

# From Architecture to Stock Trading: Capablanca Returns Home to Inspire Students

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By: [Jori Rzepecki](#)

[David Capablanca](#) (BDES '09), an architect turned stock trader, shared his unique perspective on trading strategies and the transition from architecture to finance during a recent lecture at the University of Florida.

Capablanca, who holds a bachelor's degree from the [UF School of Architecture](#), as well as a master's in architecture from UCLA, spoke to students and faculty about [his journey from architecture to trading](#) and how his design background influences his approach to the stock market.

“Coming from a background where we are thinking of things in three dimensional or two dimensional is separating me from a lot of people that trade,” Capablanca said.

He emphasized the importance of applying past experiences and skills to new pursuits, drawing parallels between architecture and trading. “Trading is an art and science. We must pay attention to detail, meticulous detail,” Capablanca explained.

[Capablanca](#) detailed his transition to trading, which began after recovering from brain surgery in 2010. Faced with significant student debt, he explored high-income skills and discovered short selling in the stock market.



The trader shared insights into his strategies, focusing on identifying overvalued or fraudulent companies. He described how he capitalized on market inefficiencies during the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly in the pre-market trading hours.

Throughout the lecture, [Capablanca](#) emphasized the importance of thorough research, pattern recognition, and developing a strong thesis before entering trades. He encouraged students to apply their unique perspectives and skills to whatever field they pursue.

Capablanca highlighted the importance of discipline and dedication in trading, comparing it to the rigorous study of architecture. “You need your 10,000 hours, just like you do with architecture in school,” he said, referencing the concept of mastery through extensive practice.

The trader discussed his meticulous approach to analyzing stocks, which involves studying company fundamentals, technical analysis, and historical patterns. He showcased a photo of his trading setup, which includes detailed notes on each stock's characteristics and performance.

The lecture was part of an ongoing series at the university, bringing industry professionals to share real-world experiences with students. Faculty members praised the interdisciplinary nature of Capablanca's presentation, noting its relevance to students across various fields of study.

As the lecture concluded, Capablanca encouraged students to pursue their passions relentlessly, regardless of their chosen field. "Whatever you start, you have to finish," he said, emphasizing the value of perseverance and continuous learning in any professional pursuit.



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