

INFORMATION

📍 Houston, TX
📞 (713)-854-4295
✉️ MICHAELJZEPEDA1@GMAIL.COM

EDUCATION

University of Houston
Bachelor of Architecture
(Cum Laude)
Minor: Energy and Sustainability |
Aug 2013 – Dec 2017

SKILLS

DESIGN LEADERSHIP

- Creative Direction & Design Strategy
- Multidisciplinary Team Leadership
- Client Engagement & Presentations
- Pursuit & Proposal Development
- Project Delivery & Design Coordination

EXPERIENTIAL DESIGN

- Architectural & Interior Design
- Exhibition & Environmental Design
- Spatial Storytelling & User Experience
- Immersive Media & Technology Integration
- AI-Assisted Design & Visualization, ComfyUI

TECHNICAL SKILLS

- Modeling & CAD: SketchUp, Rhino, Revit, AutoCAD
- Visualization: Lumion, Enscape, D5 Render
- Creative Software: Adobe CC, Figma
- Digital Fabrication & Model Making

SELECTED PROJECTS

Pleasure Island Nature & Visitor Center
Port Arthur, TX
North Bend Elementary
Humble ISD, TX
Ball High School TOR Legacy
Galveston, TX
French Valley Discovery Hangar
Riverside County, CA
Tulley Stadium
Spring Branch ISD, TX
Georgetown University ICC
Washington, DC

INTERESTS

Cinema & storytelling | Photography |
Permaculture | Cooking

SELECTED RECOGNITIONS

Honorable Mention | PBK TASA Booth
txEDCON, 2026
5 Stars of Distinction | North Bend Elementary
TASA/TASB Exhibit of School Architecture, 2025

PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Design Director and Associate Principal with nine years of experience leading architectural, experiential, and interdisciplinary design for educational, civic, and cultural environments. Founded and developed Ether Design Lab into PBK's immersive experience design practice, expanding the firm's capabilities across architecture, exhibition design, interactive media, visualization, and emerging technology. Directed design efforts across more than 40 projects, leading multidisciplinary teams and client relationships from initial vision through design development, fabrication, and implementation.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Associate Principal | Design Director

PBK | Immersive Experience Design
Houston, TX | Oct 2024 – Present
Previously: Senior Associate (2023–2024), Associate II (2022–2023), Architectural Designer (2018–2022)

- Founded and led Ether Design Lab, establishing an immersive experience design practice integrating architecture, exhibition design, interactive media, visualization, and emerging technology.
- Direct design strategy and creative development for educational, civic, and cultural environments, guiding projects from pursuits and concept development through documentation, fabrication, and implementation.
- Lead multidisciplinary teams of architects, interior designers, environmental graphic designers, technologists, and fabrication partners, establishing a cohesive design vision across physical and digital experiences.
- Lead client workshops, design presentations, and pursuit efforts, translating complex project requirements into compelling design narratives and experiential environments.
- Direct technology integration for interactive exhibits, immersive audiovisual installations, digital storytelling, and experience-driven architectural environments.
- Mentor designers and develop workflows that expand the firm's capabilities in visualization, interactive prototyping, and interdisciplinary project delivery.
- Led experiential design for North Bend Elementary, recognized with five Stars of Distinction in the 2025 TASA/TASB Exhibit of School Architecture program.

Guest Lecturer | University of Houston

Houston, TX | Jan 2018 – May 2023

- Developed and taught coursework on virtual reality, interactive visualization, and emerging technologies in architectural design.
- Created hands-on workshops and tutorials for more than 115 students, introducing digital tools and experiential design workflows.

Associate | Studio Red Architects

Houston, TX | Feb 2018 – Sep 2018

- Created high-end renderings, animations, and visualization content for various architectural projects.
- Assisted firm partners in design development, quality control, and submittals.
- Contributed to presentation graphics and digital storytelling for client proposals.

Design Team Intern | Kirksey Architecture

Houston, TX | May 2017 – Dec 2017

- Designed VR walkthroughs and interactive presentations for client meetings.
- Assisted in presentation graphics, parametric modeling, and digital fabrication.
- Conducted glare and radiation analysis for sustainable building design.

2 Stars of Distinction | Lakeland Elementary

TASA/TASB Exhibit of School Architecture, 2023

Caudill | Jefferson Early Learning Center

Contributing Team Member, TASA/TASB Exhibit of School Architecture, 2023

ICC Competition | Georgetown University

Contributing Team Member, 2024

The Unzoned City | Published Contributor

Thom Mayne / Morphosis, 2016

Eagle Scout of America
2011