitness Clubs, Culver's, Gabe's, and Graham Elliot. Currently in leadership at a mid-size architecture and design firm. Involved in business development, employee recruitment, and overall firm leadership.

Design and communication oriented with a focus on analytical, conceptual, and strategic thinking. Exceptional verbal and written communication skills.

Twelve years as graduate and undergraduate instructor educating and motivating young designers through teaching and mentorship.

Professional Experience

Design Director,
Zimmerman Weintraub Associates
Chicago, IL
Nov. 2016-Present

Roles & Responsibilities:

Lead Design & Technical Architect for custom projects, and Lead Technical Architect for Programmatic projects

Co-manage Starbucks client relationship and act as lead Technical Architect on Starbucks Cafes (200+ to date) including new construction tenant improvement, renovations, and building conversions

Team Lead and primary client contact for retail and development clients including Equinox Health Clubs, Gabe's, Culver's, and Acadia Realty Trust

Lead and manage 11 direct reports, including training and mentorship

Prepare fee proposals including fee estimating and writing scope of work descriptions

Assist with employee recruitment and interviews

Principal,
Avery Architecture & Design
Chicago, IL
Jan. 2004-Nov. 2016

Sole practitioner with a concentration on multi-family/mixed-use, restaurant, and custom residential projects

Projects ranged in size from 800sf to 15k sf, and with budgets between 100k & 6m

Focused on one to two large projects per year, and had four to five projects at various stages in the process in the office at any one time

Accomplishments:

Initiated and developed conceptual framework for a new proposal process

Initiated and led design and implementation of a new proposal format

Initiated, designed, prototyped and helped implement new project work plan system that is efficient and easy to use for tracking project performance, and helping maintain projects at 20% profitability

Increased revenue by creating a new system for initiating and tracking Additional Service Requests with Starbucks

Assisted with fee estimates and drafting response for Starbucks Master Service Agreement RFP

Led creation and implementation of new project task tracking system for Starbucks projects

Provided editorial concept, art direction, and editorial content for new firm website

Accomplishments:

Grew practice from primarily custom residential to primarily commercial projects

Used my design thinking skills to help clients develop business concepts and project delivery strategies to improve overall project success

Projects tended to be complex with issues related to site, budget, program, construction, approvals, etc., providing deep exposure to a range of design and construction challenges. This required me to maintain a high level of focus and involvement, and build an extensive problem solving skill set

Professional Experience (cont.)

Adjunct Faculty, Harrington College of Design

Chicago, IL
Jan. 2004-2016
Instructor in undergraduate and graduate programs. Classes taught include architectural detailing, building systems, design process, collaboration design studio, graduate thesis chair. My focus as an educator has been to help students find clarity on how they think and who they are as designers.

Project Architect, LR Development (now Related Midwest)

Chicago, IL
1999-2003
Part of design/build team for custom high-end condominiums at The Park Tower (800 N. Michigan Ave.) and 840 N. Lakeshore Drive. Duties included design, MEP coordination, bidding and pricing, bid qualification and verification, construction administration. This position allowed me to spend a significant amount of time on construction sites which in turn allowed me to 'close the loop' on my understanding of how design is made real.

Education

Master of Architecture

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (aka Virginia Tech), Blacksburg, VA

Registration

Licensed Architect, Illinois
2003-Present

Professional Activities

Pro-bono Consulting, Three Arts Club; The Citizens Lighthouse Community Land Trust

Case study Presentation, Evanston Emerson/Lyons Community Plan, Chicago Center for Green Technology; at Chicago Green Fest

Tour Leader, Great Chicago Places and Spaces

Lecture, Flip-a-Strip (with Jess Giffin), the School of the Art Institute of Chicago; the Graham Foundation

Panelist, Burnham Smack Down round-table discussion (With Lyn Becker, Zoka Zola, Sam Asseffa, and Mike Newman)

Honors/Awards

Flip-A-Strip ideas competition Merit Award Winner, Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art, October 2009. Exhibited Oct. 2008-Jan. 2009

Chicago Landmark Award For Preservation Excellence for Thorne-Hourican Residence, 2009

Burnham Prize Finalist,
Chicago Architecture Club, 2000

Technology

I learn new software easily and use technology in ways that maximize its utility and help achieve goals. I have been learning and using various CAD, modeling, rendering, and presentation software tools since I was

Accomplishments:

Designed and implemented changes to existing courses to make them more effective and better achieve curriculum goals

Developed and implemented new graduate level course on design process

Taught well attended, recurring SketchUp workshops

Project Architect, Ranieri & Associates

Chicago, IL
1998-1999
Small firm specializing in custom residential design. Duties included, existing conditions documentation, design drawings, construction drawings

Intern Architect, Nagle Hartray Architecture

Chicago, IL
1996-1998
Duties included existing conditions documentation, design drawings, construction drawings

Bachelor of Environmental Design

Ball State University, Muncie, IN

an undergraduate. Even though I do not do production work in my current position, I continue to learn and find new ways to leverage technology to help our team work more effectively.