

# COMMERCIAL OBSERVER

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YOUNG PROFESSIONALS ISSUE

# 20

Architects,  
Engineers and  
Construction Pros  
Under 35

By Rebecca Baird-Remba and Larry Getlen | Illustration by Sawan Chalabi



**Daniel Surrett, 33**

Senior Associate, Severud Associates

Daniel Surrett joined Severud in 2006, the same year he graduated from the University of Notre Dame with a bachelor's in civil engineering. Once at the firm, he focused his concentration fairly quickly.

"I knew I wanted to go into civil engineering, but I wasn't sure if I wanted to concentrate on structures, transportation, geotech or waste water," he said. "I did two years in general and civil, then picked a concentration in structures."

Since then, as he rose up the Severud ladder, receiving promotions to senior engineer in 2012, associate in 2013 and Senior Associate earlier this year, he has worked on several impressive structures, including 375 Pearl Street in Manhattan, the University of Chicago's Logan Center for the Arts and the recent renovation of Madison Square Garden.

His most challenging and educational project to date has been the ongoing construction of Midtown's One Vanderbilt, on which he's served as day-to-day project manager.

"Being involved with a project of this size—a 1.6-million-square-foot building—has [allowed me to see] a high-rise from concept all the way through [its upcoming] completion and all aspects including procurement and construction."

Working on One Vanderbilt has given Surrett a crash course in high-level problem solving and a bird's eye view of how to turn an architect's lofty vision into reality.

"The first thing they tell you [in school] in Intro to Civil Engineering is that civil engineers solve problems," he said. "I've found that to be true. [It's about determining] where the architect's vision meets structural feasibility—taking the architect's design and doing everything possible to make it materialize."—L.G.

