

# HELEN CASTILLO

Fashion Designer

Educator

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Fashion Institute of Technology  
Bachelor's Degree/Special  
Occasion Design  
New Jersey City University  
Masters in Education/Fine Arts

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## Helen Castillo Design/Creative Director

OCTOBER 2013 - PRESENT (NEW YORK, NEW YORK)

Independent atelier focusing on evening wear, formal gowns/tailoring, bridal, and luxury custom commissions. Design, draping, flat pattern, client fittings, and technical design development of original collections each fashion week season. Ethically sourcing deadstock fabrics, trims, and domestic production for collection manufacturing. One-on-One private mentor sessions in draping, illustration, and pattern making for students applying to design colleges and brand development.

## Montclair State University/Adjunct Professor

AUGUST 2022 - PRESENT (MONTCLAIR, NEW JERSEY)

Fashion Studies program instructor specializing in Fashion related coursework: Textile/Fabric Science, Apparel Construction, Fashion Show Production, and technologies coursework. Academic adviser for 4-year plan Fashion Design and Merchandising majors developing student success plans.

## Fashion Institute of Technology/Adjunct Professor

AUGUST 2023 - PRESENT (NEW YORK, NEW YORK)

Fashion Art department instructor for digital design with an emphasis in Adobe Illustrator techniques/foundation for technical design. Exposing students to tools and skills necessary for production and manufacturer ready fashion garments through expressive individually in technical flat illustrations.

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## Union City High School/Teacher

APRIL 2017 - NOVEMBER 2023 (UNION CITY, NEW JERSEY)

Career and Technical Education department; fashion design studies specializing in pattern making, Adobe Photoshop/Illustrator, technical flat illustration, pattern making/draping, fashion illustration, fit adjustments to original cut and sewn designs. FCCLA Adviser, Fashion Club/portfolio enrichment program director, developed enhanced curriculum for Fashion Design and Apparel Design secondary level courses for academic school year 2021-2022 and future instruction of said courses.

## Mood Fabrics/Design School Director

APRIL 2015 - SEPTEMBER 2022 (NEW YORK, NEW YORK)

Design School Instructor/'MoodU' University - Establishing curriculum and courses in garment construction, draping, and custom pattern manipulations/fit adjustments. Mentoring various students ranging in industry experience through guided virtual lectures and live-instruction at NYC storefront.

## Project Runway All Stars Season 6, Season 4 and Project Runway Season 12/Designer

JUNE 2013 - AUGUST 2018 (NEW YORK, NEW YORK)

Competition finalist recruited for outstanding placement in previous show seasons. Awarded prestigious commentary/mentorship from Isaac Mizrahi, Georgina Chapman, Zac Posen, Nina Garcia. Honorable mention on construction techniques and garment design concepts. Challenge wins include Zales, Marchesa Bridal, New Balance/Heidi Klum designing 3-piece looks sold in stores/e-commerce.. Recruited by Zac Posen as full-time assistant designer for two seasons before returning to PRAS6.

## Zac Posen/Assistant Designer

DECEMBER 2014 - AUGUST 2015 (NEW YORK, NEW YORK)

Fall 2015, Resort 2016, and Spring 2016 evening gown design/tailored RTW. Presented toiles, assisted model fittings directly to Zac Posen and atelier director for collection development. Contributed fabric manipulations, corset/foundation design concepts, and embroidery/embellishments. Final approval of fabric sourcing, construction development, and finished runway garments.

## Reebok Women's Apparel/Technical Designer

DECEMBER 2012 - JUNE 2013 (NEW YORK, NEW YORK)

Developed first women's Reebok collection for private label *Highlife LLC NYC*. Tech packs and sample approvals for collections exclusive to 'private label' department stores and flagship. Clients: Macy's, Bloomingdales, Reebok Inc.

## Vera Wang Bridal House/Design Internship

JANUARY 2012 - JULY 2012 (NEW YORK, NEW YORK)

Assisted bridal design director in developing fabric manipulation techniques, lace placement/application, market research for Bridal 2013 collection. Assisted pattern makers and fit-model sessions with Vera Wang in Fall 2013 for Ready to Wear Collection. Sample room responsibilities with pattern copying, sample making, and pattern grading for the Bridal production department.

## Vivienne Westwood/Design Internship

JUNE 2011 - SEPTEMBER 2011 (LONDON, UNITED KINGDOM)

Responsibilities in pattern making in metric measurement, Photoshop/Illustrator assistance with tech packs sent to Italy for production development, garment construction assisting on corsetry for Couture clients/foundation for bridal gowns. Clients: Kate Moss, Helena Bonham Carter, Kylie Minogue. Recruited by production for tech packs: Red Label, MAN Label, bridal design fabric sourcing and communicated with Italy based factory for wholesale production.