

**KENNY VELEZ**  
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## **CAREER EXPERIENCE**

***KENNY VELEZ DESIGN, INC.,*** New York, NY and Chicago, IL  
**Owner, January 2006 to Present.**

Founded and manage design company to create/implement landscape, garden and floral designs. Company works with clients to structure imaginative and exciting green spaces using natural color and texture. Practicing landscape architecture as both art and science, the company creates outdoor and interior spaces that offer intimate and secluded, and/or open and commanding, settings ideal for relaxation, meditation, recreation, entertaining and event staging.

*Recent design/installation projects:* 3 acres of natural woodland, perennial gardens, and multiple tree species set on panoramic Hudson River Valley estate, and 1 acre lakefront property integrating perennial borders, trees, herbs and gardens with terraced stone patios and a reflection pool.

***PRIVATE FAMILY ESTATE,*** New York, NY and Rumson, NJ  
**Estate Grounds Manager, September 2003 to November 2005.**

Managed 7-acre riverfront estate. Re-designed individual gardens. Supervised horticultural maintenance of riverfront property with extensive collection of specimen trees, orchard and shrubs; formal boxwood gardens; 435 roses (30 cultivars); expansive lawns; formal English gardens; riverside gardens; and extensive vegetable and cut flower gardens.

- Designed and maintained formal and working gardens, perennial beds, shrubs, borders, hedges, roses, vines, planted containers and walkways through park-like grounds.
- Hired professional contractors to service property and buildings, from landscape architects to arboretum, lawn care, equipment, snow removal, painting and utility companies.
- Hired and supervised year-round and seasonal grounds staff for property maintenance.
- Designed and arranged weekly, holiday and social event garden and floral displays for Manhattan Upper East Side brownstone home and four homes situated on country estate.
- Cultivated greenhouse herbs, vegetables, orchids and houseplants through winter season.
- Engaged broad palette of perennials, annuals, tropicals and bulbs for year-round diverse seasonal displays.

***NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN,*** New York, NY  
**Staff Gardener and Garden Designer, January 2000 to August 2003.**

Worked with professional and volunteer staff in diverse roles, operating hand and power tools in diverse gardens:

- *Beds and Borders,* Gardener. Designed and maintained horticultural displays for entrances and public facilities.

- *Home Gardening Center*, Assistant Gardener. Worked in 5 gardens designed to educate home and estate owners: vegetable, fragrance, cutting and country gardens; and Korean Chrysanthemum autumn beds. Managed seasonal display design, and cultivation and maintenance of trees, shrubs, perennials, annuals and seasonal vegetable crops.
- *Propagation Range, Enid Haupt Conservatory, Peggy Rockefeller Rose Garden and Everett Children's Adventure Garden*, Assistant Gardener. Selected to join specialized teams to implement garden re-design and maintenance projects.
- *Community Education Outreach*, Lecturer. Conducted public gardening seminars.

**MATTERHORN NURSERY, Spring Valley, NY**  
Nurseryman, *March 1999 to January 2000.*

Worked for owner of high-end metropolitan New York nursery, supervising projects for corporate clients. Managed teams on VIP contracts, including projects for residences of corporate CEOs.

**ROBERT ISABEL, INC., New York, NY**  
Architectural Floral Set Designer, *May 1998 to March 1999.*

Designed and displayed floral set pieces for exclusive Fifth Avenue retail department stores, including Cartier, Bergdorf Goodman, Saks Fifth Avenue and Henry Bendel.

- Robert Isabel awarded contract by The White House to decorate Executive Mansion for Christmas. Selected by First Lady Hillary Clinton as 1 of 6 designers to manage White House seasonal displays based on prior submission of personal design and installation proposal. Met with the First Lady several times as floral designer for State Dining Room, including for joint CNN interview and television special, "Christmas at the White House."
- Member of design team for the wedding of Ralph Lauren's daughter.

**GREEN EARTH GARDENS, New York, NY**  
Gardener and Site Manager, *January 1997 to May 1998.*

Managed monthly installations for several Helmsley Hotel properties. Supervised crews maintaining and renovating multiple private gardens in New York City area.

**RESTAURANT BUSINESS, New York, NY**  
Diverse Positions, *July 1980 to December 1996.*

Diverse roles with increasing management responsibilities in 3 and 4 star establishments, from waiter and host to Event Manager and General Manager. Opened 3-star BOLO Restaurant as GM.

**BOTANNICAL EDUCATION**

**NEW YORK BOTANNICAL GARDEN DESIGN PROGRAM, New York, NY**  
*October 1998.* Completed 18-month classroom and hands-on greenhouse and outdoor instruction in horticultural gardening. Participated in cultivation and maintenance of diverse woody and herbaceous plantings on 250 acre botanical garden. Studied all aspects of Horticultural Gardening, including display, educational and private garden collection design practices.

**OTHER EDUCATION / AWARDS / LANGUAGE SKILLS**

Gained highly competitive admission into 4-year program at New York's LaGuardia High School of Music and Art. Awarded music scholarship at Wagner College that led to study at Aaron Copland School of Music. Bilingual in English and Spanish. Currently completing teacher training in Kundalini Yoga for certification in June 2008.