

Rodrigo Camus

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Houston, TX | Mexico and USA Citizen

Summary / Professional Profile

Highly accomplished and adaptable **Industrial and Transportation Designer** with over 20 years of international experience spanning automotive design, diverse product development, and entrepreneurial leadership. Completed nearly all coursework at the prestigious **ArtCenter College of Design**, notably contributing to the **iconic Fiat 500 interior** and custom car projects during a significant tenure at **FIAT in Turin, Italy**. Successfully founded and led a design firm, diverse freelance projects, an innovative automotive art business, a thriving real estate development firm, and created an impactful online design education platform. Author of the **"Formula Fun" children's book series**, blending automotive passion with educational storytelling. Proven ability to inspire and mentor students, evidenced by serving as **Design Chair for Transportation Design** at Riggoletti Casa de Diseño and extensive guest lecturing and workshop facilitation at institutions like **SCAD**, including innovative **VR-based design workshops**. **Recognized by AD Markers for exceptional sketching skills**, a testament to dedication and mastery. **A former professional touring car racer (Copa Corona 2000 Rookie of the Year), embodying a deep passion for automotive dynamics and performance**. Eager to bring real-world insights, a global perspective, and a passion for multidisciplinary design and entrepreneurship to the Industrial Design program at the University of Houston.

Professional Experience

Author & Creator | Formula Fun Book Series, Self-Published via Amazon, Houston, TX 2024 – Present

- Developed and authored the **"Formula Fun" children's book series**, creatively blending fiction with real Formula 1 racing history and technology.
- Designed engaging stories with appealing animal characters to introduce complex automotive concepts to young readers in a simplified, fun manner.
- Managed all aspects of content creation, illustration coordination, and self-publication for books available in **English and Spanish**.

Creator & Educator | Pro Sketch by Rod Camus (YouTube Channel), Online Platform 2019 – 2020

- Conceived, produced, and launched an **instructional YouTube channel** offering over 40 long-form (20+ minute) videos dedicated to **design education for aspiring designers without traditional means**.
- Developed comprehensive lesson plans and personally handled all aspects of content creation, on-screen instruction, sketching, recording, video editing, photography, and sound.
- Dedicated approximately 25 hours per video to ensure high-quality, tailored educational content, demonstrating exceptional commitment to accessible learning.

Founder & Managing Partner | OLisof Properties, Houston, TX 2016 – Present

- Founded and operated a successful real estate development firm specializing in **renovating and flipping distressed homes**, completing 6-8 projects annually (2021-2023).
- Managed the entire project lifecycle from **acquisition and investment procurement to design, renovation oversight, staging, photography, and sales**.
- Applied strong design principles to space planning, material selection, and aesthetic finishes, enhancing property value and market appeal.
- Directed and coordinated all contractors, ensuring adherence to strict budgets and timelines.
- Adapted business strategy to market changes, transitioning to property management of a **rental portfolio** (including a 120-unit multi-family property) when sales slowed.
- Demonstrated robust financial management, negotiation, and entrepreneurial leadership skills.

Founder & Lead Artist | Pro Car Sketch, Houston, TX 2013 – Present

- Established and grew a successful custom automotive portrait business, initially managing high demand through exhibitions and live sketching at major auto shows (LA, Chicago, New York, Dallas, Houston).
- Developed unique artistic techniques for high-quality, custom car portraiture, leading to sales of several thousand signed prints.
- Continues to undertake select commissions, demonstrating ongoing artistic engagement and client management.

Freelance Industrial Designer | **Self-Employed**, California, USA 2006

- Designed an **electric vehicle** concept, encompassing [mention what you designed, e.g., exterior styling, interior layout, specific features].
- Managed the design process from initial sketches to presentation-ready visuals.

Founder & Lead Designer | Conectado Diseño, Mexico City, Mexico 2009 – 2010

- Established and managed a small design firm with a team of three employees.
- Led diverse design projects with a primary focus on **toy design**, from concept to development.

- Executed **interior design projects** for commercial spaces, including coffee shops and office environments.
- Oversaw client communication, project management, and creative direction.

Designer | FIAT, Turin, Italy 2006 – 2007

- Key member of the design team for the **iconic Fiat 500 (Cinquecento)**, primarily contributing to **interior design** and multiple **side projects/custom car designs**.
- Collaborated within a fast-paced, international design studio environment, contributing to a globally recognized vehicle.
- Utilized **Alias StudioTools, SolidWorks, and Photoshop** for modeling, visualization, and rendering.

Designer | Constructora y Perforadora Latina, Mexico City, Mexico 2010 – 2010

- Leveraged problem-solving and organizational skills in a demanding operational role.
 - Demonstrated adaptability and resilience in navigating career transitions.
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Teaching & Workshop Experience

Guest Lecturer & Workshop Facilitator | Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD), Savannah, GA & Atlanta, GA 2020 – 2022

- Conducted multiple **guest lectures** and **workshops** for Industrial and Transportation Design students, sharing practical industry insights.
- **Led cutting-edge VR design workshops utilizing Gravity Sketch, demonstrating and teaching 3D form creation and interactive collaboration in virtual reality (e.g., Porsche event, 2022).**
- Provided direct **feedback** on student design portfolios, aiding in their professional development.
- Participated as a **guest critic** in various design classes, offering constructive feedback on student projects and presentations.

Creator & Educator | Pro Sketch by Rod Camus (YouTube Channel), Online Platform 2019 – 2020

- Designed and produced over 40 in-depth instructional videos (20+ minutes each) on industrial and transportation design sketching and rendering techniques.
- Provided accessible, high-quality design education to a global audience, demonstrating extensive pedagogical planning and content delivery.

Guest Lecturer & Workshop Facilitator | Universidad Anahuac & Various High Schools, Mexico City, Mexico 2008 – 2010

- Delivered engaging lectures and hands-on workshops on design principles and processes to university and high school students, fostering early interest in industrial design.
- Successfully mentored students for admission to top design institutions (e.g., ArtCenter College of Design), with one mentee achieving a design position at BMW's California studio.

Design Chair, Transportation Design | Riggoletti Casa de Diseño, Mexico City, Mexico 2008 – 2010

- Appointed to lead and shape the **Transportation Design program** after providing critical feedback on student presentations.
- Developed and implemented curriculum strategies to elevate design education standards.
- Mentored and guided students through complex design projects, fostering their creative and technical growth.
- Oversaw final presentations and critiqued student work, providing actionable insights for improvement.

Guest Lecturer / Exhibit Presenter | ArtCenter College of Design Gallery, Pasadena, California, USA 2005

- Exhibited a **Ferrari Concept Design** for two full semesters, a significant honor, prompting direct engagement and discussion about design process and concepts with students and visitors.

Awards & Recognition

Featured Artist/Work Displayed | AD Markers Official Website 2018 – Present

- Recognized for exceptional **sketching and rendering skills**, with work prominently featured on the official website of AD Markers, a leading brand in automotive design tools.

Special Recognition: Ferrari Concept Design displayed for two full semesters at the ArtCenter College of Design Gallery.

Education

Transportation Design Studies (1 credit shy of BS degree) | ArtCenter College of Design, Pasadena, California, USA 2001 – 2005

- **Special Recognition:** Ferrari Concept Design displayed for two full semesters at the ArtCenter College of Design Gallery.

Industrial Design Program | Universidad Anahuac, Mexico City, Mexico 1999 – 2001
(Completed 2 years of program)

Languages

- **English:** Fluent
 - **Spanish:** Fluent
 - **Italian:** 80% Proficiency
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Software Proficiency

- **Expert Proficiency:**
 - **Gravity Sketch (VR):** (Virtual Reality 3D Sketching & Modeling, Collaborative Design)
 - **Adobe Photoshop:** (Visual Communication, Image Editing, Digital Rendering, Post-production)
 - **SolidWorks:** (3D CAD Modeling, Product Development, Technical Drawing)
 - **Autodesk Alias StudioTools:** (Automotive/Transportation Surfacing, Advanced Form Generation, Class-A Surfacing)
 - **AI Tools:** Gemini, Leonardo AI (Concept Generation, Image Synthesis, Creative Exploration)
 - **Canva:** (Graphic Design, Presentation Design, Visual Communication for rapid prototyping/marketing)
 - **Proficient:**
 - **Adobe Illustrator:** (Vector Graphics, Technical Illustrations, Branding & Logo Design)
 - **Adobe Premiere Pro:** (Video Editing, Presentation/Animation Post-production, Content Creation)
 - **Microsoft Excel / Google Sheets:** (Data Organization, Project Management, Budgeting, Financial Tracking)
 - **Google Docs / Google Keep:** (Collaborative Documentation, Idea Management, Project Planning)
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Skills

- **Design & Ideation:**

- **Concept Generation & Sketching:** Advanced manual and digital sketching, ideation, rapid visualization (notably recognized by AD Markers).
- **3D Modeling & Surfacing:** Expertise in parametric modeling (SolidWorks), Class-A surfacing (Autodesk Alias StudioTools), digital sculpting, **and intuitive 3D form creation in Virtual Reality (Gravity Sketch).**
- **Rendering & Visualization:** High-quality digital rendering, photography for design presentation, visual communication.
- **Design Research & Strategy:** User-Centered Design (UCD), trend analysis, market research, design thinking methodologies.
- **Prototyping & Fabrication:** Hands-on experience with **Laser Cutting, Multiple 3D Printing methods, CNC Machining, Injection Molding, Rotomolding, and Thermoforming.** Strong understanding of material selection and various manufacturing processes. **Expertise in Clay Modeling, Sculpting, Car Body Painting, and Prototype Finishing.**
- **Interdisciplinary Design:** Product design (toys, electronics, medical equipment), automotive design (interior, exterior, custom cars), interior architecture, fashion design.
- **Teaching & Mentorship:**
 - **Curriculum Development:** Experience in structuring and leading design programs (Riggoletti Casa de Diseño).
 - **Lecture & Workshop Facilitation:** Proven ability to deliver engaging content and conduct hands-on workshops (SCAD, ArtCenter, Universidad Anahuac, Mexican High Schools, and via comprehensive online video series). **Pioneered and led VR-based design workshops, facilitating interactive and remote learning.**
 - **Student Mentorship:** Portfolio review and development, critical feedback, guiding student projects, **with demonstrable success in student admissions to top institutions and career placement in leading design firms (e.g., BMW).**
 - **Critique & Evaluation:** Providing constructive feedback on design concepts and presentations.
 - **Educational Leadership:** Program leadership and strategic development.
 - **Content Creation for Education:** Scripting, filming, editing, and producing high-quality instructional video content.
- **Project Management & Business Acumen:**
 - **Full Lifecycle Project Management:** From concept to production/sale (design projects, real estate development, book publishing, video series).
 - **Entrepreneurship:** Business founding and management (Conectado Diseño, Pro Car Sketch, OLisof Properties), content creation entrepreneurship.
 - **Financial Management:** Budgeting, investment procurement, financial oversight.
 - **Client & Stakeholder Relations:** Managing client expectations, negotiation, sales.
 - **Team Leadership & Collaboration:** Leading design teams, coordinating contractors, cross-functional collaboration.

- **Technical & Digital Proficiency:**
 - **Key Software:** Adobe Photoshop, SolidWorks, Autodesk Alias StudioTools, **Gravity Sketch (VR)**, Gemini, Leonardo AI, Canva, Adobe Illustrator, Adobe Premiere Pro.
 - Digital sculpting, CAD/CAM principles, photo editing, video editing, presentation software, **Virtual Reality design & collaboration**, AI tools for design.
 - **Personal & Professional Attributes:**
 - **Adaptability & Resilience:** Successfully navigating diverse industries and career transitions.
 - **Problem-Solving:** Identifying complex challenges and developing innovative solutions.
 - **Creativity & Innovation:** Generating novel and effective design solutions.
 - **Cross-Cultural Communication:** Experience working in diverse international environments (Mexico, USA, Italy).
 - **Strong Work Ethic:** Self-motivated and results-driven.
 - **Passion for Accessible Education:** Dedication to providing design knowledge to a broader audience.
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Interests & Personal Endeavors

- **Professional Motorsports:** Former professional go-kart racer, transitioning to professional touring car racing (Copa Corona 2000, Rookie of the Year) in 500hp touring cars (max speeds 180mph) throughout Mexico. Achieved 2nd place in the first race (Cancun). This demonstrates a deep understanding of vehicle dynamics, performance engineering, and the competitive spirit of automotive development.
- **Open-Wheel Racing & Advanced Driver Training:** Trained at **Bob Bondurant's race school** in **Formula 2000 cars** at iconic tracks like **Laguna Seca** and **Fontana (California Speedway)**, showcasing high-level vehicle control and technical precision.
- **Motorcycle Track Enthusiast:** Continues to engage with high-performance vehicles through track days on motorcycles at circuits like Circuit of the Americas in Austin, TX, maintaining a hands-on connection to automotive and mechanical design principles.
- **Formula 1 Racing:** Passionate about Formula 1, integrating historical and technological aspects into educational children's literature.