

BRIEF OF ARCH. JUAN EMMANUELLI BENVENUTTI

Architect Juan R. Emmanuelli-Benvenutti was born in Mayagüez, Puerto Rico in 1972. Although he always has an affinity for architecture and design, he initially enrolled in the Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering program at the University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez Campus, in 1990. In 1993, he was invited to join an innovative architecture program consortium, a collaboration between the Interamerican University of Puerto Rico and the School of Architecture and Urban Planning (SARUP) at the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee. Leaving his undergraduate studies in Engineering, he decided to pursue the architecture program consortium and eventually earned his Bachelor of Science in Architectural Studies (BSAS) in 1996 and his Master of Architecture (M.Arch) in 1999.

After completing his graduate studies, he was recruited by Kahler Slater Architects in Milwaukee. Over two years, his work was vital in the design of emblematic projects as part of the Health Care Studio where he was immersed in the design and construction of The Aurora Women's Pavilion, a specialty hospital for women. Additionally, he collaborated in the construction management efforts for the Milwaukee Art Museum expansion, a project by renowned architect Santiago Calatrava Valls for which Kahler Slater was architect-of-record.

In 2001, Emmanuelli relocated to San Antonio, Texas, to join the firm Marmon Mok. There, by virtue of his prior experience in healthcare related projects, he collaborated on the design and management of several senior living developments, including independent living, assisted living, nursing, and Alzheimer's care facilities.

He returned to Puerto Rico in 2005, joining AESC in Ponce where he worked alongside architect Abel Mislá Villalba on master planning projects for the University of Puerto Rico campuses in Ponce and Aguadilla, as well as on design proposals for new medium and large scale residential developments. In early 2008, he joined CMA Architects and Engineers in Guaynabo, contributing to the design and project management of facilities for multinational companies with a presence in Puerto Rico, such as Microsoft, Bristol-Myers-Squibb, and Zimmer. His portfolio also includes collaboration in hospitality developments such as St. Regis Bahia Beach Resort in Rio Grande and cultural projects like the Symphonic Hall at the Centro de Bellas Artes in Santurce where he provided construction management services.

In mid-2009, Architect Emmanuelli was invited once again by Abel Misla Villalba to become part of the planning and administration of the new School of Architecture at the Pontifical Catholic University of Puerto Rico (PUCPR) in Ponce. His mission was pivotal: to collaborate in the establishment and founding of the only academic unit dedicated to architecture in Puerto Rico's southern region.

Over the past 16 years, Architect Emmanuelli has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to academia and to the school, assuming numerous leadership roles. He has served as Regent of Academic Affairs, NAAB Accreditation Coordinator, and Operations Manager. In 2020, he was appointed Director of the academic programs of the now Rafael Hernández Colón School of Architecture and Design, overseeing academic, faculty, student, and administrative initiatives. His vision has been central to the design and implementation of new specialized programs, such as the Associate Degree in Digital Graphic Design (2020) and the Associate Degree in Interior Design (2024).

Architect Emmanuelli's contributions to the school have extended beyond administrative duties. He has also served as a faculty member, teaching a variety of design and theory courses in the Bachelor of Architecture program. His distinguished career and dedication to the institution since its founding led to his promotion to Assistant Professor—a recognition of his teaching excellence and professional commitment, which he has balanced alongside his leadership responsibilities.

Committed to continuous professional development, Architect Juan R. Emmanuelli-Benvenutti is a member of the College of Architects and Landscape Architects of Puerto Rico (CAAPPR) and the American Institute of Architects (AIA), Puerto Rico Chapter as a registered architect, and has an NCARB certificate as well.

Beyond his academic and administrative work at the Rafael Hernández Colón School of Architecture and Design, he has actively contributed to various institutional committees and working groups within PUCPR. From 2009 to 2012, he served as a member of the Institutional Curricular Review Office (ORCI), and in 2020, he chaired the Internal Committee on Originality and Academic Integrity. Currently, he serves on the Institutional Committee for Law 250: Reasonable Accommodation, as well as on the Board of Bids, Permanent Improvements, and Infrastructure Projects for the University.

In July 2025, after five years serving as Director of Academic Programs, Architect Juan R. Emmanuelli-Benvenutti was appointed Dean of the Rafael Hernández Colón School of Architecture and Design of the Pontifical Catholic University of Puerto Rico. His term as Dean officially began on August 1, 2025.