

Dayna Kafantaris

REAL ESTATE DEVELOPMENT EXECUTIVE

Eastern Ohio | Open to Nationwide Travel | daynakafantaris@gmail.com
213.550.7535

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Design and development executive with 20+ years guiding residential, Build-to-Rent, retail, hospitality, mixed-use, and commercial projects from early planning through delivery.

Directed product strategy and development execution for a national Build-to-Rent portfolio exceeding \$2B across multiple U.S. markets. Combines owner-side leadership, customer-centered product strategy, and technical design judgment to align brand, constructability, cost, and operations.

CORE COMPETENCIES

Real Estate Development • Owner's Representation • Build-to-Rent & Residential Product • Product Strategy & Design Standards
Site Planning • Entitlements & Approvals • Due Diligence • Capital Improvements • Design & Construction Coordination
Cross-Functional Leadership • Consultant & Vendor Management • QA/QC & Risk Management • Tenant Design & Criteria
Executive Communication • Customer Experience

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Retail & Residential Development Consultant | Owner's Representative

KAFANTARIS COLLECTIVE

2026 – present

- Provide project-based development consulting and owner's representation for select retail and residential assignments, supporting early planning, due diligence, and design coordination.
- Serve as an extension of landlord and ownership teams, including a publicly traded retail property owner, throughout the retail tenant design and approval process.
- Conduct preliminary, final, and signage drawing reviews, identifying criteria, design, constructability, and coordination issues and providing clear, actionable comments to advance approvals.

Senior Project Manager | Partnership Principal Track

DAVID A. LEVY & ASSOCIATES

2025–2026

- Managed due diligence, existing-condition assessments, permitting support, and project documentation for national retail modernization and capital improvement programs.
- Coordinated multidisciplinary teams and deliverables for Anthropologie, Free People, Free People Movement, and Maeve across multiple locations.
- Developed standardized survey templates, QA/QC procedures, document catalogs, and reporting processes that improved consistency and modernized internal project-delivery workflows.

Director of Product & Design

AMERICAN HOUSING VENTURES (AHV)

2021–2025

- Directed product strategy and development execution for a \$2B+ national Build-to-Rent portfolio across multiple U.S. markets, including approximately 2,200 homes built to date.
- Advised executive leadership and aligned Development, Operations, Construction, Finance, Purchasing, Marketing, Asset Management, and Legal/Compliance from concept through delivery.
- Led multidisciplinary consultant teams including architects, interior designers, landscape architects, structural & MEP engineers across site planning, design, specifications, & project execution.
- Established scalable product standards, community specifications, governance practices, trackers, and workflows that improved execution consistency, reduced project risk, and supported multi-market growth.
- Directed residential product, amenity, leasing, models, signage, FF&E, & material programs that balanced customer experience, brand, constructability, cost, & operations.
- Led product and design execution for Finley at Baseline, recognized with the 2026 MFE Award for Best Built-to-Rent Community, partnering with the COO and cross-functional teams from concept through delivery.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE (CONT)

Associate 5

MG2 CORPORATION 2019–2020

- Contributed to planning and development for mixed-use, hospitality, retail, and commercial projects for national clients.
- Supported planning, entitlement, and design coordination for a confidential 300-key hotel near SoFi Stadium and Marketplace San Diego.
- Coordinated entitlement studies, site planning, and elevation development for Costco projects, supporting project approvals and execution.

Senior Designer

KTGY ARCHITECTURE + PLANNING 2016–2019

- Led conceptual planning and early development for residential, mixed-use, and commercial communities through entitlement and design development.
- Partnered with developers, builders, consultants, and jurisdictional agencies to advance complex projects from vision toward implementation.
- Contributed to the conceptual design for the Richard Nixon Presidential Library & Museum renovation.
- Supported projects for Lennar, Brookfield Residential, FivePoint, Bridge Housing, PulteGroup, SummerHill Homes, Lowe Enterprises, and Hutton Development.

Retail Design Manager

WESTFIELD 2012–2016

- Managed redevelopment initiatives, tenant improvements, and architectural coordination across a national portfolio of regional shopping centers, including Westfield Century City.
- Developed and maintained 38 Tenant Criteria Manuals, establishing portfolio-wide standards that streamlined tenant design and project execution.
- Partnered with Leasing, Development, Operations, and external consultants to advance tenant and capital improvement initiatives while aligning design intent with ownership requirements.

Architectural Designer

GENSLER 2011

- Contributed to hospitality, residential, and international interior architecture projects from concept through design development and documentation.
- Selected projects included Shore Hotel Santa Monica, Hillcrest Country Club, residential tower lobbies in Hangzhou, China, and a private residential estate in St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands.

Additional Professional Experience

NUDELL ARCHITECTS • DAVIS • NELSON PARTNERS

- Contributed to the planning and design of residential, retail, hospitality, workplace, restaurant, mixed-use, and commercial developments from conceptual design through construction documentation.
- Selected projects included Scottsdale Fashion Square, Biltmore Fashion Park, Tucson Marketplace, Chase Bank rollout programs, JCPenney tenant improvements, hotel renovations, and mixed-use developments.

EDUCATION

Arizona State University – Tempe
Master of Architecture

University of Michigan – Ann Arbor
Bachelor of Science in Architecture

UCLA Extension – Business & Marketing Studies
UC Riverside – Design Thinking Executive Program
Certificate

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS & SERVICE

University of California Design Thinking Advisory Board Member
Architectural licensure in progress (2 ARE divisions remaining)
LEED AP (Legacy)
CSI CDT
AIA Associate Member
CSI Member
NOMA