

DEVAN CASTELLANO

Architect • Educator • Design Practitioner

1315 Wilmette Avenue, Wilmette, IL 60091 • 312.388.5494 • devancastellano@gmail.com • castelld@nth.net

Professional Profile

Devan Castellano is a Registered Architect and educator based in Wilmette, Illinois, whose career bridges over 25 years of professional design practice with a parallel, equally sustained career in architecture and design education. As Principal of Devan Castellano Design Group, Castellano leads architectural and interior design work across hospitality, commercial, retail, institutional, multi-family, and single-family residential projects, building on nearly a decade as Project Manager at Kaufman O'Neil Architecture. Notable work includes the 48-story Cirrus Tower on Chicago's lakefront, the adaptive reuse of Hogsalt's Goose Island property, the historic rehabilitation of Theater on the Lake, and a long-standing renovation relationship with Northwestern University's facilities department, including work on Alice Millar Chapel and the LEED Silver-certified Left Bank lobby renovation.

Alongside architectural practice, Castellano has taught for over two decades — as full-time faculty and program leader at Harrington College of Design, and currently as Applied Arts faculty at New Trier High School, teaching Architecture, Urban Design & Civic Engagement, Interior Design, Geometry Design & Construction, and Introduction to Engineering Design. Doctoral studies in Environment and Behavior at the University of Wisconsin–Madison inform a human-centered, project-based teaching philosophy that consistently brings real client relationships, community partners, and live design problems into the classroom. Castellano holds a Master of Architecture from Illinois Institute of Technology, is a LEED Accredited Professional, and currently chairs the Village of Wilmette's Appearance Review Commission.

Education

Doctoral Studies, Environment and Behavior Concentration | *University of Wisconsin–Madison, Madison, WI* 2010–2012

- Dissertation topic: Sustainability and LEED in Educational Buildings

Master of Architecture | *Illinois Institute of Technology, Chicago, IL* 2008

- Thesis: Adaptive Reuse for VanderCook College of Music, July 2008

Bachelor of Arts, Architectural Studies | *University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago, IL* May 2003

- Graduated with Highest Honors

Certifications & Licensure

- Registered Architect — State of Illinois
- LEED Accredited Professional (LEED AP)
- CTE Certification — Drafting & Design Technology, Digital Arts, and Engineering Technology

Professional Experience — Architecture

Principal | *Devan Castellano Design Group, Wilmette, IL* 2022–Present

Principal architect with a strong focus on human-centered design, overseeing all aspects of architectural design, project management, and client relations across a growing independent practice.

- Leadership & Management: oversee daily firm operations, including strategic planning, business development, and financial management

- Project Oversight: lead a team of consulting architects, designers, and engineers to deliver projects on budget and on schedule
- Client Relations: cultivate long-term client relationships, ensuring vision is realized through design and service
- Design Excellence: develop and review designs for regulatory compliance and alignment with sustainability and innovation goals
- Business Development: pursue new opportunities through networking, proposal writing, and client presentations
- Quality Assurance: implement quality-control processes across design and construction

Project Manager | *Kaufman O'Neil Architecture, Evanston, IL* 2012–2019

- Delivered diverse project types including high-rise, single- and multi-family residential, hospitality, student housing, mixed-use, commercial, institutional, retail, and health & fitness
- Managed all phases of project delivery: programming, construction documents, bidding/negotiation, project meetings, and specifications
- Held primary responsibility for daily project-team activity and overall project progress, managing multiple projects from conception through closeout
- Led code analysis and compliance review; coordinated across disciplines to integrate project elements into coherent designs
- Managed client relationships through project meetings, site visits, and regular correspondence
- Produced presentation documents and 3D renderings using SketchUp Pro, AutoCAD, InDesign, and Photoshop
- Managed LEED documentation and consultant coordination; earned LEED Silver on the Left Bank lobby renovation
- Assembled and submitted bid and permit packages; oversaw the permitting process
- Reviewed and responded to change orders, RFIs, and shop drawings
- Led weekly Construction Administration meetings, issuing bulletins, sketches, and directives
- Managed punch-list completion and project closeout documentation

Professional Experience — Education

Applied Arts Faculty | *New Trier High School, Winnetka / Northfield, IL* 2019–Present

Courses taught:

- PLTW Introduction to Engineering Design
- Interior Design
- Research Design and Digital Fabrication
- Introduction to Architecture
- Architecture Studio
- Geometry, Design & Construction
- Urban Design & Civic Engagement

Also serves as a class adviser (current 3-year cycle, first advisory group graduating this year) and teaches dual-credit Urban Design and Architecture coursework.

Full-Time Faculty | *Harrington College of Design, Chicago, IL* 2005–2010 & 2011–2012

- Supervised adjunct faculty teaching software technology and sustainable design
- Hired faculty and made class assignments; conducted faculty assessment and performance reviews
- Managed software-technology and sustainable-design curriculum and coursework; served as Sustainable Design concentration advisor

- Sat on the Interview Committee for incoming Master's students and the Architecture Program Development Committee
- Served on the Internal Sustainability Committee; developed Master's and Bachelor's Interior Design program coursework
- Established Harrington's participation in the USGBC Educational Provider Program and the AutoCAD Academic Certification Center
- Provided software training for faculty, teaching assistants, and students; advised IT on hardware/software purchasing
- Developed online testing for incoming students and student technology tutorials; instituted school-wide render-server capability
- Taught 5 courses per semester with weekly technical support in the Integrated Learning Studio; supported NCA site preparation and review

Guest lecturer at the University of Illinois at Chicago and the University of Wisconsin–Madison.

Selected Project Portfolio

A representative cross-section of architectural work led or managed across firm and independent practice. Project and client names have been omitted to preserve confidentiality; entries are organized by typology and location. “(CW)” denotes projects completed in collaboration with another architecture firm, and “(DCDG)” denotes projects completed under independent practice.

Hospitality & Wellness

- Adaptive Reuse, Hospitality Venue — Goose Island, Chicago, IL
- Historic Rehabilitation, Performance Venue — Chicago, IL
- Fitness Center & Café
- Residential Amenity Renovation — Chicago, IL
- Multi-Family Master Planning Renovation — 1140 N. LaSalle, Chicago, IL
- Multi-Family Planning Renovation — Chicago, IL
- Religious Institution Renovation — Evanston, IL
- Private Club Renovation — Wilmette, IL
- Student Housing — Lansing, MI
- Yoga & Fitness Studio — Bannockburn, IL
- Rooftop Deck — Chicago, IL
- Salon — Evanston, IL
- IV Bar / Wellness Spa — Chicago, IL (CW)
- Spa — Schaumburg, IL

Commercial

- Corporate Office — Chicago, IL & New York, NY
- Corporate Office Renovation — Evanston, IL
- Industrial / Commercial Facility — Wauconda, IL
- Commercial Office — Mundelein, IL (DCDG)

Retail — New Build

- Retail Store, New Build — Tucson, AZ
- Retail Store, New Build — Portland, OR
- Retail Store, New Build — Indianapolis, IN
- Retail Store, New Build — Chicago, IL

Retail — Renovations

- Retail Store Renovation — Costa Mesa, CA
- Retail Store Renovation — Walnut Creek, CA

Institutional

- Elementary School Renovation & Daycare Build-Out — Chicago, IL
- University Facility Renovation — Evanston, IL
- Religious Institution — Office Renovation & Classroom Redesign, Winnetka, IL (DCDG)

Multi-Family Residential

- High-Rise Residential Tower, Unit Design — 48-Story Lakefront Tower, Chicago, IL
- Student Housing
- Multi-Family Apartments — 1140 N. LaSalle, Chicago, IL
- Multi-Family Apartments — Chicago, IL
- University Student Housing — Evanston, IL
- Hospitality / Extended-Stay Residential

Single-Family Residential

- Net-Zero Home, New Construction — La Grange Highlands, IL (DCDG)
- Private Residence — Lake Forest, IL
- Private Residence — Lake Forest, IL
- Private Residence — Washington Avenue, Wilmette, IL
- Private Residence — Greenwood Avenue, Wilmette, IL
- Private Residence — Lake Avenue, Wilmette, IL (CW)
- Private Residence — Walnut Avenue, Wilmette, IL
- Private Residence — Lindenwood Drive, Winnetka, IL
- Private Spec Home, New Construction — 55th Street, La Grange Highlands, IL
- Private Residence — 55th Street, La Grange Highlands, IL
- Private Residence — La Grange Highlands, IL
- Private Residence Renovation — Logan Square, Chicago, IL (CW)
- Private Residence — Wicker Park, Chicago, IL
- Private Residence — 50 Glade, Glencoe, IL
- Private Residence — North Center, Chicago, IL
- Private Residence Renovation — Edgewater, Chicago, IL

Condominium / Building Unit Renovation

- Condominium Renovation — 1140 Randolph, 53rd Floor, Chicago, IL
- Condominium Renovation — 1140 Randolph, Chicago, IL
- Condominium Renovation — 270 E. Pearson, 12th Floor, Chicago, IL
- Condominium Renovation — 270 E. Pearson, Chicago, IL
- Condominium Renovation — 250 E. Pearson, Chicago, IL
- Condominium Renovation
- Condominium Renovation — Lake Shore Drive, Chicago, IL
- Condominium Renovation — Vista, 8th Floor Penthouse, Chicago, IL
- Condominium Renovation

Teaching Philosophy & Practice

The following synthesizes reflections prepared for New Trier's Scale IV Master Teacher evaluation, organized around the school's four "Characteristics of Professional Practice" domains.

Knowing the Content and Pedagogy of the Discipline

Castellano's teaching centers on project-based learning: structured objectives paired with student freedom to shape projects around personal interest, using tools ranging from hand-drawing and physical modeling to industry software and AI. Students routinely tackle real design challenges — a New Urbanism study of downtown Northfield, a concrete beam design challenge, a truss bridge competition — with an emphasis on process, iteration, and productive failure over a single "correct" outcome. Assessment is similarly varied: gallery walks and peer critique, portfolios, video pitches, and client presentations connect classroom work to real-world formats students will use in internships and college applications.

Knowing Adolescent Development and Students as Individuals

Courses are deliberately student-driven: in Urban Design & Construction, students identify their own values and reconcile them against a community's master plan before developing a physical design proposal. Feedback loops — peer critique, class voting on final designs, and direct feedback from real "clients" such as the Glencoe Library, the Transition Center, and Village Board members — keep students accountable to both their own creative direction and to the people their work is meant to serve. Courses are revised annually based on student feedback and outcomes.

Personal, Ethical, and Professional Responsibilities

Beyond the classroom, Castellano has served on New Trier's Architecture Course Committee, Engineering Course Committee, Future Programming Committee, Career Pathways Committee, Environmental Committee, and Faculty Senate (2022–2024), and co-leads the Vertical Learning Collaborative. Community-facing student projects include the Go Baby Go adaptive-mobility program and infant-wheelchair build with the Illinois Spina Bifida Association, an outdoor furniture build with the Transition Center, the Glencoe Library mini-golf project, and a hydroponic greenhouse project with Wilmette Junior High — alongside continued independent architectural practice that keeps professional knowledge current and directly informs classroom instruction.

Knowing the School and Community Culture

Castellano regularly brings outside professionals — architects, planners, and local government leaders, including the Village of Wilmette's president — into the classroom, and has partnered with local groups such as "Toes in the Water" on microplastics-collection prototypes for the Great Lakes, and Community Partners for Affordable Housing on the Geometry, Design & Construction course. Cross-disciplinary collaborations include co-teaching Geometry, Design & Construction with the Math department, Urban Design & Civics with Social Studies, and a rainwater-collection project with a Biology course, reflecting a sustained emphasis on connecting classroom learning to the wider community.

Service & Leadership

- Chairman, Appearance Review Commission, Village of Wilmette — 2018–Present (currently serving second term)
- Faculty Senate, New Trier High School — 2022–2024
- Sponsor, G-Force (student engineering & technology group); Co-Sponsor, MakerClub
- Class Adviser, New Trier High School — current 3-year advisory cycle
- Girls on the Run Coach — Wilmette, IL, 2018–2019
- Design Consultant, Lost Boys Rebuilding Southern Sudan — Geneva, IL, 2008–2009
- Participant, Oakton Futures Day — encouraging girls' participation in STEM fields

Presentations, Publications & Research

Castellano, D. (2018). "What is Architecture." Presented at the University of Illinois Chicago School of Architecture, Chicago, IL.

Shin, J., Castellano, D., & Miller, S. (2012). Communicating the Mission of Earth Stewardship through Green Buildings: The Social Impact of LEED Certification in Religious Organizations in Madison, WI. *International Journal of the Constructed Environment*, 2(2), 247–268.

Castellano, D. (2011). "Humanizing Parametricism." Presented at the ACADIA Conference, Lincoln, NE.

Castellano, D. (2009). "Sustainable Design." Presented to Master of Interior Design students, Harrington College of Design, Chicago, IL.

Castellano, D. (2009). "Introduction to 3ds Max / Advanced Computer Rendering." Presented to teaching assistants, Harrington College of Design, Chicago, IL.

Castellano, D. (2008). "AutoCAD 2009 Update Training." Presented to faculty and teaching assistants, Harrington College of Design, Chicago, IL.

Professional Development

- Project Invent
- PLTW Introduction to Engineering Design
- Geometry in Construction Training
- Geometry Design and Construction Collaborative Workshop
- Uncovering Unconscious Bias
- Moving Toward Net Zero
- Environmental Design for Buildings: Best Practices for the Best Design
- ADA Paths — Part 1: No One Left Behind
- ADA Paths — Part 2: Practical Design Requirements
- ADA Paths — Part 3: Communication and Recreation
- Acoustical Design in Modern Architecture
- Speaking of Older Buildings
- Designing Worship Facilities