

# CHICAGO ARCHITECT

MAY // JUNE // 2016

2016 SMALL  
PROJECTS AWARDS // 23

LAKE STREET STUDIOS // 44



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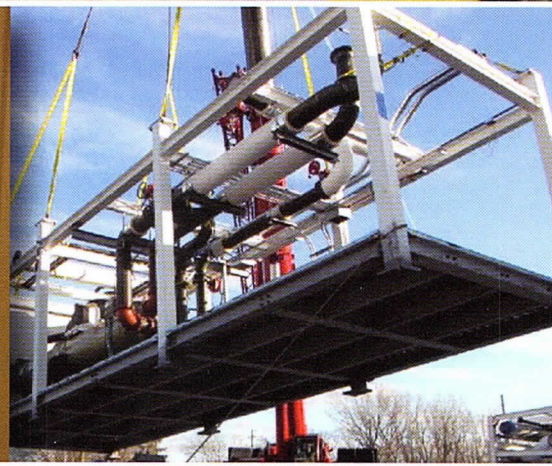
**PROJECT:** Halifax Central Library, Halifax, NS  
**DESIGN:** Gordon Ratcliffe Landscape Architect  
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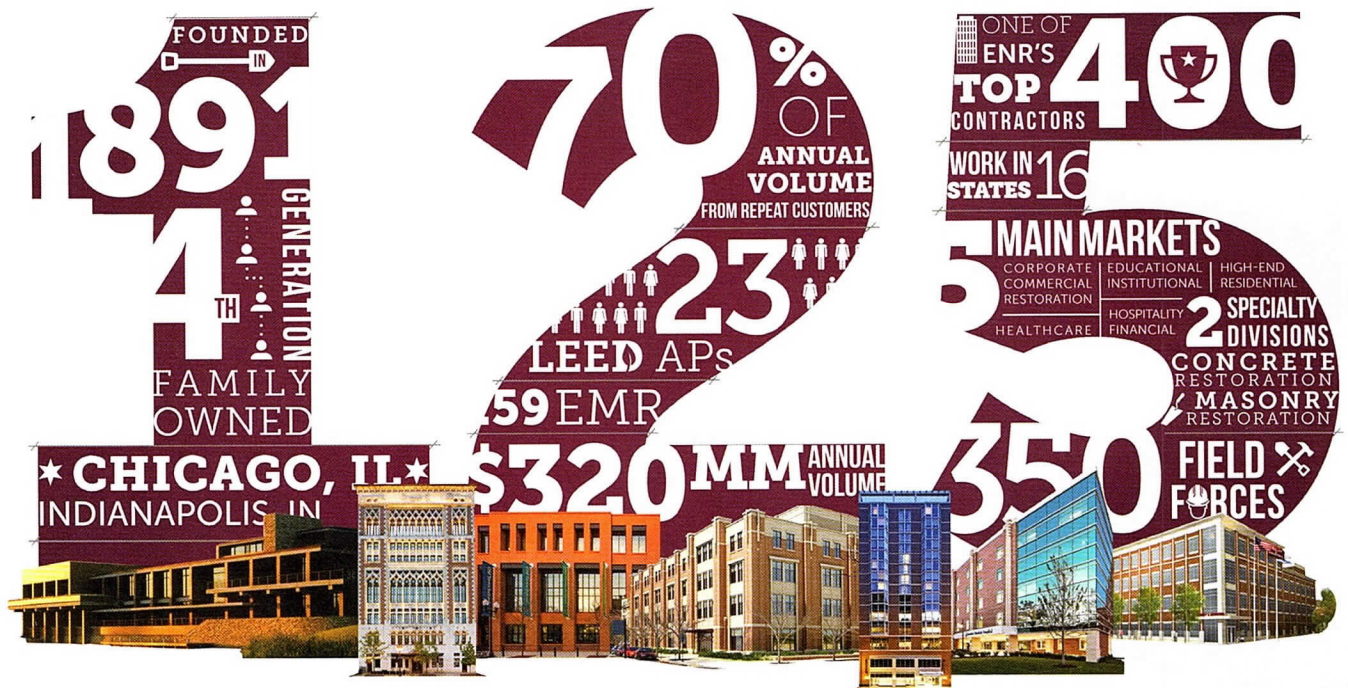


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Cover photo by James J. Jetel



Chicago Architect, the primary outreach publication of AIA Chicago, is published six times a year as an authoritative resource for architects, the larger design community and the public about architecture and related issues of interest to Chicago architects. The magazine communicates industry trends, the value of high-quality design and the role of AIA Chicago and its members in the world of architecture.

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## PRESIDENT'S LETTER



"God is in the details." – *Ludwig Mies van der Rohe*

This quote so aptly describes the work that is celebrated in this issue highlighting the Small Projects Awards. The details are perhaps even more agonizing for this work as compared to their larger-scale cousins as the success of an object or a small space hinges on each element working in unison. Meeting the needs of a client on a tight budget is also no small feat while achieving excellence in function and architectural design.

The range of work that the jury selected this year is revealing in the breadth of project type and location — spanning from Ghana to Uruguay to Hyde Park here in Chicago. The work itself demonstrates great ingenuity in reimagining the ubiquitous rear porch/fire escapes here in Chicago, chair designs that push the boundaries of materials or invite play and exploration, and revealing the innovative office space that can be coaxed out of a standard Chicago storefront footprint. Housing projects demonstrate creativity in finding ways to create open views for a small Chicago apartment, providing light and space within the context of a '70s modernist brick home and creating a successful off-the-grid residence in Uruguay through attention to building orientation, siting and sustainable design decisions.

One of the most inspiring projects in this year's SPA is the work of Illinois Institute of Technology alumni and students to design

and build a new library in Ghana. Students learned first hand how to adapt to unforeseen conditions while working with local materials, and local residents saw new application of common building elements. This work not only celebrates the building but the inspiration that a group of young architects and students can give to the community in which they work.

This ties well to the celebration in this issue of the Tiny Homes Competition. This event, begun in late 2015, saw more than 300 entries from across the world. The final designs illustrated a connection with our city and with the site that help us realize the possibilities for thinking about small living spaces to aid in addressing homelessness, particularly for young people, in our region. We look forward to the dialogue continuing as we join other cities in the quest for solutions to this pressing problem.

As we honor the amazing work of our member firms in both the Small Projects Awards and Tiny Homes Competition, may their work provide us with the inspiration to excellence in the details of our work and drive to engage in serving our communities.

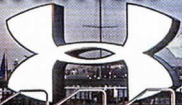
Dawn Schuette, FAIA

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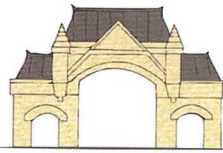
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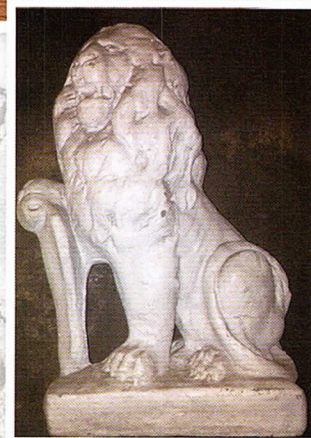
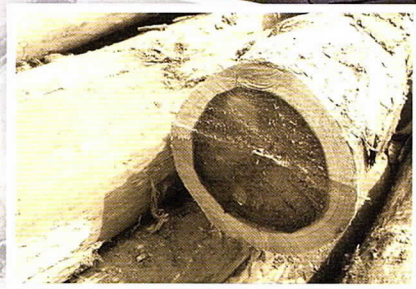
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CHICAGO



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# Contemporary Curve

## Jefferson County Western Health Center, Midfield, AL

Owner: Jefferson County Department of Health  
Architect: Birchfield Penuel & Associates, Birmingham, AL  
General contractor: M.J. Harris Construction Services, Birmingham, AL  
Installing contractor: CSC Roofing, Birmingham, AL  
Profiles: Tite-Loc curved, Reveal Wall Panels  
Colors: Cardinal Red, Sierra Tan



"The curved roof in Cardinal Red and the Sierra Tan metal wall panels complement the other materials and really create a contemporary appearance..."

Tom Kidwell, senior associate and project architect, Birchfield Penuel & Associates



**REVEAL**

Sierra Tan - Energy Star - Cool Color



**TITE-LOC**

Cardinal Red - Energy Star - Cool Color

CASE STUDY



See us at the AIA Expo - booth 2225





DEPARTMENTS

3 // CHAPTER REPORTS

5 // PEOPLE + PROJECTS

10 // A TO Z

CREATIVE CONNECTIONS:  
RANGE TALKS SMALL PROJECTS  
AND GROWING AN  
ENERGIZED CLIENT BASE

FEATURES

3 // 2016 SMALL PROJECTS AWARDS

HONOR AWARD

CITATIONS OF MERIT

2 // HOMEMADE, HOMEBOUND:

CHICAGO-BASED TEAMS SWEEP  
TINY HOMES COMPETITION

4 // LAKE STREET STUDIOS

HARLEY ELLIS DEVEREAUX BRINGS  
MICRO-LIVING TO NEW HEIGHTS

ON THE COVER

Honor Award  
Photographer's Balcony

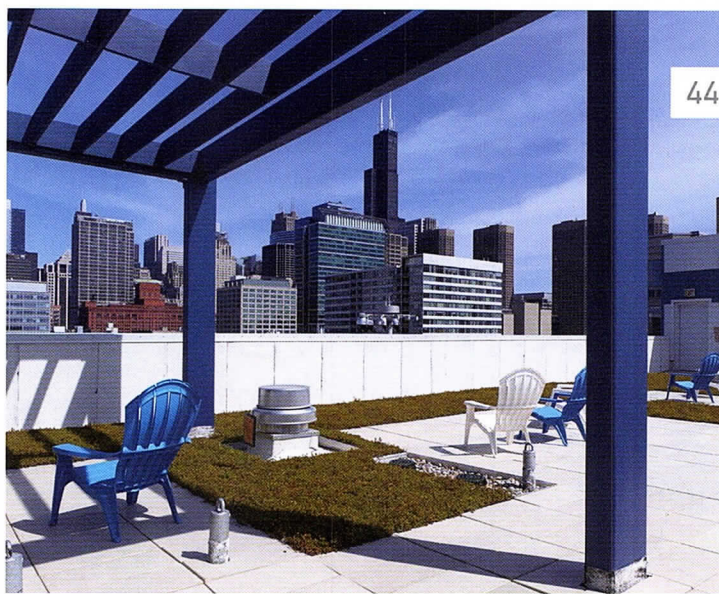


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OUR PREVIOUS ISSUE  
is available to view digitally  
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## VOTING AND THE AIA CONVENTION IN PHILADELPHIA

Peter Exley, FAIA, is running a strong campaign for AIA National's Board at-large director. AIA Chicago urges our members to vote; however, in order to do so, members must be a delegate, attend a delegate meeting prior to the convention, and vote on the final day of the convention. Questions about this process can be directed to **Zurich Esposito, AIA Chicago executive vice president**, [esposito@aiachicago.org](mailto:esposito@aiachicago.org) or 312.376.2780.

### Mr. Exley's platform:

*Our repositioned AIA has great momentum. We are an incredibly diverse group with a goal to make a difference in our communities and for our neighbors. Each of us does this as AIA, Associate AIA, FAIA, Professor, AIAs and as engaged citizens locally and globally. Whether we make small or big buildings, create interiors, teach or write about architecture, work in the public realm or the private sector in the city, the town or in small communities, each of us is an advocate for design excellence. We are thinkers, disruptors, influencers and problemsolvers. We imagine and we look up.*

## AIA CHICAGO MADE

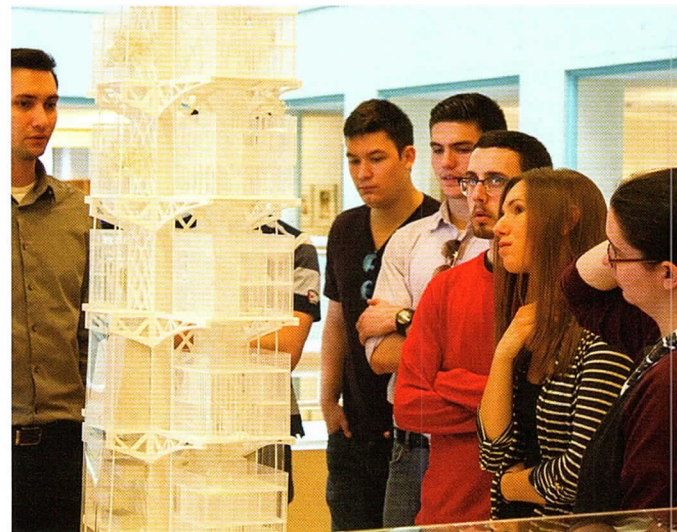
AIA Chicago has launched an exhibition series. Titled AIA CHICAGO MADE, the series showcases functional and decorative objects designed by AIA Chicago members. Each object will be on display in the AIA Chicago office for several weeks. A full roster of objects is available at [aiachicago.org](http://aiachicago.org) — stop by Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. to see what's on display.

The first of the series features ONA (pictured), a chair designed by Vojo Narancic, FAIA. The chair is built with woven-patterned carbon fibers, its flowing surface providing extra strength and comfort.



## AIA + CPS

Six Chicago Public High Schools toured Chicago architecture firms throughout the month of March. Students in CPS's Architecture and Construction cluster high schools enjoyed touring offices while meeting different members of teams. They heard presentations about architecture and design by firm leaders, and participated in lunchtime Q&As. Members of the AIA Chicago board, AIA Chicago Foundation board and the CIC knowledge community were instrumental in providing these design experience opportunities for more than 120 high school students.



## NEOCON KEYNOTE, SPONSORED BY AIA CHICAGO

Holiday Inn Mart Plaza  
50 W. Mart Center Drive  
Morgan Ballroom, 14th floor | 9-10 a.m.

Attend NeoCon and hear a keynote talk by architect **Oana Stanescu**, founding partner of Oana Stanescu Architects (New York City). Prior to starting the firm, Stanescu worked at a diverse array of award-winning offices around the world, including Herzog & de Meuron, OMA, SANAA and REX. She currently is involved in the + POOL project in New York, a Kickstarter-backed endeavor that involves installing a cross-shaped floating swimming pool in the East River. She has also worked with Kanye West on both tour sets and personal residential projects. Oana graduated from the University of Timisoara in Romania.

## 2016 DESIGN EXCELLENCE AWARDS ARE HERE!

Submit your project to the 2016 Design Excellence Awards through **May 26**. This year's categories are:

- » Distinguished Building Award
- » Interior Architecture Award
- » Divine Detail Award
- » Regional & Urban Design

Visit [aiachicago.org](http://aiachicago.org) to learn more. And mark your calendars for Designight 2016: Friday, October 14, at the Navy Pier Grand Ballroom.

## NOTHING

*Comes Between The Architect's Vision*

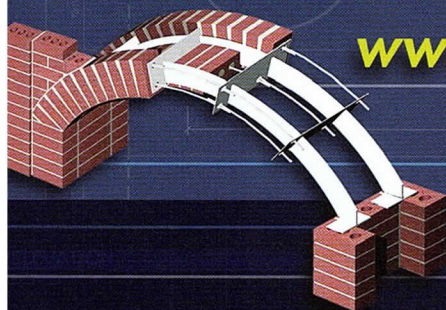
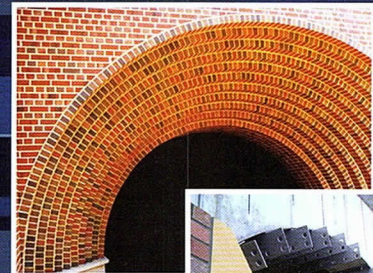
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## FAIA DISTINCTIONS

Congratulations to the 11 AIA Chicago members to receive the 2016 FAIA distinction.

### Categories

- » Category One: Promoted the aesthetic, scientific and practical efficiency of the profession.
- » Category Two: Advanced the science and art of planning and building by advancing the standards of architectural education, training and practice.
- » Category Three: Coordinated the building industry and the profession of architecture through leadership in the AIA or other related professional organizations.
- » Category Four: Advanced the living standards of people through an improved environment.
- » Category Five: Made the profession of ever-increasing service to society.

## MARY BRUSH, FAIA, PRINCIPAL AT MARY BRUSH ARCHITECTS



### Category Two

Mary Brush has been a pioneer in the inspection, design and restoration of the façades of buildings accessed by swing stage and industrial rope systems. When Brush began rappelling down buildings in 1998, an architect would rarely be considered for such tasks that were typically within the realm of engineers and contractors. Her hands-on investigation enables the discovery

of material behavior patterns in order to build sympathetic design solutions. Whether it is rappelling down towers to investigate clock face welds, assessing statue anchorages on tower offsets or walking theater coves to diagnose falling plaster, Brush goes where architects are needed to discern building dynamics to provide architectural solutions that are complemented by engineering and material expertise.

## JOHN BURCHER, FAIA, DIRECTOR OF INTERIOR DESIGN AT ADRIAN SMITH + GORDON GILL



### Category Two

Before joining AS+GG in 2008, Burcher was a design principal and director of interiors at DeStefano + Partners, where he was responsible for the design and implementation of many of the firm's major suburban office projects. His work spanned the corporate, institutional and residential markets. Under his direction, the firm's facilities team completed more than 4.5 million square feet

of services on schedule and on budget.

An active supporter of professional education, Burcher for many years was on the advisory board of Virginia Tech's College of Architecture and Urban Studies and also served the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. He is currently on Northwestern University's Deering Library Board.

## JANE CAMERON, FAIA, SENIOR PROJECT ARCHITECT, PERKINS+WILL



### Category Two

With over 25 years of experience to date, Jane Cameron joined Perkins+Will in 2006 and has led small and large project teams on international and domestic work for high-rise office, multi-family residential, mixed-use developments and health care buildings. As a technical architect, her wide range of expertise includes schematic and design development, cost estimates, pricing, bid analysis, construction documentation, contract negotiations and construction administration. She is also responsible for coordination with the consultants and building authorities and is an active participant in the Chicago office on sustainability and quality control initiatives to ensure project delivery is maintained to the highest possible standards. Cameron's ability to build effective cross-functional relationships ensures client satisfaction and makes her a valuable team member.

## AMAR JOHNSON, FAIA, REGIONAL MANAGING PRINCIPAL AT GENSLER



**Category Five**  
As co-managing principal of Gensler's North Central region, Johnson provides leadership to Gensler's Chicago, La Crosse, Detroit and Minneapolis offices; he is also a member of the Firmwide Management Committee. A registered architect in 37 states, Johnson has extensive experience in the planning, design and construction of a broad range of project types. Actively involved with multiple civic, community and not-for-profit organizations, he is a vice chair of the Board of Trustees of the Adler Museum; a member of the Board of Directors for World Business Chicago; and active in World Council, an organization for senior-most executives from globally respected companies.

## ELLEN BAILEY DICKSON, FAIA, FOUNDING PRINCIPAL AT BAILEY EDWARD



### Category Two

Ellen Bailey Dickson is founding principal of Bailey Edward. Dickson holds a Master of Architecture degree from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and studied at the Ecole d'Architecture et d'Urbanisme in Versailles, France. She has been recognized by the American Institute of Architects Chicago Chapter as Young Architect of the Year and was named one of the "Top 100

Women Making A Difference" by *Today's Chicago Woman*.

As managing principal, Dickson acts as principal-in-charge, project manager and senior designer for commercial, health care, higher education, interior design and military design projects. Her leadership skills help create a positive team environment amongst the designer, client and contractor alongside her experience to bring a design into an exciting reality.

## LARRY KEARNS, FAIA, PRINCIPAL AT WHEELER KEARNS ARCHITECTS



### Category Two

Since becoming a principal of Wheeler Kearns Architects in 1990, Kearns has focused on projects with ambitious social, economic and environmental goals. Recent projects range from Chicago's first high school designed for students with Learning Differences to Inspiration Kitchens Garfield Park, which won the national 2013 Rudy Bruner Award for Urban

Excellence. Current work involves two adaptive reuse projects for charter schools that are leveraging blended learning in poverty-stricken neighborhoods in Chicago.

Kearns has collaborated on a series of five senior-focused cafes in city neighborhoods, a library renovation for the School of the Art Institute, a LEED Gold high school gymnasium, Chicago's first high school in a downtown high rise and a winning competition entry for a zero-energy Learning Center at the Midewin Tallgrass Prairie.

## ARIC LASHER, FAIA, DIRECTOR OF DESIGN FOR HBRA

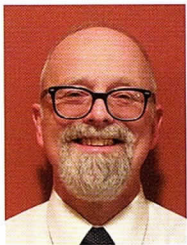


### Category One

As lead designer, Lasher works with the project team to establish the design direction, oversees the work through the design development phase of a project, and in subsequent phases continues to monitor its conformance to the original design intent through review of design documents, material selection and detailing.

At HBRA, Aric's projects have included buildings for government, cultural, academic and public institutions, residential projects, landscapes, renovations and restorations of historic structures. His interest in the evolution and planning of building ensembles is explored in the book, *Plans of Chicago*, which considers the legacy of planning innovation and the future of the city from an analytical and urban historical perspective.

**JOSEPH STYPKA, FAIA,**  
**VICE PRESIDENT/DIRECTOR**  
**SPECIFICATIONS AT JAHN**



**Category Two**

Stypka advances new methods for thorough integration and communication of design information through establishing industry standards, educating professionals and supporting development of signature buildings worldwide. Stypka's most extensive achievements focus on his significant contributions of time and knowledge in his effort to research, teach, share and inspire through continuing education. His leadership in the art of teaching and clarifying standards advances consistent methods of integrating information and communication of critical design information. Stypka sees the importance of educating all disciplines in the construction industry on the use of standards focused on the instruments of service of the architect.

**PERCY "REBEL" ROBERTS III, FAIA,**  
**PRESIDENT AND COO OF VOA**



**Category Two**

Since joining VOA in 1980, Roberts has contributed to VOA's growth to eight offices worldwide and to a workforce of more than 260 employees. In his more than 30 years as an architect, Roberts and his work have earned more than 20 international, national and local awards, including the FIABCI Prix d'Excellence. As president and chief operating officer, he is instrumental in building VOA's reputation for great design, most notably in the areas of health care, commercial and mixed-use, and higher education. Roberts plays an active role in his community, both within and outside of the industry.

**ROBERT THEEL, FAIA,**  
**REGIONAL CHIEF ARCHITECT/DIRECTOR AT GSA**



**Category Four**

As GSA's first regional chief architect, Theel established the strategic vision and leadership to create a national model for achieving excellence in federal architecture for public buildings across the nation and has overseen more than \$3 billion in construction, including five new U.S. courthouses, five new land ports of entry, eight new federal buildings and more than 30 major modernizations within the six-state Great Lakes Region. His design oversight covers 138 federally owned properties totaling 20 million square feet of space and includes safeguarding the historic heritage and cultural character of 55 of those properties eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

**SUSAN TURNER, FAIA**  
**HISTORIC PRESERVATION**  
**LEADER AT BAILEY EDWARD**



**Category Two**

Practicing for 27 years, Turner a Canadian restoration architect working in Chicago and the Midwest in private practice. Her investigative body of work — identifying new cleaning methods, conducting non-destructive masonry testing and analyzing historic windows, for instance — is rigorously documented and promoted, raising the collective knowledge base of the profession. She specializes in historic preservation for such projects as University of Illinois Urbana Champaign campus' Lincoln Hall Renovation, Urbana Armory, First United Methodist Church (77 W Washington), Winnetka Cenotaph, Blackhawk State park CCC Shelters and Riverview Farmstead. CA

Location: Pacific Palisades, CA | Architect: Abramson Teiger  
Contractor: AJ Engineering & Construction  
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**Timothy Swanson** was named CannonDesign's Chicago office practice leader. Swanson leads the Chicago office and the City Design Practice. With a background in both architecture and urban planning, he advocates for smart growth and sustainable development.



This January, **Legat Architects** celebrated 20 years at its West Loop location. AIA Chicago award-winning projects based in that studio include an addition to Highland Park High School and the ABC7 State Street studio enhancement. In 2014, the firm celebrated 50 years since its founding in Waukegan.



**Dr. Manuel Hernandez, MD, MBA, FACEP, CPE**, has been named co-leader of CannonDesign's global health practice. Hernandez has helped hundreds of clients achieve optimal solutions in clinical strategy, operations and facility design.



The new **Doha Exhibition and Convention Center** by **JAHN** opened earlier in 2016. The center's seven exhibit halls and conference rooms, situated underneath a blade roof, constitute the 38,000 square feet of meeting space.

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**Eva Maddox, Assoc. AIA, FIIDA, LEED AP**, has retired from Perkins+Will. Maddox, the recipient of more than 100 awards for design excellence, founded Chicago-based Eva Maddox Associates, which merged in 2002 with Perkins+Will. Maddox will continue to work on special projects for Perkins+Will but will soon turn her attention to a number of other pursuits: developing and publishing a monograph; participating on the board of AIA, a U.S.-accredited art and communication school in Florence, Italy; and continuing her support of ARCHEWORKS, an alternative multi-disciplinary design school in Chicago, which she co-founded in 1993 with Stanley Tigerman, FAIA. She has also been tapped to serve on the State of Illinois Governor's Technology Advisory Board.



Chicago-based architecture firm **Goettsch Partners** and Hong Kong-based multidisciplinary architecture and design studio **Lead 8** have recently won the design competition for a new 866,000-square-foot, multi-building, mixed-use complex in Shanghai.

The Bureau of Overseas Buildings Operations has announced that **Studio Gang** will be the design architect for the New U.S. Embassy in Brasilia, Brazil.



**Anthony Montalto, AIA**, was promoted to associate principal at HKS, and **Jennifer Faist** was promoted to associate. Montalto is design director for the Midwest region and has 21 years of experience working on a variety of project types in myriad global locations. He specializes in corporate headquarters, hospitality, mixed-use and sports facilities. Montalto is responsible for overseeing all design initiatives for the HKS Midwest Region. Faist is director of global knowledge services. She collaborates with a variety of groups within the firm to develop processes for finding, managing, and socializing data, information and knowledge.



**Constantine D. Vasilius, AIA**, is celebrating the 25th anniversary of his firm, Constantine D. Vasilius & Associates, Ltd.

PEOPLE + PROJECTS



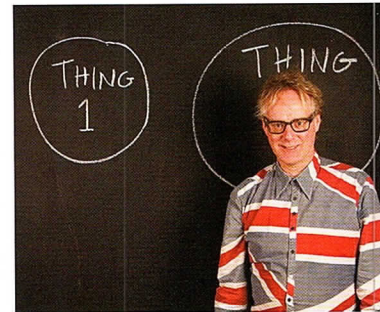
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Jon Keesey has been appointed president of Raynor Worldwide.



Goettsch Partners has elevated several individuals: Joseph Patrick, AIA, LEED AP, is now an associate principal; Ye Sheng is now a senior associate; and Matthew Hall, AIA, LEED AP; Kenneth LaCerta, AIA, LEED GA; and Peter Stutz, AIA, LEED AP, are now associates. Joachim Schuessler is now principal at the firm, as well.



Peter Exley, FAIA, is on the ballot to become the AIA Board at-large director. Read more about his campaign on page 10

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BUREAU | AD has been working closely with Chicago Filmmakers to restore and repurpose the coveted Ridge Firehouse to be used as the Filmmakers' new headquarters. The distinctive firehouse was built during an important period of growth for Chicago that resulted in the construction of some of the city's most ornate firehouses. After several years of delay, the project is now underway.



Upon James Peterson's retirement in September 2015, April Hughes, AIA, has assumed ownership of HPZS. The firm is also celebrating its 40th anniversary this year by embarking on a new path as a woman-owned business: combining its expertise in historic preservation with sustainable design, and focusing on affordable housing in an effort to build more resilient communities.



Thomas Ahleman, AIA, LEED AP, who leads Studio Talo Architecture, Inc., was featured in *Chicago Magazine* for his work on the Swaim house in Evanston. His firm served as the project architect.

Chicago Women in Architecture (CWA) launched their first-ever archival website in February. The site documents exhibitions, events, projects and contributing individuals who paved the path for women in the field over the last 40 years.

J Hershey Architecture has opened a new office in Cleveland.



Eckenhoff Saunders Architects has announced **Joan L. Suchomel, AIA ACHA, EDAC**, as principal architect. She is also the 2016 president of the AIA Academy of Architecture for Health, as well as a regular contributor to the Healthcare Design Expo. Suchomel's expertise will be accompanied by that of **Mark Nichols, AIA FACHA**, who is president of the American College of Healthcare Architects — and is also currently a principal architect at ESA.



**Ramiel Kenoun, AIA**, is the newest partner at SPACE Architects + Planners. He joins the firm's two current partners, Jay Keller and Jean Dufresne. They have also expanded their design team with the addition of **Leah Borkin** as interior designer.

## PEOPLE + PROJECTS



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Studio Gang has announced that **Jeanne Gang, FAIA**, was named Architect of the Year by *The Architectural Review*. They have also recently brought on **Steve Wiesenthal, FAIA**, as principal.



**Tony Coraggio** joined CannonDesign as a vice president, construction project manager and client leader in the design-led construction group. Coraggio will promote design-led construction — CannonDesign's delivery method — for clients in the health care, education and commercial industries.

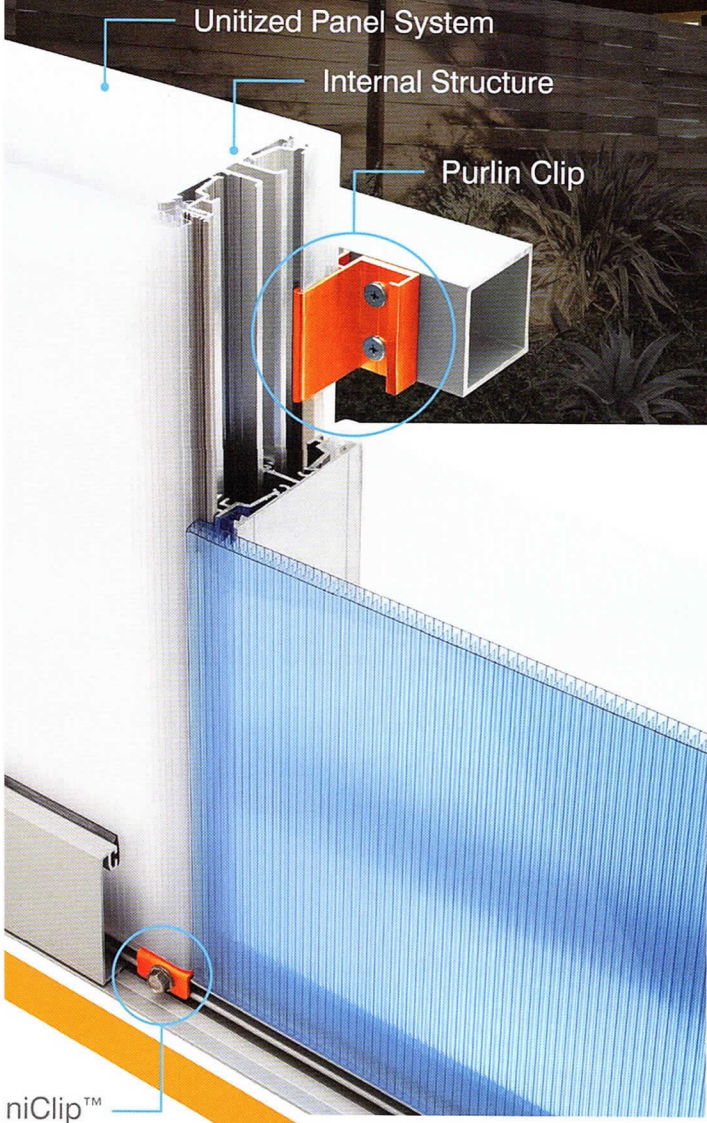
PHOTO CREDIT COLIN HINKLE (AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHER/OWNER)



Wheeler Kearns Architects will be designing a new contemporary art, theater and performance space at the Crystal Bridges Museum in Bentonville, Arkansas. The building once housed a Kraft foods plant, which closed in 2012. Wheeler Kearns will work to preserve the site's industrial feel.



**Bailey Edward's** design of the College of DuPage's Naperville Regional Center was awarded an Outstanding Design award in the Renovation/Modernization category by American School & University. The new design creates a welcoming space for students, educators and staff. The new building design utilizes colorful interiors to enliven the space, while glass walls and gathering spaces — both formal and informal — encourage collaboration and a sense of community.



Element LA Architect: Gensler Los Angeles, CA ©RMA Photography Inc.

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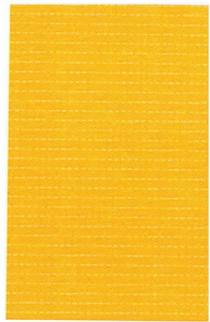
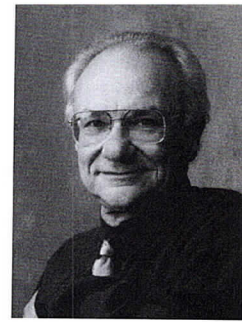


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# 2016 SMALL PROJECTS JURORS

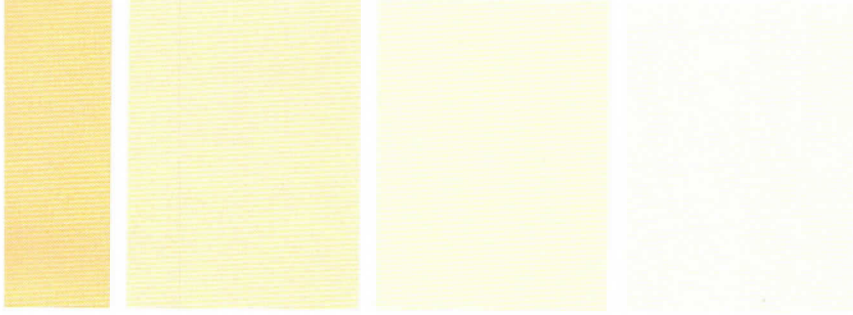
Louis J. Garapolo,  
FAIA



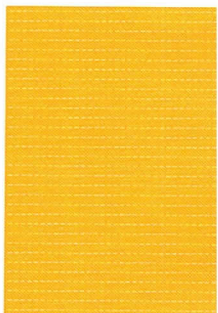
AJ LaTrace



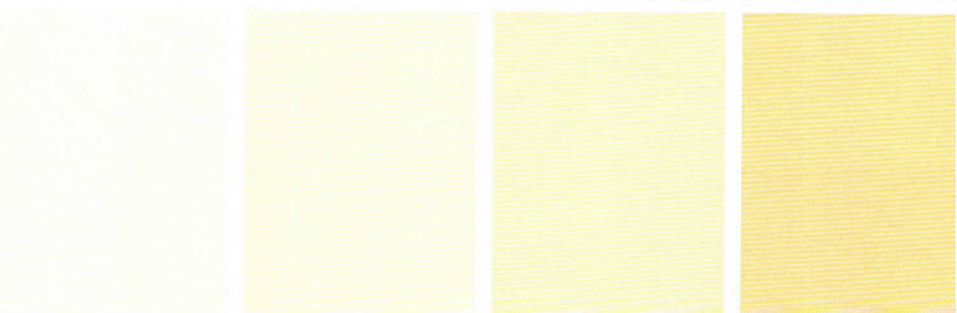
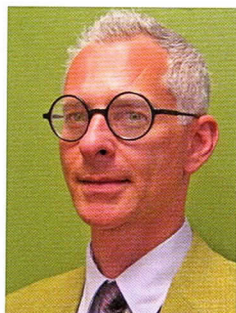
Diana Melichar



Jean Dufresne,  
AIA



Ralph Nelson,  
AIA



# HONOR AWARD

## PHOTOGRAPHER'S BALCONY





RANGE

**LOCATION**

Chicago

**GENERAL CONTRACTOR**

Navillus Woodworks

**STRUCTURAL ENGINEER**

Goodfriend Magruder Structure LLC

*All images by James J. Jetel*



In Chicago, wooden fire escapes are the great equalizer. From Lincoln Park to East Garfield Park, if you live in one of Chicago's many iconic two-flat or three-flat homes, you most likely have a back entrance that doubles, often, as a porch. They're connected to the city's history — structures related to side alleys, built from materials cheap and accessible in industrial Chicago. And, whether your rent

is in triple or quadruple digits, every resident has a similar refuge from the summer heat, a view of the neighborhood from above, and a place to holler to your neighbors when you've left your keys on the credenza.

The Photographer's Balcony by RANGE — a Chicago-based architecture and design firm — is, at its core, a simple structure legally required as a second entrance by the city of Chicago. Situated in the back

of an historic three-flat near the University of Chicago, the firm calls the project, "a study in the composition of exterior spaces shaped by opportunistic code interpretation, structural ingenuity, and the owners' desire for private, outdoor spaces."

"Zoning interpretation" was key; it allowed the footprint for a new balcony to match that of the old, thus doubling the square footage of the new addition. Add the firm's

meticulous structural optimization that made it possible for the double-switchback staircase to be supported by only three columns, and the final structure is exposed to plenty of light and air.

"It is a project of pure structural ingenuity," said one juror, impressed by the modular, light-and-air patios. "The platforms seem to float, while privacy is created through simple modifications. It's a question of volume, and they were able to capture volume in their design."

The privacy element was impressive to jurors. Discussions on the importance of marking private and public space with exquisite, refined attention to detail. "The doors on this project are so subtle; they're private but not separate," commented one juror.

As a great equalizer, Chicago's back porches are often invariably common, practical necessities that tenants make their own simply by the virtue of occupation. However, the client's desires for her Photographer's Balcony (called as such because the client is a photographer, whose love for food has her entertaining frequently) posed a challenge to which the architect responded with quiet ingenuity. "This is the type of project that is so difficult to be innovative," said one juror. "[The submission] is a stand-out project."





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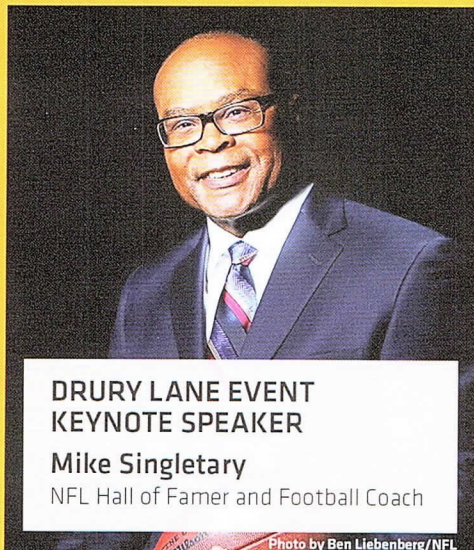


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KEYNOTE SPEAKER**

**Mike Singletary**

NFL Hall of Famer and Football Coach

Photo by Ben Liebenberg/NFL

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- Keynote Speaker Mike Singletary



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**BUILDING TRUST**





## ONA

Vojo Narancic (VONAR)  
Manufacturer: JT Composites

The ONA chair design explores aesthetic and structural solutions by testing the boundaries of carbon fiber, a material highly valued for its strength, lightness and durability. Said one juror, "The chair is interesting because of the relationship between its form and technology." In addition to the natural material strength, its flowing surface forms a double curve that provides added strength and a comfortable sitting area. Consequently, the ONA chair is very thin, light and strong.

PHOTO CREDIT: DOUG SNOWER, DOUG SNOWER PHOTOGRAPHY



## PYRAMID BENCH

Architecture Is Fun, Inc.  
Location: Naperville, Illinois  
General Contractor: Chicago Scenic Studios  
Client: DuPage Children's Museum

The Pyramid Bench is an object that expresses place and play. At the DuPage Children's Museum, the imaginative design and impressive scale of the Pyramid Bench creates spatial understandings for interpreting and appreciating the geometry inherent in the surrounding world. The jury called it an "active object," noting its ability to encourage exploration and movement.





PHOTO CREDIT: KATHERINE DARNSTADT, LATENT DESIGN

## BOOMBOX MICRO RETAIL

Latent Design

Location: Chicago

General Contractor: Formed Space

Boombox is a prefabricated micro-retail kiosk, made from a refurbished shipping container, installed in public space, providing short-term retail opportunities and cultural experiences. It is a component of Activate! Chicago, a new program developed between Latent Design and the city of Chicago. The jury was impressed with the placemaking component of the project and expressed their interest in its context — an example of “architecture moving beyond design.”

## THE CAVE AT YOUNG AT ART

Architecture Is Fun, Inc.

Client: Young at Art Museum

Location: Davie, Florida

General Contractor: RedBox Workshop

Lighting Design & Composer: Dear Productions

Curator & Interiors: Fun Finders

The Cave is a project that welcomes visitors to the Young at Art Museum in a manner that is simultaneously contemporary while also historically referential; the column-free wood structure draws visitors inside the intimate 250-square-foot interior. Using body-sized pin-presses or Etch-A-Sketches to inscribe foil wall panels, visitors make their own “cave paintings.” A juror called it “playful and innovative; something I would want to peek my head inside.”





## GHANA LIBRARY

Frank Flury and Students of the Illinois Institute of Technology

Location: Twifo Hemang, Ghana

Client: Chief Nana Amoah Sasraku

Structural Engineers: Sanni Ojo & Partners, Rockey Structures

Designed and built by Illinois Institute of Technology students and alumni, the Ghana Library was a project of real-world innovation and problem-solving. Built by hand using only local tools — with assistance of villagers — the concrete, custom-made blocks with leaf patterns properly ventilate the structure, and all were produced from a single wooden mold. The jury was impressed with context and form. Said one juror, “It is incredible what they could do with the given environment, to create such classical forms and proportions.”



PHOTO CREDIT: SHERRY HUA



## LA CASA DE LOS DOS HORIZONTES

HouseHaus

Location: La Paloma, Uruguay

This off-the-grid project by HouseHaus was built with locally sourced eucalyptus wood that both prevents infestation and works best for diagonal columns — the long fibers suit the particular strain placed upon them. The construction also limits ecological impact, while design elements such as a grey water collection tank and solar thermal panels supply the home with 96 percent of consumed energy from renewable resources. What impressed jurors the most were the construction details, which include triangle support structures and support beams. This is apart from the simple beauty of form: the house is designed for sunrise and sunset views, while bedrooms are sheltered from midday sun and serve as an oasis.





## UNIT 3E

Vladimir Radutny Architects

Location: Chicago

General Contractor: Harder Brothers, Inc.

The renovation of this lower floor apartment began with a clear intent, to achieve unobstructed views toward the lake from all vantage points within the unit. By reconfiguring the floorplan and utilizing gradient-patterned glass, the firm was able to borrow sightlines and natural light. “The intervention on the unit layout was thoughtful and intentional,” said one juror. “The simple yet very precise gestures were perfectly executed and maintain the spirit of the original design while providing a more contemporary and impactful space.”



PHOTO CREDIT: BILL ZBAREN PHOTOGRAPHY

## INK FACTORY

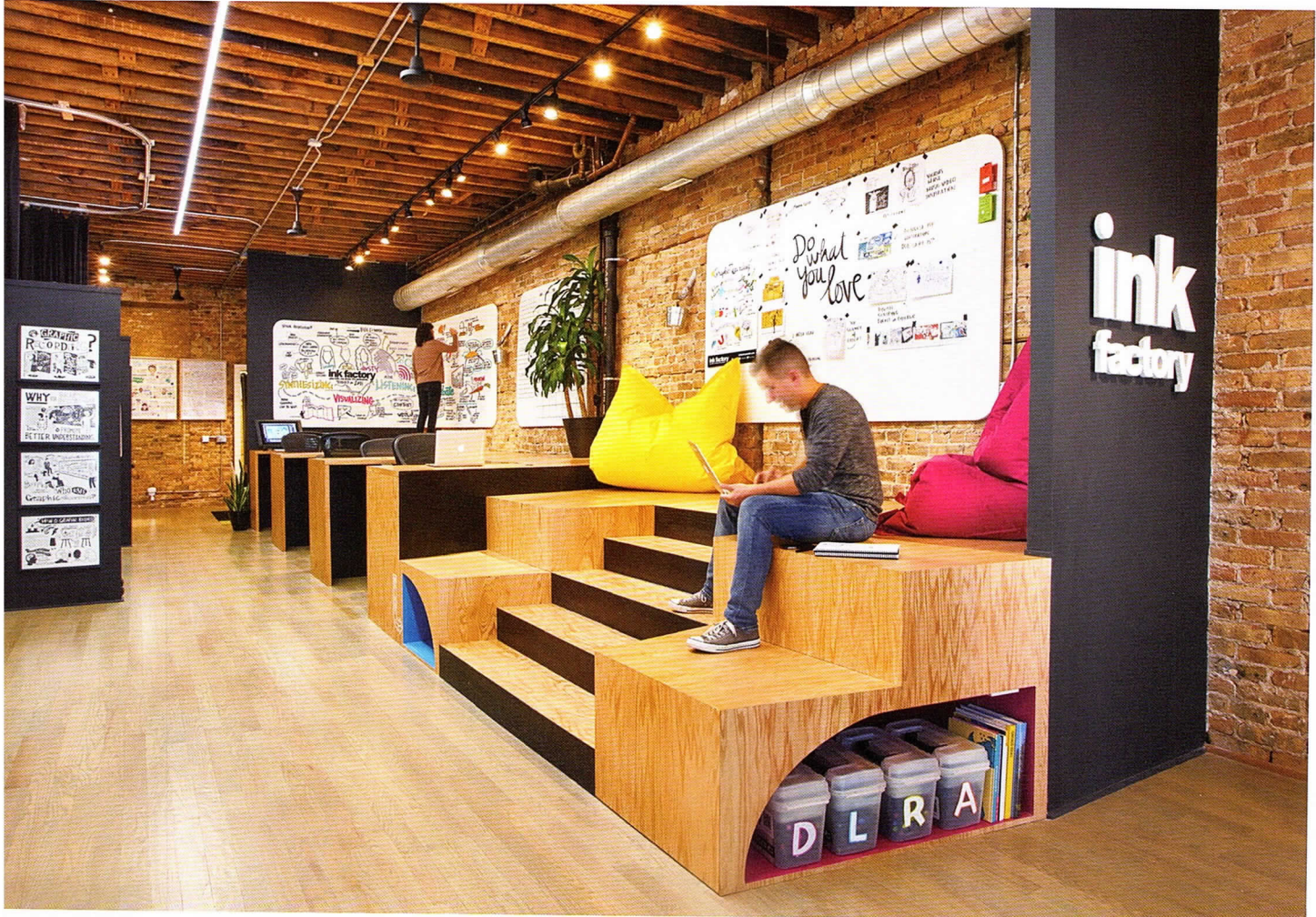
Perimeter Architects

Location: Chicago

General Contractor: Means of Production, Inc.

“Ofentimes young, creative companies want that ‘young, creative’ vibe, but it often feels cheesy and forced,” said one juror. “But this is an example of functional space. It was evidently a collaboration between the architect and the business.”

Ink Factory, which provides audio recording with illustration and animation services, desired a work space that was dynamic, open and contained as many whiteboards as possible. Perimeter Architects produced a series of multifunctional platforms for sitting, lounging, working or walking on. “It is performative and supports the business’s mission,” one juror commented.



OTO CREDIT: MIKE SCHWARTZ, MIKE SCHWARTZ PHOTOGRAPHY

## Five Houses:

The Small Projects Awards jury was thrilled to see such a range of architectural styles represented in this year's submissions. This is especially true in the 1,001-5,000-square-foot category, wherein the jurors identified five stand-out projects.

"Each project demonstrates excellence in residential design," remarked one juror. "We were pleased to see such a range in creativity, textures and solutions to design challenges."

## ASBURY RESIDENCE

Searl Lamaster Howe Architects

Location: Evanston, Illinois

General Contractor: S&H Builders

Structural Engineer: Robert Darvis Associates

Located in Evanston, the Asbury Residence melds a contemporary residence with Mediterranean themes. Architects Searl Lamaster Howe turned to Renaissance principles of space, logic and volume to develop a classical yet streamlined look. Said one juror, "The details and proportions are beautiful." Another added, "It's really well-done; it's architecture distilled down to what it should be."



PHOTO CREDIT: TONY SOLURI, TONY SOLURI PHOTOGRAPHY



PHOTO CREDIT: NATHAN KIRKMAN

## CLASSIC GEORGIAN

Burns + Beyerl Architects

Client: Middlefork Luxury Home Builders

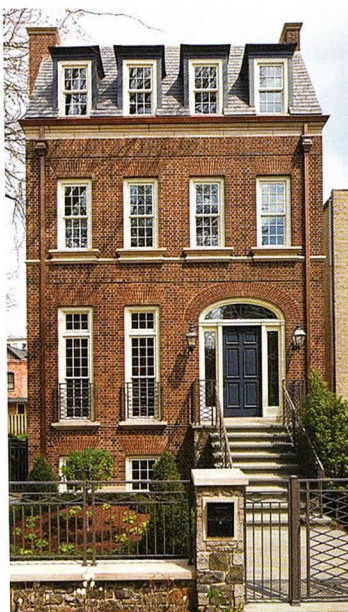
Location: Chicago

General Contractor: MC Construction Group

Interior Design: Middlefork Luxury Home Builders

Landscape Design: Prassas Landscape Studio

The Classical Georgian home impressed jurors due to its melding of style and contemporary technology that enhanced sustainability. The elliptical theme seen in the staircase provides interesting ceiling shapes, while brick detailing on the exterior demonstrates a “rare instance of meticulousness,” stated a juror. “The degree of difficulty to achieve proportions of this style and to achieve energy efficiency — which they accomplished — it’s not just a question of style, but of competency.



## MIDWESTERN FOLLY: A MODERN BARN RETREAT

Thomas Shafer Architects, LLC  
Location: Richland, Michigan  
General Contractor: Blok Builders, Inc.  
Structural Engineer: Enspect Engineering, Inc.

PHOTO CREDIT: DAVE BURK, DAVE BURK PHOTOGRAPHY



At *Midwestern Folly: A Modern Barn Retreat*, one finds rustic tones created with materials, and contemporary volumes created with an asymmetrical roof. The client desired an accessory structure that would store multiple vehicles; house several workshops; provide storage space; convert into entertaining space; and, incorporate guest quarters. With this many needs, the jury was in awe. "I love the materials, overall," said one juror, reacting to the use of historic barn wood as siding. "There are many pieces and parts. And it seems to be successful in all," remarked another.





PHOTO CREDIT: JIM TSCHETTER, IC360 IMAGES

## CHURCH TRANSFORMATION

Scrafano Architects

Location: Chicago

General Contractor: Tamarack Industries

Designer: Linc Thelen Design

Structural Engineer: SP Engineers

Scrafano Architects' Church Transformation project took a renovated church in Little Italy and revamped it to increase square footage and restyle the interiors. Here, restoration played a major role: A drop ceiling was removed, exposing centuries-old beams; and stained glass windows were refurbished. "You don't see these kinds of original windows in residences," said one juror. With the role that preservation played in design, it played equally in sending a message to the broader community. The juror continued: "With the recent announcement of the Arch Diocese closing hundreds of churches, this project sends a message that these structures can be saved and repurposed."





**SKYLIGHT HOUSE**

dSPACE Studio

Location: Chicago

General Contractor: Goldberg General Contractors

Millwork: Stay Straight

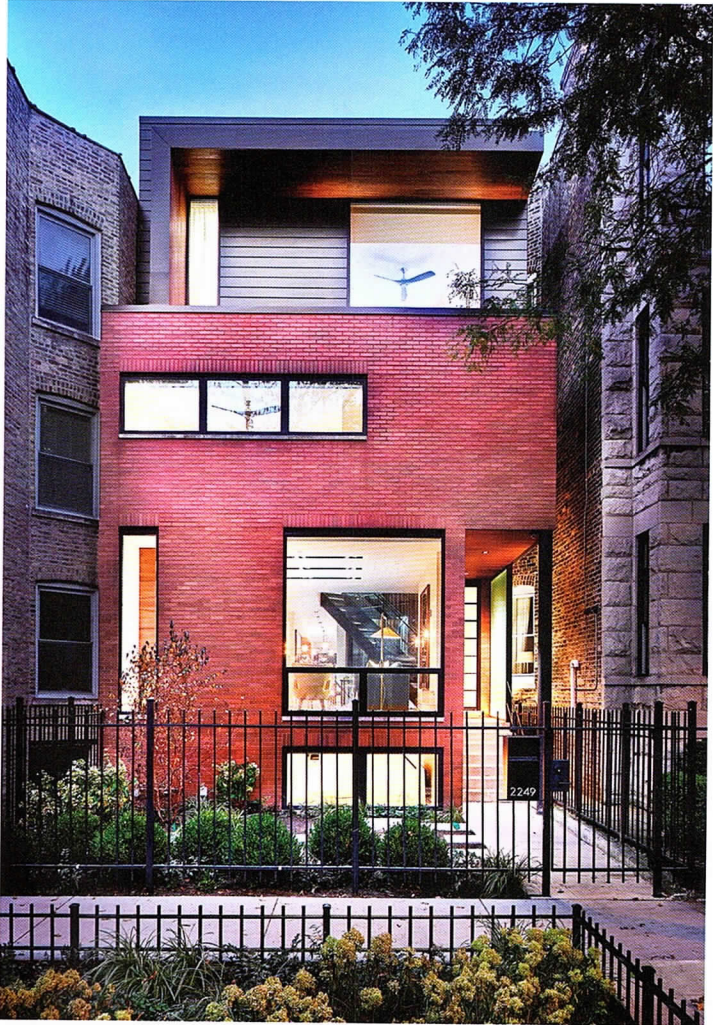
Ironwork/Stair: Dynamic Iron

Glass: Illinois Glassworks

The Skylight House re-imagined the interior of a 1979 modernist brick home with a full renovation. Its placement on the lot allowed for more sunlight and air, but less square footage. The home's circulation is organized around a three-story atrium capped with a glass pyramid skylight, flooding the interior with natural light. A sculptural steel and wood staircase is suspended in the three-story atrium, and a custom chandelier, engineered to hang from the skylight, floats in the full height of the open space. "What they did on the third floor — the atrium — really works well on the exterior, as well," said one juror. "And, every piece of the project — textures, light fixtures — are well thought-through." CA

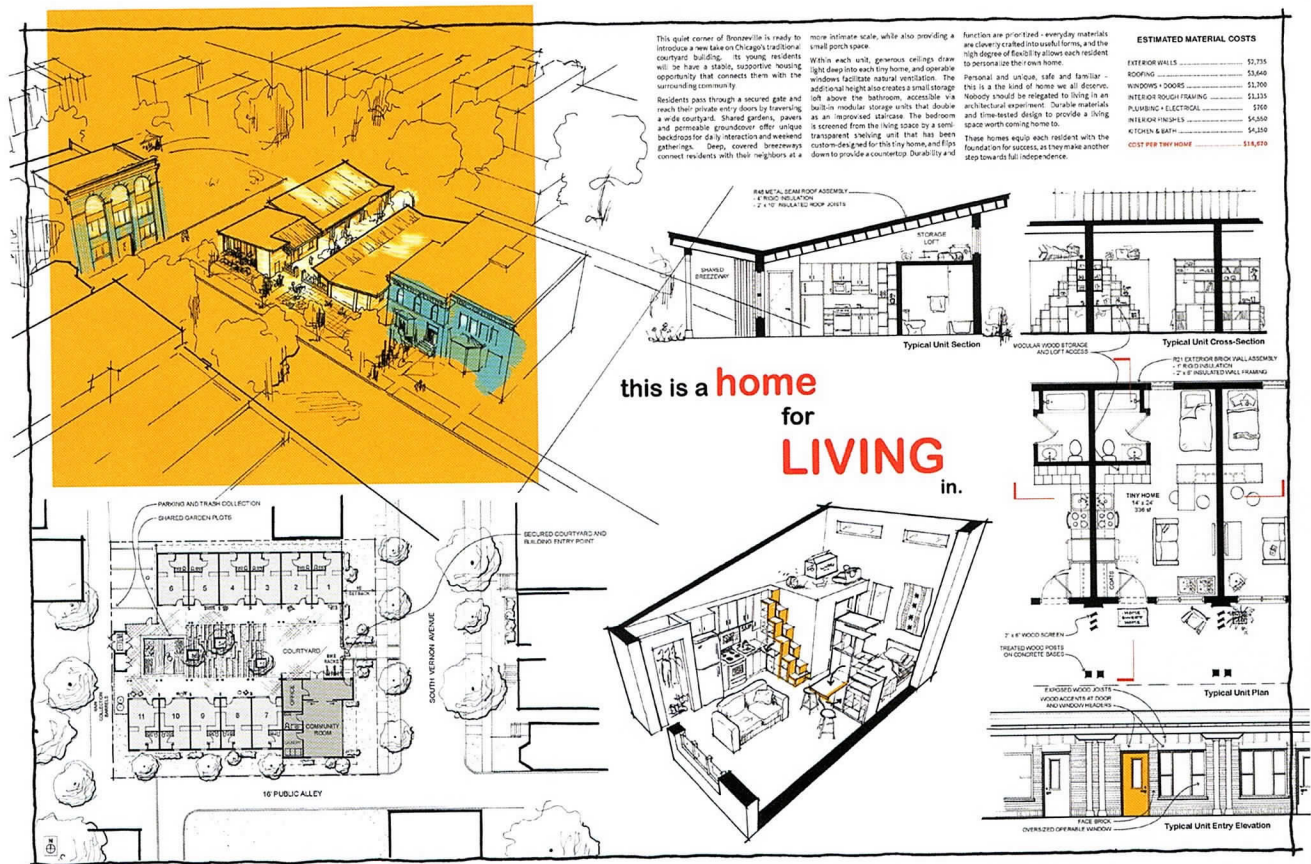


PHOTO CREDIT: TONY SOLURI



# Homemade, Homebound:

## Chicago-based teams sweep Tiny Homes Competition



**A**cross the country, activists and organizers have been constructing tiny homes as a solution to urban homelessness. Yet, in many cases, the solution has been met with opposition: Los Angeles police have been removing residents from their tiny houses; Denver activists were arrested for building “rogue” structures. Here in Chicago, however, the results of the Tiny Homes Competition offer strategic, feasible and law-biding solutions to young adults experiencing housing instability.

The Tiny Homes Chicago competition, launched in November 2015, requested speculative proposals to build a supportive tiny homes community on the corner of 43rd and Vernon in Bronzeville, where currently four consecutive lots sit vacant — a dead end with the possibility of life.

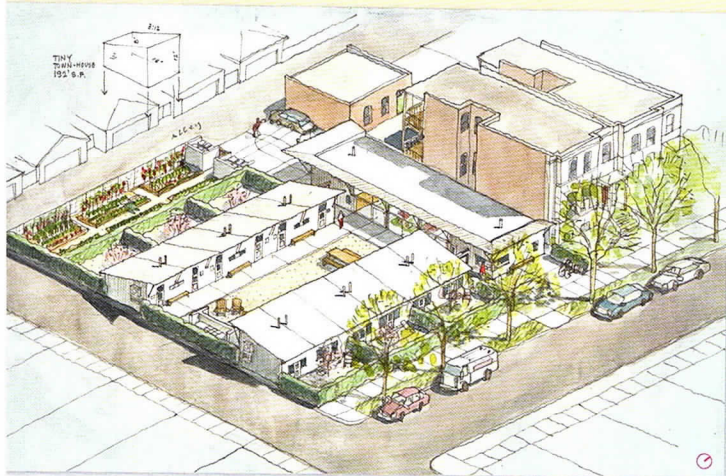
The competition received hundreds of proposals from 12 countries across the globe. The top three projects, however, were all based locally. First prize went to “A Home to Live In,” designed by **Terry**

**Howell, AIA**, associate at **Antunovich Associates**; **Lon Stousland**, also associate at **Antunovich Associates**; and **Marty Sandberg** of **Via Chicago Architects**. Second place went to **Wheeler Kearns Architects**, and third place went to a team of **Joe Villanti, AIA**; **Tyler Hopwood**; and **Ryan Arnaudov, LEED AP BD&C**.

The first-place design caught the eyes of the jury, a group of architects and leaders in accessible and supportive housing nonprofits, including Marisa Novara (Metropol-

itan Planning Council), Sol Flores (La Casa Norte), Benet Haller (City of Chicago Department of Planning), Jeff Bone, AIA (Landon Bor Baker Architects), and Dallas-based Brent Brown, AIA, founding principal of BCWorkshop. Brown, whose work has helped improve the lives of countless Texans struggling with housing security, has recently wrapped up a tiny house project for transitioning out of homelessness.

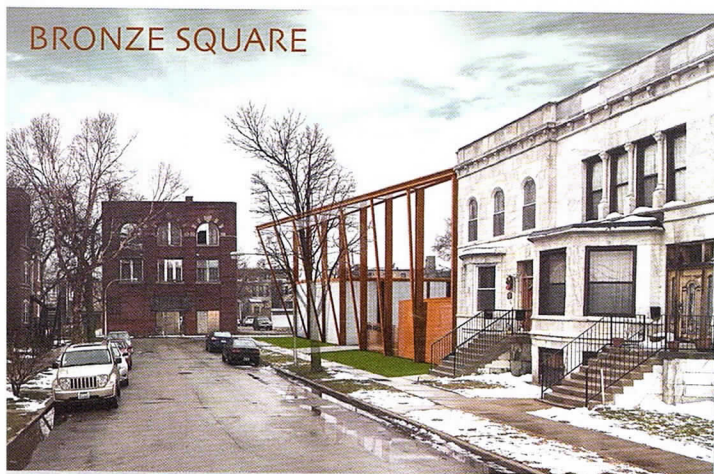
The jury first considered each submission’s layout: the competition required 10 to 12 tiny home-



**SECOND PLACE**  
 "Tiny Town," Wheeler Kearns Architects



**THIRD PLACE**  
 "Boxhouse," Hopwood / Arnaudov / Villanti



**HONORABLE MENTION**  
 "Bronze Square," Georgi Todorov, Pappageorge Haymes Partners, Chicago  
 and Petya Petrova, Pierre-Yves Rochon, Chicago



**HONORABLE MENTION**  
 "The Longhouse," David Bravo Salva and Blanca Rodriguez Peis, New York City

the four vacant lots, along with the footprint of a community center where laundry and offices for a program supervisor would be located. The jury sought plans that allowed for ample communal outdoor space and emphasized security, with the possibility of smaller, shared spaces for more private interactions between neighbors. Then, after choosing those submissions with the longest plans, they moved on to examine floorplans of individual units, ensuring that each provided what many homeless youth often need: ample storage, security, a kitchenette and the ability to separate private from public space

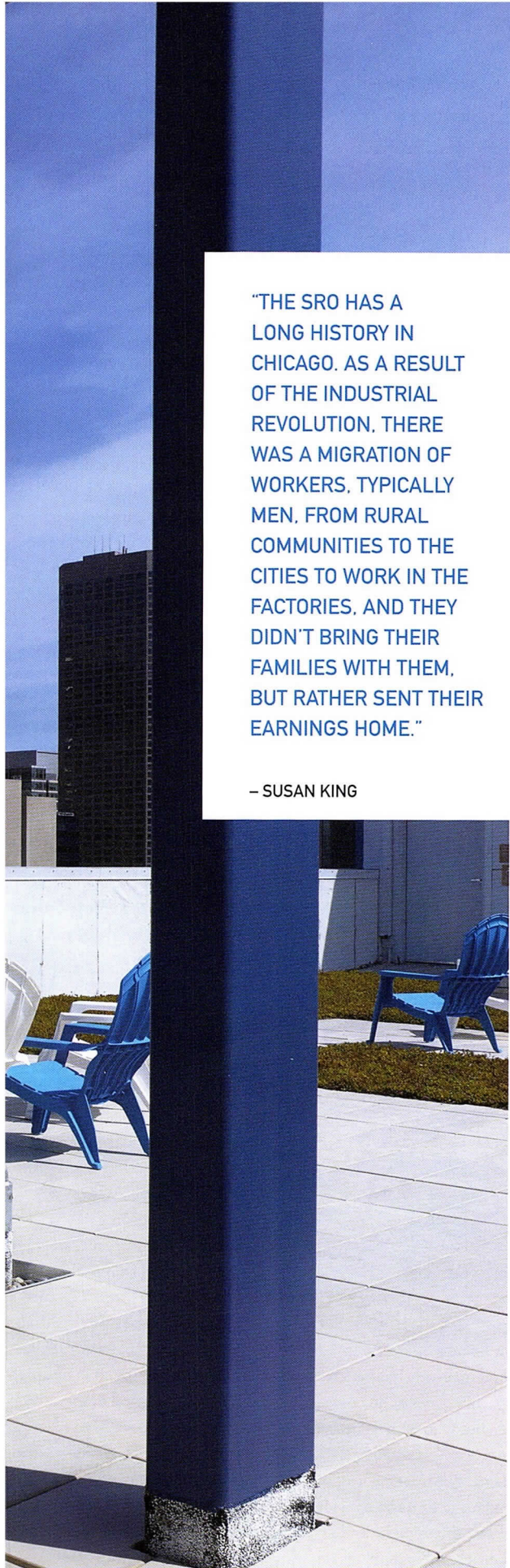
despite a 350-foot space constraint. The winning team's design met the jurors' entire criterion: the team considers it to be, "a new take on the classic Chicago courtyard building." Residents pass through a secured gate into a robust courtyard where a community garden also functions as a meeting space. Each housing structure is duplex-style, where a shared wall connects two tiny homes and deep breezeways that act as front porches. And each tiny house featured shed roofing, which lofts the ceiling and provides hidden storage on the upper level that can be accessed by a built-in bookshelf-staircase. Jurors called it "a clever solution" and the

competition committee praised their attention to the needs of vulnerable populations. "We had such exceptional entries from around the world," said Tracy Baim, co-chair of Pride Action Tank and publisher of *Windy City Times*. "I am very excited about the winner of the competition. They brought a real insight into the needs of the youth, the budget of the project, and the dignified design needed to make this project work." It wasn't until after the winners were announced that AIA Chicago was made aware that the winning team has deep connections to the city. Howell grew up just two blocks

from the site. The team met while attending Notre Dame University. All three relocated back to Chicago, where they worked at Antunovich Associates. And the three spent time with Howell's parents back at his old home in Bronzeville. "We spent countless evenings having barbecues with his parents," Stousland said. "Designing for a location with such a personal connection provided extra incentive — a chance to create something not simply beautiful, but also practical, contextual and potentially transformative." A life-size prototype was constructed at the first-annual Tiny Homes Summit in April. **CA**

# Lake Street Studios

*Harley Ellis Devereaux Brings  
Micro-Living to New Heights*



"THE SRO HAS A LONG HISTORY IN CHICAGO. AS A RESULT OF THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION, THERE WAS A MIGRATION OF WORKERS, TYPICALLY MEN, FROM RURAL COMMUNITIES TO THE CITIES TO WORK IN THE FACTORIES. AND THEY DIDN'T BRING THEIR FAMILIES WITH THEM, BUT RATHER SENT THEIR EARNINGS HOME."

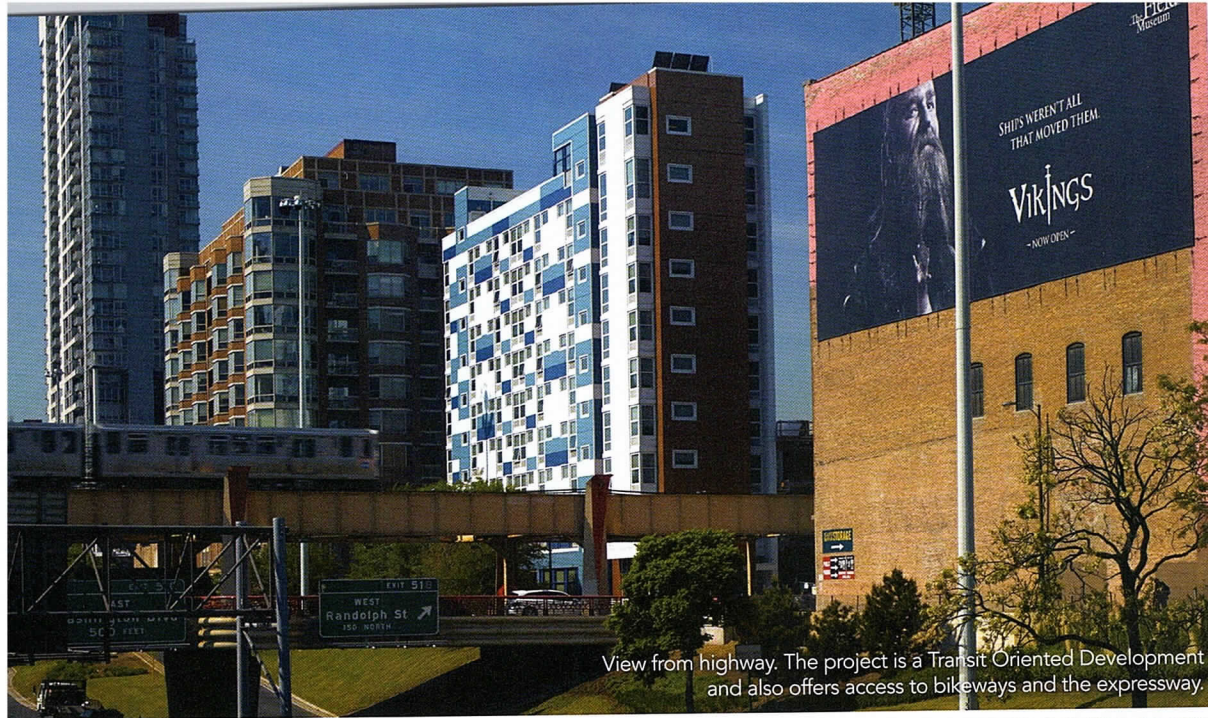
– SUSAN KING

The nation is turning to Chicago as calls for affordable housing have erupted from local communities. **Harley Ellis Devereaux (HED)** has been actively pairing with developers to answer that call. Development group Interfaith Housing Development Corporation acquired an unusual lot — only 30 feet wide — and brought on HED to create a structure that would effectively provide affordable housing in the West Loop, a rapidly developing, desirable neighborhood in which affordable housing is rarely proposed today. **Lake Street Studios**, a 61-unit, 10-story micro-living development, is one example of how small units can make a big difference for individuals seeking affordable housing, and how these units can make waves in what it means to live well.

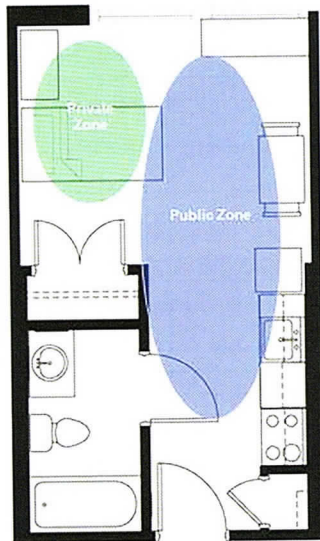
**Susan King, FAIA**, principal, Housing Studio leader, led the project, and she knew from the very beginning that the project would be exciting. "We (in the architecture community) were still coming out of the recession, and that's a really big reason why this type of lot in its specific West Loop location would be able to become supportive housing," she said. The project, as planned, would meet the requirements of single resident occupancy (SRO): units under 320 square feet.

"The SRO has a long history in Chicago," King said. "As a result of the Industrial Revolution, there was a migration of workers, typically men, from rural communities to the cities to work in the factories, and they didn't bring their families with them, but rather sent their earnings home." Many SROs were built in this time period to serve this population; however, many were not modernized over time when zoning and building codes were updated, causing some to become

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View from highway. The project is a Transit Oriented Development and also offers access to bikeways and the expressway.



Typical Unit



Apartment interior

transient housing. Today, the SRO is still a viable housing type and currently is experiencing a rebranding as micro-units. Micro-living has rapidly become popular, as the less-is-more lifestyle takes hold. AJ LaTrace, editor of *Curbed Chicago*, recently led a series on living a “micro lifestyle.”

“For someone who is new to Chicago and may only have a few belongings and may not be home very often, living in one of these apartments is not a terrible arrangement. We’re seeing a lot of young aspiring actors and comedians, creative professionals and service industry folks moving into

these apartments,” he said. “For newcomers, micro-apartments can help make their transition to a new city as simple as possible.”

Actors, comedians and creatives don’t always encompass the full range of those seeking affordable micro-housing; however, it does illustrate how living small can ease the difficulty of transition — from one place to another, physical and mental/emotional transitions, included. “Lake Street Studios are very much one part of the tiny movement, similar to what [AIA Chicago] did with Tiny Homes Competition,” King said.

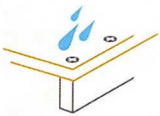
The building’s design emphasizes comfort and connection while maintaining the ability for individuals to create a unique space. Though small, each unit has an east-facing window that fills the space with light and provides views of downtown. Further, units are laid out so that sightlines help differentiate living spaces. A vegetative roof deck, as well as a reading room, provides opportunities for residents to live beyond their 300 square feet.

Although Lake Street Studios received some criticism from real estate professionals and neighbors who saw the project as “misplaced considering the West Loop’s upscale transformation, King sees the project as critical to thriving, liveable communities. “Doing projects like these ... takes a certain understanding of the financial, social, bureaucratic and political systems that make them possible. There is often a disconnect between these systems that makes creating more affordable housing challenging. It is not high design, but it is good design and problem-solving at a high level. There is something very rewarding in having opportunities to do this for the more vulnerable populations in our society — to do what needs to be done more often.” CA

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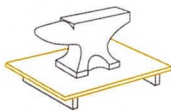
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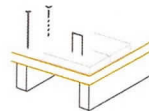
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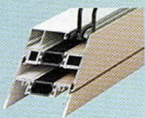
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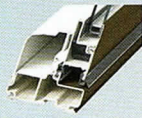
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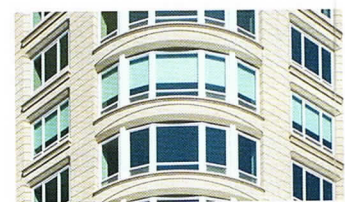
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## INDEX OF ADVERTISERS

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Hohmann & Barnard, Inc..... 11 www.h-b.com	Spec Built, Inc.....49 www.specbuiltinc.com
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# CREATIVE CONNECTIONS

## RANGE TALKS SMALL PROJECTS AND GROWING AN ENERGIZED CLIENT BASE

The principals of RANGE celebrated the firm's recent top Honor Award in the AIA Chicago Small Projects Awards (see page 24 to see the winning work) over beers with AIA's Zurich Esposito at their newest completed project, Hopewell Brewing in Logan Square.



**Zurich Esposito:** *Congrats on the Small Projects Award for the Photographer's Balcony project in Hyde Park. This brewery project we're in now is impressive, clearly full of clean, custom details, and downright refreshing as well. How do you get projects like these? Clearly, your clients are open to design innovation.*

**Mason Pritchett:** The Hopewell Brewing project came to us, in a way, through the Photographer's Balcony project. The GC on the balcony project, Dan Sullivan, a talented fabricator and the founder of Navillus Woodworks, met Samantha [Lee], one of the Hopewell owners, at a Dock 6 event. (Dock 6 is a Chicago-based

collective of independent designers, furniture makers, and fabricators.) Samantha became interested in Dan's involvement in Hopewell, and he recommended us to design the space. We collaboratively designed, and Dan fabricated, the millwork and most of the furniture, down to the tables and barstools, here at Hopewell.

**Casimir Kujawa:** The balcony project was done for the still-life photographer Laura Letinsky, a professor at the University of Chicago. She reached out to us after Theaster Gates recommended us. We worked with Theaster [Gates] on pieces for the 2010 Whitney Biennial.



PHOTOS BY DARRIS LEE HARRIS

**Mason Pritchett:** A lot of our clients work in the creative space, so to speak. And many of those projects have led to others with similarly creative clients.

**ZE:** *What other projects do you have in progress?*

**Patrick Johnson:** Our fourth project in Denver is underway. It's a mixed-use project, adaptively reusing a 1928 mechanics garage and adding 29 condo units on four stories above it. The units range from one to four bedrooms. And by virtue of this space, we have another brewery project in the works. It will be located outside Chicago in a notable historic building.

**Casimir Kujawa:** And we have three single-family renovation and addition projects underway. Many of the projects we get are with clients we've done other work for, or friends of those clients.

**ZE:** *It sounds like a lot for three thoughtful architects to handle. What's challenging about running a firm of your size?*

**Patrick Johnson:** One of the best things is being so hands-on, and being able for the three of us to discuss details like the corner radius of the seats on these barstools in depth. At the same time, firms like ours find some kinds of projects that require prequalification out of reach. Individually we might have the needed experience, but not yet as a firm.

**ZE:** *Where do you see the firm in five years?*

**Casimir Kujawa:** We are already planning to take on more staff, but what's more important than being big is enjoying what we're doing, having meaningful relationships with our clients, and making better places. We want to be positioned to win increasingly important projects, but not overextended to a place where we aren't engaged in the details or our clients. CA



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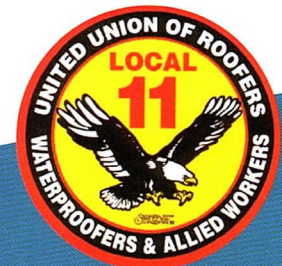
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