



Focus

JANUARY 2007

Harry Weese

Chicago Advocate

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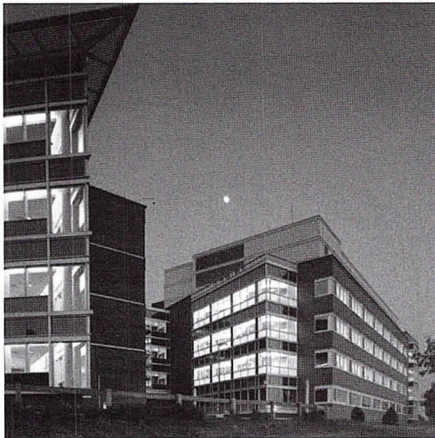
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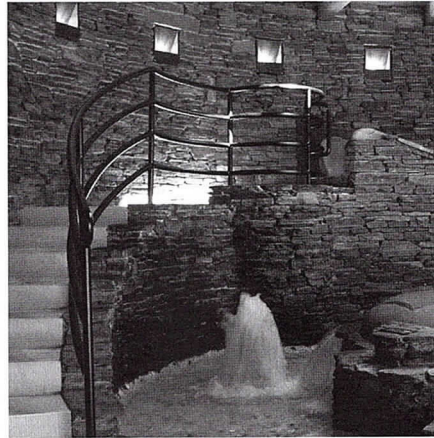
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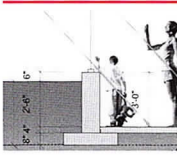
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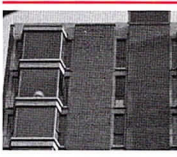
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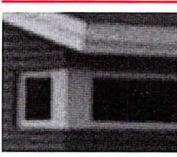
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Calendar




Cover image: Provided by Marcia Weese


■ First Tuesday Happy Hour

Tues., January 9, 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.
 Rock Bottom Brewery
 1 W. Grand Ave.
 Sponsor: Young Architects Forum

Welcome the new year at our monthly happy hour!

■ "Moving Beyond Congestion"

Wed., January 10, noon to 1:00 p.m. 
 AIA Chicago
 Sponsor: Regional & Urban Design KC

That's the strategic plan being prepared by the Regional Transportation Authority in partnership with CTA, Metra and Pace, to assess the regional transit system's preservation needs and determine how new investments can best improve regional mobility. RTA executive director Steve Schlickman will present the draft plan for discussion. Here is an opportunity for AIA members to provide feedback into the planning process which is due to be finalized early this year. Bring lunch; beverages provided. 1 LU/HSW 

■ Dongtan: Integrated Planning for an Eco-City

Wed., January 10, 5:45 p.m. 
 Merchandise Mart, Suite 8A
 Sponsors: Young Architects, Environment, Regional & Urban Design KCs

The work of Gary Lawrence, Urban Strategies Leader at Arup (Seattle), has laid the groundwork for current thinking on sustainable development. He will discuss the firm's master planning for Dongtan Eco-City, on an island near Shanghai, which will be the world's first sustainable city, a possible template for city planning not only in China but elsewhere in the world. Directions to Room 8A: from first or second floor of Mart, take elevator at west end of building to 8th floor.


1 LU/HSW 


■ ARE Study Hall

Tues. and Wed., January 16, 17, 23, 24
 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., Matthei and Colin Associates, 332 S. Michigan Ave., #614
 Sponsor: Young Architects Forum


AIA Chicago has purchased all the available ARE and LEED study materials, and anyone preparing for the Architect Registration Examination is welcome to attend these sessions. This month's host is Kevin Myschock, Assoc. AIA.

■ A Plan for 21st Century Chicago

Tues., January 16, 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. 
 AIA Chicago
 Sponsors: Environment, Regional & Urban Design KCs

Zoka Zola, AIA, RIBA, will present her project, "A Plan for 21st Century Chicago" and show how three to eight changes to the current Chicago Zoning Ordinance would provide innumerable benefits and transform Chicago: more affordable homes and every home would have a garden. She is working with the City on a demonstration project for this plan. Her "Zero Energy House" will also be presented. 1.5 LU/HSW 


■ Grow Your Business through Market Sector Planning

Wed., January 17, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. 
 AIA Chicago
 Sponsor: Practice Management KC

Many successful firms have managed to overcome the common "we-must-be-all-things-to-all-people" trap by matching core competencies with trends and forecasts to remain ahead of the curve. The secret: concentrating on the client type in order to increase market penetration. Anne Scarlett, Scarlett Consulting, will show how market sector planning fits into your bigger strategic marketing and business development plan. She will cover the steps to creating an action plan for each market sector that will

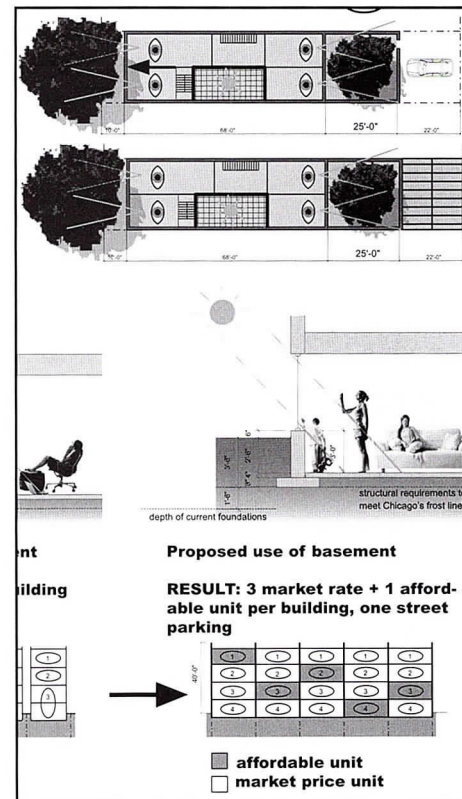
promote the firm as an expert and increase market share and offer tips to increase marketing/business development productivity through a well-orchestrated, highly informed planning process. 1 LU

■ Roofing 1 - Basics and Alternative Systems

Thurs., January 18, 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. 
 Chicago Bar Association
 321 S. Plymouth Court
 Sponsor: Technical Issues KC

Joanne Rodriguez, Tremco Roofing, will review the different roof systems typically available and provide a basic examination of their strengths and weaknesses, as well as industry statistics concerning their performance characteristics. Bring lunch or buy at CBA cafeteria (purchase ticket on first floor). 1 LU/HSW

Detail of Zoka Zola's proposed Guidelines included in her "A Plan for 21st Century Chicago."




Sign Me Up!

Architecture with a Twist

Sat., January 20, 5:30 p.m. and Tues., January 23, 8:00 p.m., Gene Siskel Film Center, 164 N. State Street

Enjoy an evening viewing two architecture-based movies back-to-back. The first movie, "The Socialist, The Architect, and the Twisted Tower" (*Sossen, Arkitekten och det Skruvarde Huset*), is a saga that spirals to the edge of disaster. The head of a Swedish housing cooperative attempts to bestow a monumental sculpture on his not entirely eager members by hiring architect Santiago Calatrava to construct the unique "Turning Torso" as a residential high-rise. In Swedish and English with English subtitles (2005, Fredrik Gertten, Sweden, 59 min.).


In the second movie, "Building the Gherkin," the tense race to complete London's controversial Norman Foster-designed office tower on the site of an IRA bombing runs parallel to public debate over whether the building is a visionary addition to the skyline or whether the city has gotten itself into a pickle. (2005, Mirjam von Arx, Netherlands, 52 min.) Admission is \$7.00 for AIA members with membership card/students/film center members; \$9.00 general admission. For more information, please call the Gene Siskel Film Center at (312) 846-2600. 


Global Warming and Green Building

Wed., January 31, registration/lunch 11:30 a.m., program 12:15 p.m. East Bank Club, 500 N. Kingsbury St. Sponsors: CREW, AIA Chicago

Global warming is a fact, but what does it have to do with green buildings? Learn how two major local institutions - City of Chicago and Exelon Corp. - are addressing the impetus to build green. Mayor Daley has made green building a priority for all city buildings and declared that Chicago will be the greenest city in the nation.



Exelon has designed their new headquarters in Chase Tower with the goal of a LEED Platinum rating. Speakers: Helen Kessler, FAIA, HJKessler Associates; Sadhu Johnston, Chicago Dept. of Environment; Deborah Kuo, Exelon Corporation. \$40 CREW, AIA members; \$50 non-members (\$50/\$60 after Dec. 26; \$65/\$75 at the door). Reservations at www.crewchicago.org or by fax to 630/571-0253. 1 LU/HSW 

 denotes that this program reflects the goals of AIA150 - celebrating the past, designing the future - and AIA's 10 Principles of Livable Communities. For 150 years, members of The American Institute of Architects have worked with each other and their communities to create more valuable, healthy, secure, and sustainable buildings and cityscapes. Learn more at www.aia150.org and www.aia.org/nav_atp.

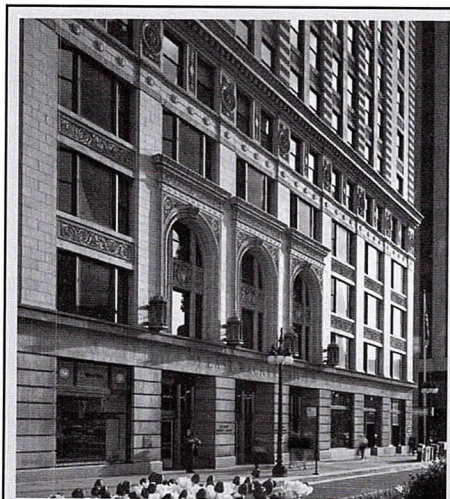


Photo by Jon Miller, Heinrich Blessing

AIA Chicago is Moving!

In late January or early February, AIA Chicago will relocate to the Jewelers Building, 35 East Wacker Drive. If you are planning to attend a program at AIA Chicago during this time, please check our Web site to verify whether your program takes place in Suite 1049 at the Merchandise Mart or in Suite 250 at the new building.

- 1/10 "Moving Beyond Congestion"
- 1/10 Dongtan: Eco-City
- 1/16 A Plan for 21st Century Chicago
- 1/17 Market Sector Planning
- 1/18 Roofing 1 - Basics and Alternative Systems
- 1/31 Global Warming and Green Building

ARE STUDY HALL

- 1/16
- 1/17
- 1/23
- 1/24

Register online at www.aiachicago.org

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All programs listed above are free or as noted for AIA Chicago members. Non-members will be charged \$15 per program or as noted.

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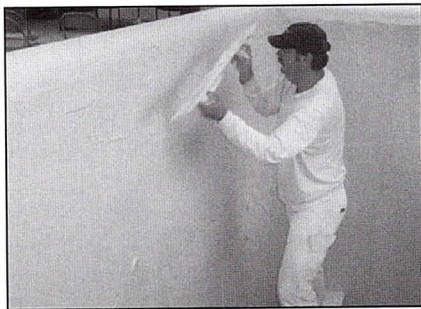
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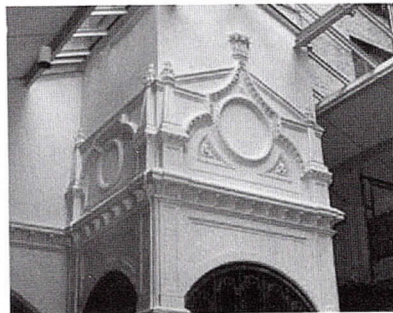
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As is customary, we concluded the year by recognizing AIA and community members for their significant achievements.

Notable among the Professional Excellence Award recipients is Walter Netsch, Jr., FAIA. He earned a Lifetime Achievement Award for his dedication to our profession. Like Harry Weese, whose influence on Chicago is this month's feature story, Walter Netsch's work and influence remain present in Chicago. We are proud to count Walter as one of our members and we were delighted to present him with this award. You can read more about his contributions on page 22 of this issue.

Additional recognition is given to members listed below who achieved 50 and 25 years of membership with the AIA.

50 Year Members

William Friend, AIA
Aubrey Greenberg, FAIA
August Ignelzi, AIA
Campbell Kane, AIA
Howard Kessler, AIA
Charles Murphy, Jr., FAIA
Frederick Thulin, Jr., AIA
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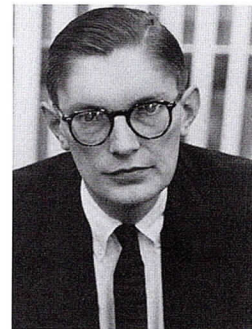


Image courtesy of SOM archives, photo by Arthur Seigel

A young Walter Netsch, Jr., FAIA, during his early years at Skidmore Owings & Merrill

This year will see major changes for the chapter. They include:

- A new office space, designed on a new concept at 35 E. Wacker Second Floor
- A new set of communication tools, all newly designed.
- A new magazine published with a major partner
- And celebrations in recognition of AIA's 150th year. Look to the programs section for special lectures and events created with the AIA 150 ideals in mind.

Your new Board will move quickly to be more visible advocates for a better city and a stronger role for architects. And it starts now!

Laura A. Fisher

Laura Fisher



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New AIA Video Available

A new video, Introduction to AIA's Contract Documents, is now available for viewing on the AIA web site. Please watch the video at your convenience at:

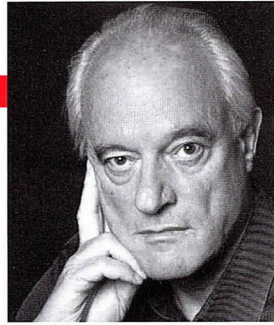
www.aia.org/movie/flash/docsprinter/start.htm. This is a free tool available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The video presents general information on the various families of documents, such as the A201, Design-Build, Small Projects and International Projects. Visit the Website and then visit www.aiachicago.org to order documents and get the AIA member discount.

Harley Ellis Devereaux Played a Role in LEED Recycling Center

Harley Ellis Devereaux provided exterior and interior design as well as Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) consulting services for the Chicago area's newest drop-off point for household waste. The newly-opened Household Materials and Electronics Recycling Center, located on historic Goose Island, is the first facility of its kind to use green technology.

The Chicago Department of the Environment, Department of General Services, the Mayor's Office of Workforce Development and the State of Illinois hired a multi-disciplinary team to design an innovative materials collection facility. The result is a holistic approach to sustainability that incorporates not only the physical building but also the mission of the services inside and the people who perform them: a true triple bottom line project.

One of only a few permanent facilities in Illinois, residents of Chicago and surrounding communities now have a "safe" place to dispose of chemical and other wastes such as paints, solvents, motor oil, household cleaners, lawn and garden chemicals, gasoline, mercury and fluorescent light bulbs as well as electronic equipment, computers, and cell phones. Located on the site of a former warehouse and incinerator space, the 14,000-square foot building required substantial retrofitting to meet current government regulations and building codes. This adaptive reuse project was designed to be LEED certified per The Chicago Standard, introduced in 2004 and derived from the U.S. Green Building Code's LEED rating system to "conserve energy, reduce costs and improve quality of life." The site is shared with other City offices and a working dock on the North Branch of the Chicago River.



Dirk Lohan, FAIA

Image courtesy of the firm

Lohan Named Chairman of Chicago Central Area Committee

Dirk Lohan, FAIA, Principal and co-founder of Lohan Anderson, has been formally installed as the new chairman of the Chicago Central Area Committee (CCAC). Mayor Richard M. Daley attended Lohan's installation, which took place at the organization's 50th Anniversary celebratory luncheon.

CCAC was established to advocate a vital and vibrant downtown Chicago. It played a historic role in the development of the south loop, some 40 years ago. It has since consistently led public discussions about planning for and revitalization of Chicago's central area. "The Board and I will foster new ideas for Chicago's future," said Mr. Lohan, a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects.

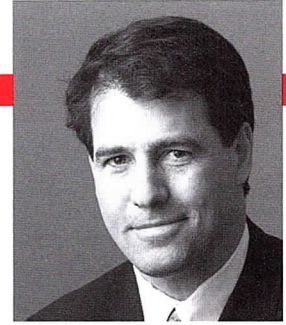
CCAC, whose members include many large building owners and lease holders in the loop, supports a vision for the central area of Chicago that enhances its global competitiveness and quality of life, translating that vision into physical plans, and taking the necessary collaborative actions to implement those plans.

Zurich Esposito Gives Lecture on Design Excellence Awards

Hear Zurich Esposito, Executive Vice President, AIA Chicago, give a presentation on the AIA Chicago Design Excellence Awards. The lecture is part of the Eric R. Malthauf Lunchtime Lecture series and takes place on Wednesday, January 10th at 12:15-1:00 p.m. Free and open to the public

No reservations are required. Guests are welcome to bring a bag lunch. The lecture will be held at the Chicago Architecture Foundation in the The John Buck Company Lecture Hall Gallery just off the atrium lobby of the Santa Fe Building, 224 South Michigan Avenue.

Wednesday Lunchtime Lectures are worth one Continuing Education Learning Unit with AIA/CES. Call (312) 922-3432 ext. 266 for further information.



Patrick Loughran, AIA, LEED AP, PE

Image courtesy of the firm

Patrick Loughran Releases Book

Patrick Loughran, AIA, LEED AP, PE has written a new book *Failed Stone: Problems and Solutions with Concrete and Masonry*. The book's jacket says "This book explains how to avoid typical modes of failure. It systematically analyzes cases of problems in contemporary international architecture [and] offers strategies for minimizing risks of damage.... The focus of the book is on how these defects can be avoided and what the practitioner needs to bear in mind to this end."

Loughran will give a brief presentation about this topic and sign books at the Prairie Avenue Bookstore on Wednesday, February 7, from 6-7:30 pm. The bookstore is at 418 South Wabash, Chicago. The book will retail for \$69.95, and they will offer a 10% discount at the book signing.

Seventh Edition of Olin's Construction Released

Olin's Construction: Principles, Materials, and Methods, by Harold Olin, has been released in a seventh edition. It is a widely adopted course textbook in nearly 200 colleges and universities offering architectural and building technology curricula. It also has become a standard reference source in professional offices. Organized by the MasterFormat 2004 Edition, *Olin's Construction*, Eighth Edition, features more than 1,200 informative illustrations, including 150 new images; new information on sustainability and construction management; and it reflects the expanded adoption of the ICC® Codes.

Harry Weese

Chicago Advocate

By Laurie Petersen

Harry Weese's legacy is so pervasive that it has become almost invisible. Long before the ideas of loft living or a 24-hour downtown became commonplace, architect Harry Weese (1915-1998) envisioned a vibrant Chicago that would be a magnet for residents as well as workers and tourists. In 1977, when the population of the central city was negligible and corporate headquarters filled the Loop, he wrote in *Process* magazine, "The regenerated city will be denser, greener... and more responsive to human needs and individual creativity. People will live in town and go to work on the fringes."

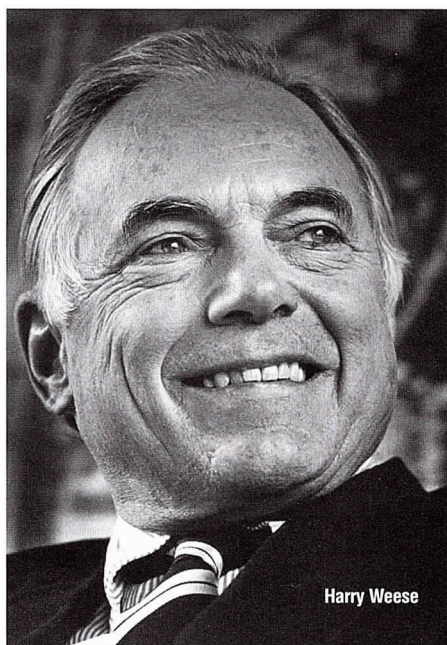
Weese not only envisioned it, he was a catalyst for many of the changes that made it happen. Always an iconoclast, he took unexpected paths and lived to see time prove him right. After several years of study and naval service, Weese returned to 1940s Chicago as an architect full of idealism about sweeping cities clean with the new broom of modernism. But instead, he became one of the City's most ardent preservationists. Weese saved individual landmarks such as the Auditorium Theatre and whole neighborhoods such as Printers Row.

"I had many heroes..."

Born in 1915, Weese grew up in Kenilworth in a family whose banker father and artistic mother produced three architects and two artists. His brother John studied with Mies at IIT and later became a partner at Skidmore, Owings & Merrill's San Francisco office. Benjamin, 14 years Harry's junior, spent two decades at Harry Weese & Associates before leaving in 1977 to found his own firm, now known as Weese Langley Weese.

Weese enrolled in MIT's five-year architecture program, which had vestiges of creaky Beaux-Arts instruction but

provided a solid grounding in engineering. (Weese became a registered structural engineer.) And it offered lectures by Alvar Aalto who, along with Le Corbusier and the Kecks, became a great influence on him. Weese said in his 1988 oral history, "I didn't need Mies since I had many heroes, and I didn't think he was right for everything... Aalto would be more nearly right, because he was closer to nature."



Harry Weese

Image courtesy of Marica Weese

After an interim year at Yale and a summer of bicycling all over Europe, Weese spent his final year at MIT doing a thesis on prefabricated buildings. It was a time of unparalleled experimentation in residential construction technology, and that spirit of innovation stayed with Weese throughout his long career.

A fellowship to the Cranbrook Academy of Art provided more contact with Aalto as well as the Saarinens. Harry Bertioia's metal-working lab became a furniture and design studio for Weese and his new friend Benjamin Baldwin. This "Scandinavian Bauhaus" was perfectly suited to Weese's wide-ranging interests.

Returning to Chicago in 1940, he worked for a year at Skidmore, Owings & Merrill before opening an office with Baldwin. The war intervened, however, and Weese spent the years from 1941 to 1946 as an engineering officer on naval destroyers. In 1945 he married Baldwin's sister Kitty who became a key partner professionally as well as personally.

"If you don't like something, do something better."

Back in post-war Chicago Weese and his wife joined forces with Jody Kingrey to launch a unique venture: a modern furniture and design store combined with an art gallery. Furniture lines included Artek, designed by Aalto, and Weese's own Baldrey pieces. The concept of high design at affordable prices was a first in the Midwest and it proved so successful that Weese left Skidmore in 1947 and opened his own practice in a back room of the store.

Having admired Keck and Keck's House of Tomorrow in 1933, he became interested in methods of increasing solar gain in homes. He later also resuscitated the bay window for use in high-rise apartments and revived the townhouse for modern urban living. Weese started his practice in the most common of ways: designing houses for friends and family. Post-war shortages called for the utmost in spatial ingenuity and innovative material use. The Weese family's first house, in Barrington, was just 36 feet by 36 feet and had a steel frame structure and radiant heat in the concrete slab floor. Its open plan featured a "disappearing" kitchen on casters. Their weekend retreat designed a decade later was still only 1600 sq. ft. but was named one of *Architectural Record's* best houses of 1960. Open plan living, energy efficiency including solar control, unexpected spatial

First Baptist Church in Columbus, 1965
Weese was one of the first and most prolific contributors to the architecture of Columbus, Indiana. The First Baptist Church of 1965 is considered his masterpiece.



Chicago History Museum, Hedrich Blessing Collection

experiences, and a continuing experiment with structure and form were hallmarks of his work.

The prosperity of the 1950s enabled Weese to proceed with his five-year plan of diversifying into other building types. The 13 commissions he received in Columbus, Ind. began with modest rental housing and reached an apex with the 1965 First Baptist Church. The church's simple but powerful geometry executed in a warm palette of brick, slate and wood give it a timelessness that is rare in buildings of that era. Stanley Tigerman, FAIA, who studied with Weese at Yale and briefly worked for his firm, says "in a city of great buildings, his First Baptist Church is by far the best."

Even when designing a Miesian office building for a corporation, Weese produced distinctive work. To create greater shadows and depth on the façade of the 1967 Time-Life Building, the top of each glass panel is bent inward. This also made it possible to lift entire pre-glazed bays and place them in the frame. The gold-tinted glass, subsequently used by many others, made the client nervous enough to request an interior mock-up. Weese's team discovered that using vivid greens in the fabrics and plants would compensate for the greenish tint caused by the glass.

Weese's work defies easy categorization because he approached each project as a fresh challenge, and each

building is uniquely suited to its site and program. Thus Cranbrook-influenced warm modernism was appropriate for the Baptist church, with its bearing brick walls and heavy timber roof construction, while a variant of Miesian modernism was the choice for Time-Life. There are several unifying themes, however. He conveyed his sense of humanism, a deep concern for the building's users as well as the public, by providing rich spatial experiences and elements of visual surprise, and by paying close attention to how the building meets the ground and relates to its landscape. Even the buildings that have a strong sculptural quality fit into their surroundings. Bold geometric

Continued on page 12

227 E. Walton apartments
Weese reintroduced the bay window in apartment buildings
at 227 E. Walton, from 1957.



Chicago History Museum, Hedrich Blessing Collection

shapes often evoke, without imitating, historic forms. Exteriors are expressive of interior form and function, usually through the variety of fenestration types and placement. Material choices were driven by an appreciation of tactile qualities such as those of smooth or coarse-finished concrete and rough brick.

"There are plenty of parking lots to build on. There's no use tearing down our heritage."

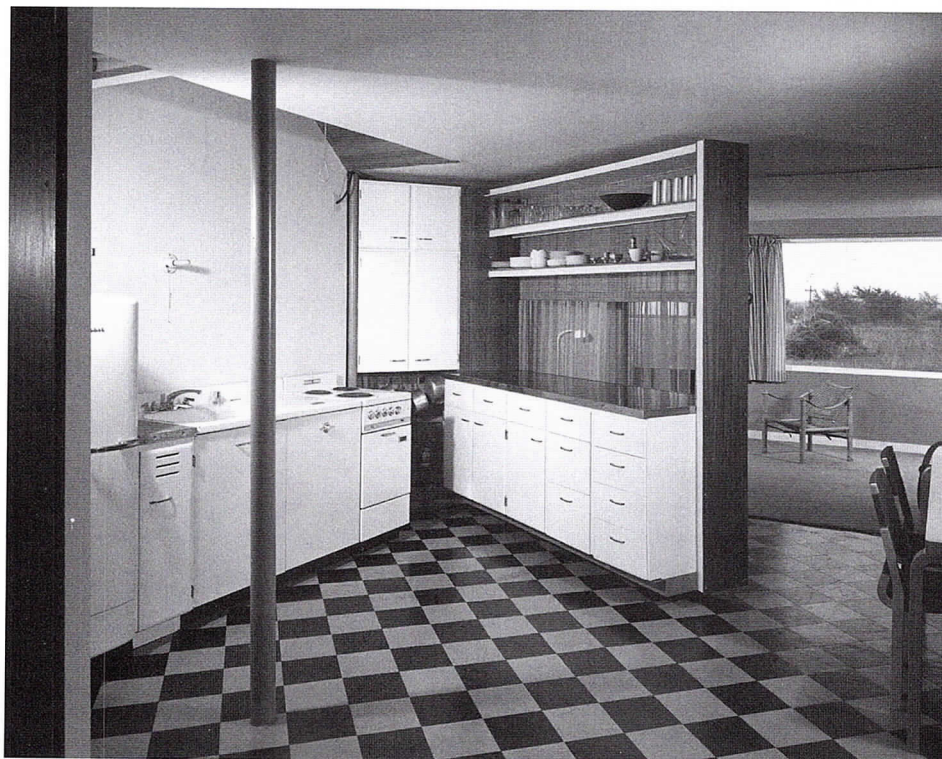
Weese applied his ingenuity to the problem of old buildings and became a pioneer of Chicago preservation. Never shy about speaking his mind or proposing his own solution, he used a combination of verbal activism and design talent to save architecture that others thought too costly or too much trouble to preserve. Originally a fervent believer in the power of modernism, he explained the development of his thinking this way: "Maybe it's because my old man was a string saver. He'd make everything do, and he'd fix things up and make them run. I just thought that the revolution would sweep everything out of its way, but when I saw what we were building, I knew that it wasn't good for public buildings. Nobody could do a public library like our public library" (now the Chicago Cultural Center).

His first and most prominent achievement in preservation was the Auditorium Theatre. The building was owned and occupied by Roosevelt University, who acquired it in 1946, but the theater had not been used since its conversion to a bowling alley for servicemen during World War II. When Weese learned of Skidmore, Owings & Merrill's report claiming the theater's structural problems made restoration



Barrington family retreat exterior
The playfulness is in function as well as form; each bedroom balcony has a ladder for direct pool access.

Barrington Residence
In Weese's Barrington house of 1948, one wall of the kitchen pivots to enlarge the dining floor area.



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Continued on page 14

Barrington family retreat interior
The Barrington family retreat from 1957 offers a conversation pit, partial-wall kitchen, and second-floor bedrooms connected by a bridge suspended over the living spaces.



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"I wanted to save the whole city, not just pieces of it."

Rescuing individual landmarks was not enough for Weese. He had returned to Chicago to save a city that he thought was beginning to fall apart at the seams. In his typical activist fashion he started a committee to create plans for segments of the city such as Prairie Avenue. But his vision of urban renewal did not follow Corbusian towers-in-a-park principles. Instead he honored context, an almost unheard-of concept at the time.

His first exercise in a large urban project, the Hyde Park redevelopment of 1959, reintroduced the townhouse form as a basic building block of city neighborhoods. Other townhouses and apartment buildings followed, each contributing to its streetscape. Weese was also a pioneer in the development of River North. In 1965 he bought a warehouse at 10-20 W. Hubbard St. and created office space for his own firm. Two decades later he planned a large residential community on the Chicago River at Kinzie Street, where his Fulton House and River Cottages now stand.

His most impressive and influential achievement was the creation of a thriving urban neighborhood out of a dilapidated light industrial area: Printers Row. Weese was not alone in imagining new uses for abandoned railroad land just south of the Loop. His insight was to reuse the existing urban fabric of the nineteenth-century brick-and-stone buildings just north of the tracks. He predicted, against conventional wisdom, that people would want to live downtown in converted lofts.

Weese partnered with others, including realtor John Baird and Larry Booth, FAIA, to control and develop both sides of Dearborn Street from Congress Parkway to Polk Street. He nominated this area to the National Register of Historic

unfeasible, he came up with his own structural solution and promoted it to the building committee.

"He instinctively realized the inherent stability of the original materials," according to Tim Samuelson, cultural historian of the City of Chicago. He says that Weese was the only architect at that time who knew enough about the nature of old materials and structures to reuse them effectively. He also lauds Weese's instinct for improvisation and his ability to design contemporary features that

harmonize with the old. Where budgets did not allow for a full restoration, for instance with multiple shades of interior paint colors, Weese kept patterns intact so they could be restored at a later date. When the theater reopened in 1967 it was a triumph for preservation and for Weese, whose firm went on to restore other cultural landmarks such as the Field Museum, Orchestra Hall, the Newberry Library, and Buckingham Fountain.

Old Town Apartments in Chicago
Ben Weese took the lead on several residential projects such as the Old Town Apartments. In 1962 it was a rare example of investment in a marginal neighborhood.



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Continued on page 16



First Baptist Church in Columbus, 1965

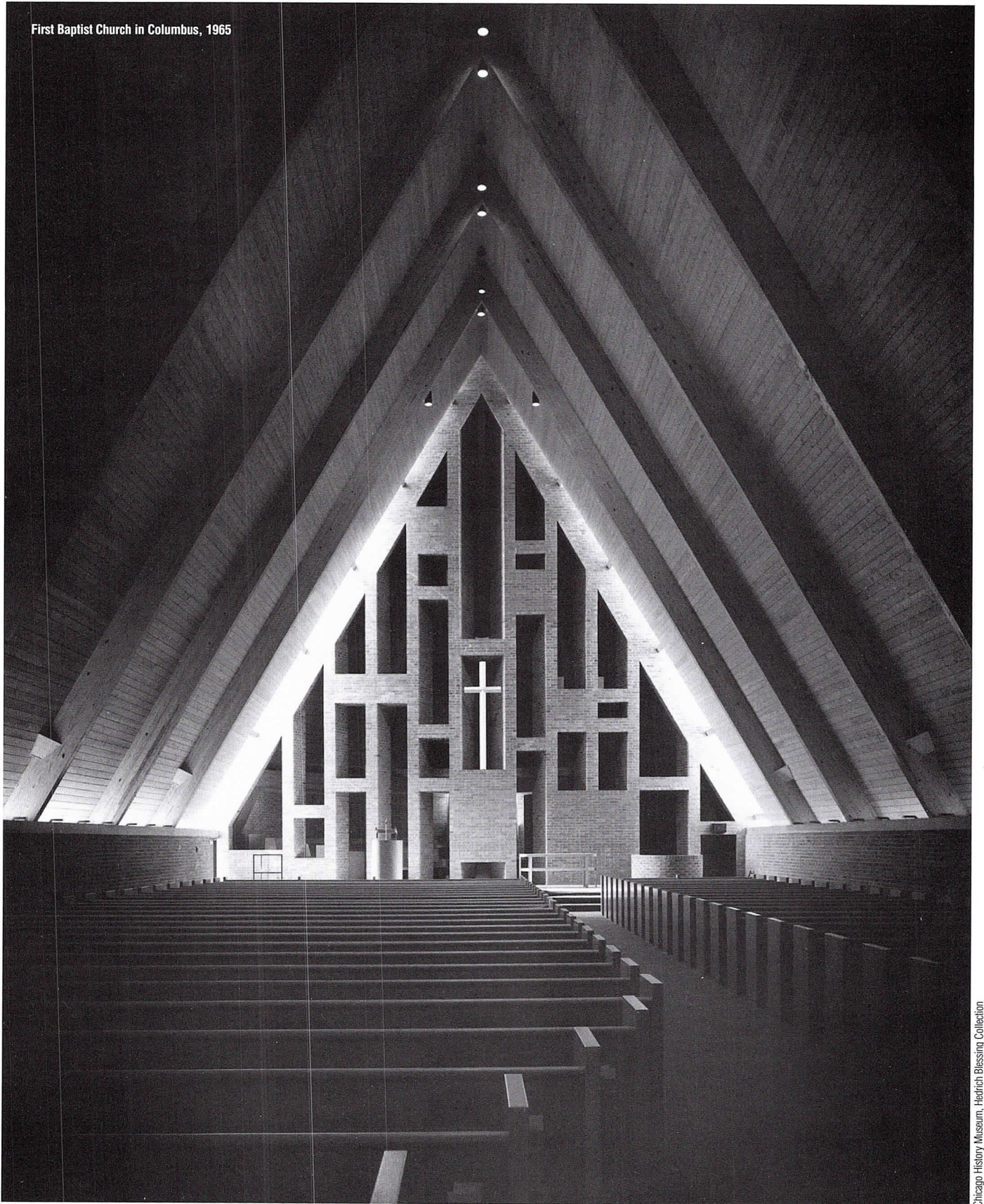
Places in 1976. Most of the buildings were renovated for residential use in the following decade by architects including Weese, Booth, Ken Schroeder, AIA, and Lisec & Biederman. In the late 1980s Weese's focus moved south to the development of Chinatown Square, where abandoned railroad tracks offered the chance to fill in the gap between traditional Chinatown and South Loop residences.

Weese was an activist in every sense. He wrote letters, called reporters, buttonholed public officials, joined local and national committees, served as president of AIA Chicago, and publicized his own schemes, plans and opinions. He was a vociferous opponent of tearing down the Elevated tracks in the Loop, a position that deeply antagonized the business community who wanted the tracks buried. Ben Weese says of his time with his brother's firm, "We sporadically gave the City unsolicited ideas and plans such as a median down La Salle Street, or designing the lower level of Wacker Drive along the river. Some of that got into the wind and has since been implemented." He adds that the work was done without any expectation of compensation.

The most prominent platform for Weese's opinions was *Inland Architect*. Founded in 1883, the venerable magazine had been revived by AIA Chicago in 1957 but by 1979 was deemed too expensive and controversial for the Chapter. Weese established the non-profit *Inland Architect Press* and assumed publication of the monthly. He subsidized it (at an estimated \$50,000 per year) until 1990. Edited by Cynthia Davidson for most of the 1980s, the magazine was a lively forum for critical debate about Chicago architecture. It also gave Weese a vehicle for promoting his grand civic visions and criticizing what he

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First Baptist Church in Columbus, 1965



Chicago History Museum, Heinrich Blessing Collection

Continued on page 18

perceived as the foibles of government, developers and fellow architects.

Not surprising for an ardent sailor, Weese was particularly vocal about issues affecting Chicago's river and lakefront. He advocated saving the buildings on Navy Pier and proposed building a marina for pleasure boats on its north side. Once again, Weese was remarkably prescient about the potential appeal of a then dilapidated piece of Chicago history.

"It belongs to all the people in the United States, not just the District."

Since Weese's all-encompassing vision placed particular importance on transportation systems, it is fitting that one of his greatest achievements is the Washington, D.C. Metro system. For the first time in such a public works project, the architects were given equal status with the project engineers and the result is a network of magnificent stations with coffered concrete arches. Weese credited Gordon Bunshaft's informal input for the idea of making all the stations have a uniform look, which ran counter to the current trend. He recounted in his oral history that Bunshaft told him, "It belongs to all the people in the United States, not

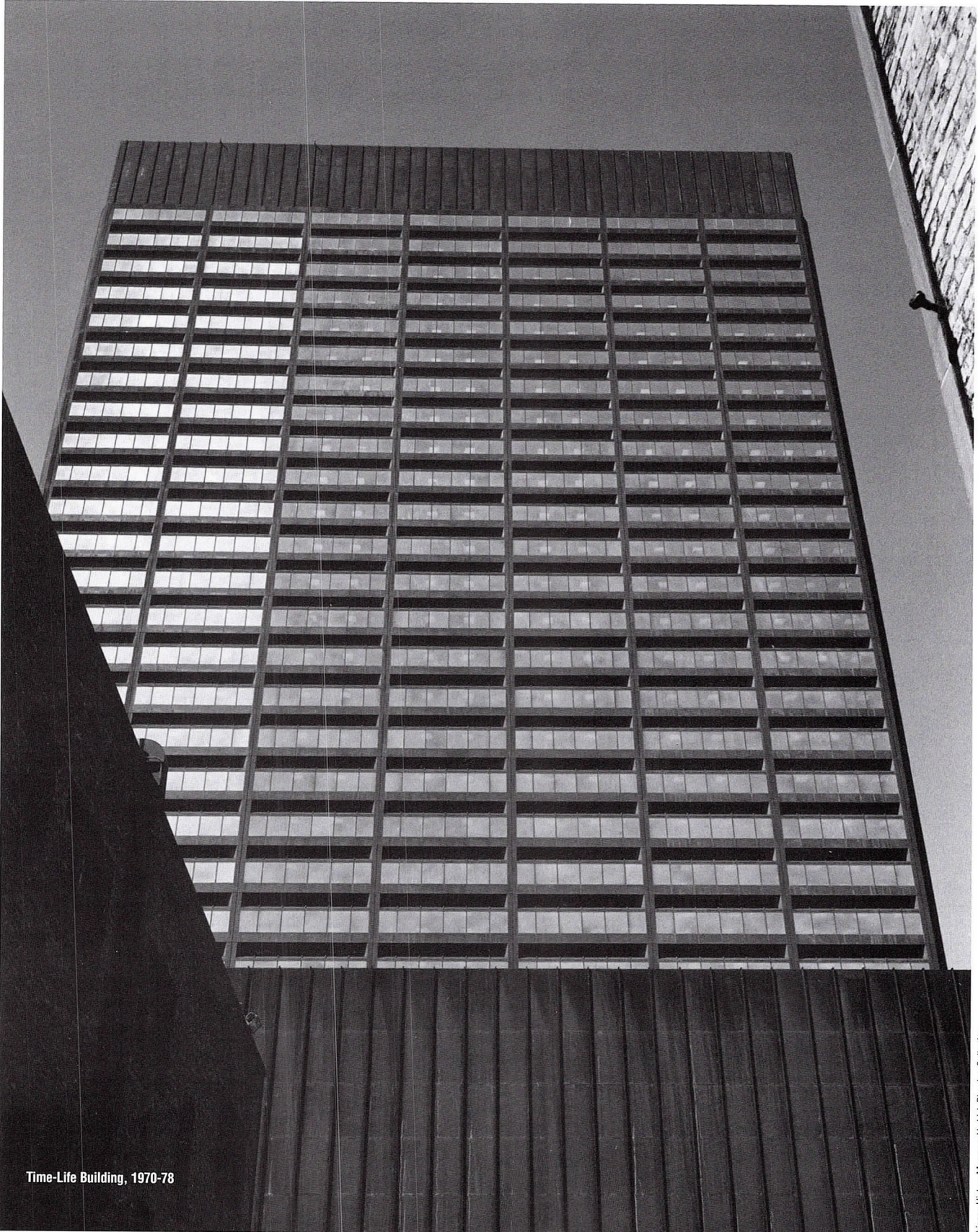
just the District."...So that's what got us going to a kind of federal look to it."

Another key role that Weese played in Washington was as a juror for the Vietnam War Memorial competition in 1981. Over 1,400 entries filled the hangar of Air Force One and as Weese was wandering among those that had been rejected by the professional advisor his eye was caught by one of them, which he thought was a "very alluring abstraction." He was impressed with the design and the chronological arrangement of names and later said "It just struck me as being much more vivid in history. He moved it closer and closer to the entries under



Metro in Washington, D.C.

Image courtesy of Ross Barney Architects



Time-Life Building, 1970-78

Chicago History Museum, Hedrich Blessing Collection

Continued on page 20

consideration and lobbied his fellow jurors. When it was finally selected and the designer's identity revealed, many in the large committee were shocked that Maya Lin was a student. Weese said "I thought that was just magic" and threatened to call a press conference if there was any going back on the jury's decision. Once again his contrarian's instincts for what people would respond to proved unerring.

"History is my higher power."

Like Daniel Burnham, Weese exported his visions of urban planning and transportation around the world but made the most indelible impact on his home city. The ideas of living near downtown, saving and adapting historic buildings, seeing the El and the Chicago River as amenities rather than nuisances—all were new and peculiar when Weese advocated them. His big-picture viewpoint reconciled his desire for innovation with his love of history. He went on to forge a new type of urban revitalization that we reap the benefits of today. ■

Laurie Petersen is the associate editor of the AIA Guide to Chicago. All Harry Weese quotations not credited to other sources, are from the Oral History of Harry Weese, interviewed by Betty J. Blum. Copyright 1988, the Art Institute of Chicago, used with permission. Created under the auspices of the Art Institute of Chicago's Department of Architecture, this and many other interviews are available online at www.artic.edu/libraries/caohp.



Auditorium Theater, 1967
The Auditorium Theatre reopened in 1967 after Weese saved it from destruction through his advocacy as well as design talent.

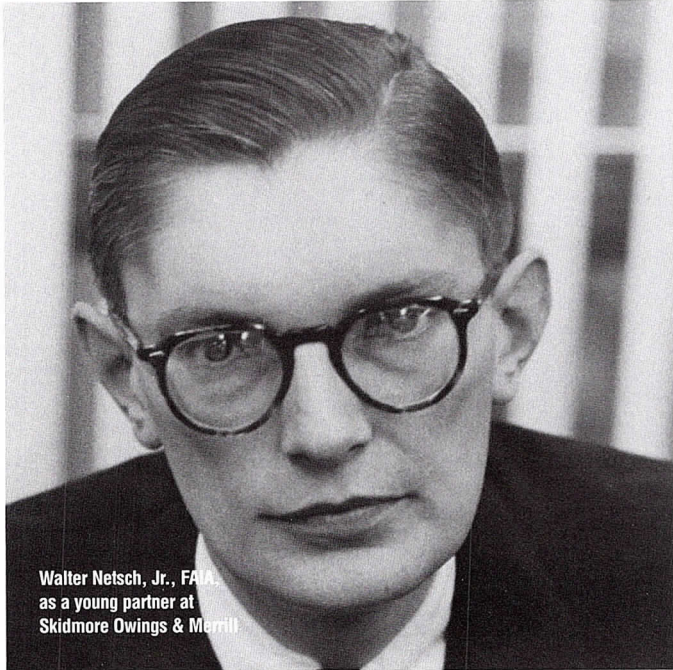
Chicago History Museum, Heinrich Blessing Collection

River Cottages
Weese saw the potential appeal of the Chicago River earlier than anyone except fellow iconoclast Bertrand Goldberg. The 1988 River Cottages are next to Fulton House, which Weese converted from a cold storage warehouse and envisioned as a keystone of a large residential development on Wolf Point.



AIA Professional Excellence Awards

Walter Netsch, Jr., FAIA, Receives Lifetime Achievement Award



Walter Netsch, Jr., FAIA, as a young partner at Skidmore Owings & Merrill

Image courtesy of SOM archives; photo by Arthur Seigel

Springs, Colorado; the University of Illinois, Chicago; The Art Institute of Chicago's East Wing; and the Regenstein Libraries at Northwestern University and the University of Chicago. Since retiring from SOM, he maintains a consulting practice in Chicago.”

His design for the Inland Steel Building won AIA's 25 year Award in 1982, to mention only one of his AIA awards.

Walter also served as president of the

Chicago Park District, as a trustee of the Museum of Contemporary Art, and as a member of the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards. These are just some of the positions in which he helped shape decisions made for our city and profession.

Some members of our profession have had a direct and lasting impact on our profession and on how the public looks at architecture. The Board of Directors decided to recognize this importance by presenting a Lifetime Achievement Award to one of our colleagues: Walter Netsch, Jr., FAIA. The Art Institute of Chicago summed up his career very neatly in introducing their 1995 oral history of him:

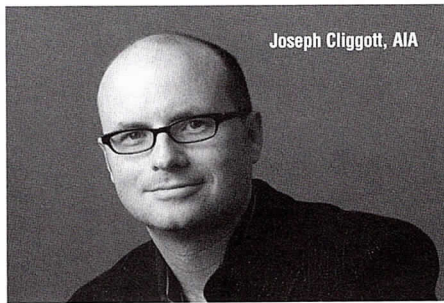
“Walter Netsch was born in 1920 in Chicago and studied architecture at MIT. Upon graduation in 1943 he enlisted in the U.S. Army. Returning to civilian life in 1946, he took a job with L. Morgan Yost, a residential architect practicing in the suburbs of Chicago. In 1947 he joined the San Francisco office of Skidmore Owings & Merrill. In 1951, he transferred to the Chicago office of SOM, where he became partner and developed his innovative architectural aesthetic, known as “field theory.” Netsch worked at SOM until retiring in 1979. Netsch's career included such important commissions as the U. S. Air Force Academy, Colorado

member. Joe joined Goettsch Partners in 1997. He served as Project Architect on both the UBS Tower and 111 South Wacker buildings in Chicago. Joe has actively pushed his firm's sustainable design agenda, and 111 South Wacker has been recognized as the first-ever building certified LEED-CS Gold.

Additionally, Joe is an active volunteer who mentors Chicago teens interested in architecture careers. He also serves on the Chicago Architecture Foundation's Architectural Advisory Board, which is helping the Chicago Public Schools update its 50-year-old drafting curriculum. “Joseph Cliggott's leadership has been instrumental in changing perceptions and attitudes in his firm as well as with clients,” summarized jurors who evaluated the nominations for this prize. “He exemplifies what a young architect should be,” the jurors wrote, “an architect who recognizes the importance of buildings on the community and the environment.”

Distinguished Service Award Winners, Frank Heitzman, AIA, and Erik Olsen, PE

The AIA Chicago Board of Directors selected two individuals for Distinguished Service Awards. Frank Heitzman, AIA, a former president of the Chicago chapter, was honored for his longstanding commitment to young architects. Since 1994, Frank has served as Intern Development Coordinator for the Chicago chapter. In this role, he has advised hundreds of interns on how to complete the IDP process and get through the licensing exam, and how to ensure they are being treated fairly in the workplace. His Web site on “how to become licensed to practice architecture in Illinois” is referenced in other states because it offers such a comprehensive review of IDP and



Joseph Cliggott, AIA

Image courtesy of the firm

2006 Dubin Family Young Architect Award Winner, Joseph Cliggott, AIA

Joseph Cliggott, AIA, senior associate with Goettsch Partners, received the 2006 Dubin Family Young Architect Award. The award was endowed by M. David Dubin, FAIA, several years ago on the occasion of his 50th year as an AIA

related issues. Recently, he started an online group so interns could share their questions and experiences with each other.

Since April 2005, Erik Olsen, PE, has guided the Green Permit Program of the Chicago Department of Construction and Permits. As the program's administrator, he has been instrumental in implementing an innovative permit process that encourages high performance, sustainable design, and LEED certification through incentives for compliance. Erik's nominator wrote, "I believe it is safe to say that no other public program has influenced private development to engage high performance building design as substantially. Cities across the nation now look to Chicago as a leader in the field." Erik also maintains a Web site called "Green Bean" that tracks green design projects throughout the city.

Presidential Citations

Presidential Citations are a way to recognize special accomplishments by our members during the year. The **Young Architects Forum** received a Presidential Citation for creating and executing the Genesis competition. This national competition invited participants to envision a new AIA Chicago office. Organized under the leadership of chair Marc Teer and co-chair Jessica Mondo, the competition resulted in 26 imaginative entries. From three finalists, one team was selected for the actual contract to design the new office space at 35 East Wacker Drive.

Helping the AIA Chicago Chapter in the search for the right new space was **Cheryl Stein**, Cheryl Stein and Company. Cheryl Stein received a Presidential Citation in recognition of her hard work in showing the Chapter a variety of downtown locations and assisting in negotiating the new lease. She is a

Professional Affiliate member of the Chicago Chapter and assisted in this important undertaking which will provide a professional home-away-from-home for our 2,900 members.

A Presidential Citation was presented to the **Healthcare Architecture Knowledge Community**, represented by chair Matt Miller and co-chair Jim Arends. Their committee presented a six-month lecture series on emergency department design. This was the committee's second lecture series for which they undertook significant fundraising efforts in order to support an ambitious program of presentations by local and national speakers who addressed an audience of designers, facility managers, and healthcare professionals.

The final Presidential Citation was presented to the **Richard Nickel Committee and Archive** in commendation for the preservation and organization of the Nickel photographic collection of some 11,000 negatives. The Nickel Committee, a non-profit organization which administers the archive, has printed some of the negatives to make the photographs more accessible to those doing scholarly or professional research in architecture, design and photography. The committee has also created a site to view the archive at 3152 North Cambridge Avenue. Ward Miller, executive director of the archive, and John Vinci, FAIA, accepted the citation.

Firm Award Winner - Murphy/Jahn

This year, AIA New Orleans reviewed the seven submissions that were submitted by AIA Chicago firms. The jury selected Murphy/Jahn for the honor. Here are some comments from the jury:

"The firm is at the forefront of integrating sustainable issues in their design choices in a very innovative way. They are always pushing the envelope with new technologies and new ways of using old materials."

"Murphy/Jahn has done superb work, historically and currently."

"Great collaborations between architects and engineers are characteristic of their practice."

"In reviewing the range of scale, sustainable projects, contemporary formal language, progressive technology, new materials, and public work, Murphy/Jahn has touched upon each, reaching the level of defining smart design." ■

PEOPLE/FIRMS

Christopher Chwedyk, AIA, has been named the chair of the AIA's 2007 Codes and Standards Committee. This committee discusses code adoption issues and makes recommendations for code changes. As chair, Chwedyk will also participate in committee meetings with related code organizations.

The Chicago-based architecture firm Valerio Dewalt Train Associates (VDTA) has officially opened a permanent office in San Jose, CA. The new venture will operate under the direction of VDTA principal Louis Ray. Antonio Caliz, an associate of the new office, is the office's managing director. Having a permanent presence in California is a natural progression for VDTA since the firm has had steady work in different parts of the state for nearly fifteen years, explains **Joe Valerio, FAIA**, founding partner of VDTA. "The firm's expansion out west means something personally to me as well since I did my graduate work in architecture at UCLA." VDTA's first project in California was the Colton Palms in Colton, CA, a senior housing project comprising 100 independent residential units as well as public buildings and spaces. More recently, VDTA designed a 20,000-square-foot facility in Hollywood for Kitchen Academy, a culinary institute that offers an

accelerated hands-on culinary training program leading to a Professional Culinary Diploma.

Hedrich Blessing is now located at 400 North Peoria Street, Chicago, 60622. Their phone number is (312) 491-1101 and Web site is hedrichblessing.com.

HOK Chicago has hired Sheryl Schulze as Director of Interiors. Her responsibilities will include the management of the interiors practice as well as advising on strategy, supporting the established HOK client base and expanding HOK Chicago.

Holabird & Root moved its office to the Marquette Building on December 8. The Marquette Building was designed by Holabird & Roche in 1895 and is a prestigious "Chicago School" building. The new address is 140 South Dearborn Street, 5th Floor, Chicago, Illinois 60603.

SmithGroup is relocating to the historic Jewelers Building, January 1, 2007. The new address will be 35 East Wacker Drive Suite 2200 Chicago, IL 60601. The Chicago office of SmithGroup is led by Andy Vazzano, FAIA, with Dan Mitchell, AIA, leading its Health + Science Studio and Barbara Falconer as Director of Business Development.

Property Solutions, Inc. is pleased to announce that **Michael Murphy Hobson, AIA**, has been named Senior Project Manager. Mr. Hobson will be responsible for Building Design Development, Project Management, and Construction Administration, including the Lafer Building Rehabilitation in Detroit, MI.



Michael Murphy Hobson, AIA

Jensen & Halstead Ltd. and Studio One Design are pleased to announce that Glenn D. Seerup, Principal; **Drina K. Nikola, AIA**, Senior Project Manager; and Sara Hopkins, Project Designer; are now Accredited Professionals of LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) working for the promotion of buildings that are environmentally responsible, profitable and healthy places to live and work.

William A. Barbour, AIA, has joined Robert V. Sierzega & Associates as Staff Architect.

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PROJECTS

Sydney and **Rodney Wright, FAIA** have been recognized by "Resource Efficient Homes Across America" for the design of the Cox Sustainable Home in Science Hill, Kentucky.

Ware Malcomb, an architecture, interior design and graphic design firm with an office in Oak Brook, Illinois, is proud to announce that The Woods at Oak Grove project is complete. Panattoni Development Company of Rosemont, Illinois, developed this project located on North Oak Grove Avenue in Waukegan, Illinois. Ware Malcomb provided planning and architectural design services for these two warehouse buildings. Both buildings are single story and include a two-story glass framed entryway at each end.

Patrick Dolan, **William Sturm, AIA**, and Christopher Wollmuth co-authored "Prairie Crossing Charter School: Comfort as a Principal Component of High Performance School Design." The article appeared in the Journal of Green Building (Volume 1, Number 3, Summer 2006). The Prairie Crossing Charter School was designed by Serena Sturm Architects, Ltd. and was completed in August 2005. The team completed construction of the second phase of the project this October adding a gymnasium and second classroom building for the school located in Grayslake, Illinois. The Prairie Crossing Charter School project further has been selected for school architecture exhibits by both the National Association of School Boards and the Illinois Association of School Boards.

The Morton College Library has been renovated by **Legat Architects**. Two years ago, the dull oranges and browns that dominated the library showed that the facility had not been updated since it was built in the early 1970s. "The project converted an antiquated space into a flexible, efficient information gathering hub," says Dr. Brent Knight, President of Morton College. "It also proves that an image-transforming college library renovation need not cost a fortune." The 19,000-square-foot space was reprogrammed and reorganized at a cost of \$60 per square foot. Image on page 27.

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Continued on page 26



Image courtesy of the firm

NEW MEMBERS

Marc Abadie, AIA, Loeb Schlossman & Hackl; Michael Levin, AIA, Gregg Jordan Smieszny; Atefeh Rahimpour, AIA, Solomon Cordwell Buenz & Associates, Inc.; Alejandro Stochetti, AIA, Skidmore Owings & Merrill, LLP; Jay Todisco, AIA, Ware Malcomb Architects; David Troszak, AIA, Harley Ellis Devereaux; Christopher Walsh, AIA, Newmann Homes

Associate AIA

Peter Conry, Kristine Fallon Associates, Inc.; Milena Cuk, Perkins & Will; Grant Day, Perkins & Will; Heather Kilmer, Studio/Gang Architects; Chunghwan Kim, DeStefano + Partners, Ltd.; Brent Ross, Teng & Associates, Inc.

Professional AIA

Leroy Danforth, Brick Industry Association; Ted Derby, Pohl Inc. of America

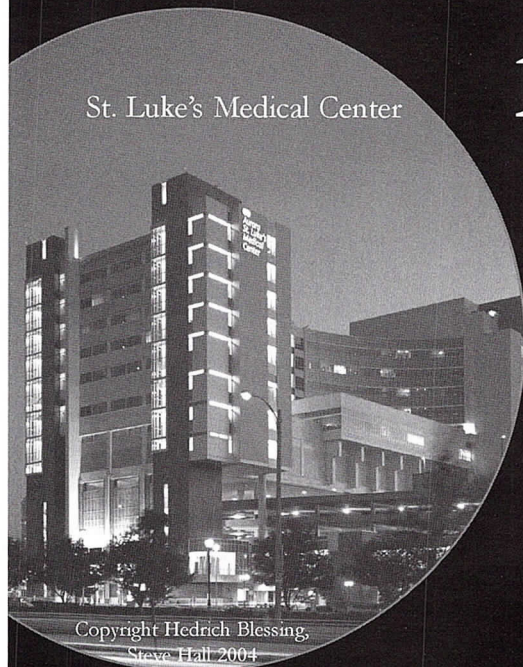
ERRATUM

In the December issue of *Focus*, we announced Christos Yiannias as a new AIA member; however, we erroneously listed Skidmore Owings and Merrill as his employer. Mr. Yiannias is employed by DeStefano and Partners. We regret the error.

Submit announcements to Alice Sinkevitch, Hon. AIA, at sinkevitch@aiachicago.org or AIA Chicago, 222 Merchandise Mart, Suite 1049, Chicago, IL 60654; 312/670-2422 (fax). High-resolution images are encouraged; call 312/670-7770 for details.

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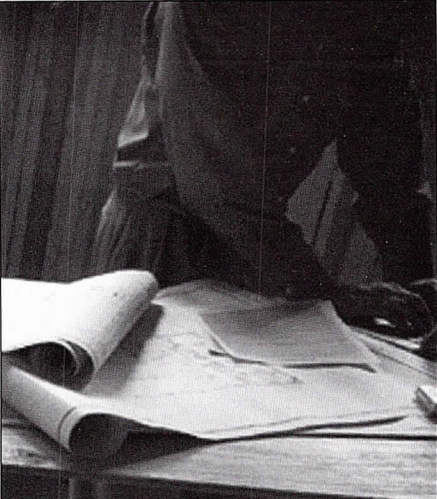
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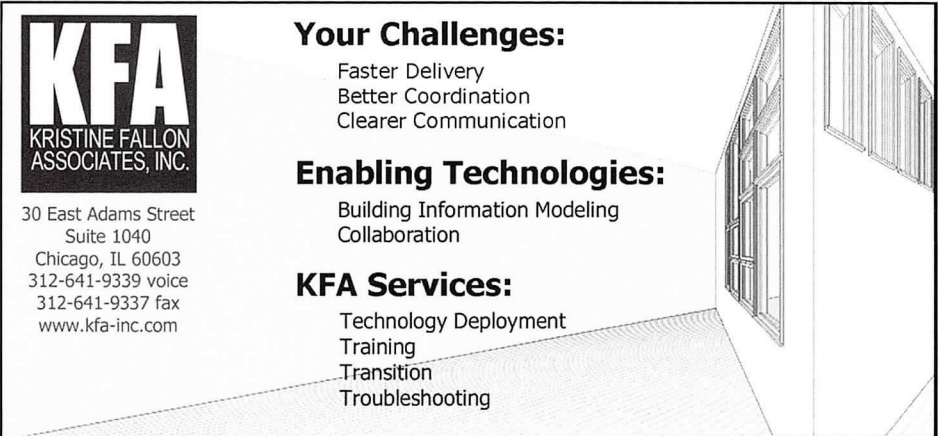
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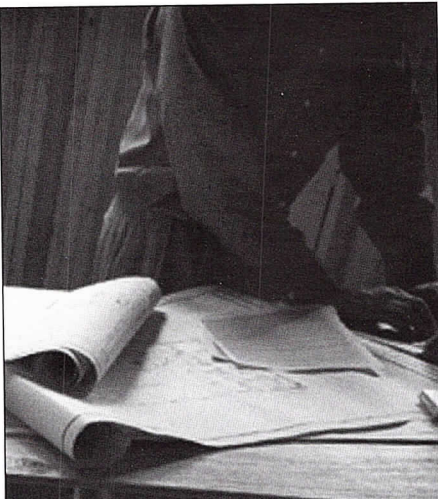
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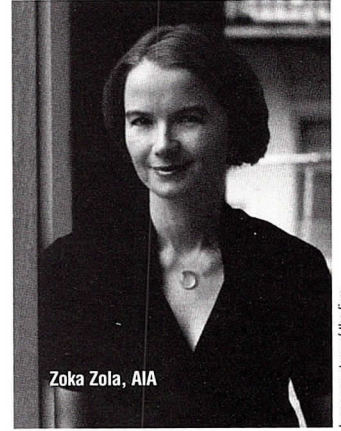
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Anne Scarlett

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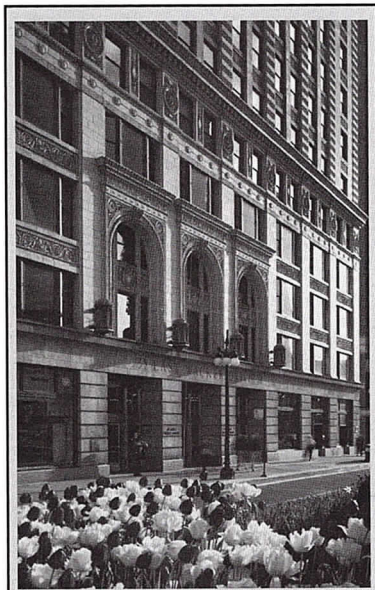


Photo by Jon Miller, Hedrich Blessing

AIA Chicago is Moving!

In late January or early February, AIA Chicago will relocate to the Jewelers Building, 35 East Wacker Drive. If you are planning to attend a program at AIA Chicago during this time, please check our Web site to verify whether your program takes place in Suite 1049 at the Merchandise Mart or in Suite 250 at the new building.

- 9** **First Tuesday Happy Hour**
Sponsor: Young Architects Forum
5:30 to 8:30 p.m.
Rock Bottom Brewery, 1 W. Grand Ave.
Welcome the new year at our monthly happy hour!

- 10** **"Moving Beyond Congestion"**
Sponsor: Regional & Urban Design KC
Noon to 1:00 p.m.
AIA Chicago

- 10** **Dongtan: Integrated Planning for an Eco-City**
Sponsors: Young Architects, Environment, Regional & Urban Design KCs
5:45 p.m.
Merchandise Mart, Suite 8A

- 16** **ARE Study Hall**
Sponsor: Young Architects Forum
Tues. and Wed., January 16, 17, 23, 24
6:00 to 8:00 p.m.
Matthei and Colin Associates
332 S. Michigan Ave., #614

- 16** **A Plan for 21st Century Chicago**
Sponsors: Environment, Regional & Urban Design KCs
5:30 to 7:00 p.m.
AIA Chicago
Presentation by Zoka Zola, AIA

- 17** **Grow Your Business through Market Sector Action Planning**
Sponsor: Practice Management KC
5:30 to 6:30 p.m.
AIA Chicago
Presentation by Anne Scarlett

- 18** **Roofing 1 - Basics and Alternative Systems**
Sponsor: Technical Issues KC
12:00 to 1:00 p.m.
Chicago Bar Association, 321 S. Plymouth Court

- 20** **Architecture with a Twist**
Sat., January 20, 5:30 p.m. and Tues., January 23, 8:00 p.m.
Gene Siskel Film Center, 164 N. State Street

- 23** **Green New Year Party (rescheduled from Dec. 12)**
Sponsor: Environment KC
5:30 to 7:30 p.m.
USG Solutions Center
222 W. Hubbard St., 3rd floor
Celebrate our 2006 achievements and goals for 2007 as AIA Chicago and Chicago Dept. of Environment renew their Memorandum of Understanding to carry out activities of mutual interest.

- 31** **Global Warming and Green Building**
Sponsors: CREW, AIA Chicago
Registration/lunch 11:30 a.m., program begins at 12:15 p.m.
East Bank Club, 500 N. Kingsbury St.

AIA Chicago



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