Chris Velazquez

Product Design (10+ Years) | Critical Infrastructure | AI-Informed UX | MBA Candidate

hello@chrisvelazquez.design | Website | Portfolio | Richmond, VA

Simple Thread | Sr. Product Designer | Energy, Critical Infrastructure **September 2024 – Present**

- Shape strategy and design for operations software used by regulated infrastructure teams.
- Architected a financial tracking system that strengthened financial controls and ops efficiency.
- Shifted to code-based prototyping with Claude Design, applying AI leadership training.

Pearl | Sr. Product Designer | Education, Tutoring, Big Data **October 2023 – September 2024**

- Built a Figma token design system with 1:1 Tailwind parity, increasing development velocity.
- Led research and stakeholder interviews to turn education data into impact stories for partners.
- Designed the instructor companion app with accessibility and quality-of-life improvements.
- Led design strategy for an education research platform built around data storytelling.

Clearcover | Sr. Product Designer | Insurance, Underwriting **October 2021 – September 2023**

- Designed an insurance management system that cut strategy authoring from six months to one.
- Shipped monthly policy management UX improvements so support staff could act faster.
- Designer, researcher, and tester across four technical product teams.

RTS Labs | Founding Product Designer | Finance, Security, Design Operations **March 2017 – October 2021**

- Built the company's first UX/UI practice as founding designer and grew the team to four.
- Defined discovery, design, and research processes that helped win multi-million dollar contracts.
- Shipped 30+ products across finance, education, and energy as lead consultant.

ICF | Web Designer | Government Services **September 2015 – March 2017**

Designed marketing sites and experiences for government services; built the front end in HTML/CSS.

Education

Master of Business Administration
Longwood University
Expected December 2026

B.S. Media Arts & Design
James Madison University
July 2015

AI Strategy & Governance
University of Pennsylvania
Certificate on Jan 2026

Certificates

People Management Essentials
Google Education
Certificate on Dec 2025

UX Strategy & Management
Interaction Design Foundation
Certificate on July 2021

Gen AI Leadership
Google Education
Certificate on Nov 2025