

Christopher Velazquez

Product Design + Business Strategy

I'm Chris, a product designer based in Richmond, VA. I've worked across energy, insurance, government services, and education. Now I'm finishing an MBA and focusing on systems where the consequences are real: critical infrastructure and regulated operations.

Richmond, VA · Open to remote roles

hello@chrisvelazquez.design

STARTING POINT

Design with the whole system in mind.

A decade across energy, insurance, government services, and education, where software carried real consequences.

HOW I WORK

I look for the seam between what users need, what the tech can do, and what the business needs, then build things teams can keep running.

THE AI QUESTION

How do you put generative AI inside a complex company without making a mess? Often it's about deciding what a system shouldn't do.

WHERE IT STARTED

Designing for government services, then running a video production business end to end. Both taught the same lesson: the system around the work matters as much as the work itself.

2024 – PRESENT

Operations software for critical infrastructure.

ROLE

Senior Product Designer

SECTORS

Energy · Critical Infrastructure

> *Internal operations software for regulated infrastructure teams: planning, financial controls, and audit readiness.*

01

Designing for technical users

Surfacing the right data for planners, engineers, and auditors.

02

Where mistakes cost millions

A bad call doesn't just bruise a UX metric. It shows up on a balance sheet.

03

Cross-team collaboration

Engineering, ops, and finance all working from an ecosystem of applications.

04

Internal tools, done well

Proven software patterns, applied to a specialized, high-stakes domain.

2023 – 2024

A product that turns tutoring data into insight.

ROLE

Senior Product Designer

SECTORS

Education · Tutoring · Data

> *Interconnected products for tutors and admins, plus an AI insights project that stayed in R&D.*

01

Akoya Design System

Figma tokens matched Tailwind 1:1, so engineering moved significantly faster.

02

Mobile app (iOS & Android)

Companion app for attendance, surveys, and audio capture.

03

Survey builder & scheduler

Research-backed templates or build-your-own, for program admins.

04

Pearl AI (R&D)

Generated insights from attendance and learning data. Prototyped, never shipped.

2021 – 2023

Systems for a modern car insurer.

ROLE

Senior Product Designer

SECTORS

Insurance · Underwriting · Series E Insurtech

> *Internal systems for underwriting, policy management, and support across four product teams at a Series E insurtech.*

01

Two-year product runway

Designed underwriting strategy authoring tools that cut six months down to one.

02

Policy management UX

Monthly fixes so support staff could move fast on time-sensitive records.

03

Underwriting authoring UX

Technical experiences for managing legal and compliance interactions.

04

Cross-team designer

Designer, researcher, and tester across four product teams.

2017 – 2021

Founding designer at a software consultancy.

ROLE

Lead Product Designer

SECTORS

Finance · Logistics · Design Operations

> *Founding designer who built RTS Labs' first UX/UI practice and shipped 30+ products.*

01

A new design practice

Built RTS Labs' first UX/UI function from scratch.

02

Design operations

Rituals and standards that helped land multi-million-dollar contracts.

03

30+ shipped products

Finance, education, logistics, energy, and emerging tech.

04

A culture of craft

Grew the team from one to four through critique, craft, and curiosity.

ONGOING

Stacking formal business, leadership, and AI training on ten years of product design.

The MBA isn't a pivot. It's the other half of the seam I've always worked.

2026

Master of Business Administration

Longwood University · Expected Dec 2026

2025

Generative AI Leadership

Google Education

AI Strategy & Governance

University of Pennsylvania

2021

UX Strategy & Management

Interaction Design Foundation

2015

B.S., Media Arts & Design

James Madison University

RECOMMENDATIONS

People who will vouch for me.

Happy to put you in touch with former teammates and managers on request.

Erin Brooks
VP of Innovation, Devsio

Gregory Primosch
Principal Product Manager, Clearcover

Cody Simms
Senior Product Designer, Mission Lane

Saul Medrano
Senior Product Manager, Clearcover

Let’s make something thoughtful with real business impact.

Product strategy, design leadership, and AI-informed UX.
Based in Richmond, VA. Open to remote roles.

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