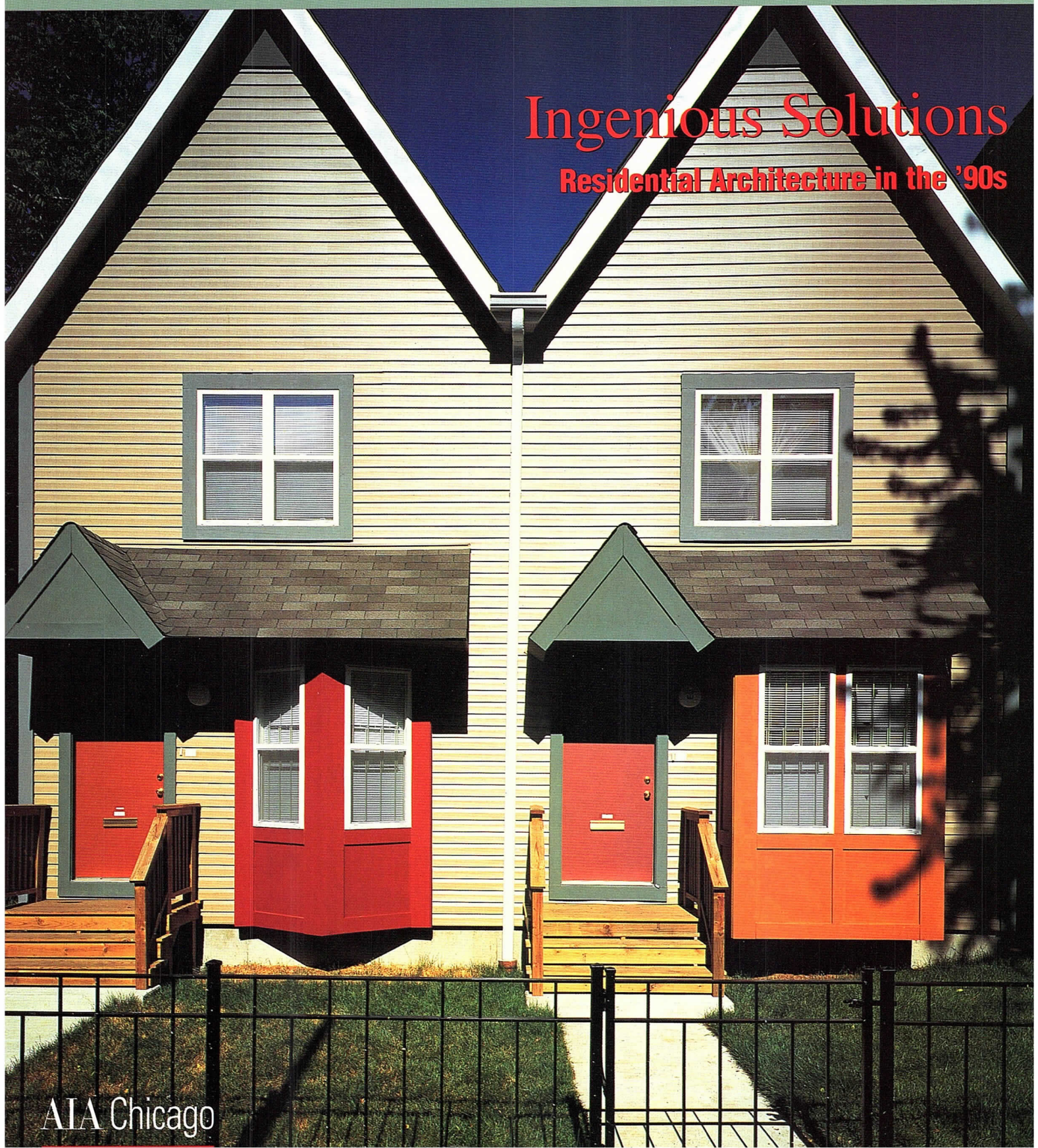


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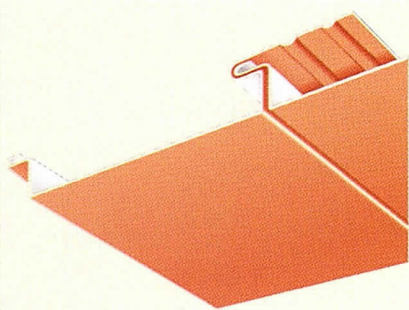
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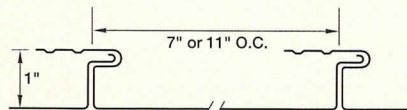
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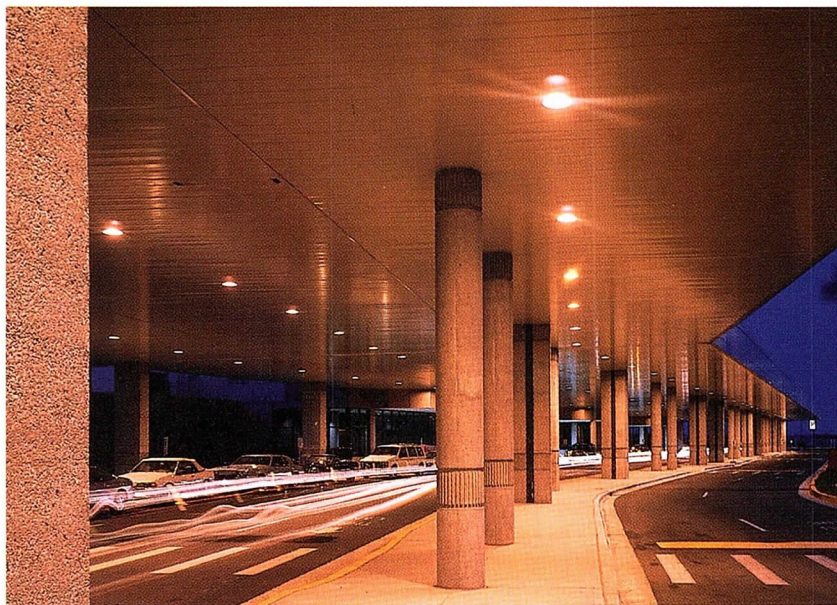
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# Focus Architecture Chicago

**Special Edition, May 1996**

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## Special Editions Feature Chicago Architects



I am proud to present the first issue of *Focus: Architecture Chicago*. With these special editions, published twice a year by the Chapter, we hope to promote the value of architecture and design in Chicago.

In recent months, I have described to our members the goals of AIA Chicago's new Strategic Plan. Collectively, the goals represent a shift of emphasis from internal concerns to outward communication with other professionals who impact the built environment. During the strategic planning process, we reviewed all Chapter publications to determine how we might better reach the public.

We agreed that *Focus* has served us well, informing members of activities and issues within our professional community. It was clear, however, that despite the high

quality of our design awards annual, *Architecture Chicago*, it "spoke" to very few people beyond our own membership. The cost of production was high; distribution was low. Sales at bookstores were slow. We had issues returned, and we paid to store extras.

Under the leadership of editor Susan Nelson, a group consisting of William Bradford, AIA; Randall Deutsch, AIA; Peter Exley, AIA; Joan Pomaranc; Stephen Saunders, AIA; Merritt Seymour, IDSA, CMG; Alice Sinkevitch and myself met to plan steps to re-orient our publications according to the Strategic Plan.

A great deal of enthusiasm has been generated by this process. I believe the results will speak for themselves.

*Focus* will continue to be published monthly for AIA Chicago members, except for two times a year when the

special editions are released.

*Focus: Architecture Chicago* will be published in May and October with an increase in distribution from 2,000 to 5,000 copies. The October issue will be devoted to in-depth coverage of the AIA Chicago Design Excellence Awards.

I hope that you enjoy the premiere issue of *Focus: Architecture Chicago*.

John Syvertsen, AIA  
President, AIA Chicago

### Postscript from the editor:

What do you think? I'd like to hear from you—by post, fax or e-mail. Susan Nelson, Editor, AIA Chicago, Suite 1049, Merchandise Mart Plaza, Chicago, IL 60654; fax 312/670-2422; e-mail: aiachgo@mcs.com.

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# The New Public Works

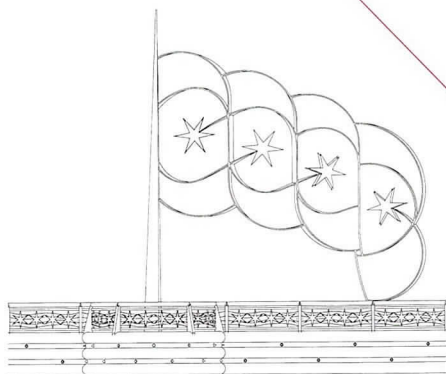
By Dennis McClendon

Chicago architects have a long and celebrated history of leadership in public works projects, most notably Daniel H. Burnham and Edward H. Bennett's 1909 *Plan of Chicago*. Today, with a renewed interest in civic projects spurred by a mayor who is said to take a personal interest in design issues, architects again have the welcome challenge of designing infrastructure improvements. Here's a look at some notable recent projects.

*Dennis McClendon is the principal of Chicago CartoGraphics, a design firm specializing in maps and information graphics.*

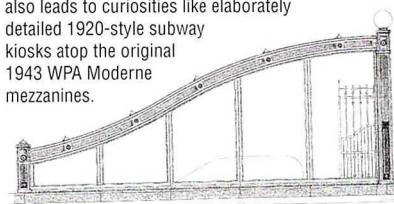
## Madison Street Bridge

Puerto Rican flag gateways erected last year over Division Street have become local icons, even showing up on T-shirts sold in local gift shops. Now DeStefano & Partners has designed another tubular steel "banner," this time a Chicago flag that will be erected as part of a redesigned Madison Street overpass on the Kennedy Expressway downtown. Other improvements have already been made to Madison Street west of the Loop, coincidentally the main route to the United Center, site of the Democratic National Convention in August. Among them are median planters like those already in place on Michigan Avenue. Similar planters are slated for Congress Parkway and LaSalle Street downtown, Roosevelt Road west of the river, and Cicero Avenue between I-55 and Midway Airport.



## State Street Renovation

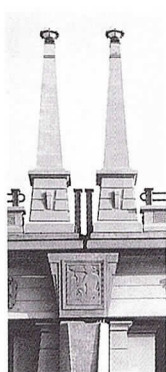
The much-maligned asphalt pavers are history, as the street, a transit mall since 1979, is again opened to traffic (two lanes in each direction). Also history are shelters for waiting bus patrons; in a bit of wishful thinking, renderings show a busy street with one lonely bus in the far distance. Designs by Skidmore, Owings & Merrill call for low Michigan Avenue-style planting areas that, along with street furniture, create a pedestrian zone away from traffic and next to storefronts. The desire to revive the street's glory days prompts specially designed lampposts, but also leads to curiosities like elaborately detailed 1920-style subway kiosks atop the original 1943 WPA Moderne mezzanines.



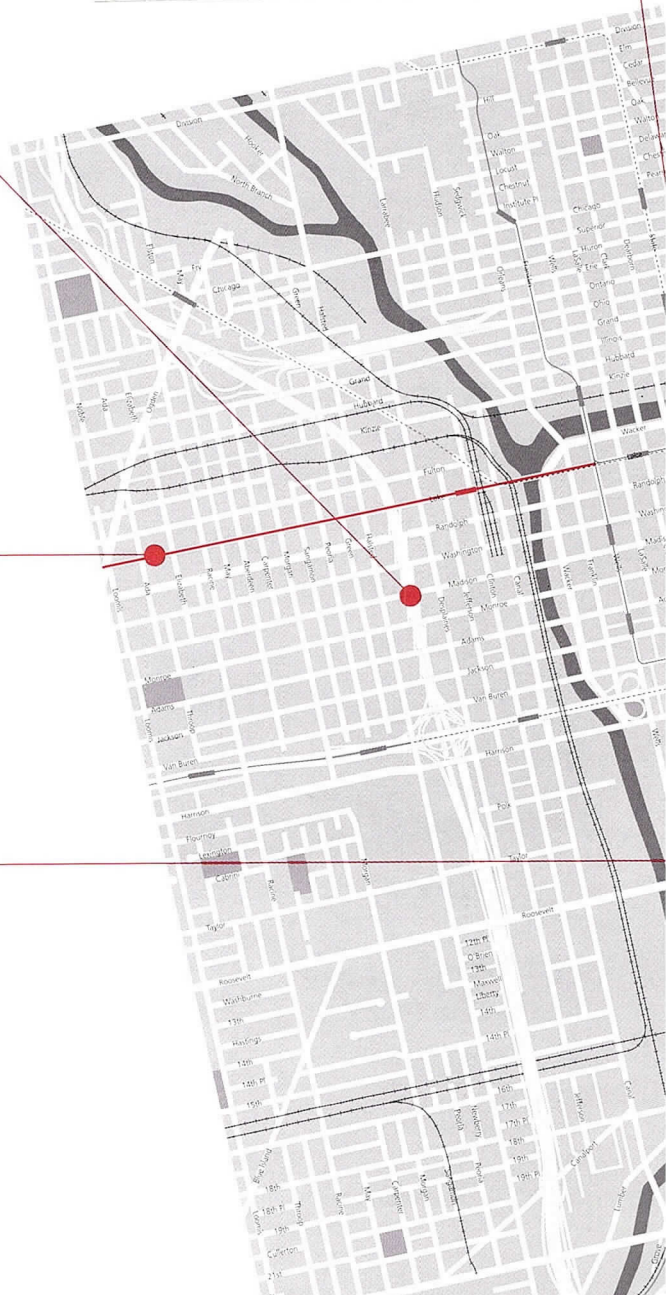
## Green Line

The oldest sections of Chicago's elevated rapid transit system were in bad shape when the CTA decided to close them down for reconstruction. The line got new column footings, several replacement bridges, and all-new rail and signals. West Side neighborhood groups, with planners and architects from Farr Associates, hope transit access will spur economic development. In Woodlawn, though, community groups are asking that the line over East 63rd Street be removed to aid redevelopment.

## Roosevelt Road



Roosevelt Road was part of an "inner circuit" proposed in the 1909 *Plan of Chicago* and was one of the first Plan improvements carried out. When the 1920s structure had to be replaced, a prosaic highway viaduct might have resulted, but the city added DLK Architecture to the design team. Based on community suggestions, the firm looked to Burnham and Bennett's plan for a civic vocabulary—though the obelisk garden might have used a little thinning. Although bronze sculptures along the viaduct refer to the museums visible at the east end, the extension of Roosevelt Road across the Metra tracks to the museums, part of the Lake Shore Drive project, will not follow the DLK design.



## Navy Pier



For years Navy Pier languished, underused. What to put out there? The answer, it turned out, was everything. To encourage year-round use, VOA Associates with Benjamin Thompson & Associates accommodated everything but the kitchen sink: The Chicago Children's Museum, an Omnimax theater, a winter garden, a carousel, a Ferris wheel, indoor shops, outdoor shops, a beer garden, performance spaces, exhibit halls, parking, docking facilities. Onshore, there's a new park and a playful fountain designed by WET Associates.

## Congress Plaza

Postcards once described it as "the most beautiful plaza in the world." That was before Congress Parkway was shoved through Grant Park, destroying the staircase that was bracketed by Ivan Mestrovic's sculptures *The Bowman* and *The Spearman*. DLK Architecture guided a 1995 restoration of the plaza and viaduct that renewed spalling balusters, reinstalled steps near the statues, and brought back the plaza's original streetlight design: the "Boulevard Electrolier."

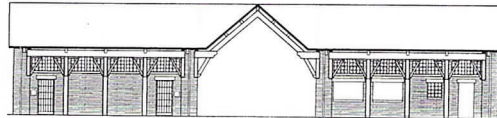


## Lake Shore Drive Relocation

Thanks to money set aside from McCormick Place expansion funds, the northbound lanes of Lake Shore Drive are being moved west of Soldier Field. The project will ease tourists' trek from the Field Museum to the Shedd Aquarium, and Lawrence Halprin's design calls for broad "concourse" underpasses to beckon Grant Park pedestrians and cyclists toward the lakefront. The project adds 10 acres of green space, though some civic groups would have liked more park and less Soldier Field parking.

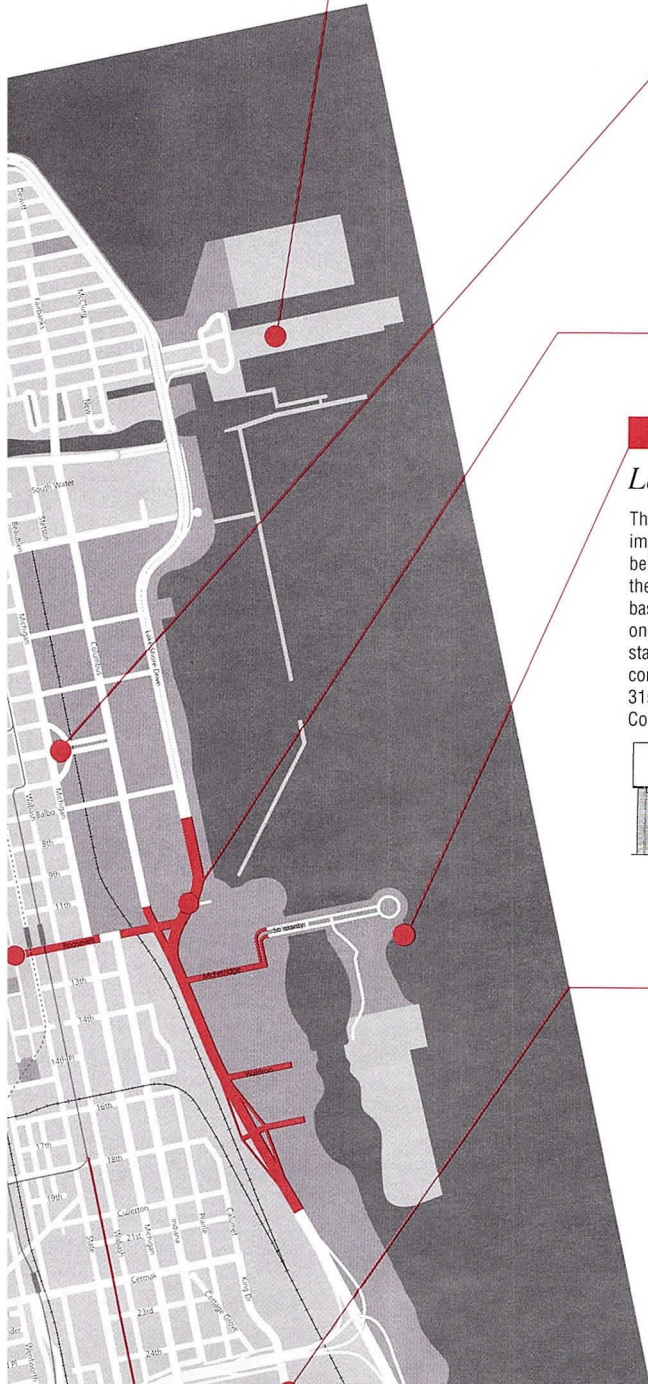
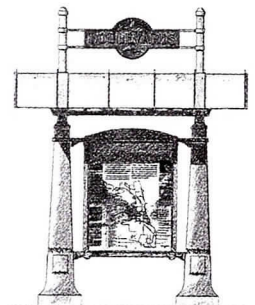
## Lakefront Comfort Stations

The sorry state of public restrooms along Chicago's lakefront should be improving soon. The Chicago Park District has created a design, now being detailed by Muller & Muller, for new facilities to be installed over the next few years. Cladding and other details vary with location, but the basic design calls for a building with two sections divided by a breezeway: one side containing restrooms and the other side housing a concession stand and lifeguard office. The first five, total cost \$4.2 million, are set for construction this year, at Loyola Beach, Foster Avenue Beach, 12th Street, 31st Street, and 57th Street. Two more have been approved by the Plan Commission for Kathy Osterman Beach (5800 N) and Navy Pier Park.



## Historic Boulevards Identity

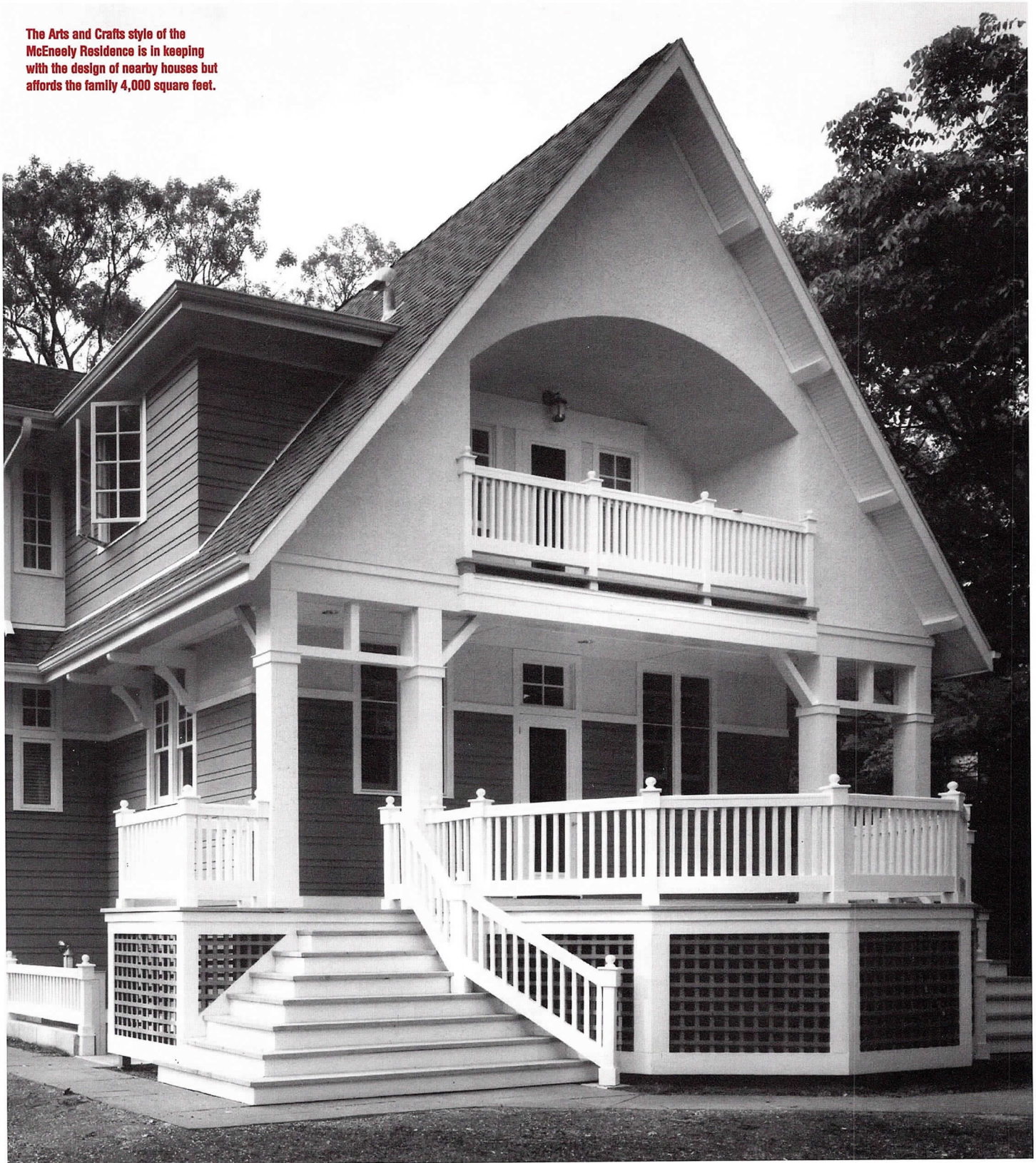
These distinctive thoroughfares, once the pride of the city, are being revitalized and regreened as a symbol of public investment in some of the city's poorest neighborhoods. One important component is a sweeping identity and signage program with elements designed by DLK Architecture. Light poles along the system will be topped with markers, and kiosks erected at 17 points around the circuit will tell about the boulevards and adjacent parks. King Drive is getting special attention as a demonstration project; a new monument for the north end has been commissioned from Los Angeles sculptor Alison Saar.



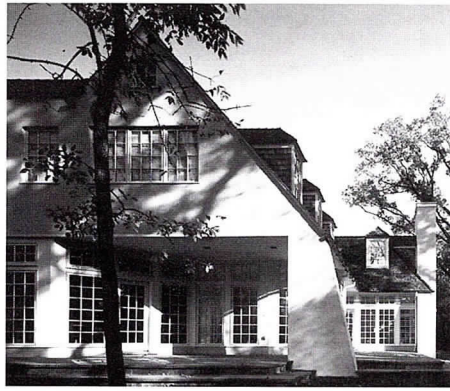
# Ingenious Solutions

## Residential Architecture in the '90s

The Arts and Crafts style of the McEneely Residence is in keeping with the design of nearby houses but affords the family 4,000 square feet.

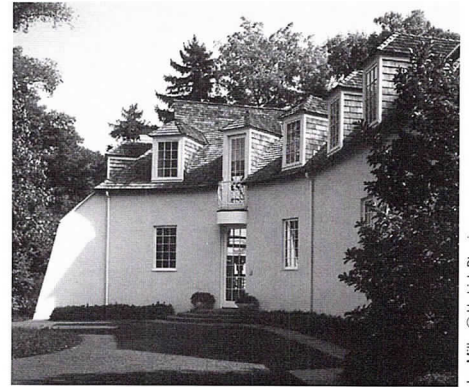






Jon Miller © Hedrich Blessing

Floor-to-ceiling windows and glass doors at the back of the Stucco House look traditional but were made possible by advancements in window technology. Single dormer windows help minimize the scale of the house on the street side.



Jon Miller © Hedrich Blessing

by Laurie McGovern Petersen

Chicago's current generation of architects is continuing a century-old tradition of innovation in housing design. This creativity can be found in all types of projects, from the largest new construction to the smallest detail of a renovation or addition. Each residential project begins with a client's desire for a bigger or better house that is more expressive of their lifestyle and tastes. The architect's job is to translate that vision into three-dimensional reality. There are always limitations presented by the location, square footage, or budget, but nobody loves a challenge more than an architect, and the most successful projects often result from the most constraining circumstances.

The Chicago chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA Chicago) and the Chicago Architecture Foundation (CAF) are co-sponsoring an exhibit entitled "Ingenious Solutions" to showcase recent examples of innovative residential design by local firms. The 10 projects profiled in this article are drawn from more than 50 on view in the CAF Gallery at 224 S. Michigan Ave. from May 16 to September 13. Each project is the result of a unique architect-client relationship in which the architect transforms off-the-shelf building materials into a one-of-a-kind design.

## Good Rooflines Make Good Neighbors: New Suburban Houses

The clients for two new houses built in established suburbs shared a desire to harmonize with the style and scale of their neighborhoods. The houses are substantially larger than the surrounding residences, so their size is reduced as much as possible on the street fronts. Both properties were created by subdividing lots, but the solutions achieved here are equally applicable to the many replacement houses being constructed in Chicago's older suburbs.

### McEneely Residence

*Holbert & Associates*

The McEneelys, long-time residents of this Evanston street, wanted to be sure their new 4,000-square-foot house would not upstage its attractive but modest surroundings. Architect John Holbert, AIA found several ways of achieving this goal. The roof comes down to the top of the first floor and is dormered on the sides so that from the street, the house's apparent height is only 1-1/2 stories. The house projects at the sides, so the street frontage is narrower, and the building mass at the back is hidden. Its Arts and Crafts style—characterized by stucco and wood walls accented with brackets, exposed roof beams, and windows grouped in threes or placed at the corners—is in keeping with the design of nearby houses.

The clients wanted the interior to have an open plan, abundant natural light,

and Arts and Crafts details. There are few full height walls; the long-span wooden trusses that made this possible actually cost less than load-bearing walls. Most of the spaces between rooms are defined by columns or by pairs of glass-paned doors. The projecting wings allow many rooms to have three exposures, and the large windows flood the space with light. Walls are detailed with high baseboards and a strip of trim that defines a transom area above the doors. Custom built-ins add character, and even create a tiny library alcove with a window seat facing bookshelves.

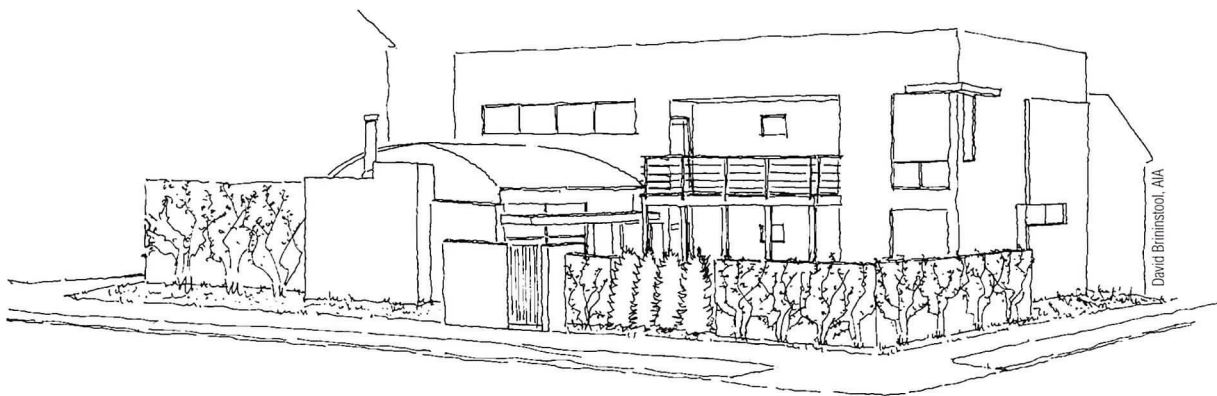
### Stucco House

*Stuart Cohen & Julie Hacker Architects*

This luxurious 5,000-square-foot house in Glencoe is the only new construction on a street of medium-sized homes, most of which are Country French or English Tudor. The owners wanted to minimize the scale of the house on the street side, so the roof is brought down to the top of the first floor and pierced with single dormer windows. This side of the house is closed and private, with hallways and service areas behind the tall narrow windows.

At the back of the house, a continuous series of floor-to-ceiling windows and glass doors enclose the main living spaces of the first floor. These glass walls look traditional because they are divided into small panes, but the concept

*Continued on page 10*



David Brininstool, AIA

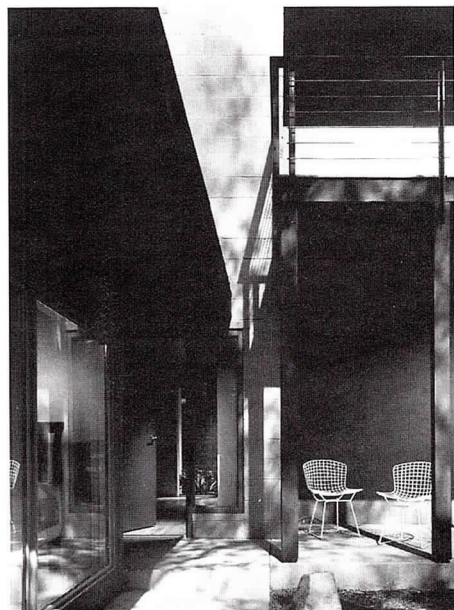
The design of the Bateman Josephson Residence was shaped by the clients' vision of a medieval monastic garden. The house consists primarily of concrete block accented with large areas of brick and plaster.

is totally modern, made feasible by advancements in window technology. They provide abundant light and views along with a comforting sense of enclosure. The supporting walls are reduced to narrow vertical elements between windows; buttresses help support the roof of the two-story great room. The clients wanted a contemporary interior, so the living and eating areas of the ground floor form a sequence of flowing spaces defined by changes in ceiling height.

"We were so pleased to have that small second garden," comments Bateman, "but the happiest surprise was David's design of the main living area as a barrel-vaulted space reminiscent of a small chapel."

Constructed on a very tight budget of \$85 per square foot, the house consists primarily of concrete block (drywalled on the interior) with large areas of brick and plaster used as accents. The concrete is treated as a neutral backdrop, and wild blueberry vines will eventually grow on many of the walls.

The clients had unusually specific functional requirements. The first floor provides single-floor living with potential for handicapped accessibility. The second story contains a guest suite as well as extensive studio spaces that, for resale purposes, are designed to be converted to additional bedrooms and a bath or even to a self-contained apartment.



Karant + Associates, Jamie Padgett

### Small Budgets, Inventive Spaces: New City Houses

Two urban residences provide studios as well as living spaces for design professionals. Although in both cases the modest budget dictated extensive use of concrete, client preferences determined whether its utilitarian character was softened or celebrated.

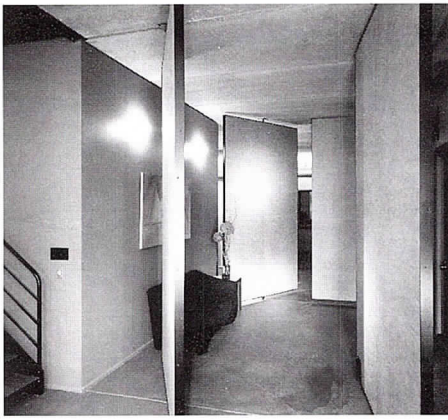
### Bateman Josephson Residence *Brininstool & Lynch*

The design of this Chicago house was shaped by the clients' vision of a medieval monastic garden, a serene enclosed space for cultivation of old-fashioned herbs and flowers. When architect David Brininstool, AIA determined that the lot's unusual dimensions precluded building the house around a courtyard, he devised a scheme that provided a diminutive enclosed garden in addition to the walled street side yard.

### North Avenue Residence and Office

*Wheeler Kearns Architects*

A husband-and-wife graphic design team wanted to combine their home and office in a 4,500-square-foot structure to be built for two-thirds of the market rate for new construction. The 50-foot-wide lot on a commercial street in Chicago's Wicker Park neighborhood contained old foundations and rubble, and building codes dictated non-combustible walls. The solution of architect Mark Weber, AIA



William Killow Photography

This home and office building is divided in half on both levels, with the living side overlooking the yard with large spans of plate glass. An entrance hall opens to both spaces, either of which can be closed off with a pair of pivoting, maple-veneer panels.



Wheeler Kearns Architects

was to use prefabricated concrete, which afforded generous interior spaces and an extremely brief construction schedule. Insulated precast beams span caissons, which were drilled through the site's debris, and a concrete shell of prefabricated long-span panels was erected in only four days. The nature of the building system determined the interior and exterior aesthetic. The concrete panels are joined by steel fasteners, exposed and painted black on the inside. Tuscan red concrete floors, painted drywall, and maple wall panels provide colorful contrasts.

The building is divided in half on both levels by a core of bath and utility rooms, with the street side devoted to office space and the living side overlooking the yard with large spans of plate glass. Each half has its own steel stairway. The entrance hall opens to both spaces, either of which can be closed off with a pair of pivoting floor-to-ceiling wooden panels. These maple-veneer panels ingeniously permit the living and working spaces to flow into each other or to be completely separate.

## When a Little Means a Lot: Suburban Additions

Whether small or large, most houses could use extra space in strategic places. Additions need not add a lot of square footage to make the interior seem much larger and better suited to the family's lifestyle.

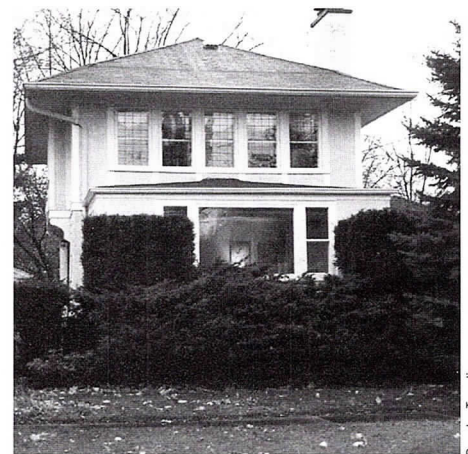
### Ward Residence Addition

*Rockwell Associates*

The charm of a cozy Winnetka cottage had been diminished by a 1950s porch remodeling, but it was restored and enhanced by a small addition that provided essential family living space. The owners wanted to enlarge the enclosed porch to use as a family room, and they needed to gain space upstairs for a master suite. They also wanted to improve the awkward access to the front door at the side of the house. All this had to be accomplished with a minimal increase in square footage due to zoning restrictions. Finally, they wanted the remodeled house to look as though it had been built that way originally.

The solution devised by architect Ellen Galland, AIA was to rebuild the enclosed porch and create a new entry porch on the side of the house, both with strong foundations. The second-story addition sits on top of these porches. The enclosed porch was enlarged with a cantilevered 2x16-foot bay (which did not increase the square footage for zoning purposes) and redesigned with built-in cabinets. The opening to the living room was enlarged and defined by half-walls with columns, thus providing abundant light to the central part of the house. The Arts and Crafts character of the cottage was enhanced with casement windows, a long planter atop the cantilevered bay, and wooden trim and brackets.

*Continued on page 21*



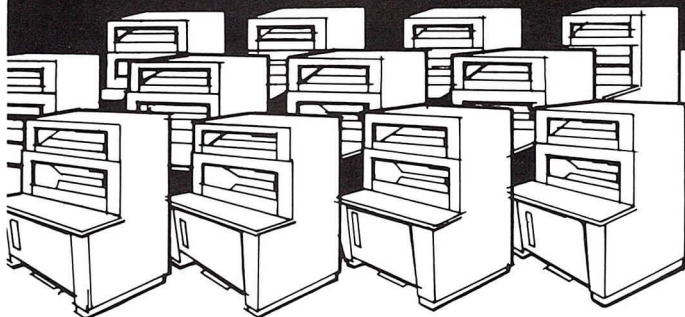
Douglas Tweedie



Douglas Tweedie

The charm of this cozy North Shore cottage, which had been diminished by a 1950s porch remodeling, was restored by a small addition.

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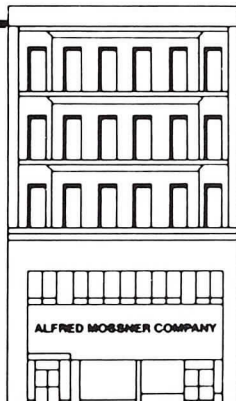
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# Architects Offer Options for Home Security

by Kay Severinsen

In the past five years or so, the increased use of electronic security systems has given new freedom to architectural design.

"Electronics have freed us up," says Linda Searl, FAIA of Searl and Associates in Chicago. She says she no longer worries about specifying a glass door for the front entryway, for example.

That is not to let home designers off the hook as they plan a new home. Architects, police and security professionals offer some design tips that will provide a good measure of reassurance for home buyers. Among them:

These days, nearly every home buyer is also going to want a home security system. It's best to bring in the client's chosen security company in the early planning stages.

"I might say, 'put a motion detector here' and a security expert could give me 10 reasons why not to," says Christopher Lee, AIA, a principal with Johnson & Lee Ltd. "I bring them in as part of the team so we don't have to make changes out in the field."

Some security consultants want to see plans, others prefer to view the home at the pre-drywall stage. In either case, they can advise the general contractor on where to install the motion detectors and other devices.

Remember the acronym "NOT" when planning perimeter and exterior areas, advises Gregg Waitkus, a Naperville patrol supervisor who has lectured on crime prevention. "N" stands for noise. Doors and windows and other access points should look like they would be noisy to get through. Bad guys, he says, are looking for quiet places to get in. "O" equals observation. If all entryways are well lit and observable by neighbors or the residents, a burglar will probably

look for another house. "T" stands for time. The longer it would take an intruder to get in, the less likely he is to make an attempt.

"We look at accomplishing three things," Waitkus says. "We want to set up the home in such a way as to deter an attack. If we can't deter it, we want to detect it immediately. And we also want to delay entry as long as possible."

Architects can do a lot to make "observation" work in favor of home security. City homes should avoid brick walls or thick fences that can't be seen through, says Lee. "Wrought iron provides more security," he says, "because you can monitor two ways, both from the house and from the street." A brick wall can be scaled, he notes, and then provides the intruder plenty of privacy while he breaks in.

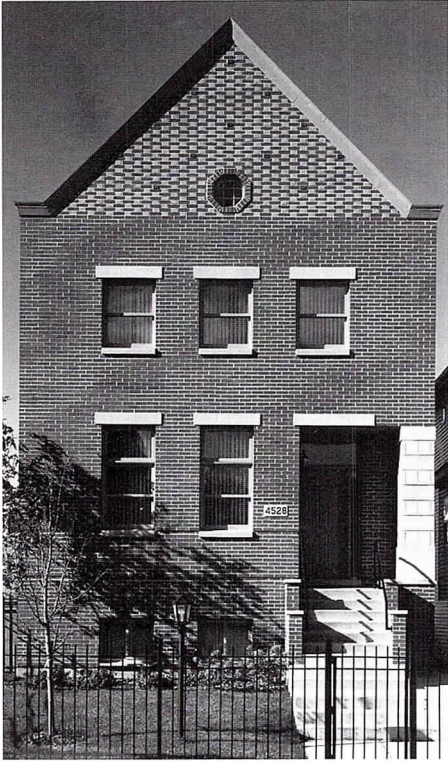
Multi-unit buildings can also have improved visibility for the entry points, adds Lee. "It's better if you have individual entrances to the units, rather than one, ganged entry where no one has responsibility," he says. "For example, if teenagers are sitting on the stoop of a common entryway, some other residents might feel intimidated about using the entrance to their own home."

**Architects offer design tips that provide a good measure of reassurance for home buyers.**

Remember exterior lighting. For real security, all four sides of the home should be illuminated at night. Lights should be difficult enough to access that they aren't easily broken out or unscrewed. All doorways should be illuminated.

Basement windows are among a home's weakest points. The escape well, required by code in most communities, is

*Continued on page 14*



Michael Anisfield

Instead of a brick wall, architect Christopher Lee, AIA recommends a wrought iron fence for his clients because it can be "seen through" by owners and police, making monitoring easier.

## Home Security

Continued from page 13

particularly useful to a burglar. The intruder can hide in the well while he breaks or jimmies the window. A solution: window well covers that can only be released from inside the wells.

Other windows can also be an entry point to the home. Electronic security systems can overcome that problem with glass break detectors, and/or sensors half-way up the window so that it can be opened in warm weather. Door windows can be replaced with Lexan® "glass," an acrylic polymer that, if properly installed, is more difficult to break.

Stay in contact with the contractor. "The architect can plan all kinds of things," says Mike Koster, crime prevention officer for Aurora, "but the contractor may change things." Not only should a solid door be installed within a double-studded frame, but the strike plate

should be screwed in with at least 2-1/2-inch screws so that each screw goes through to the second stud. Because new homes settle, some contractors will put in small screws so they can more easily readjust the lock if they are called back, says Waitkus, but that can cause other problems for the home owner.

While most security efforts logically are concentrated on the outside of the home, there are some things the architect can do inside, particularly in larger homes. Thinking of the home as a series of defensible zones can help when designing estates, says Mark Downey, AIA of Goldberg Downey Architects.

"If people come in who are not part of the family's inner circle," he says, "some rooms can be isolated in the design so that it is cordoned off by a security barrier, such as a door that locks."

Control panels located in more than one place in the home can help the residents secure exterior and interior doors with an emergency button if necessary. Generally people want them in the kitchen, the master bedroom and perhaps in the study area, Downey says.

Downey once designed a concrete vault with steel doors in the basement of a home on the client's request. Other clients have very valuable cars so that even the garage needs to be secured. In such cases where a client's home is also a fortress, security issues need to be discussed with local fire and police officials. "They need access in and need to know where things are," he says. ■

*Kay Severinsen is a free-lance journalist who writes frequently for the real estate section of the Chicago Sun-Times.*

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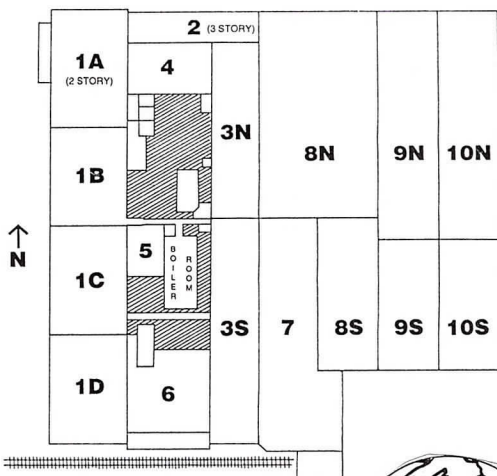
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## Four Books for Four Rooms

by Randall Deutsch, AIA

### Chicago Home Book

(Lake Forest, IL: IdeaCorp, 1995, 664 pages, 1000+ color illustrations, \$31.95 hardback.)

### The New American House: Innovations in Residential Design and Construction

ed. Oscar Riera Ojeda

(New York: Whitney Library of Design, 1995, 264 pages, 562 illustrations, \$55.00 paper.)

### The House of the Architect

Anatxu Zabalbeascoa

(New York: Rizzoli, 1995, 192 pages, 250 illustrations, \$50.00 hardback.)

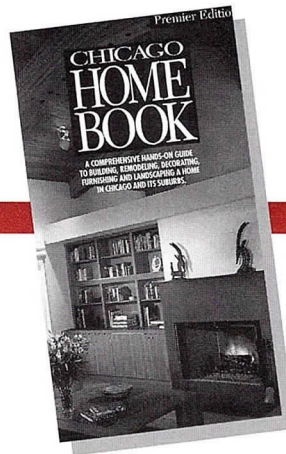
### American Masterworks: The Twentieth Century House

Kenneth Frampton

(New York: Rizzoli, 1995, 304 pages, 200 illustrations, \$65.00 hardback.)

Of recent residential design publications, four are of particular interest to architects, while two prove to be essential for every home. The four have much in common: each claims to serve as a source of inspiration for residential architects; each boasts minimal textual demands for the attention- and time-deficient; and each features 30 houses (save the *Chicago Home Book*). They also all require their own place in the home.

The most practical of the four, the *Chicago Home Book* belongs on every kitchen counter, preferably near a telephone. Updated annually, this source book for designing, building, decorating, furnishing and landscaping upscale homes in Chicago and its suburbs distinguishes itself in one essential way: if you see something you like, you're only a phone



call away from attaining it. Essentially a tastefully packaged *Home Building and Remodeling for Dummies*, this hands-on guide includes how-to articles, tips and sample projects with timelines and costs. A discussion on current trends is informative yet marred by overblown pronouncements, such as one by a well-known architect extolling the virtues of Dryvit.

Divided into sections "in the order in which you need them," architects will be

relieved to know they come first, then builders/contractors. In fact, the book is very pro-architect. "After an initial conversation with an architect, your anxiety and apprehension about embarking upon a project of such magnitude will be replaced with confidence and enthusiasm," it reads. This is no mere phone book but a selective listing of Chicagoland's top custom building and design talent. Publisher Paul Casper admits that the selection process was less than scientific (primarily word-of-mouth) and welcomes inquiries (847/295-5796) for getting into the next edition, due out in November.

The only paperback reviewed, *The New American House*, belongs on every drafting table. As a current source of ideas and information on house design, it offers

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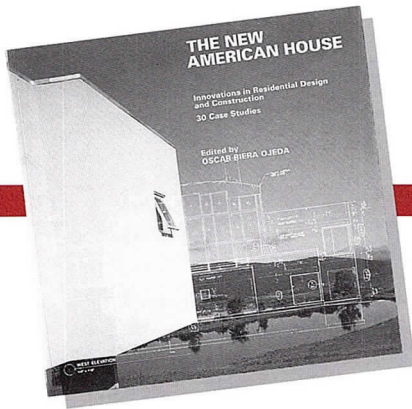
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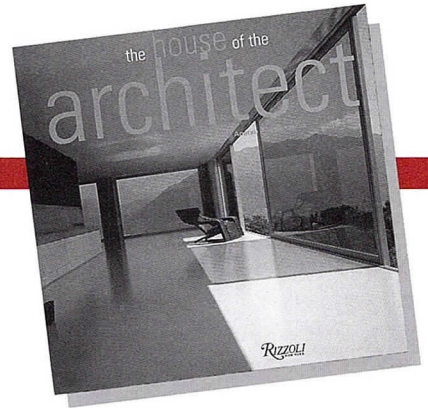
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Each case study includes interior and exterior photography, and a brief description of the building siting, design and construction, often including cost, materials and fabricators. But what distinguishes this book from the others is the attention given to drawings, including preliminary freehand sketches, presentation boards, and construction drawings. Those who think twice before parting with \$55, be assured: on few tomes would your money be better spent.

*The House of the Architect* belongs on your Eileen Gray table beside your chaise lounge. Don't have one? You may after browsing through this book. For this exclusive look inside architects' own homes reads like a catalogue of 20th century furniture, including Corbusier, Breuer, Mies, Mackintosh, and Eames.



All-Modern, yet not all-American, the many international examples will have you running to Palazzetti's.

One look proves that architects are not like other people. Beyond its voyeuristic appeal, the book offers a chance to see if architects practice on themselves what they preach to others. (Hint: you will not find Leon Krier in a glass house, or Arata Isozaki in a Victorian painted lady.)

a convincing survey of residential architecture talent in the U.S. in the 1990s. Intended to be updated every two years, the book documents in excruciating detail 30 single-family houses designed by both prominent U.S. architects as well as newer talent. Of the Chicago architects represented, many will recognize houses by Dan Wheeler, AIA; Dirk Denison, AIA; Doug Garofalo, AIA; and Tom Beeby, FAIA.

*Continued on page 18*

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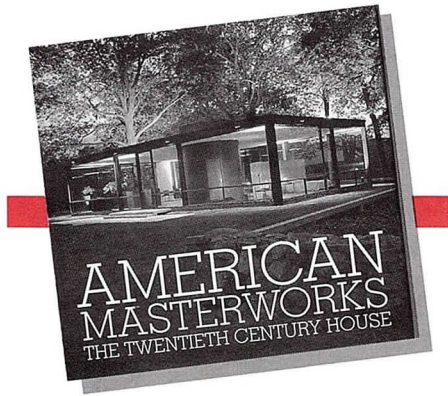
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**Bookshelf**

*Continued from page 17*

The book opens with a short, adequate introductory essay. But it's the pictures we've come to see. Many of the featured architects and projects you've seen elsewhere. One dramatic, lesser known example is Ricardo Bofill's converted cement factory in Barcelona, reminiscent of an opera set. On the downside, Richard Meier's place from 1972 looks dated, and some projects are covered in better detail elsewhere. Also, there are few drawings or plans, no details, minimal explanatory text, and a token exterior photograph.

*American Masterworks* proudly belongs on your coffee table. Each section opens with an excellent introductory essay from the mellowing Kenneth Frampton. Frampton's criterion for inclusion in this pantheon of residential works requires of



the house "a certain level of complexity and poetic depth." The stunning photography, taken specially for the publication, attests to this depth.

Subtitled *The Twentieth Century House*, the survey begins in 1908 with the Gamble House, but more than half the book focuses on 1965 to 1994. The color photography makes the familiar look extraordinary: compare Gehry's and Graves' homes in this and the previous book. Frampton gives perhaps the highest honors to Chicago's Ron Krueck, FAIA

for Krueck and Olson's 1980 steel and glass house in Lincoln Park, calling it both "an outstanding first work and an American masterpiece of a caliber unmatched by any other American house of the last [15] years." *American Masterworks* may be that all too rare entity—the coffee table book you are encouraged to read.

Despite the not insubstantial cost of these four books, you can be assured they will earn their keep. Meant for the table, they may never be confined to the bookshelf. ■

*Randall Deutsch, AIA is an architect and playwright. An associate at the Chicago firm of Lohan Associates, he regularly reviews publications for Focus.*

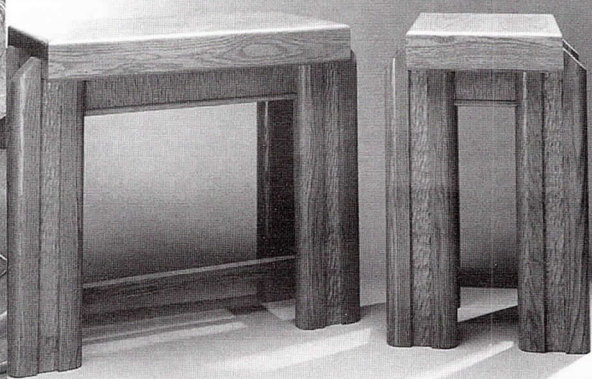
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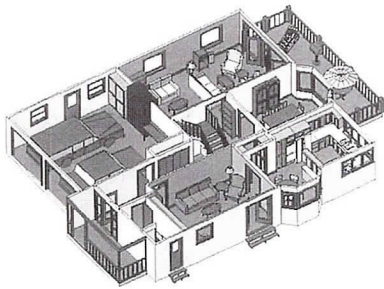
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## Latest Gadget Not Yet a Revolution

by Mark Hinchman, AIA

**Just as CADD systems have refashioned most architecture offices, home design software puts powerful graphic capabilities in the hands of clients.**



3D Home Architect by Broderbund Software, Inc. claims its overviews give users a bird's-eye view of their entire floor plan.

3D Home Architect, Broderbund Software, Inc.

People who try a new technology usually fall into two camps: those for it, and those against it. Proponents of new technology—be it the cotton gin, the ATM, or the increasingly popular home design software—envision a rosy future in which efficiency and accuracy are accompanied by unimaginable cost savings. Naysayers predictably decry the latest widget and see an impersonal world in which machines replace humans.

The interplay between tradition and technology is alive and well in the world of architecture. Just as computer-aided drafting and design (CADD) systems have refashioned most offices, home design software puts powerful graphic capabilities in the hands of clients. These products range in price and capability, but they minimally create plans and may or may not create 3D images. More elaborate products have a library of ready-made plans to be consulted and a variety of symbols.

Rather than replacing architects, these software packages are either used by people who wouldn't hire an architect in the first place, or they are used as tools to work with an architect. As the client base becomes increasingly computer literate, it

is a given that non-architects will use the new software tools that are available. Clients have frequently created drawings, and these tools merely help make such drawings more accurate, says architect Kevin Hall, AIA. But, he says, client-generated drawings in no way constitute a complete architectural package.

Cynthia Winter, AIA agrees. For clients who want to participate in the design process, they are ideal for creating "what-if scenarios." Dan Earles, AIA, is actually grateful these products help his residential clients better figure out what they want, particularly in the all-important kitchen.

It is the 3D imaging that most impresses architects (clients are fond of 3D drawings which are expensive to produce). With the new software it is relatively easy to produce a series of interior views. Nonetheless, CADD systems continue to reign supreme in the architect's office because home design software in professional settings is "very limited," says Nate Kaiser, AIA.

Tom Richardson is a good example of a user of home design software. A consultant for process engineering (what used to be called an efficiency expert), Richardson bought two cottages that lie 16 feet apart on a site in Michigan, which he wanted to connect to create his vacation home. He took field dimensions, and with the help of 3D Home Architect,

*Continued on page 20*

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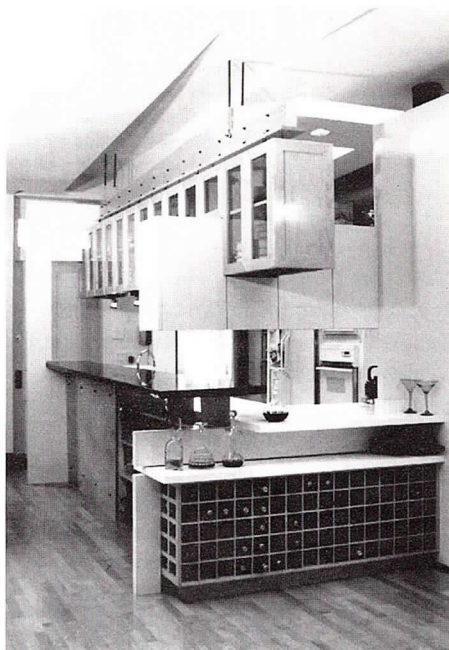
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In this renovated entertaining space, guests can help with tasks at the high countertop but are kept from getting underfoot by the restricted access to the kitchen.

seating area focused on the hearth.

The architect-client dialog was spurred by a mutual admiration for the work of Frank Lloyd Wright, specifically his Ennis Brown House in Los Angeles. Exley had designed a suite of furniture for the Brown house as an entry to a competition, and the clients were intrigued by this homage to Wright. Prairie Style windows and glass doors in the client's new house were a starting point, but the high-ceilinged great room needed more character. The fireplace surround was tiled with reproductions of the cast concrete blocks used in the Ennis Brown House. Two support columns that looked lost in the space were skillfully incorporated into a Wright-influenced threshold piece that defines the seating area. This piece is the same off-white



Wayne Cable

color as the walls and has color-accented places for displaying art objects and collectibles. It was designed to be easily constructed with standard building materials by on-site carpenters who were finishing the rest of the house. Other simple details, such as a wooden chandelier and two bands of trim at the

tops of the walls, reinforce the character established by this threshold piece and tie the room together visually.

### MacBride Residence

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The top two floors of a vintage Chicago three-flat were combined into an owner's duplex that features an open, loft-like living area. John Nelson, AIA suggested using the second floor for the master suite and guest room, and converting the top floor into the living and entertaining space. All full-height walls were taken down, and the roof was reinforced. The kitchen is defined by an artful composition of counters and suspended cabinets. Guests can socialize with the owner while he cooks and can

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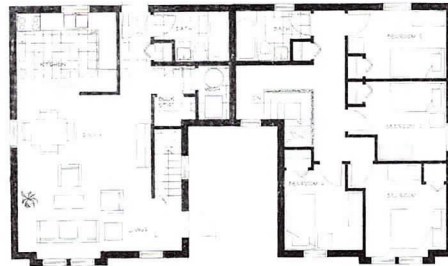
even help with tasks at the high countertop, but they are discreetly kept from getting underfoot by the restricted access to the kitchen workspace. The glass cabinets and serving shelves open from both sides so they can be loaded from the kitchen and emptied from the dining side.

Shifting geometries lend drama to the space. The original ceiling was removed and rebuilt at a higher level with a gradual slope that follows the roof's pitch toward the back of the apartment. The old ceiling height is recreated in the soffit where the walls meet the ceiling and in the air duct enclosure that swoops above the kitchen. The black granite counter that divides the kitchen from the dining area angles out gradually; this geometry is repeated in the custom-built bookshelves and fireplace mantle, which was ingeniously designed to showcase a collection of Art Deco lamps.



Urban Works, Ltd.

Community concerns about fire resistance and stereotypical public housing led Urban Works, Ltd. to design these scattered site housing duplexes with masonry exteriors in gold rather than red brick.



make a positive contribution to the neighborhood. Economy dictates simplicity of form, so the design impact derives from the use of color and a few well-chosen details. Bays enliven the facade, and gable rooflines add visual height and convey a strong image of "home."

## Scattered Site Replacement Housing

*Urban Works, Ltd.*

Daniel Miller, AIA is the design member of a team that is providing scattered site replacement housing for demolished Chicago Housing Authority high-rises. The four-bedroom, 1,200-

*Continued on page 24*

## A Place to Call Home: Low-Cost Housing in the City

Architects face a special set of challenges in designing low-cost urban housing. They must make the most of minimal budgets and small sites to produce durable, efficient houses that

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square-foot duplexes will occupy nine sites in Chicago's North Lawndale neighborhood; stand-alone two-flats with ground-floor handicapped accessibility were designed for other sites in the neighborhood. Community concerns centered on fire resistance and avoiding the image of public housing. The masonry exterior meets the first requirement, and the color of the chosen bricks—gold rather than red—is a response to the second. Cast-stone trim, split-face concrete block at the base, and a molded fiberglass parapet add character at minimal expense. Economies resulted from building at grade rather than excavating for a basement, constructing 18 units at once, and using larger-than-standard bricks to save on labor costs.



Wayne Cable

Duplexing these units that were part of an affordable housing initiative not only saved money but also created a wider facade, helping to provide a strong identity in the midst of larger-scale structures.

**International Homes**  
*Weese Langley Weese*

This project was spearheaded by a community development group to provide affordable housing in the city's Uptown neighborhood. A consortium of social service agencies, representing six different ethnic groups, wanted to attract first-time home buyers who worked in the

community. Dennis Langley, AIA designed 1,200-square-foot units that are either paired or clustered as six townhomes. The design had to strike a balance between affordability and attractiveness to buyers. A full basement provides 600 square feet of additional space for only a few thousand dollars. Part of the second floor is cantilevered over the side of the unit to gain extra

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bedroom and closet space for the small cost of extending some of the floor joists. Duplexing the units not only saved money but also created a wider facade; together with the height of the steep roof gables, this provides a more substantial street presence that creates a strong identity in the midst of larger-scale structures. The vinyl siding is accented by simple but vibrantly colored wooden details:

a triangle at the gable peak, corner boards, window trim, and shaped bays whose different colors and shapes provide individuality. ■

*Laurie McGovern Petersen is associate editor of the AIA Guide to Chicago. She recently edited ARCHIDEK: Chicago, a set of architectural collector's cards that profile the city's famous buildings.*

## Residential Resources Available

AIA Chicago recommends the following resources to homeowners considering new construction or renovation projects. For more information on any of these resources, stop by the Chapter office in Suite 1049 of the Merchandise Mart or call 312/670-7770.

### On the Internet

<http://www.aiachicago.org>

AIA Chicago's home page provides detailed information on residential projects, spotlighting the Ingenious Solutions exhibit.

### At AIA Chicago

#### Reference Library of Architecture Firms

The Chapter office recently began compiling firm portfolios to help potential clients preview possible architects. The reference library is open Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

#### Same House, New Home

A free publication for homeowners who are considering a major renovation, it outlines 10 of the ways an AIA architect can help turn your dreams into reality.

#### Make Yourself at Home

A free publication for those who are planning to build a new home, it describes important custom design solutions that an AIA architect can provide for your lifestyle.

### In Your Neighborhood

#### Residential Resource Kit

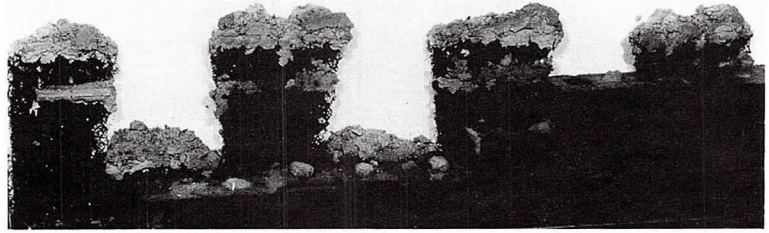
A collection of resource materials is available in the reference section of over 50 public libraries throughout the Chicago area. The kit includes a copy of *Investing in a Dream*, a video in which residential clients discuss their projects; *Beginner's Guide to Architectural Services*, a workbook that leads new clients through the design and building process; and *ArchPages*, a state directory of architecture firms.

#### "Working With an Architect"

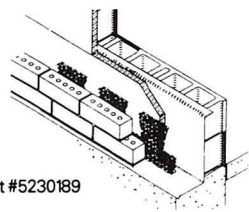
An ongoing series of public workshops that prepares clients for the design and construction process. The seminars are led by residential architects. Next sessions are scheduled for 10:00 a.m., May 18 and 5:45 p.m., September 13 at the Chicago Architecture Foundation. Call AIA Chicago for additional sessions.

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- 1** **Art Institute of Chicago.** Exhibit. Contemporary British Architects. Closes May 5. Kurokawa Gallery, 111 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago. Information: 312/443-3600.  
**Chicago Architecture Foundation.** Lecture. Frank Lloyd Wright and His Golden Age. Speaker: Lyman Shepard, architectural historian. 12:15 p.m.; Lecture Hall, 224 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago. Information: 312/922-3432 ext. 123.

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- 5** **Frank Lloyd Wright Home and Studio Foundation.** River Forest Walking Tour. 2:00 p.m.; River Forest Methodist Church, 7970 Lake Street, River Forest. Cost: \$6/adults; \$4 seniors and youth. Information: 708/848-1976.  
**Landmarks Preservation Council of Illinois.** Annual Chicago Church Tour. Registration begins at 12:15 p.m., 53 W. Jackson Blvd., Suite 752, Chicago. Advance tickets: \$20/LPCI members; \$23/non-members. All tickets \$25 at the door. Information: 312/922-1742.

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- 8** **Chicago Architecture Foundation.** Lecture. The Charnley House: The First Modern House in America. Speaker: Elaine Harrington, decorative arts historian. 12:15 p.m.; Lecture Hall, 224 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago. Information: 312/922-3432 ext. 123.

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- 14** **Illinois Historic Preservation Agency.** Heritage and Preservation Days. 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. through May 15; James R. Thompson Center, 100 W. Randolph St., Chicago.

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- 15** **Chicago Architecture Foundation.** Lecture. Maher's Motifs: Pleasant Home and Beyond. Speaker: Kathleen Cummings, architectural historian. 12:15 p.m.; Lecture Hall, 224 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago. Information: 312/922-3432 ext. 123.  
**AIA Chicago.** Public Lecture Series. The New Urbanism[s]: A Moral-Imperative Quagmire. Speaker: Roberta Feldman, M.Arch., Ph.D. 5:30 p.m.; Chicago Cultural Center, 78 E. Washington St. (second floor theater). Information: 312/670-7770.

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- 16** **AIA Chicago and the Chicago Architecture Foundation.** Exhibit Opening. Ingenious Solutions: An Exhibition of Innovative Residential Design. Runs through September 13; Opening Night Reception includes discussion with architects Stuart Cohen, FAIA, Deborah Doyle, AIA; Anders Nereim; Joseph Valerio, FAIA; and Jack Hartray, FAIA. 6:00 p.m.; Chicago Architecture Foundation Atrium Gallery, 224 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago. Information: 312/922-3432 ext. 123. See cover story.

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- 17** **Frank Lloyd Wright Home and Studio Foundation.** Exhibit. Artists Look at Wright. Runs through June 8; Oak Park Arts League, 720 Chicago Ave., Oak Park. Information: 708/848-1976.

- 18** **AIA Chicago and the Chicago Architecture Foundation.** Public Workshop. Working With an Architect. Speakers: Ellen Dickson, AIA and David Seglin, AIA. 10:00 a.m.; Chicago Architecture Lecture Hall, 224 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago. Reservations recommended. Information: 312/670-7770.  
**Frank Lloyd Wright Home and Studio Foundation.** Annual Wright Housewalk includes eight private residences. Tickets are limited. Cost: \$30/members, Home and Studio Foundation; \$45/non-members. Information: 708/848-1976.

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- 22** **AIA Chicago and the Chicago Architecture Foundation.** Lecture. Ingenious Solutions to Low Income Housing. Speakers: Dennis Langley, AIA; William McBride, AIA; and Daniel Miller, AIA. 12:15 p.m.; Lecture Hall, 224 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago. Information: 312/922-3432 ext. 123.

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- 29** **AIA Chicago and the Chicago Architecture Foundation.** Lecture. Ingenious Solutions to Suburban Housing. Speakers: Ellen Galland, AIA; John Robbins, AIA; and Doug Garafalo, AIA. 12:15 p.m.; Lecture Hall, 224 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago. Information: 312/922-3432.

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- 31** **AIA Chicago and the Chicago Architecture Foundation.** Tour. Where Ingenious Solutions are Created: The Architect's Office. 12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m. Meet at the Fine Arts Building, 410 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago. Tour sites: DLK Architecture; William Murphy Architect; and Banks/Eakin. Information: 312/922-3432 ext. 123.

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- !** **Additional Ingenious Solutions Events**  
**June 14 — AIA Chicago and the Chicago Architecture Foundation.** Tour. Where Ingenious Solutions are Created: The Architect's Office. 12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m. Tour sites: Frederick Phillips & Associates and Wheeler Kearns Architects. Information: 312/922-3432 ext. 123.  
**June 6, 13, 20 — Chicago Architecture Foundation.** Adult Education Series. Back to the House of the Future. 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.; Chicago Architecture Foundation Lecture Hall; 224 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago. Information: 312/922-3432 ext. 123.  
**June 26 — Chicago Architecture Foundation.** Adult Education Series. Uncovering Your House's History. 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.; Chicago Architecture Foundation Lecture Hall; 224 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago. Information: 312/922-3432 ext. 123  
**September 11 — AIA Chicago and the Chicago Architecture Foundation.** Public Workshop. Working With an Architect. Speakers: Chris O'Brien, AIA and Tom Prairie, AIA. 5:45 to 8:00 p.m. Chicago Architecture Lecture Hall, 224 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago. Reservations recommended. Information: 312/670-7770.

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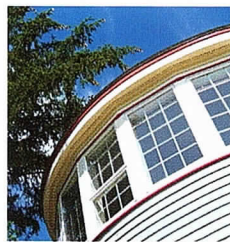


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Sea Side Hills, Marin County, California, is the third in a series of landscape photos by Gary Irving. For a free poster, while supplies last, call (800) 950-3839.  
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