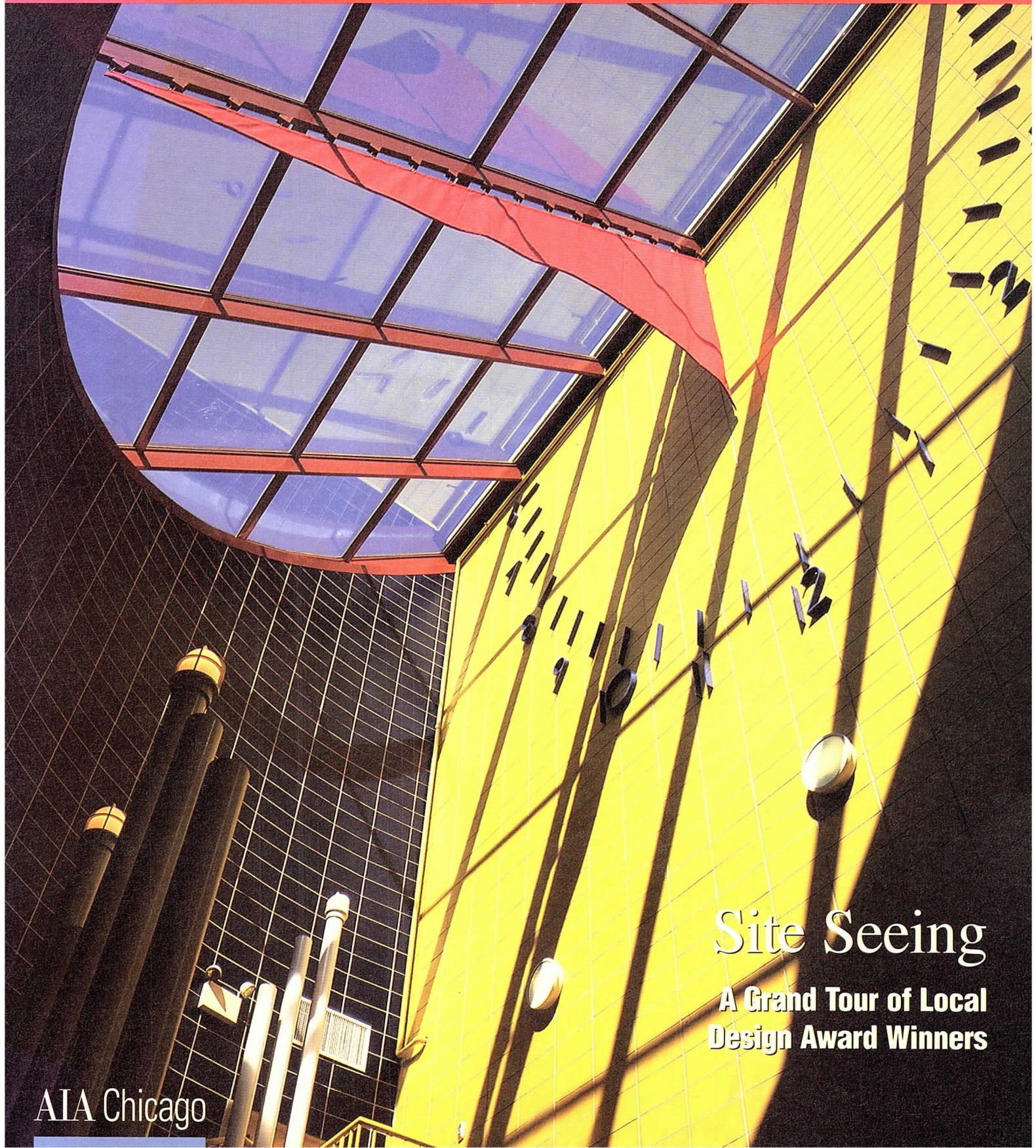


Focus Architecture Chicago

SPECIAL EDITION



Site Seeing
 A Grand Tour of Local
 Design Award Winners

AIA Chicago

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Special Edition, November 1997

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Cover: For the design of Little Village Academy, Ross Barney + Jankowski Inc. received both a Distinguished Building Award and an Interior Architecture Award. Photo: Hedrich Blessing

Chicago is Home to Best New Architecture



As AIA Chicago celebrates its 43rd annual Design Excellence Awards, we are fortunate that many of this year's winners are close to

home. It is a special treat when Chicago's cadre of top architects has the opportunity to demonstrate their skills at home.

Reading this special issue of *Focus: Architecture Chicago*, you will see that their talents have been put to good use on projects that enrich the cultural, recreational, educational and residential character of our city.

This year's winners, chosen from 199 entries, were selected by nationally recognized architects from all over the country. The large volume of entries is a testament to the design energy of local architects as well as to the insight and commitment of the clients who commission such work.

The Design Excellence Awards have evolved over the years to recognize not only the architects, but also the owners and contractors who contribute significantly to the success of the project. Winners this year continue the Chicago legacy that good design is necessary to the economic and social health of the city.

I would like to encourage everyone to make use of the map on pages 14 and 15 and visit as many of the projects presented in the issue as possible. For Chicago truly exhibits some of the world's greatest new architecture.

W. Stephen Saunders, AIA
President

Thanks to Our Sponsors

The Design Excellence Awards were presented on Friday, October 17 in the Grand Ballroom of the Renaissance Chicago Hotel. Many organizations made the event possible, and AIA Chicago would like to thank them for their support.

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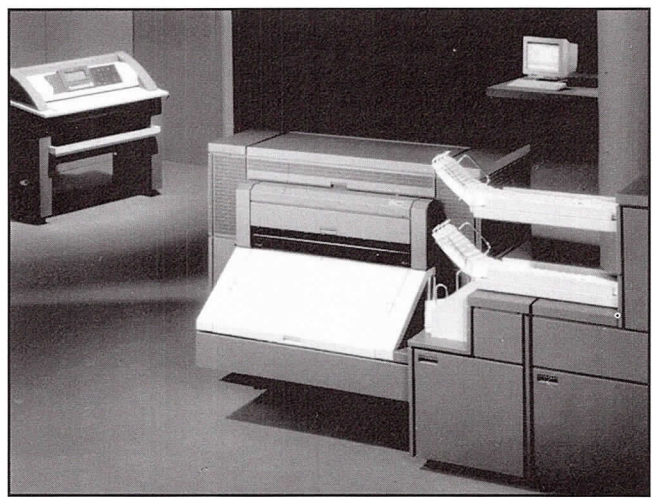
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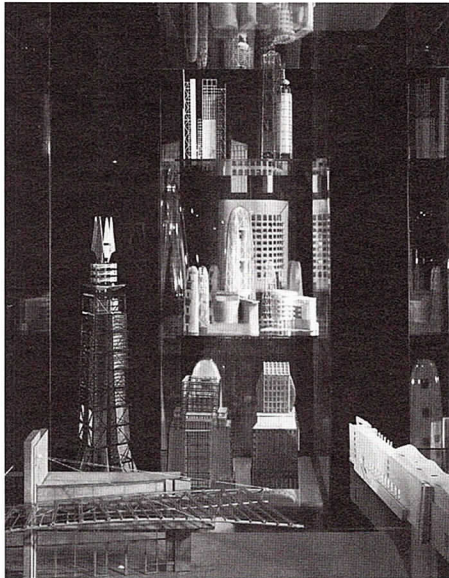
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Movers + Shakers

November 1

Archeworks

Archeworks, the alternative architecture and design school founded by Stanley Tigerman, FAIA and Eva Maddox, opens the doors of its new building at North Kingsbury and West Ontario streets with a gala auction of artworks and collectibles by world-renowned architects and designers. For information, call 312/913-0043.



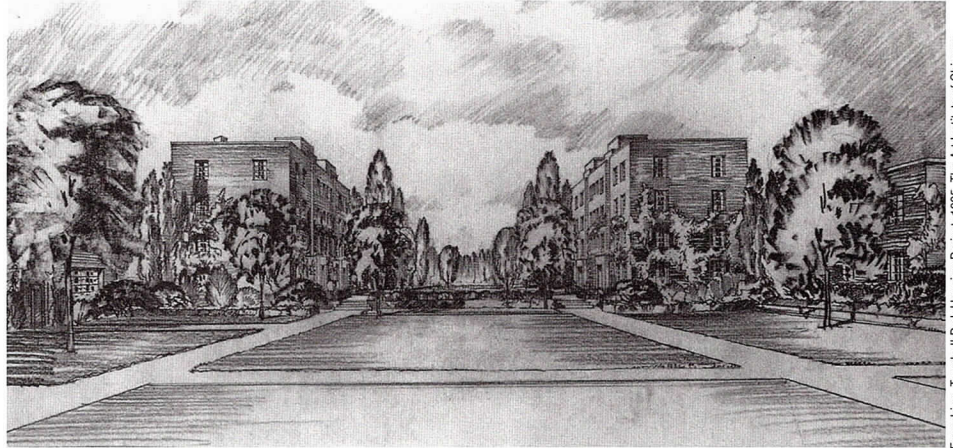
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SOM at Sixty

Through November 21

Chicago Architecture Foundation

From Chicago's Sears Tower to Kuala Lumpur's Plaza Rakyat, Skidmore, Owings & Merrill LLP has shaped the built environment around the globe. This exhibition of more than 200 models of buildings, exemplifies the past 15 years at the firm. Admission is free. For information, call 312/922-3432.



Franz Lipp, Trumbull Park Housing Project, 1935, The Art Institute of Chicago.

The Modern Midwestern Landscape

October 10 through November 30

The Art Institute of Chicago

More than 70 drawings by Chicago landscape architects Gertrude Kuh and Franz Lipp offer a view of public and private landscapes from the 1930s through the 1970s. Suggested adult admission is \$7. For museum information, call 312/443-3600.

Oak Park Hike

November 22

The Frank Lloyd Wright Home and Studio Foundation

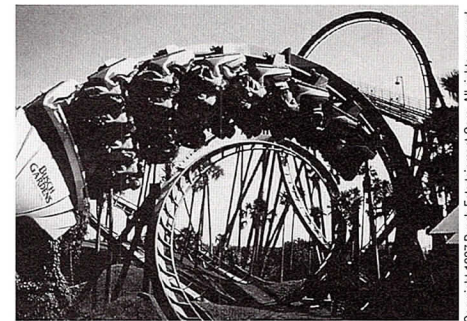
View the exteriors of 24 Prairie-style buildings during this guided tour. Adult admission is \$8. For information, call 708/848-1976.

The Art of Architectural Drawing

December 3 through January 22, 1998

The Graham Foundation for Advanced Studies in the Fine Arts

An exhibition of architectural drawings from *The Art of Architectural Drawing: Imagination and Technique* by Thomas Schaller of Schaller Architectural Illustration in New York. Admission is free. For information, call 312/787-4071.



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Thrill Ride: The Science of Fun

Through January 1998

The Museum of Science and Industry

The Henry Crown Space Center's Omnimax Theater is featuring a film that takes audiences on a spin into the wild world of roller coasters. From rickety, turn-of-the-century contraptions to the fantastic experiences of today, the film includes footage of some of the world's most famous thrill rides and examines their designs. Adult admission is \$7. For show times, call 773/684-1414.

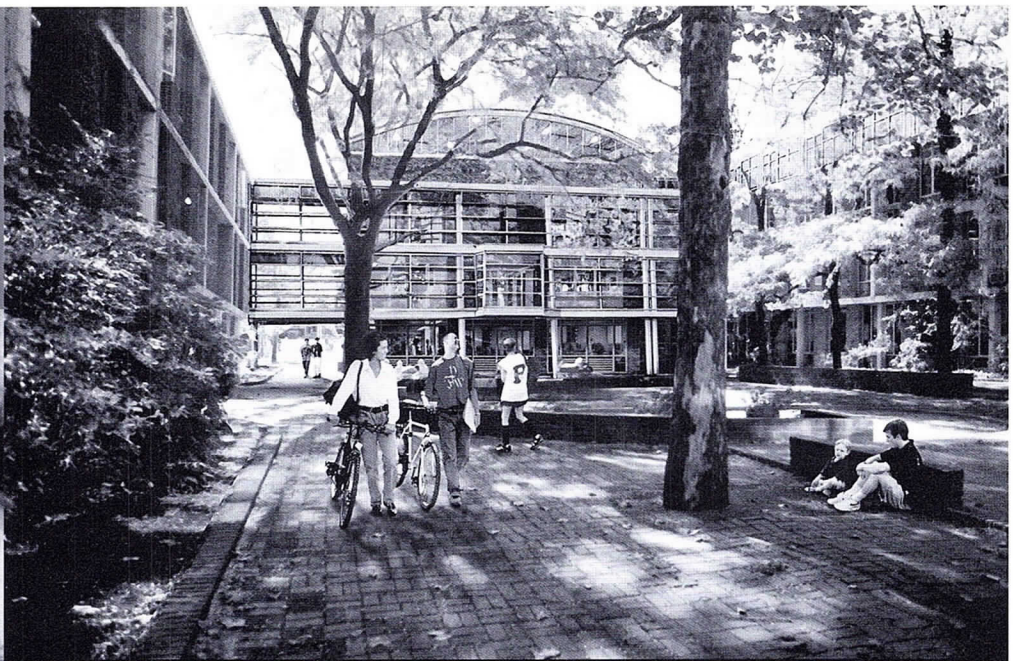
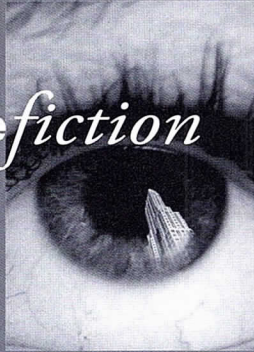
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Maple Pointe Apartments, finalist
C.I.D. Material Recovery & Recycling Facility, finalist

NEW CONSTRUCTION—SUBURBS

Calumet Deep Tunnel & Reservoir

Wallace Computer Services, Inc., finalist
Westbrook Corporate Center, Tower Four, finalist

REHABILITATIVE CONSTRUCTION

CTA Green Line Renovation

Civic Opera House Renovation, finalist
Roosevelt University, Albert A. Robin Campus, finalist

CONSTRUCTION—UNDER \$10 MILLION

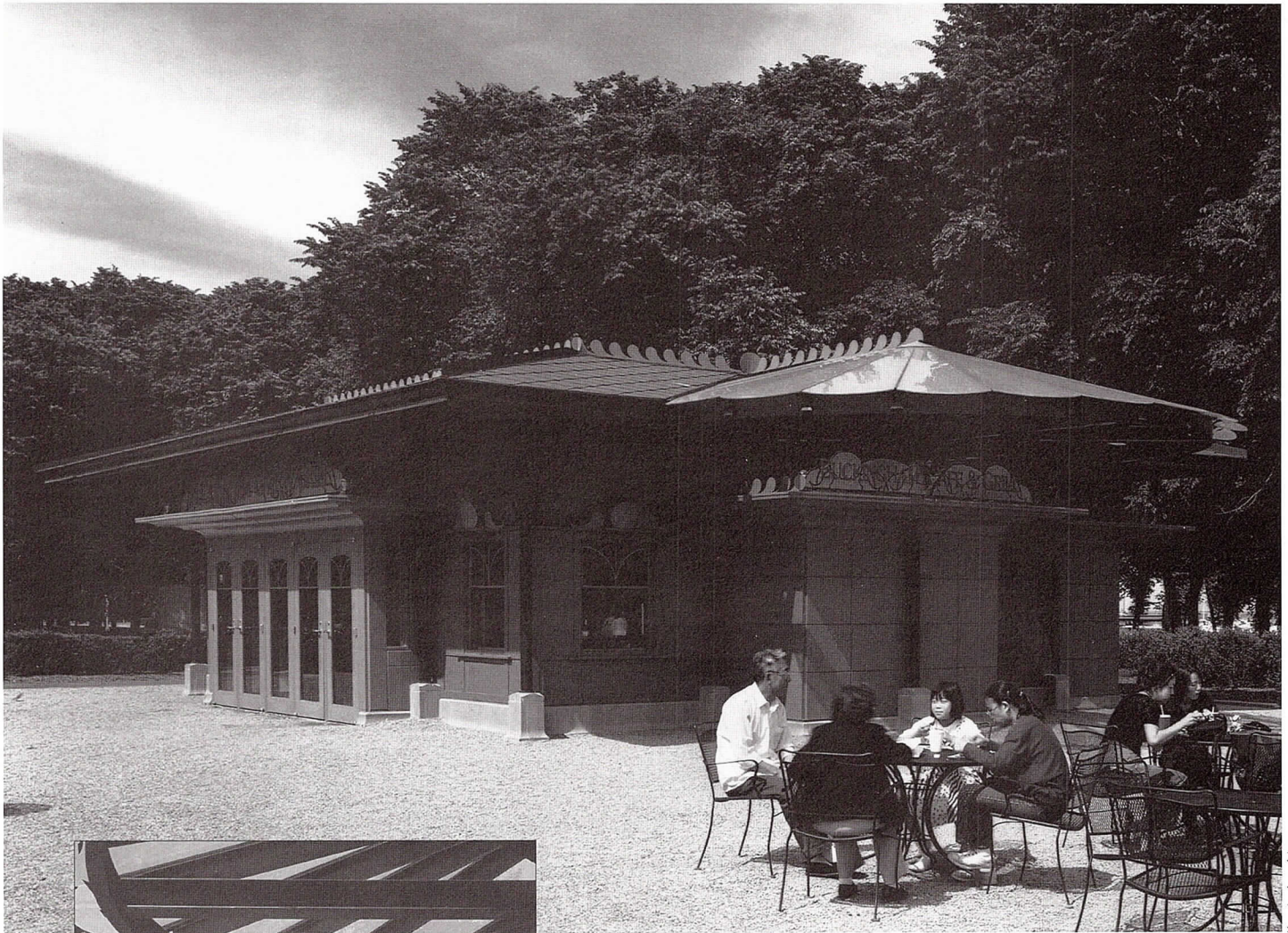
Martin Luther King Drive Gateway

Randolph Street Revitalization, finalist
Roosevelt/State CTA Subway Station Renovation, finalist

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Site Seeing

A Grand Tour of Local Design Award Winners



Karant + Associates

Visitor Services Pavilions at Buckingham Fountain
Chicago, Illinois

Distinguished Building — Honor Award

Architect — David Woodhouse Architects
Client — Chicago Park District
General Contractor — E.W. Corrigan Construction Co.
Consulting Engineers — T & M Associates Inc. (mechanical);
Nayyar & Nayyar International Inc. (structural)



Karant + Associates

by Laurie McGovern Petersen

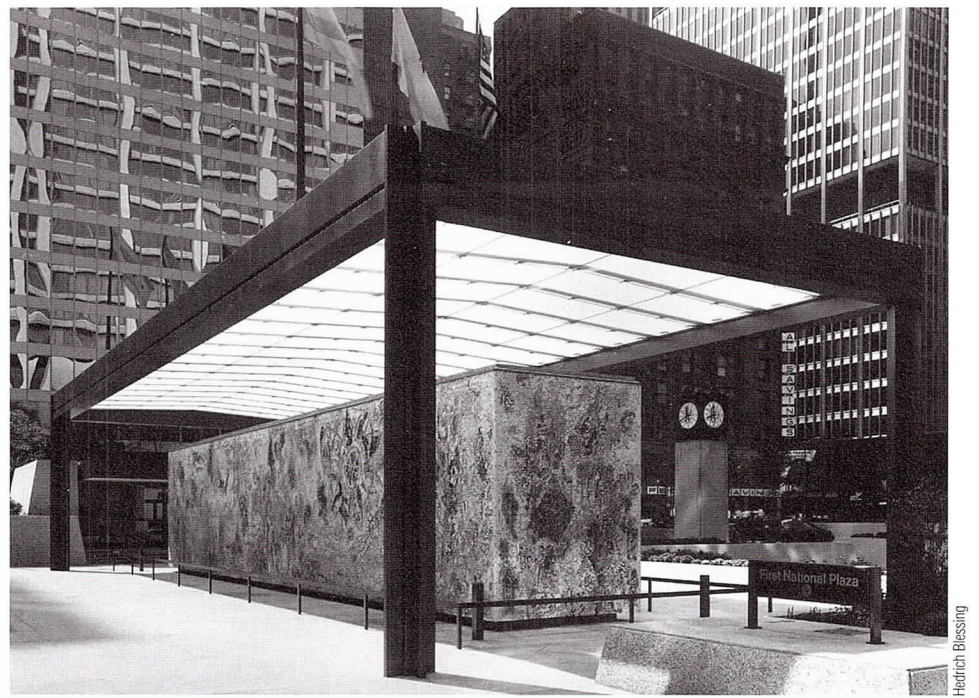
In a metropolis as vibrant as Chicago, the cityscape is constantly changing in ways both large and small. Keeping up with all the changes can be a challenge, albeit an enjoyable one. The annual awards program sponsored by the Chicago chapter of the American Institute of Architects can make that task a little easier this year, because honorees include many prominent local projects that are easily viewed by the public.

The following article is meant to serve as your guide to important new architecture in Chicago. Set off on a tour now, when leafless trees afford maximum visibility, or save the map on pages 14 and 15 for next summer when out-of-town business associates or relatives come calling.

Four-Star Attractions

Among the most visible new work downtown are two small projects that serve the public in a big way. A protective canopy now shelters "The Four Seasons," one of Chicago's best-loved sculptures, and four visitor pavilions now flank Grant Park's premier attraction, Buckingham Fountain. In rewarding both with Distinguished Building Awards, the design jury (composed, as always, of out-of-towners) was impressed that Chicago's great tradition of civic spaces is being carried forward so masterfully.

Unveiled in 1974, Marc Chagall's four-sided mosaic was slowly being destroyed by the very thing it celebrates: the four seasons. Chicago's freeze-thaw cycle was wreaking havoc with the mortar in which the jewel-like stone and glass pieces are embedded. A canopy was needed to protect the 70-foot-long sculpture from snow and rain while retaining



Hedrich Blessing

the all-important play of natural light. Architects Skidmore, Owings & Merrill LLP produced a design strong enough to hold its own among the office towers lining First National Plaza and simple enough to focus attention on the art itself.

Form clearly follows function, with four columns supporting a 90-foot-long span. The steel structure has a gleaming bronze skin that echoes architectural elements of both the bank building and the plaza. The roof consists of 72 panels of laminated, tempered glass that are suspended from a secondary structure in such a way that no distracting mullions are needed. The canopy also houses concealed lights that provide for after-dark viewing.

"This goes beyond stewardship," said one juror. "The restraint and elegance of the canopy combine with the art to make a temple here."

Like the Chagall canopy, the Buckingham Fountain visitors pavilions fulfill an important but mundane function, housing food services and restrooms in high style. In contrast to the reverential austerity of the canopy, however, the pavilions are playful modern interpretations of historical landscape structures. The jurors admiringly sensed the spirit of a folly, a decorative structure built purely to create a picturesque feature in a landscape.

To enhance the plaza without diminishing the impact of Buckingham Fountain, architect David Woodhouse,

Chagall Secondary Roof Structure Chicago, Illinois

Distinguished Building — Honor Award

Architect — Skidmore, Owings & Merrill LLP

Client — First Chicago NBD

General Contractor — E.W. Corrigan Construction Co.

Engineer — Skidmore, Owings & Merrill LLP



AIA reduced the pavilions' size to the bare minimum and sited them as far as possible from the fountain. The pavilions are tucked into the four corners of the plaza, their symmetrical arrangement reinforcing its geometric layout. The forms of the columns and brackets and the variegated green colors harmonize with the trees, while the fan-shaped glass canopies and decorative metal trim evoke the waters of the fountain.

Jurors admired the skill with which the pavilions evoke two of Chicago's architectural giants, Daniel Burnham and Frank Lloyd Wright. Burnham's French, Beaux-Arts influence is evident in the respect for the formal, symmetrical plan, the roof ornament that echoes that on nearby institutions such as the Shedd Aquarium, and the glass canopies that recall Parisian park pavilions. Reminiscent of Wright are the low-pitched roofs with deep overhangs sheltering horizontal building masses. As the jurors exclaimed about the complexity of these small buildings, "the more you look, the more you see."



Ravinia Festival Renovation
Highland Park, Illinois

Distinguished Building — Honor Award

Architect — Skidmore, Owings & Merrill LLP

Client — Ravinia Festival

General Contractor — W.B. Olsen Inc. (phases I and II);
Schal Bovis (Phase II)

Engineer — Skidmore, Owings & Merrill LLP



Heidrich Blessing



Heidrich Blessing

Civic Opera House Renovation
Chicago, Illinois

Distinguished Building — Citation of Merit

Architect — Skidmore, Owings & Merrill LLP

Client — Lyric Opera of Chicago

General Contractor — Stein McHugh

Engineer — Skidmore, Owings & Merrill LLP

Must-See Musical Venues

If architecture is frozen music, as Goethe once described it, then these two projects are fully orchestrated symphonies. The Lyric Opera and the Ravinia Festival are two of Chicago's most revered musical institutions so it is no surprise that they wanted state-of-the-art facilities. Achieving the technological goals within the framework of their historic structures, however, required architects Skidmore, Owings & Merrill LLP to be skilled conductors.

The Ravinia Festival grounds in Highland Park exude pastoral charm. Opened as an amusement park in 1904, Ravinia has been the summer home of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra since 1936. Structures on the grounds range from the original entrance gates and small theater to the 1950s music pavilion and other more recent additions. The renovation project touched almost every aspect of the park while preserving the cherished ambiance.

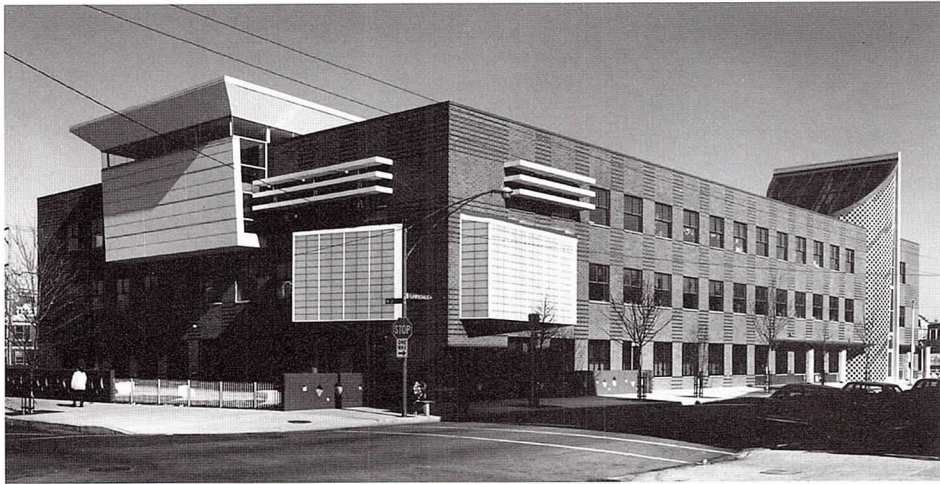
The main entrance now provides a greater welcome, with box office pavilions bracketing the historic Tyler gate and framing a new plaza for the 1904 Martin Theatre. This 880-seat Arts and Crafts-style theater was restored to its original character. The park's centerpiece, the 3300-seat pavilion, received a new stage shell to improve the acoustics and aesthetics. Pavilion seating was reconfigured, backstage areas were renovated, and administrative space was added. Support

facilities throughout the park were upgraded and some were relocated so that the large lawns are more conducive to establishing meeting places as well as listening to the new sound system.

In contrast to Ravinia's bucolic breeziness, the Civic Opera House conveys serious Art Deco formality, white tie and tails after a summer of shorts and t-shirts. The \$100 million renovation budget reinforces the gravity of the enterprise.

While patrons enjoy improved seating and amenities in a newly polished setting, the most critical changes took place behind the scenes. The Opera's ability to present modern, large scale productions had been hampered by inadequate backstage facilities. Landlocked by busy streets and the Chicago River, Lyric Opera took over the adjacent Civic Theatre and converted it to a variety of uses. The Civic's stage became a four-story scenery handling area with a 35-foot-square portal that opens directly onto Lyric's stage. The rest of the small theater was turned into practice rooms, dressing rooms and rehearsal spaces, one of which is three stories high and replicates the Lyric's stage. Structural challenges included inserting new floors where none had existed and removing large support columns to accommodate the scenery portal.

The awards jury was impressed by the project's overwhelming scale and attention to detail. The most appreciative



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Little Village Academy
Chicago, Illinois

Distinguished Building — Citation of Merit

Interior Architecture — Citation of Merit

Architect — Ross Barney + Jankowski Inc.
Client — Public Building Commission for the Chicago Public Schools
General Contractor — Paul H. Schwendener Inc.
Consulting Engineers — d'Escoto Engineers Inc. (mechanical);
Salse Engineering Associates Inc. (structural)



Hedrich Blessing

audience is probably the performers themselves. Tenor Ben Heppner, a star of many Lyric productions, calls the renovations “brilliant, everything from the rehearsal space and dressing rooms to the much improved technical facilities.”

Highlights Off the Beaten Path

Less visible than high-profile civic projects, but just as critical to the city’s vitality, are modestly budgeted buildings in Chicago’s less affluent residential areas. Two award winners prove that good design makes all the difference in bolstering confidence in a neighborhood’s identity.

Public schools can be among a community’s most potent symbols, especially in immigrant neighborhoods, where education is the key to assimilation. The Little Village Academy was received so warmly that the local school council named it not for a historic figure but for the neighborhood itself, and local politicians include the school on tours for visiting dignitaries.

The functional and symbolic heart of the school is the semicircular stair tower whose flat interior wall features a sundial. This sundial is of necessity keyed to Chicago’s latitude, giving the school a specific sense of place. The sun motif, symbolic of Mexico, is carried through in the lobby flooring and extends outdoors to the plaza.

The sundial also symbolizes learning, as do elements of the building’s facade.

These include the white outcropping of the library, the horizontal sunshades that filter light to the computer room, and the angled fiberglass walls that create greenhouse space in the science room. This unity of interior and exterior is one reason the school won a Distinguished Building and an Interior Architecture award.

By creating an efficient structure, the architects were able to specify good quality materials and still meet a tight budget.

“We have to fight the assumption that if a place is nice to be, it must be expensive,” said architect Carol Ross Barney, FAIA of Ross Barney + Jankowski Inc.

Creating a big impact on a small budget was also the directive for architects Johnson & Lee Ltd. The program was to design an affordable single-family house that would be built on 25 sites in the North Kenwood/Oakland area. Their solution provides a modern interpretation of two time-tested traditions in local residential architecture: use of an oversized element on the facade to add grandeur to a modest dwelling, and a design that accommodates future expansion by the owner.

One of the characteristics that lends such dignity to historic Chicago row houses is a disproportionately large feature enhancing a narrow facade. Most often, it was a wide flight of steps leading to a large entry arch or porch. Here, Philip



Don Ontiveros and Phil Cotton

New Homes for North Kenwood/Oakland
Chicago, Illinois

Distinguished Building — Citation of Merit

Architect — Johnson & Lee Ltd.
Client — Joint Venture/New Homes for Chicago
General Contractor — Thrush Companies
Consulting Engineer — Galloway Ltd.

Site Seeing

Continued from page 11

McCormick Place South
Chicago, Illinois



Interior Architecture — Honor Award

Architect-of-Record — A. Epstein & Sons International Inc.
Design Architect — Thompson, Ventulett,
Stainback & Associates Inc.
Client — Metropolitan Pier and Exposition Authority
General Contractor — McCormick Place Contractors Corp.
Structural Engineer — A. Epstein & Sons International Inc.



Brian Casser/TYS&A

Johnson, AIA grouped standard-size double-hung windows in sets of three and joined them with square windows to create a grand element.

The other notable feature of these homes is a steeply pitched gable roof. This not only brings the small houses into scale with neighboring three-story rowhouses and flats, it provides a storage attic that can be expanded with dormers to gain 300 square feet of living space. The unfinished full basement provides another opportunity for sweat equity. This carries forward the tradition of the Chicago bungalow, whose large basements and expandable upper floors provided a family with room to grow.

Can't-Miss-It Convention Center

Dwarfing all other local projects in terms of sheer size is the McCormick Place expansion. A. Epstein & Sons International Inc. was responsible for coordinating all architectural services for this immense project. The total facility now has over six million square feet of space, sealing Chicago's reputation as the country's largest venue for trade shows.

A new plaza to the west creates a welcoming entry point for a facility that lacked a friendly front door. It leads to the 900-foot-long Grand Concourse that ties together all the buildings and provides a

Attention Frequent Flyers

by Susan Nelson

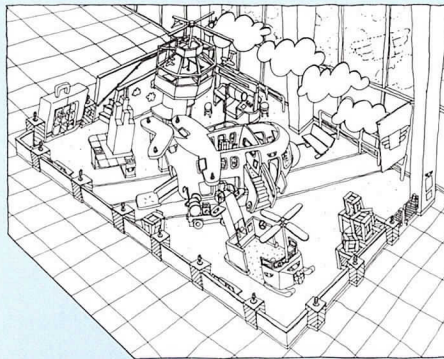
Many of Chicago's top architects have commissions throughout the U.S. and around the world. When traveling on business or for pleasure, you will want to consider adding to your itinerary a visit to these far-flung 1997 award winners.

Kids on the Fly
O'Hare International Airport

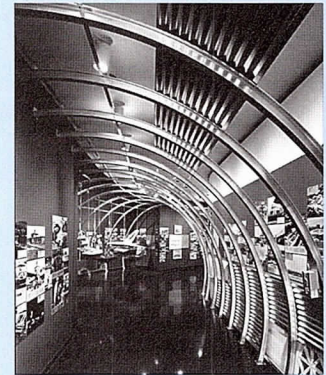
Interior Architecture — Special Recognition

Architect — Peter J. Exley Architect
Designer — Julie Anderson Mathias Interior
Architecture Studio
Client — Chicago Children's Museum
Owner/Contractor — Chicago Department of Aviation

On your way out of town, pause a moment at Kids on the Fly, a new permanent exhibit by Peter J. Exley Architect in Terminal 2 at O'Hare International Airport. Continuing the mission of the Chicago Children's Museum, this interactive branch museum allows kids to load cargo, sit in a cockpit of a specially designed plane, or listen to the goings-on of a simulated control tower. Even if you're traveling *sans* children, the hands-on museum space that celebrates air travel will make you feel like a kid again.



Peter Exley, AIA



Steinkamp/Ballogg

Building for Air Travel: Architecture and Design for Commercial Aviation
Traveling Exhibit

Distinguished Building — Citation of Merit

Architect — Murphy/Jahn
Client — The Art Institute of Chicago
General Contractor — Gene Young Effects

Thanks to this encapsulating exhibition, adults too can experience the excitement of modern aviation. Originally commissioned by The Art Institute of Chicago, the exhibit was designed by Helmut Jahn, FAIA as a gallery of enormous curved aluminum ribs that are intended to convey the image of an aircraft under construction. Installed within are more than 50 original drawings, architectural models and rare cut-away models of aircraft interiors. Currently on tour, the exhibit can be viewed from January 26 through April 30, 1998 at the John Wayne Airport in Orange County, California, before continuing on to Dallas, Buffalo and Denver.

Focus: Architecture Chicago is mailed twice a year to 3,000 business and community leaders compliments of the American Institute of Architects Chicago. To continue to provide you with news about the city's built environment and the architects who practice here, we need your feedback. Please take two minutes to answer the following questions and return this postcard to us.

Thank you,

Alice Sinkevitch

Alice Sinkevitch
Executive Director

P.S. Do you have a colleague you recommend we add to our mailing list? If so, please fax their name and address to Editor, AIA Chicago, 312/670-2422.

(Tear here and mail today!)

1. In what industry do you work? (Check one.)

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban/Regional Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Banking | <input type="checkbox"/> Facility Management | <input type="checkbox"/> Private Industry |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community Development | <input type="checkbox"/> Government | <input type="checkbox"/> Real Estate |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Construction | <input type="checkbox"/> Law | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Media | |

2. What best describes your current position? (Check one.)

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior Executive | <input type="checkbox"/> Manager | <input type="checkbox"/> Educator |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Principal | <input type="checkbox"/> Architect/Designer | <input type="checkbox"/> Sales/Marketing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Director | <input type="checkbox"/> Elected Official | <input type="checkbox"/> Broker |

3. Do you:

- | | | |
|---|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Make decisions about new/remodeled facilities? | <input type="checkbox"/> yes | <input type="checkbox"/> no |
| Select/influence selection of design professionals? | <input type="checkbox"/> yes | <input type="checkbox"/> no |

4. Are you a member of the American Institute of Architects? yes no

5. Does this magazine contain information of interest to you? yes no

6. Where do you read about architecture? (Check all that apply.)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chicago Tribune | <input type="checkbox"/> Building Design and Construction |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chicago Sun-Times | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering News Record |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architectural Record | <input type="checkbox"/> Architectural Digest |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Crain's Chicago Business | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | |

Please rate your interest level in the following issues:

	Not Interested	Interested	Very Interested
Chicago's new architecture	1	2	3
Living and working with architects	1	2	3
Design techniques	1	2	3
Development trends	1	2	3
Architects' concerns	1	2	3
Public/public projects	1	2	3
Architecturally related special events	1	2	3
International projects by Chicago architects	1	2	3
Regulatory concerns	1	2	3
Public projects	1	2	3
Residential projects	1	2	3

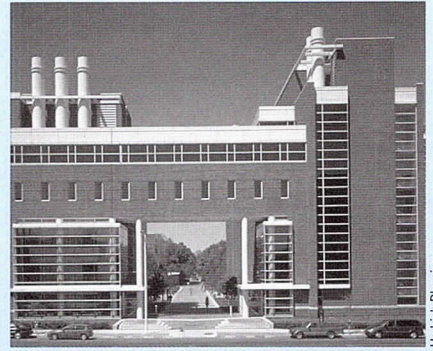
What other topics would like us to cover? _____



Vic Moss

apart from other retail projects.

"The architects, with great sensitivity and attention to detail and craftsmanship, achieved a splendid and supportive addition to the campus," said one juror when citing his reasons for awarding this project by Skidmore, Owings & Merrill LLP a 1997 Distinguished Building Award. The 105,000-square-foot psychology building is inspired by the campus' existing Tudor-Gothic buildings constructed from Missouri Red Granite and limestone. It fits into the existing campus context by retaining a vision of the original master plan by Cope & Stewardson. Facing the central quadrangle, it is a notable addition to the University's main public space.



Hedrich Blessing

...r special recognition
...r choosing the
...ation. The three
...stylistic gamut
...Prairie School
...is is a healthy
...s' architectural
...of the variety of
...in a building's
...where stuffed
...once glowered
...gram for architects
...Buenz & Associates
...1 Memorial Building,
...s' most prominent
...wn as the home of the



Hedrich Blessing



Hedrich Blessing

Psychology Building

Citation of Merit

Perkins & Merrill LLP
University
Constructors
Skidmore, Owings & Merrill LLP

Chemical and Life Sciences Building at the University of Illinois
Champaign, Illinois

Distinguished Building — Citation of Merit

Architect — Perkins & Will
Client — University of Illinois
General Contractor — Gilbane Building Co.
Consulting Engineer — Environmental Systems Design (MEP)

Closer to home, this teaching laboratory sits at the eastern edge of the University of Illinois campus at Urbana-Champaign. Three linear bars, set at right angles to each other, connect two widely separated existing buildings housing the school's chemical and life sciences departments. The repetitive linear bars accommodate flexible laboratory and office space. By tying the existing buildings together, the new building creates a more defined street edge and formal pedestrian entrance to the campus from the east. Jurors believed that the design by Ralph Johnson, FAIA was "intellectually appropriate for an engineering building."

Site Seeing

Continued from page 13

Chicago Academy of Sciences' elaborate dioramas and displays. In renovating the building for Lincoln Park Zoo Management offices, the architects restored the neo-classical architectural elements to pride of place. The monumental staircase, atrium colonnade and decorative plaster ceiling all elicit admiration once again.

Restoring an old Chicago high school is not normally a high-profile commission. In the case of Carl Schurz High School, however, Ross Barney + Jankowski Inc.'s repair job became a dazzling make over. Designed by Dwight Perkins in 1908, the building is on the National Register of Historic Places.

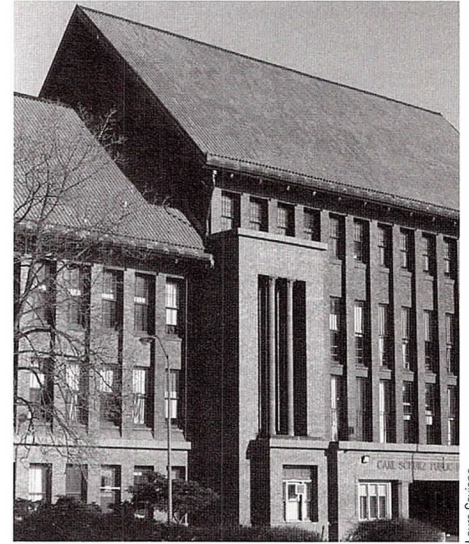
Significantly, it provides an unusual example of Prairie School architecture on an institutional scale. What came as a pleasant surprise was the varied colors of the original materials. Cleaning the masonry revealed two shades of brick beneath the grime. Replacing the roof with new clay tiles—a large initial expense that is cost-effective in the long run—recreated the brilliant orange of the palette. The original wood windows were repaired rather than replaced, saving both money and architectural character.

One of the hot new topics in architectural circles is preservation of the recent past, i.e. saving significant buildings that are too young to rate

Carl Schurz High School Rehabilitation
Chicago, Illinois

Distinguished Building — Special Recognition

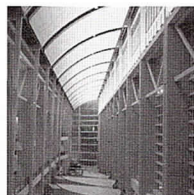
Architect — Ross Barney + Jankowski Inc.
Client — Public Building Commission of the Chicago Public Schools
General Contractor — Schal Bovis: James Mansfield & Sons (roof)
Consulting Engineers — Dyancept Inc.; Mac Brady & Associates



Laura Saviano



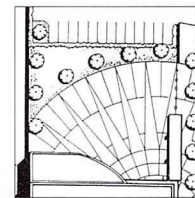
New Homes for North Kenwood/Oakland
814 E. 42nd Street;
4429 S. Lake Park Avenue;
4158 S. Ellis Avenue;
4346 S. Greenwood Avenue



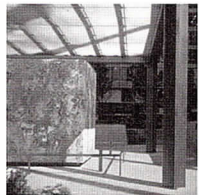
McCormick Place South
2301 S. Lake Shore Drive



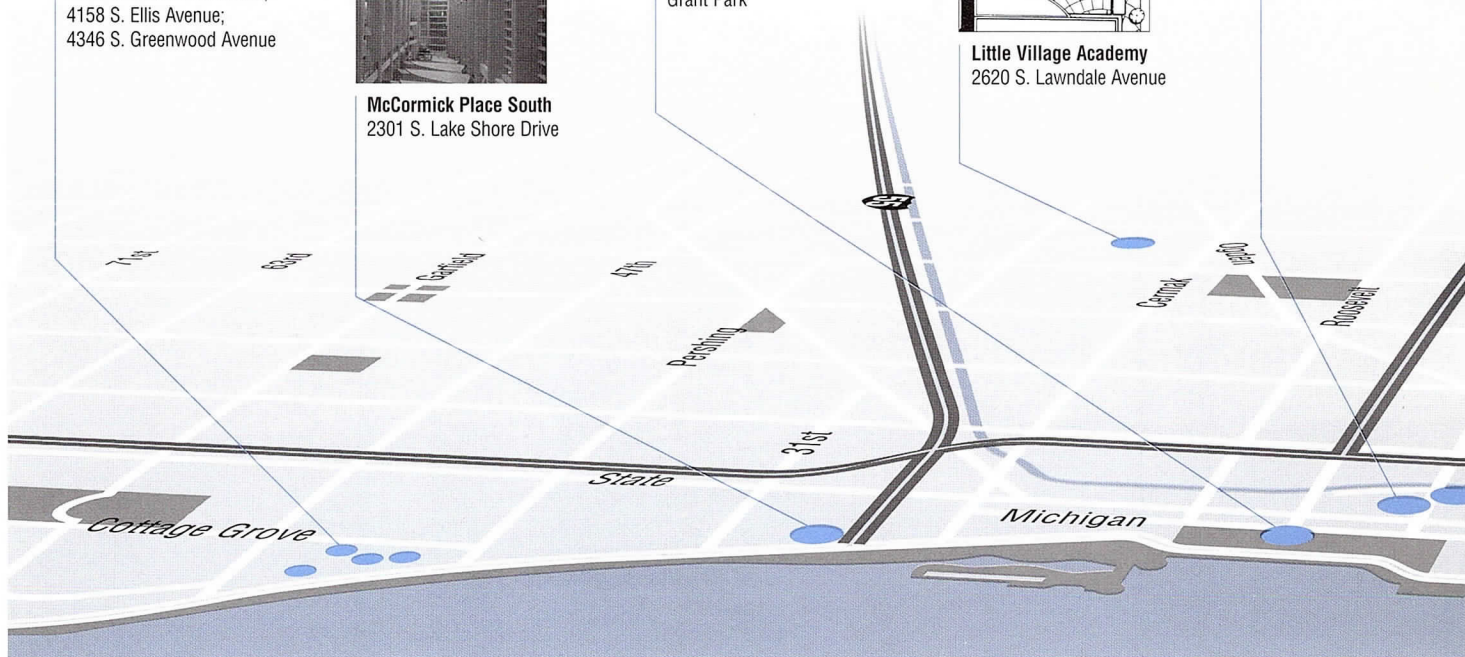
Visitor Services Pavilion at Buckingham Fountain
Grant Park



Little Village Academy
2620 S. Lawndale Avenue



Chagall Secondary Roof Structure
Corner of Clark and Monroe Streets





Hedrich Blessing

Astor Tower Renovation
Chicago, Illinois

Distinguished Building — Special Recognition

Architect — DeStefano and Partners
Client — Astor Tower Condominium Association
General Contractor — Chicago Ornamental Iron Co.
Consulting Engineer — Tylk/Gustafson & Associates Inc.

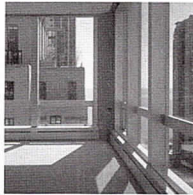
landmark status. The recent work on Astor Tower, a Gold Coast high rise, is an interesting example of following the spirit rather than the letter of preservation. Designed by Bertrand Goldberg, FAIA and built as a hotel in 1962, the tower is probably as obscure as his Marina City is famous. But to architects visiting Chicago in the 1960s (including one jury member) it was included on tours of exciting new work. The external louvers were an inventive attempt to provide privacy and control daylight on a glass curtain wall. Unfortunately, the available technology did not support the concept, and when condominium owners replaced hotel guests, they eventually demanded a

change. The solution devised by DeStefano and Partners eliminated the louvers and provided an entirely new curtain wall inside and out. Steel-framed window panels were assembled in a factory, delivered to the site, and bolted to the concrete columns outside the existing glass wall. The old windows were then removed from the inside. The new exterior clearly displays the building's original structure and proportions, thus preserving its modernist essence. ■

Laurie McGovern Petersen is a frequent contributor to Focus: Architecture Chicago. She is the associate editor of the AIA Guide to Chicago.



Civic Opera House Renovation
20 N. Wacker Drive



Astor Tower Renovation
1300 N. Astor Street



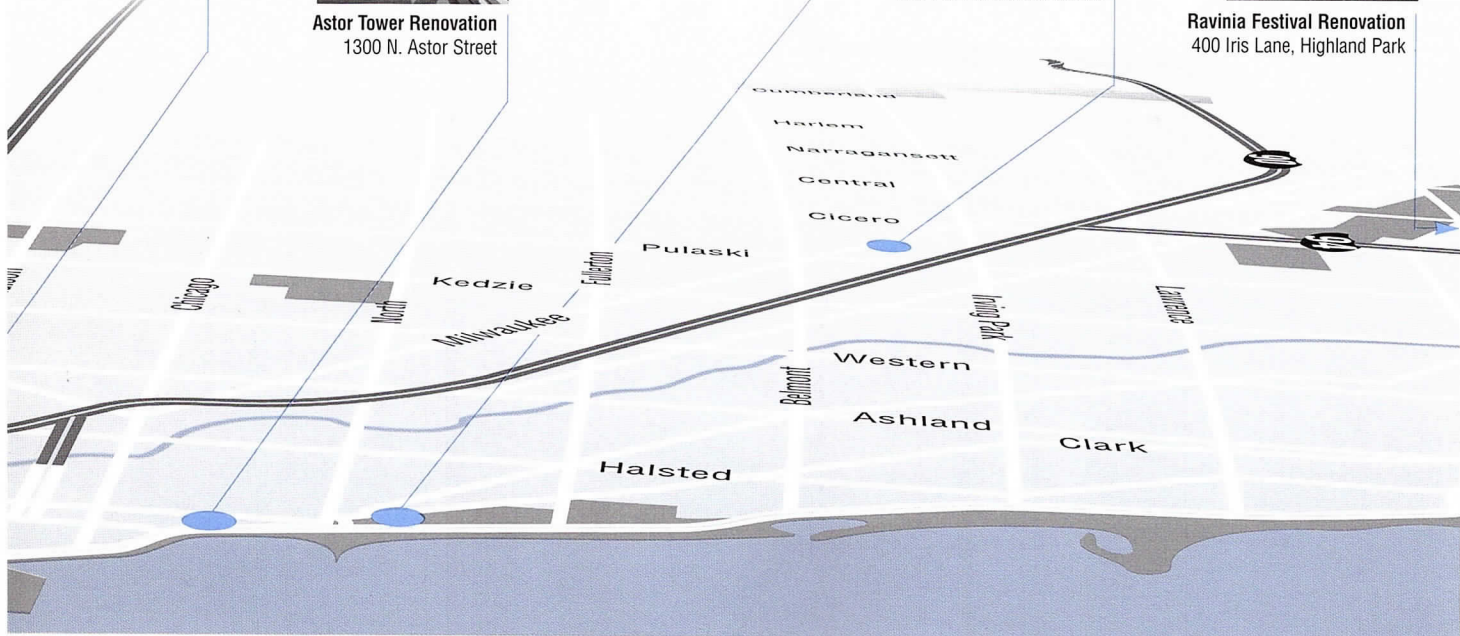
Laffin Memorial Building Renovation
2001 N. Clark Street



Carl Schurz High School Rehabilitation
3601 N. Milwaukee Avenue



Ravinia Festival Renovation
400 Iris Lane, Highland Park



Map by Dennis McClendon, Chicago Cartographics



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Are You Planning a Building Project?

The best time to bring in an architect is as early as possible in the project.

Long before plans and specifications are developed, there are many crucial decisions to be made.

What impact will site selection and zoning constraints have on your project?

Architects can help you evaluate your options.

Predesign services provided by an architect can save you time and money.

Architects play key roles in economic feasibility studies, obtaining project financing, and developing project budgets and schedules.

How to Select an Architect

STEP
1 RESEARCH FIRMS

- Ask colleagues for referrals
- Contact AIA Chicago for names of firms that specialize in your project type
- Find out the names of firms that have designed projects similar to yours that you like

STEP
2 REQUEST INFORMATION

- Describe your project and ask each firm about their availability
- Seek qualifications and references, including illustrations of recent work

STEP
3 REVIEW AND EVALUATE

- Consider these factors:
 - The size of the firm
 - How long it has been in practice
 - Special expertise in this project type
 - Their ability to work within budget and schedule constraints
 - Management ability
 - Knowledge of local building codes and zoning regulations
 - The ability to work with other specialists, if necessary
- Visit at least one project of each architect under consideration
- Call client references

STEP
4 INTERVIEW FIRMS

- Create a short list of three to five firms to interview
- Allow at least an hour for the interview
- Make sure that the people you interview are those who will actually be working on your project
- Decide on location for the interview: at your home or office, the architect can gain a better understanding of you and your project; at the architect's office you can see how the architect and staff work

STEP
5 MAKE THE SELECTION

- In making your final determination, you will want to look at:
 - Design quality
 - Technical competence
 - Experience
 - Cost
 - Organization
 - Availability of key staff
- You will also be looking for an architect who:
 - Is responsive to your needs
 - Listens carefully
 - Understands your situation and is asking the right questions
 - Makes you feel comfortable
- You will be working with the architect for a long time and it is important that you trust the architect's judgment and ability.

The key to successful design projects is careful management of the process, wise selection of the players, and good communication. A thorough understanding of your goals, needs, and risks will enable you to build relationships and assemble the right team of design and construction professionals for your project. An architect can guide your way through your construction journey and direct you toward solutions you may have never considered.

1. Whom will I be dealing with directly? Is that the same person who will be designing the project? Who will be designing our project ?
2. How will you approach our project ?
3. How will you gather information about our needs and project site ?
4. How will you establish priorities and make decisions ?
5. What do you see as important issues or considerations in the project? What are the challenges of the project ?
6. What is your design philosophy ?
7. What are the steps in your design process ?
8. How busy is your firm ?
9. How interested are you in this project ?
10. What sets your firm apart from the rest ?
11. How does your firm establish its fees ?
12. How do you organize a project ?
13. What do you expect us to provide ?
14. What is your experience in obtaining local government approvals ?
15. What is your experience with cost estimating ?
16. What will you show us along the way to explain the project ?
17. How do you handle change orders? Who pays for changes ?
18. If the scope of the project changes later in the project, will there be additional fees? How will these fees be justified ?
19. What services do you provide during construction ?
20. Do you have a list of clients you have worked with ?

Be open to new ideas.

Be candid about how you want the end result to look and work.

It is important that you be involved with the project, asking questions and providing information to the architect.

RESOURCES TO HELP YOU

Find Architects on the Web

For illustrations of the work of Chicago architects, guides to working with an architect, and links to firm Web sites, go to the AIA Chicago home page www.aiachicago.org and the American Institute of Architects home page www.aia.org.

Find Architects With the Specialty You Need

The AIA Chicago office in Suite 1049, The Merchandise Mart, has a library illustrating the work of member firms. Visit the office between 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. to view their work.

The statewide directory *ArchiPages* profiles AIA firms, detailing size, names of principals, staffing by discipline, recent projects, and experience in various project categories. Consult the *ArchiPages* in the AIA Chicago office or at your local library. For a list of libraries carrying *ArchiPages*, call 312/670-7770 or use the fax form.

Get More Information on Working With an Architect

Please send me the following:

- A Beginner's Guide to Architectural Services*
Practical advice on how to choose and work with an architect
- You and Your Architect*
A question-and-answer discussion on getting the most out of the client-architect relationship
- Home Delivery*
Useful information for homeowners about working with an architect to build the home or addition they've always wanted
- Ten Decision-Makers Talk about Their Architect*
Case studies of actual commercial projects

Name

Business

Address

City

State

Zip

Please complete and fax to: 312/670-2422



Karant + Associates

Office of WMA Consulting Engineers Ltd.
Chicago, Illinois

Interior Architecture — Honor Award



Architect — Valerio Dewalt Train Associates Inc.
Client — WMA Consulting Engineers Ltd.
General Contractor — The Kaiser Loftrium Ltd.
Consulting Engineers — WMA Consulting Engineers Ltd.
(mechanical, electrical); Hill Mechanical Group
(ornamental metal)

by Laura Gatland

One are the days when new offices were designed as inexpensive cookie-cutter spaces that had little to do with the business at hand. Today, top-notch architects consider the enterprise when fashioning a workplace. They create efficient workstations that inspire productive employees. They twist simple materials into offices that are both cost-effective and pleasing to the eye.

The following office buildings earned accolades as winners of AIA Chicago's Interior Architecture Awards. Each reflects the notion that architects create beautiful offices that lend companies a positive image, even as they watch their bottom line.

The workplace of WMA Consulting Engineers Ltd. is a breath of fresh air in the typically staid world of engineering

offices. Since WMA works mainly with architecture firms, the company wanted the office to show that its engineers understand their clients.

On paper, floor plans for the office were an orderly, rational grid of workstations and private offices that appealed to engineers. But once built, the office was anything but bland.

"In plan, this thing had to respond to engineers' mindset of everything ordered and aligned... in the third dimension is where we made it all go kind of wacky," said Joe Valerio, FAIA of Valerio Dewalt Train Associates Inc.

Visitors to WMA are first greeted by a spaceship-like entryway, a stainless steel inverted conical drum that resembles the ducts typically found in large industrial projects. Pie-shaped sections of the cone form the letters W, M and A over and over again to act as a transition from the street to the office.

Inside, open-air workstations were designed to suit the engineers' needs and inspire an active, energetic environment. Vertical lights hang in a diagonal pattern to look like high-rise office buildings lit at night. Using the materials that the engineers work with, panels of sheet metal hang suspended in space between workstations. The dividers act as blinders to keep distractions at a minimum.

"I find people spend more time at work than before, so they must like their workstations," said WMA president Gabe Reisner.

Many office buildings have some good parts, noted one juror, but WMA's space is "orchestrated as a complete piece of music."



Hedrich Blessing

David Oakey Design's commitment to the environment is the driving force behind the textile and carpet firm's new \$1.4 million headquarters, Pond Studios. Built in LaGrange, Georgia, the building won both Distinguished Building and Interior Architecture awards.

"That's their platform, so the construction of the building, the materials that went into it, the minimal amount of finish, was all based on [environmentalism]," said Elva Rubio of Rubio/Durham Architects.

The firm designed the barn-like facility to conserve energy by using large single-pane windows that can rely solely on natural light during the day. To keep building materials to a minimum, the roof structure and walls were left exposed and retain an unfinished look. Rubio said the

building was inspired partly by a barbecue shack that was common to the Georgia of her childhood.

The jury applauded the use of simple materials like concrete and steel to construct this facility. One juror noted that the building's design is appropriate in conveying the idea of a workshop. The building's interior is wide open, emphasizing the company's belief in open communication and teamwork. The studio is set up with open work surfaces for designers, which are adjacent to private zones for using computers. The centerpiece of a conference area is a table used for design presentations whose surface can be changed from granite to carpet to stainless steel.

Other special features include a cantilevered deck overlooking the pond



Hedrich Blessing

Pond Studios
Chicago, Illinois

Distinguished Building — Honor Award
Interior Architecture — Citation of Merit

Architect — Rubio/Durham Architects
Client — David Oakey Design
General Contractor — Landford Construction
Consulting Engineers — McGinniss & Assoc. (structural);
Jackson Heating and Air (mechanical)



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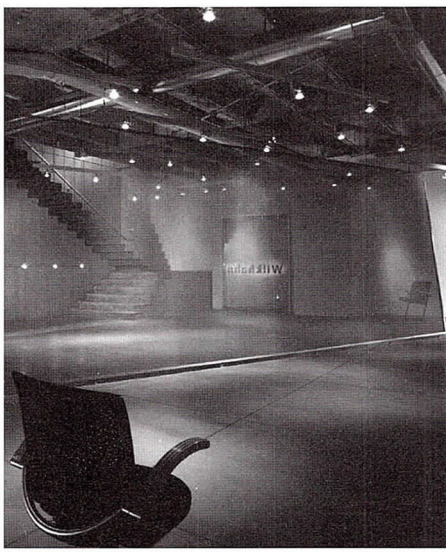
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Korab/Heinrich Blessing



Karant + Associates

and a pre-fab staircase with a steel handrail attached by cables and turnbuckles.

A staircase was the predominant design element of the New York furniture showroom of Wilkhahn North America. Connecting the two-story, 6,500-square-foot showroom was a steel staircase that seems to hang by steel cables.

To entice visitors to take a closer look at the showroom, architects Skidmore, Owings & Merrill LLP added an inclined plane of stainless steel mesh that bisects the floor and partially obscures the furniture on display. The concrete ceiling of the showroom was left exposed and transparently white-washed, a stark contrast to the precision of the

NBC Studio at the 1996 Democratic National Convention
Chicago, Illinois

Interior Architecture — Special Recognition

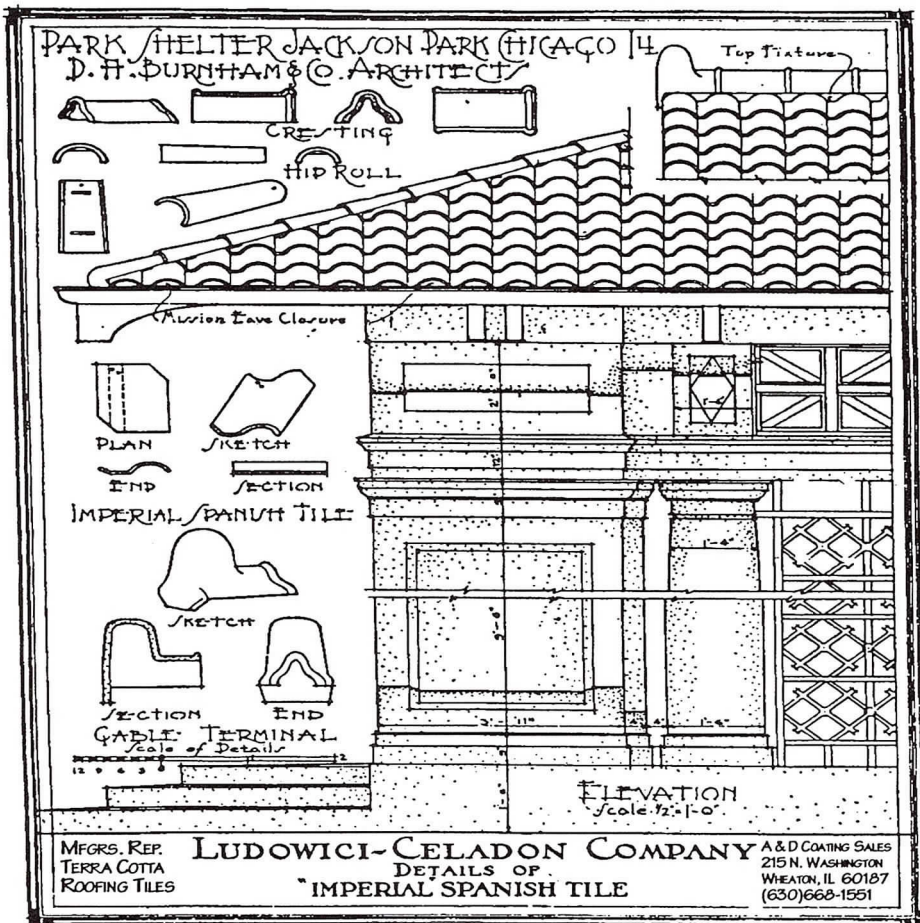
Architect — Valerio Dewalt Train Associates Inc.
Client — National Broadcasting Co.
General Contractor — International Contractors
Consulting Engineers — WMA Consulting Engineers Ltd.
(electrical); TT-CBM Engineers (structural)

German-made furniture being exhibited.

Designing a temporary work space has its own special challenges. When architects Valerio Dewalt Train Associates Inc. were hired to design space for NBC Broadcasting studios during the 1996 Democratic National Convention in Chicago, the firm faced a number of hurdles. The architects were assigned the daunting task of creating a new design that could be built in just four weeks.

“We came up with the idea that with Chicago being a city of bridges and the convention having a bridges theme, we wanted to do this structure that was one big assembly of steel,” said Joe Valerio, FAIA.

A 50-foot red steel truss was bolted down as the roof, and glass was attached to form the studio. Typically, broadcasting studios at conventions are simple structures made of plywood and two-by-fours. In its minimalism and simple materials and form, the NBC Studios symbolized a moment in time and an important place in history.



Industrious Designs

Continued from page 19

One of the typical challenges in designing office space is trying to be innovative with a tight budget.

That was the task facing Eva Maddox Associates Inc., which designed the interior of the new offices of the international advertising agency Ogilvy and Mather. With a bare-bones budget, the agency wanted to create an exciting space where creative juices would flow easily.

The design draws its inspiration from the agency's red logo, an important icon of the company's culture and mission statement—"Making Red Redder," a reference to increasing worldwide exposure—is used in subtle highlights throughout the office. Patterns based on the logo appear in the tracery of the entryway carpeting and along graphic walls throughout the space. Red bands of soft light illuminate workstations.

Ogilvy and Mather
Chicago, Illinois

Interior Architecture — Citation of Merit

Architect — Eva Maddox Associates Inc.
Client — WPP Group USA Inc.
General Contractor — Clune Construction



Heidrich Blessing



Heidrich Blessing

Most impressive to jurors was how much mileage this space got from a tight budget. Over 95 percent of the furniture was reused and reconfigured in the new space. Flexible pedestals under wall-to-wall work surfaces were constructed out of 30-year-old steel credenzas.

The flexible, elegant space of Newport News Inc. is another example of how office design can be both bold and practical in meeting a client's needs.

The New York mail order distribution business wanted to upgrade its image while incorporating a long-term growth plan, large work rooms and open offices into a single floor. Working with irregular column spacing, Gary Lee & Partners created custom workstations that could be easily adjusted in size and structure as the business expands. Private executive offices were placed behind translucent fiberglass walls to lay out a subtle hierarchy. Rich blues and pale maple finishes accent the polish of the terrazzo floors.

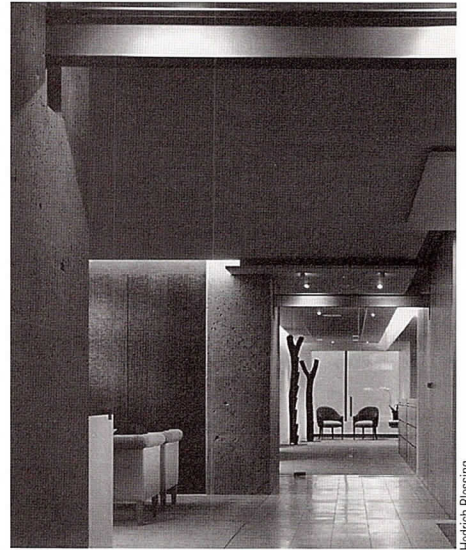
The offices of executive recruiter Heidrick & Struggles was the jury's standard by which other office entries were judged. This inviting, classic space used light materials to convey a traditional environment at a renowned firm.

The firm's mission for The Environments Group was to design an office that welcomed executive candidates in a professional, discrete manner. The resulting space creates a timeless business environment that evokes strength and stability without seeming austere.

Newport News Inc.
New York, New York

Interior Architecture — Citation of Merit

Architect — Gary Lee & Partners
Client — Spiegel Inc.
General Contractor — Structure Tone Inc.
Consulting Engineers — Jacoby Electric (electrical);
Robert Director & Associates (mechanical)



Heidrich Blessing

Heidrick & Struggles
Chicago, Illinois

Interior Architecture — Citation of Merit

Architect — The Environments Group
Client — Heidrick & Struggles
General Contractor — Turner SPD
Consulting Engineers — Environmental Systems Design Inc. (MEP)

Throughout the office, wide boulevards give access to four private quadrants of the building, and corridors end at magnificent vistas. Eucalyptus wood adds warmth to the reception and waiting areas. Stainless steel beams give a contemporary accent to the quarters. Jurors praised the plan, lighting and details of this beautiful project. ■

Laura Gatland is a free-lance writer whose work appears regularly in Crain's Chicago Business.

Two Homes Garner Awards for “Controlled Simplicity”

by Judith P. Knuth

Two elaborately simple residences won high praise from jurors in AIA Chicago’s 1997 Design Excellence Awards competition. A 62nd-floor condominium with sweeping views of Chicago’s lakefront and an intimate single-family home set in a leafy North Side neighborhood each illustrate the appeal of contemporary space romanced by meticulous attention to detail and materials.

The question of details—their absence and presence—cropped up frequently as Stanley Tigerman, FAIA described the voluptuously spare high-rise apartment he and partner Margaret McCurry, FAIA created for client Judith Neisser. Indeed, in singling the project out in the interior architecture category, jurors praised its beauty, quality and “controlled simplicity of details.”

Neisser, an art collector who describes herself as a modernist, is a long-time friend of the architects, who are husband and wife as well as partners in the firm Tigerman McCurry Architects.

“Margaret has an elegant sense of tightness to her design,” said Neisser, “and Stanley added an edge to it.”

The architects’ differing design sensibilities proved singularly compatible in producing a space Tigerman characterizes as “deliberately empty, so you focus on the art.” Its contemporary openness is tempered by its classical proportions, possible in part because the 4,400-square-foot condominium boasts 12 1/2-foot ceilings, an unusually generous height. The primary rooms are arranged *enfilade*—library, dining room, and living room all in a row—their internal doors aligned to display window views at each end.

The essence of the project, Tigerman said, was “the opposite of ‘if you’ve got it, flaunt it.’” Instead, the space’s impact comes from a serene austerity, achieved in part by the relentless elimination of extraneous detail. Flat, overscale wood baseboards, painted white to match the skim-coat plaster walls, are defined only by a precise 1/8-inch reveal where baseboard meets wall. Precision also marks the recessed bookshelves in the library. Their perimeters are etched with the same 1/8-inch reveal, their space is disciplined into compartments by a meticulous grid, and they are symmetrically disposed around the room, on either side of a window, a doorway, a column. Sumptuous materials, like the soft Portuguese limestone floors and the leather that covers the built-in banquets, were chosen for subtlety, rather than showiness.

Neisser proclaimed the completed project “a work of art,” the perfect complement to the apartment’s dazzling panoramic views.

“Margaret chose wonderful colors,” Neisser said, “offbeat greens and



Heidrich Blessing

Neisser Residence
Chicago, Illinois

Interior Architecture — Honor Award

Architect — Tigerman McCurry Architects
Client — Judith Neisser
General Contractor — James A. Blackmore Construction
Consulting Engineer — The Structural Shop



Controlled Simplicity
Continued from page 21

charcoals that change with the light in exciting ways. You're inside, but you're wholly integrated with the world outside."

A successful relating of interior and exterior—this time at ground level—was also achieved by the winner of the 1997 award in the distinguished building category. The two-story, single-family home of brick and glass by architects Krueck & Sexton was lauded by judges for its "elegant detailing and refinement of materials."

Project principal Mark Sexton, AIA worked with clients Andrea and Ira Zorn to build a contemporary urban home on a north-facing site more than three times the width of Chicago's standard city lots.

"In a city of 25-foot residential lots, there's a yearning for light and space," Sexton said. "This lot was an incredible find."

Sexton established the narrower west elevation as the street side, presenting a broad blank facade to the north, and opening the south side of the house with an expansive, two-story wall of glass that faces an enclosed garden. "It's the late '90s version of the modern house in the city, contained on three sides, with views essentially limited to the garden and side yard," Sexton explained, bringing to mind the siting of H.H. Richardson's 1886 Glessner House on its 18th Street and Prairie Avenue corner.

Along with the south wall of glass, there is only one other source of natural light—a dramatic slot window that allows a view of the street to the west, then continues upward to wrap over the roofline, creating a skylight that bathes the second floor in light.

Interior spaces open into each other effortlessly, with sleek surfaces that flow undisturbed. Television sets are recessed, flush with wall surfaces; terrazzo floors are uninterrupted by area rugs.

"I grew up in a home where more was more," Andrea Dorn said. "I've had enough of knick knacks."

While the home's stark modernity contrasts with its more traditionally styled



Hedrich Blessing

The Brick and Glass House
Chicago, Illinois

Distinguished Building — Citation of Merit

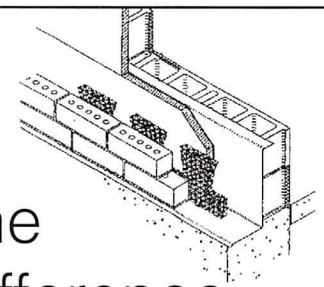
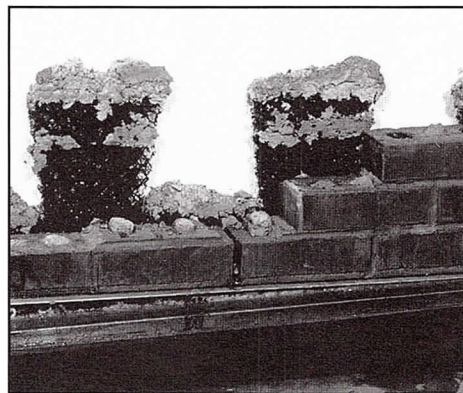
Architect — Krueck & Sexton
Client — Andrea and Ira Zorn
General Contractor — Fraser Construction
Consulting Engineer — Tylk/Gustafson & Associates Inc.

neighbors, Sexton pointed out that the house is sympathetic to the rhythms of the neighborhood in the materials it uses—brick and limestone—as well as in its scale.

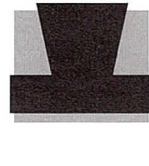
As in Tigerman McCurry's Neisser residence, architect and client seem equally pleased. Sexton praised the Dorns' "spirit of adventure," and Andrea

Dorn professed to having "enjoyed the whole process so much, I'm ready to look for another lot and do it again." ■

Judith P. Knuth is a Chicago-based free-lance writer who specializes in interior design, architecture and historic renovation.



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City's Legacy Affects Jury's Decision Honoring Architectural Details

by Barbara Hower



CTA Lake/Wells Station Entrance Canopy
Chicago, Illinois

Divine Detail — Honor Award



Architect — Teng & Associates Inc.
Client — Chicago Transit Authority
General Contractor — Walsh Construction Co.
Consulting Engineers — d'Escoto Engineers Inc. (civil);
T & M Associates (mechanical)

In Chicago's architectural community, there exists a strong tradition of craftsmanship and a passion for details. "I think there's a rigorousness of detailing, whether it's a Sullivan building or a Mies building, that conveys the intent of Chicago architecture," said juror Mark Sexton, AIA.

This legacy of details is attributable to two factors. One is that our climate makes it imperative that a building be detailed correctly. As opposed to the West Coast's more temperate and forgiving weather, here temperature and moisture infiltration must be addressed. Another is the Midwestern work ethic.

"As designers, our [job] is to understand a project's parts and to arrive at a graceful solution," said juror Jim Prendergast, AIA.

Because of Chicago's heritage of fine architectural details, the Divine Detail Award jury was determined to keep the level very high in selecting 1997 award recipients. Out of a field of 20 submissions, three projects were presented with an award.

Honor Award: CTA Lake/Wells Station Entrance Canopy

This CTA canopy at Lake and Wells streets is a modern interpretation of earlier Michigan Avenue public transportation canopies. Lightweight curved channels hang from U-shaped columns and echo the structure of the adjacent "El." Heavy granite walls lead to the ticketing mezzanine.

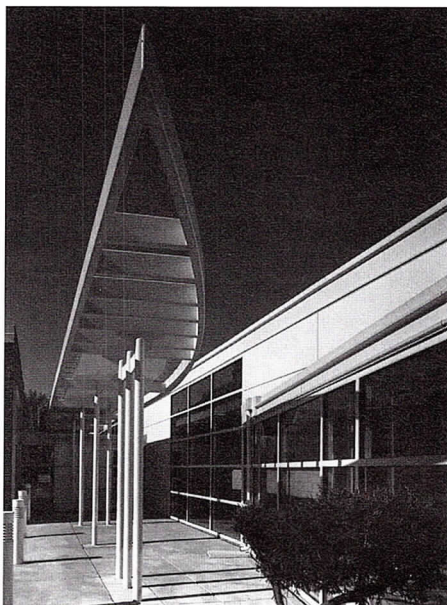
According to Teng & Associates Inc.'s principal design architect Thomas Hoepf, AIA, this project was particularly satisfying because the city of Chicago "had vision."

Jurors cited this project for its contextual complexities, its straightforward detailing, its artistry, and its role as a great piece of urban infill. Blair Kamin of the *Chicago Tribune* agrees. In a recent review, he called the project "superior public architecture, endowing the mundane act of boarding a subway with a sense of ceremony."

Citation of Merit: Wilmette Public Works Facility Addition

Jurors called this addition a "little jewel on basically a box" when citing its merit as an award winner. The canopy's polyvinyl fabric is held in tension by turnbuckles attached to a painted steel-supported structure. Both functional and metaphorical, it provides weather protection for the building's employees and refers to the work they do. Tapered steel cantilevered supports suggest a pair of hands lifting objects overhead; triangular support structures relate to the classic carrying method of centering weight directly about the spine.

"The level of thought that goes in to a project is a very important part of the detail," said architect Andrew Metter, FAIA. "If it can serve five or six functions at once, it's a good design."



Wilmette Public Works Facility Addition
Wilmette, Illinois

Divine Detail — Citation of Merit

Architect — A. Epstein & Sons International Inc.
Client — Village of Wilmette

"I'm glad someone is thinking at that level," said juror Prendergast. "The longer people stay in that space, someone will discover hidden nuances, and those are golden moments for architects."

Special Recognition: Doors in the Inland Steel Building

The materials for this project—doors designed by Ross Barney + Jankowski Inc. for its office—were selected to complement the openness and modularity of the Inland Steel Building. Aluminum pipes on self-lubricating bearings form the structure for pivot doors.

The rectangular shapes form a tapering horizontal wing panel that ends vertically at pipe stiles that double as

integral door pulls. Cantilevering wing panels are fastened to either side of the central pipe structure, conforming to the angle of adjacent walls. Panels lock open during the day, which directs views into the office. Entryway doors are clad in clear anodized, expanded aluminum sheets, and the conference room door is covered in solid, brushed stainless steel sheets.



Herfirth Riebsinn

The doors demonstrate a freshness of composition, efficient use of materials, careful craftsmanship, and are sympathetic to the building's materials and detailing. ■

Barbara Hower is a former editor of Inland Architect.

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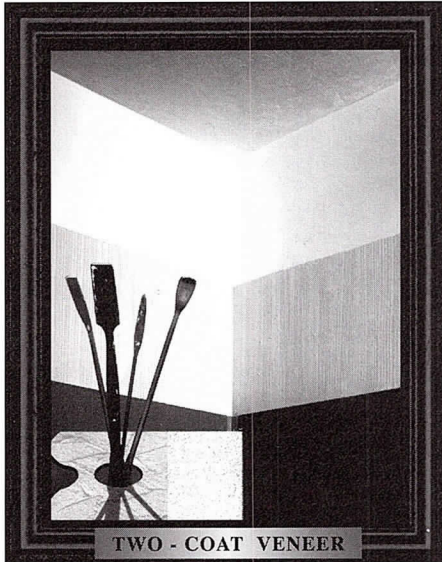
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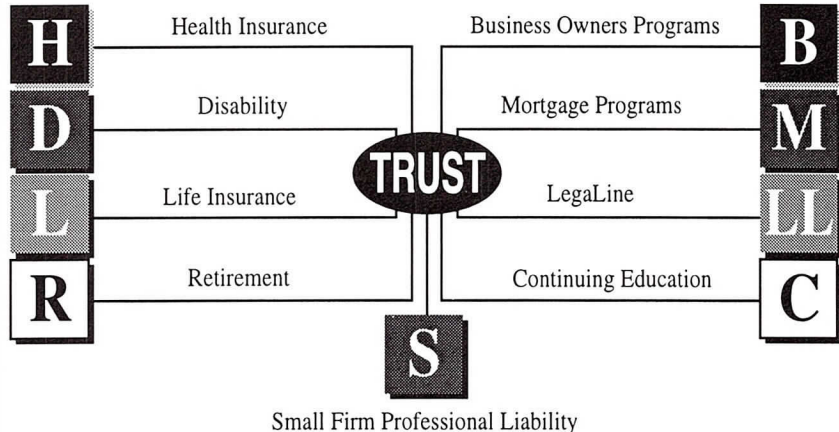
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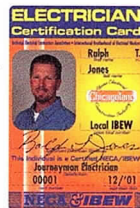
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